

SUPPORT STAFF



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HALL MONITORS: ARE THEY REALLY NEEDED?

Returning students and innocent freshmen were greeted in September by the Administration, their teachers, and FOUR hall monitors. FOUR OF THEM! In the time that hall monitors have been at SPFHS, four may be an unofficial record.

Only one, Judith Ware, was a familiar face; prior to coming to Scotch Plains, Ms. Ware had worked at Woodridge State School as an attendant to retarded children. Karen McGill, Mark Franklin, and William Forlander were new, mysterious faces. Ms. McGill had eight years experience as a security guard. Mr. Franklin had been a professional bodyguard for rock stars Prince and Michael Jackson. Mr. Forlander had been a businessman and a provisional teacher. Their credentials for working at SPFHS were beyond question.

But the presence of hall monitors IS an intimidating one for many students, nevertheless. Why are they HERE? Are they really needed at SPFHS.

Vice-Principal Raymond Schnitzer, who supervises the area of student discipline, noted that the role of the monitors was "to deal with situations in such a way as to deny students an opportunity to become involved in neg-

ative situations before they occur" rather than after a rule has been broken. Crowd control in the hallways before, during, and after school is a big part of their job. Student fights and smoking in the bathrooms takes up much of their time, with the inevitable Spring student parking problem, the monitors were sent into the lots to identify student cars which were unregistered or illegally parked.

How do they cope? "A lot of patience and a bottle of Excedrin helps," Ms. Ware observed. "Being a mother of five helps," added Ms. McGill. Mr. Forlander understood that his presence in the halls made some students "feel like a criminal, rather than a student." "I guess I would feel the same way," he observed. "It depends on how you approach the situation," Mr. Franklin left SPFHS by Christmas.

All of the monitors felt that students were generally well-behaved. Both their supervisor, Mr. Charles Wilkins, and Mr. Schnitzer, concurred. Last year, school closed without any monitors and few noticed their absence, or a change in student behavior.

Research by David Glick