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-- MOCK ELECTION

"By bringing in so many views, everyone could explore issues that pertained to their everyday lives and people they knew," senior Matt Martin said, "Some people found out that their opinions corresponded with a different party than they originally thought."

From 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., the speakers set up booths and spoke with interested students on a one-to-one basis, handing out brochures, support stickers, and personal pamphlets on candidates. In a school-wide poll, students chose five out of 12 issues that they considered the most important which were the main focus of the speeches for the next hour. After the speeches, the floor opened for a question and answer period for the remaining time.

Two Mondays later, on Oct. 28, the issues discussed at the information session were brought down to a more local level as NCSSM clubs Teen Democrats and Young Republicans debated their party's views. The debate gave the clubs the chance to explore what their parties believe and portray these beliefs to their peers.

"These two events allowed students to take facts and rationalize what was being said into what they believed, rather than learning about politics in a more second hand fashion," Martin said.

In order to make the best choice possible, many students who voted took advantage of these preparations before heading to the booths.

"Even if we don't really count, opinions that we the school express today will be looked at by other people and will affect the thoughts of the government." Junior Glenn Bracey said.

Since this is the first year NCSSM has offered the Leadership Seminar, most of its projects are extremely experimental. In addition to the mock election, seminar members are working with students from Israel in order to help develop a curriculum for leadership on a global scale, Oxman said.

"Taking contributions from different parts of the world will help make the program more beneficial to all students, not just those from North Carolina, the south, or even the United States, but for all young leaders of the world." Oxman said.

Warshaw is excited by the seminar's progress so far.

"[The seminar] has turned out to be different from what I had imagined, but the differences have improved on what I had expected from the project in its first year." Warshaw said.

-- SCHOOL SUED

people may be involved directly in the hearings, the school tries to ensure impartiality as much as possible by having the academic programs staff prepare and hear the case.

Gray and Ervin alleged that "prior to the commencement of the hearing, the hearing officer, Steve Warshaw, had already prepared the letter calling for the dis-

Food service merger brings cafeteria changes

ALEX MANN

It may not be home cooking, but food in the cafeteria is changing. Professional Food Management, the food service contractor at NCSSM, recently merged with another company. As a result, the cafeteria now serves a greater number of offerings and can provide more specialty items for students, said Maureen Jeffers, the food service coordinator at NCSSM.

Over the summer, PFM merged with a multinational food service agency called the Compass Group. Based in London, the Compass Group operates a number of smaller food service providers with different specialties. Branches of the group manage canteens, corporate catering, and snack bars, thus involving it in all types of eating environments. The Compass Group operates over 100,000 dining facilities in Europe and 25,000 in the United States.

"I was very stimulated by the new opportunities a larger company provides," said Dr. Joan Barber, Director of Student Life, who oversees the food service program at NCSSM.

PFM previously managed 100 cafeterias around the nation, all of which were on college campuses with the exception of NCSSM. It now joins the Compass Group as its new Education branch, bringing the world's largest food service provider to schools for the first time.

Maureen Jeffers, the food service coordinator at NCSSM, is very optimistic about the merger. "Many companies had offered to buy PFM in the past, but when

an offer came from the Compass Group, it seemed to be the right company and right time for a merger," said Jeffers. The new partnership gives PFM more buying power and a broader economic base.

She adds that PFM has retained its identity, and there are no plans for a name change at this time.

Jeffers says the merger means a greater number of offerings for students than last year. The Compass Group has provided the cafeteria with many new recipes, and so foods that were not previously served are appearing in the buffet lines. In addition, PFM is now more flexible and can furnish a greater number of specialty meals and other promotions. These have included Premium Nights, Halloween Specials, Circus Theme Lunch, and the Mediterranean and International Dinners.

Senior Ian vanBuskirk has noticed the changes, "The food is better than last year," he said.

PFM has been a food service provider at NCSSM for over thirteen years, beginning when the school opened in 1980 and excluding three years when the contract was awarded



Todd Mack and PFM workservice students set up the salad bar. PFM has benefited from its merger over the summer.

Photo by Julie Thibodeaux

to another company. In these 16 years, the cafeteria has changed a great deal. Jeffers recalls when students were only allowed one entree apiece, with no second helpings. Now, the unlimited seconds policy, fruit baskets, and other additions have increased the selection in the cafeteria.

PFM's contract with the state of North Carolina controls how much and what types of food are served, but Jeffers said that the company has worked to increase the cafeteria's options. She views the merger as another step toward making the cafeteria a better place to eat.

"It's nice to hear more positive comments from the students," said Barber.

The cafeteria welcomes students' opinions and comments on the new foods. For those who would like to express their ideas to PFM, there will be a speak-out on Tuesday, Dec. 10.

SCGSSM delegates visit NCSSM campus

JENNIFER LI

NCSSM students may have met their match the weekend of Nov. 14.

The South Carolina Governors School of Science and Mathematics sent ten students from its Student Government Association to visit NCSSM.

SCGSSM, like NCSSM, is a residential high school that focuses on the development of interest in science and mathematics for 11th and 12th graders. A small population of 120 students resides on a portion of the Coker College campus in Hartsville, South Carolina. The school is one of seven other public residential high schools, besides NCSSM, in the United States.

"We're working on acquainting ourselves [with SCGSSM] and developing a

standing relationship," said Tree Calloway, chairperson of the NCSSM SGA community relations committee.

The SCGSSM students arrived in time to observe several classes while they were here. John Cooper, a junior at SCGSSM observed differences in the teaching styles at the two schools. He said class at SCGSSM are more lecture based whereas NCSSM's classes are more interactive. Cooper also noticed that NCSSM had a more diverse course offering than SCGSSM. "We don't have the same choices because there's not enough people," Cooper said.

The courses which are offered at SCGSSM move at a much faster pace than NCSSM classes, said SCGSSM senior Clarence Glenn.

In addition to academics, SCGSSM students participated in several social activities.

They visited Northgate mall and the North Carolina Museum of Life and Science in Durham as well as attended a Coffeehouse on campus. Glenn was impressed with the amount of activities available on a regular basis to NCSSM students in comparison to SCGSSM, which is located in a rural setting.

One of the delegates main objectives of the trip was to examine the layout of the NCSSM campus. "The trip couldn't have come at a better time. They just acquired some property so they can expand the size of their school," Steve Warshaw, director of NCSSM academic programs, said. A tour of NCSSM's facilities gave the students a chance to note the design of our labs so they could help in the planning of their expansion.

Some disparity between SCGSSM and NCSSM student life policies exist. Sharie Cooper, another SCGSSM student, said, "It's so much more strict at SCGSSM." A one o'clock lights-out policy, no smoking without parental permission, and more opportunities to receive Levels are all part of their student life program.

The basic purpose of the South Carolinian's visit was to promote diplomacy between the schools as well as to learn from each other's programs. Warshaw has suggested sending NCSSM's SGA to SCGSSM in the spring of this year.

missal of the Plaintiffs."

"I don't know where they got [that idea]," said Warshaw. "It is only after students testify and I hear all the evidence that I make a decision."

Gray and Ervin alleged that their treatment as African-American students was harsher than that given to white students. They cited instances of white students reprimanded

less severely for similar actions, including several white students who came back on campus intoxicated but received only minor punishment.

"In the last five years, five out of the six students apprehended with alcohol have been expelled. All six were white," said Head of Communications David Stein.