

Students on board

When we say that we are unhappy with the way the administration punishes students who appear to have committed the same type of offense, it is because we want to see more consistency in our school judicial system.

The administration holds fast to its stand that two students caught for committing the same offense may receive different punishments from the hearing board because individual cases must be looked at on an individual basis. We think that if the violations are the same, the punishments should be as well. We realize that we do not completely understand everything that goes on before and during each hearing, and when you get right down to it, there is more of a communication and understanding problem between students and administration than anything else. Students do not know why rulings are made the way they are, and the administration cannot always give us all the information we would need to understand a decision.

Realizing, of course, that individual privacies have to be protected, we think the best way to bridge the communication gap between students and the administration would be returning students to the hearing board.

Lamp lights out

Several NCSSM students learned at our most recent speak-out session that by recommendation of the Parents' Council, the school is banning torchiere halogen lamps from dorm rooms after Thanksgiving break. In an earlier safety update issued to staff and students, the administration informed us that these lamps "can reach very high temperatures and could start a fire if they come in contact with curtains, clothes, or other flammable materials."

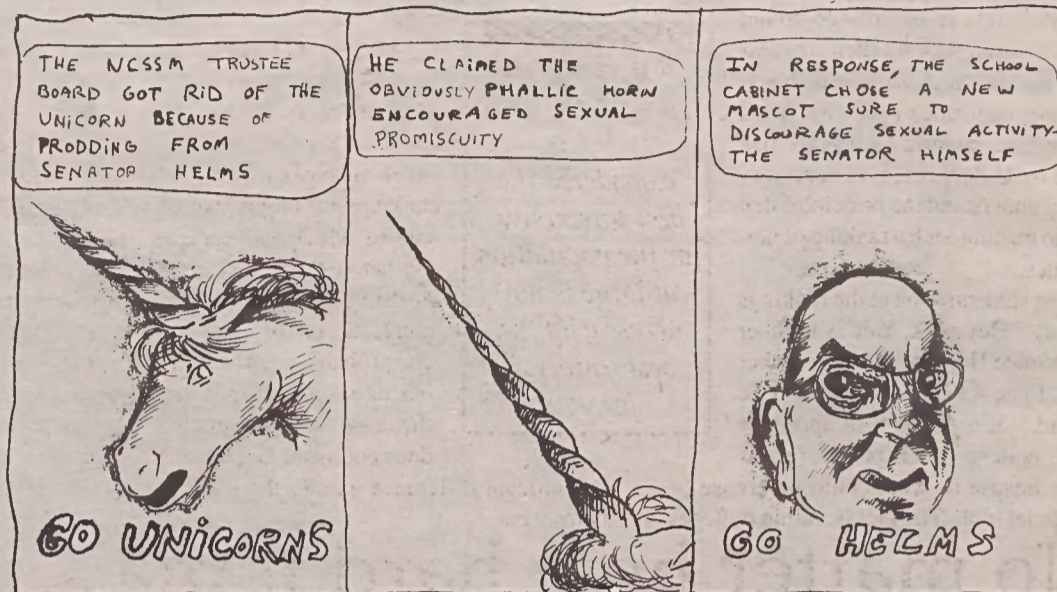
Unfortunately, torchiere lamps are, in many rooms on campus, the best or only sufficient source of light available. The fluorescent and incandescent bulbs built in to dorm rooms of Hunt and much of the Beall-Bryan-Reynolds complex often do not provide enough light to illuminate even half the room. The simple solution to this problem is a halogen floor lamp.

These lamps are an easy, inexpensive method of lighting any dorm room. Torchiere lamps are so popular that the administration listed them as a suggested item in dorm rooms along with fans, linens and towels in the packets of forms and information sent to the class of 1997 as incoming juniors.

Halogen torchiere lamps are most dangerous when they come in contact with clothes or other flammable materials. The initial safety update provided a list of precautions to follow when using a halogen floor lamp. It seems that these warnings would cover the dangers involved in the operation of these lamps. By keeping lamps away from posters and bunkbeds we can avoid most of the possible catastrophes these lamps may create. Of course, we must also remember not to drape clothes over a halogen lamp and to turn off the light on leaving the room.

These appear to be simple ideas, easily carried out by responsible, intelligent students. Why, then, should we send our halogens home? Perhaps the Parents' Council does not trust us to provide a safe environment for using these lamps. Instead, we should strain our eyes in dimly lit rooms, or spend more money on several desk lamps placed strategically around the room to light our quarters.

The Parents' Council and administration must come to a compromise with the students. We should not be forced to live in the dark. If additional or more effective lighting were installed in dorm rooms, we may find torchieres unnecessary. Until then, they should not force us to send home our light.



Graphic by Rajeev Dassari

LETTER

Dear Editor,

I wanted to thank the Stentorian staff for featuring the new female Student Life Instructors in your last edition. However I was a little disappointed with the headline of the article, "Law and Order: New SLI faces appear". This indicated that students feel the primary duty of the SLI staff is to distribute Levels and correct behavior. Allow me to remind the student body what the SLI job actually entails.

Remember the first day that you arrived as a Junior? All of the orientation meetings, doortags, bulletin

boards, and information was prepared by SLI's and RLA's. Those first few days when you knew no one, remember the Brother/Sister hall activities, the food, the ice breakers, and all the questions answered? We spent endless hours working in order for you to begin to feel that NCSSM is your home. Now that you're more settled we deal with low grades, time management issues, roommate conflicts, parent concerns, homesickness, and infinitely many overnight and curfew extension forms. I know of countless trips taken to Wal-mart, Ben and Jerry's, fast food restaurants, Kroger, movies, football games, doctor appointments, and college

interviews. Our time is spent on hall meetings, birthday cakes, athletic events, bonding activities, casual conversations in the hallway, family issues, boyfriend/girlfriend problems, Student Life classes, and much more. We are counselors, "parents," friends, and yes, disciplinarians. Disciplining the students may seem like our primary goal to some students, but it is, in actuality, only a small portion of our responsibility here at NCSSM.

Thanks,

Karen DiRuggiero

(2nd Beall)

The Stentorian

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