



A GROUP OF BOLIVIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL students rehearse "When the Saints Go Marching In" with instructor Belinda Mayhew, preparing to perform with the North Carolina Symphony Friday. A "Save the Symphony" campaign raised enough local funds to support the symphony's student concerts, but the symphony canceled its May 10 classical concert here.

Project Encourages Students To Enjoy A Sober Prom Night

As part of an effort to make prom night safe as well as fun, two student groups at West Brunswick High School this week were encouraging students to sign a "Prom Promise" pledge not to drink or use drugs that night.

West Brunswick High School holds its junior-senior prom Friday at Sea Trail Plantation at Sunset Beach.

However, the "Prom Promise" pledge is for all students in grades 9 through 12, not just those planning to attend the prom, said Gene Bennett, faculty advisor for the National Honor Society (NHS).

"This is the first time we've done this," said Bennett, noting that other efforts to remind students to promote a safe prom night include flyers on cars, red ribbons, hangers on locker doors and erection of "tombstones" at the school bearing the names of celebrities killed in drug- or alcohol-related accidents. "Dum dum" lollipops will remind students to not drive while drinking or using drugs.

The NHS and Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD), for whom Melba Johnson is the advisor, are co-sponsors of the pledge program, along with Nationwide Insurance,

which offers a free gift to each student who signs the pledge. Senior Emily Gore, president of the National Honor Society, is student chairman.

Students also qualify for discounts at certain Wilmington area businesses.

Students can sign a "Prom Promise" pledge through this week in the school cafeteria during first or second lunch.

The pledge reads as follows: "Prom night will be one of the most memorable nights of my life and I want to stay alive to remember it. So whether I attend prom or not I promise not to use alcohol or drugs on prom night. I won't let these things mess up an important time for me and my friends. We don't need them for a good time; we need each other. We can still have a good time, but we can also be safe, sober and alive."

Community and school volunteers are also offering West Brunswick High students another "After Prom" party Friday, another effort to provide a drug- and alcohol-free entertainment alternative for prom night. Approximately 300 students are expected to attend the event this year.

FUNDRAISING EFFORT FALLS SHORT

State Symphony Cancels Local May 10 Concert But Will Play For Brunswick Students Friday

BY SUSAN USHER

The North Carolina Symphony has canceled its May 10 concert in Brunswick County, despite efforts by local symphony supporters to make up a \$20,000 shortfall.

"I think we've raised about \$8,000 to date and we're waiting for a couple of checks to come in by Friday," said Stephanna Tewey, president of the Brunswick County Chapter of the N.C. Symphony Society.

The funds raised, which include \$2,500 allocated by the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners last week, were enough to pay for the children's concerts, but not for the adult concert.

However, Tewey said she has "worked out a deal" with the symphony so that those who have bought tickets for the Brunswick County season or the classical concert only can use that ticket to attend the Symphony's May 11 concert in Wilmington. That concert will be held at 8 p.m. in Kenan Auditorium at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. The program will be the same that the symphony was to perform here.

To do so, patrons must first make reservations by calling Kenan Auditorium at 1-800-732-3643, then

present their tickets at the door.

If a ticket holder does not want to attend this concert, they may make a donation to the symphony of the price of the unused ticket, or they may ask for a refund.

To obtain a refund, the ticket must be returned to the symphony, mailed to Pam Yelverton, The North Carolina Symphony, 2 East South Street, Raleigh, N.C. 27601-2750.

Approximately 500 local residents had bought subscriptions to the two-concert series, plus others had bought single tickets.

The Symphony had given the local chapter until April 30 to meet a \$20,000 shortfall in funds, but didn't wait until then to cancel. Tewey was advised last Friday that the May 10 concert was canceled, but that the student concerts would be held. It was late Monday afternoon before the symphony agreed to honor local concert tickets at the Wilmington performance.

This year the local symphony

chapter had the challenge of not only raising the \$9,000 of its quota unpaid at the end of last year's season, but also the \$26,000 it needed for this year's concert season. "We raised about \$22,000 of the \$35,000, but that wasn't enough," said Tewey.

The May 10 concert was originally scheduled as part of the grand opening of the new Odell Williamson Auditorium at Brunswick Community College, an event over which symphony supporters had planned "to make a big splash," with the hope of making up the concert budget shortfall.

"That was a good idea that went down the drain," said Tewey.

The grand opening is on hold be-

cause of auditorium construction delays and the concert was relocated to Hatch Auditorium on Oak Island.

"Next year we're going to have just one concert," said Tewey. "Our well just is not deep enough here to raise \$26,000 for two concerts."

The symphony's 1994 concert will be a pops performance in May, at the Odell Williamson Auditorium.

Meanwhile, the North Carolina Symphony will perform in Brunswick County this week for local students. Youngsters will sing "Down the River," accompanied by the symphony. A large group of fourth and fifth grade students will perform "When The Saints Go Marching In" with the symphony, playing recorders, melody bells and autoharps.

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