

A Window into the NCSSM World: Community Commentary on the Lights Out/Internet Policy

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There will be some changes to encourage your getting adequate sleep, not universally popular changes, I know, but give them a chance. Being rested enough to be alert and energetic and enjoy each day -- it's hard to find fault with that.

- Steve Warshaw, Director of Academic Programs

I would expect that some students, parents, and maybe even some teachers regard the new policy regarding lights out and Internet use as limiting the learning process at NCSSM by making decisions for our students on their activities instead of letting the students make the decisions for themselves. On the other hand, I would have to agree with all those who point out that many students have been routinely engaged in behavior that is damaging their health and attentiveness in class due to not getting enough sleep in a continuous period during the evening hours. My best advice in this situation is to let's give the new policies a chance and see if they really improve the climate and performance on our campus. Let's insist on an

evaluation of these new policies after we have tried them for one school year. Let's look at real benefits along with any unforeseen negative conse-

quences. Even though I was a real X-Files fan back in the day, I am not prone to conspiracy theories. I do not believe that our Administration came up with these new policies to make NCSSM a more repressive place; I believe that all of us who work here sincerely want to create a great school with a great environment in which to live and learn. Let's, all of us, give these new policies a chance with the attitude that we are trying new things that can be modified and

changed if necessary to make our school a better place for the present and the future.

- Joe Liles, Instructor of Art



NCSSM alumnus

The NCSSM campus at night, seen from above... with its lights on.

quences. However, like many others, I am a little confused as to why the entire network, e-mail etc. must be turned off, as opposed to simply turning off instant messenger programs...it seems as though many of us (at least the people I talked to) have more of a problem with the lights out than the internet. I agree that if all our dorms were truly going to be pitch-black at midnight, I would be quite upset myself...nothing has changed on the weekends...[Those] of us who didn't mind breaking in-room this year shouldn't have a problem with it next year, lights on or off...Many people, myself included, are not particularly upset by the rules themselves, but by the manner they were told to us and our lack of involvement in the development of the rules. Almost all of us, if we were asked a few months ago whether students stayed up to late and why, would have probably agreed that we did stay up too late, and that the internet was probably one of the reasons. The fact is, we were not asked or warned in the least that these new rules were taking place. This is what I hope we can change next year. I hope that next year when problems such as this arise we will

try may be right after school. I believe that a good part of the faculty and staff felt, with good reason, that our late night internet use was causing a significant problem in our academic performance and simply our health. To be honest I must say that the dependency on late night AIM conversations that many of us had (including myself) was somewhat immature and unnecessary. However, like many oth-

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work together with the administration to reach a compromise that will satisfy all of our conflicting motives.

- Jeffrey Sibrack, SGA President

I believe that these changes in policy are both an infringement on your privacy and a blow to any remaining trust between the administration and student body. Part of the dogma of NCSSM is to create the leaders of tomorrow. To achieve such a lofty goal, students must be treated as maturing adults with at least some modicum of intelligence. Students need to be nurtured and provided with as many opportunities as the school is capable of giving. This goal has been undermined by the administration's reactionary policies, instituted without any substantial evidence to ensure robotic learning in a Vonnegut-like dystopia.

- Patrick Videau, grand-senior

One of the most common complaints among students has been the attendance policy as many students amass collections of "purple sheets" and

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"Off Campus" from the Front Page

exotic foods.

Cinelli's: An Italian Restaurant near Wellspring, it has some really delicious food. There's a lot on the menu for more than \$10 dollars, but there's also good pasta and pizza for \$5-8.

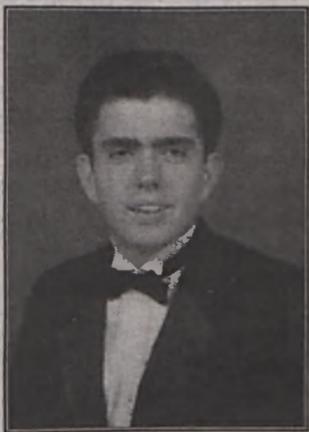
Elmo's: This diner on 9th Street has a really warm friendly feel, and you can go there for breakfast, lunch, or dinner. Prices are pretty reasonable for a sit down place. It's sort of cozy, so some people like to go there for dates, and the easily amused appreciate the crayons and color-in placemats available.

Bahn's Cuisine: People give this Asian restaurant mixed reviews. The food can sometimes be sketchy, and the best time to go is probably Saturdays, when they offer Vietnamese, rather than Chinese food, since the proprietors are Vietnamese. \$5-10.

Pizza Palace: A favorite of Dr. Miller's, this pizzeria is next to a fancy French restaurant off 9th opposite Elmo's. The pizza is good, and there is lots of variety. It's probably best to go with enough people to order a full pie, though.

Dale's: Indian Restaurant on the way to the main area of 9th street, it has a lunch buffet

for about 7 dollars, but if you come for dinner you have to pay more. The buffet is great, and there are a lot of options for vegetarians.



Strawbridge Studios Grand senior Charlie Stone gives presents the off-campus activity rundown.

Mongolian Grill: Just opened next to Dale's you buy bowls of buffet, fill them with meat and vegetables, and they seal them up in Mongolian sauces for about 8 dollars.

Biscuit King: You'll see this seedy establishment on 9th Street, and soon you'll notice it's absolutely never open. There are rumors of sightings, and even tastings, but I'm skeptical.

Magnolia Grill: Yeah, right. This restaurant, which has been listed as one of the

top 100 in the country, has prices to match, so I've never been there. You probably won't either.

Dessert and Coffee

Ben and Jerry's: A million flavors of ice cream, endless sundaes, and other deserts makes Ben and Jerry's, near Wellspring, a NCSSM favorite. For the hungry or the popular, there's the Vermonster, with 20 scoops of Ice Cream and 10 toppings. Just don't share it with anyone who's sick.

Mad Hatter's Café: In the parking lot near Wellspring, they sell pieces of cake, coffee, cookies, and have now expanded into entrees as well. It's good but can be a bit more expensive than you'd expect.

Francesca's: On 9th Street, Francesca's has nice sorbets, ice creams, coffees, and pastries, although they are a little on the expensive side. The benches outside are a nice place to sit and hang out.

McDonald's: No, all you Fast Food Nation readers, not the burger place, the family drug store on 9th Street. McDonald's has amazing milkshakes. The downside is the place seems to be open about 6 hours a year. Although it's hard to figure out when they are open, the best time to

try may be right after school.

Durham and Beyond: Malls

Northgate Mall: Northgate is within walking distance of school, although given the neighborhood you have to pass through, you should take a detour, or better yet, the bus, which runs directly there, or the loop. The mall has seen better days and is a little run down, but it does have a pretty good selection of restaurants and shops and is near a grocery store.

The Streets at South Point: This spanking new mall, (opened spring 2002) has hundreds of stores. It also has a movie theater, some electronics shops for the geeky, and loads of places to eat. For mallrats it's heaven, others find the faux downtown layout nauseating. It's a fair ways away from school on the loop.

College Town

Duke Gardens: It's a long walk from NCSSM, but it's a stunning sight. The gardens are immaculately groomed so that they are in bloom all year round, and the spacious grounds near Duke's West Campus offer wide variety: ponds, a forest garden, a Japanese section, a rose garden, and the main lawns. The

Gardens have a different feel each time of year. Take a picnic, a book, or a date, since the gorgeous setting is popular both for couples and prom pictures, or maybe go with your parents when they're in town. The best way to get there is probably going to Duke East, getting on the bus to West Campus, and going to the Gardens from there (they're right below the Undergraduate Admissions office).

Franklin Street: The big brother to 9th Street is Franklin Street, near UNC, and it's a periodic loop destination. A powerful attraction is UNC itself, especially if you have friends to visit. On the street itself are clothing stores like the Gap, scores of restaurants, and an Indy Movie theater, and just off Franklin Street are lots of little used book and record stores that are fun to explore. Some of the more popular restaurants are Pepper's Pizza, featuring a great Hawaiian pizza, Lantern, with Asian food and sushi, and 35 Chinese. A quick warning: the Franklin Street Cosmic is a pale imitation of its Durham cousin. Skip it. Loops to and fro to Chapel Hill are long and notoriously crowded, especially as it gets late.