

challenging concert

opportunity to play very challenging music. When they go to college or pursue a career in music, they will have the music background they need. I was very pleased overall. I think the students felt real satisfaction from [playing such challenging music]," he said.

A week before the concert, the orchestra even contemplated leaving out the last and most difficult movement of the Prokofiev, but after the members practiced individually and worked hard on their parts, they felt confident enough to perform it. People in the audience recognized the effort they put into the concert.

"You could tell everyone had worked hard," commented senior Michelle Cyr.

Another spectator, senior Jenny Hester, agreed that the pieces were very difficult and thought the program contained a good variety of music, which is just what Church's intentions were for the concert.

"I wanted to get some variety in the program. We've already done Mozart, Bach, Mendelsohn. This time we had a 20th century Russian composer and a 19th century Romantic composer," said Church.

In selecting the pieces for the concert, Church tried to choose music that fit the orchestra. This year, he noticed talent throughout the whole violin section as opposed to having one or two extremely talented individuals, as has been the case in previous years. This year's

orchestra was able to play the selected pieces because, according to Church, it was a well-balanced orchestra that included many windplayers, who volunteered time outside of band class. When the orchestra sight-read pieces at the beginning of the semester, Church sensed that they embraced the challenging Prokofiev symphony although he originally had no intentions of them performing it.

"We've enjoyed playing these pieces. All the parts were interesting. The lower strings didn't have boring parts like they usually do," said co-concertmistress Juliette Gilmore.

Despite co-concertmistress Margot Paulick's worries that the "tempo went too fast and got a little out of hand" in the Prokofiev and Brahms, the orchestra received a warm applause from the audience after each selection, and a particularly long one after Menachem's solo.

Church credits the success of the orchestra, and the school in general, to the strengths of the individual students.

According to Church, the four co-concertmasters helped him throughout the semester by being "great leaders." Normally only one member of the orchestra fulfills the role of concertmaster. However, this year Fang Cai, Jason Lee, Margot Paulick, and Juliette Gilmore all intended to audition for the position until they decided on their own that they wanted to share the role.

Church thought "[the arrangement] worked out for the best. They were very cooperative and they all took responsibility."

How about Ms. Dusenbury

to do because, "If the truth were known, history would be all we need to study. It is a story, and I enjoy the story of why we are and where we are." Her favorite historical periods are the civil rights movement, the Constitution, and post-reconstruction.

History is not Dusenbury's only interest, though. She loved physics and biology when she was young, and is now working for her BA in music. She plays the organ and loves to sing. At night, she enjoys watching television shows such as "Jeopardy", "60 Minutes", and "Biography".

When a student comes to talk to her, "I always listen to what they have to say, and sometimes become best friends with the student." She remembers a student from the second class of NCSSM who did not even have her as a teacher when he was a junior. He walked into her office randomly one day and discussed Roosevelt's New Deal with her.

"He is now a Jag officer working with the State Department and went to UNC-CH law school," she says. "Over spring break this year, I spent the day with him in Seattle on Easter. He is still one of my best friends, and he sent me cards from all over the world." Students can relate to her because she has many of the same feelings they do about the world.

"If I were czar for the day, I would not allow anyone to wake up until after 10:00 am," she says, putting her thumbs up and smiling. This attitude is one of the things that students like about her. She is not like an administrator, she is more like a colleague. She forms this attitude from the people she admires: Jackie O. Kennedy, Barbara Jordan, Elizabeth Taylor, Bette Davis, Carol Mosley Braun, and Queen Elizabeth.

Is it true that the most famous teacher at NCSSM is leaving? Not necessarily.

"I may or may not leave," she says ambiguously with a big smile, "I will probably be here next year, but I will most likely leave the next."

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doubt on the effectiveness of the discipline system at NCSSM and raised tensions between administrators and students. A student committee is currently working on a new format for hearings. Right now, plans for the revamped hearing process are to include students on the hearing board, hold hearings for all level two's as well as level three's, and make handbook regulations more tightly defined.

Another discipline problem was an outbreak of **vandalism** in first semester. The biology floor was off limits during most of first quarter after someone tampered with an ecology experiment. Abuse of computers in the fishtanks led to restrictions on their use until winter break. In Hunt, the elevator was shut down repeatedly due to vandalism.

The **winter weather** early in the second semester made some students despair of ever seeing spring again as a series of storms dumped inch upon inch of snow and ice in the Triangle. Schools across North Carolina were out over a week in all due to the weather — except for NCSSM, where classes continued almost as usual. Students were forced to change weekend plans as snow stranded them on campus. Still, most made the best of the snow by doing things like sliding down the walls of the pit on makeshift sleds.

The beginning of **construction on the Educational Technology Complex (ETC)** in April also changed the look and feel of the campus. The ETC is slated for completion in May of 1997 and will include extra lab space, improved Distance Learning facilities, and a Student Center. Students are already having to learn how to put up with the noise and inconvenience associated with the construction, but they expect to benefit from it in the end.

The **NCSSM drama** program expects to take full advantage of the ETC's new 696-seat auditorium and stage. Even without a stage, though, the Drama Club was very active this year. First semester, a series of **one-act plays** provided a night of entertainment, and early in May the club's tour-de-force, **A Midsummer Night's Dream**, by William Shakespeare, was presented.

Other entertainment came from the **Coffee Houses**. Coffee Houses were a new way for students to avoid boredom on the weekends. The club gave students and faculty the chance to showcase their talents and be entertained by their peers over a cup of coffee.

Of course, a big part of the memories of any school year are the dances. This year's dances included the annual **tee-shirt signing dance** which allowed students to get to know each other at the beginning of the year, and the **Halloween dance** in the fall where many students came in their costume finery and competed in a costume contest. Other dances were the **winter semi-formal** with its annual reading of **How the Grinch Stole Christmas** by Dr. Miller, the **spring dance** with its hall themes, and of course the **Prom**, held again this year at the Durham Armory. The only glitch in the dances was with the **Valentine's Day** dance which was moved to the cafeteria after heavy winter snows. Later on, the dance was rescheduled and held in the PEC as originally planned.

Like the dances, **Alt Days** and **Special Projects Week (SPW)** have become a traditional part of each year, but they may have seen their last hurrah. Both events are meant to be opportunities for students to expand their academic experience. However, faculty and staff have become concerned that many students have lost sight of the philosophy behind them. Misuse of Alt Days and SPW led to a review this year of how students use these times. Doubts remain about the futures of both.

For students involved in academic competi-

tions, '95-'96 will be remembered as a successful year. At the **French Declamation contest** at UNC-Chapel Hill, NCSSM students took both first and second place in the poetry recitation division at the French four level. **Knowledge Masters** was ranked first in the state, and came in thirty-fourth out of 2000 schools nationwide. The **Quiz Bowl** team performed well at regional competition in Halifax county. Members of both Knowledge Masters and Quiz Bowl have been invited to represent the state of North Carolina at a national competition this summer in Disney World. **Science Olympiad** competed extremely well, and made it to nationals. Last, but certainly not least, **Model United Nations** also represented NCSSM well, and went to national competition in New York City.

Despite all the high points of the past year, the biggest story was also the biggest tragedy. The **First Beall fire** on April 24, 1996 at around 10:45 p.m. was the worst in NCSSM's history. Fortunately no students were seriously injured, although the hall, along with many of the belongings of its residents, was heavily damaged. The entire NCSSM community came to the aid of the women who were without a home for the rest of the school year.

Confusion and emotions ran high for the first few days after the fire, culminating in a speech given by **Dr. John Friedrich** during an all-school assembly: Friedrich felt that he should have been stricter in telling students to take safety measures after an earlier fire on Second Bryan. He therefore took a hardline on fire safety in ordering the removal of extension cords without surge protectors and other fire hazards from dorm rooms. Students felt that the assembly condemned them, and was in bad taste considering the recentness of the fire. On May 6, a hastily-planned **Celebration of Life** gave students a break from classes and a chance to recover from the fire.

The past year has given students at NCSSM a lot to remember. There have been triumphs over weather and in academic competitions, and misfortune. There have been foreshadowings of the next year — changes in Alt Day and SPW and the anticipated completion of the ETC — which promise to make it just as memorable as this one.



UNC-bound Morehead Scholar Patrick Gray relaxes at senior class pictures

Leonard Tran