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Opinion

Give the PFM a break

BY OLIVIA TRUAX

Complaining about the PFM is practically a sport here at NCSSM.

Fish Fridays are feared, at the drink machine you are likely to get brownish water instead of blue poweraid, and there is widespread speculation that weekend dining at the PFM is "Worse than what they give you in prison."

But, if we really look at the PFM's problems can we truly blame the underfunded free service that is actively trying to improve itself, or does the blame fall equally on the apathetic student body that whines yet refuses to provide feedback and make suggestions.

Vegetarian Day, a single meal during which the PFM showcased some of their new vegetarian recipes, was met with righteous indignation by much of the student body. "They are taking our meat!" was a sentiment shared by much of the student body. The PFM developed the new entrées showcased during Vegetarian Day in response to feedback from the Accept the Greener Challenge Club.

Despite the fact that it was student sponsored, many students checked that they didn't enjoy any of the entrées because they "didn't like the whole Vegetarian Day thing".

Because of this, much of the data the PFM collected that day about what entrées were well received is tainted. Vegetarian Day, a day so hated by the student population that "It will go down in infamy", was the PFM attempting to respond to student's needs.

Director of Residential Life Michael Newbauer and the director of the PFM held a forum for student suggestions. Two students attended. The directors of Residential Life and the PFM made time in their days to hear student feedback and only two students had any feedback to give.

I have never met anyone who was 100% happy with the PFM, yet only two students took the time to voice their complaints and make

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Dr. Roberts divulges secrets of his trade

BY CAROLINE DESAUSSEURE

NCSSM Chancellor Todd Roberts, part of the NCSSM community since the 2010-2011 school year, reflected on his time at Science and Math, elaborated on the details of his job, and shared where he hopes the future of the school is headed.

A majority of students at NCSSM do not know what Roberts does on a day-to-day basis around campus. Senior Grace Yook says, "I am not really sure what the chancellor does. If I had to guess, I would say he attends meetings with faculty about how the school is doing and talks with officials about the budget."

Roberts' primary responsibilities are to manage, lead, and run NCSSM. His meetings with faculty, staff, and ad-

ministration are to ensure that things are running smoothly on campus. However, his scope extends into the state and national realms, as well.

There are seventeen chancellors in the UNC system: one for each university. Because NCSSM is a part of the UNC system, Roberts interacts with officials outside of Durham, unlike a principal at a normal public high school.

"I am more like a superintendent because I work with officials from across the state instead of just one region. However, I get to interact with students and staff more as a chancellor, which is one of my favorite parts of the job," Roberts elaborates.

Because of the 6.9% net budget cut for the 2011-2012 school year, Roberts has

been busy overseeing the budget and raising funds for NCSSM.

"It is important that we become less dependent on state funding so that we can create a sustainable future for our school," said Roberts.

Through the Strategic Planning initiative that launched earlier

this month, different mem-



Courtesy of the Ann Arbor Chronicle
Chancellor Todd Roberts

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NCSSM earns 66th spot on Newsweek ranking

BY WYNTER WOLFF

According to Newsweek, NCSSM is the 66th best school in the nation. Every summer, Newsweek publishes its list of the top 500 high schools, chosen from over 1000 that submit their statistics.

Scoring depends on six components; graduation rate (25%), college matriculation rate (25%), and AP tests taken per graduate (25%), plus average SAT/ACT scores (10%), average AP/IB scores (10%), and AP courses offered per graduate (5%). Science and Math broke the top

100, but our rating of 66th was thought to be surprisingly low by most students.

"It seems like most of the scoring categories where Science and Math were lower, in comparison were based on test taking skills. People

here are taught more about critical thinking, whereas other schools are focusing on test taking," says senior Hannah Sheffield.

The categories where

variety of AP classes, the school also offers over fifty 6.0, the same as college level, classes (WECS, WRRD, Polymer Chemistry, Graph Theory, Research in Biology, etc.) that



Courtesy of Newsweek.com

NCSSM was lacking were AP Courses offered per graduate and AP tests taken per graduate. Making up 35% of the scoring, these two areas contributed significantly to the lower than expected rating.

While NCSSM offers a

were not counted toward the "AP Courses offered" category in the Newsweek rating.

Because of these specialized classes, NCSSM students are taking AP level

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NCSSM alumni give back

BY ASHLEY JERNIGAN

Jud Bowman and Taylor Brockman, NCSSM alumni from the class of 1999, donated \$100,000 to NCSSM students to promote students' development through the Bowman and Brockman scholarship.

Current students may apply for funding from the Bowman-Brockman Entrepreneurship and Advanced Research Endowment to further their entrepreneurship and research projects.

"The school is an incubator for great new ideas," Brockman said. "We're trying to formalize a way for these students to get access to extra funding. It could lead to the next big biotechnology company or the next Motricity."

The idea is to invest about \$5000 each year in five to ten motivated and inventive students at NCSSM. This has the opportunity to fuel an idea into something revolutionary. The funding is intended for entrepreneurial projects, research projects, or academic competitions.

The fall application deadline was on September 15,

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