

Club Briefs

DRAMA BOARD presents "Curse of the Werewolf," the fall comedy, at 7:00 on Dec. 8 and at 2:00 and 7:00 on Dec. 10. The spooky mystery spoof contains a Scooby-Doo-esque romp through Gargoyle Castle, murder, identity theft, a penguin, zany relatives and a werewolf.
Reported by *Mary Kohlmann*

THE FENCING CLUB will compete in its first competition, in the High School Fencing League, on Dec. 9 in Greensboro.
Reported by *Jaime McCandless*

HERITAGE OPPORTUNITY Progress Education (HOPE) is currently collecting canned goods to make three to five baskets for three to five families. Please bring all canned goods to Letitia Mason's Office in Watts Lobby. A major event of the HOPE year is organizing Africafest. Anyone with ideas should e-mail Emanuel Bryant at bryante@ncssm.edu.
Reported by *Santana King*

THE PAINTBALL CLUB is planning a trip to Goteha Paintball's field outside of Raleigh on Dec. 10. E-mail questions to Erik Gutekunst or Erik MacIntosh.
Reported by *Erik Gutekunst*

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY of Black Engineers (NSBE) brought home first place at the Regional Competition in Pittsburgh, Pa. Alta Bailey, Dorian Britt, Michael French, Wayne Kimball, Jr., Lokia King and Kiara Vincent won First Place Engineering Design Team, advancing to compete at the National Convention in April 2007 in Columbus, Ohio. Other students proudly represented the school in the Engineering Design Competition and in the Try-Math-a-Lon Quiz Bowl.
Reported by *Wayne Kimball Jr.*

PSYCHOLOGY IN FILM Club will be watching "Sybil" Sunday, Dec. 10 at 6:01 PM in the ETC Lecture Hall. A brief discussion will follow, and anyone attending for the movie is asked to remain.
Reported by *Rebekah Vestal*



Art by *Laura Chao*

New rules govern dances

By *MARY KOHLMANN*

Dance styles at all future school dances, mixers and formals will be regulated by a new policy drafted and passed by SLIs, administrators and SGA members.

"The intent of this legislation isn't to restrict anyone, but to generate the sense of responsibility and self-respect that should be in the hearts and minds of all NCSSM students," SGA president Mike Jones said.

The noticeably short policy forbids only four specific dance moves.

"We decided not to have a long laundry list of things people can't do, but to communicate the spirit of self-respect we want to see," said Joan Barber, vice chancellor of student life.

Explicitly banned in the policy are "dancing up against a wall, dancing with any body part on the floor (excluding feet), contact between hands and genital areas [and] pelvic thrusting."

However, the policy also gives faculty and SLI chaperones the power to request changes in dance styles as they see fit.

"There may be instances when students violate the intent of this legislation without directly violating any specific provisions," the policy reads. "For that reason, a student may be asked to refrain from engaging in a particular style of dance at any time if it is deemed sexually explicit and/or degrading."

SLIs and staff members are the only chaperones permitted to confront students directly about changing their dance styles; parent chaperones are asked to relay any concerns to another adult.

"Everything is contingent upon the acceptance and interpretation of the Student Life staff," Jones said.

The open nature of the policy also places the responsibility of dance style choice largely on the students themselves.

"It won't be meaningful unless the students understand it and begin to police themselves," said SLI Jennifer Ashe, who served on the committee that wrote the rule.

Some students feel that, for this reason, the policy is likely to have little effect.

"These [rules] sound like nothing new," senior Jennifer Cook said. "They've always broken up grinding in the past. This is an ongoing battle, and this is just the administration's latest thing. If they think this is such a problem that they need to make rules, then they need to make actual rules."

According to Jones, SGA advocated the legislation in response to an earlier bill to eliminate all "grinding."

"SGA decided that there needed to be a policy benefiting all students rather than targeting only

a certain dance style," he said.

Barber said that the move towards regulation was the result of years of growing numbers of complaints at dances.

"I don't think it's been any one specific incident," she said. "It's been ongoing for a couple of years. The style of dancing in popular culture has gotten more explicit, so students have begun imitating it on campus."

Ashe said that she felt a line needed to be drawn in regards to what is permissible at school events.

"I don't think that we need to have sexually suggestive dancing that leads to arousal at school dances," she said. "People are very polite when you ask them to modify their dancing style, [but] there are multiple moments at every dance."

Many students agree that parameters are needed.

"I think it makes sense," junior Lokia King said. "If you dance [as described in the restrictions], you're crossing the line anyway."

Senior Julian Arrington also considers the rules to be well-warranted.

"[The rules] don't really bother me, because grinding at dances just becomes some big, disgusting thing," he said. "I can understand why [the Student Life Department is] doing it."

The policy also standardizes the regulations for all school functions.

"The great thing about this legislation is that it unites mixers, semiformals, proms and everything else into one category, so that there's no ambiguity about what's allowed at one and not at another," Jones said. "People can know the rules without that confusion."

The dramatic difference in atmosphere between an I-Viz mixer and an event such as prom left some students uncertain about whether different guidelines applied.

"People would sometimes be less explicit at dances than at mixers, where there are fewer people," Jones said.

Although standard enforcement in such variant settings will present a challenge to chaperones, Barber said that the policy's subjective nature is its greatest strength.

"It gets back to the idea, 'What is offensive to me?'" she said. "It gives students, staff and parents the opportunity to say, 'This is offensive to me.'"

Ashe suggested that the policy will widen the appeal of school dances among the student body by setting a median comfort zone.

"It's for the common good," she said. "There are some people who have said that they don't go to dances because they don't want to see the grinding—and this is students. I think it's written where the goal is mutual respect, and I think everyone can handle that."

ScienceDays lets students be teachers

By *KARA TINKER*

ScienceDays, a new program sponsored by the Siemens Foundation, gives high school students the chance to design and teach their own science lessons at underprivileged elementary schools.

Lucie Guo and Xianlin Li, alumni of NCSSM and founders of ScienceDays, chose NCSSM as a model school for their program last year.

"We were encouraged after seeing how many NCSSMers were interested in helping out and talking to many of them in June," Guo said.

This summer Guo, Li and a group of students volunteered at summer camps in Chapel Hill to test ScienceDays lessons.

"The experience of working with those kids was so inspiring," Guo said. "They were all so interested in what we taught, and they all kept asking questions about the experiments and the science."

Currently, the NCSSM chapter of ScienceDays works with students from E.K. Powe.

"The main focus is to have fun and get them interested in science," said senior Mike Mian, one of the chapter's two co-directors.

The other, senior Wendy Hua, said that the lessons benefit both teachers and students.

"It's a great chance for both the mentors and the kids to learn something because the kids become inspired by the magic that is driven by science, and the mentors become better communicators and teachers through the process," she said.

New ScienceDays members also give positive feedback.

"I believe in the saying that teaching something to someone helps you better understand the topic," senior Mahen Khan said.

Six months after its creation, the program is steadily growing.

"This year is a trial year in that we—as well as all the chapters—are still testing out what works best," Guo said. "We hope, though, that the mentors are enjoying the experience of teaching lessons and that some will want to undertake leadership roles next year in order to keep the chapter running."



Photo courtesy of *Mike Mian*

Mike Mian and Katherine Schulz teach a ScienceDays lesson about earthquakes.