

# THE STENTORIAN

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The North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics

Welcome Issue

## A friendly word from the President of SGA

Prepare yourself. You are about to enter a new world, a world we like to call NCSSM. Science and Math is a world full of three letter acronyms, check, lab classes, Miller Papers, and most of all, responsibility.

Right now, you are probably sitting in your new room, having just found this article on your mattress. You may be anxious to learn about what NCSSM is really about. Sure, you saw the campus on semi-finalist day, but the greatest thing

about NCSSM is that it cannot be truly represented on paper, in a brochure, or even in a full day visit. NCSSM is an experience.

One part of the NCSSM experience is the people. In your first few days on campus, you will go through orientation. Talk to everybody you meet—both Juniors and Seniors. Allow the Seniors to show you the ropes. After all, we have gone through the same thing you are now, and we can probably answer many of your questions.

All of the juniors should have been assigned a dedicated (hopefully) senior sibling. It may seem cheesy, but the Junior/Senior activities can really help you get to know more people as well as get to know the area.

Another part of the Science and Math experience is getting involved. I represent the Student Gov-

~Pres Continued on Page 6

## Making friends at NCSSM is as easy as giving away Nutri-Grain bars

JODY CEDZIDLO

So there I was—standing in the parking lot of the Walnut Creek Amphitheater in Raleigh. Surprisingly enough, I wasn't thinking about Raleigh, or even about walnuts. I was wondering how I was going to dispose of seven dollars worth of food in five minutes. Neither I nor my two friends were even hungry...



Several seniors meet and greet at Director Dr. John Fredrick's house.

realization, mind you. This was one of those *epiphanies*—the kind that you have to talk to your dog about, because it doesn't really seem coherent at first. It occurred to me, magnificently, to give the food away. Saving *other* innocent young

people from the soft pretzel plot, I could get rid of my food without wasting it, and bring a smile to another's face. It was beautiful. This wasn't the

epiphany, of course—that came later. But my idea was the beginning.

The obvious problem with my glorious plan was as follows: I'm fairly shy, as a general rule. How was I going to just waltz right up to a huge group of strangers and start yelling about Nutri-Grain bars and goldfish? It seemed so embarrassing...

So are you ready? Set? Here's the epiphany: there is absolutely not one thing to fear about talking to a group of one's peers for the first time. Two reasons...I'll refer back to my example, although this epiphany, like other ones, is broader than Nutri-Grain generosity. First of all, I had something very important in common with every solitary person in that parking lot: a love of the same kind of music. With that shared interest, we had to be at least a little alike in other ways, right? Second of all, even if some people that saw me thought, "Ohmygoodness-she-is-such-a-moron..." it doesn't *matter*. Chances

~Nutrigrain Continued on Page 8

## S&M is what you make of it

COURTNEY TOLMIE

You are leaving home, Mom and Dad, friends, the community high school. Being thrown into a hall with people of every race, religion and ethnic background imaginable. Going to class only to find that the teacher is a doctor and has just finished publishing. Sorry, Dorothy, you and Toto seemed to have left Kansas behind in the dust. Welcome to NCSSM, that little transition that some of us find between life at home and college.

Each junior who accepts admission to NCSSM has made a promise to the school that they will

'accept the greater challenge'. A little ambiguous? You can look through the handbook for the next two years, but you won't find the school's favorite phrase clearly defined.

The greater challenge is not one which the administration sets for you; it is a challenge you must set for yourself.

The job of the teacher at Science and Math is to make sure that there is no such thing as an 'easy A' (or even an easy 'B') in any of their classes, and even if a level of superior performance is achieved, the greater challenge doesn't end or begin with other people's expectations. True Science and Mathers spend their time here try-

ing to meet an academic challenge which they place on themselves. Free time at this school is almost as hard to find as privacy, making it easy for a student to spend all of their time outside of class sleeping. However, a part of accepting the greater challenge is realizing that we all must look for opportunities that do not involve grades or clubs to intelligent faculty to Durham-area businesses and attractions, there is an abundance of resources for a student interested in just about anything. However, these

~Challenge Continued on Page 3



Zhao Wei and Kathrine Tse man a booth at Asiafest, a unique Science and Math celebration



COFFEEHOUSE IS ONE OF THE MANY ACTIVITIES STUDENTS ENJOY AS A PART OF RESIDENTIAL LIFE.

SEE PAGES 2-3



NINTH STREET IS ONE HANGOUT IN DURHAM WHERE STUDENTS GO TO TAKE A BREAK FROM STUDIES.

SEE PAGES 4-5



KRISTIN MASEL KNOWS HOW TO BUDGET HER TIME WISELY AND STRIVE ACADEMICALLY.

SEE PAGES 6-7