

Smoking eliminated for 1997-98 school year

BY JORDAN GLASSMAN

The NCSSM Cabinet has ruled that the school will be smoke-free starting with the 1997-98 school year. The elimination of smoking from the campus is an issue that affects students and staff equally.

The reasons behind this procedural change include the fact that smoking is hazardous to the health of smokers and non-smokers alike, in addition to the fact that the sale of tobacco to minors is illegal in North Carolina.

"I feel like an enabler by providing the opportunity for students to smoke on campus," said Dr. Joan Barber, Director of Student Life.

The details of the procedure change are still being reviewed. Issues that are still undecided are whether or not the new policy will include all tobacco products, the definitions of when students are actually on-campus and

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-a junior smoker*

therefore smoking illegally, and the consequences of violating the new rules.

"The new policy is ridiculous. Students will just sneak off campus to smoke, creating a safety hazard," one female junior smoker said.

Some students have said that banning smoking on campus may also create more severe health problems than smoking does. A senior smoker said, "Students will turn to other, worse substances [drugs], for stress relief."

The administration has addressed the is-



Photo by Julie Thibodeaux

Cigarette butts and boxes litter the pit, one of the two locations where NCSSMers can smoke.

sue that smoking is often used as an addictive stress-reliever. For those students and staff at NCSSM who already smoke, "professional quit-smoking programs will be offered by the school," Barber said.

Another concern of many students is the fact that the school has accepted money from tobacco companies, and has, in effect, endorsed their products.

"The tobacco companies are moving away from donating money to schools," Bar-

ber said. "They are much more concerned about their image than they used to be."

NCSSM Executive Director John Friedrich said, "North Carolina has a historical connection to tobacco that we shouldn't cover," and also points out that, "Duke University has a cancer clinic that was founded by tobacco companies."

Since the new policy will affect this year's juniors first, last spring's semi-finalists were informed of the change. Staff mem-

bers who smoke will also have to abide by the new regulations.

"The new policy won't bother me. I can wait until I'm off campus to smoke," said one staff member smoker.

Some students agree that the no-smoking on campus policy will be less than a burden. "I think the new policy is great. I don't smoke, I don't like to smell smoke, and I don't think other people should smoke," said junior Chip Killian.

NEWS BRIEFS

Colours and Symphony Orchestra

CELESTE DAY MOORE

NCSSM's two largest musical assemblies - the gospel choir Colours and the school's Symphony Orchestra - performed in early November. Both performances highlighted the musical talents of many students, allowing them to give solo performances for the first time this year.

The orchestra gave its Fall Orchestra Concert on Sunday, Nov. 3 in the Assembly Hall. They played many popular and challenging pieces, including Haydn's "Symphony No. 104," Tchaikovsky's "Sleeping Beauty," and Dorak's "Slavonic Dances."

"I'm very pleased with the work of students in the orchestra this year," Orchestra Conductor Dr. Ray Church said. "Even though a number of students had never been

in an orchestra before and didn't know what to expect, we [were able to] play a very difficult program."

Colours also held its annual Commitment Day that weekend. Commitment Day is an opportunity for members of the choir to show their talent and commitment to the group.

"Commitment Day is when each [musical] section puts together a song or skit," senior leader Charlie Shaw said. "It shows their commitment to the choir."

Colours had another concert on Nov. 16.

Hispanic Month Happenings

JOCELYN KEARNEY

October was designated as National Hispanic Heritage Month, and at least two events were coordinated by various groups and individuals at the school to celebrate the month.

The school's first Hispanic Fest was held on Oct. 26 in Bryan Lobby, coordinated by the Multicultural Peer Counselors. Booths featuring different Latin American countries, dancing in the SAB lounge and cooking in

Hunt kitchen were some of the highlights of the day.

"Our basic goal was to educate the public about the different cultures and ethnicity [of Hispanic people]," said senior Jorge Valdes, an MPC and coordinator of the Hispanic Fest.

On Monday, Oct. 28, the Bolivian music group Wiphala performed at NCSSM. This was coordinated by the Student Activities Board. Wiphala visited Spanish classes, and was featured in the SAB lounge at 6:30. The music group is currently on a cultural exchange tour in the United States.

"[The performance] was intense... there was so much joy and emotion attached to their performance. They demonstrated a great pride in their heritage," said SAB coordinator, Jennifer Madriaga.

A Night Out on the Town

JOCELYN KEARNEY

On Saturday, Nov. 9, the Lenny Marcus

Jazz Trio was featured in the gymnasium of the Eilber Physical Education Center.

The highlight of the night was NCSSM's own Joshua Sawyer, playing trombone, and James Neil Ansley, playing tenor saxophone, who were both featured with the group for the latter part of the program.

"I thought it was pretty awesome the way they asked us to play, and I really enjoyed it," said Ansley.

The night was filled with dancing, fun, and lots of laughter, with many compliments not only to the group, but to those who coordinated the event as well.

"[The Jazz Trio] was very good, and the whole atmosphere was set up very well," said Sabrina Pendergrass.

The event began at 7 p.m., and those wishing to come had to RSVP at least 24 hours in advance to their Student Activities Board representative. Over fifty students came out for the event, with the attire for the evening formal. Refreshments were served, which included social crackers, smoked sausage, and warm sparkling cider.