

## ach out to school

big siblings try more to be the children's friends. Also, tutors may work with different children with each visit as well as different numbers of children, anywhere from one individual to a whole class.

Landry "think[s] [the program]'s been successful, but [tutors/siblings] don't have much time to spend with the kids...because [they]'re so busy here." Nevertheless, they did have time to give their little siblings a tour of NCSSM on Sharing Day at the end of Special Projects Week.

Holzwarth is happy with the program. "It's definitely worth it...as long as the big siblings and tutors are enjoying it."

Originally, Holzwarth thought of getting an English as a Second Language (ESL) program underway, at which point Landry got involved. Later they "decided to do something for all of the kids,"

said Landry.

Hagler thinks NCSSM students have been "very consistent in coming and great in the classroom," and she "would like to see the program continue and grow." However, there seems to be a dearth of big brothers and male tutors.

"The boys need big brothers. We need more men," she said. She would also like to have more African-American helpers for the sixty to sixty-five percent minority population, largely comprised of African-Americans, at E.K. Powe.

Holzwarth, who according to Hagler "has been dynamic and the spark plug of the program," has also been attempting to begin a drama/community program, through which S&M students could go to a community center to play with children and put on drama productions for and with the children.

## Students sweep state-wide competitions

**Erin Shaughnessy**  
Staff Writer

NCSSM had a great showing in recent competitions, including the French language contest in Winston Salem, the NC Science Olympiad regionals in Greensboro and Olympiad state competition in Morganton.

In the French language competition, four S&M students recited poetry and one participated in an improv story-telling competition.

Two students won major awards at the competition. Junior Nora Wilson finished in first place while junior Katy Thalmann came in second in French IV poetry recitation. All of the recitations were judged on accuracy, accent, and interpretation. NCSSM's other three representatives, junior Alex Rosefelde and junior Millicent McClain and senior Katie Miltich, also gave a good showing.

Wilson said of the Unicorns' performance, "We were sort of forced into it by our French teacher,

Mme. Sylvett Lau, but because she had been so picky with our pronunciation [our hard work] really paid off."

NCSSM's two Science Olympiad teams also fared well in competition, by placing in second and third place in regional competition. Every one of the twenty-six team members managed to earn at least one medal in an excellent showing. Junior Jon Williams, junior Marcia Eaddy, senior Albert Whangbo, junior Stephanie Briggs, and senior Jeff Knight all won multiple awards.

Although the team had lost first place to Chapel Hill High School in regionals, NCSSM came back with an impressive win in the state championships.

"It was a very intense experience but our work was worth it. We came back and beat our big rivals [in states]," said junior Stephanie Briggs.

The Science Olympiad team will travel to Atlanta for Nationals on May 17 at Georgia Tech.

## Judicial reforms move forward

**Anne Fawcett**  
Editor-in-Chief

A new committee has been formed to address student discontent with NCSSM's judicial system. The committee, comprised of student body and SGA members, is working to place students on the hearing board for Level II and Level III offenses.

The committee took the proposal to hall meetings to gain student input. The proposal was then submitted to SGA, which approved to send it on to Dr. Barber, director of Student Life for consideration.

"So far we've had a very enthusiastic response from the student body in our information-gathering sessions," said member Tree Calloway.

The eight member committee is proposing the addition of seven students to the pool from which the hearing boards are chosen. Two students, along with the traditional three faculty members, would hear each case brought before the panel.

Student members would be chosen in the spring of their junior year by the existing hearing board. The criteria would be qualities such as objectivity, communication skills, and commitment.

The application will consist of several hypothetical situations to which applicants will be asked to respond. This portion will remain completely anonymous, followed by personal interviews of those making the first selection. Grades will be considered only to make sure that the students will be invited back for their senior year.

The placement of students on the hearing board is expected to have a three-fold effect. The committee hopes that the revised hearing board will bring students' insights and into the judicial process, increase the leadership opportunities for students, and raise student respect for the system.

First, students would bring unique perspectives to the board that come from living in the same situation as the offender.

"This will, in turn, benefit the whole community by enhancing Board decisions to better suit the community's needs," the committee's proposal states.

Positions on the hearing board would also enhance the leadership skills of selected seniors, enabling them to be better prepared for life outside NCSSM.

Ultimately, the committee believes that placing students on the hearing board would increase the credibility of the judiciary system to students. This has been a matter of contention to students this year who find seeming inconsistencies and irregularities in recent decisions of the board. Although the proceedings would still remain strictly confidential, it is believed that students would find it easier to have

faith in the process if they knew that their interests and experiences were being represented.

Early in the second semester, Executive Director John Friedrich held a meeting with students to discuss their discontent and suspicion of the process.

Students had questions about their lack of involvement in judiciary proceedings, the inconsistencies therein, and the lack of objectivity they viewed in the decision making.

"We feel that you will shrug our questions off and ignore them, even though we are supposed to be some of the brightest and most intelligent students in the United States of America," said junior Shelby Gull, a member of the committee.

Friedrick's suggestion to the students was to contact the SGA with ideas for involvement. He saw merit in students' involvement up to the expulsion proceedings. The committee, however, would like to have students involved in all decisions made by the hearing board.

"You are not entitled to a trial by your peers unless it is a civil or criminal case outside," Friedrich said. "It's not a civil or criminal case [here], so it's not formally a jury. We don't need 18-year-olds or 21-year-olds to serve on a jury. We're looking for a pro-

cess that works."

Committee members took the initiative to gain involvement in the judicial process so they could try to correct the problems they saw in inconsistency.

The committee intends to address these concerns in its plans by raising students' awareness of the rules and consequences.

"Having carefully studied the handbook, I now have greater respect for the rule system at this school," said committee member Chloe Palenchar. "A lot of this committee's job is going to be PR—to raise awareness and get [the rules] out to the student body."

The committee would like to hold an alt-day session in the fall to introduce students to the rules, in addition to their SLIs' instructions. They also think it would be to students' advantages to construct a rulebook listing general crimes and appropriate punishments gathered from teachers and SLIs.

The committee does not propose the elimination of mitigating circumstances, however. It admits that situations surrounding offenses will be varied and prompt different responses from the hearing board, an idea that currently has some students troubled.

The hearing board does use precedents in its decisions on Level II and Level III cases, however, to attempt to eliminate as many inconsistencies as possible, said a member of the board. Friedrich, on the other hand, rarely uses precedents in his review of the board's expulsion recommendations since each case is different.

"I will never know the nuances of another case that caused particular sanctions nor could you, and that's one of the things I hope that you will give us the benefit of the doubt about," Friedrich told students at the meeting.

The administration also keeps files closed as a privacy matter whenever staff or students are involved.

As for questions of objectivity, Friedrich commented, "To challenge [administrators'] objectivity is something you have a right to do, but my self-esteem is based on being objective and fair, because if I'm not, why else would I be here?"

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