

the stentorian

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Around the world and back

By MAGDA KOTEK

News Editor

International

The bubonic plague has surfaced throughout India. Over four hundred cases have been reported though many have proven to be false. Passengers on planes from India have been warned of the disease and are being surveyed by doctors for up to three days after their arrival in the U.S.

After the sinking of the Swedish ship the Estonia, Swedes have begun to mourn the loss of nine hundred passengers. Of the one thousand and ninety on board, only 190 survived. A suspected cause of the disaster is a severed cargo door that allowed the ship to flood.

After two weeks in Haiti, U.S. troops have begun to disarm supporters of the Cedras regime. Many Americans though are disappointed with America's inconsistent if not stagnant Haitian policy. Troops are expected to begin leaving the island country in the coming days.

National

South African president Nelson Mandela has made his first trip to the United States last week. In addition to addressing the General Assembly, Mandela met with American business leaders in order to strengthen economic ties between South Africa and the United States. He also discussed the Haitian and Rwandan problems with the President.

Japanese and American trade representatives met to discuss Japan's unfair trade policy with the United States last week. Japanese industries, such as the automobile, glass works, and telecommunications industries, have agreed to use more American products. This deal will likely bring billions of dollars into the American economy.

New statistics show that 27% of annual American household incomes accounts for consumer spending debt. Economists question whether the slow increase in household incomes will lead to an eventual increase in interest rates. The FED, though, has decided not to raise interest rates.

The O.J. Simpson saga continues. Three and a half months after the murder of Nicole Simpson and her friend, Ronald Goldman, lawyers have begun to whittle down a jury pool from close to one thousand Californians to twelve. The trial is not expected to begin for a few more months.

The space shuttle Endeavor was launched three weeks ago, and is currently using digital radar imagery to measure carbon monoxide and pollution levels on Earth. Scientists have discovered that pollution levels in North America are much higher than those in South America.

Nationally subsidized health care is dead because of congressional disagreement. Also, Democrat incumbents are struggling to be reelected.

Local

A reporter and photographer from the popular magazine "The U.S. News & World Report" visited Science & Math three weeks ago. The journalists were working on a story about a life in a local institution. The story will be appearing in an upcoming issue.

Sports

Both the national league hockey and baseball labor disputes have not yet been resolved. The football season has just begun.

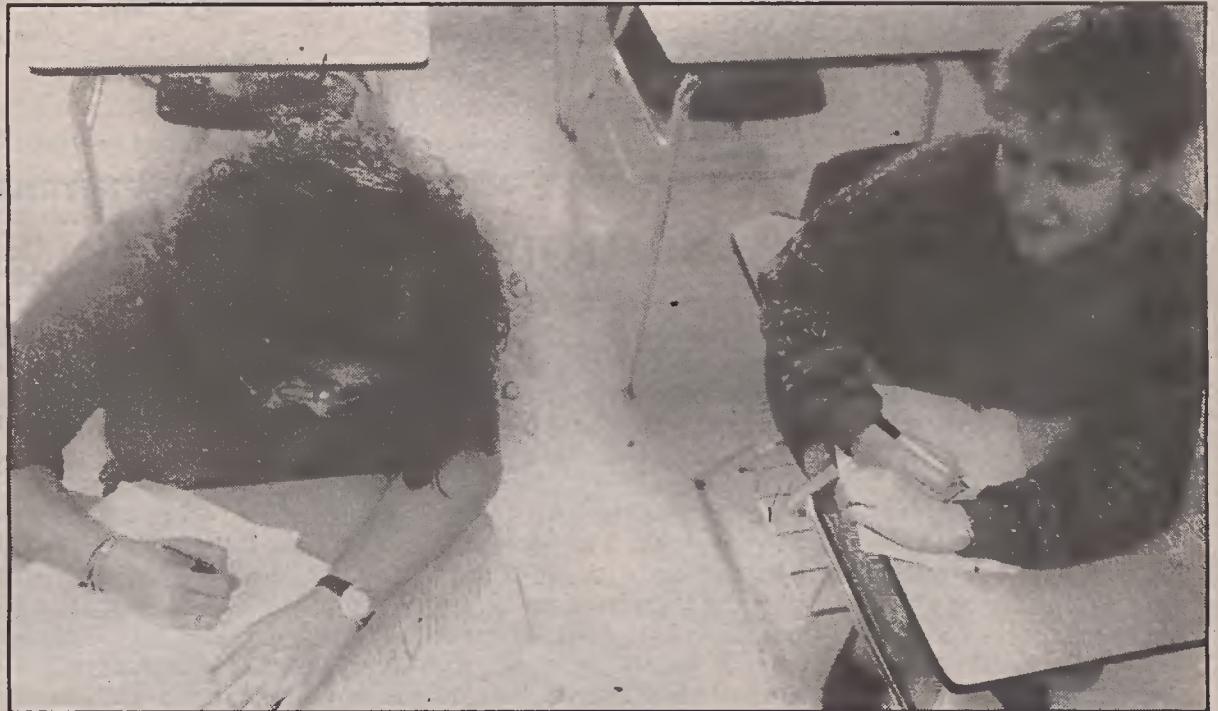


Photo by Brian Yen

NCSSM has recently undertaken new efforts to try to put an end to academic dishonesty. Here, Lisa Worthington, junior, sneaks a peek at senior Julie Munoz's test paper.

Much ado about nothing?

By ROBERT DALAND

Staff Writer

Controversy arose last year from a study some students did about academic honesty. Of the students who answered the questionnaire, 64% replied that they had, at some time, done something they knew their teacher would consider cheating. That figure may sound high to some, but Dr. Warshaw, the principal, said that it is actually lower than the national average, about 76%, for similar studies done at colleges. So what's the problem?

Academic dishonesty is defined, in a pamphlet by the math department, as anything including the "giving, taking, or presenting of information or material with intent of unethically or fraudulently aiding oneself or another person." The problem with this is that it should not exist at all. However, some teachers and administrators felt that a few of the students last year were not clear on exactly what constituted academic honesty.

Near the end of last year SGA organized what is known as a speakout, an event where students have a chance to share ideas on issues that affect the community, on academic honesty. However, the faculty members attending outnumbered the twelve students present. Said SGA

president, senior, Janora McDuffie (then a junior representative), "There was a large faculty turnout, but there were not as many students as some had hoped."

This year the faculty is getting more involved with the issue. When the seven department heads met before school began this year, they decided to emphasize the academic policy in all the classes. In a staff meeting, the English teachers volunteered to give a portion of their run-through the first day to talk about academic honesty. Math and computer science teachers passed out a brochure, containing examples, definitions, and other information regarding academic dishonesty, to all their classes. Teachers were all required to put a brief statement concerning their individual expectations in their course expectations handout.

Is the policy being pushed too hard? Dr. Goebel, of the math department, replied, "No, it sounds like an overkill, but this way the student body realizes that we're serious about it." Dr. Kolena, of the physics department, feels that it is basically the same as last year, but that some incidents had made it clear that the point was not getting across.

Mrs. Dusenbury

(formerly Ms. Meadows), a history teacher who has been with NCSSM ever since the doors opened, said, "I haven't had a problem (with academic dishonesty); maybe that's because I don't look for it. When I do encounter a dishonest student, I feel that we should work it out ourselves."

Most of the seniors interviewed felt that the new policy was not being pushed too hard. "I don't think it's much different from last year," said one senior. Another said, "A lot of people cheated last year, and it helps you learn if you do your own work."

Some juniors, however, felt that the new policy was being pushed too hard. "It's overdone to the point where people want to break it," said one junior. Stated another, "We don't need a sheet for every class."

Several teachers expressed the possibility of an honor code. Dr. Winters, science department head, said that he felt an honor code was a good idea but when it was mentioned a few years ago, nothing ever happened. Dr. Eubanks, a biology teacher new to NCSSM, said that most of the schools she has taught at in the past had honor codes, and she thinks having one here would help.