

# Applause

Volume 1 Number 3

Charleston County School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC

March 2000

## A Letter from the Principal

Dear SOA Parent,

At our PTSA meeting, February 25, I addressed the fact that the budget for next year is critically short. Dr. McWhirt gives the figure of \$13 million short. This shortage is due to required increases in teacher pay and other programs required by the State Department of Education that must be funded from local dollars. Our local dollars are the same this year as last because there has been no reassessment of property taxes and the 90 mill cap prevents a millage increase. The county administration determines which programs to cut in order to meet the same budget we operated on this year while meeting required increases in spending. Every school will feel this 13 million dollar short fall in the number of teachers and programs we offer to our students. We are all waiting to see where the ax will fall, and the number of teachers we will be able to hire for the 2000-2001 school year. Obviously, teachers are the heart of the school programs. The program cannot be offered without the teacher to teach that program. All schools will be hard pressed to maintain the level of curricular offerings necessary for our students to compete effectively with students throughout the state including students from Berkley and Dorchester Counties.

I do not know, as yet, what effect this crisis will have on our school with our sixteen arts faculty. We cannot offer the programs in the arts without the eight teachers at the middle level and eight teachers at the high school level. They will have full schedules next year just meeting the required 100 minute class periods daily. We will also add twelfth grade, requiring four more classroom teachers.

The 90 mil cap must be addressed! I urge you to call our legislators and let them know your concerns regarding their lack of action. The budget, including the 90 mill cap issue, should be in the hands of the School Board. They were elected, by us, to be responsible for funding tax dollars to meet Charleston County Schools budget requirements. We elect these members every four years. We should hold them accountable and be there to encourage strong candidates to run with our support. Then, with your involvement, we will begin to make those things happen that will lead to a stronger school district, one you will be pleased to have your child attend. We can no longer be satisfied with schools as they are. We can no longer be satisfied with the 90 mill cap that prevents our schools from being on the cutting edge of educational programs, and maintaining the finest teachers and facilities. Please pick up the phone and call your legislators. They are supposed to represent us - all of us! What is more important to all of us than a strong education for our children?

Thank you.

Sincerely,

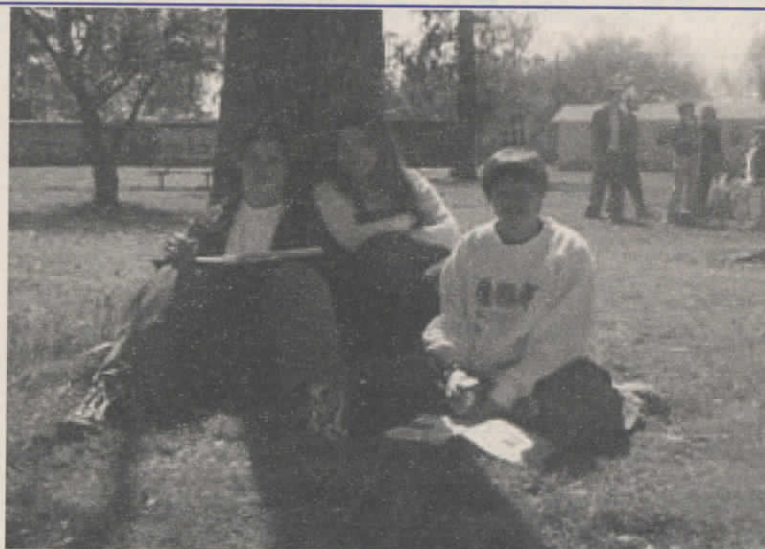


Rose Maree Myers

Please attend the Public Hearing at the Gaillard Auditorium on Monday, March 20th at 7 pm to voice your opinion.

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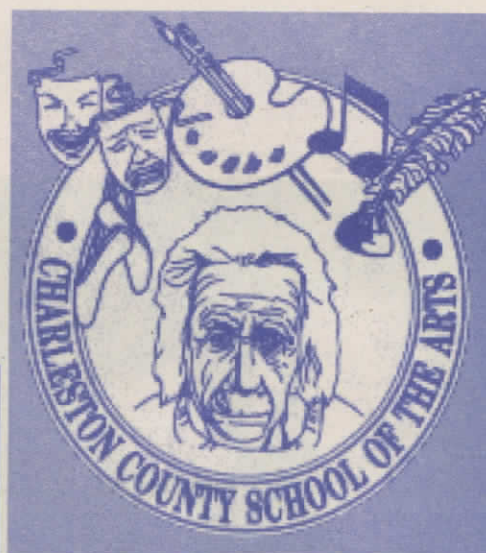
SOA students Keegan Reynolds, Jennifer Haycook, and Maggie Silver enjoy the spring sunshine. In order for SOA's future to remain bright, we need your support. Learn how you can help by reading the adjacent letter and the superintendent's letter published on page 5.

## SOA students take part in Young Americans Program

by Christina Davenport

If you happened to drop by Gaillard Auditorium the weekend of February 24th, you would've been surprised to find about three hundred young people, from grades four to twelve, singing, dancing and yes, even sweating! The three day workshop was hosted by the Young Americans, the first show choir in America. The group is composed of about a hundred and ten people, ages fifteen to twenty one, although the touring group is only made up of about forty of them. The Young Americans are on a "mission" to save music in the schools. For three intense days, students are taught a complete show filled with dance, songs and a little comedy. This year's theme was "100 Years of Music." One song was performed from every era, starting with the 1890s and ending with current times. Students are given the chance to audition for solos, and dance and acting opportunities. Junior vocal major, **Bonnie Tumbleston**, says "This was my second time performing with the Young Americans and once again, I loved it! I would love to be a Young American someday!"

The intensity of the workshop is evident from the first moment one enters the rehearsal. And yet, even with all of the hard work, vocal strain and sweat, students seem to have a great time. The students are split up into three choirs, depending on their grade level. Grades four through six made one choir, seventh and eighth another and all high school, grades ninth through twelfth, the third. Each group learns their own repertoire of music and dance number and performs on the last day of the workshop for family and friends. At the end of the show, everyone, including Young Americans, come together to sing the finale, "If We Hold On Together." The performance of this song at the end of the show has become a tradition for the Young Americans. Since strong bonds have been made between students and Young Americans, the song usually causes some tears to flow. The Young Americans' workshop is more than three days of singing and dancing; it's three days of making new friendships and finding out about yourself, not only as a performer, but also as a person.



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# Editorials, etc.

## Applause Staff

### Editor:

Chandler Jenrette

### Staff:

Tracy Cantwell

Christina Davenport

Katya Demcheva

Beth Frampton

Nicole Griffin

Antwyan Randolph

Sohayla Roudsari

Bonnie Tumbleston

### Faculty Advisor:

Mr. John Cusatis

*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.*

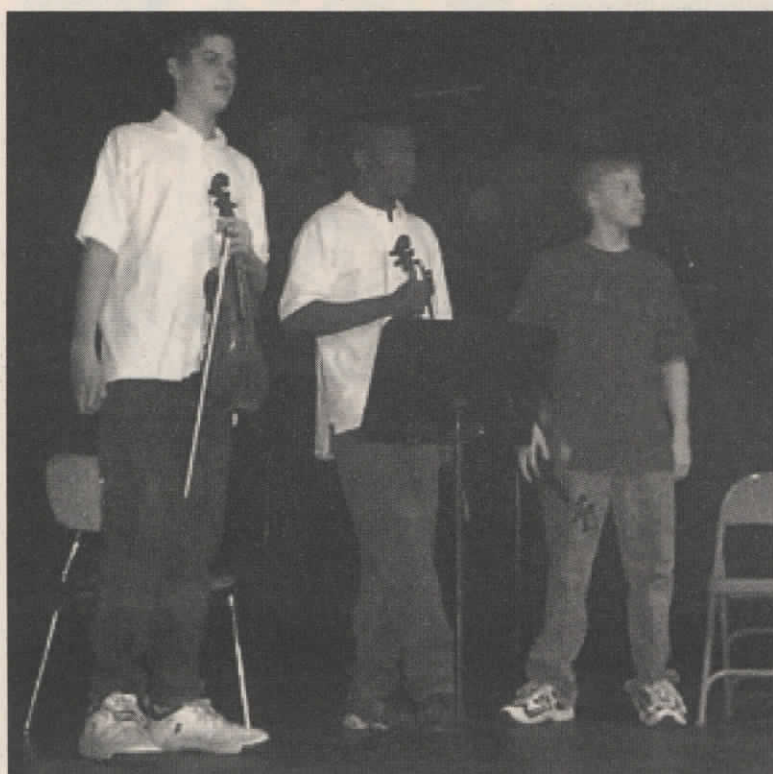
## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Once again I am proud of our SOA students ! Except this time it wasn't at a performance of dance, music, theater or an exhibit of art or creative writing. This time it was on the basketball court.

We are the "School of the Arts" but these students wanted to play basketball and so they did. They got together a team and applied to the North Charleston Recreational League. The Recreational department worked with them, because our school is located in North Charleston and the players may live outside the city, and gave them a "deal" on cost. Now all they had to do was "play basketball" and did they ! These young men played against all odds. They played against teams that had a fast break that wouldn't quit, defenses that were all over them, bad referees and broken score boards. Their determination could not be stopped, twice they came back from being down by 10 or more points only to lose by 1 or 2 points. Each game showed improvement, team work and commitment. Commitment from not just the players but the parents also. Three fathers gave their time to coach these players **Mr. Lewis, Mr. Bennett and Mr. Vaughan** worked together to support our team as did the players families. We may have had a handful of supporters but we werespirit filled and LOUD ! As I looked out on that court I not only saw dancers, artist, actors, singers and musicians I saw determined SOA students working hard, having fun and playing basketball. Thanks guys, I can't wait till next year ! GO SOA !

Sincerely,  
Teresa Shaw



Andrae Raffield, Devoe Sullivan, and Tim Smith acknowledge the audience in the Black Box theater after performing for parents who came to find out more about the School of the Arts.

## Forgiveness: What a Sacred Thing it is

by Christina Davenport

Forgiveness is a hard thing to give, isn't it? You have to swallow your pride and forget the hurt that others have inflicted upon you. And even though it's hard to do, forgiving heals our broken spirits, just as being forgiven does.

"Forgiving and being forgiven are two names for the same thing. The important thing is that a discord has been resolved." (C.S. Lewis) I know how hard it can be to look past an injury and forgive someone, but when we are deeply hurt, we never fully recover until we forgive. And besides, the human soul never appears so strong as when it pushes aside the thought of revenge and forgives. Too many times we allow our hearts to be hardened and we end once-cherished relationships over disputes that are, in the end, somewhat trivial.

Now, I know that there are two sides to every argument and that the people who are hurt don't see the problems as being trivial. But, if you stop and think about it, everybody makes mistakes. And in the long run, why would you want to end something good over life's inevitable disagreements? I know from personal experience how not being forgiven, or not forgiving can ruin a relationship. Holding onto your anger makes you a slave to revenge. Forgiving that person who has wronged you will not only mend a broken relationship, but will take a tremendous load off of your own shoulders.

So, whether you decide to forgive someone face to face, or to have it between only you and God, I strongly advise you to do so quickly. Anger and hard feelings are things that should not be held onto. You'll realize how good it feels to forgive and others will experience the relief of hearing those sacred words: "I forgive you."

## March Slang Glossary

The following expressions have been over heard on campus at SOA. If you have any suggestions, please offer them to Sohayla or Tracy.

1. Balla Blocka (n): A person that does not approve of guys that cannot commit to one girl. i.e. *That balla blocka snitched on Jamal to his girl.*
2. Bitin' his/her Steez (v): To cramp one's style. i.e. *My mom is pickin' me up from the party and bitin' my steez.*
3. Fit'na (v): Preparing to, getting ready to do something. i.e. *I'm fit'na go on a date with that boy I met at the club.*
4. In my Grill (v): (1) Being nosy about their business. i.e. *He was all in my grill and askin' me who that other boy was.* (2) Pestering someone i.e. *She's all in my grill callin' me at least twice a day.*
5. Score (adj.): Great, terrific. i.e. *We get to exempt exams. Score!*
6. Steez (n): Someone's personal style/image. i.e. *That boy wid' da new tims (timberlands) got steez.*
7. Straight (adj.): (1) An admirable sign of approval. i.e. *That new song by Jump Little Children is straight.* (2) A sign of agreement. i.e. *Mary: I'm getting a new car for my birthday. Bob: Straight.*
8. Stylo (n): Someone's personal style/image. i.e. *That new singer Pink with the magenta hair has her own stylo.*
9. Tight (adj): Also an admirable sign of approval. i.e. *That caddy with the 22 in. chrome rims is tight.*
10. Young (adj): Describes objects or items, usually clothes, that are too small and seem to be made for children. i.e. *Betty's shirt was so young that it ripped when she raised her hand.*

-by Tracy Cantwell and Sohayla Roudsari

## SOA FAMILY NEEDS OUR SUPPORT

Recently the family of one of our students, Tori Epps, had the misfortune of losing their home in a fire. All of their belongings were either burned or damaged by smoke. The SOA front office will forward cash donations or checks made payable to Collette Epps. You may also donate household items, such as bed linens or clothing in the following sizes:

-Women: size 16 – 18 pants, XL house dresses, loose fitting shirts

-Boys: age 6 – size 7; age 9 – size 14; age 12 – size 14; age 13 – size 14; also size 18

-Girls: age 4 – size 5; age 5 – size 7; age 15 – size 7/8

We thank you in advance for your support.

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

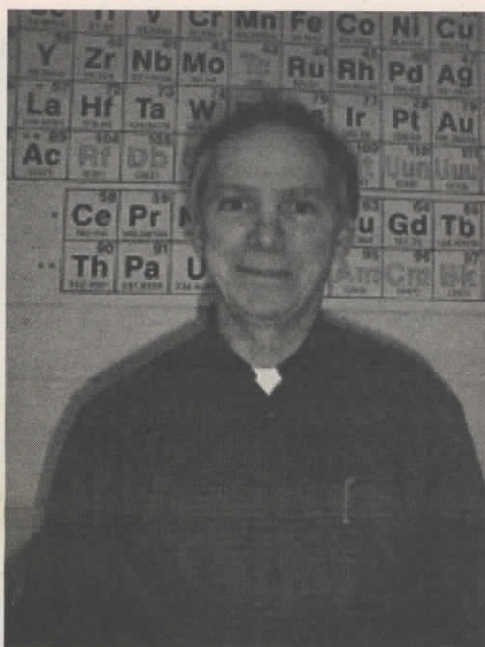
# Features

## Featured Teacher: Mr. Murray

by **Sohayla Roudsari**

Mr. Murray's German "assistant", **Loretta d'Diva**, stands erect in the right corner of the room, hair standing on end, both arms out to the sides. She wears a bright, peach-colored dress. Her bony figure is *quite* unattractive. Mr. Murray says nothing of her, but smirks as if he knew some bit of information the class did not. Scheduled for class that day is a test, about ten lengthy problems. The students sit, concentrating, struggling to get through each question when suddenly they hear the voice of a female opera vocalist. The students stare up at the skeleton as Mr. Murray stands at the front of the room grinning from ear to ear, both hands in his pockets. The class could hold back no longer; they burst out laughing. The thought of Loretta singing was simply unheard of; Loretta can't sing. Can she? Some say Mr. Murray held a tape recorder in his pocket, but no one has ever seen him with it or been able to catch him as he pressed play. Such is the atmosphere that keeps Mr. Murray's science students attentive.

Born here in Charleston, Mr. Murray "left five times, swearing never to return." Lucky for us, he did. Mr. Ed Murray attended the College of Charleston and earned a BS in biology. Graduating in the class of 1971, he went on to teach at Wando High School from 1987 to 1997, first teaching only biology and later moving on to teach AP biology and chemistry. After teaching at Wando High School for ten years, Mr. Murray came to SOA for a new teaching experience and because he saw the potential this school held. He had wanted to teach new and different things, like physics. He wanted the opportunity to explore other sciences, and at SOA, he had that chance. He felt that he could make a great impact on this school, after feeling frustrated with the lack of emphasis on education at public high schools in Charleston County for so long.



Keeping himself busy writing the curriculum for physics, as well as teaching honors chemistry, Mr. Murray's primary goal is to preserve his "love of the job." He says he would also like to learn more physics to become a more well-rounded science teacher. Mr. Murray believes that the most important part of his job is the "unspoken, unwritten curriculum," which models values and morals for students. As well as introducing students to science, he shows the students that they have the skills it takes to learn and apply their knowledge. He hopes for his students to enjoy their lives and appreciate what goes on around them, to understand a little bit about why things happen in the environment. People who are able to see and recognize things that others would not enjoy a wealth of opportunities available for a happy life.

Mr. Murray didn't always want to be a high school teacher. He planned to be the world's best research biologist. In graduate school, he studied ecology also. Prior to teaching, Mr. Murray was a minor bureaucrat and a research biologist. He also spent time in the Navy, but at one point he decided he wanted to help someone to make a difference: he chose to teach.

In his spare time, Mr. Murray enjoys watching birds, canoeing in the Ashley and Edisto Rivers and book collecting. In fact, in college Mr. Murray was an avid bird watcher, but his job is now too time consuming for him to pursue it. Some of his favorite writers include **Isaac Asimov, Flannery O'Conner, John Steinbeck and William Faulkner**. Occasionally, he attends literary lectures, including one recently that featured Southern writers. Mr. Murray enjoys collecting both for their content and monetary value.

Though one never would have guessed Mr. Murray had any family, he indeed does have kin. He has a sister who lives here in Charleston, an older brother who lives in Cleveland, Ohio and a twin brother whose whereabouts are unknown. He lives with two lizards, which he calls One and Two.

At Christmas time in 1998, Mr. Murray's first year at SOA, he was very involved in chemistry. At the time, he was having difficulty with one of his classes and was doing some last minute preparation when, while working diligently at the round table, he heard music echoing from the halls. Curious as to where this was coming from, he went into the hallway, the volume increasing as he gravitated toward the cafeteria with a few other teachers that heard it. He discovered there that it was SOA's orchestra rehearsing and as he sat down to listen to them he realized that SOA is about more than just chemistry or science or academics; it's about the arts too. "You have the chance to be a musician [or artist] who has a hobby doing science or a scientist who has a hobby playing music [or doing art]." It's easy to take advantage of the great opportunity to excel at more than just academics that this school offers. Mr. Murray sees the potential greatness this school has and believes the arts in education is a wonderful addition to schools.

## Horoscopes by the SOA Astrologer

**Aquarius** (Jan 20-Feb 18): Travel opportunities are on the horizon. Relax and enjoy.

**Pisces** (Feb 19- March 20): Continue to follow the path you're on. Don't give in to peer pressure.

**Aries** (March 20- April 19): Romantic encounters will begin happening more often. Don't ruin your reputation.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20): A hasty decision will cost you more than money. Approach everything with caution.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20): Everyone begins pouring their problems on you. Think twice before giving advice.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22): Your hard work will finally be rewarded. Bask in your glory - you deserve it.

**Leo** (July 23- Aug 22): Your romantic life will begin to pick up again. Have fun, but keep your priorities aligned.

**Virgo** (Aug 23-Sept 22): An overloaded schedule brings an equal amount of stress. Take life one thing at a time.

**Libra** (Sept 23-Oct 22): Attempt to make money in your spare time. Spend wisely- you may need it soon.

**Scorpio** (Oct 23-Nov 21): You may feel like your life is collapsing and nothing is going your way, but this too shall pass.

**Sagittarius** (Nov 22-Dec 21): Loosen up and go wild. It's time you had some real fun.

**Capricorn** (Dec 22-Jan 19): Problems in the family will bring you down. Remember that everything happens for a reason.

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## Reviews by Chandler Jenrette

### *Tumbleweeds*

*Tumbleweeds* tells the story of Mary Jo (**Janet McTeer**), her daughter Ava (**Kimberly Brown**), and their journey west, abandoning another abusive husband. The basic idea is almost a cinematic cliché: the pair leave behind their troubles in West Virginia and head to California in search of a new and better life. McTeer, who is Academy Award nominated for her role, does well making her character both likable and unlikable. Mary Jo is relatable; a woman who's had a difficult life and instead of confronting her problems, she runs away. Her relationships inevitably fail, ending in an abusive situation causing Mary Jo and Ava to move to a different state and restart their lives. After another failed relationship in California, this one with an abusive truck driver, Mary Jo is ready to run again, but this time Ava wants to stay. Ava in turn finds solace in the one nice, decent man in her mother's life, her co-worker, Dan. The movie is not just a growing up for Ava, but for her mother as well. The cinematography of the movie is interesting; at times it seems almost like a documentary--the camera is unsteady and jumpy, which is partly intriguing and partly obnoxious. McTeer definitely earns her nomination and Brown is excellent as Ava. The movie succeeds in that its message is clear; no matter how difficult life gets, everything is going to be all right.

### *Twin Peaks*

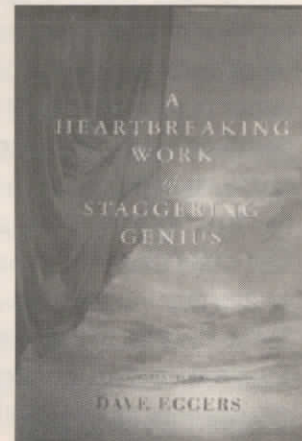
My family has an obsession with *Twin Peaks*. We have every show on tape, the soundtrack, and the *Twin Peaks* books. It's almost embarrassing. The show, which is currently being rerun on Bravo, originally aired in the early 90s. All you really need to know to watch *Twin Peaks* is that the show centers around the murder of the beautiful, teenaged Laura Palmer from the small town *Twin Peaks*. The star of the show is **Kyle MacLachlan** (who was in *Rich in Love*, which was filmed in Mount Pleasant), who plays agent Dale Cooper, a FBI agent sent to the town to investigate the murder. The show was directed and written by the very eccentric **David Lynch**, and gets weirder and weirder as it progresses (some of the characters include the log lady, who converses with her log, and the policeman Andy, who cries at every crime scene). Although the idea of the show might seem a little sketchy and bland, the show is intensely bizarre and quite captivating.



**Eighth grader Ben Fine stands next to his Science Fair project. A student in Mr. Cohen's class, Ben was one of several students who received honors in the week long middle school exhibit.**

### *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*-by Dave Eggers

Dave Eggers is the editor of the very funny literary journal, *McSweeney's*. When the author was 21, both of his parents died of cancer within five months of each other, and Eggers was chosen to be the guardian of his younger brother, "Toph," forcing both brothers to mature very quickly. Despite the depressing subject matter, the book is extremely witty. Although the memoir supposedly centers around the brothers, and the raising of Toph, Eggers gets sidetracked easily and tends to focus on himself and his work in San Francisco. The book doesn't always flow very well, which is in a way reflective of Eggers' disrupted life. Despite a few weaknesses, the book is a very interesting account of a very hard and strange time in the author's life.



*Applause* would like to applaud our wonderful cafeteria staff, Ms. Singleton, Ms. Rogers, and Ms. Rutledge.

## Sheila Wertimer

ASLA

## Landscape Architect

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# SOA News

## SOA facing "crisis situation"

*The following letter from CCSD Superintendent, Ron McWhirt, was sent to "All Employees" under the heading URGENT MESSAGE.*

As you know, we have not been able to lift the 90 mill cap on the school district's operational budget. This lack of adequate funding now places the district in a crisis situation. Never before have we faced a projected shortfall of this magnitude -- a \$13 million deficit going into the budget process for next school year.

In order to maintain the current level of services to students, we must increase the tax levy from 90 mills to 103 mills. A one mill increase in taxes on an owner-occupied residence valued at \$100,000 equals an increase of \$4.00.

The bottom line is we need your help in asking the members of the Legislative Delegation to take action to lift the cap. See our website at [www.charleston.k12.sc.us](http://www.charleston.k12.sc.us).

If the cap is not lifted, we have no choice but to cut approximately \$13 million from our projected budget. Since 87% of the budget is in salaries, our employees and our students will be directly effected. We are not in favor of any people and program cuts; but if we do not receive additional funds, they are inevitable.

What are some of the potential budget reductions? Anything that is not required is on the table for consideration. Following is a list of potential reductions now under review:

- \* No teacher salary increase
  - \* Freeze all employee salaries
  - \* All budget exceptions to school staffing allocations (except small/rural schools):
    - magnet schools
    - other school exceptions
    - special education positions not required by the state
    - specially funded programs - e.g. Reading Recovery, OASIS, etc.
  - \* Other employee reductions: administrators, teachers, teacher assistants, student concern specialists, other clerical support staff, central office administrators and office workers.
  - \* 10% reduction of every school and department budget to include salaries, materials, supplies, etc.
  - \* support for athletics (non-revenue sports) and school fine arts (band, strings, etc.)
  - \* Fund Balance Reserve (emergency fund)
  - \* Travel for staff development/training
- These serious reductions would result in significant consequences to students:
- \* more classes without certified teachers (additional teacher vacancies) larger classes
  - \* fewer programs and opportunities for participation in sports and fine arts programs
  - \* limits on expanding technology
  - \* transportation limitations/changes (magnet routes, special ed routes, longer routes, etc.)
  - \* early childhood/ CD programs reduced to half-day in some schools

Please know that neither the County Board members nor I want any of these reductions.

We must do everything possible to lift the 90 mill tax cap. Please attend the public hearing on Monday, March 20, at 7:00 PM at Gaillard Auditorium to voice your concerns and show your support for additional funding for schools. We cannot allow our students and schools to suffer the consequences of inadequate funding.

## SPRING GALA AUCTION

Friday, May 5, 6:30-9:00pm  
Riviera Theater, Corner of King and Market St.

No Admission Charge

Visa, MC, Cash, Checks Accepted

Music provided by the SOA Jazz Ensemble and SOA  
Woodwind Ensemble

Student art will be for sale, along with an additional 150 or more items, to be auctioned (silent and live)

Linda Page of Page's Thieves Market will be the auctioneer

- Here's just an idea of what we have:
- Lord Ashley Driving School- 1 Teen Driving Class
  - Charleston Outdoor Catering- Pig Pick'n
  - Teeth Bleaching
  - GAP Card
  - Picture Framing
  - 4 Busshels of Oysters Plus Free Steamer Rental
  - Waverunner Rental
  - Parasailing
  - Hair cuts
  - Skatells- Gold ring
  - Hand painted furniture
  - Birkenstock sandals
  - 4 Tickets to Best of Broadway Show
  - Art Work
  - Personal Trainers
  - Crabtree & Evelyn
  - Hopefully a surfboard (Like last year)
  - Stained Glass
  - Framed Library Print- from Kinkaid Gallery
  - Masterwork Series Season Tickets
  - Spa Services
  - Student Baskets
  - (There's Much More!)

Mark your calendar for a beautiful and fun filled evening!

Sponsored by the SOA PTSA

Would you like to contribute to the auction, but don't know what to do? Well, how about sponsoring the printing of our auction book?

1/4 page= \$200.00  
1/2 page= \$400.00

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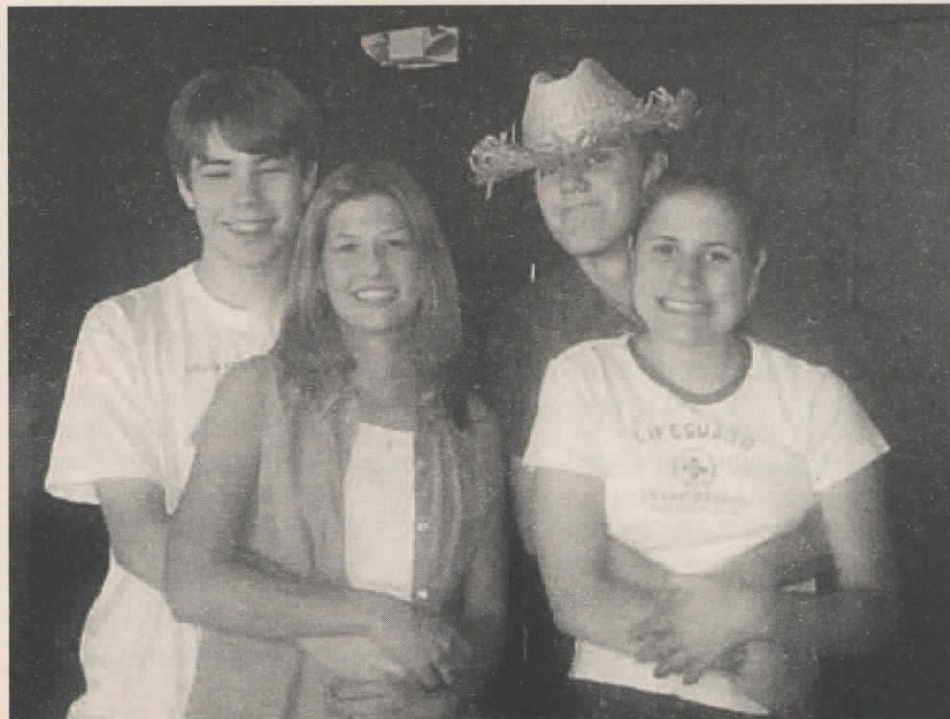
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## Featured Art: Theater

by Tracy Cantwell

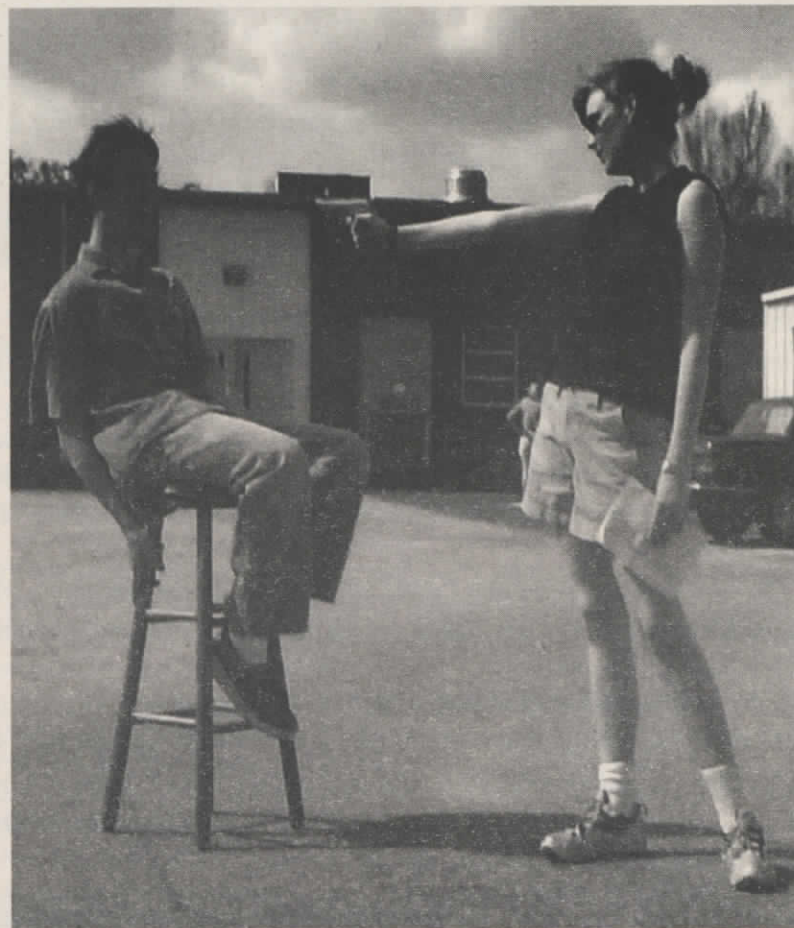
The Black Box Theater is known for housing most of the performances here at SOA, but its primary purpose is as the classroom for one of our most popular majors. "Majoring in theater is something I am so content with. It allows you to improve on skills you use on a day to day basis in a 'family-like' environment," claims Jessica Grantham (11th grade) about the close relationships that the theater majors have. Under the supervision of Michael Locklair, who has been with us since the beginning in 1994, the theater department at School of the Arts is gradually reaching his goal of becoming one of the strongest in the state.

Although he started out as an elementary school teacher, Mr. Locklair, better known as Lock, soon found his passion in teaching the-

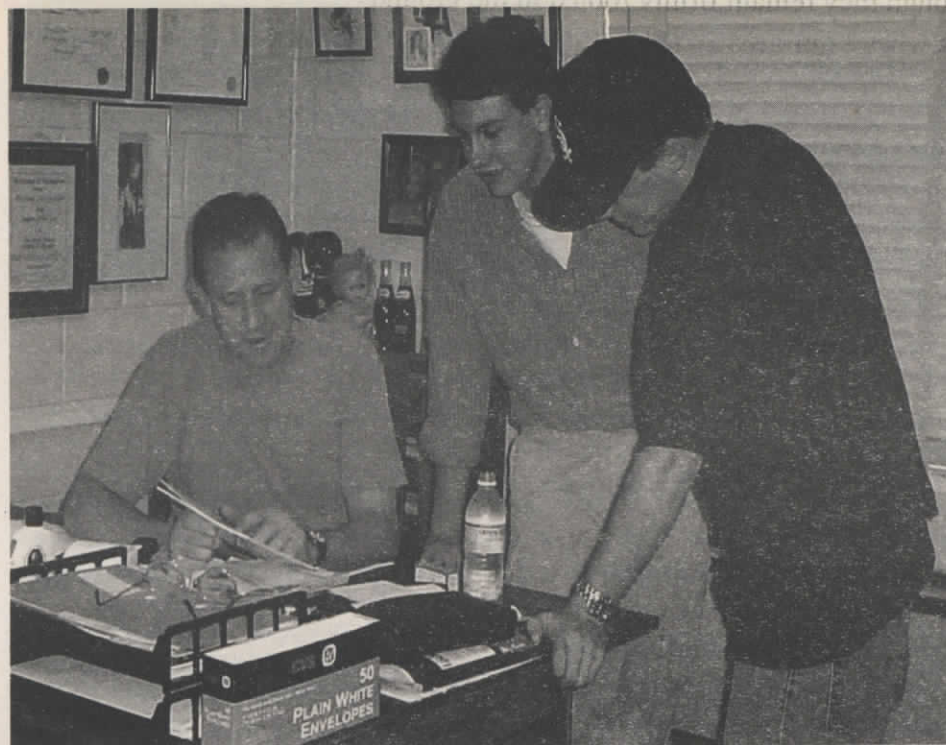


ater. He received his MFA in acting at Asolo Conservatory, is a member of actors equity, and has "worked all over the East coast of the U.S.," in regional theaters including those in New York. He was attracted to teaching at SOA because "It was a total school for the arts. This is the first total school for the arts I've ever worked in."

He says what he enjoys most is his interaction with his students; especially the older ones, "Because they understand my sense of humor better than the younger ones do." His strategy for teaching is to expose his students to all of the aspects of the theater from technical work to acting and allowing them to work in the areas that interest them the most. Justin Babcock, one of his juniors, likes "the fact that Lock gives us an opportunity to choose to work in technical theater, because sometimes I want to act and sometimes I want to work 'tech.' It allows us to work more effectively because we are choosing to do what we enjoy most." When selecting a student, Lock looks for openness, willingness, a desire to work, and potential more so than talent. He claims, "I'd rather have a student that really wants to work hard than one with lots of talent." He gets along well with his students and hopes that they all "become strong, confident communicators," because they can be anything they want to be with good communication skills.

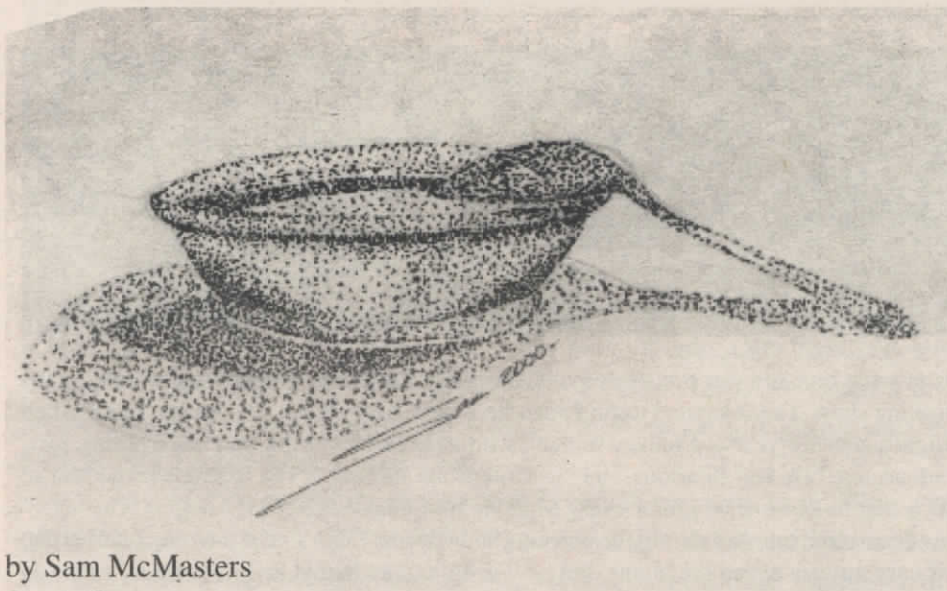


Mr. Locklair believes that the hardest thing for actors to grasp is "to get out of yourself [and] stop watching ourselves [because] we edit ourselves all the time." It is hard for a person to loosen up and stop worrying about whether or not they look silly, but our theater majors seem to handle this pretty well. This takes a lot of guts, but it makes the difference between mediocre and Broadway talent.



SOA's High School theater department is currently organizing the State Thespian Conference for this April. They are helping with registering the schools, scheduling the festival, and arranging the location for this acting competition. They are also currently working on our spring musical *Guys and Dolls*, which will be performed at the North Charleston Performing Arts Center on April 13 and 14 at 7:00 pm. Although most productions only need about 2 months to put together, the musical is getting about 3, due to the large cast and complications involved in producing a more complex show. Todd Adamson, a junior says, "Doing a major musical gives other majors a chance to participate in the aspects of musical theater. I'm very excited about being a part of this production. *Guys and Dolls* is going to be a huge success!" Mr. Locklair is also very excited about *Guys and Dolls* as well as about the future of the Black Box Theater and the SOA theater department. With the exposure to and support of the community, he hopes to see a larger performance space with more upgraded and effective lighting. He also wants to see the theater group become stronger and more popular as they progress. He borrows his advice for all of SOA's students from Stanislavsky by saying, "Love the art that is in you, not yourself in the art."

**Student Work**



by Sam McMasters  
Grade 7

**magnolia**

by Teresa Karr  
Grade 11

nature's firm arms envelop me and raise me  
towards ethereal clouds' ever-changing illusions.  
a green veil separates me from below.  
i observe, detached from the scene.

and when i've visited enough  
on this stranger's life beneath me,  
i settle into my comfortable perch  
to live this stranger's dreams.

many helpful hands wait to lift me  
beyond the unfamiliar world dimishing below,  
though they remain firmly rooted in the ground  
for when i must return to reality.

or so it was, when i was permitted  
a rare glimpse of my life from a distance.  
now i can only sneak up occasionally  
for a few more minutes of stolen dreams.



by Trey Williams  
Grade 7

**Exposure**

by Kimberly Anderson  
Grade 10

I touched you  
in the rain.

You ran naked  
through the mud with the smell of clean earth.

Let the droplets comb your hair and wash your face  
tickle your legs.

I met you  
in the dirt.

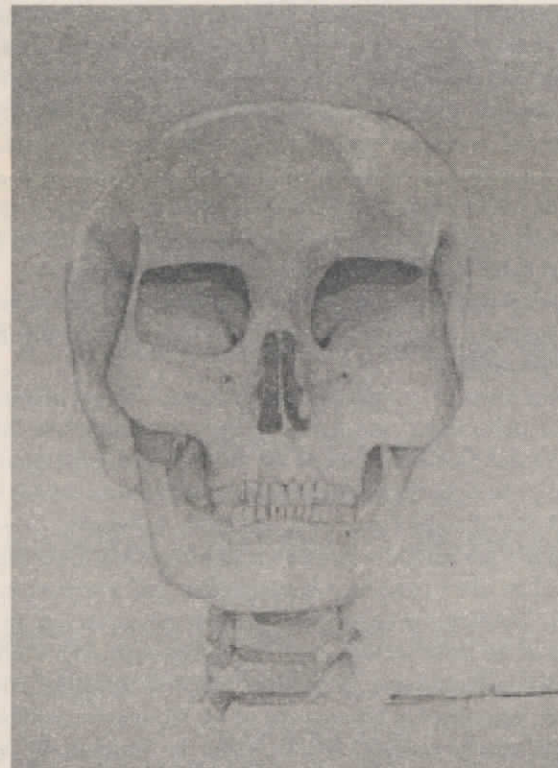
You walked barefoot  
in the woods over pine needles and bark.

Let the sun wrinkle your forehead and melt your body  
into pine sap.

I hid you  
in the sunflowers.

You lay stripped  
in the weeds tasting fresh sky.

Let the air inhale my body and create you.



by Bryson Cook  
Grade 8

**Rain**

By Amanda Thompson  
Grade 8

At first, a  
small seed.  
Struggling it slowly pushes  
through the thin crust.  
Then comes a little rain.  
Tiny seed turns into a seedling.  
Pale green stem  
Red buds  
But then the clouds come,  
Block the sun.  
Little plant wilts.  
The leaves fall.  
But then the clouds open.  
Translucent rain breaks  
upon the sickly plant,  
And the buds bloom.

**Want to submit?**

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

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

# Celebrity Interview

## ANOTHER SIDE OF THE CRITIC



by Sohayla Roudsari

Driving home from school one afternoon around 4:10 PM this past December, I happened to be channel surfing when I paused on 96 Wave. The show broadcasting at the moment caught my attention as one of the DJs cracked jokes on nearly every subject thinkable. Remarkably, the DJ sounded so much like Howard Stern that I initially assumed that the station was playing reruns of Stern's morning show, but in fact they were not. Following the station commercial, "You're listening to The Critic on 96 Wave,..." I heard a voice ad by the Critic that declared, "Mindspring... those who don't use it are %^^!#?%^."

Sound familiar? Who could forget the unforgettably rude, brutally honest DJ known locally as The Critic, fired from 96 Wave in 1995 only to return in 1999 and be credited with helping revive the station that struggled after his departure. Though The Critic is quite the character on air, when he visited the SOA Publication Department in February, he revealed Jim Voight, the serious off-the-air side of his personality.

After attending the University of Maryland for a short time majoring first in English, then in radio, TV and film, Voight decided to join a band and withdraw from college. As a band member he learned a lot about radio, music reviews and the guitar. Moving to Charleston, Voight began work for The Charleston Free Times and met the now ex-owner of 96 Wave. He was asked to do a segment on the top ten-rated albums and became a regular on Sunday nights, "The Cutting Edge." At this point, Voight became known as the station's music critic and soon after simply "The Critic," a name he claims to detest. "If you notice, I always have someone else announce me." Only two months later, the show changed in name and format. But when a slot opened, Voight joined Atom Tailor and together they developed it into one of the best morning shows in Charleston.

Weekdays at 4 AM, the morning show aired and became a great success in the Lowcountry. The Critic and Atom Tailor were the host characters featured on the show doing most of the production themselves. Not only was the show informative but also great entertainment. In fact, the show was primarily entertainment driven, while the promotions and creative material are what kept it popular and local. The show ran from 1992-1998 and was one of the top-rated morning shows until the day Voight calls "Black Friday." Ironically the same day that the City Paper named their morning show one of the Lowcountry's best, the show was dropped, the popular duo was fired.

The station owner decided to air the syndicated Howard Stern show. The unique part of 96 Wave was that it is a local station, run locally and aired locally. By airing Stern, 96 Wave lost a part of its identity.

Despite the fact Stern is "completely untouchable," Voight admits that Stern has always been one of his radio icons, and that with Stern in the picture the station is not unlike any other. Voight and Tailor had earned the number three ranking in the last rating period for their morning show, but personal problems with the ex-owner made the situation more complicated than it could have been, according to Voight.

Voight stayed in Charleston for about two months to sell his home and find work elsewhere. He received an offer from an Atlanta station and accepted it. There he produced a show entitled, "The Regular Guy show." He booked guests, set up interviews and supervised the running of the show for one year. Though he enjoyed his job, he spent most of his time off of the air, an experience he did not find very fulfilling. Although, he met sports caster Jim Roane, who quickly became one of his radio icons, and inspired some of his best material. Voight said he was also able to attend the Super Bowl. Moving to Jacksonville soon after, Voight stayed for only a short while when Uncle Myles Crosby called him to say that 96 Wave could offer him a better paying position and more agreeable time slot, informing him also of the new owner. After carefully weighing his options, he decided to decline an offer he received from Cleveland and accepted the offer from 96 Wave.

In addition to his afternoon time slot, Voight's responsibilities at the station include production, commercials and live appearances at Level 2 on Sunday nights, The Reef on Thursday night and Northside Nissan. An average workday is from 1 PM to about 7 PM, Monday through Friday plus the preparation time and remote broadcasts. That is aside from whatever time it takes to update himself on the most current issues, events and concerts. Voight does all his own production work and some of his voice advertisements. After his afternoon show, which airs from 4:30 PM until 7PM, he spends most nights out doing more advertising, bringing his workday to about ten hours. While working with Atom Tailor was a great experience that provided "a balance," Voight says he enjoys the complete control over his solo show. On his afternoon show, Voight is the host radio personality, and his featured guests include Scott Hanskey with the "4 o'clock Surf Report," a local restaurant owner "Georgie the Greek," Voight's father "Whitey" and Atom Tailor as "The Sports Guy." Tailor is now a TV sports caster for a Channel 2.

Despite the long hours, being a radio personality has its perks, Voight says. "Not only do you get the choice of any CD you want, you also get complimentary tickets to nearly any show in exchange for a review or promotion, free meals at nearly any restaurant," trips The Final Four. Also, being a local celebrity yourself, he says, you meet celebrities from a variety of forms of entertainment. Voight has met entertainers and community role models from nearly every possible field, from government officials to television celebrities and musicians. Voight says most every individual he has met has been very amiable, nothing like the stereotypical ideas that many people associate with them. Katarina Vitt, Mark Sanford, Strom Thurmond, Cameron Diaz, Jim Kelley, John Cress, Mayor Riley, and Jane Fonda, and the band Cracker are among his encounters.

According to Voight, some of the best radio guests are found by accident. One of

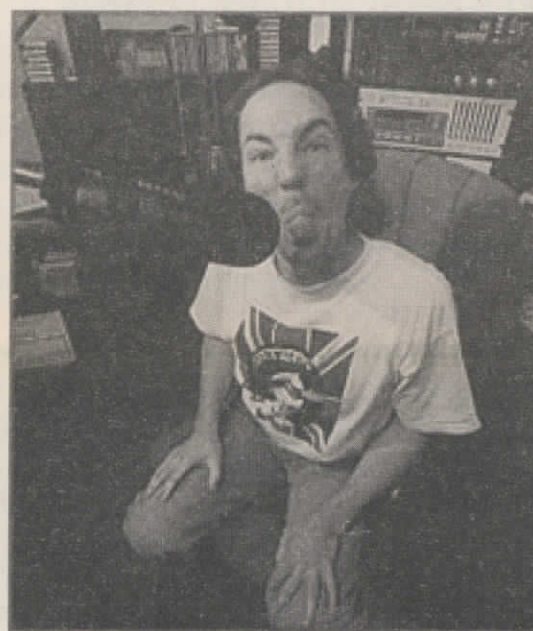
his favorite regulars was discovered one day while Tailor and Voight were still doing the morning show. Tailor wanted to find out where the Critic got his personality, so he called Voight's seventy-year-old father, Whitey, who lives in New York and has a strong New York accent. "He was hilarious," an "instantaneous success." The listeners loved him so much that he became a regular every Monday morning at 5:20 PM. Another "character" was discovered one day during the morning show when Tailor dialed a wrong number. An ordinary guy answered the phone, but he was so unique in that he had political views on every topic, opinions on everything and an answer for every question. His name was Johnny Allewein and they called him back fairly often since the listeners enjoyed his sense of humor and openness. The reason these characters are so well-liked is because "they are normal individuals that don't have reputations to protect," Voight said, "and that enables them to speak without reserve."

96 Wave plays a variety of music, including everything from heavy metal to mood music, from bands that range in exposure and popularity from internationally known bands to "garage bands" only familiar to the Lowcountry. Twice daily 96 Wave features a live show, "Locals Only," for bands exclusively from the tri-county area. To qualify, a band just sends a biography and a demo tape to 96 Wave and they play it. Some national bands that got their start on locals only include Jump Little Children, Edwin McCain, and

Hootie and The Blowfish. Most of the non local music is chosen by the program director, categorized primarily by the specialty shows such as the "Cutting Edge" Show and the Sunday morning Show "Overeasy." In 1995, when Hootie and The Blowfish gained international popularity Voight was working with 96 Wave, the first station to play Hootie and The Blowfish, giving them the local exposure they needed to get started.

Voight has a very rare deal with the station at this point, "I don't bother them about the music. They don't bother me about my [show's] content."

Though he does not choose the music he plays, he still enjoys it. He believes that out of



the local bands that Live Bait, The Blue Dogs, The Pondering, Frogmores, Quench and Velveeta will be most successful. Events such as the 96 Wave Fest, discontinued after Voight left the station, have offered local bands and other popular bands a great boost in their promotion while at the same time letting the tri-county hear them. Financed by businesses such as Arby's and a variety of beer companies, bands are flown in to stay at Charleston's best hotels. Voight is 96% sure that Wave Fest will be coming back this fall since its popularity was overwhelmingly apparent at the last one. He was also proud to announce the huge "Birthday Bash" concert at the Joe Riley Stadium, April 1st. The show's lineup includes The Black Crowes.

In addition to being a major media voice, the Critic is also known for his participation in local races. The Critic doesn't seem to mind at all that it is very hard to get past all his egotistical babbling about himself and his great body, going as far as naming himself "the health and fitness guru of Charleston." He attempts to justify this title by spending plenty of time in the gym and on the basketball courts. He claims he failed at basketball after college. "Failed athlete, failed musician," he jokes, in the characteristic self-deprecating manner. Voight has also run a number of 5k races as well as the 10k Cooper River Bridge. He was a celebrity race starter while he was still doing the morning show. He has maintained for quite some time "the best body in radio," despite his obsession with fast food.

Believe it or not, off-the-air Jim Voight is not the self-centered jerk he appears to be when he is on the air as "the Critic." Though there are many preconceived notions and common stereotypical assumptions already made about him, consider what I am about to propose to you. In person, Voight is a quiet, sedate man, who remains reserved and not nearly as bold as some might presume. In actuality, the character of the Critic, according to Voight, is more himself, revealing his true feelings and opinions through the outrageous nature of his radio personality. Outside the station, Voight is only a small part of his character, which very rarely seems to get any acknowledgment, much less reaction.

Even when he's not enthusiastic about going on the air, Voight manages to act it out, continuing to entertain regardless of distraction or personal problems, because according to Voight, "Howard [Stern] is the only one in radio that can get away with complaining on the air." And even Stern would not be able to do it if he didn't make it fun, which about sums up the purpose of The Critic's radio show; the art of entertaining people, keeping listeners amused, and having fun.

*SOA would like to thank the Critic for taking the time to visit us recently. We would also like to congratulate him and 96 Wave for sweeping all the radio accolades in the City Paper's Best of Charleston 2000. The Critic's show was named Best Local Radio Show and he was named Best local DJ. 96 Wave was chosen Best Local Radio Station.*



# PTSA News

**LETTER FROM THE PTSA PRESIDENT**

First, our January PTSA meeting included information regarding Charleston County School District funding. There was a strong sense of support for the lifting of the mileage cap. We must communicate to the Charleston Legislative Delegation that the present situation, with the school district severely underfunded, is unacceptable. Call each of them this week using the accompanying contact information. Let them know funding for our children's education is vitally important to you.

Second, SOA PTSA has been working on how we achieve effective communication with parents and students. Two major avenues we are using are 1) this PTSA page in the Applause and 2) telephone callouts of recorded information. You can also call the the Parent-Teacher Hotline @ 884-2278, ext. 7600. PTSA mailbox is #03. (These numbers are located on the back cover of your directory). Leave a message on the Hotline to give your feedback, suggestions or to add your student's name and phone number to the callout of recorded messages.

Third, please send in PTSA nomination forms that were sent home with students' interim reports. PTSA needs YOU to be involved!

Hope to see everyone at the March 23 PTSA meeting and at the JOE on April 16 for SOA day at the Riverdogs!!

Phyllis Gildea

**SCHOOL COMMUNITY MEETING**

March 20 @ 7pm  
75 Calhoun

to show support for the lifting of the 90 mil cap

**NEXT PTSA GENERAL MEETING**

Our next general meeting will be on Thursday, March 23, 2000 at 7:00pm, with pizza available at 6:00. Several critical issues will be addressed:

- 90 mil cap & next year's budget funding status
- Recognition of District IX Reflections winners
- History Day Presentations
- ELECTION OF 2000-2001 PTSA OFFICERS

-Nominating Committee: Mrs. Laura Tisdale, Mrs. Tish Carter, and Mr. Robert Badger.

-Nominations will also be taken from the floor  
Due to Spring Break and the school musical, "Guys and Dolls", there will not be any PTSA board or general meetings in April. This makes the March meeting even more critical. Please mark your calendars.

**PTSA CALENDAR**

- March 20- School Community Mtg, 7 pm
- March 23- PTSA Mtg, 7pm (pizza @ 6pm!)
- April 7- Deadline to order Riverdogs Tkts.
- April 16- SOA Afternoon @ the Joe, 2:05pm
- May 5- Auction @ the Riviera, 6:30-9pm

**SPEAK UP FOR THE FUTURE OF YOUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION**

Call your State representatives and let them know that you want the removal of the 90 MIL cap. If we want the educational needs of our children met, then we must provide the finances to meet the operational needs of our schools. Your representatives are:

**Senators:**

- Arthur Ravenel, Jr.-Chas.- B) 722-0174, (H) 884-0291, 803-212-6048
- Larry Grooms-Bonneau-(B) 888-381-5925, 803-212-6124
- Bill Branton-Summerville-(H) 873-3897, (B) 871-3420, 803-212-6032
- Glenn McConnell-Chas.- B) 763-0301, (H) 571-3921, 803-212-6340
- Robert Ford-Chas.-(H) 552-0777, 803-212-6124
- Ernie Passailaigue-Chas.-(B) 881-6645, (H) 722-0902, 803-212-6156
- William Mescher-Pinopolis-803-212-6000, (H) 899-6351
- McKinley Washington-Ravenel-(B) 869-2300, (H) 889-2440, 803-212-6040

**Representatives :**

- Converse Chellis-Summerville-(B) 937-9710, (H) 873-8459, 803-734-2937
- David Mack-No. Chas.-(B) 723-5989, (H) 760-0198, 803-734-3191
- Chip Limehouse-Chas.-(B) 577-6242, (H) 853-8781, 803-734-2967
- Floyd Breeland-Chas.- 803-734-2987, (H) 722-1878
- Chip Campsen-Chas.- (B) 722-0123, (H) 886-8454, 803-734-2970
- Mickey Whatley-Chas.- 554-9907, 803-734-2968
- Robert Harrell-Chas.-(B) 572-1500, (H) 556-9075
- Lynn Seithel-Chas.- 803-734-2948, (H) 795-0648
- Curtis Inabinett-Ravenel- 803-734-3192, (H) 889-3949
- Thomas Dantzler-Goose Creek- 803-734-2947, (H) 797-6449
- Seth Whipper-No. Charleston-(B) 740-7777, (H) 744-1976, 803-734-3067
- John Graham Altman-Hanahan-(B) 747-6461, (H)

Call the PTSA Hotline at 884-2278 ext. 7600, #3, or visit us on the web at [www.ccsa.com/ptsa.html](http://www.ccsa.com/ptsa.html)

**Do you need another copy of the School of the Arts Student Directory???**

If your copy gets "borrowed" or if you just want another copy to have at the house, SOA PTSA has some extras!! By request, we are making a limited number of directories available for purchase. Just fill out the form below and send \$3 for each directory you wish to purchase. You may make checks out to SOA PTSA.

Questions? Call Phyllis Gildea @ 881-2037

Name of person ordering: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student's name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

# SOA News

## High School News

### High Schoolers win awards in Merit Art show

The Charleston Artist's Guild's High School Merit Art show had three S.O.A. winners. **Marques Johnson** won second place overall while **Craig Baurley** won fourth. **Alex Liolio** received an honorable mention. The show will be at the Gaillard Auditorium from the 12th to the 24th of February.

### Student Council plan Island-themed party

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the Student Council sponsored island celebration on June 6th. An Island buffet will include foods such as jerk chicken, a whole hog, pulled pork, and many other treats. The students will dance to the music of Ros Bonghi, a reggae band. Be sure to buy your island attire for the party; **Ms. Tisdale** advises students to check out Old Navy's Hawaiian shirt selection, and says that the student council will be selling leis and beachcomber hats before the celebration.

### SOA to dump tobacco merchandise

SOA student council is continuing its Kick Butts campaign against teen smoking. From March 27th to April 5th there will be a tobacco merchandise site in the cafeteria for students to throw away any products with tobacco logos. On April 5th, the student council will throw away the merchandise in a dumpster.

### Elections for Student Council

High School Student Council will begin elections with election week, starting Monday, April 24th. Starting with an announcement on Monday, homerooms will nominate students for office on Tuesday. Winners will receive letter of acceptance the following day, and will have their names announced on Thursday morning. The elected students will give speeches in the cafeteria from 2:30 to 3:30 on Friday, May 5th. Elections will follow on Monday, May 8th.

## Middle School News

### Students qualify for National Beta Club

Congratulations to the following 7th and 8th grade students for meeting the qualifications for the National Junior Beta Club:

#### 7th Grade

**Denise Abbate, Lauren Adderley, Jason Basile, Meredith Benton, Amy Cheng, Lane Elsey, Sean Emmel, Hanxu Fan, Lindsay Funderburk, Shannon Gaetke, Maggie Harrelson, Quenby Keisler, Briana May, Katie Parvin, Lucy Polley, Randall Scarborough, Edward Yabut**

#### 8th Grade

**Becky Annand, Laura Benson, Courtney Clark, Erin Comar, Stephanie Dardin, Bessie Edwards, Bevin English, Jason Epstein, Rachel Fleury, Lauren Floyd, Emily Harkins, Maggie McAnnar, Meredith Neville, Eric Newman, Christi Norris, Robyn Oiejniczak, Jessie Rumph, Liah Wallace.**

These students have maintained a 94.0 average for the last 3 semesters. The Junior Beta Club (like the National Honor Society) is an organization that recognizes a student's academic achievement and outstanding character. The induction ceremony will be some time in late March or early April, depending upon when the induction materials are received from the National Beta Club home office. Club sponsors are **Mrs. Joanne Lannie** and **Mrs. Ann Marie Fairchild**.

### SOA students win art contest

SOA had three winners in a contest for Youth Art Month. Eighth grader **Jessica Corsaro**, Freshman **Stephen Chambers**, and Sophomore **Emily Dietrick** will have their artwork displayed at the Custom's House as a part of the Regional Youth Art Month exhibit from March 3rd to March 19th. There will be a reception held on March 19th from 2 to 4pm featuring the artists. Junior **Craig Baurley** will have his artwork displayed at the Richland County Library as a part of the state Youth Art Month Exhibit.

# !!!Spring Has Sprung New SOA Spirit Wear!!!

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher/Students Turn Forms & Money Into PTSA Box In Office By Wed. March 29, 2000.

\*See samples of shirts at PTSA meeting, March 23\*

### New Items!!!

#### Short sleeved Henley style shirt (no collar/3 buttons) with SOA logo in Red/Gold/Black on left breast= \$15

Choose color of SHIRT: ash, white, or black & Choose size: Lg Child, Adult M, L, XL, or XXL. Please indicate color & size of each shirt ordered.

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Short sleeved t-shirt with School of the Arts across the chest in Red= \$12

Choose color of SHIRT: ash, white, or black & Choose size: Lg Child, Adult M, L, XL, or XXL. Please indicate color & size of each shirt ordered.

\_\_\_\_\_

### Always Available!!

#### Bumper Stickers \$1.50 Each

School of the Arts (available to all grades)  
Where Vision & Talent Create the Future

Quantity Price

\_\_\_\_\_

#### School of the Arts (11th grade only)

Class of 2001

\_\_\_\_\_

#### School of the Arts (10th grade only)

Class of 2002

\_\_\_\_\_

#### School of the Arts (9th grade only)

Class of 2003

\_\_\_\_\_

#### SOA Key Chains \$1.25 Red/Gold

\_\_\_\_\_

Total amount: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks payable to: SOA PTSA

Contact Paula McLane w/questions @ 886-3225

# Calendar

## March 2000

## April 2000

15th-Rotary Star Show  
10th & 11th gr. Dance Majors to American College-GA 15th-19th

16th-6 Gr. Presents Bag of Art Two-BB 7pm  
6pm PTSA board meeting

19th- 10th & 11th Grade Dance Majors Return from American College

**20th-Public Hearing at Gaillard Auditorium 7pm (see page 5)**

22nd- 7 Grade presents That's Rough Theater BB @7pm

23rd- End of 3rd Grading Period  
Wind Ens. Perf. Physicians Aud 7:30pm  
7pm PTSA general meeting (election of officers for next school yr.)  
pizza @ 6:00pm

24th- Ins/workday NO STUDENTS!

28th- Concert Middle School Bands BB-7pm  
District IX (Chas. Co.) PTA Spring Conference-  
at Charleston Landing Dome

29th-Deadline: to order SOA SPIRIT WEAR-See Spirit Wear  
flyer for ordering info.

30th- SCMEA Concert Festival-MS

31st- SCMEA Concert Festival-MS

7th-MS Piano/Dance NCUMC Davis Hall 7:30pm  
DEADLINE: to order Riverdogs ticket. See order form

12th-7,8,9 Gr. Dancers To Florida 12th-15th  
Dress Rehearsal

13th-HS Theatre presents Guys and Dolls NC Arts Center

14th-HS Theatre presents Guys and Dolls NC Arts Center

16th-2:05pm Riverdogs Family Afternoon at the "JOE"

17th-24th-Spring Break

27th-Music Festival and Competition-I and V Williamsburg VA Depart

28th-Music Festival and Competition-I and V Williamsburg, VA

29th-Music Festival and Competition I and V Williamsburg, VA

30th-Music Festival and Competition-I and V, Williamsburg, VA Return to SOA

### Advertise with SOA

Businesses who would like to support our school publication, *Applause*, can purchase an advertisement. *Applause* is mailed to every SOA household, distributed to subscribing students, and available at the business locations of our advertisers. Contact the Publications Department for rates at [ccsoa@email.com](mailto:ccsoa@email.com) or at 843-529-4990, ext 23. We will also include you on the sponsors page of our web site at [www.ccsoa.com](http://www.ccsoa.com).



# School of the Arts Day at "The Joe"



Sunday, April 16th  
2:05 pm

Riverdogs vs. Columbus Redstixx

\$5 per ticket

Proceeds to benefit School of the Arts PTSA

Deadline to buy tickets is Fri. , April 7th  
Tickets go home with students the week of April 10th

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_

@ \$5 each = Total amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to SOA PTSA

Any Questions? Call Phyllis Gildea at 881-2037

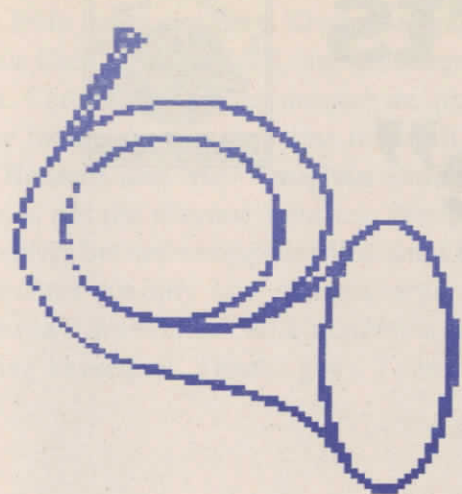


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Our mission is to raise awareness of the importance of music education while restoring and supporting these programs in the communities you serve.

For more information call 529-6100



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ORCHESTRA  
INSTRUMENTS**