

the stentorian

Volume 14, Number 1

NCSSM, 1219 Broad Street, Durham, NC 27705

December 16, 1994

Around the world and back

By **MAGDA KOTEK**

News Editor

International

■ The United States has decided support the lifting of current economic embargoes against the former Yugoslavia. Washington has also thought about sending 10,000 American troops to help evacuate U.N. peace-keeping troops from war-torn areas. Meanwhile the Serbs continue their attack on Bihoc.

■ After the peaceful exit of the Cedras junta, Jean Bertrand-Aristide was peacefully restored as President of Haiti. In the same week, Aristide renounced his priest-hood.

■ Israel and Jordan finally signed peace accords. In the same region, twenty-two countries and three international aid organizations have pledged \$125 million in aid to Yassir Arafat and the newly formed nation of Palestine.

National

■ After elections in November, Republicans gained control of both the Senate and the House. Among those unseated were Democrats Diane Feinstein of California and Tom Foley of Washington. On the state level, Democrat governors Ann Richards and Mario Cuomo were given the boot. Republican Oliver North though was not elected senator of Virginia.

■ With new-support from Republicans, President Bill Clinton ratified the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) by an almost two-thirds vote in Congress. The bill plans to internationally cut tariffs by a third, remove trade quotas, and protect intellectual property.

■ The nation prayed and shed tears for two boys presumed kidnapped in Union, SC. After a week of searching the mother

see **AROUND THE WORLD**, page 2

Students attend conference in California

By **AMY ELLIOTT**

Business Manager

From October 19-23, four NCSSM students represented our school at the conference hosted by the California Academy of Math and Science (CAMS). The eighteen participating schools each presented a separate project focusing on social issues in America, such as education, health care, housing, violence in schools, and the environment. The trip itself, including plane tickets and the registration fee for the NCSSM delegation was paid for by the Parent's Fund.

The delegation from NCSSM included Sarah Fieler, Neil Golson, Linh Tran, and Stacy Vogel (all seniors), with Dr. Steve Warshaw, advisor. The project was "Technological Advances in Surgery and their Socio-Economic Impacts." These students, however, were only a few of the students working on the project. Others students also put hundreds of hours into making the project a success, including Phong Doan, Marci Gambrell, Carla Locklear, Aaron Massey, and Trina Walters (all seniors). The decision of which students would go to California was made by the students themselves, by a vote of seven of the project members. Although several other students worked on the project, they abstained for various reasons.

The consortium is a group of approximately 47 schools that are either residential or magnet public schools that focus on math, science, and technology. The schools work together to improve education in these areas. Cooperation, not competition, was the reason for this conference. Dr. Warshaw said, "Collaborative projects are a goal for the consortium."

The work began in August when Dr. Warshaw offered the conference to students in his biotechnology seminar and to others through the daily bulletin. All of the project members worked equally on the project, regardless of which mem-



Neil Golson, Sarah Fieler, and Stacy Vogel, three of the representatives from

NCSSM at the California Academy of Science and Math present their project.

bers would attend the conference, up until the day that the students left. The project drew upon the Triangle's resources in medical technology. Students interviewed many area experts at Duke and UNC to keep the project current with recent technological advances.

In addition many of the project members used their enrollment in the mentorship program to research the project.

To the four NCSSM students that attended, the conference was disappointing. The expectations were not clear and many schools came to the conference with little or no prior research, a far cry from the hundreds of hours that project members at NCSSM spent on the project. Sarah said, "I thought it would be a really good conference, but there were probably

only five schools with real projects...Had the communication between the heads of the conference been better, it could have been really good." She did point out that NCSSM had a good showing at the conference, "Our [presentation] went well because we were well prepared."

While in California participants

shared the project with other NCSSMST schools and participated in an innovative tour of Los Angeles called Urbanscape. This program was a walking tour of the city designed to reinforce the idea of students making a positive change in the social problems of America. Linh pointed out an important aspect of Urbanscape: "We bought fruit and whenever people came and asked for money we gave them fruit." Although they enjoyed Urbanscape, other participants felt it was unnecessary. "Literally, we just walked around L.A.," said Stacy. Sarah added, "it didn't relate at all to the project."

In addition the conference included a free day to explore California. The students watched the taping of a television program called "Daddy's Girls" and played volleyball on the California beach. Linh said, "the free day was the best part."

The project group is now working on a presentation for an upcoming ALT Day, and may enter the project in a contest sponsored by the North Carolina Student Academy of Science, with a possible community service element added. Interested students are encouraged to contact a group member to help with this project.



Inside this Issue...

Volunteering in the community

page 2

New album reviews

page 9

Diverse student body celebrates holidays

page 6

IM Sports Update

page 10

Parents' Fund

page 8

Fall Sports Update

page 11