

The Stentorian?

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Unbearable: The Ursa threat

BY DOLAN POTTER

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Families across the great state of North Carolina send their children to the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics so they might receive a better education than they would at their home high school; indeed, NCSSM's acceptance rate is lower than that of many colleges.

NCSSM is a highly selective public school. Many parents are only comfortable with sending their little angels off due to the exemplary reputation regarding the safety of the school.

Some are skeptical but there are Code Blue phones on nearly every corner of the campus and the rules surrounding curfew help to prevent anything from happening to the students after dark (and, oftentimes, before dark).

Despite these measures, the real threat to the students of

Science and Math lies within its perimeter; a towering menace of fur and teeth: The Great Bear of NCSSM.

Not much is known about this bear but its attacks are regular and fierce. Just this year, over ten students have been assaulted by the bear, already outnumbering last year's attacks by over ten.

Its victims rarely remember much of the attacks but they and onlookers assert that the bear is a monster unlike any they have ever seen.

"It was huge," states Mary O'Neil, a junior at NCSSM; "It was eight, no, more like ten feet tall. It left me with bruises everywhere. I bearily got out alive. I now have PTSD because of this bear."

Their wounds in question surrounded the majority of her neck, leaving red and purple blotches for days to come.

Onlookers were horrified; what sort of creature could do something so horrific

to such a model student? Just last week, the bear attacked again, this time targeting beloved senior Michael Li before his Entropy rehearsal.

Li sighted it just outside the ETC lobby attempting to run away from it, doing a front flip in order to escape; the bear, however, sabotaged his flip, causing him to fall face first on the cold tile below.

"The bear was yellow and wearing a red shirt," says Li; "I have a deathly irrational phobia of honey and the bear was reeking of it. I was so traumatized that I got sent to the ER."

Other injuries sustained by the bear include a gash on the

head of senior Samuel Cook, two scrapes on the knees of senior Dolan Potter and poor

months after.

With students wondering about possible solutions to this epawdemic, Vikram Aikat, recently elected student body president of 2015-2016, who spoke out on the subject and said, "I honestly cannot bear [the attacks]. I have had many restless nights thinking about this newborn menace."

When asked what he would do to prevent attacks in the future, he assured us that "In hard times like these I always turn to my childhood hero, SpongeBob SquarePants... His advice was to draw an Anti-Sea Bear Circle in the sand, so we should do the same. Remember guys, Anti-Bear Ovals don't work."

Truly, the Great Bear of NCSSM has proven to be quite a problem this year. However, with these proposals from Aikat, students can sleep safely knowing measures will be taken to prevent this menace for years to come.



Photo courtesy of Chichi Zhu

The neck wounds of an anonymous NCSSM student who was the latest victim of bear attacks on campus.

Amy Burton, who was on crutches for two months and in a supportive brace for three

NCSSM miniterm contacts aliens, kind of like the X-Files but not exactly

BY SIERRA DUNNE

Editor-in-Chief

During this year's miniterm, a large variety of courses and trips were available to students throughout NCSSM. Some experienced the science of cooking and anatomy of terror on campus, while others traveled around the world to places like Greece, China, Berlin, and CERN. There is one miniterm, however, that no one is talking about: the X-Files miniterm based off of the hit dramatic television series that aired during the 90s. The group became interested in finding aliens themselves, and decided to take a trip to do so on March 2. They have been missing ever since.

The miniterm consisted of seven students and one sponsor, Dr. Kroithfg who has no direct affiliation with NCSSM. The group began by watching the television show and analyzing episodes in a

manner similar to the Firefly miniterm with Humanities instructor Dave Thaden. The show follows two FBI agents as

they investigate unsolved paranormal cases. One agent, Fox Mulder, believes aliens have intervened in these cases, while agent Dana Scully uses science to refute his work.

The students used the same files examined on the show, then used logic and forensic science to solve the cases themselves. All of the students participating did so because of their love for the show or for forensic science, but none of them believed in the existence of aliens.

"It's an interesting show, but we're not wasting our time on chasing aliens or anything stupid like that," one student explained. "We're focusing more on the hard science of it and the philosophical content behind it. We all know it's fake."

While the students all felt the same way, Kroithfg seemed to differ in opinion: "I'm trying to get these kids to keep an open mind. Science is obviously a crucial focus for them, but I think they can learn more from looking at both sides of these cases rather

than disqualify any answer that isn't completely scientific or logical."

One of the main aspects of the course was to travel to a secluded area near Ocean



Alien expert Giorgio A. Tsoukalos, who is often seen on the History Channel, can attest to these strange events.

Isle Beach, where UFOs were spotted in August 2014. They would stay there for only one night, so it would not count as towards the students' one allocated travel experience. The group left for their destination early on the morning of March 2, around 9

am.

They took one van and had no other chaperones on the trip. According to a friend of one student, they arrived at the beach around 12 pm. "I told

her to text me when she got there," the friend reported. "She did, but when I texted her again asking a question I got this in response: [insert alien text here]. I have no idea what it means, and I

haven't heard from her or anyone else on the trip since."

In fact, no one has heard from the group. Despite various efforts to get in touch, no communications have been made since that last text. NCSSM's administration has not spoken out on the matter,

