

Milan Night



Janet Ahn

ANGELA ANTONY

Five of NCSSM's finest have recently qualified to participate in the highly competitive Milan Night, an Indian Dance competition at NC State. Seniors Ishani Sud, Mani Maheshwari, Beena Imam, Devki Gharpure, Pavani Thotakura, and junior Neha Doshi will be performing at the event.

Ishani Sud, a long time Indian dancer and competitor, was the mastermind behind the dance. After receiving information on Milan Night from grand senior and current NC State student Cliff Tse, Sud rounded up a group of talented Indian dancers. The five girls learned the dance in a single day and, as Maheshwari

described, "became sore as ever!" Maheshwari also shares how team felt about their routine: "I think we felt a little uncertain, given that we were learning the dance in just one day and then trying out for a big performance. But we just tried to have fun and make it to the tryouts."

All their hard work certainly paid off; a few days after their audition on October 19, they received an email telling them that they had qualified. Imam relates, "When I found out, I was so surprised that I started screaming!" At Milan Night, they will be competing against at least six other adult dance groups for a first prize of \$200 and the honor of winning such a highly anticipated event in the Indian dancing community. Milan Night will take place on November 1st, 2003 at the BTI Center across from the Fletcher Hall in Raleigh. NCSSM students will be at the event cheering on the "Science and Math Dancers," as their name appears on the Milan Night program, and everyone wishes them the best of luck.

Lights Out/ Internet Policy: One Quarter Later

SEUN AJIBOYE

Last year, Dr. Boarman's announcement of the new Lights Out/Internet Policy triggered an indignant outcry from the rising senior class. It was not uncommon to hear students accuse the administration of unfairness or of tak-

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ing away the freedom to access information at any hour. One quarter after the policy's implementation, Dr. Joan Barber, Director of Student Life, sat down with The Stentorian to clear up the purpose of the policy and update the Student Body on its progress.

The Lights Out/Internet Policy was a collaboration between Student Life and the school improvement group, as a part of the

Exercise-Sleep-Nutrition Initiative, aimed at promoting a "healthy, living, and learning environment." The policy is based on research that says students who get an "adequate amount of sleep perform on a higher level in class, are less

stressed, and are in an overall better mood". The policy states that all overhead lights are to go off at 12 AM and all

lights are to be turned off by 2 AM, Monday-Thursday. The internet automatically shuts off at 12 AM, Monday-Thursday as well.

According to Dr. Barber, NCSSM parents did not seem to have a problem with the new policy and have always supported students getting more sleep. In fact, a few years ago when the school was still discussing the wireless system, parents recommended that the students only have

limited access to the network. Some teachers have reported to Dr. Barber that the students seem more rested, while others have seen no change. However, the committee is still in the process of measuring the policy's success.

Dr. Barber sees the policy as a way of "empowering" the students to take responsibility for their health by allowing them to be responsible for turning out their own lights. (The committee is still a long way off from bringing about an "institutional change".) This is the philosophy behind the Exercise-Sleep-Nutrition Initiative. Dr. Barber felt that the students thought they were supposed to always be stressed or tired and the Initiative is an attempt to curb some of the side effects of Science and Math. In any case, Dr. Barber would like to thank the students for being supportive of the healthy living initiative.

Was War the Right Choice?

MANI MAHESHWARI

The Bush Administration's main goal in the war against Iraq was to remove Saddam Hussein and his regime and rid them of their destructive power. A harsh dictator for over two decades, Saddam Hussein is believed to have caused the death of almost two million Muslims and instigated wars between Iraq and neighboring countries. Believing that he still has connections to terrorism and houses various deadly weapons, the United States and most of the western world considers him a serious threat. Is the war in Iraq to our advantage? When weighing out the pros and cons, one realizes that it is beneficial to oust Hussein and his suppressing government, but there are consequences to such action.

The cons are few but significant. Currently, the number of casualties in Iraq is up to 1,124 Americans, and the number is rising every month. Also, there have been many cases of civilians being wounded and killed. Along with rising number of deaths, the cost to carry out the war is increasing. Moreover, if the US keeps on with its actions, will an "anti-American" sentiment grow out of all this? How does one really know if

Saddam Hussein houses the purported weapons of mass destruction? There has been no hard evidence found. Currently, the US seems to have security and economic problems. Could this war just hurt the US economy, increasing the deficit? Another major issue is the loss of Arab allies of the United States. Perhaps, the most pressing point to consider is oil. To retaliate, Saddam could burn oil fields, triggering the increase of prices of oil, and, of course, environmental disaster. Whatever course the nation takes, America must remember the weapons that Saddam could potentially use.

The pros all point to peace. According to the US, Saddam is a leading threat in the stability of the Mid-East region, in world peace and in

neighboring countries. With him out of the picture, the US and other countries are not obligated to leave their troops in Iraq. Moreover, Saddam could be connected to terrorist organizations, supplying them with financial aid and weapons. After 9-11, the US began to focus on security more than ever. The war against Iraq may also yield greater security of the US and its interests. If Saddam Hussein's government is ousted, warnings of breached security would likely decrease, along with oil prices.

Now knowing a few of the pros and cons, one can contemplate if going to war was the right choice. In any case, none should be divided—everyone should unite for the future of our country.



An American soldier guards the rubble in Iraq



At-A-Glance

Speech and Debate Team

JONATHAN SMITH

The North Carolina School of Science and Math has a bad history with competitive debate. Many times before in the school's history, the incoming classes of juniors have had one or two students who were experienced in debate and eager to continue debating at NCSSM. These students have done well in competitions, including some national qualifiers. However, when those few students left, the program would die out, due to a lack of interest.

The current junior class has over 12 people that are actively interested in competitive debate at NCSSM. It is our hope that we will be the first class of a permanent debate team, allowing future

generations of students to benefit from the educational and social benefits that debate brings. After traveling the debate circuit last year, I know of at least five debating sophomores that are planning to apply here. Therefore, I believe that the team will have a promising future.

The NCSSM debate team participates in Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Controversy Debater (for those new to debate), Extemporaneous Speaking, and Student Congress. Pending interest, new events may be added as needed.

For more information, please go to <http://neverland.ncssm.edu/debate>, or email myself or Buro Mookerji at smithj@ncssm.edu or mookerjib@ncssm.edu.