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There are ways to get off campus...legally

COURTNEY TOLMIE AND STEVE CARPENTER

Every student at NCSSM is going to need to get off campus at some point during their two years here. However, the modes of transportation at school can sometimes seem very limited. Here

are some ideas of ways to get around Durham.

DATA Bus. The Durham Area Transit Authority buses are still one of the best ways to travel to all corners of Durham. Although unreliable at times, the bus system is wide-reaching and fairly efficient. For thirty five cents, a student can go to

South Square Mall, Thrift World and many other Durham locations. Schedules are located in Bryan Lobby or on the bulletin board by the cafeteria. The status of D'Weekender route is still pending while administrators and staff at NCSSM, Duke and DATA confer.

Van Loops. School

van loops will now run on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. They are great for a quick after school trip to Northgate. Make sure to be waiting for the return van at least fifteen minutes before the loop is scheduled to end.

—See **Off** page 8

Times, they are a'changin'

COURTNEY TOLMIE

After much inconvenience to students and faculty, the operating hours of the PEC have returned to last year's hours, and members of the NCSSM community are ready to let the games begin.

For the first part of this year, the Physical Education Center was only open for 2 hours on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and for less than four hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Weekend hours were from 2:00 to 7:45 on Saturdays and closed on Sundays. Many students spoke out about the problems that these new hours were causing, saying that the PEC's closure on Sunday was leading to increased boredom on the week-

ends. The operating hours were cut because of budget constraints.

The administration has worked to find the money to increase the operating hours of the Eibler Physical Education Center, however, and recently informed the NCSSM community that the physical education center

would return to being open from 4:00 to 7:45 every weekday afternoon, effective immediately. In January, the PEC will once again be open on Sundays from 2:00 to 7:45.

The new hours will allow students to use the gym everyday after sports practices are over.

"It is good because the PEC was only open during volleyball practice hours and if you wanted to exercise, all you could do was lift weights," said junior Jonelle Stovall.

"With it being open now, the people with sports are able to go in more than twice a week," agreed senior Heather Earp.

Some Faculty members hope that the physical education center will provide a good on-campus form of entertainment and an alternative to students needing to constantly find off-campus activities. The features of the PEC that students are allowed to use include racquetball courts, basketball courts, pool tables, a dance studio, and a weight room.



Caroline Nguyen

Senior Daniel Adams juggles during his spare time. The PEC gives students a place to relieve stress of academics.

ITS working diligently on network upgrade

HEIDI YOON

Some of NCSSM's network computers are playing a different tune this year. The installation of some bits and pieces of new software and a new networking system has beautiful (techno) music coming from the Fishtanks and science floors.

As of October 6, 60% of the computers on cam-

pus are running on the new network. Because of various difficulties, the other 40% are still running on Windows for Workgroups.

Informational Technology Services (ITS), the department that handles all of NCSSM's technical needs, planned to upgrade the network with Windows NT.

The completion of this task was slated for the

beginning of this school year, but setbacks occurred.

Two of ITS's four staff members moved on to other positions at Duke and N.C. State last year, leaving two staff members to execute the network switch-over during the summer.

Interim Department Head Eileen McSherry and Computers Operations Assistant Nelson

Butts upgraded 131 machines over the summer and have installed, among other things, a new version of the TI-83 Link and various academic applications.

Contractors were hired to help start Windows NT, and SLI Chris Smith has also been helping with the work load.

—See **ITS** page 8

The Safety Question



F Street (pictured here) is near the sight of one of the five student assaults that have occurred this year. Students have been warned about the paths they choose to travel in Durham.

HEIDI YOON

Imagine walking around Duke wall for an afternoon stroll. When you least expect it, a man has locked arms with you and is talking to you. You have no idea who he is, but he keeps walking with you, and he seems familiar. You realize finally that he's that man—the one on all those wanted posters in the area.

"Wanted for sexual assault" the signs said. You tense up and can say nothing, praying that nothing bad will happen to you.

When living in a city with lots of crime like Durham, safety becomes a concern for students. Just within the first couple weeks of school, *The Herald-Sun* reported two accounts of armed robbery in the nearby area.

NCSSM students saw signs posted expressing caution against a sexual assault offender on the loose. On Aug. 10, 19, and Sept. 3, sexual assaults took place only streets away from the school, one specifically near Duke East Campus.

Since school started, four female NCSSM students have been assaulted in broad daylight while walking to local shopping areas. On Sun-

day Oct. 4, one female student was accosted by a man claiming to be the one wanted in the Aug. and Sept sexual assault cases.

Since all of these student assaults occurred while students were walking off campus, transportation has become a major at NCSSM. For information on the various ways to get off campus safely, see "Ways to get off campus...legally" on this page.

A variety of weekend trips to local malls and parks are to be scheduled through the Student Activities Board.

Still the administration is concerned about safety and transportation for students.

"We're putting top priority on getting the D'Weekender set up with Duke. Secondly we encourage the students to use the van loops during the weekdays, the D'Weekender on weekends, and not put themselves in threatening situations," said Dr. Barber.

The administration has also looked into some other student needs. Dr. Barber added that they are working very hard to get an ATM in the school somewhere, probably by the cafeteria and mailboxes.



THE SMOKING ISSUE HAS SPLIT THE CAMPUS IN TWO AND CONTROVERSY IS BECOMING BURNED OUT. SEE OPINIONS PAGES 2&3



COFFEEHOUSE ALLOWS STUDENTS TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES AND ENJOY S&M'S UNIQUE ATMOSPHERE. SEE PAGES 4&5



THE BOYS SOCCER TEAM IS RANKED FIFTH IN THE SURROUNDING AREA. SEE THIS AND OTHER SPORTS ON PAGES 6&7