

# Applause

Issue 1 Number 1

Charleston County School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC

December 1999

## Mr. Davis remains at SOA

By Beth Frampton

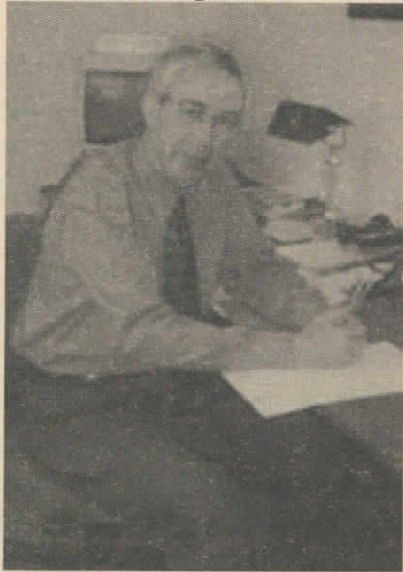


Photo by Tracy Cantwell

Mr. Roy Davis, who has worked as a school administrator for last 29 years, had been at SOA as an interim assistant principal until Mr. Shaw returned. Mr. Davis has fortunately agreed to mentor Mr. Shaw, helping him with the transition from teacher to full time administrator. Mr. Davis' duties include helping Mrs. Myers with reports, teacher observations and evaluations. He also works with teachers, and shares discipline responsibilities with Mr. Shaw.

Mr. Davis previously taught biology at Summerville High School. He taught AP and Honors biology at SHS during the 1960s. Mr. Davis also served as principal at Burns Elementary and at North Charleston High School.

Mr. Davis' interests include fishing, reading, gardening, and running. He runs at least 30-40 miles a week. He also enjoys spending lots of time with his four grandchildren.

Mr. Davis plans to remain at SOA through the first semester. We are very glad to have him here.

## School of the Arts welcomes back Mr. Shaw

By Sohayla Roudsari and Bonnie Tumbleston

After teaching freshman biology for three years, Mr. Shaw left SOA, but he has now returned as our assistant principal. He enjoys his new job at SOA and is happy to be back; he says it's very challenging, keeping him on his toes all the time, but is lots of fun. It's the "great students" that make the job such a great experience, says Mr. Shaw. Though he stays very busy, he always has time to offer a smile.

During the interim period, Mr. Shaw was a private school administrator. What took him so long to come back? Both the interview process and the hurricane delayed his return, neither of which were avoidable.

As assistant principal, Mr. Shaw hopes to provide an environment where students can get a good high school education, so that when they get their diplomas, they can go anywhere they choose. He would like SOA students to have the opportunity to attend any college, not just arts schools. With the variety of art areas and talents, SOA students' capabilities are endless, he says.

Mr. Shaw started at SOA teaching this year's junior class in the 96-97 school year. In his words, "They are a class of very, very, very unique characters."

The one thing that Mr. Shaw would do for SOA students, if only *one* thing, would be to "help them see how important the years in high school are. I often will tell students, you don't want a college to be in control of that. You want to be the one who says I will choose to go here,

or I will choose to go there. You don't want colleges and your GPA or transcripts or years in high school to limit you. You want to set the limits."

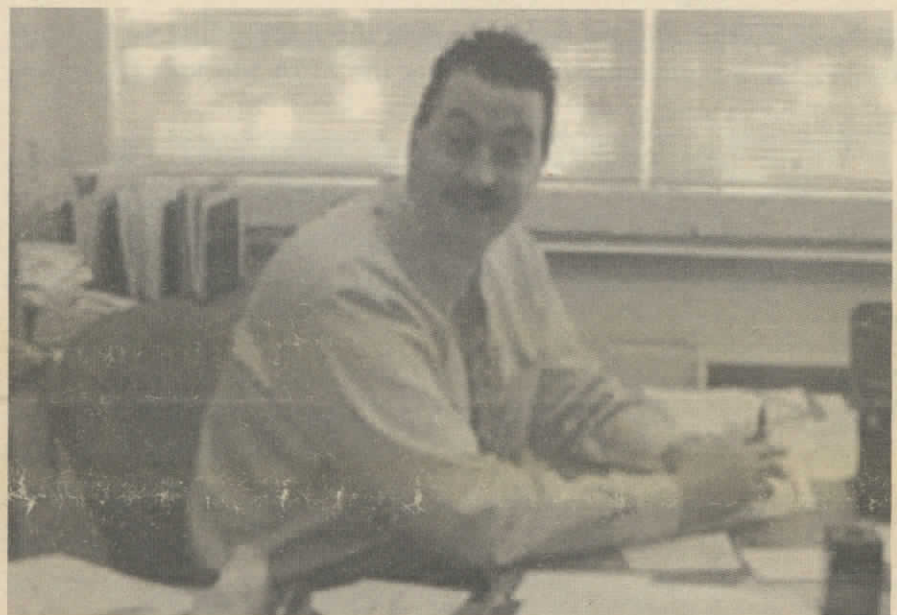
Mr. Shaw received a bachelor's degree in biology at the College of Charleston, a master's degree in education from the Citadel, a special bachelor's degree in holistic teaching, and a specialist degree in educational administration at the Citadel. Initially, Mr. Shaw was attracted to this school after his first interview with Mrs. Myers. "I could tell she was really passionate about students", he says, "and that attracted me to teach here, but as an administrator, having met the students, met the faculty, I knew this was the best place, period."

Mr. Shaw and his wife, Ada, celebrated their seventh anniversary this past November. They have a three-year-old daughter, Alexandria, whom he says is the "joy of my life." He has an Italian greyhound named Penny as well as a fifty-five gallon, saltwater reef tank with exotic fish, which he calls "tank".

Keeping up "tank" is just one of the many things Mr. Shaw enjoys; his other interests include yard work, keeping up his "new/old" house, fishing, hanging out with his friends and playing cards. He has also, "...played some softball in my time." In spite of his new responsibilities, he always finds time to drink Mountain Dew and coffee, "lots of both."

Mr. Shaw still stands by his famous quote from his previous years of teaching, "Where there is knowledge, there is no need for luck. So to those of you who studied, good knowledge and to those who didn't, good luck."

Photo by Tracy Cantwell



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*Applause is a student produced publication of the School of the Arts. We can be contacted at [ccsoa@email.com](mailto:ccsoa@email.com) or 843-529-4990, ext. 23.*

## From the Staff

The Publications Department would like to wish everybody "Happy Holidays" and best wishes for a great 2000.

We encourage you to check out the new SOA official web site at [www.ccsoa.com](http://www.ccsoa.com), and we welcome your input regarding all our publications. We are currently completing the SOA Student Directory, which will be available very soon.

We are glad to offer this first complimentary issue of *Applause*, our new school newspaper, to our students. If you would like to receive the next four issues of *Applause*, the cost is \$1 (.25 per issue). Homeroom teachers will collect your dollar in early January. Don't be left out.

## SOA Slang

After listening to many students' conversations at SOA, and asking for suggestions, we have concluded that the high school students are not only creative when it comes to arts, but also in their everyday word choice. By keeping our ears open, we have compiled the following glossary of slang terms used by our students: (Students are welcome to submit new terms for this feature.) Thanks to Ira LaRoache for the example sentences.

- Bunk:** not pleasing or desirable. *i.e. That CD is bunk.*
- Cholo:** unappealing person. *i.e. She'd have more friends if she wasn't such a cholo.*
- Dip** (1) a realization; a sign of disappointment. *i.e. Aw dip, someone stole my book.* (2) a person lacking in the mind. *i.e. That cheerleader is such a dip.* (3) to flee. *i.e. The cops are comin'; we better dip.*
- Kickin':** an extreme sign of approval or disapproval. *i.e. Those tunes are kickin'.* (2) to lounge. *i.e. We're kickin' it at my house.*
- Lay the smack down:** (1) to insult someone in defense. *i.e. Imma tell Jay off and lay the smack down on him.* (2) to be successful in flirting with someone of the opposite sex. *i.e. Imma lay the smack down on the honey wid da red jacket on.*
- Peeps:** companions or people that one associates with. *i.e. Me and my peeps are going to the movies.*
- Scruff:** to engage in a violent act of physical conflict; to fight. *i.e. If you don't wanna scruff, you better get off my girl.*
- Sweet:** an admirable sign of approval. *i.e. That Lexus GS400 is sweet.*
- Triflin':** causing difficulties between other people. *i.e. She's always triflin'.*
- Tru Holla:** agreement; signifying anything that pleases you. *i.e. Person A: "That girl is bunk." Person B: "Tru Holla."*

Compiled by: Tracy Cantwell & Sohayla Roudsari

## Conscience is that still small voice...

by Christina Davenport

I recently read a quote from a man named Bert Murray that said, "Conscience is that still, small voice that is sometimes too loud for comfort."

Now, where he came up with such a great understanding of this thing called conscience, I don't know. But think about it: We all get a little uneasy when that little voice inside our head starts hinting at what we should do. Sure, we can play it off and act like we never heard the warning, but that voice will never be silent. It's meant to make us stop and think. It's like having our own personal Jiminy Cricket on our shoulder 24/7. When it comes right down to it, we all know the difference between right and wrong. We know what should be done. *The hard part is doing it.* So many of us ignore those flashing lights and bells that go off in our head when we're about to make a wrong choice. Why? Because we're stubborn, know-it-all humans, that's why. The conscience was created within us to give us guidance. In Emanuel Swedenborg's words, "Conscience is God's presence in man." We were given an innate knowledge of right and wrong; so why do we so often ignore that small inner voice? Our conscience is dependable- you can trust that it will not deceive you. But, forget trying to use reason: it is sure to deceive you in the end.

Why don't we try something different for a change and listen to our conscience next time it attempts to steer us in the right direction. No matter how you think you feel about something, your conscience will let you know the truth about your feelings. Whatever that tiny voice tells you, deep down that's how you really feel. Believe me, it's not "uncool" to follow your heart. In the end, that path will lead you to true happiness and a life of contentment. And besides, if you obey your inner voice, you can have a guilt-free conscience; and, to quote a French proverb, "There's no pillow so soft as a clear conscience."

## Orchestra and Chorale combine efforts



On December 1, 2, and 3, the SOA Orchestra and Chorale performed together the Vivaldi *Gloria* at the Blackbox Theater and the Circular Congregational Church. The *Gloria* has twelve movements, two of which feature a vocal duet, sung by Mary Ann Snider and Elizabeth Newell, and a cello and vocal duet, played by Sohayla Roudsari and Johnny Ann Margiotta. The holiday concert was an incredible performance that livened the spirits of all who attended.

Please bring any letters to the editor to room 6 or e-mail to [ccsoa@email.com](mailto:ccsoa@email.com).

[www.ccsoa.com](http://www.ccsoa.com)



# SOA News

## Student Council volunteers at fair

On Friday, October 29, the SOA High School Student Council members manned a booth at the fair for the National Exchange Club Foundation for the Prevention of Child Abuse. They sold t-shirts, hats, and magnets and also collected donations for this cause. Volunteers from Student Council included Brandi Bruorton, Keverlee Burchett, Tracy Cantwell, Jessica Grantham, Elaine Hume, Sohayla Roudsari, and Angela Shaw. Additional volunteers were Raychell Bath, Suzanne Justice, Devon Vaughn, and of course Ms. Tisdale and Ms. Emory. The foundation has already helped over 100,000 children establish a healthy home environment and the Student Council was happy to assist them. The Student Council will be involved in other projects with the Exchange Club throughout the year.

## SOA Juniors to Shaftesbury Lecture

On Saturday, October 23, four of Ms. Tisdale's 11th grade AP and honors US History students participated in a round table discussion at the Citadel investigating the importance of the Shaftesbury papers. The event, which was filmed by SCETV, included talks by Mayor Joseph Riley, the 10th earl of Shaftesbury, and five historians who presented papers on the Shaftesbury papers and colonial South Carolina. The SOA students who attended the conference with Ms. Tisdale were Nikki Griffin, Keverlee Burchett, Chandler Jenrette, and Jennie Leonard, who stumped the panel with her question on the publication of the documents.

## Tae Kwon Do classes at SOA

Students, parents, staff and faculty, make a new millennium resolution in 2000 and join black belt instructor, Andy Cohen, for Tae Kwon Do classes in the SOA cafeteria. The sessions begin after the break on Thursdays after school from 3:45 until 5:00. The cost is a mere \$26 per month.

## PTSA Bingo

The next PTSA meeting will be January 20 and feature Bingo! See you there. See SOA's *Artifacts* for more PTSA information.

## Cheerleaders make debut



Cheerleaders Alison Orvin, Lauren Fanning, Tracy Cantwell, and Caroline Davenport. The whole cheerleading squad held their first pep-rally on October 27. Their advisor, Ms. Tisdale, says the group will help to stir support for the upcoming arts events.

## 2000 SOA THEATER PRODUCTIONS

*All SOA Theatre Department Productions begin at 7pm.*

Main Event Improv (7th)	January 6
Bag of Art One (6th)	January 13
Bag of Art Two (6th)	March 16
That's Rough Theatre (7th)	March 22
<i>Guys and Dolls</i> (High School)	April 13, 14
<i>Comedy of Errors</i> (8th)	May 25, 26

Thank-you to the Theater Department for all the great performances of 1999.

## Nice Job, Deas!



SOA sophomore Deas Richardson displays his design which was selected for the official Isle of Palms Connector 10K race in October. The contest and race were sponsored by the Isle of Palms Exchange Club.

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# Reviews

by Chandler Jenrette

## Movies

### *The Blair Witch Project*

I must admit I felt a little socially isolated having not seen *The Blair Witch Project* this summer. I thought I knew the whole story, anyway, from the massive amounts of hype surrounding the movie, and when I finally did get around to seeing it, I realized I did. Everyone said that the movie wasn't very good, but that I should see it anyway just to know what everyone was talking about, so I caved in and rented it.

I hate scary movies. I mean really, really hate them. I have to watch them in complete daylight with a lot of other people, and I will continuously check under my bed and in my closets for weeks after watching one. This did not turn out to be the case after seeing *The Blair Witch Project*. The movie was, to say the least, disappointing. You've already heard the plot: three students venture into the woods of Maryland to film a documentary on *The Blair Witch*, and are never heard from again until their tapes are found one year later. They don't actually believe in the witch, which is apparently a big mistake, because soon they start finding little symbols and piles of rocks and they hear a lot of noises. And that's about it. The whole movie was improvised, which was obviously not a good idea because the story is inconsistent at times, and on occasion they just yell at each other instead of engaging in actual dialogue. The movie just fit my attention span--about eighty minutes--but eighty minutes of three campers running around screaming in the dark--handling the cameras not too steadily is not very exciting. The ending is a little bland; my younger brother, who saw the movie twice, said that he could have used some special effects towards the end. I don't know about that, but something would have been nice. Overall the movie was mediocre at best, failing to live up to all the sensation that self-promotion had given. If you haven't seen *The Blair Witch Project*, don't bother. You're better off being in that minority, anyway.

## TV

### "Lonely Planet"

I don't mind saying that I'm addicted to TV. I love TV, I think it's really great. I have a wealth of trivial knowledge stored in my mind from watching the History Channel and The Learning Channel. Everything I know about God comes from A&E's "Mystery's of the Bible," and I know all about laughing rats from the Discovery Channel. My favorite station, without a doubt, is the Travel Channel. The channel's best show is called "Lonely Planet," which comes on at 8 and 11 PM daily. In each episode one of the show's several hosts goes to a different country or metropolitan area. The host has a relatively low budget; they almost always stay in hostels and do low cost activities. The show travels to such far flung places as Burkino Faso and to well known

places like New York City or Australia. The show is always interesting; the host usually manages to work his or her way into a local's home, or do things like dance with the Mud men of Papua New Guinea, or march in the Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans. Check it out one night if you just can't watch another teen-targeted drama, or stop by the Travel Channel's web site (at [www.travelchannel.com](http://www.travelchannel.com)) to see where the show's headed next.

## Music

### *Happy Feet* -8 1/2 Souvenirs

There's this really great music show called "Studio at West 54th" that comes on late on Saturday night and is hosted by Talking Heads' singer David Byrne. The show features artists that you've probably heard of, like Tori Amos, and ones you probably haven't, like Rufus Wainwright. Occasionally my father, who has an impressively broad music collection, will buy a CD after hearing the band play on "Studio at West 54th," which I proceed to take



and not give back. One such CD is *Happy Feet* by the band 8 1/2 Souvenirs. The songs are in three different languages--French, Italian, and English, and they're all quite catchy even if you can't speak the language. The album's best song is the title song, "Happy Feet." The only English words in the song are in the much repeated phrase "Happy feet...ta dah

ta," and the rest is in Italian. The other really good song is sung by Chrysta Bell, one of two main singers with Olivier Giraud, is an old Cole Porter sped up so that it resembles a pop song. Although the CD is definitely interesting with its two lead singers and use of three languages, it probably won't show up on MTV anytime soon. Check it out, anyway--it's a great album for driving, cleaning your room, or if you're especially bored and need to be waken up by loud French and Italian songs.

## Books

### *Fleur de Leigh's Life of Crime*-Diane Leslie

When my uncle's friend sent me this novel I'll admit I was a little put off by the corniness of the title, but by the end I loved this book. The novel is narrated by Fleur de Leigh, daughter of a radio star mother and producer father, and focuses on her youth in Hollywood. Each chapter focuses on one of Fleur de's many nannies, to whom she is more attached than her own parents. Fleur de has the childhood one would imagine for a child of Hollywood parents in the fifties; she is ignored, taken care of by nannies, seemingly unloved by her parents, and generally unhappy, but she seems smarter and better than the average child. Coming of age novels tend to slip into the overly sentimental category, but *Fleur de Leigh's Life of Crime* ends up simply being a strong and touching debut novel for Diane Leslie.



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## SOA Performance Reviews by Sohayla Roudsari

### 1999 Artsmart Production

Every year the seventh grade puts together "Artsmart," a performance which includes a representation of every art area. The show is used to recruit the next sixth grade class to SOA. The 1999 Artsmart production was an improvement from those done in the past.



This year's Artsmart theme was "Nothing to Hide," but you would not have known that from the theater skits that served as breaks between the larger numbers, which at times incorporated as many as four art areas. The theater class seemed to have talent, but the skits for the most part served as comedy acts rather than theme-related bits; while at a few points the theme may have been mentioned, the emphasis was on the corny jokes. The band majors opened the production with enthusiasm and excitement, creating an upbeat, make-you-want-to-dance atmosphere; to say the very least, their selection was well played. The visual artists did a great job with the sets that make the stage look much brighter. The readings done by the creative writers were extremely good; the colorful imagery in their pieces set the stage for the dancers who showed great skill in their physical portrayals. In one particular piece the strings majors accompanied the dancers, and in doing so displayed their room for growth. The piano accompaniment provided by piano students at SOA was a wonderful touch. The vocalists sang very well, and the sign language was a nice addition to their performance.

Overall, Artsmart was a success. One fifth grader said, "The production was pretty good because it made it look fun and it encouraged students to try out for this school." The production brought fun despite the cramped seating, into the SOA Blackbox Theater, making its audience smile and most likely bringing a few more upcoming sixth graders to SOA.



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### The SOA Showcase

SOA Student Council and advisor, Ms. Laura Tisdale, sponsored a high school showcase on October 28, 1999 from 7 to 9 pm. The turn-out was great; the Blackbox Theater was able to hold the audience, comfortably.

The Showcase included about ten acts, most of which were vocal performances. Many local celebrities attended as judges; they included Nina Sossamon, Spencer Pryor, Rick Swiner, Baby 'J', Tessa, and Danny 'V'. The opening number sung by Kristin Moore, Husain Williams and Tyrone Williams

entitled, "Total Praise," was breathtaking. Their performance won first prize as a group; each person in the group won a gift certificate from the Citadel or Northwoods Mall as well as a group trophy. Todd Adamson sang a piece called, "A New Life," and swept the audience away in his dramatic performance, winning the first prize for an individual and a Motorola pager from Radio Shack. Scott Adams and Carol Jordan, as host and hostess, skillfully led the Talent Showcase through a few rough spots during the program; they were wonderful. The reception afterwards was dainty and a very nice addition to the show.

The Showcase was a successful fund raiser and a great featuring of the talent here at SOA. The event raised about \$300 for the Winter Cotillion this December, which will be put together by the High School Student Council. The Showcase was fabulous fun; a night of comedy and a showcase of shining stars.

### Juniors perform *The Importance of Being Earnest*

On the 11th and 12th of November, the eleventh grade theater department of SOA put together their best production yet, *The Importance of Being Earnest*. The lighting was done by Lauren Fanning and John Chritton. The set was brightly colored; the design was simple yet sophisticated, especially since the play takes place in 1895 London.

Scott Adams starred as John, or should I say "Earnest." Entering smoothly, suavely, into Act I at Algernon Moncrieff's flat, sporting a gait filled with confidence and a hint of arrogance, Adams was able to portray the dynamic nature of his character and achieved near perfection. His dialogue began with Algernon introducing into the play Adam Kassim. The comedy was uncanny! Both actors had strong English accents which were extremely useful in creating the proper English atmosphere. Lady Bracknell, Kate Colbert, entered the "flat" and drew in the audience with her dramatic portrayal of the conservative English elite. Her performance was outstanding. Lady Bracknell's daughter, Gwendolen, was played by Jessica Grant ham. Gwendolen's character held great potential, but lacked development. Algernon's butler, Justin Babcock, Lane, was just the right touch of humor Act I needed.

Act II, which took place in the garden at the Manor House, introduced four new characters: Merriman, Reverend Chasuble, Miss Prism, and Cecily Cardew. The act begins with the quaint, very proper ladies, Miss Prism, Ashli Bogart and Cecily Cardew, Tracy Cantwell sitting at a small table discussing in their English accents Cecily Cardew's studies. Cantwell brings out an innocence in her character that is done remarkably well and with great poise. Todd Adamson, Merriman, is an older gentleman who is the butler of the Manor House; Ryan Scott, Reverend Chasuble, is a young man who is romantic with Miss Prism.



Ashli Bogart as Miss Prism

Act III featured all the primary characters and was a wonderful finale to this comedy. Colbert as Lady Bracknell, steals the show with her naive, but strong dialogue with both bachelors, Algernon and Earnest, over their marriages to Cecily and Gwendolen.

I attended the Friday performance; Thursday featured a different cast which included: Brandy Richardson as Gwendolen, Benedicte Boutrouille as Cecily Cardew, and Ann Carter as Miss Prism. This play was the last performance of the eleventh grade theater class. Directed by Michael Locklair and managed by Kristin Moore and Russell Patterson, *The Importance of Being Earnest* was a wonderful success.

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## Featured Art: Creative Writing

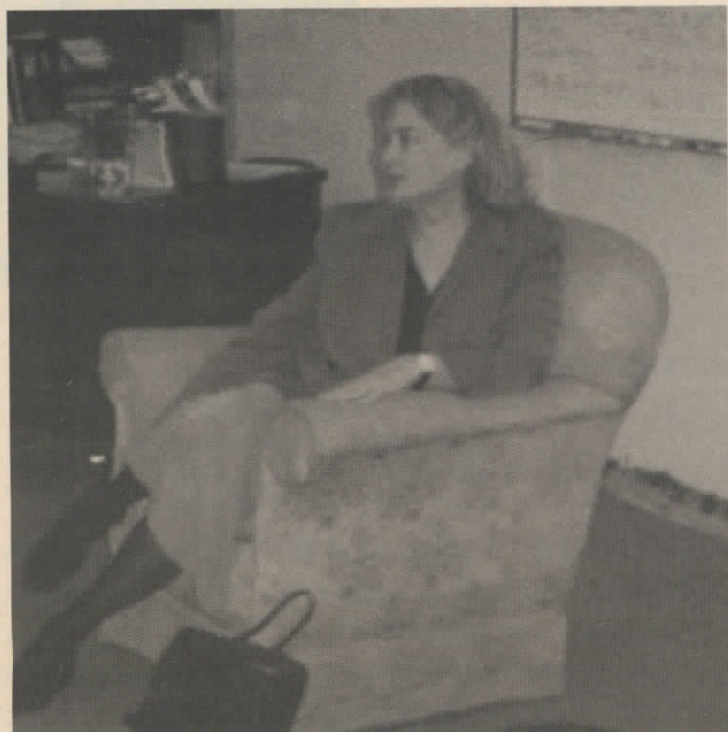
by Christina Davenport

When you walk into Mrs. Miles' creative writing room, you will see students hunched over books, papers and computers, working meticulously on a variety of projects. These are the aspiring authors of the 21st century.



Mrs. Rene Miles helps a student and ninth grades. Her sixth grade class is in the process of learning the basics of poetry. They are working on producing a series of poems which focus on people. They are required to write five poems for this project, the first of which should focus on an important individual in their life. The second poem should focus on a famous person, living or deceased. Their last three poems are to be about anyone that interests them. They can write a eulogy, an epitaph, a love poem, or any other type of poem they choose. The eighth graders are studying formal poetry. They have practiced writing sonnets and sestinas, two very difficult styles of poetry. The freshmen are working on projects based on famous poets, such as Maya Angelou, Pablo Neruda, Langston Hughes, Carl Sandburg and William Butler Yeats. They will read a biography, or an autobiography, a collection of poetry written by the author and must analyze the poet's work in terms of his life. At the end of this project, they will give a presentation on the poet they researched.

Mrs. Miles has three projected goals for her students this year. She plans for all of the students to participate in two readings, one of which has already occurred for both middle and high school writers.



Josephine Humphreys visited the high school Creative Writers

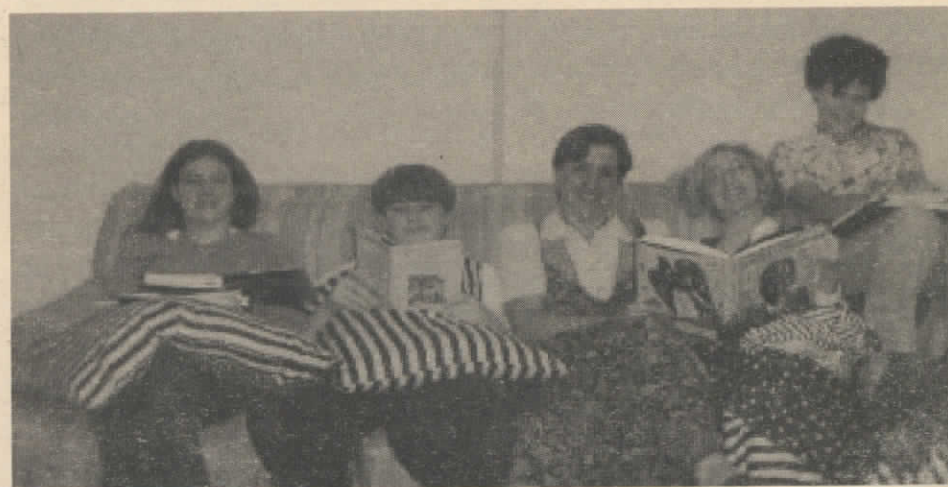
Students in this major are taught to imitate skills they learn from reading the work of published authors. They are put into student response groups where they revise their work two to three times before turning in the final copy. They are gaining experience with the different genres, which include drama, fiction, nonfiction, and poetry.

Currently, Mrs. Miles is teaching the sixth, eighth

Both readings were held on Stage Two of the Black Box Theater. Secondly, Mrs. Miles encourages all of her students to submit to contests, including Poets and Painters and Scholastic, the most prominent national writing contest around. High school students must also submit to two magazines to gain experience in submitting work to publications. In past years, SOA students have been published in *Cicada*, *Scholastic* and *A Celebration of the Carolina's Young Poets*. In addition to these publications, the students will submit to *Cricket*, a children's magazine and *Merlyn's Pen*. However, the main goal for the creative writers this year is that each will develop his own voice.

Clearly, these strategies work. Students in Mrs. Miles' class appreciate their freedom, "We like to relax and have the freedom to write what we want to write," says high school creative writer Eliza Presson.

At the end of the first semester, Mrs. Miles and, the other creative writing teacher, Mrs. Hart will switch classes. Mrs. Hart is currently teaching the 7th, 10th and 11th graders, and specializes in drama and fiction. Since both teachers specialize in different areas of writing, the



Mrs. Miles with her ninth grade writers

students become well rounded writers by the end of the year.

Mrs. Hart's 7th graders have just finished working on their Art Smart pieces. They each wrote three stories, some of which were used in the Art Smart performance. They have recently finished writing short stories and are planning to write a children's short story in the near future. The sophomores are participating in a Fiction Writing Workshop and are studying each element of fiction writing. Finally, the juniors are studying Southern writers, such as Josephine Humphreys, Eudora Welty, Peter Taylor, and James Dickey. Next, they will focus on the differences between feminists and masculine authors, some of which include Joan Didion, Toni Morrison and Natalia Ginzburg. The focus will then switch to male authors, as part of a unit on gender in writing. Next semester they will focus on developing their voice. "Voice is the manner in which the story is told, Mrs. Hart says. Just as artists have to find themselves, she says, "writers have to find what they want to say and how they want to say it,"

Mrs. Hart requires her students to submit their writing to *Scholastic*, and also encourages them to submit to three additional publications this semester. Mrs. Hart hopes that by the end of December some of the creative writers will



## Featured Art: Creative Writing

have had their work published. Another goal for the creative writers is that they will create half of a year long



Mrs. Beth Webb Hart with a seventh grade creative writer.

portfolio of fiction while in her class. She also wants them to be able to meet with published authors throughout the year.

Most of Mrs. Hart's teaching strategies are the same as Mrs. Miles'. She requires that students read published work, write their own work, edit it three times, critique it, rewrite it, and finally, turn it in. "We follow the format of a college writing course," says Mrs. Hart.

Although Mrs. Miles and Mrs. Hart teach their students separately, sometimes they combine their classes when a published author is coming to speak or when taking an educational field trip. For example, both Mrs. Miles' and Mrs. Hart's students heard Josephine Humphreys speak on November 11th. Later on in the year, they will hear Paul Allen, published poet at College of Charleston, and Dennis Stiles, of Poets and Painters. Also, on October 27th, all of the creative writers visited the Gibbs Museum, to tour the exhibit of the featured show called "Water". The younger students heard a speaker talk about the show. Each student will now have to choose a piece of work that they saw to write about, and they will enter these pieces into the contest.

Creative writing students appreciate the privilege to be exposed to successful authors and their works, and hope to join the ranks themselves in the near future. Any creative writer that we ask seems to have something good to say about the class. In the words of first year creative writing student Nikki Griffin, "I enjoy being a creative writer because it's a new experience and I find I am very excited about learning more." Melissa Annand, 7th grade creative writer says, "You're able to let your emotions and your feelings out, and it feels better to let other people know what you're feeling."

reds and blues and yellows, for that is our job. But as night drew near the light faded and we were overcome by a sinister darkness, no moon even. Then the wind howled and soon hail clashed against our frail glass bodies. We trembled and shook as the wind tore at us, pulling us away from our friends. Then we fell, I was high above the ground, and it was a long fall to the hardwood floor. Our beautiful glass tapestry which had once stood proudly in the tall window was destroyed, and each of us exploited. No one at our sides to complete the pattern, we were reduced to some strangely shaped and colored glass fragments laying helplessly on the ground. The wind poured in through the now unprotected opening. As we were blown around the room we lost our way and had no hope of putting our pattern together. The wind was too powerful, and we were nothing. But there was once a time that we beautifully crafted together to form a picture. But that time was so long ago, so long ago, before the wind.

### **My Grandfather** by Dalia Dalili, 6th Grade

I look  
at the old  
picture.

I see  
white hair,  
pale wrinkled skin.

I scan  
his cream shirt,  
brown pants.

I heed  
his black loafers,  
one tassel missing.

I gaze  
at his thick hand,  
holding my grandmother.

I stare  
at his warm hazel eyes,  
full of hope.

I imagine  
him falling down and down,  
the steps of his house.

I long  
for that white hair,  
wrinkled skin,  
warm eyes,  
thick hands.

I long  
for my  
grandfather.

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## Student Writing

### **Shattered**

By Branden Dunleavy, 7th grade

Shattered to the ground, every last glassy, translucent piece, blown in a million directions. By shrieking winds of hate. It was a peaceful day, each of us shining beautiful color onto the floor, illuminating the room with



## Student Work

### Gunnysack

by Rachel Goldstein, 7th grade

Neon strobe lights could be seen dancing to the beat of music behind the heavy metal doors. A white burly unshaven guard stood, facing the alleyway, his huge arms folded toughly over his massive chest. Chauntice sighed, gathering every nerve and bit of courage she had. She knew she wasn't supposed to be in this neighborhood but there were no 'Negro' dance clubs nearby. The tantalizing music always lured Chauntice away from her senses, making her forget her whereabouts and herself. Her mother's gunnysack dress had looked so beautiful hanging there alone in her mother's closet. Chauntice remembered the cold glass of the big bay window in front of the club. She remembered watching the manager sweeping the empty dance floor in the morning, on the way to the bakery. She had imagined what kind of people had inhabited the dance floor the night before, when the satin curtains were closed. Beads of sweat trickled down her mahogany forehead making brooks coarse down her cheeks. The sticky California air clung to her mother's gunnysack dress, the pleats at the skirt billowing around her knobby knees. She reached for her 14kt gold cross that hung around her neck swaying gently with the heavy heaving of her chest. The guard stood, wetly cradling a cigar between the firm thin creases of a mouth. He stared straight ahead, cautious of any lurking creatures approaching in the night. Chauntice crouched lower still, her ankles cramping her eyes straining to see the guards every motion. Chauntice crept towards the front of the guard, concealing herself in the shapes and shadows of objects carelessly tossed in this narrow dimly lit alley-way. He puffed the last of the cigar, the ends burning down to the tips of his thick fingers. He flicked the end away and turned, opening the door disappearing into the imese crowd and throbbing beat. Chauntice darted out immerging from behind a dumpster quickly slipping her narrow foot between the sliver of light illuminating the dim alley-way.

Chauntice peeked inside the club, her eyes widened at the sight. Ladies in beautiful long dresses that clung to their waists, tightly hugging their breasts. The spotlights reflected off of shimmering red sequined gowns shuffling and twisting on the polished and waxed hardwood dance floor. Chauntice could not control the strong urge, the music began to pulsate through her body forcing her to gravitate towards the dance floor. Her hips began to sway uncontrollably and her overwhelming fear had disappeared suddenly as if magically turned off. The lady's in gowns and men in pinstriped pant suits turned, looking at Chauntice, conversations fell silent the music and the taps of Mary Janes against the wood on the dance floor. The song ended and Chauntice became aware of her audience. She didn't, couldn't look at their pale faces, she could already feel strong eyes staring hard, penetrating through her, right through her. She shuffled towards the back in the alley-way the door through which she had so foolishly come into this place, this was a place where she surely did not belong. Then she heard it that startling coordinated rasp of enthusiasm and praise. Chauntice heard applause, applause for her. A beautiful gloved hand grabbed Chauntice by the elbow and guided her back through the stunned, parted crowd. Chauntice grinned sheepishly, her white teeth and chapped lips, spreading tight. The crowd resumed their laughter and and conversations, turning away from Chauntice, ignoring her differences. She felt warm and happy in this new place under the spotlights and air thick with music. Chauntice sighed, contently realizing she belonged, somewhere, at last..

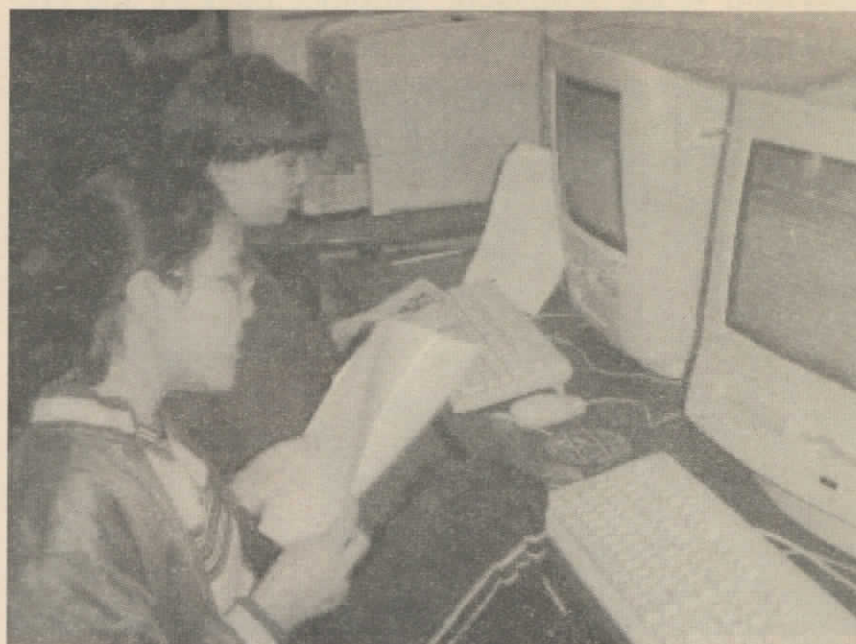


Photo by Traci Cantwell

Middle School Creative writers work on their stories.

### Plastic Cups

by Jennifer Haycook, 9th grade

She washed plastic cups,  
reused them,  
collected butterflies  
and loved biscotti.  
Before my first communion  
she brought me unblessed hosts.  
I practiced placing them on my tongue  
and letting them dissolve in my mouth,  
Her house always smelled like a basement.  
The spare bedroom was  
filled with unopened gifts.  
In September,  
her hair was long and unwashed,  
the ends blond  
from a long-ago dye job.  
She couldn't even climb the stairs.  
Her skin dangled from her arms  
and she barely touched  
the butter cookies we'd brought.  
Prescription bottles five years old,  
collected on top of the refrigerator  
and a tupperware  
of corned beef that was barely recognizable  
sat inside.  
A wad of pension checks  
lay balled up in the trash can.  
Cable cut off  
the bill sat on her kitchen table.  
We told her  
it wasn't safe to live alone anymore.  
She flicked her hand and replied "Nah!"  
She still didn't listen  
when she was in the hospital  
and fell out of her bed  
in the night.

*Submissions for the Applause student work page may be dropped off at room #6 or e-mailed to [ccsoa@email.com](mailto:ccsoa@email.com). Please include your name, grade, and title of th piece.*

For more student writing visit [www.ccsoa.com](http://www.ccsoa.com)







## Mrs. Byars' Grandmother: a Hollywood Star

By Nicole Griffin

To many, she is known as America's Sweetheart, and to others Hollywood's Fallen Angel, but we know the late movie star, Linda Darnell, as SOA sophomore history teacher, Mrs. Valerie Byars', grandmother. Ms. Darnell was the subject of A&E's Biography on October 27, 1999.



Linda Darnell

The Texas-born beauty, born Monetta Eloyse Darnell, in Dallas, Texas on October 16, 1923, was one of five children born to a postal clerk and his wife. Her mother, knowing that Linda was destined for something special because of her rare good looks, encouraged her to get her start at an early age, modeling and appearing in local theater companies. "Hollywood moguls" sent scouts to the Dallas-Fort Worth area, where they held a beauty contest in search of new talent. Upon seeing Linda and her acting abilities, the scouts announced her the winner and arranged for a screen test with 20th Century Fox. But when her true age was discovered, 13 or 14 years old, she was sent home to work in local theater appearances for two more years. After these two years ended, Linda returned to California, and immediately her career was off and running. Her debut was in 1939 in the role of Marcia Bromley, a woman in her twenties, in *A Hotel for Women*; she was all of 16 at the time, but the producers falsified her age to permitted to cast her in the role of Marcia Bromley. She became the youngest leading lady in Hollywood history.

Hollywood, of the 1930s to the 1950s, controlled basically all aspects of the actresses' and actors' lives. Dates for balls and guest appearances, along with the movies in which they would act, were chosen by the moguls of Hollywood. On one of these designated dates, Linda Darnell was accompanied by one of the newer Hollywood faces, Mickey Rooney.

Darnell starred in a total of 46 movies. Of those, her most famous titles include *A Hotel for Women*, *The Mark of Zorro*, *Day-Time Wife*, *Star Dust*, *Blood and Sand*, *Rise and Shine*, *Hangover Square*, *Centennial Summer* with the legendary Lillian Gish, *My Darling Clementine* co-starring Henry Fonda and Victor Mature, *Forever Amber* opposite Cornell Wilde, *Blackbeard the Pirate* along with Irene Ryan, Robert Newton, and William Bendix, and *Black Spurs*, which was her final appearance on the silver screen. Some of her other more famous



co-stars were Tyrone Power, Tab Hunter, and Kirk Douglas. She was awarded the Hollywood Star and was named one of *Look* magazine's four most beautiful women.

Darnell is reverently remembered in Rome as not only a famous screen star but also a "talented American educator." She helped establish Girls' Town, a villa in Rome that would be a home for orphaned and underprivileged girls. Girls' Town's establishment was an engagement present from one of her fiances' families. She sought the assistance of the founder of the Boys' Towns of Italy, Monsignor Carroll-Abbing; he introduced her to Mother Dominic, "a woman of exceptional ability and rare sensibility" that could assist her better than he. "Linda had once said to him, "After spending my life teaching the daughters of the wealthy, I would like to dedicate myself to those who are the poorest."

Darnell was married and divorced three times. Her first marriage was to J. Peverell Marley, Mrs. Byars' grandfather, from 1944-1952. She adopted Charlotte, "Lola," Mrs. Byars' mother. Her second was to Phillip Liebmann, from 1954-1955. Her third was to Merle Roy Robertson, from 1957-1962.

On April 10, 1965, Darnell had been watching one of her first films, *Star Dust*, at her one time secretary and good friend, Mrs. Curtis', home when the house caught fire, shortly after midnight. Not knowing that the secretary's daughter had safely escaped the burning house, Linda continued looking for her and died of burns she suffered from the fire. The "girl with the perfect face" died at the age of 41. Her daughter, Lola, was left with the Curtis' because Marley, her first husband died a year earlier.



Lola Marley with her daughter, SOA teacher Valerie Byars, at a reception for Marley's mother, Linda Darnell

For more information on Linda Darnell, visit these links at :  
[library.uncwil.edu/archives/mwglid/index.html](http://library.uncwil.edu/archives/mwglid/index.html)  
[www.fansite.com/linda\\_darnell.html](http://www.fansite.com/linda_darnell.html)

These movies featuring Linda Darnell will air in this month:

*The Mark of Zorro*, TCM, Thu Dec 16 8:00 PM

*Hangover Square*, TMAXE, Fri Dec 17, 6:30 AM

*No Way Out*, FXM, Sun Dec 26 8:01PM

# WWW.CCsoa.com

The new official website of the Charleston County School of the Arts



**January 2000**

Mon. 3	School Resumes
Thu. 6	7th Grade Math Event Improv. 7pm
Sat. 8	S. Division B Auditions Walterboro
Thu. 13	D and T @ SOA 7 pm Bag of Art One 6th Grade 7pm
Fri. 14	End of 2nd grading period First Semester D and T @ SOA 7pm
Mon. 17	Martin Luther King Jr. Day-School closed
Tue-Wed 18-19	No Students
Sat. 22	All State Band Auditions-Columbia
Tue. 25	Theater Students to Dockstreet 8:35-1:00 pm

**HAPPY 2000!**

**Good Luck Ms. Laganella**

The School of the Arts has enjoyed having Ms. Evelyn Ladue Laganella on board for the past several months. Ms. Laganella, who has been student teaching with Mrs. Yatsco, will be graduating from the Citadel with an MAE in December and is anxious to pursue her career as an English teacher.



"English has always been my first love," says Ms. Laganella, who also earned a BA in Art History from the University of Georgia in 1994.

"I've always loved to read," she says. As a student at Ashley Hall, the Charleston native studied Advanced Placement English and scored a perfect "5", on the rigorous AP final, earning early college credit and exempting herself from English 101 and 102. Ms. Laganella encourages students to enroll in AP courses themselves. Not only was she better prepared for college, she says, but it allowed her to take more advanced English courses as a

freshman.

Ms. Laganella was also able to graduate from college early and enjoy some time working at a lodging resort in Montana. The resort recruited graduates from her university because they wanted a taste of Southern hospitality, she says. This move afforded her the opportunity to hike and travel throughout the West. Upon her return to Charleston, she worked in a brokerage firm before deciding to pursue her master's degree.

Ms. Laganella feels fortunate to have worked with Mrs Yatsco, who was a finalist this year for CCSD "Teacher of the Year." She pointed out that Mrs. Yatsco is not merely an excellent classroom teacher, but has so much to offer to a student teacher. "She taught me how to help students understand literature; but more importantly, she has taught me to help students discover who they are," she says.

Ms. Laganella says her experience here has been "wonderful." "The students are gifted in so many artistic areas," she says, "not just the ones they have chosen."

Best wishes, Ms. Laganella, for a great teaching career.



**The New Rockettes**

Two of the world famous Rockettes appeared at SOA on November 19 to audition Middle School vocal majors for a part in their Myrtle Beach performance this season. The proud new recruits are Ava Hill, David Gettsinger, Lindsay Galliger, and Jason Gipson. Good Luck!

**ccsoa.com up and running**

The official website of The School of the Arts is on line and quickly becoming an essential resource for anyone interested in our school. The site currently includes information regarding past and future events, photos, an impressive showcase of student writing, and useful and entertaining links. Check back periodically. If you have something you would like to see on the web, e-mail the SOA Publications Department @ ccsoa@e-mail.com

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## SOA athletes shine

While many students still hope for a School of the Arts sports program, some have done the next best thing and have decided to play sports for their home schools.

Jennie Leonard has played softball for Middleton for years, and has been on their swim team for one year now. Despite the three days a week swim practice, the everyday softball practice, and the demanding homework schedule, she feels it is very rewarding, considering they won the district championship for softball last season.

Elizabeth Steele, who is currently playing her third year of volleyball for North Charleston and is new to our school, also says it is extremely hard to balance her volleyball schedule with her homework. She believes the hard work will pay off, however, and hopes her team will beat their record of sixth in the playoffs from last year.



Billy Conyers, Lizz Taylor, Elizabeth Steele, Ryan Young, Jennie Leonard, and Alison Palmer all represent their home schools.

Alison Palmer, one of our soccer players from James Island, has been playing for the Trojans for three years, and is currently awaiting the spring season. The Ladies' Soccer team practices everyday for about three hours, but due to the distance between SOA and James Island, she is always an hour late for practice. Her diligent efforts to balance her sports and academic schedules have obviously paid off because her team's record was 13-2 last year, and she remains an A and B student.



Rachel Floyd plays softball and volleyball for Middleton.

Shannon O'Shea, another James Island soccer player, is also playing his third year for the Trojans. The men's team practices everyday, also, but their practice starts later than the Ladies', so he has no problem making it on time. He says it's kind of hard to balance his schedules, but it is rewarding.

Good luck to all our athletes. We are proud of you.

As for the success of his team? "We won more games than we lost," he says. Not bad.

Julius Jones, our only varsity football player, is playing his second year for North Charleston High. The Junior Varsity team did pretty well last year, but he says Varsity may have to look forward to next year's season. When asked about how challenging it is to balance his football schedule with his homework, he stated, "Man, it's the hardest thing to do."

## SOA Yearbook on sale now

The 1999-2000 School of the Arts yearbook, now titled *Ovation*, is on sale now!!! This year's edition promises to be great, and we don't want anyone left out! The books will be 140 pages of color and black and white, featuring both middle and high school students. We realize that in past years, the cost of the yearbook was a problem, so if you buy your book before Friday, December 17, the price is only \$35!! However, if you wait until after the winter break, the cost increases to \$40 per yearbook. Please make all checks payable to the School of the Arts. Give all money and order forms to the office. If you could not make the December deadline, be sure to purchase a yearbook when we return from break.

## Horoscopes

by the SOA Astrologer

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Friends will turn to you for advice. Be cautious when making decisions.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20): Your hot tempered nature will bring on many disputes with your friends. Think before you speak.

**Aries** (March 21-April 19): Don't give in to the crowd. Be a leader, not a follower.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20): Family situations will improve. Listen to what others have to say.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20): All work and no play only brings fatigue. Take time to relax and renew your spirit.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22): Traveling opportunities will arise unexpectedly. Broaden your horizons.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22): Money making will become second nature. Don't spend it all in one place.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your romantic life will improve if you give it that extra push. The ball is in your court.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You need some changes in your life. Improving your appearance with a "new look" will bring the confidence you need.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): If you focus, you can reach your goals. Be persistent, don't give in.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Things seem bad now, but you will become content with a new hobby.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Turn your passion into profit.