



Holidays are Around the Corner

by Debby Bone

Excitement and tension will soon be surrounding us as the holidays and first semester exams are drawing near.

Nervous energy and anxiety will undoubtedly permeate the campus, but as North Carolina's brightest, NCSSMers will, as usual, come up with ingenious ways to blow off steam and celebrate the happy season.

On the ladies' halls, giant gift exchanges, "Secret Santas," munchie study breaks, hall dinners, and parties are always popular holiday fes-

tivities.

Guys, on the other hand, aren't as organized with their fun. Stringing lights in the drab dorm windows, hanging mistletoe (particularly for intervizers), and maybe a hall party are their major activities.

Both sexes agree that Northgate, especially Everything's A Dollar, becomes even more important than ever.

Everyone knows how hard finding a gift for that special someone can be. As for all campus merriment, the

Holiday Semi-Formal Dance is THE major event. According to Brett Cannon, "It's almost better than the prom."

Caroling at the Duke Children's ward and "The Penny Challenge" also help spread holiday cheer on campus as well as off.

Yes, the holiday spirit and "mega-exam stress" will be running rampant in the school in a matter of weeks. As good Science and Math students, it is our duty to earn at least a "B" average for the semester...and to have a happy holiday season.

Literature Comes Alive

by Janine Bullard

If you are tired of reading Emerson and Chaucer, The Blue Mirror is the alternative for you.

The Blue Mirror is a literary magazine published twice-a-year which contains writing and artwork from students, faculty, and administration.

The writing varies from short stories to poems, and from science fiction to romantic. Anyhow, the magazine encompasses a wide range of writing styles and is accessible to everyone, since the poems are frequently about "today's" philosophies and

feelings inspired by NCSSM.

The first issue should be finished around Christmas break or soon thereafter. It is an exciting issue, since all of the covers are being hand-silk-screened, and some of the most wonderful poems and short stories are being printed.

The magazine has three advisors, Mr. Matros, Dr. Miller, and Dr. Timson, and five editors, Becky McCallum, Chris Moore, Jennifer Rourke, Emily West, and Janine Bullard.

Once poems are submitted, they are given anonymously to the editors.

The editors then meet once a week with a reading group or people interested in reading and reviewing the poems, and they discuss which ones should be published in the magazine.

Everyone is encouraged to submit their writing even if you are not on the staff.

If you have anything you would like to be considered for the second issue, give your submissions to Miller, Matros, or Timson.

If you would like to be more involved with the magazine, watch for signs about Blue Mirror reading groups and go to the next meeting.

YMCA Overrun

by Vickie Carlton

A few Fridays ago, a terrible hoard attacked the local YMCA, a group of Science and Math students in search of a good time. They were participating in the Y-Lock In.

Students crammed into busses at 9:30 to leave school. Once there, they began to do a multitude of things.

There were volleyball and basketball tournaments at midnight. Aerobics was taught at 11 for normal people and at 2 for strange types.

Throughout the night people could play around with the gym equipment or wrestle.

The pool was open until midnight with some swim meets which were held short-

ly after eleven. The only complaint people had was that the pool closed so early. This was because it would have been hard to have a life guard all night.

For people who didn't feel so energetic, there were plenty of other things to do.

Many sat around and played cards. Others just talked to friends or listened to music. Food and drink, like chips and Coke, were provided.

Of course another possibility was sleep. If you wanted to sleep you dragged your pillow and blanket onto a mat in the gym. Even though it was noisy in there and lights were on the whole time, most people found it easy to sleep after so much physical activity.

Exams are Stress

by Kimberly Tisdale

Exam time is almost here at NCSSM. For juniors this can be a new experience and very stressful.

Most juniors are not used to the type of exams that will be given, and they are not very sure what to expect. This probably counts for many seniors also.

How can one prepare for the tests and the added pressures? Can you be ready for the unexpected? How can you relieve the stress?

Rhonda Hyden remembers the morgue hours that some students put in last year. She remembers opening her window to hear screams of frustrated students trying to relieve stress. Spades also seemed to be a way to relax last year.

Eric Ervin doesn't recom-

mend trying to pull all nighters to prepare for exams. He advises to begin working a week ahead and attend tutorials if possible.

Brian Barbour did pull all nighters last year, but he admits that after the tests he was really exhausted. He also says you should begin working toward exams several weeks ahead of time.

Sleep will play a large role in the ability of students during exams. Many people will study for hours into the night and early morning.

John Ellis plans to get plenty of sleep and study early. He plans to study early so he won't need to cram.

Everyone is wished success no matter what type or how hard the exam. Work however is best for you to do well.

