

Ask a Uni



ELI HORNSTEIN

Dear Uni,
I just don't like my roommate. What can I do to change roommates or the situation?
--Hoping for a Better Rest of the Year

Dear Hoping,
Most people would probably tell you to talk it out with your roommate; I will not demean your intelligence by saying that you don't know when you do or don't like someone. Open confrontation could lead to an uncomfortable rest of the year governed by some (possibly ill-conceived) agreement, or at worst open hostility. Also, changing roommates typically requires a much more serious problem than yours, so you can probably go ahead and take that out of the question. The answer to your problem now lies in biology.

It is fairly well known among those that study animal behavior and human psychology that through a process known as attenuation, an individual can become used to a formerly negative stimulus. What you should do is think about how you can gradually come to accept whatever it is that bothers you about your roommate.

I suggest that you start by minimizing your exposure to these negative stimuli, and when you do feel annoyed or angry, distract yourself as quickly as possible. As you gradually become more used to these things, you will have an easier time being around your roommate, which means your exposure will also increase, and you will become attenuated more and more. In time, you should be able to completely accept your roommate.

I know how integral a roommate is to your life here, but roommate trouble doesn't have to be the end of the world.

Good luck in the rest of the year,
--Uni

Do you need advice?
Have a question about life at NCSSM? Email your question to stentorian@ncssm.edu to have it answered in this column!

All submissions are confidential.

Student Government - Is It Getting it Right?

By EMMA HAWKINS

You may love them, or you may hate them, but the student body voted for them—so now are they doing their jobs?

In the first Stentorian issue of the school year, current editor-in-chief Devika Chawla interviewed seniors Kevin Kimball and Ashwin Peres-da-Silva on their plans for this year's student body government. Both of them expressed their visions of having a more active, communicative, and involved administration.

Kimball, Chief Justice of the newly formed Judicial Branch, particularly wanted SG to "run smoothly and accomplish its number one goal—helping students!" Peres-da-Silva, President, offered his promise to encourage a more communicative, active, and representative body of government: "This year, we are going to take a more aggressive stance on things, and really try to get all the students involved."

So what has become of these visions? Has SG kept these promises to its constituents?

In terms of communication and publicity, I would say that that is a resounding "yes." With the development of a Facebook page and a revamped website, every SMather is provided with an easily accessible portal of student government goings-on from new proposals to scheduled events to video updates from "the prez." (By the way, Mr. President: when is the next one going to be posted? I do so enjoy those vids).

Senate President Sydney Ness has played a starring role in keeping the student body directly informed by coming straight to everyone's very own inbox every week! Even those that have no inclination to check out the website can yet maintain some semblance of participation or

knowledge in our governing body. Kudos to Sydney.

Undoubtedly, our elected representatives have been quite active in introducing proposals to administration. Peres-da-Silva himself is spearheading campaigns for a student discount card as well as adjusted hours of operation for the PEC and library, both of which have yielded significant returns insofar. Senior Dorm Senator Emily Baker

As for other proposals, those regarding the PFM seem to be prevalent on the floor. Namely, there are calls for better food and increased convenience for students. I recognize and appreciate the initiative behind getting these proposals moving, yet I see them for the most part as manifestations of the excesses that students seem to think they are entitled to. SMathers should be more conscious and considerate of pertinent factors such as budget, means, and human service when assessing the PFM situation. Perhaps it would be wise to accept that there is only one dish drop-off location and dismiss antagonizing the cafeteria (surely this is not what the President had in mind when he said "a more aggressive stance on things?") in favor of spending valuable time on priority issues. I would hate to see student government not taken seriously because administration wearies of an excess of frivolous proposals.

This year, the SG ranks have swelled to bursting with added senatorial posts and the new positions within the judicial branch. I do so hope that these changes will fulfill this

metaphor as an upward-bound balloon rather than as an oozing pustule. Indeed, the total number of representatives in student government as it stands now is thirty—twenty-one of which are senators. But the count will soon grow to thirty-seven, with the appointment of yet another seven senators who are to be posted as "senators at large." Interesting to note is that each state in America may have only two elected members in the national senate, no matter how many millions of people may reside in the state... yet we will have 21 senators for a population of less than 700 students.

I asked junior Josh Chappell his opinion regarding this issue, and he mirrored Peres-da-Silva's sentiment by saying "I also believe that 20 people are not enough to fully represent our school. Adding senators-at-large, which are appointed rather than elected, would better represent the student body because the senators are appointed based on qualifications rather than popularity." Baker was of a similar mind, supporting the induction of more senators.

It seems that the consensus is that having more senators is equivalent to better student representation, though I am rather inclined to disagree...but we shall see how this goes. I look forward to being convinced that it's not just a case of increased opportunity for resume padding.

In all, the student body government has done quite well in keeping to its promises by staying vocal, active, involved in the community, and accessible to students.

the stentorian

the north carolina school of science and mathematics
1219 broad street, durham, nc 27705

stentorian@ncssm.edu

Editors-in-Chief: Eli Hornstein and Devika Chawla

News Editor: Carey Averbook

Features Editor: Daixi Xu

Opinion Editor: Hillary Seybold

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