

# Move-In Do's And Don'ts

APRIL PRIDGEN

Moving into your new room can be one of the most stressful things about starting off your year at NCSSM. Lugging box after box of things to your new room definitely is not most people's idea of fun. But, even worse than having to carry everything to your new room is the dilemma of having to organize your environment for the next year.

In past years students have devoted an enormous amount of time to rearranging furniture and trying to make their rooms more comfortable. Yet, sometimes students find that the best orientation of the room is actually the way it was when they moved in!

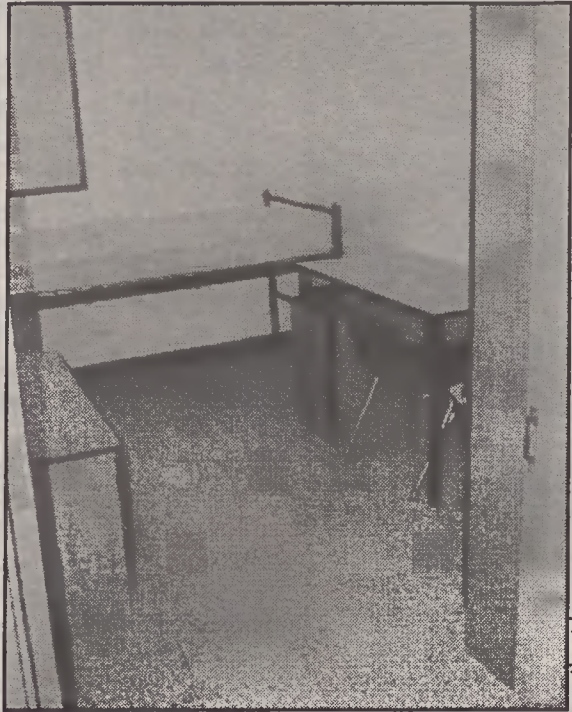
In order to aid you with organizing your room here's a list of "do's" and "don'ts" of room organization that will hopefully make your room feel more like home.

**DON'T** stockpile items that you won't ever get around

to using.

**DON'T** put furniture behind your door in a manner that makes it difficult to enter and leave your room.

**DON'T** stack anything heavy directly on top of



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your refrigerator because it will prevent the door from closing properly.

**DON'T** buy a regular mirror to hang on the wall. Use a medicine cabinet as a replacement and create some extra hidden storage space.

**DON'T** forget to bring some of your own cleaning supplies. Although there are some cleaning supplies on hall, you might like having your own glass cleaner, broom, paper towels, etc. These things may be especially hard to find when everyone on hall is preparing for a room check.

**DON'T** forget that you need separate clothes hampers for your bath linens and your clothes.

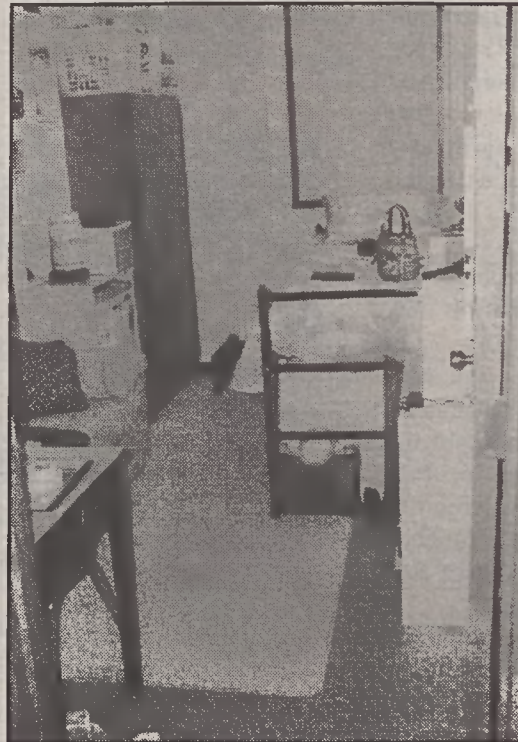
**DON'T** buy regular fish if you elect to have a pet. You can get Aquababies for around \$15. These fish only need food every other day and come in a tank with a snail, which cleans the tank so that you rarely ever have to change the water.

**DO** look carefully at how the furniture in your room was arranged before you arrived. The people who lived in your room last year probably tried several other setups before finding the one that worked best for them.

**DO** try to make the

most of your space by raising up your bed so that you can fit a dresser, desk, or refrigerator underneath. You can do this with stilts or cement blocks.

**DO** get plastic or



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wooden drawers to store clothes such as sweaters and jeans that will take up lots of wardrobe space. These not only work great as storage space, but also make it easier to transport clothing.

notebooks.

**DO** get a dry erase board to put on your door so that people can write messages for you if you miss their visits or a phone call.

**DO** check local carpet stores for remnants of carpet (preferably bound on the ends) which will make your room feel more like home.

**DO** roll your clothes instead of folding when putting them into drawers because it will save space.

**DO** buy extra shelves and drawers for your room that will stack up easily. Most rooms have high ceilings and this is a good way to create extra space.

**DO** consider finding a book shelf or storage crate to store your textbooks and

## Unix is for You!

SHAINA SCHMELTZLE

Unix lab? The term might be confusing to many incoming Juniors, but learning about the Unix lab may be invaluable during their two years at NCSSM.

Located directly across from the two elevators on the first floor of Bryan, the Unix Lab is home to about nine computers that run Unix-based operating systems. Although Unix may not be as user friendly as Windows or Mac systems, (Unix does not have the same standard user interface,) it sports many advantages over conventional machines. For instance one of its advantages is multiple people can use the same machine and it has better task management so that several operations can be performed simultaneously.

The NCSSM Unix lab is run by a specially-selected trio known as the Unix Roots. You will most likely see these three seniors: Monte Evans, Chris Paul, and Brian Pike in and around the Unix lab almost every day this year. "Over the

summer, we've been basically learning more about the Unix system, from security to the internal workings of it and how to communicate across it," said Brian Pike.

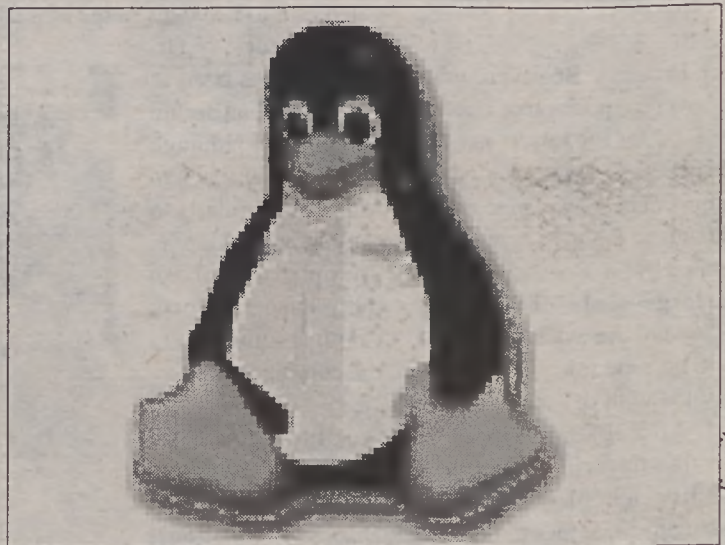
"Being a Root involves making sure the lab works for students to use and making sure people know how to use the Unix machines because there is no reason to have the machines if people don't know how to use them," said Monte Evans.

While Microsoft Windows accounts are given out to students automatically, interested students are required to sign up for Unix accounts. Students will be able to e-mail the Roots at "root@neverland.ncssm.edu" if they want an account or have other questions. A sign-up sheet will also be posted on the door to the lab. "It will take maybe a week into the school year to get the lab open, but if students ever need any help, they can e-mail the Roots and we'll get back to them within about 24 hours," said Brian.

Students will be con-

tacted via e-mail when their accounts have been set up and they will then be able to access them from the lab or from another computer, using the command "telnet\_bob.ncssm.edu."

Students with their own Unix accounts will be able to set up their own webpages and "talk" with other students over the system. The talk command, typed as "talk <username>", works basically like a live chat. A student will be able to see what the other user is typing as he/she is typing it. Students can access their e-mail using the "pine" command and run Netscape using the "netscape" command. The finger command, "finger <username>", lists user settings and will tell whether or not the user is currently on the system. A general finger command, simply "finger", lists everyone who is currently on the system. Most commands, such as these, are easy to learn and use. Any questions about the system can be directed to the



www.linuxit.com

Unix Roots.

"Anyone who doesn't already know how to use Unix shouldn't be intimidated, but can join the Unix Seminar. The Unix Lab is always a friendly place that welcomes everyone," said Monte.

Generally, the Unix system runs slightly faster than Windows NT. However it may be easier to make mistakes because the Unix system has fewer safeguards than systems like Windows.

"One of the best things about Unix is that you never get a blue screen of death and you never get a frowny face," said Monte Evans, "Unix is a vital part of your life and it's better to have training in high school rather than learn it at college. Most things that you commonly use, such as Hotmail, are run on Unix machines, so it's a hot job market right now."

So, root for your Roots, and sign up for Unix today!