

Student Government takes action at NCSSM

BY KATIE HOBBS

Like many other high schools, NCSSM has a Student Government Association (SGA) whose purpose is to plan social events and represent the student body in helping solve community and residential programs. Last year, SGA had four main projects.

One of the biggest successes was the student-written proposal for NCSSM students to serve on the Judicial Hearing Board. Beginning this year, certain selected students will be part of the team that hears level II and level III cases. Hopefully this will give students a chance to take part in NCSSM's judicial process while increasing students' faith in the judicial system.

During fall 1996, students from the South Carolina Governor's School of Science and Math (SCGSSM), a residential high school similar to NCSSM, spent three days here visiting classes, touring Durham, and hanging out with students. In the spring, NCSSM stu-

dents visited SCGSSM, focusing on selected issues and learning about SCGSSM's approach to these topics. With the schools having so much in common, we can learn from each other, and we hope to extend this interaction to other science and math schools in the future.

Student privileges were reviewed last year, and the committee worked hard to improve the system. SGA suggested such new privileges as overnight VCR check-out on weekend nights, access to tickets for special



Joan Barber & SGA rep Tree Calloway at a SpeakOut.

gible for privileges.

Along with Dr. Barber last year, SGA reviewed the Code of Conduct during a community Speak Out, where students were invited to voice their opinions on the Code. Students expressed concern that the time to appeal a level I was too short, so SGA proposed

community events, and access to faculty-sponsored movie runs on Friday and Saturday nights once per quarter. SGA also suggested changes in the criteria for being eli-

that the appeals time be extended, which was incorporated into the document in March.

Among the many community events that SGA planned and organized were Arts Day and AIDS Week. On Arts Day in April, the school celebrated the artistic interest and talent of the student body. Students and clubs on campus presented visual arts, had performances in the gym, and a Coffeehouse was held at night.

During AIDS Week, SGA presented information about the effects of AIDS on society and the technological advances made in the fight against the disease since 1980. A speaker informed students about AIDS while SGA passed out red ribbons at lunch.

Through SGA, this school can continue to improve in future years. If you ever notice a problem or even have a concern, you can write it down and drop it in the SGA box next to the cafeteria or get in touch with an SGA officer or your dorm representative. Working together, we can always make a difference.

Many NCSSM lessons not taught in the classroom

BY JOHN BOWMAN

High school has taught us many things that will shape the rest of our lives. At NCSSM, just like any high school, the most important lessons are not learned in the classroom. These lessons elude the best-laid plans of educators, reaching students in the things their peers are doing, in lunch time conversations and in random comments in the hall. Long after what we learn in class is forgotten, these social lessons of high school will linger.

Many people in many schools have received a negative message from high school. They have learned that they are judged by

their looks. They have discovered peer pressure towards sex and drugs. They have seen life-changing effects of unwanted pregnancy and dropping out. They have found that getting the right answer in class is not important and doing well academically is not a popular idea.

At NCSSM we have the chance for a better high school experience. We have seen our peers succeed, doing things we didn't know were possible. On SPW Sharing Day last year, we realized that our classmates had done amazing things. There were special projects on such varied topics as DNA analysis, computer graphics, aerial photography and bluegrass music. Individually, none of us

could have imagined the full range of projects that were possible. NCSSM teaches us that there are other people just as talented as we are. Our peers can do some unique, surprising things.

At NCSSM, we have seen people break our preconceived notions and stereotypes. In many high schools, people are classified by their athletic ability, clothes, or ethnic background. Here, we sometimes put people into categories, but at the same time we recognize that we can't predict what people will be like based on our preconceived notions. We have to get to know them one by one.

After our time here, we know a little more about the possibilities of life. We don't go to

school with people who are just "smart." Instead we live with people who are talented in hundreds of different ways. NCSSM has been a place to reconsider the limited view of the world we had at our old schools. It teaches us that we are part of a bigger picture, a larger community.

With the help of its students, NCSSM can continue to offer a unique high school experience. It will continue to teach the most important lessons of all: lessons about tolerance and maturity and the value of the people around us. There will be no report card grade handed out for these lessons. Life is the test.

On the weekends...

BY KEVIN CROMWELL

Six classes, lab periods, work service, tutorials, housekeeping, Student Life 101, room inspections, and term papers may leave some students concerned that Science and Math's idea of fun is grammar check on Microsoft Word. However, the Student Activities Office with assistance from the Student Activities Board frequently provides a variety of activities both on and off campus.

The Student Activities Office, completely funded by the Parent's Fund, is responsible for distributing van loop schedules as well as providing notices regarding events and activities to students and staff. The Student Activities Office also plans and produces Prom Nite, Air Band, and the Hall Theme dance.

Some activities planned for the beginning of the school year include a T-shirt signing dance hosted by Mike Long's Sound and Video Productions, Durham Bulls baseball games, and a pool party at the Rock Quarry Swimming Pool. Student Activities in cooperation with the Humanities Department will

show a movie in the Dance Studio every weekend on the video projector. A few of the early selections include "Rebel Without a Cause," "1492," and "The Last of the Mohicans."

Two members from each residential hall make up the Student Activities Board (SAB). The SAB committee meets weekly to plan monthly recreational and cultural activities. Two of the early projects planned for SAB are "Singled Out at NCSSM" and a Halloween Carnival. SAB provides students with an opportunity to plan the activities in which they want to participate and enjoy. Students can become part of SAB by volunteering at their first hall meeting.

Students can receive information regarding SAB activities by reading their email or by checking the bulletin board outside Bryan 4. A few of the activities planned for later in the year include the State Fair, North Carolina Symphony Productions, and "The Best of Broadway Productions." Come to the Student Activities Office anytime and provide input and suggestions for future activities.

Van Loops: Getting around

BY KEVIN CROMWELL

Need to get to the grocery store and can't wait for your next hall food run? Want to try one of the many restaurants on Ninth Street after dark? Haven't seen the latest "blockbuster" movie and can't afford a taxi? Try taking the van/bus loop, provided by the Student Activities Office and Parents Fund for NCSSM students and staff.

The van loop provides students with a safe means of transportation Tuesday and Thursday evenings as well as Friday and Saturday nights. Students leaving campus may board the van at Bryan Circle outside Bryan Lobby.

Loops travel to the parking lot near 9th Street Active Feet, then continue to Harris Teeter and Northgate Mall. On Friday evenings, students may attend movies at Willowdale by taking the first loop at 6:45. Students will be able to view movies at Carmike on Saturday evenings by taking the 6:45 loop. In addition to these regular loops,

the Student Activities Office also provides a monthly trip to South Square Mall on Saturday afternoons.

The van loop was first implemented in 1991 by volunteers from the Parent Association and NCSSM faculty/staff. NCSSM recognized the necessity of a regular schedule and started providing paid drivers through the Student Activities Office.

Debra Bowick and other NCSSM staff will be the regular loop drivers for 1997-98. Bowick will provide a resource familiar with NCSSM needs and policies.

Students should wait in well lit areas on Ninth Street and at Northgate while waiting for the van loop to return. It is very important to keep a quarter and the phone number to the Bryan SLI Office (286-3366 ex. 637) in case of emergencies. Also, always be polite, courteous and respectful to fellow passengers and the van loop driver. Students can find information regarding the van loop schedules on their residence halls and the SLI offices.