

Weird Facts

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Recently, the fire department in Sparta, Kentucky, received \$300 in donations toward a bulletproof dog vest and a fire truck--from the strippers at the local nightclub. The strippers at Racers Nightclub in

Sparta recently held a promotion to raise money for the vest and the truck. The club, owned by the city's attorney, began the night with "fireman" motifs to help induce the townspeople into giving money to the fire department. Fortunately, the townsfolk had no qualms about the fundraiser, nor did they

have any problems giving out money.

In the latest population reports, Brazilian sociologists are predicting an increase in birth rate in Brazil. The increase, according to the sociologists, is due to the large amount of blackouts plaguing Brazil, which, they believe, is inducing

Brazilians to have more sex. In an effort to stave the blackouts and the massive population growth, the government is making more efforts to conserve electricity.

Recently, a Bahraini princess was granted U.S. residency after fleeing her home country with a U.S. Marine sta-

tioned there. Apparently, the princess was afraid of repercussions in Bahrain stemming from her break from tradition in dating a non-Muslim. The princess and Marine have since married and had their stories chronicled into a TV movie.

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further career plans. He did mention, though, that he is interested in continuing his study of politics. He looks forward to "spreading my wings over the East Coast," especially because he has lived in Durham for the last 15 years of his life. He will miss Science and Math, though; "you don't find a group like this anywhere."

Nick Jones also mentions the unique and diverse group of people at NCSSM. He is going to Wake Forest University, and although he's excited about attending school there, he will miss the richness of ethnic and cultural diversity he has experienced here. A major factor in Nick's decision was his full ride to Wake Forest. He also wanted to stay in state and close to home, and he likes the size of the school. He plans on going to medical school after college, but during his undergraduate years he will either major in psychology, or, "to get away from science for a while," the humanities.

Lily Jeng, recipient of the esteemed Park scholarship, will be attending NC State, which she says, "is a very good engineering school." She's excited about making new friends and having more freedom and new opportunities. She's planning on going to medical school and becoming a bioengineer. She'll miss "all the people here, the teachers, and the small community." She advises juniors not to procrastinate, "even though you'll do it anyway."

Where else are NCSSM seniors off to? Big-name universities combined with big, bustling cities are other common choices. Chris Clearfield, slated to be an Ivie next year at Harvard, says he will pursue "Physics, or maybe government or economics; something interesting ... because they are all complicated subjects and it's hard for me to grasp the scope of their influence." Although Chris will miss many aspects of Science & Math, (of which he mentioned: "friends, the gestalt of Science & Math, the teachers, smell of Hunt, the weather, 9th street, Cosmic, and PFM"), he has a lot to look forward to. Chris describes Harvard as a

place where, "for every interest, there's a gaggle of students doing it." Chris advises juniors, "Don't set yourself up to succeed in the meritocracy. Don't build your life around 'what colleges want.' Instead, do what you want, and happiness will follow."

Practically down the street from Chris, Rafael Medina is one of the few seniors going to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He says that all the schools he applied to are good engineering schools, but MIT has the added benefit of having an excellent business school. Rafael will major in electrical engineering and computer science, but later on he wants to go into business. Other perks about MIT are the fantastic teachers, the very hands-on fabrication labs, and the fact that it is in Boston. He says he'll miss his parents and the convenience of home, but is looking forward to entering the college environment.

Chuck Olbert chose to go to Columbia University in New York. A large factor in his decision was Columbia's offer of participation in a research program in the scientific field of his choice. Chuck will major in astrophysics and will begin research at Columbia over the summer. He, too, is excited about attending school in a major city.

Michael Lam will be attending the University of Pennsylvania. He likes the large university atmosphere, but because he is enrolled in the Honors Program he will still be able to attend small classes. He plans on a multi-part major called "Politics, Economics, and Psychology." Michael also has plans for a summer internship in an agricultural business company where he will do lab work on pathogens that have developed antibiotic-resistant strains. He views both the summer work and parts of his chosen major as "test drives for science." If he discovers that he is not interested in becoming a scientist, UPenn also offers the Wharton Business School, which is ranked the #1 business school in the world.

Next year in New Haven, Connecticut, Yale University will be welcoming Alistair

Anagnostou to its freshman class. Alistair says he picked Yale because, "I like the North, and upon visiting I was very impressed: it had a depth of study in all areas, the people were brilliant but having fun, and I felt I would be proud to be part of their student body. The classes I visited were fantastic, and they had a 24-hr. accessible climbing wall." Nonetheless, Alistair has many NCSSM memories he will never forget, such as "the roof of Hunt, my (unwanted) trip into the biopond, 2nd West parties, and lots of funny classes with John Kolena." Alistair describes Yale as the type of place where "math geniuses, future politicians, and musical prodigies play frisbee together on the lawn." He advises juniors to "work your butt off; every night is an opportunity for hard work, and an even better opportunity for fun."

Picking a college is one of the most important decisions of one's life, and it is a blessing when the decision is easy to make. Such was not the case for Emily Warren and Erin Enstice. Emily had to select among Cornell, University of Pennsylvania, Northwestern University, Tufts, University of Michigan, and Carolina, all of which she had visited. Emily's final decision was the result of a two-hour talk with Gail Hudson, where they discussed the advantages and disadvantages of each school. Cornell just barely won over Northwestern, but Emily was very happy with her decision. She likes Cornell's relaxed and liberal environment and enjoyed her visit there. It also has a good program in her chosen field: chemical engineering.

Erin has agonized between UNC Asheville and University of the South at Sewanee, TN, and has still not made a final decision about college. She likes the fact UNCA has more opportunities in ceramics and photography, and she also like its proximity to home. Sewanee, on the other hand, has a better educational curriculum overall, acres upon acres of on-campus hiking, camping, and swimming, and it is much smaller than UNCA, which Erin also appreciates. Erin says, "I know I'd be happy at either place, but it's a

matter of where I'd be happiest." To avoid some of the stress of making the decision, Erin recommends that juniors, "visit the colleges thoroughly, well before May 1st."

There are also students who have opted for a more non-traditional higher education experience. Rob Watts is going to the United States Military Academy at West Point. This past summer he went to a week-long camp held at West Point that convinced him that it was the right place for him. He likes the campus on the Hudson River as well as the emphasis on discipline and leadership. He is also pleased that the school pays for his education and gives him a stipend. At West Point, students have a major and a field of study, which is similar to a minor. Rob plans to double major in life sciences and engineering and is also interested in medicine.

Megan Lamb is excited to be going to Randolph-Macon Woman's College, located in Lynchburg, Virginia. She went to visit and "absolutely fell in love with it." Megan thinks attending an all-women's college will be "a developmentally good and different experience." She comments that the "the community atmosphere is really cool, and the campus is gorgeous." She's looking forward to pursuing a major in international relations and economics, because, she says, "I want to make a difference in the world."

Paul Patrone, on the other hand, will be going to St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland, where "Johnnies read the great books, starting with the Greeks and ending with Einstein and Heisenberg." St. John's is radically different from most university curricula in that students spend their four years reading and discussing books. Paul explains, "St. John's is probably one of the most unique colleges in the US. St. John's main goal is not to prepare students for their life after college, but instead to teach them to think for themselves. This is, in my opinion, a greater achievement because with the ability to think and reason, one can do anything."

Laura Solomon is leaving the United States behind alto-

gether to go to St. Hilda's College of Oxford University in England. She says, "It's cheaper than UNC because my mom's a European Union citizen." Laura said the application was surprisingly easy: there were no essays to write. She applied open application instead of to a specific one of the thirty colleges that compose the university, and she was accepted to St. Hilda's, an all-women's college. Although colleges are where the students eat, sleep, and meet with their tutors, Laura will still be able to interact with students from other colleges of the university. Classes at Oxford are basically tutorials (one-on-one meetings with a teacher), and lectures. Oxford is also on a trimester schedule, which means that Laura has three nine-week semesters with six-week breaks between them and a long summer vacation. Laura will be studying "Law with Law Studies in Germany" in hopes of becoming a barrister. She is excited about living in England for the first time, but will miss her parents. Interestingly, St. Hilda's mascot is two unicorns, so Laura should feel right at home.

Going even further afield, Chelsea Armitage has decided to put college on the back burner for a year while she goes to Hong Kong to teach children English. She decided that the opportunity to "get paid to live in Hong Kong" and to live in the real world for a year was just too good to miss. Chatteris Education Foundation is the program through which she will be working. One of the requirements is that students seeking to be a part of the program must have already applied and been accepted to college. Chelsea deferred enrollment at UNC, and is pleased that her parents were very supportive of the plan. She is thrilled about next year and said that, while in Hong Kong, "I also want to break into the kung-fu movie bracket and become the next Chou Yun-Fat!"

To be sure, NCSSM seniors are headed off to wonderful new places in the next stage of their lives. They have made an amazing kaleidoscope of plans that complement their accomplishments while at NCSSM. We wish them success in all of their future endeavors.