

Adjusting to NCSSM: it's not impossible

By JAEHEE YOO

Close to thirty juniors have voluntarily withdrawn from NCSSM this year, according to Joan Barber, Vice Chancellor for Student Life. This startling figure leads one to wonder what is the determining factors for students who decide to leave, especially considering the multitude of support systems they have here, if they embrace them.

Everyone finds their place at a certain time. When first trimester hits, some students realize they can't adjust to the rigorous academic environment at NCSSM. Some students are not homesick at all and love their experience here, but in November, something might remind them that they're missing home. Students are always in change – something can excite them, but another thing can immediately cause anxiety.

There are various factors that can make it hard

for a student to adjust to NCSSM. It may be moving away from home, having a roommate for the first time, the expectations from faculty, the workload, not having enough freedom, and many others.

Adjusting, although it may be hard, is not impossible.

"Every day, I wake up and expect something exciting to happen," said

Kevin Cromwell, Director of Student Services, sharing his strategy for remaining stress-free. Whether it is meeting a

new face, being involved in clubs and sports, or learning something new -- looking for the positive helps students

adjust. NCSSM offers many opportunities to its students, but it's the student's job to ask, to take that step.



Photo by Jaehee Yoo

Jennifer Kronmiller with her roommate, Mia de los Reyes

"Here, we encourage students to ask questions," said Barber. NCSSM has created many programs to help students to adjust. SLIs and RLAs plan hall-activities every month to help students bond with their hall-mates. Science classes use lab partners during labs to help students work with one another. The Multicultural Peer Counselors (MPCs) host various programs open to everyone. The counseling staff reaches out with open arms, so if one needs to talk to someone, one's counselor is always available.

"I think NCSSM is doing a good job helping students to adjust. They have a lot of support systems, but they're also trying to give [students] independence, trying not to give too much help," said junior Jennifer Kronmiller. NCSSM is very community-based and wants everyone to feel valued. Although adjustment can take awhile, it can be achieved.

Genders (of dorms) evolve over time

By DAVIS GOODNIGHT

Girls live in Bryan, Beall, Reynolds, and Royall. Guys live in Hunt and Hill. Right? While one might naturally assume that the way things are now is the way they have always been, the history of the school is much more interesting than that.

When the school first opened in 1980, the landscape was totally different. Most of the area where Hunt is now was wooded (with a swimming pool covering part of the area). Apocryphal tales have teachers and administration all working late into the night before move-in day, preparing bedrooms, painting walls, and preparing the abandoned buildings for their first inhabitants since Watts Hospital closed four years earlier.

The only building that has remained completely gender consistent since the school began is Beall. Now as before, Beall is an entirely girls dorm. Reynolds has been almost as consistent, but in the earliest days, Ground Reynolds housed males, while the upper floors have been consistently female throughout the school's history.

Royall, or as it was known then, Wyche House, began as an all-male dorm, with the first and second floors housing students and the ground floor empty. By 1988, Wyche was

closed down and would remain as such until 2004, when it reopened with girls on the ground and first floors and administration and counseling on the second.

For the first few years of the school's existence, with the exception of the very first year, Hill was a male dorm, as it is now. In the late 1980s, it was closed entirely for residential living, and in 1989 reopened with females living on the first and second floors.

Hunt opened in 1986 and for three years after opening was referred to simply as "New Dorm" because the school had not officially named it yet. Hunt has only held males for its entire history.

Bryan has been the most inconsistent dorm at the school, and often has held both males and females simultaneously. In the first years, Bryan was all-male, but by 1988, it was split with boys on the 3rd and 4th floors and girls on the 2nd. In 1990, it was back to being an all male dorm, but by 1997, it was all female. For a few years in the mid-2000s, 2nd Bryan served as a male hall with 3rd

and 4th as female halls.

The decision to make 2nd Bryan, and by extension, all of BBR, all-female in 2006 caused an uproar on campus, as it required converting lounges into bedrooms in Hunt. In the June 2006 issue of the Stentorian, a 2nd East junior, Greg Rubinstein, is quoted as saying "people are people, but a ping pong table is something more."

The history of male and female dorms is by no means static, and the changes will likely continue in the future. Yearbooks ten years from now might make frequent reference to "the lovely ladies of 3rd East" or the "gentlemen of 3rd Beall," and the construction plans for the future throw hall arrangements even more into confusion.



The ladies of 1st Hill

1ST HILL

Dawn Dillon (R.A.), Kristin Hutchings, Donna Jennings, Rebecca Filbey, Sara Dowd, Jill Barrett, Melissa Woods, Shari Chmielewski, Simone Crosswhite, Lorraine Stone, Gina Hayes, Kelly Tsai, Kristen Chester, Jennifer Nixon, Penny Patel, Shayla Robinson, Kate Ellen Fielden, Wendy Henson, Kelly Hoag, Sharon Walton, Kristie Karlof, Priscilla Bailey, Christy Goff, Katherine Tayloe, Heather Ward, Jeanette Hughes, Terumi Daly, Cara Bobbitt, Jennifer Neale.

Photo courtesy of *The Odyssey*, Vol. 12

Senior relates LiNK visit

By MARA GUEVARRA

We've all done it in our lifetime. Think of when you were a kid, when we all had something we held precious to us. For example, a good test score or a crayon drawing. Then the next thing you want to do for it is to show it off to your family, your school, or your friends—because you want that object to be acknowledged so badly. Yet, at the same time, your biggest fear is the rejection of your peers or your family: when that drawing you cared about so much won't even be considered anything more than a child's scribbling; it won't even get a second look.

We've all done it. We've all felt that feeling, and I had that feeling on November 10th.

That day, representatives from Liberty in North Korea (LiNK) came to NCSSM. LiNK is an organization that works full-time on the crisis going on in North Korea, and its headquarters are in Torrance, CA. It has different chapters across the country, as well

as affiliates from around the world. It advocates the rescue of North Korean refugees, and it has different programs and shelters to help bring stabilization to the refugees' lives and to prepare them for travel to other countries, including the United States and South Korea.

The group that visited NCSSM is specifically called The Nomads. As a whole, it is a team that separated into groups, each of which would travel different parts of the country. They tour and hold screenings of documentaries, promoting awareness of the North Korea crisis, leaving little room for ignorance.

While at NCSSM, the group showed LiNK's documentary "Hiding," a story about an actual LiNK worker and his journey, during which he met refugees, documented their stories, and attempted to bring them to safety at LiNK's Southeast Asia shelter.

I will admit that hearing
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The gentlemen of 4th Bryan

4th Bryan

Allen Olmstead, Matt Livegood, Ryan Wigley, Adam Majewski, Shawn Sewell, Ben Soule, Srinath Vadlamani, Kenneth Jackson, Neil Mastin, Bernie Bowling, Shelton Mooney, Scott Tillman, Mike Marcelas, Nathan Wilkes, Jason Cooke, Leland Morrison, Kris Preacher, Matt Clement, Jeremy Dilbeck, Brian Smithwick, Scott Starin, André Bennett, Teddy Johnson, Krishna Kishor, Ron Davis, Charles Kerekaniich, Wayne Williams, Keith Saunders, Will Kim.

Photo courtesy of *The Odyssey*, Vol. 12