

A Christian Perspective

SEUN AJIBOYE

I had the hardest time writing this article. I am passionate about Christianity and the God that I serve, but sometimes the words just do not come. I wanted so much from this article and for it to do so much, but all of that somehow coalesced into a huge case of writers' block. I tried to think of what I would have wanted to hear when I was an incoming junior or at least what I think incoming juniors need to hear. If nothing else, I hope this article says, "Hey, you are not alone."

It is nearly impossible to define what it means to be a Christian at Science & Math because it means so many things. It means that I believe in a God many people at S&M cannot fathom and in Jesus as His Son. It means not giving into the stress and pressure of the moment; it means relying on something bigger than myself to accomplish something greater. For me it means being vocal about my faith, unashamed. It means wrestling with God and trying to find out what He wants for me in my senior year. It means wanting so much for my friends, for my campus...it is about wanting to leave a lega-

cy. It is not about being a goody-goody or being in a prayer huddle when everyone else is at I-VIZ. It is more than going to weekly meetings or dragging myself out of bed to go to church on Sunday morning. Being a Christian at Science & Math is about rising to a higher standard, living for a higher purpose, and serving a greater cause.

NCSSM is a close-knit community, and within it is a community of Christian believers that really do care for one another. Although S&M is significantly smaller than the high school campuses that most of us are used to, it is still possible to get lost. Lost and alone, Christians do not survive very long. I strongly encourage you to make keeping relationships with other Christians a priority.

I know that some of you may be scared. Not only are you moving away from home, some of you as many as four or five hours away, but you are throwing yourself into a new and daunting situation. This campus will test you. You will find out who you are, what you are made of, and what you value. Some people will find that their faith was indeed built on a firm foundation, while others will find that it was

never really their own. Being a Christian at Science & Math can mean being complacent and lukewarm, but I hope it does not mean that for you. I hope something inside you cries out for more, and I hope that cry provokes you into action, diving into deeper waters than you would ever think to tread and coming into a more intimate relationship with God than you ever thought possible.

This year will be over before we know it. I hope you make the most of your time here. We all have an opportunity to leave our mark and to make it hard for this place to forget us. I encourage you to make a choice right now, while you are still new to campus and getting to know people. What are you going to live for these next two years-grades? friends? yourself? God? On Welcome Day, I met a rising junior wearing a shirt that simply said THIRSTY on the front. I hope that is you. I hope you are THIRSTY. I hope you make the most of every opportunity that NCSSM offers you. I hope you come away from this place with positive experiences, a bit older and a bit wiser. I hope you come away satisfied.

Glaxo Summer Fellows

LEAH HAWKINS

While some Science and Math students were at the beach or on vacation, 11 students were back on the NCSSM campus. The Glaxo Summer Fellows provided grants for four chemistry students, three biology students, two computer programming students, and two

roughly 8am to 5pm each day. The two chemistry research projects concerned the microwave synthesis of disubstituted quinoxalines and practical solvent recovery by distillation. The microwave synthesis students, Yuki Jung, Monica Shah, and Leah Hawkins, worked at Duke University and spent their time in the lab using infrared spec-



The girls of the Glaxo Fellows program spend some precious free time at Ben & Jerry's.

physics students to conduct research at Closure Medical in Raleigh, UNC and Duke University.

On the NCSSM campus, the alarm clocks sounded as early as 6am for these students, who worked from

troscopy and various other analysis techniques. Sam van Oort rose bright and early to ride to North Raleigh to conduct top secret experiments; he was sworn to secrecy by a

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Vegetarianism on Campus (aka Creative Eating)

MAGGIE THOMPSON

Here at NCSSM, vegetarian is not a dirty word. Unlike your former school's cafeteria, options range beyond cheese fries and wilted salad. Both lunch and dinner offer vegetarian options-though vegans (who eat no animal products whatsoever, including dairy and eggs) often must fend for themselves from the side-bars. The options are there, but they are few. You will yearn for extendeds when you can

eat home-style tofu and lentils with vegetables other than potatoes. Most of your meals for the next two years, regardless of your gastronomic preferences, will come from the PFM (our cafeteria's nickname and another three-letter acronym), so beware. Your favorite casserole during the first months of the year will most likely be there every week for the rest of your tenure at NCSSM.

Last year, after my brief love affair with tortilla bean

casserole ended, I developed a sticky, yet comforting long-term relationship with peanut butter in its many variations. While my omnivorous friends enjoyed Frito pie and the ever-popular Riblet sandwich, I ate peanut butter on bread, toast, English muffins, waffles, cereal, even plain. Now I had met my protein needs in a way that broccoli-rice casserole never could, but I missed vegetables,

"On weekends, with basic supplies and samples from the salad bar, friends and I cooked meals similar to those at home."

real ones other than iceberg lettuce. Following the lead of a friend, I created salads with a base of shredded carrots, always checking to ensure that the cucumbers had not yet begun to ferment and that the tomatoes did not give under slight pressure. I would also check the fruit baskets in hopes of a firm apple or not yet brown banana. This balance of peanut butter, salad bar, and fruit was the general eating pattern among my vegetarian friends, supplemented with the occasional PFM entrée and Ninth Street meal.

A commonly overlooked place that I did not discover

until second semester, is Hunt Kitchen. On weekends, with basic supplies and samples from the salad bar, friends and I cooked meals similar to those at home. This was a great experience because with vegetarians of the many different cultures that we have here (though all mostly girls); we exchanged new meal ideas that we could take home, while getting the tofu fix that we needed. The cooking was a great way to de-stress and to meet other people on campus.

The arrival of a new dining service this year could mean great changes for vegetarians. We can push for yogurt that does not have gelatin or different flavors of soymilk or even offer recipes as alternatives. As a vegetarian addressing those other vegetarians or prospective ones, I offer the advice to be creative and take a small amount of responsibility for your eating to optimize the PFM's offerings. Also, consider joining Seeds of Change, the environmental/vegetarian club on campus to find others who eat the way you do and may have different ideas. Best of luck on finding your own way through the PFM selections this year.

In Pursuit of Privacy: A Victory for Gay Rights

REBECCA BUCKWALTER AND BRYAN BUTLER

At NCSSM, where the Multicultural Peer Counselors and clubs such as Spectrum, the gay-straight alliance, promote diversity and tolerance, we might forget that 40% of our country still disapproves of homosexual lifestyles, that gay youth are four times as likely as their straight counterparts to commit suicide, or that many existing state laws discriminate against gays blatantly.

On June 26, the Supreme Court voted 6-3 to overturn a Texas law prohibiting consensual sex between members of the same gender, ruling that the ban was an unconstitutional invasion of privacy. In the dissenting opinion for the case, titled *Lawrence and Garner v. Texas*, Justice Anthony Scalia wrote:

Many Americans do not want persons who openly engage in homosexual conduct as partners in their business, as scoutmasters for their children, as teachers in their children's schools, or as boarders in their home. They view this as protecting themselves and their families from a lifestyle

that they believe to be immoral and destructive.

One might hope that Justice Scalia is confusing homosexuality with violence or disease; however, he is not, and the dissent clearly opposes the Supreme Court's involvement in what Scalia terms a "culture war." Where would we be if the Supreme Court had dismissed the civil rights movement as a "culture war"? What if the Supreme Court had supported racists' desire to "protect themselves and their families from a lifestyle they believed to be immoral and destructive," when those individuals perceived African-Americans as perpetrators of such a lifestyle?

Scalia might be chagrined to find one of his more radical anti-sodomy colleagues to be Senator Rick Santorum, who, previous to the decision, stated: "If the Supreme Court says that you have the right to consensual [gay] sex within your home, then you have the right to bigamy, you have the right to polygamy, you have the right to incest, you have the right to adultery. You have the right to anything."

Religious figures Jerry

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