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AROUND THE WORLD ...and back

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MCCLAIN

The Rwandan Crisis

Two years ago, more than one million Rwandan Hutus fled across the border of Zaire in search of safety. When armed men took over their camps, they were fed and housed. Recently, the United States found themselves thrust into the action when warned of a holocaust among the Hutu refugees. The sickening pictures of the Mugunga camp showed refugees cut off from food deliveries and other aid. While the U.S. was trying to decide how to help, the Rwandans were peacefully returning to their homes.

Iraq's rocket scandal

Arms inspectors want to test debris from 130 missile engines to determine if Iraq removed powerful rockets and replaced them with negligible motors. However, Iraq has blocked all efforts to do so. The United Nations has accused Iraq of concealing banned weapons and trying to deceive inspectors repeatedly.

Hijacked flight crashes

Fifty-two people survived when an Ethiopian jetliner crashed into the sea. The plane was running out of fuel. Some survivors swam 500 feet to the shore, while others bobbed in the water until help arrived. The jet, carrying 175 passengers and crew members, was hijacked by three men shortly after take off. The hijackers, en route to Australia, refused the captain's pleas to stop for fuel.

Mother Teresa suffers setbacks

Mother Teresa suffered a recurrence of heart problems and has developed breathing trouble. The 86-year-old nun has been on an oxygen tank in the intensive care unit of the hospital. Doctors have concluded that she has an irregular heartbeat and problems with her left ventricle- the main pumping chamber in the heart.

Redistricting to alter school admissions

BY ALEX MANN

The election season is over, but political conflicts continue to affect NCSSM. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in June that North Carolina's 12th Congressional District is unconstitutional because it was drawn along racial lines. As a result, NCSSM admissions must alter its operations since student selection is proportioned by congressional districts.

The N.C. General Assembly, in its philosophy for NCSSM admissions, requires that the school try to "accept an equal number of students from each district." This means that 8.3 percent of the students are from each district, but the school is allowed to admit up to 2.5 percent above or below this amount.

John Poe, director of admissions, has noted that the admissions office will have to reorganize its admission process, but also that his office is used to changes. During the school's early years it tried to divide the student body equally by educational districts. These eight geographical sectors are still employed for regional testing, but in 1985 the General Assembly told the school to select by congressional districts instead.

In 1991, when the districts were first redrawn, admissions had two years to make adjustments. Poe predicted that this time the switches will be completed "more quickly" than in 1991.



Poe

NCSSM course scheduling process changed

BY JORDAN GLASSMAN

Every year NCSSM's academic environment is supplemented with a series of new courses, but the origin and evolution of a course at NCSSM is a little-known process to most members of the NCSSM community. Few students know that a recent procedural change has allowed for a much more flexible system of course scheduling, and actually gives students a chance to get courses added to the catalog.

The change, instituted last

April, allows anyone in the school to submit a course proposal to the Curriculum Council.

From there, the proposal is sent to the corresponding department or division and is developed and approved by the department head. Next, the Curriculum Council solicits community-wide input. The final decision is made by the Division Director based on the new course's alignment with NCSSM's goals, other institutional commitments, and available resources.

In the past, there has been no interdepartmental exchange before

adding new courses.

"The new system allows cooperation between departments that was difficult to achieve before," says Director of Academic Programs Steve Warshaw.

Departments can now work together to schedule classes that would be, for example, corequisites.

"The system is so new that we have not yet had a chance to really try out it yet," says JoAnn Lutz, the head of the math department.

The results of fall and spring pre-registration determine what

Having 'The Time of Your Life'

Andrew Ghassemian lives it up as the Arab, as Aisha McGriff looks on in the school play, "The Time of Your Life."

The play was plagued by delays, but the show went on, with a single performance on Dec. 6. See story page 6.



Photo by Leonard Tran

Every student who applies to the school must be grouped by their Congressional District, so redistricting means a lot of computer revisions and paperwork for the admissions staff.

Redistricting will also require the admissions office's entire approach to accepting students to change. The staff must have a working knowledge of each district and be familiar with all of its schools in order to create a desirable level of diversity within NCSSM.

Unlike the state's decisions in planning congressional representation, however, districts play no part in making NCSSM an ethnically diverse community. In diversity mat-

ters, the General Assembly mandates that admissions must "insure a proper balance in terms of race, sex, and other minority conditions relevant," thus mirroring the demographics of the state. Therefore, the numbers of males and females are equal, and about 22 percent of the students are minorities.

Competition for entrance into NCSSM is always intense, and Poe recognized the fact that congressional districts play a major role in determining against whom students must compete. However, he is certain that the students admitted to NCSSM will be of "high quality" regardless of how North Carolina's congressional districts are organized.

The organization issue began in 1990, when a national census indicated that North Carolina quali-

fied for an additional seat in the House of Representatives. The eleven existing districts had to be redrawn to create a new Twelfth Congressional District.

North Carolina's General Assembly created two congressional districts with large minority populations to reflect the state's demographics. The redrawn districts, one and twelve, have populations with slim majorities of African-Americans. They were created by linking areas with large concentrations of blacks, and for this reason have peculiar shapes.

A group of citizens challenged the constitutionality of the districts in 1993 by arguing that they discriminated against white voters and were a form of "racial gerrymander-

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