

MANRING, MARTIN JOIN FACULTY



Martin endorses NCSSM's

If one asks Mary Martin what initially impressed her about NCSSM, she dynamically responds that "it's the friendliness here." She says she never expected the openness and brotherhood of the students and somehow visualized the students as over-studious bookworms.

Married with two daughters, Martin comes to NCSSM after teaching mathematics at Madison-Mayodan, north of Greensboro. She graduated from

North Carolina Central University, then attended the University of Illinois where she received her master's degree. Motivated by her "need to grow and change," she decided to come to NCSSM. She says "every math teacher needs to grow, especially on the high school level."

About the school in general, she says, "It brought me back in touch with the way I thought math should be in the first place. I hope I'm learning and growing right along with the students."

Whenever Martin is not teaching math at NCSSM, she may possibly be found preparing a delicious foreign dish, as cooking is one of her favorite activities. She also likes plants, and to no one's surprise, solving mathematical equations and problems.

Another addition to the NCSSM faculty is Dr. Andres Manring, a physics teacher. A graduate of Ohio State University, Manring says he finds the atmosphere here comparable to a college campus. He believes that education needs to be improved and considers NCSSM a good environment for learning. Manring cites the positive interactions between students and faculty as an



Manring joins physics staff.

important factor in providing a good learning atmosphere.

Manring does recognize, however, several problems at NCSSM. He says he believes the noise from construction projects creates stress for some students. He also says his impression of some students is that they closely resemble those in medical school--overworked. But he is quick to offer a positive evaluation of NCSSM. He says the school and its people are an invigorating example of the success that occurs when teachers and students evaluate each other in such a way that both have the opportunity to learn and grow.

The Stentorian staff thanks Dr. Davis, John Fox, Bryan Giles and Hooman Sabeti for helping us learn typesetting on the school's computers.

Dire Straits' album--"good stuff"

By Barry Campbell

Dire Straits' newest album release, LOVE OVER GOLD, has only been on the market in the Triangle area for a short time, yet it is selling very well. Apparently, area residents have good taste in music; LOVE OVER GOLD is one of the better recent album releases, and it contains some of the best work that Mark Knopfler and Dire Straits have ever done.

For newcomers' information, Knopfler is the creative force behind Dire Straits; he is the principal writer, the vocalist, guitarist (one of three) and the album's producer. He sounds like an English version of Bob Dylan most of the time. His lyrics are unpredictable--sometimes wistful but always witty. Generally, his style has been described as pure middle-of-the-road. That is misleading. Tracks on this album range from heavier rock in places to the blues style that people who remember "Sultans of Swing" will be familiar with.

The whole album is social commentary in one way or another. "Telegraph Road" is one of the standouts. It is a 14-minute marathon that starts out as a simple story about the birth and death of a small town, and expands to include a short but sad biography of one man's life, ruined by the system. "Industrial Disease" is another. It is the obligatory times-are-hard piece, with lines like:

"On ITV and BBC they talk about the curse

Philosophy is useless, theology is worse.

History boils over, there's an economic freeze

Sociologists invent words that mean "Industrial Disease."

No, it is not light musical listening. On the other hand, it is not one of those deep philosophical masterpieces that takes you four years of study to comprehend. It is just intelligent music that demands your careful attention. Yes, Dire Straits is still the band that has the long musical interludes between verses--the instrumentals last much longer than the vocals on "Telegraph Road," and they add to the song's charm. If you are a Dire Straits fan, you have to have LOVE OVER GOLD. Casual listeners: give it a shot. It's good stuff.



Here he comes...Mr. Unicorn.

NCSSM ranks second in merit competition

By Jan Miller

NCSSM has the second largest number of National Merit semifinalists in the country this year. Of the 153 seniors, 58 of them--or about 38 percent--qualified. Only Peter Stuyvesant High School in New York City, which has a program similar to NCSSM's, had more semifinalists, 67. However, this school has more than 600 seniors, so its percentage was less than NCSSM's.

The 15,000 semifinalists in the nation represent the top one-half of one percent of each state's high school senior class. The semifinalists will compete for 5,000 Merit Scholarships, including ones sponsored by colleges and corporations. Since the Merit program began in 1956, over \$210 million has been awarded to about 73,000 students.

Roles reverse--males take the stage

The Tradition continues. Saturday night, November 6, at E. K. Powe auditorium, our second lovely Mr. Unicorn, Tim Koonce of Hill House, was crowned. Contestants competed in an evening gown, a swimsuit, and a talent competition. The six semi-finalists also competed in a question-answer competition. The semi-finalists were Tim Koonce, Bryan Stutzman, Vincent Knight, Simon Verghese, Bob Larkin, and Chris Sites. To earn the title of semi-finalist, the nervous hopefuls struggled through songs such as "The Rainbow

Connection," and "The Masochism Tango." Other talents included playing the guitar, playing clarinet, playing a cheerleader, and just plain playing around. All contestants exhibited unusual tastes in both evening wear and swimsuits. Chris Loftis served as MC of the evening's events. The second runner-up was Vincent Knight, the first runner-up was Simon Verghese, and the Mr. Congeniality Award went to Bryan Stutzman. Congratulations to all of you!!?