

In 2003, a survey shows that 61% of students do not support a switch to a trimester system. 8% do support the switch, with 18% uninformed and 13% undecided.

In October 2003, the UNC tuition grant was approved for NCSSM students, granting students who were accepted to UNC schools free tuition.

In fall 2003, the tardy policy that is now in place was first instated. Teachers could choose whether or not to punish students for being 5 minutes late.

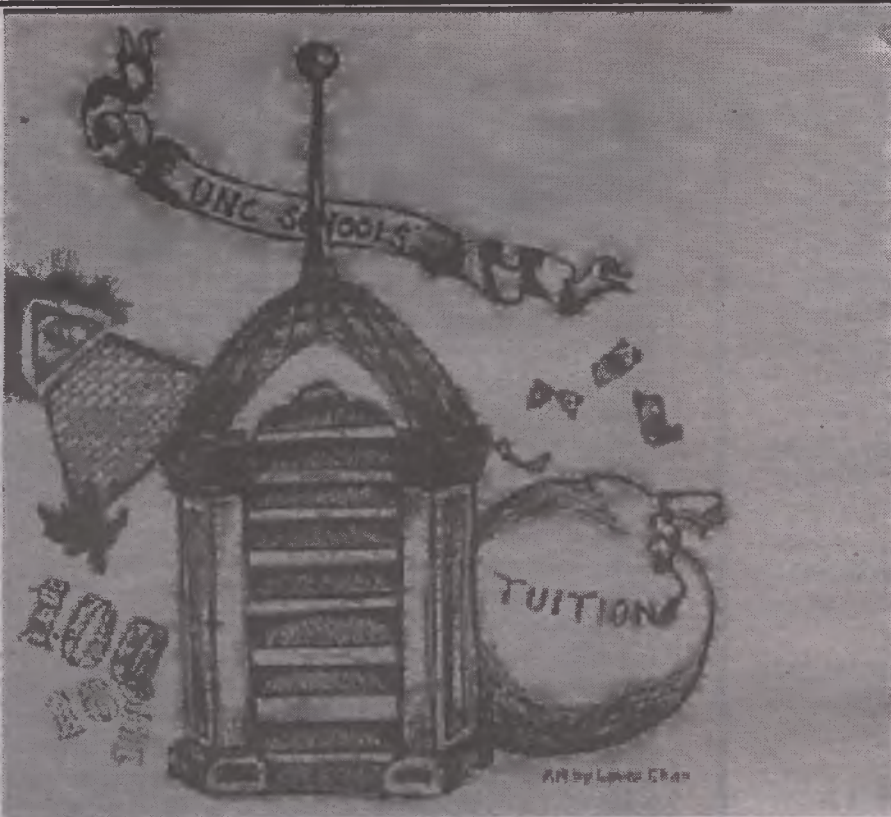
"When parents tell their neighbors and friends their little one is in her third trimester at NCSSM, shame will not mar their faces," the Stentorian reported in fall of 2004. The administration made the decision to switch to a trimester schedule, amid much debate about the issue. The schoolday is extended another 50 minutes to 4:15.

All Days are eliminated with the coming of the trimester system: "The addition of their lackluster equivalents (shortened periods) rub students the wrong way, and Miniterm in the dead of winter leaves some out in the cold."

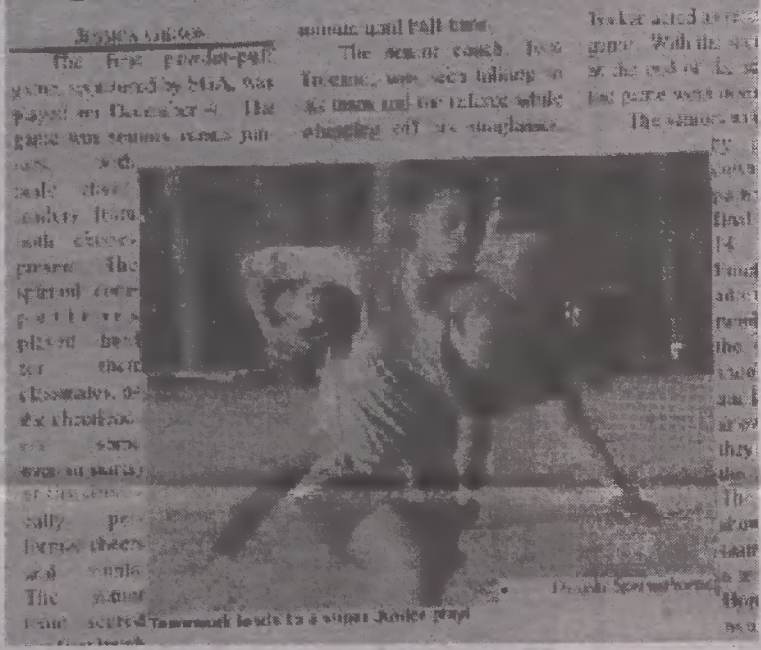
"Teachers have had to cut the content of some established classes in order to fit everything into a shorter time period." Seminars are no longer offered first trimester.

Students were skeptical of the new system as well, sporting T-shirts with the slogan "Trimesters killed my puppy." In an article titled "Did Trimesters Really Kill Your Puppy?", the Stentorian looked at some of the real effects of the trimester system, finding that students on average had one to two more free periods per day.

The trimester system is shown to have positive effects, too: "The new schedule gives students the option of taking required year-long classes, such as physics, chemistry, and biology, for only two trimesters. This leaves room for the abundance of new classes like Film Criticism, Forensics, and Psychology." Classes continue to be added in future years, giving NCSSM the rich course catalog that



NCSSM's 1st Powder Puff



Did Trimesters Really Kill Your Puppy?

KAREN KLEIN
5 Years In

Trimesters killed my puppy. My T-shirts sporting two legs were sold by Ted West, clearly selling their collective feelings about the trimester system. The administration believes that the trimester has been an overall success, and this T-shirt begs to differ. Although it only reflects the opinion of one half of about thirty guys, how does their opinion compare to that of the faculty and students as a whole? A survey conducted at the end of the 2nd trimester checks some light on faculty and student opinions of the trimester.

Students seem to have more time and more classes to choose from, and teachers seem to be teaching fewer classes.

A series of surveys comparing 2004 juniors to 2005 juniors and 2004 seniors to 2005 seniors found that satisfaction with classroom instruction, class variety, number and kinds of assignments, grading procedures, and value of the work basically stayed the same from the semester system to the trimester system. Both 2004 and 2005 seniors and 2005 juniors found that it was harder to get requested classes, but in this year's survey, the level of dissatisfaction rose significantly. 2005 seniors also had higher satisfaction

Christian Eales sports the "Trimesters killed my puppy" T-shirt during class. Keep in mind that these surveys were taken in March, not during 1st trimester, when juniors were required to only take 4 classes. Even with all the free time, overall attendance has not

very much of the NCSSM. He is "having the time" to find that the junior is challenged as a year. They did not

students know today. Now students would be reluctant to give up the trimester system (even if it means dealing with 15 exam days a year instead of just 10).

December 2004: NCSSM sweeps Siemens Westinghouse. "This year, ten regional finalists in the Siemens Westinghouse Competition came from the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics...Lucie Guo and Xianlin Li advanced to win first place at Nationals as a team."

December also saw NCSSM's first Powder Puff football game.

Latin America Fest is held for the first time since the MPCs held "Hispanic Fest" years ago. Latin America Fest is coshosted by the MPCs and the Hispanic Cultures Club. "The occurrence of this exciting new festival is a very significant step in increasing awareness of other cultures."

BBR (Bryan, Beall, Reynolds) is forced to evacuate in 2005 when two students in Second Bryan set fire to a toilet. "According to Harry Tucker, the students had sprayed their toilet with flammable spray and set it on fire. This eventually set off the fire alarm in their room."

"When the troublemakers were found by an SLI, he "noticed that the background of one of their computers had a picture of a flaming toilet."

In a school with a turnover of two years, slang changes quickly. In 2005, students routinely called the PFM the "piffum" or "piffim".

Also in 2005, the NCSSM Tuition grant bill was amended: "...the tuition grant was changed from only covering the cost of tuition to covering the cost of attendance."

Two graduates from the class of 1999 marry, seemingly invalidating the two-week rule. "The story of Jennifer and Nick Saucy is the most fantastic and unbelievable exception to the two-week rule, quite possibly in the entire history of NCSSM. The two moved in on Saturday, met on Wednesday, and started dating at the T-Shirt Signing Dance on Friday." Jennifer stated, "I'm not saying that your priority during those crucial weeks should be finding a significant other, because, in reality, I probably didn't make as many platonic friends as I would have otherwise just because I was

