



AROUND THE WORLD ...and back

Compiled by Maryellen Corbett and Sarah Hagevik

■ PLO chief Yasser Arafat and Israeli foreign minister Shimon Peres closed an agreement Sunday September 24 expanding Palestinian rule in the West Bank. Palestinians now control most of the territory which Israel had occupied since the 1960's.

■ Peace in Bosnia may finally be achieved with a meeting on September 26 between Serbian, Croatian and Bosnian leaders; the US proposed peace plan includes a cease fire and a divided state with territory for each ethnic group; President Clinton has promised US troops to enforce the peace plan which would end the 42-month conflict.

■ Alexei Yablokov told German television that decommissioned Russian submarines were "floating Chernobyls" that could explode at any moment.

■ Hurricane Marilyn destroyed St. Thomas, leaving 12,000 homeless and seriously hindering a 1 billion

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Cheerleading dropped from roster

Anne Fawcett
News Editor

Amid boos by some students and cheerleaders, cheerleading has been dropped from the athletic department for the 1995-1996 season. This, in addition to other factors, will cause drastic changes for the squad this year.

Cheerleading's removal from the athletic program is not a sudden move. Actually, Branson Brown, NCSSM's athletic director, has seen it coming for the last several years.

"Cheerleading was started explicitly as a support function for the sports for which they cheered," said Brown. "It had evolved to a performance-based activity in and of itself, and did not complement the athletic department. I had an objection to calling it cheerleading, because they did not lead cheers."

State rules allow cheerleaders to perform only during deadballs and time-outs in basketball games. NCSSM's cheerleaders had to be reminded to remain seated at times other than these, and cheerleading became an irritant, according to Brown.

To remedy the situation last year, Brown suggested that the

cheerleaders take part in spirit week. Seeing how competitive the squad had become, he also mentioned that the cheerleaders could hold a competition at NCSSM. No effort seemed to be made on either measure.

"Do we want a gymnastic team or a group to incorporate the fans into the support of our [athletic] teams?" said Dr. Joan Barber, Director of Student Life. "I've never seen other cheerleaders as competitive, but I should have expected it by the nature of our students here."

Brown agreed. "They're the hardest working squad I've ever seen," he said. This raised other concerns, however. Cheerleading is not a state-sanctioned sport, yet cheerleaders held formal practices with a coach longer than any other sport allows - from October 28 to May 25 of last school year. This led to quite a few injuries which Brown thought were due to fatigue.

"If I were to rank the number of injuries for each sport, only one other team had more. That would be soccer," he said. Aside from fatigue, injuries also oc-

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NCSSM Cheerleaders were a hit last year. Due to safety concerns cheerleading has been dropped as a sport.

Carolyn Chu

Abstinence law not to affect NCSSM programs

Alton Patrick
Staff Writer

Many high school sex education programs across North Carolina will be getting a facelift over the next two years, but NCSSM's won't be among them.

The state legislature recently passed a bill requiring all public high schools to teach abstinence until marriage as the only answer to teen sex. Schools that do not comply by the 1996-97 school year will have to hold public hearings if they want to teach different ideas. The legislation, however, does not apply at NCSSM.

"NCSSM is not part of a city or county school system. Because of this, North Carolina's recent General Assembly legislation does not affect NCSSM as it would a regular high school....Because of our unique situation as a residential school, [Student Life] 101 will be educating NCSSM students in a number of relevant and required sexual issues while teaching abstinence," said a statement from the Student Life office.

The Sexual Issues program at NCSSM, administered through Student Life 101, will give students a choice among five courses fo-

cused on various facets of sexual education. However, all the courses will include core information about contraceptives, as well as abstinence, without showing bias towards one or the other. The idea behind the Sexual Issues curriculum is to provide students with information they need to make decisions rather than telling them what decision to make. Dr. Joan Barber, Director of Student Life at NCSSM, said, "We would never want to be seen by parents, students, or the community as advocating one idea over another. We want to empower students to make intelligent choices by educating them about those choices. Abstinence is a choice they have and it has some advantages."

One of the Sexual Issues courses will be focused on abstinence. Kevin Cromwell is the student life instructor who will be teaching the course. He also believes that abstinence should be taught, but not by itself. "I think [abstinence] should be taught, but it's naive to assume that it will solve all the problems," Cromwell said. "NCSSM is supposed to create the future leaders of North Carolina. If the leaders don't know about these issues, how can they lead?"

Now that the General Assembly has taken this step towards reducing the high teen-

age pregnancy rate in North Carolina, the question is, will it work?

Barber suggests that abstinence deserves a chance. "I think I'd like to see the results of the experiment first," she said. "There seems to be a lot of debate that not pushing abstinence hasn't helped - North Carolina is still among the highest in the nation in teen pregnancy - so it will be interesting to see the results in the choices high school students make regarding sexual issues."

Some students, though, prefer the way most high schools already teach about sexual issues.

"I think the way they teach about birth control now is good because you can experiment without having to worry about STDs and unwanted pregnancies as much, and teens are always going to experiment," said NCSSM junior John Wu.

While the abstinence legislation will not directly affect NCSSM, it has left a mark on the future of Student Life at NCSSM.

"The issue of abstinence helped us fine-tune the Student Life curriculum to fit the needs of all students," Barber said.