

## President

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pletely independent move, and it looks as if I will be the only SGA board member in Hill. As far as I know, I am one of the only people moving to 1st Hill next year, and while I will be an active and positive member of my hall, I am not subscribing to any Hill crowd. I believe that last year's SGA members only represented a small group of the students at our school. When I try to imagine myself in any of the variety of cliques

present at Science and Math, I can always find at least one member of our SGA that I

trust to voice my opinion. There is no question that we are a diverse group, but as all of our new members get to know one another better, it is becoming apparent that we all came to work diligently despite our differences for a goal that will benefit all. Our SGA is beginning to come together and to trust one another. I hope this trend will grow throughout our campus among students and eventually among staff and faculty.

As I understand it, the student body does not trust the administration. Another one of SGA's broader goals for next year is to establish a strong link between the administration and students. The administration has a

tough job. They are the ones who find the money to run this school, hire the teachers that stretch our minds, give us the roommates we grow with, but they also are the ones that have to put their foot down when some of us make mistakes. I have experienced this firsthand. Three of my friends, one which I was very close to, are no longer at this school because they made bad decisions. I was angry when this happened, and the administration was an easy scape-

**"What I really want next year is trust."**

goat for me. To this day I am not sure these people should have been removed from our school, but the fact is, they made choices and were aware of the consequences. Personally, I believe this school is somewhat quick in its decisions to kick people out and I hope to discuss it with members of the administration, but this is a school of excellence, and we must uphold standards of excellence. As I am learning, SGA works very closely with the administration at times, and it is important for us to trust them and the administration to trust us. I have a feeling that despite our efforts, some things will change next year that I may not be thrilled about, and probably the rest of the student body won't be

either. However, when these decisions are made we will always have the student voice heard, and heard loudly. If things do not go our way, we will have to trust that there were higher forces of the bureaucracy at work. We must understand that as students, we think we know what is best for us, but the administration must take into account the student body. There will be inherent differences in some of the student body's views. The solution and bridging of these differences will be communication, and this is the challenge for SGA next year. Our objective is to communicate these differences and changes as soon as we can and to promote understanding between everyone.

In conclusion, what I really want next year is trust. We all have differences in the ways in which we choose to live our lives, and we have different goals. Every student is different in these ways, as well as the faculty and staff. As a community, it is important that we accept these differences. "No man ever quite believes in any other man. One may believe in an idea absolutely, but not in a man." While you may not believe in me, or SGA, or Dr. Boarman, my request is that you believe in the ideals of this school and community, and that you support this community to ensure its growth and improvement in the coming year.

## Wait-list Causes Students to Worry

ANNA GOLDSTEIN

Last fall, things were going well for Larry Whysall at Eastern Wayne High School. He had a part-time job and was taking two courses at a community college. Yet he had higher ambitions, so he applied to NCSSM. Eager to drop everything and accept the greater challenge, Larry opened his admissions packet. What he read was startling.

"You are number 21 on the wait-list."

Each year, 80 sophomores receive the same shock. The wait-listing system consists of a list of 40 males and a list of 40 females. These students are ranked by the number of points they earned during the selection process.

I set out to see what happens to the students who survive the wait-list and come to NCSSM. 27 juniors and seniors replied to a survey about their wait-list experience, and 10 of them feel that coming to NCSSM was academically or socially more difficult than it was for other students. The issues facing them include missed class time, social estrangement, and low confidence.

Many wait-listed students are contacted late in the summer, as the original finalists decline their acceptance. Others, like Larry, have to

wait even longer.

"I assumed I would be accepted during the summer. This obviously didn't happen. It made me both hopeful and angry, because I was going to have to make-up work, but I also desperately wanted to be here." Larry was eventually accepted and finally started classes on August 28, two weeks into the first quarter.

Cheryl Zapata had an even more unusual experience. She initially received a rejection letter. After attending her old school for two to three weeks, she was accepted to NCSSM. The transition was hard.

"I never completely felt like I made up that work," Cheryl admits.

As their classmates were becoming comfortable and finding their place within the NCSSM community, Larry and Cheryl were struggling to catch up on homework.

"I wanted to take programming," Larry recalls, "but because of all the make up work I had to do, I simply did not have the time."

Even students who arrive on time are affected by their former wait-listed status. Elizabeth Stillwell has had to doubt her own academic ability after being on the wait-list.

"Now when I make bad grades or feel out of place, I

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## Vice President

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is, why me? What does Justin Fleming have to offer his peers, his class, and his school, as Vice President of SGA?

We'll start out with why we have an SGA at all. It's because the adults at this school are a separate group. They don't live with us, they don't eat our food or talk to our friends, they aren't loaded down with homework, sports, social life, and everything else that is Science and Math. They don't know what makes us happy, what makes us miserable. <Short Pause> So we need a bridge. A group of students that will be able to interpret and translate what we need so that the adults can understand. A group of kids, that will know when we can compromise, and when we absolutely need change.

But what good is a bridge if nothing goes across it?

SGA is not here so that five seniors can walk around giving each other high-fives about how they got more votes than fifteen other seniors. It's not about our college apps. It's here to make our lives easier. <Slowly> The biggest reason people feel cynical and bitter about this whole process is they feel like nothing gets accomplished. The problem is, people not caring leads to people not trying, which means nothing gets fixed and no one trusts SGA. So what do we do. <Flat intonation, not like a question> Key cards in Hunt, in-room policies, levels for absences, high homework load...these are all things people complain about, but no one knows how to fix them. Did you know that our administration is trying to decide on when to have the internet turned off each night? No doubt everyone has something to say about that. Guess what: right now, your voices

aren't being heard. <Pause> So what do I want next year? I want to know what you have to say. I want to be in a position where I can make sure that Dr. Warshaw, Dr. Boarman, and Dr. Barber aren't lost somewhere when policies that will affect us are being written. Half of the decisions that go wrong go wrong because no one told the decision-makers how things look from our perspective. Like I said before, they're a different group of people. We need to tell them what's on our minds.

The bridge goes both ways, too. How often do you know what's going on? How many board meetings have you attended? How many times have new rules been locked into place before you even knew they were being considered? Administration doesn't tell us these things because we've never shown them we care, outside of our random vandalizations and

forum protests. Wouldn't it be great if we were all on the inside, via SGA? Wouldn't you like a summary every now and then of what the board and the administration were thinking about doing? We can make it feed on itself, with your student government listening to the people in charge, telling you what's going on, then listening to you and affecting real change. This is why you're voting this week. This is why I'm talking to you right now.

So why me? What makes me think I can do things any differently than they were done this year, and last year, and every year before? There are many things I could say. I could claim to be smarter than someone else. I could claim to care more than someone else. I could tell you that I know more, or that I am a harder worker, but you wouldn't believe it. <Pause> Because it isn't true. <Short Pause> This isn't about me.

It's about what I am. I am a student at Science and Math. I like some teachers, I don't like others. I think some rules are right on target, and I can't stand others. I have homework that I don't want to do, and sleep that I didn't get around to last night. Sound familiar? I should be your Vice President because I see things that need to be changed. I should be your Vice President because I listen to what other people say. I should be your Vice President because I am willing to stand up in front of you today, and ask you to give me your trust. You say you don't know me? Let's change that, and get to know our school in the process. I have nothing to offer except honesty, nothing to pledge except effort, nothing to take except your criticism, and nothing to promise except that I will listen to you and do my best for you, because we're all in this together.