

The State of the Uni Address

JOHN GJERTSEN
editor-in-chief

LONG TIME NO SEE

Happy New Year everyone. I guess it's been a while since we've all had the unbeatable experience of reading *The Stentorian*. But there's really no reason to forget the school has a newspaper or anything.

No need to make any excuses or blame anyone else for our so-far slowgoing year. I'm an editor-in-chief, and I get to take all the responsibility for it. Just remember this— this newspaper is worth every penny you paid for it, and more.

With that aside, I'd like to talk a little about this issue in particular, since I feel like it's a little different.

First of all, *The Stentorian* is printing letters from students for the first time ever. We'd like to hear from more of you more often. Bear in mind that letters are edited for length mostly, but also for taste where appropriate. Send all complaints, praise, opinions, or questions to *Stentorian Viewpoints*, box H136. All letters will be printed anonymously.

Secondly, this paper has a special feature on SEX as well as an article and letter about race relations. We've had special weeks on each of these topics. What more do we want? Well, evidently, those writing in this issue have felt that another idea needs to be expressed. As editor-in-chief of the paper, I often ask myself what position the newspaper stands in. There's probably some administrators which would like *The Stentorian* to lean a little more towards the right. There's probably some students who would like *The Stentorian* to lean a lot more towards the left. Where do we stand?

It is our objective to try to feed the students, as well as our other readers, with information and ideas which are of importance to them. While it would

be ridiculous to print a bunch of "dry" articles, it would be unethical to print articles so provocative that they may offend others and cause the perspective of *The Stentorian* to seem aimed at one particular group.

This issue, as well as other issues, will have many different ideas expressed in it. You may disagree with some of them, but keep in mind we are trying to communicate with as much diversity as possible, what students of this school feel is important.

DURHAM IS AN ANAGRAM FOR MURDAH

The City of Medicine, home sweet home, ended 1991 with 33 homicides, up from last year's 25.

But it isn't just homicide that's a problem, and it's not just Durham. Sixteen years ago, North Carolina ranked #40 for base crime rate as a state. Today we rank #20.

According to a state criminal justice official who visited NCSSM last fall, "the criminal justice system in NC is broken." In his opinion, the "biggest reason the justice system is broken is the lack of prison space."

There are 19,000 North Carolinians in prison, while there is a staggering 92,000 which are on parole or probation. Since the influx of criminals cannot be met with sufficient cell space, people get parole after serving as little as 1/12 their sentence, and people get back on the streets earlier. There are almost no significant short term measures which can be taken to reduce the crime rate.

On a more positive note, there are more patrol officers now in Durham, and more around our school in particular, than there were previous to the muggings that took place at the beginning of the school year. Just try to be careful when you're off-campus.

SO YOU WANT TO BE A BASKETBALL FAN

Basketball season is in full swing, and I'd be really happy if we could do a better job with cheering our team on.

Seeing as how the PEC is so close by and there is no admission fee, our home games are able to draw more people than most other high schools. Add in the fact that we're all indoors and ready to let out some stress, and you get an arena that's, well... somewhat ignited.

This can be both good and bad. Sure, we can get on our feet and scream when Todd Rose starts the wave. Sure, we can follow the cheers of our cheerleaders. We can go crazy when we hit a three-pointer, two-pointer, take a charge, or even inbound the ball successfully. But when it comes to bitterly making fun of the opposition's cheerleaders, shouting obscene and distasteful remarks at the players, or booing the referees, we need to bite our tongues. It doesn't do anybody any good.

The problem lies not in the noise, but the attitude. The fact that we get all riled up tends to make us abrasive, but it doesn't have to. Cheering is meant to be supportive. We represent our school to all who visit the PEC. Keep in mind that we'd like to keep a good image in our "Uni Pride" which is supposedly known nationwide. It's one thing to be proud; it's another to be notorious.

Branson Brown gave a lengthy lecture to the male student body last year, criticizing our contagious tendency for "negative cheering." He gave the same lecture the year before, and rumor has it for years before that. Let's see if we can improve our attitude this year so he won't have to make it again. We can do it.

tion, that means you will all become road builders and engineers! I hope you now recognize the importance of your education. Without your impressive amount of new calculus and AP biology data, drivers could never go 70 mph on I-40 from Chapel Hill to Raleigh.

The school year has progressed rather quickly, thank goodness. That break of legendary relaxation and extraordinary length- the Winter Holiday Break- is now over. It brought with it the essential things in life: time at home, time with family and friends, and, most importantly, time away from here. Among the ideas you might consider this time of year, how about Chanukah, Kwanzaa, Ramadan, Winter Solstice, and other holidays observed by non-Christians? Have you wished your roommate a happy Winter Holiday yet? Maybe you should.

In the real world (far removed from the relative comfort of the NCSSM campus), the civil war in Yugoslavia is still raging, with civilian casualties increasing as the bloody battles continue. The attempts at ceasefires have failed miserably, and UN peacekeepers have themselves been fired upon. The president of Haiti, deposed by a military coup, is still in exile from his country, despite support for him from his nation. David Duke was not elected to the position of governor in the state of Louisiana, and instead is now running for the position of President of the United States. The fact that he is an ex-KKK leader has angered many people, and a large number of irate voters turned out at the poles to ensure his loss in the campaign.

Closer to home, the effects of our week of sex education and our week of discussions on racism, have not yet been measured accurately. Many students talked about relevant issues- affirmative action, birth control, and other topics- long after the weeks were up. Issues like these can only be understood and resolved through communication and education.

Students have also been mugged recently, in a spot right on school grounds. Not only that, but one of the transport vans was damaged by vandals. Can any more changes be made to improve the security of the campus? Hopefully so, and if you have any ideas, feel free to drop the "administration" of our school a line. Your ideas are only useful if they are heard.

As for me, I'm outta here....

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DANIEL ALDRICH

editor-in-chief

Hear ye, hear ye!! Second semester seniors have been spotted actually taking a nap, I repeat, taking a nap during one of their free periods!! This kind of behavior will not be tolerated! Naps can only be taken during class time or in assemblies. Please refrain from this kind of disrespectful behavior in the future.

Remember, you are the future of North Carolina!! And considering the fact that we have a \$9 million highway fund, and a miniscule percentage of that amount being spent on educa-