

Are the students at NCSSM Suffering from Cafeteria Woes?

by Nikki Miller

Since my arrival at NCSSM, I've learned to put up with many things: elevators taking forever, teachers disproving every statement I make, even an occasional "bad bathroom smell." But I don't think I will ever adjust to the cafeteria. It is one aspect of dorm life that we all share, yet we, the students of NCSSM, just haven't given it enough thought, so I will now share with you the wonders of the NCSSM cafeteria.

Every morning I awake and stumble down the stairs of First Beall to start my day with a nutritious, state-funded breakfast. I pull out my trusty student ID and enter the establishment. Ahh, the NCSSM cafeteria, dedicated to nourishing the brightest minds in the state. Somehow, at 7:30, in the morning this "bright mind" can't quite identify the food that is being served. Come to think of it, I can't identify it at lunch or dinner, either.

Once in a blue moon, something will actually be fit for human consumption (biscuits are always good—BISCUITS ROCK!!), and I will stand in line for three years (Okay, thirty minutes) to get a taste. I get my apple juice (sugar with a little food coloring—I love it!!) and journey to the dining room. The 7:30 rush at breakfast isn't all that bad, but the lunch and dinner seatings are inexcusable. I want to know why someone who plans on sitting alone has to pick the largest table in the dining room. And why do millions crowd around a table meant for six persons? This certainly can't be good for digestion.

I know that our work service students work diligently to provide an atmosphere that truly is good for one's digestion, but our dining room is slowly falling below par. For instance, what's the deal with the salt shakers? The first few days of school there were so many—now salt shakers are an endangered species. You would think that people would

appreciate the limited supply of shakers we have, but NO—pulling practical jokes is far more important than making your food palatable. That's a real entertaining hobby you've got there—poking out the tops of the salt and pepper shakers. Yeah, boy—we are havin' fun now!! But it doesn't stop there. Every once and a while someone will bestow upon the future occupants of a particular table something that is truly their own: a half-drunken glass of orange juice, a bowl of salad, maybe a few used napkins. It means so much to me when someone leaves a little bit of their dinner behind. It's so nice of them to share. **CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELVES, YOU PIGS!!!**

The tables are not the only spot in the lunchroom with which I have a problem. What is the deal with the lines? We have a line for salads that runs relatively smoothly for the majority of the time, but that main line has a tendency to reach the security desk. I'm no scientist or anything, but perhaps what we need is another line.

I do have a positive side to the cafeteria crisis—It's cheap. Right next to nothing. In fact, it is nothing. It's FREE. In a world where it cost \$1.50 to wash and dry a load of clothes, you learn that you can't always have money for Mickey D's. The cafeteria is in a nice location for us lazy people. It's right under most of our noses, and I mean that literally for those of us in Bryan and Beall. It sure beats walking through some bad neighborhood for the sake of ice cream.

I guess what it boils down to is you have a choice; eating out every night, or dining in at the cafeteria. Eating out is going to get pretty expensive after a while, so it's not a viable solution. So just grin and bear the brown lettuce, the watered-down Kool-Aid, and the ice-cream machine from Hell, or we do something about the state of the cafeteria.

We Should Reconsider the Enforcement of Rules by the SLI's

by Chris Sidi

Laws and rules are ideally set up so as to allow a person to have the greatest amount of freedom without hindering someone else's rights. I do not think there is such a thing as a victimless crime.

The residential rules here sometimes are enforced in a strict, by the book fashion. Other times, warnings are given out or nothing is done. I feel the latter is better. The rules and the light enforcement of them means students generally follow the rules, especially to the extent that others are not imposed on. Study/Quiet hours and rounds by SLI's keep the halls quiet, but why give students the third degree for being two minutes late for check?

And as for some of these rules. Why can't students study out of their room after 2 AM with a study pass? Why should we even have to get a study pass? Why must we be on our own hall from 8:00-8:30? Who is being hurt if we don't follow these rules?

What big problems do you have at a normal high school? Guns, drugs, fights. Here, the most common problems seem to be being out of one's room after midnight or being late for check. What's the big deal?

No rules or no enforcement make for chaos and victims. Strict rules and enforcement make for a prison. There is a balance, and that is light enforcement and warnings for small things that hurt no-one. Save punishment and levels for students who do disturb other students or who really break the rules by drinking, using drugs, and illegally intervizing.

The Stentorian '94

Editor-in-Chief	Robert Anderson
News Editor	Danny Siegle
Editorial Editor	Joe Farr
Entertainment Editor	Malinda Todd
Sports Editor	Heidi Lennartz
Layout Editor	Steve Schklone
Photography Editor	Matt Nash
Faculty Advisor	Lane Wright

*Thanks to all of the writers who contributed to the first edition of
The Stentorian*

*The ideas and viewpoints of the stories and editorials in The Stentorian do not
reflect the views of the entire NCSSM Community or the entire Staff of
The Stentorian*