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## **Planned** Parenthood Clinic Opens on **Broad St.**

## What in the World is the Gnomon?

Kristine Johnson staff writer

As you're walking around campus and pass that mysterious modern sculpture between Hill House and the PEC, have you ever wondered why it's there and what it means?

Did druids, thousands of years ago, conduct a long and tortuous journey to this spot on the North American continent to erect a monument of religious significance? Did aliens construct a statue as the cover for an intelligence base through which they could observe an unique society of humans, who often say peculiar things? Really, no.

Sorry to disappoint you, but the mysterious sculpture is actually younger than NCSSM. In 1984, the NC Arts Council selected NCSSM as the site for a piece of modern sculpture. NCSSM was chosen, stated Joe Liles, because "As a new campus, we were progressive and open-minded enough that we would support a piece of innovative sculpture." A selection committee including Braughn Taylor (then a teacher of sculpture at UNC), and Arts Council members

discussed the proposals submitted by local professional sculptors.

After interviewing the artists and viewing their models, the committee began the difficult process of final selection. The final three choices included a giant brass crossbow aimed at the heavens to be placed in the traffic circle before Watts building, a floating geometric sculpture casting colored shadows in the biological pond, and a miniature Stonehenge solar/star measuring device to stand in the courtyard of the auditorium to be constructed in the parking lot behind Bryan Center. The selection committee chose the miniature Stonehenge, Gnomon, designed by local sculptor Tom Sayre.

Sayre discussed with students and faculty the construction of his proposal, the design of astronomical angles, and the design of any markings to be placed on the sculpture. He thereby completed the design, a synthesis of his professional skills, the ideas of students and faculty, and the individual personality of NCSSM. On May 22, 1985, a crane lifted and set into place three concrete slabs that had been previously poured and left to dry at the site. Only gravity holds the slabs in

position. While resting upon the ground, they also lean upon each other, attached by only one weld at the peak of the sculpture.

Although Gnomon is a simple structure, it provides NCSSM with a mathematical link to the heavens. The two side pieces are exactly the same size. Sayre derived the angle design of each piece and its position within Gnomon from the site's location relative to the magnetic north and south poles of the earth. The middle slab rests in a northsouth position and its top edge always points to Polaris, the north star. When a shaft of sunlight enters the slit in the front of the sculpture (the side facing the pit), falling directly of the middle piece, the sun is directly overhead and the time is exactly noon. The length of the noontime shadow of the middle piece changes during the year. The shadow reaches its greatest length on the winter solstice and its shortest length on the summer solstice. The shadow extends to a median length of these extremes on the autumn and spring equinoxes. If three markers corresponding to the three lengths were placed behind the middle piece, the sculpture could herald the seasons.

## Art Dept. Offers Elements of Life

Maurine Shields

During NCSSM's Sexuality Week, representatives from Planned Parenthood led discussions about relationships. However, birth control never came up as a topic of conversation. With questions lingering in students' minds, it was obvious that more information was necessary to make students fully aware.

Planned Parenthood of Orange County is opening a new clinic at 820 Broad Street. Patients should be seen starting in mid-December, on weekdays and Saturday mornings. These are only tentative plans, so students should call the clinic at 419-8081 for more definite information.

The clinic will offer gynecological examinations, birth control, pregnancy testing and counseling, STD screening and testing, and consultations. Both males and females will be seen. For services not available at the clinic, referrals will be available. All patient information and services are kept strictly confidential.

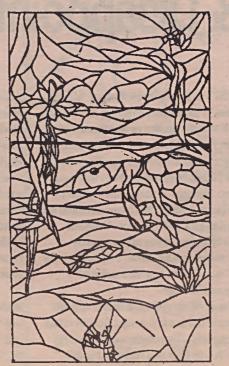
Fees for services vary. A sliding scale based on income determines costs. Special student rates are offered. The clinic's goal is to make it available and affordable to everyone.

The clinic staff is friendly and open. Call for arranging appointments and receiving specific information. Planned Parenthood is opening this new clinic with the hopes of providing advice and medical services to everyone. Amanda Pearson

Elements of Life is the title of this year's artistic extravaganza. The project consists of three stained glass windows. Elements of Life is broken down into three regions: a water scene, a sky scene, and an earth scene.

"So many students, faculty, and staff feel like they devote most life to school and yet, most of the time nothing physical will remain behind. This stained glass project will allow members of the school community to make a contribution that will always be here."

Joe Liles chose this project because it would give visual beautification to the



Air and Water make up two of the three stained glass windows to be built this year.

drawing room. The drawing room is the only room that most visitors see. This project will aid in making the drawing room more of a focal point while giving visitors incentive to look further around the art studio. The windows will also provide beautiful, artistic inspiration for students working in the studio.

The team of people working on the windows consist of NCSSM art students, Joe Liles, Elizabeth Moorman, and Arlen Custer, a local stained glass artist. Once the windows are finished, the art department intends to throw a big party with a guest list consisting of legislators, members of the N.C. Arts Council, the arts and educational community, and all students of NCSSM.

This project is very expensive. The art department has already spent three hundred dollars on a variety of glass for the windows. Fortunately, the North Carolina Arts Council, a state agency, is sponsoring the project through a grant, part of which will pay Arlen Custer for his effort on the project. Also, the SRC corporation of Research Triangle Park is providing the money for all the glass and

Anyone who is interested in helping with the windows is invited to come and contribute to the project.