

# Impressions Count:

Students can't seem to shake negative feelings stemming from existing school conditions

On a tour of ACHS, one would see a renovated auditorium, new girls' locker room, band room and auditorium, updated technology, and more.

However, upon closer inspection, one might find many things that are less appealing to the eye: trash on the commons floor, mismatched ceiling tiles, broken locks to bathroom doors and more.

One might find even more things unappealing to other senses as well: an overpowering odor in the boys' bathroom, a temperature that is either too hot or too cold, a noisy ventilation system and more.

On a tour of ACHS, one might also discover that many students have a lack of school spirit and pride.

Some say the appearance of ACHS may be closely related to the lack of spirit. "When I go to other schools, I'm ashamed to say that I go to Antioch," said senior Troy Agosto.

As organizations and individuals work to improve the school climate, they must consider the buildings facilities as a factor that contributes to spirit.

"When I look at our school, I sometimes feel unmotivated to wake up and come back," said Agosto.

TRASH: An issue that has caused controversy recently is the amount of trash in the Commons.

In order to keep the Commons clean and punish offenders for failing to dispose of their waste properly, the administration team, which consists of principal Dr. Crawford, assistant principals, deans and members of the Board of Education, turned off the vending machines for six days.

To Crawford, it is obvious that this is not a problem with the custodial staff. "I would not blame the custodians. They don't throw the trash on the floor," he said.

However he does think it is a problem. "The amount of trash is probably more this fall than we'd like it to be," he said.

So who is to blame? Crawford said, "I don't think it's the students as a whole, but certain individuals not being responsible."

MAINTENANCE: Problems like mismatched ceiling tiles, broken locks on bathroom doors are small, but perhaps they have a bigger impact on ACHS than one might think.

The man in charge of these matters is Jim Dennis, the director of building and maintenance.

The job entails dealing with the 28 members

of the maintenance crew and other important custodial matters.

His department follows a specific procedure to do the job. "There's a pass log down in my office that the custodial personnel use to write down any broken light fixtures, broken toilets," said Dennis. "If anything goes wrong, my department fixes it."

This is not as easy as it sounds. "ACHS is a challenge to us because of the student population. This is a school with 2100 that is made to hold 1800," said Dennis.

CLEANING: In addition to the daytime maintenance staff, a night crew also cleans the school.

A member of the nighttime maintenance team, Elaine Niemiec, said the crew works Sunday through Thursday.

A challenge for this staff is to clean up after all the events that go on at ACHS when school isn't in session. "We call it the Antioch Convention Center," Niemiec said. She has worked at this job for 23 years.

For anyone in the school who looks up, certain areas of the ceiling may appear to be neglected.

However, Bob Matthews, who works the daytime crew, explained the issue with the ceiling tiles.

The original style of tile has been discontinued, he said, so when one needs to be replaced, it must be replaced with a new tile, which does not match.

Just as small problems affect how people look at the building, "Everyone factors into the big picture. A little help from the students, from the faculty,

and of course the maintenance staff all help," said Dennis.

TEMPERATURE: The problems in temperature throughout the building are difficult to correct. This year, ACHS has a new air conditioning system that hasn't been consistently working. Many of the temperatures fluctuate from room to room and some rooms are not air conditioned at all.

"The north gym is not air conditioned and it's like 1000 degrees," said ACHS junior Richard Brown.

In response to this problem Matthews said, "A lot of the bugs are still being worked out from the new stuff." It is a challenge to go from just a heating system to an air conditioning system.

Throughout the school the maintenance staff

has been dealing with new issues. In the new additions, such as the girl's locker room and auditorium, there are heating and cooling systems that are completely different.

EFFECT ON STUDENTS: On a tour through ACHS, one would find many students who have negative things to say about the school's appearance.

"The whole school is dark and depressing," said junior Dan Rohrmayer. "Maybe that's why there's such a big drug problem here. You have no motivation to do school work; kids would rather go do drugs and get trashed."

Some outsiders also have a negative impression of ACHS as well. "I applied for a job the other day, and I put down that I go to Antioch. The people there said they felt sorry for me," said sophomore

Laura Gegg.

As big improvements like the locker room, auditorium, choir room and the new high school, are made, the contrast between new and old becomes sharper and sharper. Although many of the problems may seem small, they often add up to create a overall bad impression.

Even if the new improvements outnumber the old problems, as long as things remain broken, mismatched, dirty, - smelly, or messy, students will not be able to shake their negative feelings towards ACHS.

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•GUMMING UP THE WORKS: One example of the lack of cleanliness is the gum spit out in the drinking fountains



• BOXED UP: Although there is no lack of space, a trash can is being used as a storage closet.

## Bad Habits vs. New Additions

Although there have been numerous warnings and consequences, such as the shutting down of the vending machines due to an excess of garbage on the commons floor, students continue to revert to bad habits. The dropping of garbage in the commons, the walkway from the school to the athletic fields, and gum spit out in drinking fountains.



Contrary to the bad habits of students, ACHS has many new additions such as the revamped auditorium, which includes new boys and girls dressing rooms for school productions, an additional parking lot next to the auditorium, and the recent construction on the girls' locker room.



• MULTIPURPOSE ROOM: The bathroom shared by athletic coaches houses not only the usual apparatus in a bathroom, including a shower, but also a refrigerator, and, around the corner, a desk.



• MISMATCHED: Although the multicolored ceiling tiles are visually attractive they portray an image of disunity in the halls of ACHS, especially to visitors to the school.