

To the Editor

First of all, I wish to express my regrets to some seniors for the generalization I made at the assembly on Jan. 6, 1982. I must concede that some of you have tried to change certain aspects of the school and succeeded in some ways; however, I do not choose to simply survive during my time here; I choose to attempt to change things so that I can prosper.

Next, I wish to state my basic grievances. They are: 1) The academic work load here is at times too much. When students who manage their time well have to stay up until 3:00 a.m. to finish assignments, then it is time for a change. 2) When the work load is heavy, it limits other portions of student lives. The social life of some students is almost non-existent, the time available to research various interests is almost non-existent, and the time to meet simple needs such as sleeping and eating is grossly limited. 3) Outside demands of the school get to be too much at times and these have decreased since last year because of the seniors. Community Service, Work Service, and other things all take time.

All of these things need some changing in order to better meet the needs of students. I am not seeking drastic measures, but because they will not come, small changes are possible. When demands are so great that you can not possibly see the end, you begin to be uncaring and you choose not meet them at all. Perhaps, the demands are defeating their purpose.

It must be remembered that the two years spent here will be a factor in how we conduct our adult lives. If we concentrate upon learning, we will become scholars. If our total existence is academics, though, we become bookworms and our perception of reality is limited.

I am proud to be at this school. My grades are good and I appreciate the educational opportunities that have been created here for me; however, I will not accept things as perfect. I will seek to perfect and also to learn. I will attempt to change things in my own little way and I will accept those things I can not change. This school wants to teach me to make my world better for all, this is also my goal.

Sincerely,
Regina Dobson

Of What Gain?

by: Cathy Moses

Curiously, time had never passed so quickly. Christmas came unexpected as did 1982. We have come to the end of one semester, one-half of the year. Now, I realize that all the changes, all the beginnings, have made the past four months seem so short. Yet, so much has happened especially for us, the new juniors. With all the struggling and the triumphs, has come a special growing, a special learning experience.

One special characteristic of this school is the fact that it is a residential school, one where we all live together. From living together with the same people that we attend classes with, we gain a unique social atmosphere. Throughout the semester, with the many dances, parties, football, soccer, and basketball games, meals, concerts, assemblies, and classes, we have gotten to know each other much better than possible for the majority of high school students. I have enjoyed meeting so many interesting people, people to share the miseries and the delights of this school. It is so much easier here to become a part of the single atmosphere.

One unique offering of the school is not the actual acquisition of knowledge. True, by coming to a challenging school, we are better prepared for college simply by virtue of our strong academic backgrounds. But the difference between the knowledge gained here and the knowledge gained at most high schools is rather insignificant compared to the massive expanse of knowledge in the entire world or even universe for that matter. We can never hope to know everything or even a significant portion, but the atmosphere here offers to us the realization of the vast realm of knowledge in hopes that we will continue to seek it, remain undiscouraged, and find perhaps some sort of truth for ourselves.

Editors' Box

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Those views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Stentorian and its staff. Contributions to the Editor for publication must be signed letters and may be submitted to Andy Minnis.

Did You Know...?

by Meg Gatling

Before you bury yourself in a pile of books, notes, potato chips, Dr. Peppers, pretzels, graham crackers, peanut butter, and Revco's candy bars to cram for exams, you might be interested to know that diet causes 35 percent of all cancer deaths in America, according to the latest statistics in Food Engineering. Recent studies indicate that excessive eating, especially the consumption of rich caloric foods, may increase the risk of certain forms of cancer. Does that give you a headache? Don't worry; neurologists in Belgium have found that a drug called flunarizine is effective in preventing migraines because it prevents blood vessels from constricting and helps maintain a sufficient blood flow to the brain. Speaking of blood, researchers at the New York Blood Center have good news for type B donors. They have found an enzyme in coffee beans, seeds, and nuts that converts type B blood cells into type O by detaching the sugar galactose from the type B cells.

Maybe the above is of no matter to you. That's O.K., because matter might not be permanent anyway. Physicists are theorizing that the proton, the main ingredient of all matter, is not immortal after all; its estimated lifetime is only 10^{32} years. Physicists in Minnesota, Utah, and in other parts of the world are watching for evidence of proton decay in mines hundreds of feet deep, where the effect of cosmic radiation on sensors is minimal. If discussing the mortality of the proton depresses you, you might want to research your family tree. Researchers in New England have found that serious depression is a partially hereditary illness. The depression-linked gene seems to be transmitted by the unaffected parent instead of the one who is depression-prone. If you're not a manic depressive but think you're schizophrenic, neurologists at Harvard Medical School could help you decide by mapping the electrical activity of your brain with sophisticated computer graphics. The patterns of the brain's electrical workings may also indicate dyslexia, epilepsy, violent tendencies, and senility. Senility. . . When you find yourself that far over the hill, you might receive a treatment that compensates for a neurochemical abnormality, a deficiency in acetylcholine. This chemical is the basis of communication among nerves in the brain and affects the learning and memory processes.

If all that sounds far out, you probably haven't heard that Saturn is not the only planet with rings; one has been found around Jupiter, and at least nine distinct rings rotate around Uranus. Furthermore, Haley's comet, a dirty old snowball over two miles wide, is now speeding toward the inner solar system. The comet, last seen in 1911, will whirl around the sun in February of 1986 and will zoom past the earth at 36,000 mph. Unfortunately, NASA's proposal of a mission to obtain a sample of the comet was turned down under the Reagan budget cuts.

If you're planning to enter a project in the NASA Space Shuttle Student Involvement Program, you'll be happy to hear that Columbia's second flight, although terminated after 54 of the 124 allotted hours, did see the successful execution of several experiments. Special radar made high-resolution images of varying landforms. A sensor mapped chlorophyll concentrations over the Mediterranean and the Pacific Ocean to locate phytoplankton and fishing grounds. An infrared radiometer used a wide range of wavelengths to distinguish certain kinds of rock to aid in locating petroleum and metal deposits. Carbon monoxide distributions in the atmosphere were measured over much of the earth.

More interested in down-to-earth news? Hear this: The New England Journal of Medicine reported a case of "cuber's thumb," the symptom of which is a sharp pain in the thumb. The prescription: Throw out your cheap, thumb-jamming cube and buy an expensive, slick racing model.



Steven Keirstead