

THE STENTORIAN

The North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics

VOLUME XXXI | ISSUE FOUR

stentorian@ncssm.edu

DECEMBER 2011

Mr. and Baby UNiVerse contestants strut stuff on stage, Zhang, Fernandez take titles

BY: CAROLINE DESAUSURE

This year's Mr. Universe pageant took the student body along for a ride through dances, formal wear, question and answer, talents, and the ultimate crowning on Saturday, Dec. 3. Six seniors and nine juniors bravely took the stage to compete for the title of Mr. Uni and Baby Uni, respectively. In the end, senior Jimmy Zhang and junior Luke Fernandez came out on top.

Zhang, as well as senior Chris Bernedo and junior Robert Boyette, rocked the stage with solo acts by playing guitar.

Junior Albert Hong showed off his versatility to the crowd by performing a rendition of Adele's "Someone Like You" on the saxophone. He was accompanied by juniors Lee Hoff on the piano and Forrest Ashworth on the drums.

Senior Brian Iezzi also brought his instrument to stage: the didgeridoo. His unique performance and

charm on stage made him the runner-up in the Mr. Uni senior competition.

Seniors Jeremy DeJournett

and Nicholli Bernard took a humorous approach to their talent segment by singing and dancing with props. DeJournett sang "Home" and frolicked around stage while Bernard belted out the Pokémon theme song and break danced.

Also dancing on stage was Baby Uni contestant Sajan Amin who performed a mysterious techno-break dance fusion. He and his masked dancers break danced and built a human machine to impress the judges and audience.

Both Cedric

Clark and Graham Howell vied for the title of Baby Uni by delivering monologues. Howell changed his talent performance at last minute from a rant about the trials and tribulations of NCSSM, but decided to adjust his monologue last minute. He ended doing a monologue based off of a Freddie Mercury song. Clark gave a cryptic tribute to his mother and made the audience swoon at his lines of Spanish.

Senior Connor Smith performed a spoken word with Jelicia Diggs on the piano. Garret Powell sang and rapped Jason Aldean's "Dirt Road Anthem" with Willie Park and maintained his country theme throughout the show.

Junior Zane James gave the gentlemen in the crowd some advice on how to get girls. He

Continued on page 4



Mr. and Baby Uni contestants during opening dance.

Courtesy of Vivian Chen

New York Occupy Wall Street demonstrators garner attention

BY: ROSALIA PREISS

Since early fall, New York City's Zuccotti Park became an uncommonly popular attraction for both tourists and city dwellers alike. People gathered around the small park in Lower Manhattan, taking pictures, holding signs, and staring in awe at the small population gathered there.

The gatherers are artists, students, musicians, teachers, younger people, older people, and anyone in between. They call themselves "the 99%," and they make up the Occupy Wall Street Movement.

Starting Sept. 17, 2011, a small group of demonstrators began camping out in Manhattan's Zuccotti Park, several blocks from Wall Street. The group was protesting the huge amount of power held by banks and corporations in our democratic government.

The movement was inspired by similar uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia, the goal being to fight back against the wealthiest 1% of the American population who hold a disproportionate amount of wealth.

The movement received a lot of attention fairly quickly, and soon the park was filled with tents belonging to Americans from all walks of life.

Police officers were on duty around the perimeter of the protests, attempting to control the protestors.

However, Occupy Wall Street became a popular stop for tourists in the city, turning this uprising into an economically advantageous event.

Vendors sold t-shirts stating, "OCCUPY EVERYTHING", and numerous buttons and bracelets were available to

those wishing to show solidarity for the 99%.

Despite the seriousness of the movement, some people have taken a somewhat humorous



Courtesy of Rosalia Preiss

Continued on page 4

National issue culminates in Raleigh election

BY: NOAH LIEBERMAN

National political forces turned their eyes towards a small school board run-off election in North Carolina this fall, as Wake County voters handed control of their district back to Democrats after replacing them with Tea Party Conservatives two years ago.

The race brought to the front of the platform the issues of student busing and diversity in schools, two subjects that Wake County had been heralded for nationwide in the past. Wake County's busing strategy had been a source of inspiration to schools around the country for ending segregation.

In 2009, a new wave of Republican-backed candidates was elected to the board, helped by large contributions from out-of-state donors, including the Koch brothers, now well known for their involvement in the union rights debate in Wisconsin earlier this year.

These conservative board members scrapped a decades-old classroom assignment plan that gave schools a racial

mix and ensured they didn't become too heavily identified as either poor or rich.

The proposed replacement plan gave parents more say in their children's education. Those opposed to the change said that it would segregate the schools by wealth, and ultimately, race.

This year, the election took in a record breaking amount of money on both sides, reflecting the national hype surrounding the political mayhem. Democratically aligned Kevin Hill raised \$25,000 and Conservative Heather Losurdo raised over \$80,000, the most raised by a single candidate in Wake County history.

All in all, more than \$500,000 was spent on this one head to head match-up, which decided the majority of the school board.

Hill triumphed by over 1,000 votes in the election, giving control back to the liberals, who plan on reinstating the pre-2009 status quo busing situation.



In this Issue:

Senioritis sweeps through the class of 2012: page 2

A Snapshot in Music: a Preview of Three Recently Released Albums: page 5

Should art be a required class at NCSSM?: page 7