

EILBER: "OPTIMISM HAS BEEN CONFIRMED"

By Jeff Cherry

Midway through the second quarter, Director Charles Eilber gives the '83-'84 school year high marks, saying that his "optimism has been confirmed".

In a recent interview, Eilber discussed the term so far, his role within the school and his hopes for the future.

Eilber pointed out that the absence of construction is a marked contrast with last year. Gesturing toward the windows and the gathering dusk, he said, "Last year at this time, four hundred students were walking to the cafeteria -- three blocks away".

Despite improvements in curriculum, especially in the areas of biology and independent study, Eilber noted that he wants the search for "innovative ways of teaching and learning" to continue. Future projects include enlarging the independent study and Mentorship programs and increasing the number of seminars and interdisciplinary studies.

Electronic Music Challenges Students

By Lillian Rinker

Singing robots at NCSSM? Well...not quite! This year, for the first time, the music department has offered a one semester course entitled "Electronic Music". Presently, the course is taught by Steve Hicken and there are thirteen students enrolled. More than half of the students have had no formal training in music, but this is really no hindrance, as the ability to read music is not required. In class, students listen to different pieces of electronic music, learn the technical usage of their instrument, and discuss many different aspects of both music and technique. The course deals primarily with composition, the major goal being to develop the ability to compose solely with electronic devices.

The type of music composed is called "musique concrete" which is the recording of sounds that are later altered using tape techniques such as editing and employing equalizers to change frequency relationships within the music. The individual student's grade is based upon how well he or she can manipulate sounds. The student must demonstrate within

This year has also seen a major reorganization of the administration, which included the creation of an office of principal. Eilber says the change was made at his request as he saw the school evolve. Now that "I have a principal who sits with the deans", Eilber devotes more time to policymaking, long range planning, and off campus activities.

Though he now travels statewide to work with supportive organizations, Eilber says "I kinda miss more contacts with the faculty and students".

Eilber summarizes the state of the school as "Healthy; It has a feeling of productive tension...and the sense of community is still here and growing". However, he points out that community "doesn't mean that everything is always lovey-dovey. We're always free to discuss our disagreements".

As for the new class of juniors, Eilber says that, as in other years, he is amazed at the quality of the students and their wide variety of

backgrounds. "It seems to work," he says. "I think that the students really want this school to work for the sake of the school."

What does the future hold for NCSSM? Last week Eilber, attended a national forum of educators in Indianapolis, where NCSSM was among several exemplary schools showcased.

Because of the growing concern for education demonstrated in conferences such as this, Eilber feels confident that support for the school will continue at the state and national levels despite next year's elections. He says he has "solid evidence of support" from President Reagan through contacts with Board of Trustees member Dr. George Keyworth, Reagan's science and technology advisor.

Appeals Explained

By Kim Windley

Does the appeal system at NCSSM really work?

After being leveled, students may wonder what alternatives they have besides room restriction. If a student feels that he has been leveled unjustly, he can always turn to the school's appeal system. When NCSSM's appeal system was designed, it was designed with the innocent student in mind--and that's what the appeal system is all about. It gives those students who may have been unjustly accused a chance to say so.

To file an appeal, students must obtain the proper form in the office of the Dean of Students. An appeal must be filed within 48 hours of receiving the judicial action. If the judicial action is a level one, a conference is then held with the student, the RA, and Dean Benzaquin. If the judicial action is a level two, the appeal is made to the Principal, Borden Mace, instead of Dean Benzaquin. The student is notified in writing as to whether the discipline decision has been upheld or overturned.

According to Dean Benzaquin, "A lot of times the student knows he's wrong. He's just upset with the way the matter was handled." In this case, she urges students to have a talk with the RA involved and to try and settle any misunderstandings.

his piece an attempt to integrate his sounds into a coherent musical statement. The production of these tapes is tedious, but the students have done well with a limited amount of time. Of course the amount of outside work is determined by each individual student.

Many people think that electronic music is equivalent to the music presented on such programs as MTV. Technically, they are correct because synthesizers are used to produce much of MTV's music, but according to the previous definitions, this music is not "classical" electronic music because it does not show awareness of musical implications. NCSSM's electronic music class does a lot more than just rearrange Beethoven's symphonies!

Certain instruments have special qualities which should be used to the advantage of the composer, and this instrument is no exception. It is capable of producing sounds which no other instrument in the world can produce. Buchla's point is that if a violin sound is desired, why not just play a violin? There is no need to build a machine which sounds like a