

## PFM

By Teresa Lambe

The quest started in Dr. Barber's office. Dr. Barber, who along with Sandy Gosnell, coordinate the actual sign operation. She says the sign's main purpose is to help keep students informed.

While Dr. Barber likes the idea of the sign, she is finding its practical use rather complicated. "Our first dilemma was when we put it in...we weren't able to erase anything," she commented. Even now, when the technical side of things is beginning to be understood, she is still encountering problems. "The control box gets hot," she says. "Maybe there's some type of electrical problem."

Of course, finding the information to enter into the keyboard is also rather difficult. "Not many people are posting things. It's taking a lot more energy than we realized," she concluded.

And how much did the technological breakthrough cost? As she understood it, \$1700. She did not know where the money for the sign came from, nor did she know very much about its purchase.

Next stop--Sandy Gosnell's office. Gosnell is in charge of making sure the sign is operating and it is being used by the student body. Although she is the overseer of the whole project, Gosnell did not know how much the sign cost, where the money came from, or any other details of its origin. She referred me to Dr. Braughn Taylor, the head of the budget department.

Dr. Taylor disclosed the actual price of the sign: \$3200, including shipping, handling, and tax. It did not cost, as Dr. Barber and many of the faculty and students thought, a mere \$1700.

The money came from a fund which handles all donations made to NCSSM, the Fund for the Advancement of Science and Mathematics Education in North Carolina.

In order for the school to claim money from the fund, the Director must request a certain amount for a specified purpose. The stated purpose of the fund is, straight from the teacher's handbook, for "the advancement of education." How the electronic

## Sign

bulletin board advances education is rather cloudy.

Its addition to PFM would not be quite as offensive if it were not under the guise of education. One can only wonder why additional computers, new textbooks and better supplies weren't purchased with the money.

The mystery of the sign and its purchase isn't a mystery only to those lower in the NCSSM hierarchy. "I didn't have anything to do with it," was Dr. Youngblood's only comment. It is a rather ironic fact that the principal of the school "had nothing to do with the expenditure of \$3200-- especially in light of recent state wide budget cuts.

The Director's only comments were about how the sign will help get information to the student body. "I brought it up at one of my lunches," he said, "and the students thought it was a good idea. It can give scores the next day-- which we can't do in the daily bulletin." He could not understand why something "so innocuous" had caused so much uproar.

## Dipute

Friederick concluded by saying, "If you don't want to look, don't look up."

But those who must eat every meal at PFM can't help but look up. While they dine on food not known for its

gourmet taste, they are bombarded with red letters from the sign. PFM has never been known for its atmosphere. At best it is loud, noisy, and crowded, and the sign has not enhanced the ambiance.



The PFM sign which has caused an uproar.

## Site Choice Upsets Many

By Amar Setty

The idea of having the 1990 commencement exercises, or graduation, outside on NCSSM's beautiful campus seems absurd for many people. "The heat will drive us crazy; I just don't think I can take it," complains one student.

Many people's reasons against having graduation outside are superficial; they neglect the true spirit of graduation. Is it not the progression of the individual student, but of the entire school.

In the past ten years, NCSSM has changed dramatically; having graduation outside, on campus, is the best way to show its progression. Our graduating class should be happy to be in the warm glow of our campus during the day of June 2, 1990; we should be proud of our school.

The first problem people cite about our graduation arrangements is the heat. Reflect, however, on the temperature at graduation last year. The gym at NCCU was not a very comfortable place. In addition, there was no breeze to cool us down like there probably will be on this upcoming warm spring day.

Secondly, traffic and parking seem to be problems. However, these are problems inherent for any graduation. The school has made consider-

able effort to alleviate this problem by deciding to block West Club Boulevard to add space and ease congestion. In addition, many neighbors have volunteered to allow their lots for parking.

Basically, parking and traffic are the same, if not better, either on or off campus.

Finally, there is the problem of inclement weather, namely rain. The Physical Education Center is planning to be used in this case, even though it will probably not rain. After all, there have been many graduations outside for other schools and rain has not generally been a problem.

Essentially, all these problems cited are very minor; we need to think about more important issues.

When people attend graduation, they see more than the procession of students walking up the aisle to receive their envelopes. Spectators see and feel the atmosphere of the graduation exercises, and mentally judge the school. The North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics has a distinct impression that cannot be shown on the campus of NCCU or in any other hall. Because of this important tenth graduation, we must convey the beauty of our school and prove to the world that NCSSM made a difference.

## Parents Receive Prom Letter

As everyone must know, a letter was sent to all parents from the Parents Council concerning students' actions on prom night. Essentially, it was a warning of past events and a recommendation aimed at preventing their recurrence. The letter also provided an idea for an alternative, which is good.

There have been mixed reactions from students concerning this letter, most of them highly negative. Some of the diction and phrasing in it was demeaning, stripping "our children" of any maturity the "children" might have had.

However, looking beyond the ill-fated words at the big

picture, one can find great truth and indisputable reasoning.

Considering the behavior and respect for property that some members of our community exhibit, I wouldn't even want them to leave their own home. That's also counting the students who don't get caught.

If one even looks at just the students that are caught (many of them repeat offenders of major violations, which should tell someone something about the efficiency of the system), they've shown that maybe they can't be trusted with the freedom given them.

It is true that these people are only a portion of

the student population, and that many others can be fully trusted with more freedom than they could ever want.

Although many of us don't deserve to be treated like a child, some of us are still children. And parents have a right to know and to communicate about such things that probably would (and still will) happen. The letter didn't twist anybody's arm or threaten them. It's not mandatory that parents follow the suggestions in the letter. The decision is left up to individual parents. Really, who can blame them for trying to hold on to their little babies?

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