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Around the world and back

By MAGDA KOTEK

News Editor

World

■ On Tuesday, January 24, an earthquake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale struck Kobe, Japan. The earthquake left 5,090 people dead, 25,000 injured, 300,000 homeless, and twenty-nine missing. The Japanese government has come under criticism from the international community for its slow response to the disaster and its reluctance to accept international aid.

■ Russian President Boris Yeltsin has suppressed fighting in the rebelling Chechnyan Republic and has joined the Republic again with Russia. Rebels, though, have vowed to begin guerilla warfare just South of Grozny.

■ The Netherlands, northern France, and Germany are experiencing the worst flooding of the century. Over 320,000 people have been evacuated from their homes, and total damage is estimated to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

■ The Christmas cease-fire in Yugoslavia seems to be on shaky ground. Over 400 explosions have been cited in the area, and food and heat have been denied to 1,000 peace-keepers.

■ An earthquake measuring 6.5 on the Richter scale hit a small town 175 miles south of Bogota, Colombia. The earthquake left fifteen people dead and is the third earthquake of the year in Colombia.

National

■ In a record breaking eighty-one minute State of the Union address, President Clinton discussed welfare

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Dorm changes divide student body

By MAGDA KOTEK

News Editor

At 10:00 on a Wednesday night, the second Bryan open lounge is teeming with students. Males and females from throughout campus either sleep, talk to each other, or concentrate on the blaring television set. But will this scene be possible next year if Bryan dormitory, now a male residential hall, becomes inhabited by females, and Hill House, now a female dormitory, turns into a male residential hall? Some students say no.

Currently NCSSM's student population is fifty-two percent male and forty-eight percent female. Statistics from around the state, though, show that on average female students comprise fifty-two percent of high school

populations. In order to reflect this figure, NCSSM would have to add over thirty females to the student population. In the end, NCSSM's ideal student population would be comprised of 277 females and 271 males.

The only problem that stands in the way of adjusting NCSSM's student population is the lack of dormitory space. With the majority of applicants to the school being females, NCSSM has been forced to reject qualified female applicants on the basis of not having enough room to house them.

"Though many housing options have been proposed, the most practical solution to this problem is to transfer females to Bryan dormitory and males to Hill House," says Warren Basket, proponent of the plan and head of male residential halls.

The final ruling on this issue will probably take place on March 3 when the board of trustees will meet to vote on the plan. The Board is expected to ratify the proposal and implement it for either the class of 1997 or 1998.

This proposed move has sparked discussions among students, faculty, and SLIs throughout campus. Questions concerning the remodeling of Bryan, future social interaction between the sexes, and lack of student involvement in the decision have been raised.

One major fear is that with the separation of females and males on different sides of campus there will be a negative effect on social interaction between the sexes.

see **DORM CHANGES**, page 2

Women's issues to be addressed at conference

By SARA BIRKEMEIER

Co-Editor in Chief

Rape, lesbianism, business, domestic violence, diversity, and health. If it has to do with women it probably will be found at the first annual Women's Conference being held on March 22 (Alt. Day) at NCSSM. It comes complete with a gallery, movie series, and luminary show and is open to all students, faculty, and visitors.

"We want to make people in the community more conscious of womanhood and what it's like to be a woman and how wonderful it is," said senior Tyrell Haberkorn. She stumbled upon the idea for a conference while working on a proposal for a women's center at NCSSM. Now Tyrell, guidance counselor Gail Hudson, and a number of other students are counting down the days until all their hard work and planning will be shared with the community.

"We just want to raise awareness of women's rolls in society," and show people some ways that we can start becoming more active so that we can change society, said senior, Kati Haynes on some of the goals behind the event. Kati is in charge of three sessions dealing with rape, domestic violence, and

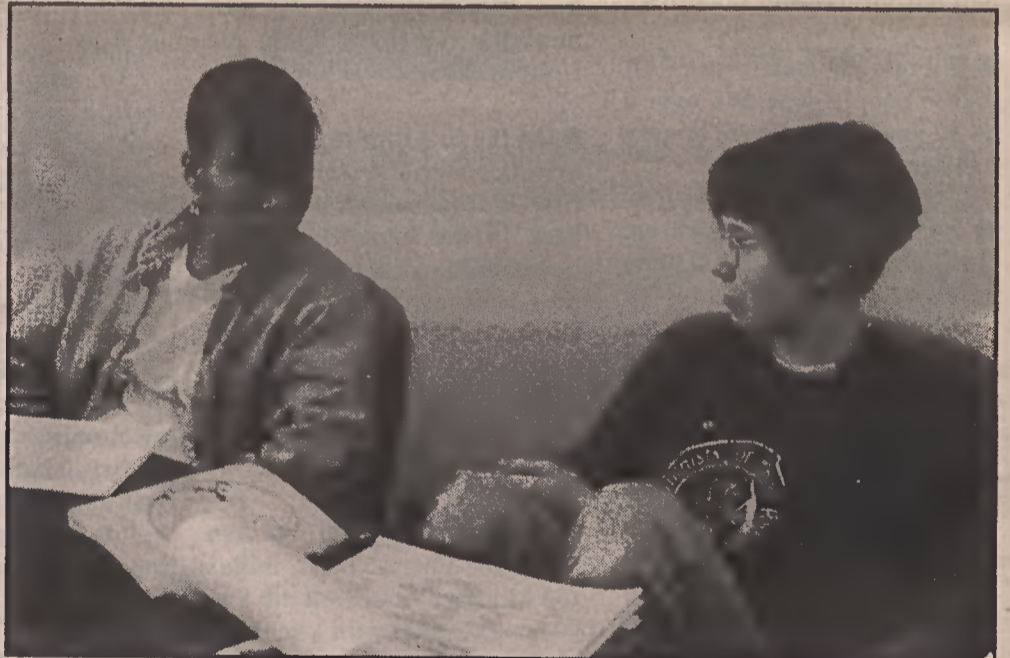


Photo by Sara Birkemeier

Carrie Bridges and Tyrell Haberkorn plan for upcoming women's conference.

Dan Schudel is coming back to do the sexual violence presentation. "We want to get the men involved too because it (the conference) is not about separation, it's about equality."

The diversity section, dealing with race and sexual preferences, is being run by senior Imani Brown-Shelton. There are plans for the North Carolina Lesbian and Gay Health Project to do a panel session. The National Coalition Building

Institute may also be helping with these workshops.

Student Life Instructor, Jen Poirot is conducting the health sessions and tackling everything from women's cancer to reproductive issues such as birth control and abortion. Jen is also

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◆ **Celebrations of Culture** Annual Pow-wow and Worldfest enrich the student life at NCSSM, pages 4-5.

◆ **Keeping It Afloat** NCSSM senior Rebecca DeBernard makes swimming a major part of her life, page 7.

◆ **Opting for Obscurity** A great deal of worthy music is never even given a stab at widespread popularity, page 8/

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