

Features

Luchia Ashe Works on Timely SPW Project

Luchia Ashe has created a special SPW project that she hopes will increase North Carolina's knowledge and understanding of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Ashe and a group of 9 or 10 other juniors and seniors, "are creating a comprehensive education awareness package of current information about AIDS and other STD's, probably including a video and materials for a follow-up discussion."

Ashe became especially interested in the topic of educating people about AIDS last year after she talked to a man in New Dorm lobby who was HIV-positive. According to Ashe, "He talked about what he had to put up with from society. Two other people from the Durham County Health Department were

there and I asked them if there were any organizations in Durham that I could get involved with. They didn't know of any, so I decided I would start a group, with the priority of educating in high schools."

"That was my initial idea," said Ashe. "Then my Dad thought I should do a documentary, so we talked to Dr. Barber and David Stein, the head of communications. The documentary would use teenage perspectives to go out and educate. It would try to improve the curriculum," said Ashe.

First, Ashe's group is going to try the program in the NCSSM community using the new form of REP. If she is successful, she hopes to expand the program to all of North Carolina as a part of the educational curriculum.

--See Ashe on next page

Dear Raquel,

Hello everybody! Hopefully you are all getting ready for the winter holidays. Please write to me; Raquel is getting very lonely. She is waiting patiently for you letters because she so desperately wants to help you with your problems. Also, it is hard to write a column without any letters from you. If you have a problem or a concern, send your letters to box B360. Thank you for your support!

Dear Raquel,

As a graduate of S&M and a fan of *The Stentorian*, I must say I am overjoyed that there is a student advice column. I hear wonderful things about this column, Raquel, and I hope that you'll be able to solve my problem.

Sometimes I find myself in my room at 8:00, instinctively waiting for check. Other times I prop my door 45° despite the fact my girlfriend would rather have it closed. I want to "sign out" every time I leave campus. Science & Math taught me what it means to be grown-up, mature, and capable. And yet my friends here all think I'm a little weird when I'm in my room at 10:30 every night. Surely Science & Math is the **REAL WORLD**, and college is just a gross exaggeration of savage indiscipline. I need my RAs. I need my sign out cards. I need my New Dorm. What should I tell my friends here at college?

Sincerely,

Confused in College

Dear Confused,

I realize that it is hard to adjust to the college life, and withdrawal might be felt upon leaving S&M. We all know that this really is a wonderful place. But you should grow and learn from your new experiences in college. The preparation you have received here will be useful in making good decisions; however, do not take it to extremes. If your girlfriend wants to get a little cozy with you in your dorm room, remember

that it is okay to close the door. And sign-out cards can really be annoying, especially if you want to go somewhere out of a thirty mile radius from school. Just remember that the best things in life do not revolve around the RA staff (though all of the NCSSM RAs are cool people), and you really need to grow up. Everything will be as green as the grass in Texas. Don't worry about your friends; they are really jealous of your S&M background. They will learn to curb their animosity soon. Just give it time.

If this doesn't help, please feel free to write back again.

Faithfully yours,
Raquel

Dear Raquel,

I have been feeling fairly down lately. Not only have I heard everybody complaining about all of the end-of-semester work and of course exams. The more I think about it, the more I want to really shatter the petty lives of these complainers.

It is not that I want to strangle them or eternally wound these people. No, I just want to make them think before they complain. My only worry is that my actions will be misinterpreted as vandalism and I won't be able to recycle the remains of my deeds.

To illustrate one of the deeds I would like to perform, I am going to briefly describe what goes through my head as I hear somebody complain. First, someone will storm in the door, frustrated about their math class. My mind wanders into my second desk drawer where I find my loaded water gun. Then, as the person keeps complaining about their test and their homework, and all of the nasty things that are going to be on the chemistry exam, I see myself pulling out that brand new can of whipping cream (the aerosol kind) and preparing my cannon. Of course, my refrigerator is also

stocked with cherries and nuts, so I can make my victim a veritable sundae. Then, the person keeps complaining about how hard housekeeping is; I jump for my laundry basket, which just happens to be filled with a fresh batch of water balloons. Now, here comes the ultimate: complaining about not being able to get a date to the Christmas dance. This is just the spark I need to ignite my bottled fury. I quietly see myself filling my dear friend's water bottle with eau de toilet.

So, Raquel, as you can see, I am truly frustrated with these people. Nobody is interested in having a good time or learning without the stress. It is possible to for people to get their work done, enjoy themselves, and live together peacefully, without complaining about every little petty thing. Am I right (or am I just twisted for thinking these vandalous thoughts)?

Peacefully,

Armed for battle

Dear Armed,

I agree with you whole-heartedly. People should learn not to complain, because it won't get them anywhere. You obviously already know this, since you have learned the secret of peaceful living. Just give them time, they'll come around. But, keep in mind that these people are not going to change overnight. In fact, many people actually thrive on this complaining. Try to be patient and understanding, as these are the people you live with. I do not suggest the water balloons, because it is really cold outside. And why waste the whipped cream on people when you can save it for real sundaes?

Your favorite sundae-lover,

Raquel

P.S. Use discretion when you are plotting, and no one will complain about vandalism (or pranks).