

the student



You've seen him at lunch,

but do you really know Phil Nelson?

rose ponton

Perched comfortably in a rather uncomfortable chair, Dr. Phil Nelson exudes the notion that he would be comfortable in almost any situation he is faced with.



Dr. Phil Nelson eating lunch with Jack Cheng and Perry Sherause

tion who is able to work with children who work hard enough to validate their potential is blessed," said Phil. Originally from Minnesota, Phil hails from Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa. At Grinnell he was a Fulbright Scholar. He completed his Ph.D. in 1958

"I have been fortunate enough to do a number of different things over the years," he said. Now, as the interim executive director at Science and Math, Phil, as he prefers to be called, can once again do something new. Involved in education almost his entire life, he is an old hand in intense academic environments.

"Anyone in educa-

and moved to New Haven, Connecticut with his wife to teach at Yale University. He and his family resided in New Haven for 20 years. He and his wife have, over the years been involved in a number of educational environments. He has held administrative and board positions at schools such as UNC, Yale, and The North Carolina School for

~Nelson continued p2

To kill or not to kill?

patrick thompson

Twenty small black ribbons formed a voice, a voice that the state of North Carolina found itself denying Harvey Lee Green.

Harvey Lee Green was convicted on June 28, 1984 of beating to death Shelia Marlene Bland and John Michael Edmundson on December 19, 1983. He was sentenced to death by lethal injection, and was executed on September 24, 1999 at 2:01am.

In his final statement, Harvey Lee Green said, "I'd like to let the public know that the wrong they're doing now, it compounded the wrong I did years ago. It ain't no justification. Ain't no fairness. That's all I got to say, and they know it's right."

Amnesty International is a global organization which defends human rights. The NCSSM chapter of Amnesty International heard about this execution and decided to make the Science and Math community aware of it. Teresa Rainey and Rachel Van Cleve designed a bulletin board by the art studio with information about Green's case and twenty black ribbons for people to wear in protest over the death of Harvey Lee Green.

"At first only five or so people picked up ribbons to wear. Then people started asking us questions and

asked for more ribbons. Then we got letters posted on the board and we became very excited," said Van Cleve.

Five students posted letters for or against the death penalty. Junior David Prater posted the first pro death penalty essay on the board.

"I saw the black ribbons and how the death penalty protesters had an arena to voice their opinions. I felt that it was equally important to express the views of those who think the death penalty is warranted," said Prater.

Teresa Rainey, President of Amnesty International, has organized a debate with pro/con stances on the death penalty being represented.

"A lot of people are undecided and don't care about the death penalty. I guess, I want people to come away from the debate with an understanding and an awareness of the factors involved in making an informed decision. We want people to pay attention to the issue," said Rainey.

Both sides feel that silent and vocal debate are healthy ways for students to express their views, form an opinion, and become more knowledgeable of the world in which they live.

Liz Shuford, Rachel Van Cleve, and Tommy Robbins will be arguing against the death penalty at the debate.

"When I read the e-mail

~Death penalty continued p9

Unity, humanity, and tolerance

rose ponton

A great moral injustice has been served at this school. Not only to a select group of women or to those with alternative sexual preferences, but to the Science and Math community at large. This is very diverse community of people, condensed onto one campus in the same classes, in the same space, each and every day of the week. Though clashes between this group or that are unavoidable, what happened on the morning of October 7th is inexcusable. Early in the morning, two sets of signs were posted anonymously around the school. One set was a "list," ranking the caliber of a number of female student's features. The other, was a sign declaring the NCSSM Coming Out day to be NCSSM "Fag Day."

Almost immediately, the signs were ripped down and their presence reported to an SLI or another adult staff member. Props must be given to all the students who took the initiative to tear down something that had the ability to ruin so many people's day. And, yes many a student's day was ruined, but like a phoenix, the community rose from the ashes of this great moral atrocity and emerge a more unified and stronger community.

And "community" is the word that

deserves the spotlight in this situation. Not only were a select group of women offended by the "list", but many a decent male was, as well. Not only were gay and bisexual students offended, but many a straight-but not narrow-individual was as well. Through the Speakout held in the Lecture Hall and students reactions as the day wore on, the Science and Math community came together to voice their opinions against something that is considered, almost universally, wrong; ignorance and intolerance is a disease that plagues even the healthiest of societies.

The outpouring of positive response to this incident by students, faculty and staff must be commended. Though this incident has the ability to tarnish the school's reputation, the reaction to it will color this event in a much more flattering hue for years to come. People come to Science and Math with the expectation that they will be able to express themselves freely, without fear of being judged superficially or unjustly. Through the developments that followed this unfortunate event, anyone's wildest expectations for their acceptance within the school community were fulfilled. Science and Math IS a community and you, as an individual, ARE accepted.