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AROUND THE WORLD ...and back

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Persian Gulf situation escalates

A 24-day standoff between the Iraqi government and the U.N. ended on November 22 when Saddam Hussein allowed a team of 75 arms inspectors to search Iraq for biological, chemical and nuclear weapons. Arms inspections for Iraq were a stipulation of the resolutions reached in 1991 after the Persian Gulf Conflict.

In late October Hussein refused to permit inspections, and the Pentagon believes that the Iraqis might have expanded their arsenal dramatically during the three week stand-off. The inspectors have reported no unusual findings thus far. The inspectors were not allowed in the Hussein's palace.

The Clinton Administration was especially active in coercing the Iraqi government into agreeing to inspections. The president deployed two aircraft carriers and threatened to bomb Iraq while campaigning for international support for such military action.

Barbie gets a new look

In 1998, the Barbie doll will have a thicker waist, a smaller bust, smaller hips and a shorter nose. Mattel Inc., the toy company which has manufactured Barbie for nearly 40 years, is changing the doll in response to customer concerns about Barbie's impossible body image. Barbie doll sales worldwide accounted for \$2 billion, over half of Mattel's sales.

Pro-environment legislation breathes easier

The Clean Air Act's benefits have far exceeded the costs, says a new study by the Environmental Protection Agency. From when the Act was implemented in 1970, to 1990, \$523 billion was spent on equipment to reduce air pollution. But due to of fewer cases of bronchitis and various respiratory cancers, between \$6 and \$49 trillion has been saved on medical bills alone. This study will be a vital tool in the lobby for future environmental protection laws.

Chartwell's walkout wreaks havoc

ERIC HUANG

Eating in the cafeteria is practically a daily routine for most students. But when Chartwell's suddenly lost three employees just days before Fall Break, food service became anything but normal. Left with half its typical staff size and without employees to cook and run the dishroom, Chartwell's became the scene of long lines, slow service and piles of dirty dishes.

"I was slipping on food because all the trays were stacked up on the conveyor belt and on the floor and virtually anywhere [students] could find to put a tray," said Junior Steven Green.

Shortages of cups, silverware and food choices also made eating in the cafeteria a hassle.

Problems began when two employees quit a couple days before Fall Break in search of better paying jobs. Their departure possibly was due to the recent change in cafeteria management from Professional Food Management (PFM) to Chartwell's, a larger corporation requiring different standards.

"[Chartwell's] has much higher standards than PFM did, so I am challenged in finding a higher level person to work down here," said Chartwell's Director Leslie Snow. "I still have the same budget to work

addition, a third employee was fired who did not come to work on a regular basis. As a result, she was suddenly left without adequate staff.

Low on staff to cook and clean dishes, students could not help but

freezer," said Clements. Without a regular cook, food shortages left the cafeteria scrambling to find quick, easy things to serve.

"I'd bring out cookies every 10 minutes and they'd be gone in 30 seconds. That's how desperate they were for food," Clements added.

Though the shortages were rarely as severe in the days following, Snow nevertheless often had difficulty producing adequate quantities of food.

"We weren't able to offer the [pasta and potato] bars at night for almost a week simply because we didn't have anyone to cook it," Snow said. "I had to go to some convenience-type items, more frozen and canned foods than we would normally prepare, simply for the sake of hav-

ing anything on the line. It's not easy cooking for 500 [students]; it doesn't happen in an hour."

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Trays piled outside the dish room in the cafeteria after workers quit.

with yet I'm expected to hire higher quality people."

Snow said it was difficult to hire employees because they "just don't want to work for low wages." In

notice the chaos that followed. Junior Raoul Clements, a cafeteria runner, recounted the atmosphere.

"We ran out of food to serve. We had to dig up things out of the

Safety becomes priority after mugging

BECCA BOOI

On Tuesday, Nov. 11, Junior Mashama McFarlane walked back to school from the mall by his usual route...through the neighborhood of Walltown. It was about 4:20 in the afternoon. As he entered Walltown, McFarlane was greeted by four teenagers.

"I kept on walking and I heard one of them say, 'What are you looking at?'" McFarlane said. "I told him 'I haven't figured out yet.' That probably wasn't the smartest thing to say at the time."

According to McFarlane, the teenagers called him back to where they had been sitting on the edge of the road. One demanded his coat, but McFarlane refused.

"The kid sitting by a bush jumped up and put a gun on my neck. He said, 'Mother f---, I could kill you,'" McFarlane recalled.

McFarlane and the teenager began to wrestle. McFarlane broke away, and ran back to school. Two days later SLI Marlene Blakney asked McFarlane how he received the scratches on his face and knees. Although he had not told any adults until then, he explained to her what had happened, and they immedi-

ately reported the incident to police.

The timing of this incident paralleled a murder on Guess Road, prompting the administration to remind students of the dangers of walking through Walltown. In years past, students from NCSSM have been robbed, shot with BB guns, beaten and harassed when walking off campus. All of these incidents except for one occurred in Walltown.

"The probability of incidents occurring in Walltown and the nearby park area is higher than in more open areas," said Joan Barber, Director of Student Life.

Last year was the first year that NCSSM students have had no major problems with students' safety. Barber feels this has made the students less cautious of their own personal safety.

However, after the incidents in November, the administration made numerous efforts to remind students of safety guidelines they are required to follow. A flyer covering student expectations regarding personal safety was passed out to all students, parents, faculty and staff. Parents and teachers were encouraged to discuss the flyer with students.

"We want [the students] to feel safe and still have freedoms, but you

can't be free if you're dead or hurt." Teacher Elizabeth Moose said. "The rules are coming from what police officers have said and what residents of Walltown have said."

These guidelines are not new. Every year during Orientation Week, a police officer is invited to speak to the new juniors concerning personal safety and hazardous areas of the local neighborhood. Still students frequently walk through Walltown to get to the mall.

"It's the shortest distance between two points," McFarlane said.

Head of Security Ken Horne stresses that the guidelines exist for a reason.

"It's like laying down in the middle of the road. Sooner or later you're going to get run over," Horne said. "You might walk through Walltown seven days in one week and not get bothered. Or you might walk through once and get mugged. Why invite the trouble?"

Also, police officers have been asked to increase their patrol in the area. In addition, NCSSM employs drivers to make van loops to the mall, Ninth Street and movie theaters. These loops run for one to two hours, four nights a week (including weekends). Although students

would like the loops to run more, Barber believes that they should make the most out of the existing van loops and make plans accordingly.

For those students who still have conflicts with the times of the van loops, the school proposes that they walk to the mall by going down Broad Street and crossing to the opposite side of Guess Road.

"[On Guess Road] there is more pedestrian traffic and less chances for someone to attack you in open view where there are lots of people," Horne said.

McFarlane believes this route is not any safer. "Any place is dangerous. Where they want us to walk is where a guy got shot a couple weeks ago. I wasn't shot," he said.

However, McFarlane has not walked through Walltown since the day he was confronted.

"The administration was right and I was wrong," he said, "They say things in the best interest of us- it's not a bunch of B.S."

Although McFarlane's experience temporarily prevented students from walking through Walltown, he believes the safety issues are far from over.

"People will still do it," McFarlane said.