

## Outside the bubble

compiled by mary guy

### International

**U.S. troops pull out of Haiti:** After a five year presence in Haiti, the U.S. military leaves. Haiti is faced with a new era of constitutional rule without the United State's help.

**Muslim on trial for betrayal of Islamic revolution:** A muslim cleric is on trial for betraying the revolution and in the courtroom he is promoting the democratic principles which put him on trial.

**The 10th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall:** Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder praised the Germans who tore down the wall: "The wall fell from east to west, pushed down by brave and fearless East Germans."

### National

**Supreme Court case over mandatory student activities fee:** Students in Wisconsin believe that they should not have to contribute money to student organizations who support causes with which they disagree.

**U.S. honors civil rights heroes:** The Little Rock 9 were honored for desegregating Central High School in Little Rock, Ark. in 1957 at a banquet at the White House.

**Discrimination at a restaurant in Miami:** A 15 percent tip was added to a black man's bill because he was told, "Black people don't tip well."

**U.S. army is not ready for combat:** Two out of the ten divisions of the army are not ready for war.

### Political

**Coal miners rally at the White House:** 500 coal miners from West Virginia rallied at the White House claiming that it had made a poor judgment with strip mining.

**Donald Trump says rich should pay the nation's debt:** Trump as a prospective candidate for the 2000 elections proposed a plan which would pay off the nation's debt and cut taxes at the same time.

## The love of art for art's sake

veni manickam

"Art is the most intense mode of individualism that the world has known," wrote Oscar Wilde in 1891.

Individuals. Is that not what all humans strive to be, day in and day out? And somewhere within the fleeting moment of every day, when seemingly no one notices, each and every one of us excels... in being ourselves.

Art. An effective method of expressing individuality, art is a popular alternative to turn to when NCSSM students feel bogged down with mundane assignments that appear to be draining their creativity. It is at this moment that many students visit the *art studio*.

"One of the art studio's most tantalizing aspects is the fact that it is open all the time to everyone and you can go in there and do most anything without supervision," said Junior Courtney Zane.

"As both an art studio work service student and a person who spends much of my own time there, I have come to the conclusion that the art studio is a good dependable place to go to when you want to simply express yourself or look deep within yourself. Perfectly

suited for reflection, inspiration abounds in every nook and cranny," said Senior Lauren Welsh.

What does the art studio offer to the common student inexperienced in art? Tye-dyeing, painting, stained glass windows, wheel-throwing, hand-building, stepping stones, journals, rainsticks, kaleidoscopes, ceramics, creative cookie making, and so much more is available throughout the year.

"But I am not an artist," one may confess. Neither are most of the people who visit the art studio for these activities. In fact, that is part of the attraction of the art studio; events are posted daily on the art studio door that are open to all. And who is to say that one will not learn a new technique or skill upon visiting the art studio? Or have some fun?

"Last year two of my friends and I went in the ceramics room to try making a pot on the wheels. One of my friends came out with a really nice finished product, but my clay flew right off the wheel! This plummeting clay of course began a clay fight; clay whizzed through the air until we were all caked with it, but we were all also laughing; even after having to

clean it up all up, we still found that the whole expedition had been really fun and worthwhile simply for that respect!" said Senior Amisha Shrimanker.

"I like to do stuff you can just come to and finish in one session," said Bryant Holsenbeck, a recycling artist who in her spare time envisions these one-and-a-half-hour sessions. Students really get to explore what amounts to fun activities, not to mention sheath some of that extra stress obtained from schoolwork.

"Sometimes I go to the art studio when I am upset about something. I go and vent on the clay when wedging it before attempting some wheel-throwing techniques. And then when I am actually shaping the bowl the intense concentration required eases my mundane frustrations into an obscure corner of my mind. In essence, in the few hours that I spend in the art studio every week I find myself blocking out the rest of the world, only to enter back into it with a more tolerable viewpoint," said Junior Khara Johnson.

She sounds like a truly dedicated, experienced artist, does she not? But originally she was not. Like so many others at NCSSM, she one day stumbled into one of the workshops

Bryant offers weekly, absorbed all the instructions given to her concerning making bowls and such on the wheel, and she later began to frequent the art studio on her own.

"As long as you know cleaning procedures, any student is allowed to go to the art studio most any time that it is open," said Bryant.

In other words, you certainly do not have to be enrolled in an art class to take advantage of the vast plane of opportunities offered at the art studio.

Is your interest still not piqued? Tye-dyeing curtains for your room or creating mosaics for that special somebody doesn't spark your interest?

"I am always open to new stuff. So if you have an idea, stop by!" said Bryant.

Bryant offers two workshops a week, one on the weekend and one during the week. The times vary, but they are usually in the 6:30 p.m. to 7:50 p.m. range.

The art studio. The 3<sup>rd</sup> door on the left as you walk from Bryan through Reynolds. You have been informed. There is no longer any excuse for your missing out on any of the fabulous opportunities available there!

## Tolerance prevails: Students at NCSSM attend religious conference

theresa anasti

On October 17, around 40-50 students got a chance to learn about religions they may have previously known nothing about. The religious conference was the MPC's first meeting of the year, and it went smoothly. The five featured religions were Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, and Judaism; these religions were chosen because they are the five major religions of the world.

Before the conference started, students were given a chance to ask questions on slips of paper if they did not want to speak out loud. Lauren Kahn, a MPC, introduced the religions and explained the purpose of this meeting, which was to increase awareness of other religions. Then, each of the five religions explained the major

beliefs of their religion. However, they were limited to a five minute speech, so they could not expand into more detail. They did try to compare and contrast the other religions present with their own religion. For example, the Christian representative realized the majority of the people at the meeting were Christian; therefore, she simply spoke about the similarities between Christianity and the other religions at the meeting.

"I thought the meeting was very important. I didn't realize how similar the religions were until I went to this meeting. I'm not very religious so I figured I could learn something from this meeting. I was very impressed with how many people were interested in Buddhism. The quote about the

soul caught them really off-guard," said Junior Betsy Herzog.

Indeed the quotation about Buddhism provided for some controversy. Judging by the questions asked, several students could not grasp Buddha's belief of the human being ever-changing, with nothing being permanent. The majority of the questions asked during the meeting were directed toward the representative of Buddhism. Many of the questions were about the Buddhist belief of not having a soul. Many other questions were answered, some concerning religious traditions and others concerning religious philosophy. Apparently, students learned ideas about religion they never heard before.

"I enjoyed the way the

speakers reacted to the different points made. They didn't focus on the distinctions made between the two religions, just the similarities. Although most of the people there were open-minded, I had a feeling some people felt threatened. These speakers were mainly trying to show condensed versions of what they believed, and it was a very noble effort to me," said Junior Bevin Tighe.

One thing the majority of students were able to get out of this meeting was a synopsis of the religions and differentiate them.

"I liked how all the religions were there at the same time so you could compare their similarities and differences. It was really neat how they did it that way," said Junior Nidhi Thapar.

## Did you know that.....?

**Clinton expected to veto increase in minimum wage:** The Republican plan to increase the minimum wage by \$1 to \$6.15 per hour over three years is expected to be vetoed by Clinton.

**Bush an advocate for veteran care:** George W. Bush says that veterans are getting less than they deserve and should be given better health care.

**Gore Distances himself from clemency:** Vice President Al Gore said that he did not have anything to do with the clemency granted to Puerto Rican prisoners by President Clinton in August.