

TALKS RESUME—continued

of airhorns and suchlike at sports events is not allowed by NCSSM students, and it has now agreed to ask athletic opponents who bring noisemaking equipment not to use it on the School's grounds, which should resolve this particular concern. On the other hand, in response to a complaint about music at a recent dance that could be heard by neighbors near the School well past midnight, the School has not been willing to consider ending the dances at 11 p.m., which the neighbors suggested in conformance with Durham's noise ordinance. In fact, it has stated that some dances will be allowed to last until 3 a.m. If neighbors are disturbed by noise from the School at any time, they are asked to call the School directly to express their complaints.

3. Parking. The School has done an excellent job of curbing staff and student parking on neighborhood streets near the school, though this problem does seem to crop up anew with each new school year. If you see it cropping up again, please call Harry Tucker (the Director of Campus Resources, which includes campus security) at 416-2890. On the other hand, visitors to the School do need to park on neighborhood streets when major school events occur. The major such spring event is, of course, graduation, which will be held on June 10. But there are other events for which substantial numbers of visitors are expected on March 11 and 18, April 29, and May 19.

4. The new tennis courts on Maryland Avenue. The long discussions between the School and the neighborhood about construction of the tennis courts have paid off handsomely in that the parties were able to agree on a lighting solution that was much more tolerable than the lights that had been originally proposed by the School (unlike soccer fields, tennis courts can be lit via lights that aim mostly down, rather than mostly out). Landscaping has also been performed recently between the courts and the street, at the nearby neighbors' request, but it is not yet clear whether what was planted will provide an adequate buffer.

The main topic that has still not been resolved to the neighbors' satisfaction (at least, as this is being written in early February) is the hours of play. The neighbors believed that they had received a firm commitment from the President of the School for a 9 p.m. cut-off of play, so that they would not have to face lights and noise as they and their children were winding down for the night. This seeming commitment had been confirmed in the Herald-Sun by a statement from School spokesman Craig Rowe that "no student will be playing tennis past 9 p.m." Yet when the hours were posted, they were stated as running from daybreak (which might also be a problem in late spring and summer, when the sun comes up mighty early) to 9:45 p. m, which is definitely a problem right now. The School has not been willing to make any change to these hours, in spite of fairly heated protests, and in fact there have been some nights when the lights were left on as late as 11:00.

For future meetings, anyone in the neighborhood is welcome to propose agenda items by sending them to Steve Cohn (stevec@duke.edu; 286-3672). If you want to attend the monthly agenda-setting meetings on a regular basis, or just be informed about when they are to be held, let Steve know and he will gladly add you to the committee.

FOCUS—continued

living her life in and around this neighborhood, she unconsciously became the model neighbor and set the example we consciously follow today. Her stamp is everywhere. She was born just as the first houses in the neighborhood were being built and although she spent her childhood in other Durham neighborhoods, she grew up very much aware of what was happening here. Her father, John Sally, was a prolific homebuilder in Durham during the 'teens, 'twenties, and 'thirties. He built custom bungalows all along Club Boulevard for his doctor, lawyer, and professor clients. He also built spec houses on Club and the side streets. His "Sally Six" in the 2400 block of Club are a Watts-Hillandale landmark. In 1942, he built a little brick cottage in the 1200 block of Virginia for Hilda and her husband, Tom. It was right in the middle of the neighborhood and although they would move to Club some years later, the Cobles were always right in the middle of the neighborhood.

Long before there was a neighborhood association, the Cobles were actively working to protect and improve the place they called home. They fought to get the streets in old west Durham paved so that kids walking to E.K. Powe and West Durham School would not have to wade through a sea of winter mud. They fought to get a truck route ordinance passed so that tractor-trailer rigs wouldn't lumber down neighborhood streets as they searched for a route connecting Business 70 and the then new I-85. The Coble kids marched in the first Fourth-of-July parade back in 1950 and Hilda was present at every parade since.

In 1984, when it became time to organize a neighborhood association, the steering committee met in the Cobles' living room. Tom was elected the organization's first president and led it through nearly five years of zoning battles to reverse a trend toward neighborhood decline. Hilda served on the neighborhood association board on and off for 20 years, ending her last term in office just weeks before her death in October. She was the neighborhood's memory and its pole star. She knew everyone and everyone knew her. In debate on any issue she had a tendency to hold back and then say just what needed to be said. When others might dance around a delicate subject, Hilda was not above using the privilege of her seniority to ask the hard question or cut straight to the point.

Hilda Coble was intensely loyal to her family, her friends, and to her neighbors. She had a strong sense of place and strong feeling of stewardship towards her community. She leaves us as a legacy the example of a life well-lived and we will miss her.

