

## The mall: guys beware

ROSHAN BALIGA

In need of a new suit, I made the horrible mistake of going to the mall over my Thanksgiving extended to buy one. Not only was November 28th the busiest shopping day of the year, but I had picked Hanes Mall, the biggest mall in the Carolinas. Even though I was accompanied by two women, I should have realized that even when "supervised," men do not belong in the mall. We should just stay far away on these busy shopping days. Nothing could have prepared me for what I saw while shopping.

After what seemed like an eternity, we found a parking spot. As I entered I overheard two women thanking themselves for arriving at six A.M.! Now myself, coming at a ten-thirty, obviously had no right to expect to find a parking spot within two miles of the mall.

It took me nearly an hour to get from one side of the mall to the other. I only wanted to stop in two stores, but my companions, like typical females who enjoy shopping, made it their mission to look at every dress in every store. It didn't matter if the dress was four times what they were willing to spend; they looked at everything. This would be comparable to me looking at every \$750 Armani suit I saw. (I did look at a couple, and they did look nice, but for the price I would rather have 50 CD's or 6000 goldfish, depending on which were on sale.) The strangest thing about the mall was the sheer number of people there. What was scarier was that everybody dressed the same, as they were all at the mall to go to the same trendy stores. I saw nobody who I

recognized, but I did see 700 identical GAP sweaters.

While dodging Santa's elves and other assorted Christmas decorations, I almost resorted to pushing people out of my way. (I thought it was Thanksgiving!) I imagine a few people must have suffocated in the sea of people. Ninety-nine percent of these shoppers were women, but occasionally I did see a girl dragging her boyfriend around trying on clothes for him.

When we finally made it to a decent department store, I had to meet the next challenge; finding the men's section. The mall executives know that women are more likely to spend money in their stores, thus they devote a large portion of the store to women's clothing. Tucked into a corner, I found

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suits. By this point I was ready to grab the first suit remotely in my size and leave, but this would not be the case. As it turned out, the suit which my companions picked out for me was not in my size. I pleaded with them to let me leave. Instead, they decided to have it altered for me. This, I learned, would take from four to six days. However, I was leaving in three days. Thus I returned to NCSSM without a new suit for the upcoming semi-formal.

What have I learned from all of this? Next time I need anything which I might not be able to pick out myself, I'm sending my girl-friends for me. If I give them my sizes, I'm sure they'll do a better job at finding clothes than I will. Besides, they'll probably have fun shopping. It's either that or wait for the next male-only mall day. I think that I'll vote for staying at home and letting the girls do my shopping.

## Underappreciated teachers

SAURABH DESAI

The profession of teaching is one of the most desirable professions and is very useful to society. The teachers have the excitement of working with curious student, finding a lot of satisfaction in teaching other people what they know. However many teachers cannot be as effective as possible because of the lack of respect shown to them through the salary which our state governments are paying them.

There are 1,634,000 elementary school teachers and 1,263,000 high school teachers in the United States. The average salary of elementary school teachers in 1993 was \$34,800 in the United States while a high school teacher's average salary was \$36,000. It is obvious that state governments do not value the teaching profession because of the low pay they give teachers. Many teachers have to work other jobs just to get by. For example, my social studies

teacher last year worked at a ice hockey rink for four hours everyday after school just to have the necessities she needed to live. Is it acceptable to continue to pay teachers the amount that they are getting paid because what they are doing is not important?

Teachers are educating the leaders of tomorrow. Elementary teachers play a vital role in the development of children. They teach the basics of mathematics, language, science and social studies. They try to instill good study habits and an appreciation of learning.

What students learn from teachers shapes their view of themselves in the world, affecting later successes or failure in school and work.

The important job of teaching children to be better people is the responsibility placed on the teaching profession. Consequently, teachers should get paid as much or more than any other profession in the country, including doctors and lawyers. Al-

though doctors and lawyers go to school longer, teachers laid the foundation for the young person to become a doctor and instilled in him the desire to study hard and work. Teachers continue to play this role daily.

One of the most difficult challenges is finding the resources to pay the teachers. Many people say that the state government simply does not have enough money to increase teacher salaries. A solution would be to eliminate the inefficient programs in state governments all across the country and transfer the millions of dollars to teacher salaries.

Our society needs to respect teachers the way it respects doctors and researchers and scientists. We view these people with respect for their long effort spent in college and their dedication to helping humanity but it is the teacher who is helping humanity far more because they are teaching the future doctors and researchers of the world.

## Seniors dread college apps

JOHN BOWMAN

Fall has arrived and those dreaded events of the Senior year, college application deadlines, are fast approaching. Colleges ask us for nothing less than our souls condensed neatly onto four typed sheets of paper. They want us to tell them "who we are" so they can decide whether to accept or reject us. Under these circumstances, applying to college is understandably nerve-racking.

Even so, I think keeping a few things in mind can make the process less stressful. Everyone worries about getting in to the "right" school, but most colleges offer a solid academic program for students willing to take advantage of it. You don't have to go to a school that admits one in seven applicants to get a quality education. Less selective schools offer plenty of opportunities in the classroom and out.

If past years are any indication, many Seniors will attend UNC-Chapel Hill or NC State. Both schools have strong national reputations. They are relatively inexpensive and close to home. Still, some students and parents think heading to State or Carolina after NCSSM means not living up to one's full potential. This assumption is false. College, like NCSSM, is what you make it. Students who take full advantage of the opportunities here will likely do the same after graduation, whatever college they choose.

College acceptance is a hard game to lose. Many schools are glad to take NCSSM students simply because they are attending one of the best high schools in the nation. Many of us, though, are applying to more selective colleges. After going to school with some of the state's brightest students, we hope for the same kind of experience in the next four years. Applications to selective

schools are invariably stressful. We know, as we write our essays and list our extracurricular activities, that we will be compared with thousands of other talented students.

For whatever comfort it's worth, colleges want to know us as people. Their applications give us a chance to tell them how we see ourselves. I believe the best strategy for getting into college is honesty. I have known myself for seventeen years, and I have a pretty good idea of my strengths. Applying to college started to seem less painful when I realized that, instead of trying to decide what colleges want to hear, all I have to do is tell them what I have known about myself all along.

I want colleges to accept me for who I am. I wouldn't want to attend a college that rejected me, in any case. I will give my applications an honest effort, and, hopefully, I won't lose too much sleep. I wish the class of 1998 the best of luck.

## Constructive solutions for nocturnal homework

ROSHAN BALIGA

Many seniors and juniors question whether in-room curfew is fair. Many students believe that it is necessary to study with others after midnight. I feel that with certain exceptions, in-room curfew at midnight should be removed.

Even after midnight, students often attempt to finish group projects individually. With all the clashing schedules, it is often hard to work on group projects in the afternoon. As many juniors are finding out, commitments to other activities force students to break up group

projects and do portions individually. However, many times one student takes the burden of responsibility and ends up doing the majority of the project. Without in-room, at least students who lived in the same dorm could work on projects when they both have some time.

To help some of these situations, SLI's offer study passes. Study passes allow some freedom, but have a few faults. These passes are only valid for one hour, and you must be in a room. In addition, passes are not given out on Sunday nights. This is when students may need passes most; often a group member goes

home for the weekend, and must finish group projects on Sunday night

An ideal change would be to keep 10:30 in-dorm check, yet allow students to be in anybody's room after midnight. This alternative would still keep students from congregating in the halls late at night, yet allow them to study in groups.

In addition, students could also be allowed to study in lounges after midnight. A complaint was reported to me about not being allowed to study in lounges after midnight; "My roommate and someone in his class had to study one night for a chemistry test. They ended up in my room

until two, making it very hard for me to get any sleep. If students were allowed to study in lounges after midnight this wouldn't happen."

Allowing students to study in lounges after midnight is quite a feasible solution. Since quiet hours are in effect already, the noise would not be a problem for students trying to sleep. I certainly agree that students should not be free to do whatever they want to after midnight. It is important to make the distinction between the need of students to study and those who simply want to unnecessarily converse and socialize.

The only reason that in-room

curfew is kept is to make students go to sleep. However, in-room only prevents students from socializing after hours. This new in-room policy would allow students to be out of their room for studying purposes. In-room doesn't make students who have work go to sleep. Instead, it prevents many students from studying and completing work efficiently.

With the amount of work required at NCSSM, students deserve to study after midnight. The administration should give this matter serious consideration if they are truly concerned with the quality of life at NCSSM.