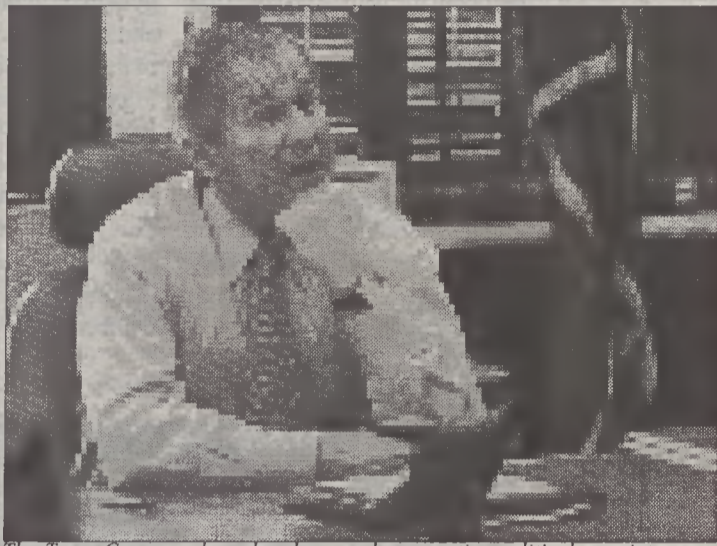


Got Florida?

DAVID PRATER

For the past several weeks Dr. Wilson's Ethics and Leadership class has been quite busy preparing for the election. During an extended weekend in October, parent ballots were sent home with students and 240 parents participated in the parental portion of S&M's mock election. The parental results were tallied and then plotted against the votes of S&Mers that voted at the mock election held on November second and third during common lunch. The last group to participate in the mock election was the staff, whom voted via email. After all of the votes were in, the election committee in Dr. Wilson's class published the results on the election website and on the election board in Ground Watts.



The Texas Governor has already named prospective political appointments

NCSSM is, undeniably, one of the most challenging schools in the nation. With the combined pressure of dormitory residence, rigorous, college-level classes and an active

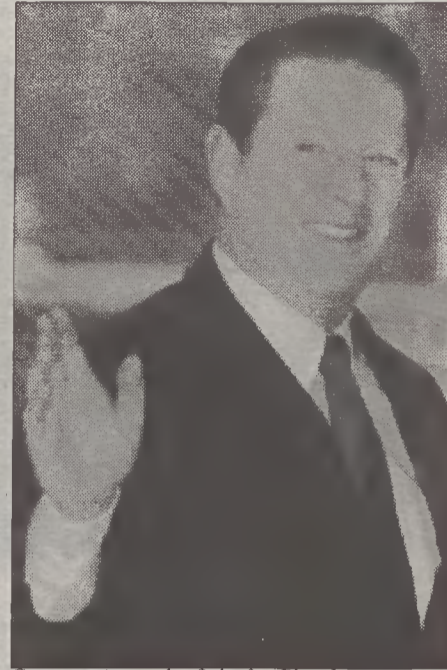
ior presidential elects; the seniors were, on average, noticeably more liberal than the junior class. Quite possibly, the seniors extra year at S&M aided in this liberalization process.

However, the most noticeable fissure is between the student body as a whole and the parents. Parents were noticeably more conservative than their children. Dr. Wilson provided an explanation

for this phenomenon. Wilson commented that the acquiescence of wealth and age creates conservative sentiments. "People tend to be most liberal when they are young", noted Wilson.

However, one other factor is of serious consideration: North Carolina is a very

conservative state. Parents of S&M students followed the general trend of the state, voting in favor of a republican candidate with negligible support of Green Party candidates or Reform Party candidates. The nominee elected by NCSSM students



Gore continues the fight for Florida

were unlike either the state or national trends. Students greatly supported the Democratic candidate with disproportionately low support of the Republican candidate (in accordance with both state and national standards). There was also an exceptionally high

amount of support for Green party and even Reform Party candidates. North Carolina had no support of the Green Party because Ralph Nader was not on the election ballot.

Conclusively, both the age and situation of Science and Math students cause a liberal trend. The liberalization process undergone by S&M students separates

them from the national and local standards. In the ultra-conservative south and in our even divided nation, it appears that S&Mers stand out strongly with their liberal views. How unfortunate that our government's ageist policies disallow our "underage" votes.

Senior Expenses

KATIE BLACKWELL

Seniors: It's too late. Juniors: Read on and save yourselves...

Somewhere along the line I got the—rather faulty—impression that my money worries would start when I was accepted to college, and had to come up with the money to pay for tuition, transportation, and all that other good stuff. Then I became I senior.

All the money I had in my savings account won't last until February, much less until I start college and need to buy books, food, and all those other extra college necessities.

The greatest problem here is applying to college. I don't think the colleges realize how much they're asking applicants to spend. They seem to think seniors' only application expense is application fees, which would be a reasonable (in most cases) amount, if that were true. However...

Colleges have apparently forgotten that they're requiring, in various

combinations, the SAT I, three SAT II's (at least one of which must be writing, the most expensive of the lot), the ACT and the CSS profile. These are not cheap in the first place; they're even worse if you apply to more than the four colleges included

that matter, cutting out the tuition you will have to pay (Skip to sophomore year? Lovely!).

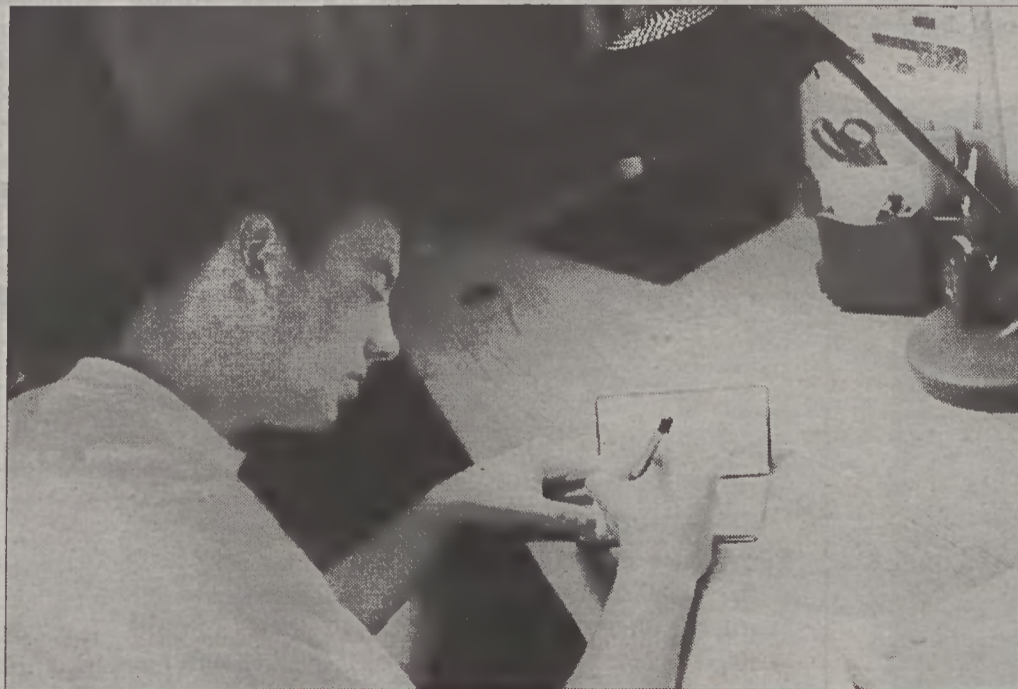
Fee waivers are supposed to help cover testing costs, at least. But they run on gross income, not what your parents have left after

expensive by themselves, but they don't come alone. Companies give seniors the option to order notices and invitations and thank you cards in the hope that relatives will realize how far in debt you've gone during your senior year and want to

help you out. The neat goods they offer, from miniature diplomas to boxer shorts and jewelry, just make the whole problem worse.

Thinking about all the money I've begged off my parents in the past couple of months makes me glad I got

my class ring last year, because this year it would just be too much on top of everything else. The biggest problem with senior expenses is that they jump on you *en masse*. From September to January, you have just five short months to mail applications, apply for financial aid, take all those tests (sometimes



Senior Jonathan Drew writes a check to a college; application fees can get very expensive

in the basic registration fee, and have to pay extra. This is exactly what some people have to do, if they're worried about not being accepted.

Then there are the AP exams: even more expensive than the first batch of standardized tests, and just as important for impressing colleges—or for

bills...gas...groceries...remodeling the bathroom after that small incident with your sister's pet snake and the electric toothbrush...College apps aren't put above all else in the "real world".

Another part of the problem is the graduation kit. The cap and gown aren't too

Freddie Lee