

Orchestra to participate in world debut

By KATHLEEN BOUDREAU

Performing the world premiere of a concerto with a world-famous mandolin player is, to say the least, somewhat out of the ordinary. But for the string orchestra, it is about to become a reality. Mike Marshall, a world-famous mandolinist, is coming to NCSSM in May to perform the premiere of his concerto.

The students who will be performing are excited about the opportunity.

"I'm really looking forward to being able to play with a famous mandolinist," junior Melanie Wiley said. "This is a great opportunity that most high school orchestras don't get."

This chance is made possible thanks to a grant from the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation. This is the second year in a row that NCSSM has won this grant, which allows for a program

to be held that emphasizes the fine arts. Music Coordinator Scott Laird thought that this grant would be a great opportunity to bring his old friend Marshall down to the school from San Francisco for a weekend of music, culture and fun.

"Our students get to work with one of the great musicians in the country today," Laird said. "I can't wait to have him in front of them. They'll get a lot out of this."

The concerto will debut on May 19. Marshall will play the mandolin in his concerto along with the string orchestra. This is the first concerto he has ever written.

"It is a privilege for us to be able to perform this world premiere and for Marshall to choose to share this with us," Wiley said.

Marshall will also perform with the jazz band and play solo works as part of this concert.

The weekend will continue



Photo by Jennifer Peeler

Rebecca Gade, on the violin, and Andrew Ngo, on the cello, rehearse along with the rest of the orchestra for the upcoming premiere, under the direction of Scott Laird.

on May 20 with a special jam session, called Bluegrass Brunch, in which anyone can come to Bryan Lawn and play music with Marshall or just hang out while eating

some snacks provided by the school. Everyone from the community is invited to partake in the concerts and Bluegrass Brunch free of charge.

"This fits so nicely with our mission of really reaching out to the community around us," Laird said. "I think this weekend will be great fun for everyone."

Organ donation chapter promotes awareness of need across country

By EDINA WANG

"She needs an organ donation, just like 84,000 others in America" is the phrase on the flyers posted by the Students for Organ Donation Awareness in hallways and on doors.

SODA, a newly chartered club, is the first high school organization for organ donation in North Carolina. Its goals are to educate people on the importance of organ donating and to increase awareness of the current shortage in the country.

Teachers Christine Muth and Katy Fenn, co-sponsors of the club, hope that students will learn the importance of organ donation. They would also like to connect with other organizations on campus to co-sponsor events.

"I had a friend who needed a liver transplant. It motivated me to want to do something," Fenn said. "This is sort of a crisis."

She saw this as an opportunity to do something, and, with Muth, hopes to help organ donation be seen in a different medical, political and legal light.

Some students feel that the laws currently in place regarding donation contribute to the organ shortage.

"It really doesn't matter whether you say you are an organ donor or not, if the family says no, doctors don't bother to look at driver's licenses," said junior Eden Rouse, the club's co-founder and secretary. "Even if you are over 18 years old, if your next of kin, parent, etc., says no, then they don't give your organs away. That's why so many people don't get organs."

SODA hopes to resolve misconceptions of organ donation.

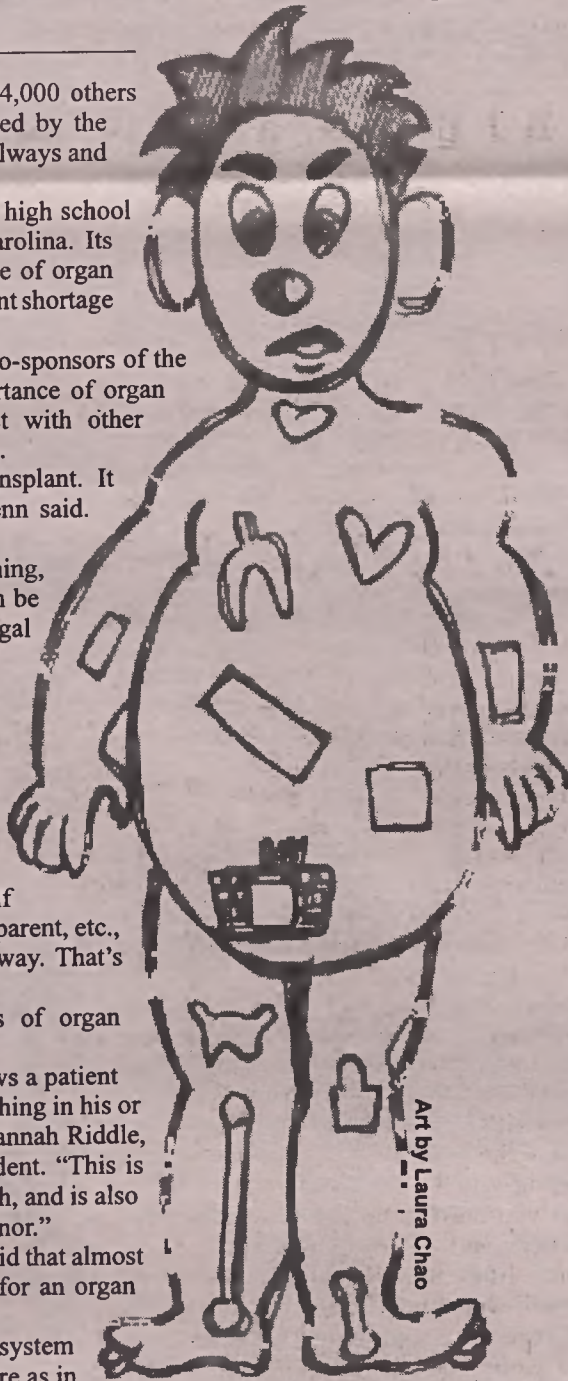
"Some people believe that if a doctor knows a patient is an organ donor, he or she will not do everything in his or her power to save the patient," said junior Hannah Riddle, co-founder and meeting facilitation co-president. "This is untrue, as the doctor is under Hippocratic Oath, and is also unaware of the patient's status as an organ donor."

Because of such misconceptions, Riddle said that almost 18 people die everyday in the U.S. waiting for an organ donation.

Under U.S. law, organ donation is a consent system and is not permitted to be the default procedure as in some European countries such as Spain, where people have to opt out to avoid donating their organs.

"If people become more aware of and educated about the issue, something can be done to change the problems and save lives," said junior Ariel Wyman, co-founder and meeting facilitation co-president. "It is important for people to know that they have to talk to their family about it."

SODA will have an organ donation discussion group at the annual Ethics and Leadership conference, with a possible guest speaker and coordination with the UNC chapter of the organization. The club also held its first organ donor drive on April 23.



Art by Laura Chao

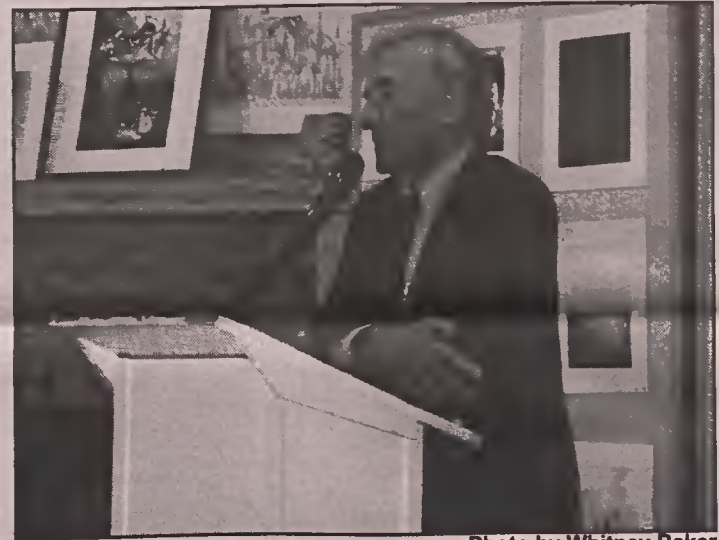


Photo by Whitney Baker

Author Elie Wiesel speaks to high school students in Charlotte.

Wiesel drives group discussion

By MAX ROSE

Senior Rebekah Vestal has read Elie Wiesel's *Night* every year since sixth grade. On March 27, Vestal and 34 other students traveled to Charlotte to meet and question the author.

"It's personal because I admire him so much," she said. "He had everything at his fingertips and then everything was taken away. He took all the bad things that ever happened to him [and turned them] into something amazing, something great."

Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor and winner of the 1983 Nobel Peace Prize, spoke of his experiences to the group of mostly Charlotte high school students.

"When I see a child oppressed, humiliated by pain, I am myself oppressed and humiliated," he said to the group.

Wiesel answered questions from the audience and touched on a wide range of subjects, including the death penalty, Holocaust deniers, Rwanda and spirituality. He listed Nelson Mandela as one of his heroes. One of the common themes of the day was a call to action.

"We must take sides. Whatever happens in the world, we must speak up—yes or no," Wiesel said. "Don't believe in passivity. Passivity is not the answer."

Vestal asked Wiesel what students could do to keep the memories of the Holocaust alive for the future.

"I happen to believe that this event [the Holocaust] will never be forgotten," Wiesel said in response. "What I am afraid of much more is trivialization of memory."

Humanities teacher Cecile Tougas organized the trip and led the students in a 15-week course and the Feb. 8 Humanity Day in Charlotte. She first met Wiesel in 1995 at Bates College.

"I looked into his brown eyes and it just really moved me," she said.

WIESEL, continued page 4