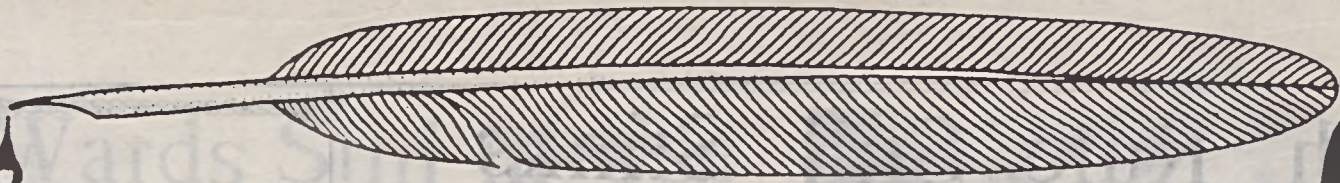


The Stentorian



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Federal Law Affects S&M

by Pete Eisenhauer

The United States Department of Labor has begun strict enforcement of the law which states that no person under the age of 18 may operate any state vehicle carrying school children in North Carolina.

North Carolina student drivers have previously been exempt from this law. Due to recent increases in student driver accidents and violations, however, state legislators agreed to enforce this law beginning January 1.

The law has been effective for several years in many other states, where most school bus drivers are older, retired people. The law will not only affect student drivers at NCSSM, but also at all other North

Carolina public and private schools. Additional drivers will have to be found throughout the state to replace those who will not be eighteen by the first of the year.

The transportation system at NCSSM relies almost entirely upon the twenty-five students now certified to operate the school's ten vans and two buses. As of January 1 only four of these twenty-five will be eligible to continue driving.

There are about seventy-five seniors, however, who will be eighteen by January. Ken Horne, Head of Safety and Security at NCSSM, strongly encourages these seniors who have had a valid North Carolina driver's

license for at least six months and have had no moving violations to become bus drivers. To obtain a bus driver's certificate, one must complete the two 1/2 day classes which will be held November 17-18.

Student bus drivers at NCSSM are often asked to contribute their time to different groups needing transportation. The mentorship program which is entirely dependent on student drivers may have to seek alternative forms of transportation if more student drivers cannot be found. Drivers also provide transportation for class field trips, social activities, athletics, and all other school events, including convocation.

Juniors Laugh and Learn

by Howard Wallace

A hapless junior roams the halls of New Dorm, searching for his room. Corridor upon identical corridor becomes a fiendish maze with no escape. The student continues his doomed trek until he reaches a point of frustration and screams. This is but one of many segments from 'Under Construction,' an NCSSM video production. Now in its third season, 'Under Construction' was the brainchild of Peggy Manring and Rena Lindstrom.

'Under Construction' was originally conceived to provide guidance that would normally be given at home. It achieves this by presenting dilemmas that, while par-

ticular to NCSSM, remain common to most teenagers. The show follows a sitcom format, revolving around residential life at NCSSM. Actors were chosen through auditions held at the beginning of the year. Their characters will develop throughout the season and foster a rapport with the audience.

Despite faculty input, 'Under Construction' is, for the most part, a student production. Key roles, such as script coordinator and production manager, are filled by students. They are granted a great deal of influence in the production of 'Under Construction.' Peggy

Manring, 'U.C.'s sponsor, has been very pleased with the student leadership. "I admire their energy, influence, and ability to get a job done," says Manring. Julia Eberle, who provides technical support, is satisfied as well: "Some may say I'm easy to please, but I'm very pleased."

One season of 'Under Construction' consists of five episodes which will be aired on Durham cable as well as viewed by students during evening series. Its purpose is to be a learning experience, not only for those who participate in its production, but also for those who watch.

Seniors Hoffman and Sullivan Plan AM Radio Station

by Eugene Yen

If all goes well, NCSSM may have its own radio station soon, thanks to the efforts of Jeff Hoffman, Dr. Little, and Dr. Wilson. The exact starting date of broadcast is still uncertain because the station still needs a coupler, which is a device

that broadcasts the radio signal through the wiring of the school. The exact frequency of the broadcast is also undecided, but it will be broadcast somewhere on the AM band.

The location of the station has yet to be selected among several possible loca-

tions, one of which is the old principal's office in Bryan. Right now, the station will be using borrowed equipment, but a grant may soon be approved which will provide the appropriate funds to buy new equipment.

The idea of a radio sta-

tion was developed by Jeff Hoffman last year. He talked to his academic advisor, Dr. Lutz, about it, and she told him to discuss the idea with Dr. Little. The station was organized this year, with Jeff as the general manager, Jason Sullivan as the chief technician, and Dr.

Wilson and Dr. Little as sponsors. DJs and other staff members were selected through applications.

There are still spaces available, so anyone interested in being a part of the radio station should talk to Jeff Hoffman in person, in ND 209.

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Meshelle Hart shows her true self at the Halloween dance.

Gym Construction to Begin

by Hui Sun Kim

Standing solid among the rubble and the dirt when the dust finally clears behind Bryan Center will be the long awaited S&M gymnasium. According to Mr. Jim McDuffie, Communications Officer for NCSSM, the plans for the construction of the new gym are well under way.

The state has approved the \$2.6 million contract for the gym, which will take up about 32,000 square feet and consist partially of the existing MPC building. It will house a 600-seat central gymnasium with courts for basketball, volleyball, handball, and racketball. Also to be included are a training room, a dance studio, gymnastic equipment, and classrooms. Two of the three buildings that will constitute the gymnasium complex will be connected by a glass-barrel

walkway. Eventually, a swimming pool may be installed behind the main building.

A small but very perturbing question remains: When will the new gym be completed? Another often asked question is "Is the construction company building the new gym the same one that built the New Dorm?" Though the school has established a contract with an architect, it has yet to close the deal with a construction contractor. McDuffie estimates that it will take 18 months "looking at it optimistically," and two years at the latest, to finish the buildings. Perhaps the Class of 1990 will be able to enjoy the facilities; current S&M students will first see the new gym at their five-year reunion.