



Splitting up Hunt?

Davis Bowen and Austin Luton examine the causes and effects of the split.

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Fire drills keeping you from sleeping?

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Brian Phelps: Keeping Up the Good Work

JOHN ABERNETHY

Although Brian Phelps is our Student Body President here at NCSSM, many students do not know exactly what he does for the students and how he interacts with other groups at Science & Math. To find out, I had to wait for him to find time in his busy schedule, and then invited him into my room where we talked a bit about his role as SGA President.

Brian says his main responsibilities as President are to attend SGA meetings and to represent students' views to the administration. Concerning this year's SGA, he says that every year's SGA is different, and the first semester has helped the members get to know each other better and thus work together more efficiently. He hopes that, this semester, SGA will be more active in their duties.

He frequently talks with

the School Council and the Board of Trustees, and has relationships with a number of other influential people on a personal basis.

Brian also attends many of the Alumni Board meetings, and is good friends with a number of the 2001 and 2002 alumni. Through these and other alumni, many whom he has met through Therese Taxis, Coordinator of Parent and Alumni Programs, he finds out how the school was when they attended and how they see it changing as time passes.

Brian's biggest challenge is "trying to relate what's going on administration-wise to the students." He feels that communication up - from the students to SGA, and from SGA to the administration - is great. However, communication down - from the administration to the students through SGA - is, well, not so great. This is especially true when, many times, "we don't neces-

sarily know what's going on." While Brian constantly tries to improve this situation, his efforts are often fruitless.

A prime example of this is the school's decision to begin a search for a deputy executive director, essentially an assistant to Dr. Boarman.

Brian wasn't notified until after the search had already begun. He explained to the administration what he thought most of the students might think - that the school needs to spend what money it has on more faculty, new equipment, etc., not on six-digit salaries for more administration.

It's hard to please everybody, especially regarding all-student emails, Brian states. Many people complain, "Brian, we don't want to hear this stuff. Stop sending all-student emails," but if he does, then the people who do want to know what's going on



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Mr. Laird: In His Own Words

RAVI RAGHURAM

Scott Laird is one of two music instructors at NCSSM. He directs the orchestra and chorale, teaches courses in Recording Technology, Advanced Recording Technology, and will be teaching a course next year in Theory and Practice in Guitar and Piano.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Indiana, Pennsylvania, which is about fifty miles northeast of Pittsburgh.

Where did you go to school?

It's where I went to school, too, at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. I got a B.S. in Music Education. I taught for three years, then took a leave of absence from my teaching position and went back and got an M.A. in Violin Performance. I also did

some graduate work at the University of Maryland.

How did you choose your career?

When I was making my decisions about career, I wasn't really sure when I went to college what I wanted to do. I knew that I was good at music, and my parents asked me to look into music education because my parents were both educators-my dad was superintendent of schools in Indiana and my mother was an English teacher. As a senior in high school, when I envisioned what I was going to be, I thought I would finish school and sort of go on the road, because I always loved rock and pop music.

But during my sophomore year of college, I had a professor that really strongly influenced me and he gave me



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Korea: History, War, Tragedy

BRYAN BUTLER

Approaching the gates of Yong-San U.S. Army Base in Seoul, I heard the shouts of a group of young adults, probably college students. I couldn't understand what they were saying at first, but when I had gotten closer and could see the posters they were holding, their words became clear: "Mi-gook sa-ram mul-loh gara!" -- "Americans go home!"

This was during the summer of 2001, and much has changed since then. At the same time, much has stayed the same.

Before and during World War II, Japan had ruled Korea very harshly. When Japan was defeated, the Allies split Korea in half at an arbitrary line, the 38th parallel, with the north going to Russia and the

south going to the U.S. The north became a communist state and the south became a capitalist country.

In 1950, the North invaded the South, starting the Korean War. A stalemate eventually resulted between the American/U.N./South Korean and North Korean/Chinese sides, and the conflict ended in 1953 with a cease-fire agreement--no treaty was ever signed, meaning that the two Koreas are technically still at war.

The Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) is now the dividing line, and continuing conflicts have made peace negotiations difficult. In 1991, the Reconciliation Agreement stated that neither side would produce nuclear weapons.

The situation looked even

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