

# the stentorian

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## RCRs cover campus with blue tape, more rules

BY ANNA ENGELKE

The new school year arrived at NCSSM, and with it came excited juniors, experienced seniors, and a wave of new rules and regulations.

Room-condition-reports, or RCRs, were one new change the school has recently introduced. Before school started, the RLAs of each hall were required to evaluate each room on their hall, labeling each piece of furniture in that room and searching each room for damages such as graffiti, scratches, or dents. They checked the walls, doors, and ceilings for tape marks and holes and recorded all the information onto green sheets that were tacked onto everyone's door. As RLA Melissa Bragg remarked, "It was an extremely tedious process."

Though the administration has declined to comment on the official reason behind the RCRs, Bragg believes that they are the result of the high cost of repairing the damage in dorm rooms each year. Duct tape and putty have taken its toll on the walls, leaving sticky residue and permanent marks, and many pieces of furniture are covered in graffiti. The RLAs that evaluated the rooms were not told much about how punishments for damage would be handled; however, Bragg remarked that monetary compensation was a high probability.

Some students said that they were worried about being blamed for damage they didn't do. Junior Kaylah Roberson did

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Jenna Hardison finds an artistic use for painter's tape.



The all-girl computer class begins in winter trimester.

## All-girl computer class sparks debate

BY MARY KOHLMANN

In unprecedented step, administrators have scheduled an all-female computer science class for Winter Trimester.

The class is the brainchild of President Gerald Boarman, who two years ago began searching for a way to combat the consistent disparity between the numbers of men and women in computer science, both at NCSSM and in the adult world. Only thirty-three girls have taken "Introduction to Computer Science and Programming" in the past three years, as opposed to one hundred and fifty-four boys. Excellent SAT scores and high levels of academic achievement showed that the intelligence and motivation of junior and senior girls were on a par with those of their male classmates. Why were so few of them taking computer science?

Boarman said that he went to the girls themselves to find reasons for the disparity. "I asked them 'Do you think that computer science is important?' and all of them said yes. I asked 'Are you interested in taking courses in computer science?' and most of them said yes. And then I asked, 'Are you taking those classes?' Most of them said no, and the reason they gave was, 'Because of the boys,'" he said.

However, neither students nor faculty have met the idea with unconditional support. Seniors Alex Solomon and Bryn McDonald, who are both scheduled to take computer science this year, said that they find the idea "insulting." "It's sexist. It's like not allowing guys to go to any of the dancing clubs because 'dancing is a girls' thing,'" McDonald said. Both girls plan to transfer to a different section of the course

### Doctoral Statistics

Employed doctoral scientists:  
77% male  
23% female

Employed doctoral computer scientists:  
87% male  
13% female

Source: National Science Foundation

## Administration tightens grip on student web access

BY HATTIE CHUNG

ITS website restrictions have placed a firmer grip on students' lives.

Dr. Richard Alston, Chief Information Officer of ITS, said, "Online access is a privilege here, and it should be controlled by the state and the taxpayers who pay for the students' daily life at this school."

Dr. Gerald Boarman and other members of the school administration established that under the Internet Child Protection Act, the school must monitor the contents of sites that are displayed on students' screens. WebSense is the program used to filter and limit the use of non-academic websites. Every URL is filed under a category; categories include Gambling, Racism and Hate, Chat Sites, and Personal and Dating.

Sites like LiveJournal and other bloggings have quota times that allow four 30 minute sessions a day, which allows students to access the site for a total of 120 minutes a day.

Some websites like Xanga, which was blocked as of this year, are filed under "Grey Area." According to Alston, this category is for sites that do not have a distinct characteristic that makes them inappropriate but still hinder the students' study habits. But WebSense is not always right. "Research sites were filed under 'Grey Area' which was completely silly," senior Anna Engelke said.

The restriction of all websites after midnight has also arisen as an issue. Although some NCSSM students may not get enough sleep, websites such as WebAssign are needed for homework assignments, even if they have to be done after midnight. Alston said that the "concept is to shut down all digital communications after midnight, eventually. The barrier to reaching that goal is the expensive software that we must purchase to block AIM."

Many students disagree with this concept. Junior Daphne Wang said, "We shouldn't be limited in our website usage. I think that we are mature enough to be here." This view seems to be popular among the student body. "I can understand part of the reason [for cutting off sites after midnight] but the excessive restrictions just aren't necessary," senior Kal Bugica said.

The administration has its faith in WebSense, despite students' protests and concerns. As far as the future of internet usage, WebSense will stay.

## High School Diplomats form bonds with Japanese

BY CONNIE CHU  
AND JAMES WINDER

This past summer, three students participated in the High School Diplomats (HSD) Program, a cultural exchange at Princeton University that selects 48 American high school students and pairs them with Japanese roommates.

"Before experiencing the Program, I thought 'the best 10 days of my life' would be an overstatement," Senior James Winder said. "I had no idea how much this program could mean to me."

Senior Connie Chu agreed. "There's an incredible thing about meeting people from around the state, but it's even more amazing to meet people

from around the world, no matter what background you come from," she said. "My roommate

his roommate Rasha and other HSD participants. "Rasha was like a brother to me," he said. "I didn't really like the [activities], but I liked hanging out with the people."

The program planned numerous theme days, including Hawaiian Day, Heroes and Legends Day, Rock Star Day, Country Fair Day, Halloween Day, Sports Day, and Bunka-no-hi (the Japanese Day of Culture). Japanese and Americans alike donned cultural attire and learned about each other's traditions and language.

"The Japanese were happy to teach us many of their best pick-up lines," Winder said. "It was great to see the reaction

"The Japanese were happy to teach us many of their pick-up lines"  
James Winder

Tamana, like a lot of the other Americans' roommates, turned out to be a Japanese version of me."

Senior Jon Courtney recalled the tight bonds he formed with

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