

Mini-term adopted in place of Special Projects Week

BRYAN VALENTINI

Some recent developments have occurred concerning the fate of Special Projects Week (SPW) next year. In an interview with Dr. Warshaw, he outlined the course of events for the next three years. Next year, the mini-term system will be implemented. It will consist of eight days in March of 2000. In January of 2001 mini-term will be held for ten days.

Before the third year, these two mini-terms will be evaluated to compare their effectiveness over SPW, and whether the school will hold another mini-term. Originally there were 15 days planned for mini-term, but that was reduced to eight days and then ten days the following year. Extra days may be added to the end of the year or taken away from some holiday, but this aspect has not been defined.

In many respects, mini-term is like SPW, in that students can have independent, quality projects that must be approved by a committee. There will be no quota as to how many independent projects will be allowed. Mini-term will also offer classes to explore common issues of interest while students complete a small project that is not as demanding as an independent project. Mini-term would be the training for the project to

be finished later during the week. The mini-courses will be designed to students offer a wide variety of experiences not found in the regular school year. In retrospect, mini-term may be more structured than SPW, and the classes may give homework, but administrators are confident that mini-term is a best alternative

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Those spirited S&Mers

BECKY BALLARD

It was the third quarter of the year and morale was low. Break was over, the weather was cold, and NCSSM's students were beginning to lose the enthusiasm they had exhibited first semester. SGA came to the rescue with, according to SGA member Vic Weigman, "something fun planned for the month of January that doesn't make the whole month kind of dull."

Spirit Week was a time when students went to extremes to show just how much spirit they have.

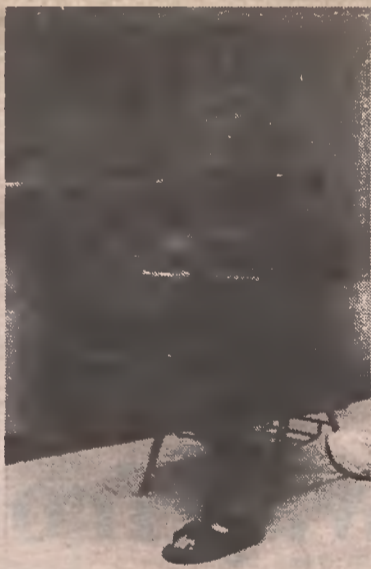
Spirit Week started off with a Powder Puff football game. The gender's switched rolls and the girls played football while the guys cheered them on in skirts holding pom-poms. The juniors and seniors faced off, and the competition was fierce. The two classes were so closely matched that the game ended as a tie.

Students showed up in class beaming with pride and dressed to the day's theme. Monday was "Pajama Day", Tuesday "Crossdress Day," Wednesday "Dress To Impress Day", and Thursday "Twin Day". On Friday, the juniors dressed in white and the se-



Cindy Lee

Spirit Week was not for the faint of heart: (above) the Powder Puff cheerleaders endure the mud and muck of the IM field for school spirit. Senior Aaron Stoertz (below) passes a lady-like Crossdress day in English class.



Cindy Lee

niors showed their pride in blue.

The hall with the most spirit and best banner, Third Bryan, was awarded a pizza party.

Unlike many other high schools, NCSSM does not have a football team. Vic Weigman does not think it's a problem that NCSSM lacks a football team. "Basketball is something we have more spirit in. At the basketball games the fans go crazy, they're loud."

The week ended with a basketball game and Spirit Dance where the Spirit King and Queen, Shaunita Wallace and Greg McCoy, were crowned.

The Spirit Week Queen, Shaunita Wallace, felt that "it was a real honor to be nominated Spirit Queen because my efforts to promote school spirit were finally recognized. I was really surprised." She would like to tell the student body that "its important to have school spirit because it keeps us unified as a school."

Spirit Week brought together NCSSM students and provided them with fun opportunities to act as wild as they wanted to. As SGA member Sohair Ahmadi said, "it unifies S&M students as a whole group."

Lofts to be removed

VIDYA GOLI

A controversy has begun at NCSSM over whether the lofts should come down. All the lofts in Reynolds and Beall are going to be removed this summer because they are potential fire hazards. According to Warren Basket, this action has been pending for years, but with the installation of the new sprinkler system, the lofts will have to be taken down. He said the sprinklers should be in by late spring or early summer, and the lofts will be removed by next fall if there are not any delays. The beds are going to be replaced with "bunkable" beds once the lofts are taken down. "Bunkable" beds can be separated or they can be joined to form bunk beds. However, he mentioned that only the beds are to be replaced. The other furniture, such as desks, cabinets, and dresser drawers, will stay.

The action to remove the lofts was not entirely a school decision. Bret Reece, the Head of Plant Facilities, emphasized that this is in accordance with state regulations because "after the fire-

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Science and Math has to say "Goodbye" to Nate, Eddie and Chris

BRYAN VALENTINI

At the end of January, SLI Eddie Hanes finished his duties and enjoyed a party thrown by his 4th West boys to honor his time at NCSSM. Hanes is pursuing his law studies full-time now.

At the end of the first semester, SLI Nate Brooks quietly left his post on 3rd East. Brooks is now helping young disabled children.

Chris Smith, 2nd East's SLI, will leave by the march 5th extended. He is planning to go into Network

administration, thanks partly to his work here in ITS. One of his favorite parts about NCSSM was being able to "connect with almost everybody, a real unique environment."

Many students feel it is a shame that three SLIs decided to leave the NCSSM campus.

At the same time, 3rd West's SLI Jeff Bray is recovering from back problems including a ruptured disk which took him to the hospital for quite a while.

When Brooks announced he was

leaving, he stated that he felt that at the beginning of the year he would be busy helping students get accustomed to the NCSSM atmosphere. But as the year progresses, he discovered that students were managing pretty well without him. He also said that he did not want to have to enforce all the laws and regulations on students. "He was a nice guy, I liked him lot ... but he felt he really wasn't needed as much as he once thought," Junior Yinon Bendor commented.

Also concerning regulations, Jun-

ior Doug Palletta felt that "seniors had more problems with Nate's strictness compared to Sandy [the previous SLI]... who was more lenient and understanding." On the other hand, Palletta appreciated that Brooks was willing to sit down with the juniors and not treat them like juniors.

3rd East's new SLI, Steven Goldberg, and Eddie Hanes' replace-

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