

The Stentorian

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AROUND THE WORLD ...and back

MONICA MCCLAIN

Israel's Independence Day

On Monday, May 12, 1997, Israel celebrated its Independence Day. Festivities included picnics, an air show, and a naval parade. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that he hoped that Israel could achieve peace in its 49th year. However, peace talks still remain suspended. The talks ended abruptly in March over construction of a Jewish neighborhood in an area of Jerusalem that Palestine claims.

Hubble opens windows

Though it had some glitches at first, the Hubble telescope is working much better. The three billion dollar telescope is performing flawlessly and opening new windows on the Universe. Scientists are receiving good results even though one camera is out of focus. Despite this minor problem, Hubble is lifting the veil of secrecy from the Universe.

Seven lost on Mt. Everest

Seven climbers were caught in a blizzard near the summit of the 29,028 ft. Mt. Everest. Two others have already died this year, and last year 12 climbers were killed during their feat.

The seven are thought to have died 650 ft. from the top. Among the group were three Russians, two Germans, a South Korean, and a Sherpa guide.

Australian swims Keys

Susie Maroney succeeded in her second attempt to swim the 112 mile crossing between Cuba and the Florida Keys. She made it to the Keys 24 1/2 hours after leaving the shore of Havana. When she landed, she was greeted with 150 fans. She was sunburned and had several jellyfish stings. By accomplishing this feat, she became the first woman in history to swim across the Florida Straits.

Blood drive receives record turnout

ERIC HUANG

The long silver needles seemed menacing, but that did not prevent many students from donating blood. On April 17, the blood mobile arrived at NCSSM, drawing record numbers of donations in the annual blood drive sponsored by the American Red Cross.

Over 100 students took time out of their schedules to wait in long lines in the PEC, fill out questionnaires, undergo tests and ultimately donate a pint of blood. Still, students say, the end result was worth it.

"I missed dinner to do this," said senior Stacey Hornaday.

The enormous turnout was unexpected, and lack of anticipation for such a successful drive led to long waits. But that did not discourage students from donating.

"We've been here since 4:10 p.m.," said junior Audrey Phillips, who donated with Hornaday. They finally donated after waiting over two hours, yet they say time was no factor in making this decision.

"It's a worthwhile cause, as many people as there are out there needing blood," said Phillips.

The blood drive was not limited to student participation; teachers also had a high participation level. Mathematics teacher Peggy Craft, who has been a donor since college, took time out of her schedule to donate.

The atmosphere was interesting with so many first time donors, she said, comparing it to her own experiences.

The majority of students were first-time blood donors, so several had little idea what to expect.

"I was really nervous because I didn't like needles," said senior Amy Brushwood. "But it wasn't bad at all."

Some students subdued their fears by considering the good cause to which they were donating.

After giving blood, junior Aaron Freeman said he felt "masterful" knowing his blood would be used to save others.

"I'm gonna give a couple pints to someone that needs it," said senior Winston Parker. "A lot of people have done this before so it can't be too bad."

"I feel special," Parker said proudly afterward. "It's that warm fuzzy feeling inside."

The event had its periodic mishaps. Not everyone's experience donating blood went smoothly, so the assisting nurses prepared for the periodic faintings or feelings of lightheadedness typical for first time donors.

"At least they didn't have to prick me five or six times," said senior Will Hancock. Sometimes, several attempts had to be made in order to get the needle in an arm.

To ensure proper recovery after donating, students were required to rest for 15 minutes and refrain from unnecessary physical activity for the rest of the day.

"I'm a little lightheaded but I feel great," said senior Zack Armfield while resting after donating and eating cookies to relax.



Photo by Steven Stewart

Senior Robin Armstrong saves a life by donating blood.

This year's goal of 70 units was surpassed with 93 units of blood collected. It also topped last year's record of 85 units. A unit is equal to a pint of blood, or about 9-10% of the total blood volume in the human body.

"Each unit can save four lives," said Dana Meisner, Associate Director of Blood Services. Meisner was present at the blood drive to oversee operations and care for those recovering.

Potential donors must be 17 years old and weigh at least 110 pounds. These requirements eliminated those who may not be physically able to donate. But that irritated some students looking forward to this event that were ineligible.

"I was really upset because I felt rejected," said junior Amy Tung. "It was discriminating against my size."

Type O blood is the most needed, but all types are readily-accepted. After the blood has been collected, it is packaged, sent to labs and tested for blood type and any possible disease. Within 24 hours after the blood is donated, it is ready to be received by a person in need.

Meisner stressed the significance of this blood drive.

"This is the first opportunity for students at this age to donate, and students need to take advantage of it," she said.

"If you feel comfortable, go ahead," said Brushwood after reflecting on her own experience. "It's an awesome gift. The need for blood isn't going to go away."

Dr. Leutze to speak at commencement

JORDAN GLASSMAN

Dr. James R. Leutze, Chancellor of University of North Carolina at Wilmington, will speak at this year's commencement ceremonies on May 31.

"Dr. Leutze has not yet decided on the contents of his speech," says Special Assistant to the Chancellor Mark Lanier. "He is impressed with the programs offered at NCSSM,

with the quality of students and faculty, and with the potential of the distance learning program."

SGA president Katie Hobbs first heard Leutze speak when he came to NCSSM in November to sign an agreement that would allow North Carolina students to take UNCW courses via the distance learning facilities here.

"Dr. Leutze was an excellent speaker at the signing, so I spoke to him there, and then called him later and asked him to speak at commencement," says Hobbs.

His vested interest in NCSSM distance learning will allow high school students to receive college credit and teachers to receive graduate credit.

"Dr. Leutze is quick to grasp a 'big idea' and implement it. His university was the first in North Carolina to deliver distance learning and first in establishing a regional North Carolina partnership for K-12 education," says NCSSM Executive Director John Friedrich.

During the visit, as a demonstration of the system, Executive Director Friedrich and Leutze transmitted the news of the signing to faculty members at Wilmington.

"We are in the vanguard of a very important movement. It is going to change the way education is delivered," said Leutze in the Raleigh News & Observer on Nov. 2.

Leutze was born in South Carolina, but grew up in Maryland. He graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree as a Bachelor of the Arts, and received his M.A. at the University of Miami.

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-Director John Friedrich