## ncssm | the stentorian Opinions & editorials **Hunt Split**

## DAVIS BOWEN AND AUSTIN LUTON

ecently it has come to our attention that it is the intention of the administration to split up Hunt into East and West in an attempt to foster better learning by creating smaller communities.

The administration cites several studies that supposedly claim that smaller communities result in the individuals being more committed to the community. One of their main concerns with making Hunt residents more dedicated to the community was to stop vandalism.

In the past, Hunt has been responsible for more tomfoolery than any of the other dorms... combined. It would seem that the administration believed that if Hunt residents were to have a stronger sense of community, they would be more hesitant to do anything damaging their home.

However, the administration seems to have forgotten one terribly important concept: the natural formation of communities. Communities in a dormito-

ry like Hunt are not formed through artificial boundaries set by

card scanners and doorways; they are formed by individuals who meet by chance or circumstance, and once formed, are not easily broken.

The occupants of Hunt, once the scanners were installed, immediately cried out in unison because of the sudden disappearance of a privilege to which they had grown accustomed to: All-Hunt Access. Lacking faith in the ability of the administration to listen to the students, and the ability of student governing bodies to bring about any change, some set to work removing the problem the easiest way possible: vandalism. It turned out that the administration, by trying to carve fissures into communities long since established, only ended up rousing communal loyalties that resulted in the destruction of many card scanners. The vandalism that occurred in the past was, quite simply, stupid stuff that people did just to get attention and make themselves feel special. However, the "vandalism" regarding the door locks in Hunt is of a different breed altogether. Students committed these acts with all



of Hunt's interests in mind.

These students did not brag or boast of these actions. The students involved did this service for every resident of Hunt, thinking not of themselves, but engaging in selfless acts of courage, willingly risking their attendance at NCSSM to defend the present a n d

future unity of the residents of Hunt.

> Hunt seems much more unified than it was last year, or, as alumni say, in many past years. The administration has successfully made us more dedicated to the community, but that unification had different results than they anticipated.

> The administration continues to spout whatever rhetoric they can get their hands on which may swing parts of the school to their side. If this means presenting one side of an argument without another, so be it.

as Head of Housekeeping, and we firmly believe that this has more to do with the spickand-span-izing of Hunt than the addition of the keycards.

Also on the subject of things that have changed since last year, what about all of this stress that everyone's experiencing this year? I'm sure everyone remembers how very stressed out all of the seniors were last year (Note: Sarcasm). Well, what has changed since last year to cause all of this stress?

Among many things, there is the new keycard system. Could this be the variable causing the difference between the stress levels of this year and preceding years? It is certainly quite valid. Just as our mind can project subconscious thought and meaning on to physical objects (think Rorschach ink blots), physical objects can affect our subconscious in a similar

Now, Vicki's main reason for dissolving our cross-hall, cross-side communities lies in the results of a few studies which showed that smaller groups tended to learn better and simply function better overall. We looked for these studies very carefully, and we're not confident we found the ones they used.

We did, however, find some others, and there seemed to be a threshold point under which the community would function very well and above which it would start to decline in functionality.

The number was somewhere around a hundred and fifty. Let it also be pointed out that the occupancy of Hunt lies somewhere just around a hundred and fifty, and is much more of an ideal size, according to the studies we found, than seventy-five.

Is there hope for Hunt? No one knows, but we're not terribly optimistic about the

Hunt

february 2003 **5** 

**RAVI RAGHURAM AND** CHARLIE STONE

hrough the ages, there have been many great rivalries: Duke v. Carolina, the Pope v. Satan, and Britney Spears v. Justin Timberlake.

But the greatest of them all is Hill v. Hunt.

"What's Hunt?"

-Aditya Devalapalli

"When I think of Hunt, I think back to the days of my childhood: running through the grass on a summer morn, eating Sunny Slope brand Carolina peaches with Grams, listening to Cee-Lo - "Closet Freak," of course - and nights laying awake, just thinking of the color blue. Now what was your question again?"

-Chris Haagen

"Without evil, there is no good. Without darkness, there is no light. And without Hunt, there is no Hill."

-Julian Himes

"Hill is a tinderbox and Hunt would take four days to burn." -Davis Bowen

"Hill is Lothlorien in the shadow of Hunt's Mount Doom." -Paul Smith

"Hunt - we're bigger than them."

-Charlie Stone

"They have cinder block walls, and it's always cold. They stay in their rooms, and their computers are their girlfriends. If some of them do have girlfriends, they will never say that their boyfriends are from Hunt, because they are ashamed."

"In the past, Hunt has been responsible for more tomfoolery than any of the other dorms... combined."

> Perhaps they don't think things through, but allow us to present an example: The administration (hereafter referred to as "Vicki" because we're tired of typing "the administration") has remarked that they are very

happy that Hunt seems to be cleaner this year with the addition of the card scanners. However, Vicki seems to have forgotten that the presence of the card scanners is not the only thing that has changed in Hunt.

It would seem that she has forgotten that Warren Basket's black Corvette no longer occupies its parking space near the PEC. Mike Newbauer has taken his role

billboards,

mercials,

and other

visual

propaganda

or adver-

tisement.

By placing

these phys-

ical barri-

restrict our

freedom,

ers

that

com-

TV

This is the basic principle behind all

> 'By placing these physical barriers that restrict our freedom, they could also have placed barriers within our psyches resulting in a lack of emotional homeostasis, which ultimately resultour being ed in

## stressed."

they could also have placed barriers within our psyches resulting in a lack of emotional homeostasis, which ultimately resulted in our being stressed. Perhaps Vicki should have put more thought into the reasons for stress before blaming academics.

future. The senior class is probably the only one that

> will care. Our juniors might, but their juniors will not have ever known anything different and will not think to question why the elevator alcove separates them.

After all, how often has it come up that Hunt residents have wanted easy access to Hill at all Not very often. times? that have Communities already been split when people are introduced to them are not often formed back together, and this, frankly, is why we're so upset.

-N. Chuck Patel



Seniors Charlie Stone from Hunt and Ravi Raghuram from Hill battle it out to see which building is better.