

•Roshan's Write•

"I'm shooting for Wake Tech!"

I'm not going to college. It's not the cost of the education, or even the choice of what college I would like to go to. It's those darn applications that have me scared. With six pages of your history, four essays, and multiple teacher recommendations the ensuing pressure is going to drive me crazy!

Just three years ago, seniors did not have to worry about SAT II subject tests; few even knew what they were. Now I am required to have three under my belt before some colleges will even consider me!

Another burden of applying to college is the required essay. Even Carolina's application now includes a required essay. Luckily, most colleges have similar prompts for the essay. Recycling is important to me, and I guarantee that my identical essay will appear at many different colleges.

The most frustrating part of college admissions lies in the extra-curricular activities section. Maybe I am the exception, but I can hardly remember what I did last week, let alone freshman year. And was that tumbling class in 3rd grade really important? And who decides how much anyone participated in a club? I could say I was a member of Rock Climbers' Club, but that wouldn't be fair since I never went to a meeting. I am more than slightly worried that honesty is not what the majority of college applicants believe in.

At the risk of sounding like a communist, I believe there should be one application for all colleges. The Common Application does exist, but it covers so few colleges. Combine this with the supplements to the Common Application that each college will send me, and I am in for the same long hours.

So if I finally get my application sent out to some colleges, am I going to have faith in my admission to any? I can be sure about many in-state institutions—NC State or Carolina—but I've been told that many uncertainties exist for out of state private schools. With the sheer number of applicants to a school like Harvard [13,000 applicants for 1200 places], admission seems more like a lottery. Is it worth that \$60 for the prayer that I may get in?

Speaking of application fees, the cost of merely applying to college is skyrocketing. Standardized tests can easily run you over \$100, while schools individually charge you for the service of considering your application. Even filing a financial aid form costs money! I'm going to need a scholarship before I get accepted.

After carefully considering my options, Wake Tech is looking better and better. It only has a two page application and I am virtually guaranteed admission. Of course, I could just skip college and start working at Burger King. Or McDonald's, but then I would have to apply to Hamburger U!

•Roshan Baliga is a non-syndicated columnist for the *Stentorian*.

PARENTS SAY...

A survey was given by representatives of the Director's Office to parents attending Parents Day on Sept. 26. These are the results of that survey.

1. I/We favor the establishment of an NCSSM board policy that would abolish the possession of tobacco by NCSSM students.
YES- 145 (88.9%) NO- 12 (7.3%) OTHER- 4 (2.4%) NO ANSWER- 2 (1.2%)
2. I/We object to my/our child smoking cigarettes at any time.
YES- 161 (98.7%) NO- 2 (1.2%)
3. I/We have given my/our child permission to smoke cigarettes.
YES- 1 (0.6%) NO- 160 (98.2%) NO ANSWER- 2 (1.2%)
4. I support NCSSM's efforts to move smoking out of the neighborhood surrounding the campus.
YES- 150 (91.4%) NO- 9 (5.4%) OTHER- 2 (1.2%) NO ANSWER- 3 (1.8%)
5. I/We favor the use of breath testing devices by specially-trained, NCSSM staff as an internal means of confirming/refuting an allegation that a student has consumed alcohol. Results would not be provided to or shared with police.
YES- 141 (86.5%) NO- 14 (8.5%) OTHER- 3 (1.8%) NO ANSWER- 5 (3%)
6. A student should be expelled for a single violation of NCSSM's policy against illegal use of legal drugs (like alcohol) and/or use of illegal drugs (like marijuana).
YES: 87 (53.3%) NO: 66 (40.49%) OTHER: 7 (4.2%) NO ANSWER: 3 (1.8%)

STUDENTS SAY...

Please cut out and sign survey form. Return to the Director's Office in Watts Lobby by Oct. 27. Results will appear in the next issue of the *Stentorian*.

1. I favor the establishment of an NCSSM Board policy that would ban the possession of tobacco by NCSSM students. YES_____ NO_____
2. My parents object to me smoking cigarettes. YES_____ NO_____
3. My parents have given me permission to smoke cigarettes. YES_____ NO_____
4. I support NCSSM's efforts to move smoking out of the neighborhood surrounding the campus. YES_____ NO_____
5. I favor the use of breath testing devices by specially-trained, NCSSM staff as an internal means of confirming/refuting an allegation that a student has consumed alcohol. Results would not be shared with police. YES_____ NO_____
6. A student should be expelled for a single violation of existing NCSSM policy against illegal use of legal drugs (like alcohol). YES_____ NO_____
7. A student should be expelled for a single violation of existing NCSSM policy against use of illegal drugs (like marijuana). YES_____ NO_____

Students should not smoke in residential areas

ROSHAN BALIGA

A young man walks across the street, into the neighborhood. He lights up a cigarette and leans against a tree, contently puffing a Marlboro. It is the late afternoon and he sees a young girl, about 8 years old, walking up the street.

"Hi," he calls out to her. She turns her head to the ground and picks up her pace. He mutters to himself and resumes his break from the rigors of daily school life.

* * *
This example shows how actions with neutral intentions by NCSSM students can be misconstrued as harmful in the community. The issue at hand, not surprisingly, is smoking at NCSSM. Presently, smoking is not allowed on campus at NCSSM. I did not and still do not expect

students to stop smoking all together because of this policy. Rather, students have moved off campus to continue the support of their habit.

I have no problem with students going off-campus to smoke. This is only logical. However, with what I do have a problem is the unfortunate reputation NCSSM has been gaining as a result of students smoking in adjacent neighborhoods.

I believe that smokers at NCSSM are not

fully aware of the problem they are causing. By smoking on residential streets, students have caused neighbors to complain about the negative traits smoking brings to a neighborhood. Smokers do have rights, but at the same time they should not infringe on the rights of others. Neighbors have the right to keep their neighborhood as they desire it. Not every resident in the surrounding area is against smoking, but a sig-

nificant number are.

I would like to ask students who smoke to respect the wishes of the neighbors to NCSSM. Don't give up smoking, just smoke in more acceptable places. The commercial Ninth Street area is suitable for smoking, as is the commercial blocks of Broad Street. I realize there exists a problem with smoking after dark; smoking on campus is a level II offense, as is leaving campus after dark. A rational solution hopefully can be reached, but SGA needs student input. I encourage all students to give SGA members their opinion, or to email SGA their opinion on this issue at the following address: SGA@ncssmserver.ncssm.edu.



NCSSM students (like these) smoke in city streets because smoking is not allowed on campus. SGA and the administration are trying to resolve some of the problems this situation has caused

"One-nine! Nine-Nine!" should be the only call heard around campus

DANIELLE DOWNS

We all experience the hype of the new millennium in television commercials, computer crises, religious propaganda, and assorted nonsense. It's not so surprising then that Y2K energy has moved onto campus at our own, beloved NCSSM. Unfortunately, this puff of 21st century excitement has

translated into idiotic behaviors by the junior class.

At any random time we are jerked out of peaceful silence by shouts of, "One, nine! Nine, nine!" Out of respect for tradition and class pride, the senior class has chanted this passionately at every school function or gathering. The junior class, in an effort to main-

tain hype, began belting out "Two, oh! Oh, oh!" a chant that has been found unacceptable by both classes.

So with overzealous hearts and prideful minds the junior class came up with several chants, none of which have passed group approval. Girly voices have been heard cheering "Two, oh! Uh, oh!" In junior Jill

McFee's mind, this is better than "Two-Gees!" which leaves you hanging or "Two, oh! Oh, oh!" which reminds her too much of seals.

But, in Andy Lame's opinion, animal noises are the least of our problems: "Yelling out your class number is a senior thing and our number is really gimpy. We should use this year to come up with a

better chant for next year." Like too few juniors, he has realized that the seniors have bragging rights.

Juniors, let's get clued in to this chanting thing. Rule one: WAIT UNTIL YOU ARE A SENIOR! Rule two: when using old cheers, no animal noises (this destroys the prospects of seal calls as cheers). Rule three:

when making new cheers, balance the syllables. If the first part has two syllables, the second part must also. Four syllables seem to create the most comfortable rhythm.

Next fall, we can scream our cute little heads off because it's a senior privilege. And while we wait until then, let's come up with a really good one.