

Gold Madrigal Singers travel to capital for performance at the White House

The Madrigals will perform for First Lady Laura Bush and others during their shows at the White House and National Cathedral.

By Kathryn Smith
Reporter

After a successful weekend performing at the Carolina Renaissance Festival during the first weekend in November, next on the agenda for the Gold Madrigal Singers is a trip to Washington, D.C. in December to help end the year in the executive fashion.

The Madrigals have been

invited to sing at the White House for an audience of governmental officials, including current First Lady Laura Bush, on December 22, 2003 at noon. This invitation-only event is one of the many components of the Madrigals' annual trip to Washington, D.C. that has the entire group of singers thrilled.

"I am really excited about singing at the White House, sort of like a little kid at Christmas," said junior Emilie Campbell.

Prior to their appearance at the White House, the Madrigals will sing at the Washington National Cathedral

on Sunday, December 21 for the Cathedral's 11 am Advent Service. The trip will not only include performances, but also the singers will be able to enjoy scheduled activities such as touring the Smithsonian Museum, Union Station, and the International Eastern Market and viewing a production of Dickens's "A Christmas Carol" at Ford's Theatre.

The trip will conclude with a visit to the home of George Washington at Mt. Vernon. In addition to the sightseeing and performances, some of the singers are looking most forward to spending time with their friends.

"I cannot wait to just be with my friends and have a fun time goofing off," said senior Jessica Labell.

In preparation for the upcoming events, the Madrigals will not only practice during daily class time, but also at home using CDs with each singer's recorded parts on them. While some feel that the practice will help quell their nerves, others thrive on the pressure associated with such an appearance.

"Knowing that I am part of a select few makes me feel honored in participating in this event. I love a challenge, even when others are nervous," said

senior Matt Neelson.

Despite the differences in the levels of anxiety, all can agree that hard work and talent helped them earn their invitation. Most are anticipating that with the conclusion of this performance the group will receive more national attention.

"Hopefully after this trip to Washington, D.C., Grimsley will feel pride that their Arts can get this far. The Grimsley Gold Madrigals are very disciplined, and we have a strong passion for what we do. We were selected to perform because, honestly, we're the best there is," said senior Sarah Turner.

Students, staff struggle with counselor changes

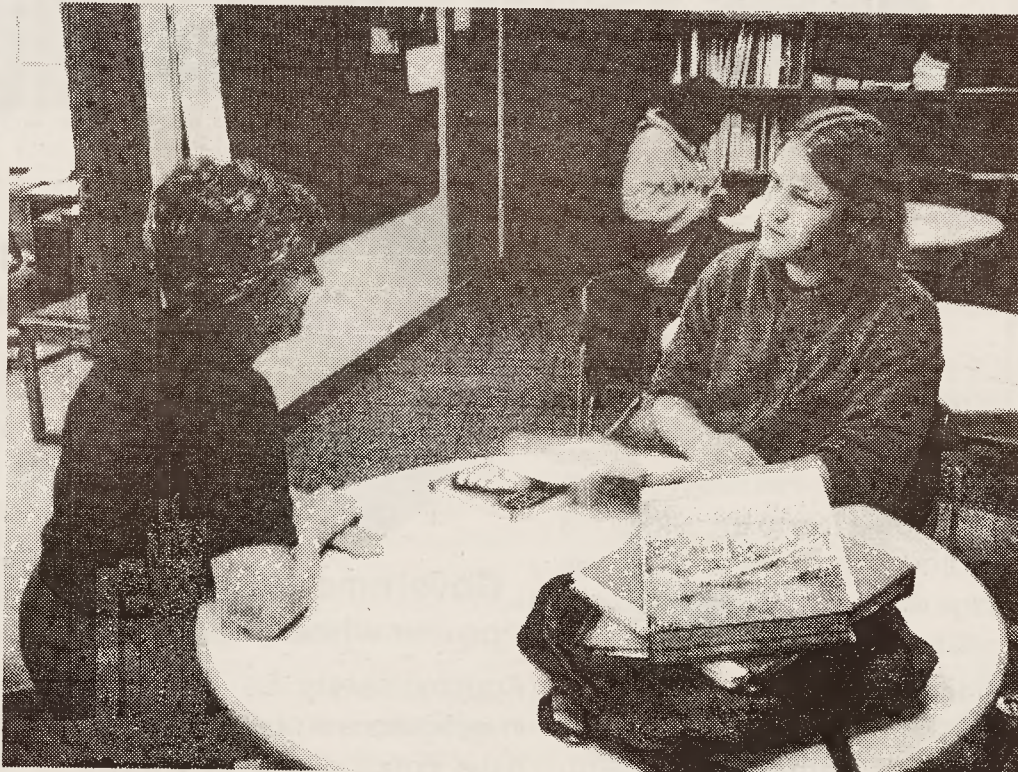
Due to the loss of several counselors this school year, many students are having problems scheduling meetings with their counselors, making it difficult for seniors to get the help they need when filling out applications for college.

By Allison Newby
Reporter

Many seniors have experienced a change in counselors this year and, with the clock ticking closer to college application deadlines, students sometimes feel inclined to complete the paperwork themselves. However, much of the application process depends upon counselor input. Only counselors can provide official transcripts and official data regarding school size, percentage of students continuing their education, and students' mid-year school reports.

Counselor Mr. Phil Weaver suggested for students to see their counselors on a regular basis so they can become familiar with each other and counselors can put names with faces.

Many students have complained about not receiving



Leung photo

Senior Jack McDonald talks with Ms. Cheryl Bolick in the counseling center. Many students this year, especially seniors, are having trouble receiving the time and attention they need from counselors. Sign-up sheets fill quickly, especially when college application deadlines approach.

enough time with their counselors. Therefore, the college application process is much more difficult for them.

Senior Erin Jones suggested that one way of improving one's relationship with a counselor is to "stop by and introduce yourself. Don't be afraid to go and talk to your counselor if you have

a problem. They are there to help, and they really do!"

Students have suggested that counselors continue working with the same grade level every year so that the counselor and student will not lose touch. When a counselor works with a student throughout his high school career, that student devel-

ops a strong bond and feels more comfortable talking with his counselor on any given topic.

Many students have shown concern due to the arrival of a new counselor. Mr. "Mac" McDowell, who worked at Bartlett Yancey High School, could not start work here until he was released from Bartlett on

November 10. Because Mrs. Alice Barbee, Mrs. Nikki Caldwell, and Mrs. Merrie Conaway made decisions to leave, the present staff has taken on their students and, with college just around the corner for many seniors, the counseling center is packed every day.

"I have been a counselor for 25 years, and I have never had to work so hard," said Weaver.

Jones explained that her transition from junior to senior was not as difficult as she had expected.

"I thought it would be difficult since Ms. Barbee left and I had grown up with her for the past three years, but Mrs. Weaver has been wonderful in trying to help me," she said.

However, many individuals have had a difficult transition from their junior to senior year. Many believe their counselors only know them by what is written down on paper.

"It has been difficult making the transition from junior to senior year. The difficulty lies in filling out applications and making life-changing decisions. I've changed counselors three times since last year, and I am due for another change. I don't feel like I have the support from Grimsley that I need this year," said senior Susanna Pfaff.

Featured
Inside

Student Rights

Staff editorial concerning liberties of teens in school.

Page 3

Flashback

Reflections on life in the '70s and '80s bring smiles.

Pages 6-7

Youth Refs

Teens find new job option in refereeing for younger children.

Page 12

News.....1
Opinion.....3
Features.....5
Sports.....11