

Is our children learning?

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and taking such standardized tests as the SAT, SAT IIs, TOEFL, or ACT, but consider the fact that Americans take 600 million standardized tests per year.

Opposition to standardized testing stems from many camps - teacher, student, and parent - but resistance to change stems from teachers, many of whom counter any action to add more work to an overloaded schedule, and policy-makers, stuck on traditional methods of assessment and judgment and influenced by the millions of dollars backing the testing industry. If we continue to rely on standardized

tests, we must reform to include other criteria and methods of assessment. The best solution we can provide is a combination of testing and its alternatives to provide a multi-faceted evaluation. Any test or testing alternative presents some of the same pitfalls as current standardized testing in terms of "teaching through mimicry," as Harvard's Professor Howard Gardner wrote in the New York Times, further stating, "Educators and parents should value the development of knowledge and skills that go beyond a single test."

Out of the Bubble

CHRISTINE FANG

Fourth quarter is arguably one of the most exciting times for juniors and seniors alike as suddenly we find ourselves with copious amounts of free time. Choose from the variety of events below to bond with your soon departing seniors, take advantage of Mini-term free time, and round out your year here at S & M.

Music:

April 9 Push Stars (Lincoln Theatre)

April 16 Pernice Brothers (Cat's Cradle)

Apr 17 Carrie Newcomer (West End Theatre)

Apr 18 Brand New Piebald Denali (Cat's Cradle)

April 19 Ben Kweller Death Cab for Cutie (Cat's Cradle)

April 21 Stereolab Mice Parade (Cat's Cradle)

APR 29 Gillian Welch and David Rawlings (Cat's Cradle)

Arts:

Apr 8, 10 "The Barber of

Seville" (Baldwin Auditorium, Duke East Campus)

Apr 27- May 2 Oliver (BTI Center)

Film:

Apr 2 Better Luck Tomorrow*

Apr 3 Russian Ark (NC Museum of Art Winter Film Series)

Apr 3, 4 Mystic River*

Apr 8, 9 In America*

Apr 15, 16 American Splendor*

* Denotes movies shown at the Griffin Theatre within Duke West Campus Student Union

All Tuesday/Thursday/Friday movies are \$2* for the public and Sunday movies are \$3.

C h e c k <http://www.duke.edu/web/duu/> for details

If you have any suggestions for future Out of the Bubble postings about local bands and whatnot, feel free to contact me and after profuse bribes and favors, I'll see what I can do. Cheers!

A Valentine's Day ad we neglected to publish:

GB,

I Love You.

You are my sunshine, my only sunshine.

I'm so glad that I stumbled onto you,
Because I've been falling ever since then.

You are my best friend,

And nothing could ever replace that.

I'll like you always,

I Love you forever.

Xoxoxoxo,

The mole

Strings!

LUCIE GUO

Full house! The auditorium was packed with students and parents from all around the area; even the balcony was filled to its very last seat. As I ventured among the crowd, the lights dimmed. It was the North Carolina Eastern Regional All-State Orchestra concert.

This event is a gathering of distinguished high school musicians from all around the area. "We were pleased to host the concert in our school," said Mr. Laird, "we are proud of our facility, and it was wonderful to be able to open our doors to other musicians across the state." Putting together the concert, however, was not easy, especially since other events such as the Pow-wow were also happening on campus. According to Mr. Laird, making the concert a success was a difficult task.

The String Orchestra, joined by our own cellists Caitlin Blaisdell-Buck, Nicholas Cook, and Eric Yi, began their programs with Handel's Solomon that vividly captured the style of the 1700's. It was followed by the heavier and more melancholy tone of the Rhosymedre by Ralph Vaughan Williams, the modern and dynamically dramatic Fiesta Jubiloso by Joseph Compello, the poignant and powerful Fantasia by Richard A. Stephan, and the lively tune of Alexander Safford's Jamboree.

The Symphony Orchestra, which consisted of strings as well as brass, wind, and percussion, also showcased our own violinists: Jeff Hu, Tiffany Wang, Athena Jin, Yuki Yung, and Bernie Shieh. Their program started with the overture from Michael J. Glinka's opera Russlan and Ludmilla, and took the audience by storm with its strong beginning. The program con-

tinued with Alexander Borodin's In the Steppes of Central Asia, which ended with a fading flute solo, presenting a caravan in the steppes that disappears into the horizon. It was followed by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's Danse Negre; lastly, the orchestra played the Symphony No.2 in D Major by Jean Sibelius. At the conclusion of the last piece, the conductor stood still as the last note resonated; the entire auditorium dwelled in a moment of silence. It was immediately followed by a thunderous applause and standing ovations.

With the academic demands here, it takes beastly time-management skills to squeeze in time to practice music. "With school on my mind," said Yuki Jung, "it was hard to think about All-State coming up." However, our musicians all revealed that the experience had been worth it. "What I liked most," Jeff Hu said, "was being able to play great music with great people."

"It was really nice seeing old friends," said Tiffany Wang. Nick Cook agreed, "I was happy for the opportunity to spend the week-

end with friends from my old school." The musicians also agreed that it was an honor for NCSM to host such an event. "It was very fun this year because I was at ease with the surrounding area," said Cook, "a lot of the other musicians were pretty jealous."

"And the selection of music was great," said Wang, "it exposed us to different styles and a variety of cultures." Much of the contemporary music was different than what the musicians as well as the audience were used to, which was another thing that made the weekend exciting.

"As the weekend progressed, we began coming together as an orchestra. The music was great this year, and it was definitely worth it." Jung said.

"And our lively conductor made it enjoyable." added Athena Jin. Our musicians had diligently rehearsed for an entire weekend. "The rehearsals were intense," said Jung, "he didn't give us much slack, but it turned out well!"

"The concert was a success, so all the hard work paid off." Jin said. It did indeed.

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