

Class, interrupted

BY DERRICK BUSSELL

As you sit in English class, pondering on the thought if "big, blue bull" is a type of alliteration, onomatopoeia, or some other type of complex term from the English world, the intercom blares. Shattered, your mind begins to shuffle back and forth, from words from the intercom to "big, bad, blue bull". Trying to gather your thoughts back to harmony, the words from above shout out for a student that's not even class.

BEEP!

"Mr. Doe, do you have Jane Doe?"

"No, I don't think I know that student."

"OH, Thanks."

What is with the office and this loud, obnoxious machine? Being one of the most annoying pieces of technology ever produced, the intercom seems as if it is a toy for the office. Every time you become extremely involved in a subject, the talking ceiling suddenly interrupts you.

BEEP!

"The person who left their lights on, will they please go out to the parking lot to turn them off?"

Up in front of the class a teacher is giving a subject for class discussion. Students become intensely involved. "Abraham Lincoln was twice the man that John Adams was!"

"Yeah, he freed the slaves!"

BEEP!

"This is only a test. Does it work?"

Disruptions along with the beep are always going to be present in a regular day classroom. Knowing this we must move on past the point that the intercom is always interrupting class, and focus on the ways to improve the situation. A few things

could be done to improve the brutal effects of the talking ceiling.

BEEP!

"We need all students with brown clothing on today to please come to the office."

Cutting down the volume level would be nice. Simply from ear piercing to blasting if not down to voice level, I believe the BEEP will grab our attention.

BEEP!

"Anyone getting caught in the bathrooms between 8:01am to 3:00pm will be placed in ISS for four weeks"

Is the modern day classroom too technological, or are we not using the advancements to our advantage? From the eye catching screen saver on the teacher's computers, to them rambling on the intercom, disruptions are by no means rare. This is very disturbing to all students to receive so many interruptions, and almost crazy to think they can actually concentrate. The best way to learn is to listen, the best way to listen is to focus, and the best way to focus is to go uninterrupted.

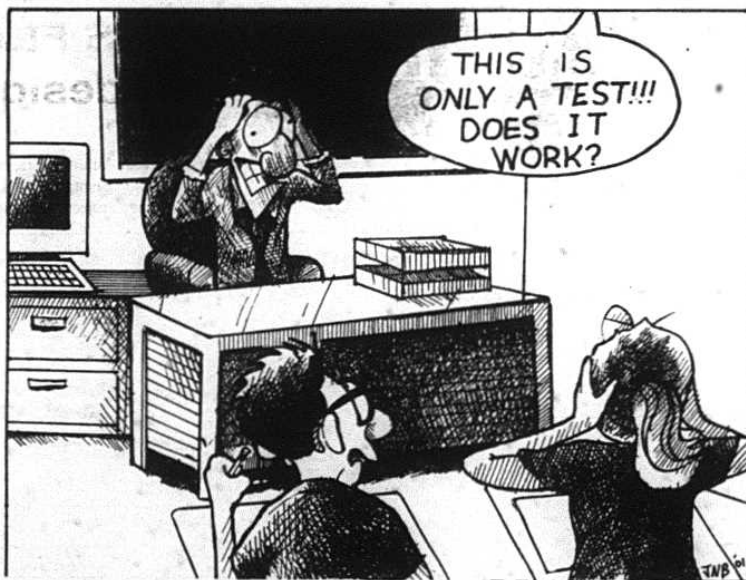
BEEP!

"Anyone who hasn't bought a yearbook report to the office."

Throughout this paper you'll find six small interruptions that I have included, (in bold writing). I've installed six interruptions due to an informal study of the average daily interruptions. If for some reason you found it hard to sometimes follow along with my paper, just imagine the daily classroom. The voice from above speaks on an average of six times daily during class hours (the number of interruptions in this paper).

BEEP!

"We need John Doe to the office to check for hair loss."



Fear of violence not likely to go up in smoke

BY CHEYENNE CARMACK

Four years ago, the worst possible crime at Rockcastle County High School was smoking in the bathroom.

Catching someone smoking was the disciplinary priority of administrators and staff alike. It was a problem, and it needed to be stopped.

Stepping into any RCHS restroom will tell you that the problem was stopped.

No ashes appear on toilet seats, and no smoke clouds the air.

Now, however, our concern rests upon our physical well-being and safety while at school.

The outbreak of school shootings across the nation over the past years have forced school systems to pay attention.

It has forced them to put into effect security features that were never even a thought in previous years.

Despite the addition of several security devices -- locked doors, handbooks, security cameras, and drug dogs, just to name a few -- the question of safety still lingers.

One addition that some students find reassuring, though impractical, are the three alert boxes placed around the school.

Students are supposed to place any tips of violence or suspicious behavior inside the boxes, remaining completely confidential.

While the idea is good, the location of the boxes (the lunchroom, library, and in front of the main office), cause students to doubt their effectiveness.

"They're out in the open," commented senior Tara Abney.

In the future security will only continue to tighten; however, this problem, the one of fear, caused by the acts of several teens, is not one that will likely vanish like smoke.

The Rocket

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It Rocks...

- ~ Splashing around in the newly-opened swimming pools.
- ~ The way your car looks after a fresh wash and wax.
- ~ The sigh of relief that follows the completion of hours of work on the computer.
- ~ Snipe hunting -- if you've been before.
- ~ Scoring high on the ASVAB.
- ~ Making new friends and learning new things.

It Reeks...

- ~ Being splashed with cherry Kool-Aid while wearing a white t-shirt.
- ~ Washing your car, only to have it mauled by rain, pollen, or bird poo.
- ~ The terror that strikes when, just moments before saving a long, long piece of work, the computer freezes up.
- ~ Snipe hunting -- if you've never been.
- ~ Being harrassed by military recruiters because of your ASVAB score.
- ~ Saying good-bye to the friends you've grown so close to.