

NEWS

Floyd devastates NC

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 On Tuesday, September 14th, something very rare happened to the students of NCSSM. Due to threat of a near catastrophic hurricane, they were sent home to the protection of their homes. However, many students may have fared better if they had stayed at the school. Many students had to evacuate their homes, and some could not return Sunday like they were supposed to because of the conditions of the rivers and the roads.

Although Hurricane Floyd lasted a mere ten hours, North Carolina

will need a lot of time, money, recovery and rebuilding to return to normal. Within the state, 40 people are dead, 1,500 are stranded, 10,000 people are inside temporary shelters, and crops and livestock have been obliterated. Already suffering with Dennis' damage, the storm has caused rivers and lakes to rise to their highest point, flooding into roads and buildings. In many cities around North Carolina, people needed boats to leave the second story of their house.

"My mom works in the emergency room at the hospital, and she would come home with stories of people

getting hurt and others drowning in their cars," said Andrea Kaelin, an NCSSM student from Greensboro, North Carolina. Due to people still inside

our house in one night, and we had to leave the next day. We lost a pier outside of our house when it fell into the ocean. A lot of roads were washed out, and

coast, this storm has just made it worse. The Outer Banks may have to bring in sand to the coast, or else there may not be a beach within two or three years.

"In front of our house, a swamp had overflowed into the road, and you could see fish swimming in the roads. In a town near us, people had to be rescued from boats. They left one woman in a rest home who drowned. Along the roads, you could see trailer parks and caskets floating. Some people were asked to donate body bags to collect the bodies found in the water," said Senior Melissa Hardy, a resident of Bertie County. Most people cannot imagine something like this happening. For many people living in the eastern part of North Carolina, however, this image is a reality.

Gaby Haddock, an NCSSM stu-

dent from Wilmington, NC said, "It was really bad, there was lots of flooding, and lots of damages. All the major roads were washed out, and we had no power or water for a week."

Wilmington seems to be the attraction spot for hurricanes. Marisa Biondi, an NCSSM student also from Wilmington, said, "In the past four years we have had four hurricanes. But I think that Fran was worse than Floyd."

If an NCSSM student is interested in helping out the victims of the hurricane, the Catholic Ministries is taking up a collection, and various radio station in the area, including 96.1, have been holding contests to see who can donate the most money. So if someone is interested in helping out the victims, these are one of the many ways in which to do so.



A young Rocky Mount boy observes the flood damage left behind by Hurricane Floyd.

erin heenan

shelters, and the condition of the roads, students in Pitt County are still out of school, and may be out for another two weeks. Floyd has completely wiped out several towns, including Princeville, the first African-American chartered town in the country.

"We had to take everything out of

house was condemned though," said Stephanie Cate, an NCSSM student from Sunset Beach, NC.

Two days before the storm reached the North Carolina coast, the Outer Banks was nearly deserted, because people were forced to evacuate. With erosion already a large problem along the

A new year, a new beginning

frank menius

Many seniors may have noticed an increased effort among the administration and faculty to become more involved in the student activities and the students lives this year. Still there seems to be some decided clashes between students and the administration.

"This year has started out great, It is energizing...and I think that the students are a part of that. I hope we can continue to work together," said director of student life Dr. Joan Barber.

Out of her 14 years of working at NCSSM "this year" is her "best." Dr. Barber certainly has been more involved in student lives. On September 24th you could have found her telling her "second joke ever" at Coffee House, an appearance that helped her become acquainted with this years juniors and seniors.

"I can't afford not to be in-touch," she said. The job of administrator demands that she be acquainted with the events of the day, and with the needs and desires of the students and faculty.

Dr. Barber stressed that she has an "open door" policy in which students can either by appointment, or just by knocking at her door, come and talk to her about problems that they feel need to be addressed or things that should be done in the future. She did point out that she is not the only administrator on campus, and that she would like to work on getting the student body familiar with the other administrators.

"Perhaps during a speakout we could introduce all the Administrators," said Barber.

The issue of the school budget has become a hot topic among students with the expense of new furniture in the Bryan and Hunt lobbies while individual hall furnishings deteriorate. In addition, the lack of promised air-conditioning in Bryan has made some girls upset and uncomfortable. Dr. Barber noted

that the funds to support such venues as student life, are very small and mostly appropriated, meaning that money is set aside by the donor for a certain purpose.

"It is very seldom that we get unrestricted money," said Dr. Barber. The

money for the Bryan Lobby furniture was given to the school for furniture, by putting it in Bryan Lobby it reaches the most people. If such money were to be divided among the separate residence halls, there would not even be enough for one new piece of furniture a hall. She also noted that the money for the air-conditioners in Bryan has been set aside and they should be in place by next year.

Perhaps the biggest issue on students' minds is the "8 o'clock rule." This rule was brought up during an Action Planing Committee meeting last year. Dr. Bar-

ber pointed out that this rule was always in the handbook. The rule states that no club meetings could be planed after 8 o'clock during a school night, with the exception of SGA. The entire campus simply ignored this rule.

"I was shocked when it was brought up," said Barber. It was expanded last year to include SGA and all student activities in order to convince students to do school work before 10:30 check. This expansion has caused many students and staff to feel cramped and stressed. Dr. Barber assured that this issue will be reviewed, and that it is bad practice to set down a new rule without reviewing it to see how it works.

Many new issues have been brought up this year already, but Dr. Barber believes that nonetheless this year has gotten off to a smooth start. She feels that it is because of student and faculty interactions. She "values student opinion" and hopes that "through cooperation the rest of the year will unfold to the satisfaction of the whole of the NCSSM community."



Dr. Barber talks with Benita Jones in Bryan Lobby

Doug Paletta

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the Arts.

With all this experience, Phil has formed a few knowledgeable opinions on how to take advantage of life to the fullest extent.

"Travel. See the world, just get out there. You don't have to know what you want to do when you are a senior in high school," he said.

Phil decided to come to Science and Math as the Interim Executive Director because he is, heart and soul, a teacher. He is truly concerned with the students' lives here and makes a concerted effort to get out and hear students speak their minds on subjects ranging from yesterday's test to Floyd's repercussions. Students can see him in the PFM almost every day at lunch eating and chatting with students.

"The conversation in the lunchroom is a sure sign of how intellectually stimulating a school is," said Phil.

In contrast to many people's notions that the administration is incapable of hearing the student's opinion on events within the school, Phil enjoys talking to the students and wants to hear their views. The stu-

dents are, after all, directly impacted by issues made by his office.

It is very important to Phil that communication lines are kept open across campus, both among the students and the administration.

"My interest in coming here is not only in the learning, but also in helping people communicate."

During the days before the school was closed by Floyd, for example, Phil asked the opinion of SGA president, April Land, on what should be decided about the threat of the storm in order to avoid a situation similar to Fran.

"When you have people in your trust then you have to keep their best interests and safety first in your mind," he said. Even though Durham was spared and a tragedy was narrowly avoided, Phil is glad that he sent the student body home for an impromptu hurricane vacation and out of harm's way.

Phil genuinely has a concern for the student body. He has already made a lasting impact on the NCSSM community and his work here isn't done yet.