

Applause

Volume 1 Number 4

Charleston County School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC

April 2000

Juniors receive first SOA high school rings

by Tracy Cantwell

A new chapter in School of the Arts history was written on Friday, March 31 when our first junior class received their high school rings on a beautiful, star lit cruise hosted by the Junior Council in the Charleston Harbor. Over fifty students, teachers, and friends hit the water at 8:30 that night with high hopes of beginning a wonderful new tradition at SOA.

Most were eager to go to the lower deck and inspect the terrific buffet, complete with a special cake, and then surveyed the boat while greeting their friends. The students danced the night away under the lights provided by the great DJ. Though he took a while to warm up, the music was great once he began getting requests. There was a constant chatter among the juniors consisting of various comments including, "Mine has a gold band with a picture in the stone..." "I hope I get one because I turned my money in late..." and "It cost me 3 weeks pay, so it better be nice." They were all anxiously awaiting the "Ring Ceremony," the moment when they could finally grasp their \$300 symbols of pride, hard work, and dedication; and when they got them, nobody was disappointed.

Mrs. Myers opened the ceremony with a lovely speech about the traditions they were beginning that night and how proud she was that the juniors have been paving the way, and will continue to, for many generations of students to come. Preceding this were speeches from each of the Junior Council members that brought the group to tears about the significance of the ring and the junior class, describing the "Turning of the Ring," tradition, and even voicing their opinions through poetry (See Hamadi Brown's poem on page 12). After each student was called to receive his or her ring, they counted down and all placed them on their right ring fingers at the same time. They first got them turned by a junior council member and then all of their classmates and teachers while reciting, "Art is long, life is short," each time.

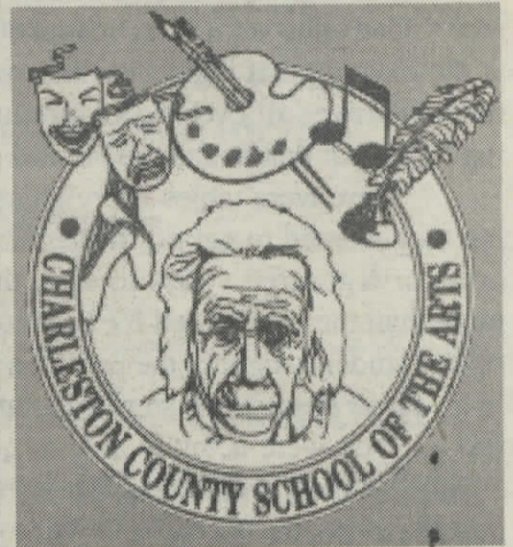
The gorgeous rings the juniors received are either gold or white gold with a garnet stone in the center. They have the new school seal encrusted on one side and a personal seal, usually the student's major, on the other. The Junior Council designed the new seal for the ring which includes a palmetto, our state tree, and symbols representing each of our majors. The student's name and graduation year are also shown on the sides of the ring. The ceremony began an excellent new tradition at SOA that everyone hopes will continue for many years to come. Bonnie Tumbleston, one of our juniors, says, "It was special because it was the first time the junior class did something by themselves. I felt so much older once I got my high school ring." Thank you to Junior Council, Ms. Marshall, Mr. Smyth (Junior Council advisors), Mrs. Myers, and everyone else who offered assistance in making that night one to remember forever!



SOA principal, Mrs. Rose Maree Myers, turns junior Jessica Grantham's new high school ring while Derrick Mosier looks on. Photo by Tracy Cantwell

Seven SOA vocalists perform with All-State Chorus

Liz Newell, Vanessa Panerosa, Meghan Braswell, Bonnie Tumbleston, Christina Davenport, Marianne Snyder, and Rodney Lewis traveled to Winthrop University on March 16 as a part of the All-State music competition. For the full article, see page 14.



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Christina's Column by Christina Davenport

Spring. I love it! Whenever April rolls around, I feel like I'm waking up from a long sleep. My mind gets restless and I become bored with the monotonous school days. When I see the way the sun is shining, I long to be outdoors, not stuck in some classroom. I don't know what it is about the spring that makes people feel alive. Maybe it's the warm sun that penetrates our skin or the cool breezes that blow through our hair. The earth is beautiful and vibrant, unlike the cold, gloomy days of winter.

As teenagers, we recognize the spring as a time for relaxing, traveling and abusing our privileges. Like Robin Williams says, "Spring is nature's way of saying 'Let's Party!'" April not only brings almost perfect beach weather, but also a week of freedom known as SPRING BREAK! It's that longed for week when we get a glimpse of the upcoming summer fun; late nights on the beach, all night parties, road trips and anything else our parents probably wouldn't approve of. But there's one thing I don't understand. Why does spring break carry the kind of reputation that it does? What makes us think that just because it's spring break, we have to do something illegal or at least completely spontaneous? Correct me if I'm wrong, but I think that the vacation known as spring break was originally recognized because of the holiday Easter. I don't think that the schools said, "Ok, let's give the students a week off so they can get drunk, have sex and break curfews." I mean, has it just become part of our culture to be as wild as you can over spring break? Or, do students think that if they don't participate in these activities that they're not doing justice to the term "Spring Break"? I'm not sure when and where this distorted idea of what spring break is began, but I do know that it's not necessary do the typical spring break activities to have fun.

So, this spring break, if you have any desire to be different, don't break curfews, get drunk or participate in any other illegal activities. I'm not telling you what to do; I'm just giving some suggestions on how to have a fun, but legal spring break. I'm sure that most of you aren't even going to consider this, but that's ok. You don't have to listen to me- I just thought I'd bring it to your attention that just because it's what everybody does during spring break, doesn't mean that it's what would be best for you.

Letters to the Editor

To The Staff of *Applause*:

Fantastic! I am so proud of the work you are doing for the School of the Arts. *Applause* is a publication worthy of a school the caliber of ours. From those struggling days in the fall of '95, I believed that a student-produced newspaper was essential to our becoming a "real school." *Applause* not only communicates news and features to the students, staff and parents, it bonds us together as a community. The newspaper promotes the feeling that "we are all in this together."

Thank you for fulfilling a dream of mine. As always, you make me proud!

Myrna Caldwell

Editorial by Nikki Griffin

Driving down Calhoun Street, Monday, March 20, I observed on both sides of the street, in front of the Gaillard Auditorium, random groups of teenagers holding signs that read "Honk, if you want them to lift the 90 Mill Cap." Everywhere you looked, not only were there concerned teachers and parents, but students as well. If you happened to get to the auditorium around 7:00, you would have seen a group of our SOA students following Courtney Cone in a chant, "SOA is here to stay!" One thing is for sure, School of the Arts was not underrepresented at the meeting that night; teachers, parents, and students were seen in random droves all over the auditorium, wearing SOA shirts and carrying signs that demanded the 90 mill cap be lifted.

There were tables everywhere for people to sign petitions stating they wanted to get rid of the 90 mill cap, but if the petitions were only for registered voters to sign, then the legislators will be getting more than they bargained for because everywhere I turned, I saw high school students signing the petitions as well. Most of us will be voting in a year or so anyway, so our signatures should be weighted with the rest. If you were actually able to get into the hall where the School Board members and Mayor Riley were speaking, you'd have seen the vast sea of people in chairs, down front, people sitting on the steps, and still more people standing on the second level. Every ten or twenty minutes, a group of four or five people would move from the front, on the second level, or from the steps, to get a breath of fresh air outside the stuffy room; as they moved to the back, several people would move closer and take their places. We were informed in the notices sent to teachers, parents, and students that they were using the Gaillard because they knew that the number of people, who would show up for the meeting, would not all fit in the School Board building, but it seemed to me that even the Gaillard didn't have enough room to accommodate the droves of people pouring in. Maybe now, our legislators will grasp the message that we, as a whole, are trying to get across to them: if they threaten something as important to us as the education of our students, and the quality of which they are educated, we will come together and protect ourselves, and if necessary fight back, by having them removed from office come the next election day.

Features

Featured Teacher: Mr. Smyth

by **Sohayla Roudsari**

Sohayla: What college did you go to?

Mr. Smyth: I went to the University of the South, Sewanee, and also the Citadel and my masters is from the Citadel.

Sohayla: Where did you work before coming to SOA?

Mr. Smyth: I taught at Berkley High School for five years before I came here. I've also taught at Middleton High School. I've worked at the State Department of Education and I've

worked in Beaufort County Schools as math coordinator and I've also worked in the marine science lab in Virginia and in Charleston.

Sohayla: Did you always want to be a high school teacher?

Mr. Smyth: When I was in college I probably didn't even think about it. I was going to go to graduate school, but then with the Vietnam War, I decided to do something closer to home and ended up teaching and just liked it. So its sort of me.

Sohayla: What did you want to do before becoming a teacher?

Mr. Smyth: I was going to do graduate study in biology, particularly marine biology.

Sohayla: What did attracted you to this school?

Mr. Smyth: Well I'm from Charleston and I decided I had been away for too long, so I wanted to come back to Charleston and my daughter actually found out they needed somebody to teach pre-calculus here and I knew a lot of the people here and it was just a neat place.

Sohayla: How did your daughter find out?

Mr. Smyth: She happened to go by the school district office and they said they wanted somebody to teach at the School of the Arts.

Sohayla: What aspect of your job would you say is most important?

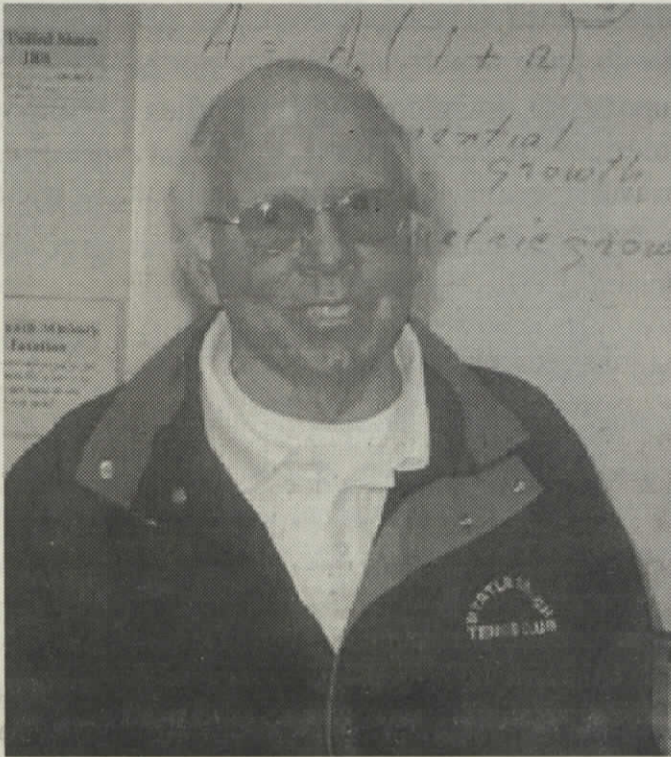
Mr. Smyth: The students, especially the strings students.

Sohayla: What goals do you have?

Mr. Smyth: I'd like the students to become better problem solvers and be able to apply math to problems that are a little different from the ones just in textbooks. To be able to think for themselves a little bit better, to work for themselves.

Sohayla: What ambitions do you have for your students?

Mr. Smyth: They keep all their doors open. That the opportunities that are there,



Mr. Peter Smyth

that they don't shut any doors with the choices they make, with whatever courses they need and immediately to be able to get into whatever college they want to.

Sohayla: What interesting teaching experiences have you had in the time you've spent at SOA? Or elsewhere?

Mr. Smyth: Well, I think the time we had with the girl's trio that sang in class was sort of neat. Finding out that we actually have cheerleaders here at school that doesn't have sports. I think, just the students make it a little more lively a place, they're different. They're not as... structured and I think that's neat.

Sohayla: Where were you born and where do you live?

Mr. Smyth: I was born in Greenwood, South Carolina, and I've lived here since I was five years old and right now I live West Ashley.

Sohayla: What personal interests or hobbies do you have?

Mr. Smyth: I'm a tennis player and I play somewhat competitively. I've coached tennis before at the high school level. We won the state championship at Berkley High School, and I also sail when I can. I don't have a boat now, but I used to live on a boat. That's my other real interest, the ocean and the water.

Sohayla: If someone asked you to do a tennis program at this school would you consider doing it?

Mr. Smyth: I would think about it, but right now I decided not to coach after last year so that I would have some time to play myself. It's real difficult to play and coach. I just wanted a few years on my own.

Sohayla: Can you tell me about your family?

Mr. Smyth: I'm divorced. My ex-wife is the math coordinator in Berkeley County. Matthew is twenty-three years old. He graduated from the University of Virginia and still is up there and he works in intramural athletics and also keeps the official clock at the Virginia basketball games. Becky will be twenty-two next September. She's an EMT; she went to Duke for a year and she decided she wants to find out what she wants to do with the rest of her life. But both of them are really neat kids and they both went to the Governor's School for Science and Math.

Sohayla: Do you have any advice for your students?

Mr. Smyth: Learn to study on their own. Don't expect the teachers to always give it to you, that you're going to run across a lot of teachers that may not care, the ones that care are the ones you'll remember. I guess the biggest advice is, you make of it whatever you want to; don't wait around for other people just to hand it to you. Go ahead and take the initiative. I find that one of the things here is the fact that you guys have performed and know what its like to get on stage by yourself or with a group. You're a step ahead. You've been performers and that actually carries over some in the classroom. You're a little bit more responsible for your own time.

Mr. Smyth's daughter teaches juniors life saving skills

by **Nikki Griffin**

On Tuesday, March 21, a group of juniors, joined by **Ms. Saleeby** and **Mrs. Newton**, gathered in **Mr. Smyth's** room to take a four hour CPR certification course. The Red Cross offered the course, which was taught by **Becky Smyth**, Mr. Smyth's daughter. Smyth first got her CPR certification, at age 15, as a requirement to be a lifeguard. She has been teaching CPR for the Red Cross since 1997. That year, still undecided about what she wanted to study in college, she left Duke University, returned to Charleston, and became a CPR instructor. Smyth also went back to school in Charleston to become an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). She currently works for Charleston County EMS full time, and she works as a lifeguard and swimming instructor for City of Charleston's local pools part time.

Despite the seriousness of the course, which involved a video, hands-on practice, and an exam, the juniors had good time, and even managed to crack a few jokes. For example, when **Shannon O'Shea** volunteered to be the victim and one student exclaimed, "You're always the victim!"

At the course's end, juniors left with high spirits, and full stomachs (thanks to the free pizza), with the knowledge that they now had the skills needed to save a life.

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Reviews and Other News

Polaris-Music from *The Adventures of Pete and Pete*

Growing up, I was absolutely obsessed with Nickelodeon, and especially the show *Pete and Pete*. I was always enamored with the theme song, partly because the band seemed so adult to me. At that age, 9 or 10, I was listening to the bubble gum pop that I now can't stand. I was just beginning to branch out my musical taste, and that band provided a nice alternative to everything I liked. It wasn't until years later that I learned who the band was--Polaris. Polaris is really all the members of the band Miracle Legion, minus one person. *Music from The Adventures of Pete and Pete* was released in 1999 under the band's own label, Mezzotint. The album is difficult to generalize, because each song is different from the one preceding it. The CD opens with "Hey Sandy," the theme song to *Pete and Pete*. "Hey Sandy" itself starts with these weird, random space-movie-esque comments, (something that continues throughout the album) and then moves into the upbeat song. Like many of the songs, the words can be difficult to discern, and in an R.E.M.-like move, the band does not provide a lyric sheet. The lead singer and song writer, Mark Mucahy (called Muggy on the CD) has a great voice with a wide range, going from almost like a lounge singer on "She is Staggering" to fast and light on the more poppy "Saturnine." The CD is consistently good, and each song has a nice nostalgic feeling to it. It's a great album for reminiscence or for a change from today's cookie-cutter music scene. See mezzotint.com for band and ordering information. -C.J.

American Beauty-starring Kevin Spacey, Annette Bening, Mena Suaveri, Wes Bentley, and Thora Birch. *American Beauty*, which just won several Oscars, tell the story of Lester (Spacey), who just lost his job, whose marriage with wife Bening is falling apart, and whose daughter (Birch) hates him. Lester begins to change his life after a compliment from teenage daughter Jane's lustful friend (former Charleston resident Suaveri). The movie explores the relationships we form in life, and the most important relationship is between Jane and her neighbor (Bentley). It is through this relationship that the point of the movie is revealed: to see the beautiful in everything, in the mundane and ordinary, the plain and boring. To see the beautiful in a middle-aged, frustrated man, in an average suburban neighborhood, in a plastic bag floating in the wind on a city street. To summarize the plot would be too revealing, but it is important to recognize the meaning of the movie. *American Beauty* simply teaches us that even the harshest, ugliest things can be beautiful; that beauty is everywhere, and mostly where you least expect it. -C.J.

SOA students busy in technology classes

Students in high school technology classes at SOA have been engaged in a variety of activities this past quarter. They have gone from learning the proper keyboarding techniques and skills to more advanced computer skills. They have moved from formatting tables and letters to formatting spreadsheets. They are now in the process of mastering formulas in spreadsheets.

A great deal of the time during the third quarter was spent on the Internet, particularly e-mail and researching. The students also learned to design web pages. All students were able to create a web page which may or may not have involved skills using the scanner or downloading sound files and other material from the Internet. Check some of these out on our school web page at <http://www.ccsa.com>. (There you will need to follow the links to technology.) As time permits other web pages by students will be posted.

If anyone would visit the first few minutes of computer class, you may realize that Mrs. Harvey has started her "torture" techniques. She loves hearing the moaning and groaning about timed writings. She actually makes the students cover the monitor or their hands during some of these timed sessions. Will this torture ever end? She says, "NOT."

Lessons on how to use Microsoft PowerPoint are now being completed. The "whistles and Bells" of PowerPoint will be learned. The big project for the 4th Quarter will be a presentation using that software.

Another technology class at SOA is video production. Students in this class just recently went on a field trip to the video department at Trident Tech. At once, it was recognized by all that our video production class was far from the high tech level that was seen here. Students have been developing their ability to video with camcorders, edit the segments and design a project which is then rendered into a video tape. Some have even learned to use a program to produce their own animations. Again, visit the SOA web page and follow the technology link to video production to see some of these. On the school site you can find information about a video that has been produced by Craig Baurley, Justin Babcock, Michael Badger and Patrick Trompeter. If you enjoy science fiction, you may want to purchase it. The technology portion of the SOA Web Page was designed by another video production student, Kristen Moore. Taylor Silver also helped with it.



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SOA News

Piano and dance students held recital

The third annual middle school piano and dance recital was Thursday, April 6, 7:30 pm at the College of Charleston, Simmons Center for the Arts, in the Recital Hall.

Selected SOA M.S. and H.S. students will participate in the S.C. Music Teachers Association District Auditions held on April 15 at the College of Charleston. Students receiving an "outstanding" rating will go on to compete in the State Auditions on May 6 at the University of S.C. in Columbia.

Piano majors will also participate in the S.C. Music Educators Association Piano Festival on April 22 at Charleston Southern University. Winners will play in an Honors Recital next February at the SCMEA Conference in Greenville.

The National Piano Auditions will be held at SOA on May 19th and 20th. All Piano majors play their entire repertoire in a private audition. Most Piano majors will perform 10 pieces covering all periods of music, plus scales and cadences.

May 21st is the final recital of the year. This will take place at N. Charleston United Methodist Church, Davis Hall, at 7:30 p.m.

Dancers to hold carnival

There will be a SOA Carnival on Tuesday May 16th from 6:00-9:00 pm in the school cafeteria. All dance exploratory students, choreography students, and dance majors will be performing. Each class will also host a booth at the carnival. There will be a White Elephant sale, Cakewalk, good food, and prizes! Please come and support our dancers and enjoy the fun and games for everyone!

SOA orchestra participates in Concert Festival

Congratulations to the School of the Arts High School Orchestra for receiving a I+ rating at Concert Festival this year. Concert Festival is sponsored annually by the South Carolina Music Educator's Orchestra Division. The Orchestra prepares pieces which are critiqued by two judges as well as being critiqued on sight reading. The three scores combined comprise the orchestra's rating. There are 35 points possible from the two judges on the prepared pieces and a rating of 1-5 possible on the sight reading section for a possible total of 75 points. This year the orchestra almost received a perfect score. The scores are as follows: Judge I: 34/35. Judge II: 35/35. Sight reading: 5/5. The group received 74 out of a possible 75 points. Congratulations on this "near perfect" rating at the state competition

Middle schoolers play in recital

Jessie Rumph and Trevor Gildea both played in the Honor Recital at a piano festival in Columbia.

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!

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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?

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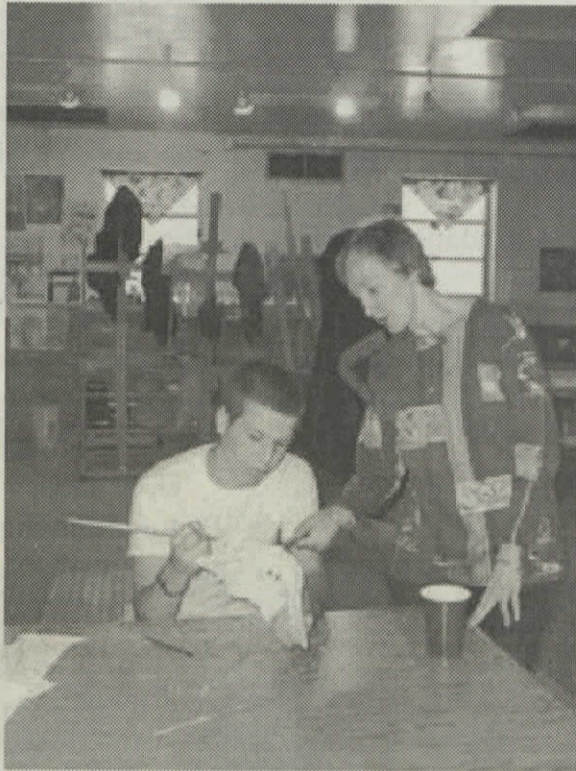
If you have any questions, please call us at 881-9518 or 766-3385.

Featured Art: Visual Art

by Katya Demcheva

Visual Arts is one of the most important majors at SOA. In addition to working on their own projects, visual artists help paint the set and the backdrop for the plays that our theater majors prepare. Visual Arts majors study various areas such as still life, figure drawing, perspective, and three hour drawing. "Art makes me happy," says a freshman **Sara Reuben**. And not only is art enjoyable, but a lot of jobs that are available for artists. "A wide variety of careers from computer graphics to Theater set design to product design to architecture or engineering to illustration or traditional studio artist," says **Ms. Nichols**, middle school art teacher.

"The more you put into [art], the more you get out of it," says Ms. Nichols, who has taught art for ten years, and is in her third year at SOA. She earned a BA degree at Coastal Carolina, has taken etching classes at Newberry College, and at Francis Marion University has studied sculpture and ceramic. She also studied watercolor with local artists Rhett Thurman and Alex Powers. Ms. Nichols says that she doesn't do much work on her own art because of such a busy school schedule, but "I plan to paint during spring break." As for her students Ms. Nichols says she hopes they will "always strive for [their] personal best in every art project, and to be able to use perspective, proportions,



and values to achieve realism and to become proficient in a variety of media." Middle school covers 2D and 3D design, printmaking, figure drawing, watercolor, and perspective. Currently 7th graders **Morgen Jones**, **Morgan Simon**, and **Quenby Keisler** say they are "drawing ducks." Ms. Nichols also teaches one high school class sculpture, where they cover ceramics (hand-built, slab, wheel thrown), additive and subtractive plaster sculpture, soft sculpture, and paper sculpture. Ms. Nichols enjoys sculpture and watercolor, but she likes to teach figure drawing, 3D projects, and art history. She says her favorite artists are Michelangelo, Edward Hopper, Georgia O'Keeffe, Edgar Degas, Robert Bateman, and Thomas Moron. Ms. Nichols is also in charge of the costumes for "Guys and Dolls." "I am excited about working with SOA's talented visual artists," said Ms. Nichols about her student's. She advises her aspiring artists "Never give up the quest for excellence and to learn as much as possible from artists throughout history."

Ms. Nichols' colleague **Ms. Jaycie**, is an artist and first year Visual Arts high school teacher at SOA. "My primary goal is to inspire my students. I want them to discover the artist within themselves, and I want to teach them as much as I can about art and how it is connected to something much deeper than just drawing," says Ms. Jaycie. "As for me, I love the figure, I also enjoy portraiture" says Ms. Jaycie. "My art is constantly evolving; I am ready to depart from a style that I've been working and move on" says Ms. Jaycie. "Like any artist, it is a constant battle to 'rediscover' your style or depart from it," she says. Teaching makes it difficult to find time to work on one's own art, but Ms. Jaycie finds time for it anyway. She says that art is very important to her in every way. Currently she is working on two commissioned pieces as well as a painting that will lead her into the next series. "I love being an artist and a teacher; both are my passion," says Ms. Jaycie. "I love SOA!" The time, she says, she has spent here this year has been quite a challenge, to say the least. "The growing pains of the Visual Arts program have really required me to step up to the plate," said Ms. Jaycie. "I do what I

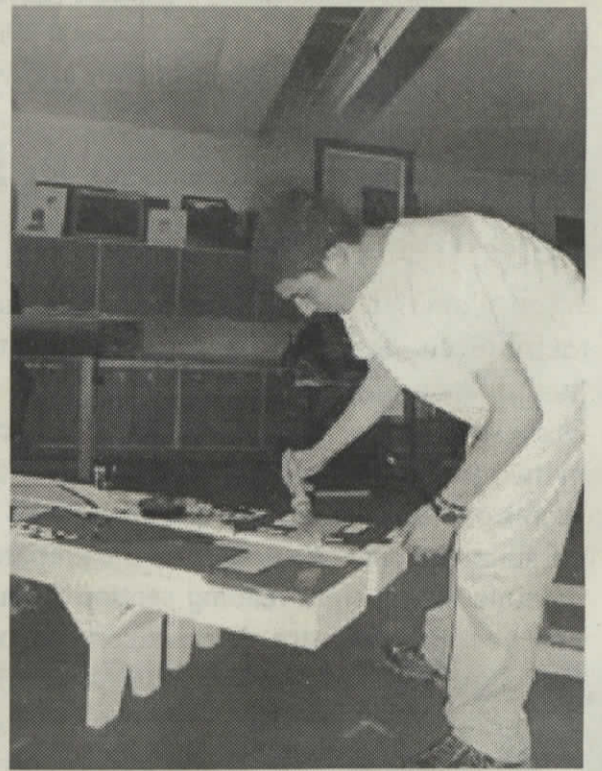
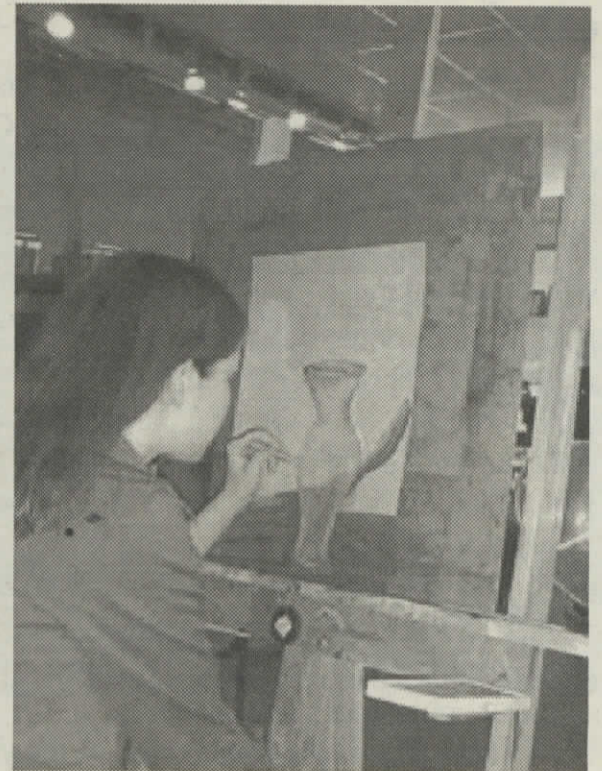
do for my students. I know what they have gone through has been difficult. I hope that I can provide stability and inspiration. They inspire me and drive me up the wall all in one class period. Artists are different, I am different, this school is different, and that is what makes it so special," says Ms. Jaycie. "As for the Yearbook, night mare on Saranac Street! No, not really. It was much worse. We started behind and we were constantly swimming up stream, but we did it. I think. Now, we just need our students to BUY IT! All the students needed was some positive reinforcement!

Ms. Jaycie's advice to aspiring artists is to Draw, Draw, Draw, and push yourself to work in areas of art

that you are not comfortable in. Experiment with as many different media as possible, research, look at what other artists are doing, look at masters, and look at the world around you. "The role that I am playing in 'Guys and Dolls'? The lead, no not really, my students and I are painting the set and the backdrop. It has been a really great project. We're bonding," says Ms. Jaycie. "I feel there are a lot of talented artists at SOA. Some of them have found their

calling at an early age. I hope that they can appreciate what they have here whether or not they choose it for a career. I also feel that as an artist we need to not lose sight of our goals and not let poor behavior interfere with why we are here in the first place. I want the visual artists to respect each other and their teacher. I feel that they have so much potential, and I refuse to be involved in watching that talent go to waste. That's my challenge; I love my students and I look forward to watching them evolve as individuals and artists," says Ms. Jaycie. Visual artists at SOA are as diverse as the medium itself. Since junior **Brandi Bruorton** entered SOA in

9th grade, she says she has improved a lot in perspective. Monet, is the favorite artist of 8th grader **Trevor Reynolds**. 6th grader **Omi Naderi** says he loves to draw buildings, flowers, and waterfalls. "Never compare yourself to others, you work at your own pace," says sophomore **Casey Boles**.



Photos by Antwyan Randolph, Bonnie Tumbleston, and Tracy Cantwell.

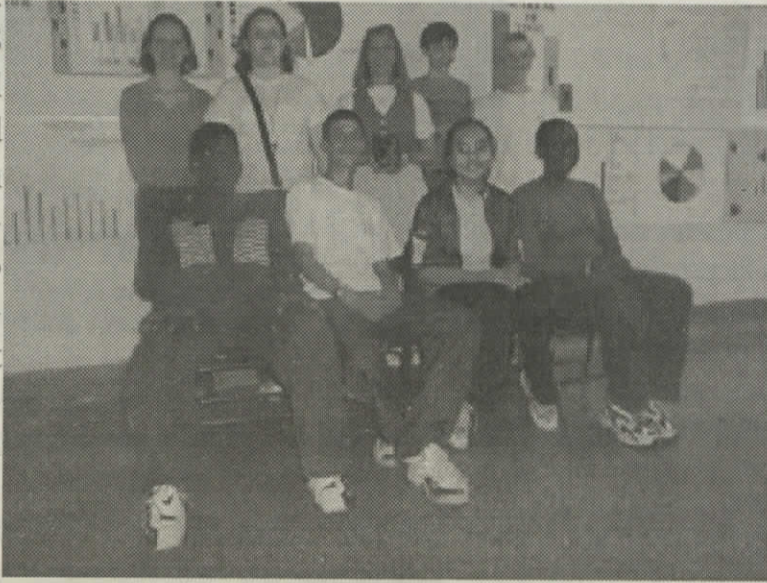
SOA student art is featured on page 7 and on our web page at www.ccsa.com

Middle School News

SOA Places Fifth in MATHCOUNTS Competition

In early February, 40 students, including Mrs. Bunch's seventh grade competitive exploratory class and interested eighth graders, competed in what is known as the MATHCOUNTS competition.

MATHCOUNTS is a national coaching and competition program designed to stimulate students' interest and achievement in mathematics. From this preliminary



competition, four team members, **Rachel Fleury, Katherine Hildebrandt, Anthony Olov, and Randall Scarborough**, and four alternates, **Darryl King, Jason Basile, Amy Cheng, and Lauren Adderley**, were selected.

The eight SOA students chosen participated in the chapter MATHCOUNTS competition on at the Citadel on February 11, 2000 against other schools from the tri-county area. Out of seventeen schools represented, our team placed fifth. **Anthony Olov** received a trophy for being the third highest scorer. **Rachel Fleury** had the ninth highest score out of sixty-eight participants.

Congratulations to all the MATHCOUNTS participants for their outstanding achievements.

Sixth graders study Middle Ages

Sixth grade students in Mrs. Newell's English Language Arts class have begun their study of the Middle Ages with the stories of King Arthur and his knights of the Round Table. So far, their favorite activity appears to have been the slide show of places in England associated with the King Arthur stories and places that represent the English Middle Ages. Mrs. Newell is also doing some storytelling. Students learned that if you were not a lord or lady in a castle, spring cleaning meant cleaning out your house after you had the animals indoors through the winter. Not one student wanted to trade their own spring cleaning chores for cleaning up after pigs and chickens!

Mrs. Lawson's class studies Civil War

Mrs. Lawson's 8th grade social studies students are studying events leading to the Civil War and the issue of slavery. Currently students are writing research papers on subjects from the assassination of John F. Kennedy to the Harlem Renaissance. They hope to take a field trip to the Charleston Museum to see the City Under Siege exhibit soon after Spring Break. Students are given opportunities to show what they have learned in a variety of ways. So far, they have done a time line assignment, a fact booklet, an authentic journal assignment, an internet research assignment, a research paper, and finally a 3 dimensional project in the Civil War.

Algebra I students prepare for garden project

Algebra I students are currently learning about systems of linear inequalities and shadows. Projects due April 27/28. In the Garden culminating project is to design a garden, listing out the scale model, prices of items included in the garden, names of plants/trees in garden plus a narrative description of who, what, why, where and when of the garden design

French students visit SOA

30 students and 4 teachers from Lycee Moliere spent 2 weeks here with us at SOA as part of our first school-to-school exchange. The students arrived on Monday, March 27th. They were met at the airport by their host students and families. The Parisien students shadowed their SOA host students for 2 school days and then toured the Charleston area for the other school days. The weekend was spent "en famille." Everyone (French and American) was sad to see the visit end on Saturday, April 8th. However, seventeen SOA students will travel to Paris on June 8th to complete the school-to-school exchange; they will visit in Paris in the same manner as the French students visited Charleston and SOA.



Students from the Lycee Moliere in Paris are participating in an exchange program with several SOA families.

Juniors receive high school rings on harbor cruise

WITH THIS RING...

Hamadi Brown

What do I say about a ring,
without the use of flatter?
I bought it 'cause it looked good,
but that really doesn't matter.

I'm supposed to be happy,
this golden ring to wear,
I'll probably lose the silly thing,
so hey, I still don't care.

It cost me a whole month's pay,
an amount I won't forget,
this ring I'll always wear
left my piggy bank in debt.

Before it's placed on our fingers,
take time to think on the past,
all the things we went through to get it,
the good and bad from first to last.

All stuck together from the middle,
losing some on the way to high,
so enough of my whining,
just take the jewel and let's fly.

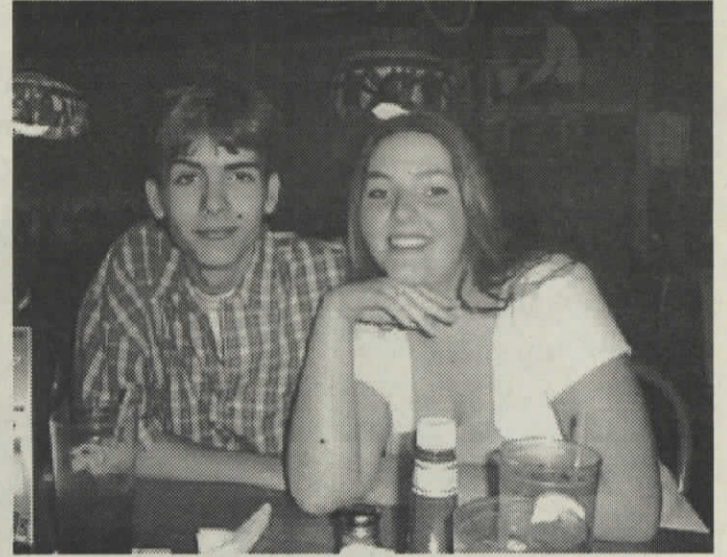
Your stone is in the middle,
your name is on the left,
your major is on the right,
your school is on the crest.

A gift for us to remember,
a reward for all our work,
a souvenir of years together,
now let's go berserk.

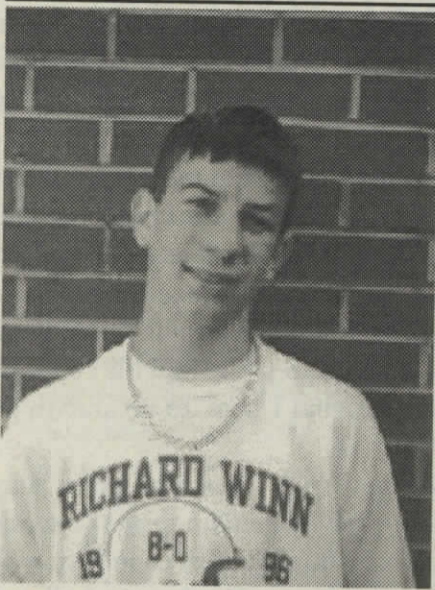
So let's lighten up the load,
and stop wasting time,
I want to end the poem,
and find the final rhyme.

Whether you bought the darn thing or not,
you're still a valued member,
the ring, our promise, our honor,
our art we'll always remember.

I've run out of things to say,
and my mouth is very sore,
take the ring and think about it,
I don't want to lie no more!!



Where are you going for Spring Break?



"I'm going to Ft. Lauderdale and Disney World in Florida."
-Dru Wood

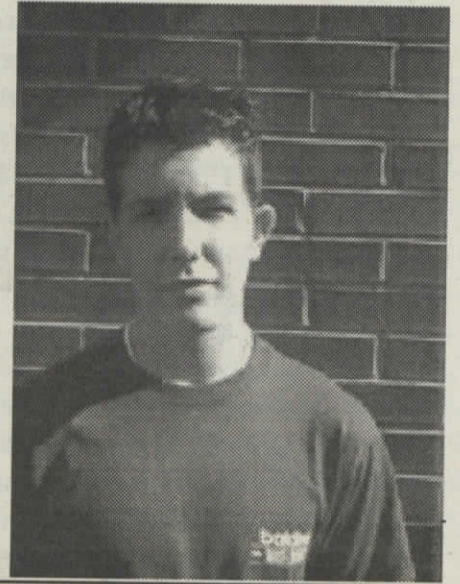


"I'm going to a beach house having a party."
-David Sedillo

"I'm going to Black Mountain, North Carolina."
-Grege Ritman



"I'm going to Paris, France."
-Emily Schwimmer



"I'm going to Key West to search molluscs and a wife. I'm going to the Turks and Caicos islands."
-Mr. Pezzeça

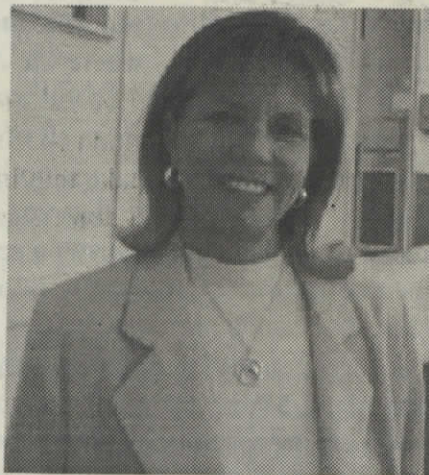
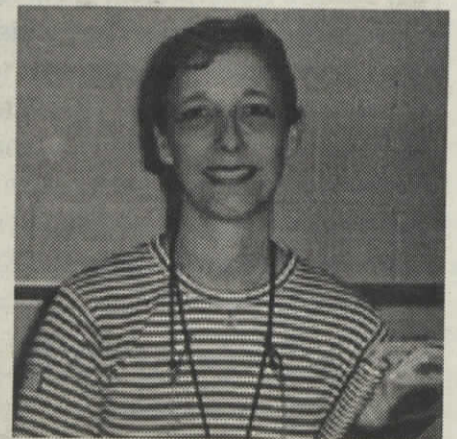


"I'm going to the Blue Ridge Mountains in Maggy Valley, North Carolina."
-Mrs. Bunch

Horoscopes by the SOA astrologer

- Aquarius** (Jan 20-Feb 18): Romance is starting to die down, but you need to be happy with yourself before you can be happy with someone else.
- Pisces** (Feb 19- March 20): Your independence and strength leads you to becoming a mentor to others. Don't let them down.
- Aries** (March 20- April 19): Your financial life may become a concern. Consider new ways to make money.
- Taurus** (April 20-May 20): Academic problems may begin to arise. Harder work and applying yourself will pay off.
- Gemini** (May 21-June 20): New friendships may begin to blossom or old ones start over with a new spark.
- Cancer** (June 21-July 22): Your romantic life is getting confusing. Only time will tell who you commit to or you may decide to stay single.
- Leo** (July 23- Aug 22): Although you've been feeling that all is going wrong, something will happen to bring you cheer and solve your problems.
- Virgo** (Aug 23-Sept 22): You may begin to feel tension in your family life. Don't keep quiet if something is bothering you.
- Libra** (Sept 23-Oct 22): Problems start to arise between you and a dear friend. Think before you act.
- Scorpio** (Oct 23-Nov 21): A relaxing trip will give you a more optimistic attitude. You yearn for time alone to find yourself.
- Sagittarius** (Nov 22-Dec 21): Your past experiences lead others to call on you for advice. Speak with caution because they've placed their trust in you.
- Capricorn** (Dec 22-Jan 19): Your life is stressful and your schedule overloaded. The key is to prioritize.

"I'm going to be making dresses for the middle school singers."
-Mrs. Neville



"I'm going fishing and swimming with manatees in Florida."
-Mrs. Newton

SOA NEWS

SOA Orchestra Majors participate in All-State weekend

by **Sohayla Rousari**

Eleven SOA students, **John Fisher, Ashley Gaston, Katy Hovis, Derek Mosier, Andrae Raffield, Taylor Raffield, Rebecca Rueter, Mohsen Roudsari, Sohayla Roudsari, Michael Williams** and **John Yang** spent three hours, March 3rd traveling to Spartanburg, SC for a grueling weekend, filled with rehearsals, sectional and a variety of workshops, All-State weekend.

Every year, on the first Saturday of November young musicians from around the state audition for All-State Orchestras. Students are divided into the Junior and Senior Divisions based on grade level. Solos are then chosen by the South Carolina Music Educators' Association, SCMEA for each instrument. Both divisions are broken down into 75 to 100 piece Orchestras. The String Orchestra, consisting of exclusively strings, and the Full Orchestra, consisting of a full symphony, are the classifications who qualify for the Senior Division. Junior orchestras are divided into a Full Orchestra and a Region Orchestra, which consists of students anywhere from the lower regions of South Carolina. The auditions are taped and judged blindly by the SCMEA. Each audition entry is reviewed, scored and ranked according to technique, intonation and musicianship on the chosen solo piece, one scale and an excerpt chosen for sight reading. Students receive the results of the taping as early as December and as late as January. Thousands of students around the state audition for All-State each year and no more than 600 are accepted. After receiving the results, the selected students are sent practice copies of the concert repertoire in preparation for the March concert. Upon arrival, students must audition once again to finalize a seating arrangement, which is announced at the close of the Friday night rehearsal. Rehearsals are scheduled for Friday night, most of Saturday and Sunday morning. Available to Senior All-State participants is a concerto competition in which one musician is selected to perform the piece of the solo piece of their choice with the Senior Full Orchestra.

This year, **Theodore Boehholz**, a cellist, was chosen to perform a concerto. He performed Lalo's Concerto No. 1 superbly. The conductors included Mr. Alex Spainour, Dr. Robert Gillespie and Dr. Michael Allen. The rehearsals and concert took place on the Converse College campus, the finale at the Twichell Auditorium on March 5th. The musical repertoire included Verdi's Overture to Nabucco, Don Quixote Suite by Telemann, The Poet and the Peasant Overture by Suppe and Stravinsky's Berceuse and Finale from the Fire-bird Suite, were a phenomenal selection of pieces.

Though All-State is a long, strenuous weekend for musicians, it is also a great honor and privilege to be selected to be a part of such an esteemed establishment. All-State is a wonderful experience. Ultimately, All-State was a successful weekend that turned out to be a powerful learning experience filled with great new memories. After spending hours practicing music for the concert, the moment to perform arrives and looking back on the hard work in preparation for the concert, every minute spent seems worth it.

Seven vocal majors travel to All-State

by **Christina Davenport**

On March 16th, seven vocal majors, **Rodney Lewis, Vanessa Panerosa, Meghan Braswell, Marianne Snyder, Bonnie Tumbleston, Elizabeth Newell** and **Christina Davenport**, left for Rock Hill, SC, where the All-State Choral weekend would be held. All-State is a weekend choral workshop held at Winthrop University that high school students from all of SC audition to be a part of. The audition consists of performing a memorized piece with a quintet and then sight singing a piece of music that you are given only 20 seconds to practice. A panel of judges then give you a score according to techniques such as your musical accuracy, tone quality, intonation, and breath support.

Approximately 400 students converged in the Byrne's Auditorium at Winthrop to begin rehearsals Thursday night, March 16th, and the intensity of the rehearsals increased as the concert drew closer. There are two choirs, each made up of about 200 people, that are rehearsing simultaneously

during the weekend. The SSA choir, which is made up only of girls, was conducted by Ms. Diane Loomer. They performed many interesting pieces, including "Al Shlosha D'varim", "Mi'kmaq Honour Song" and "Reel a Bouche". The SATB choir, or the mixed choir, was conducted by Dr. Alan Raines, from Georgia State University. Their repertoire consisted of pieces such as "Gloria from the 12th Mass", "Neighbor's Chorus", "Witness" and "In That Great Getting Up Morning".

Although the weekend is extremely hard work and there's not much free time, it's still an event that students from around the state look forward to every year. There's just something about singing with a group of 200 people, who all love music just as much as you do, that excites All-State participants. Junior vocal major **Bonnie Tumbleston** said, "It was a great experience for me; it's not very often that you get to perform with 200 high school kids. I love everything about All-State, and I hope to be able to go again next year!"

The concert on Saturday afternoon was truly amazing. After only two and a half days of rehearsal, both choirs were outstanding and the music touched many people. It was astounding to see 400 teenagers so in love with music altogether in one place. The SATB conductor, Dr. Raines, believes that "the world would be a better place if more people were singers." Maybe that's true; music let's us feel, let's us express and let's us dream. You can't be at odds with someone when you're making beautiful music together.

SOA students hard at work on *Guys and Dolls*by **Tracy Cantwell**

The time has come once again for SOA's high school musical production. This biannual tradition began in the 97-98 school year with our rendition of "Oklahoma," at the Gaillard Auditorium. This completely student run performance incorporates all of our majors, (vocal, theater, orchestra, band, visual, dance, piano, and creative writing) and includes a full student orchestra. For over 10 weeks, everyone has been working very hard at both rehearsals and set construction. The theater tech. class, which is a new addition to SOA this year, has been working especially hard at designing, building, and painting the elaborate set. **Mr. Locklair**, the director, boasts that, "The show will be wonderful because of the multiple talents we have available at our school." **Mrs. Nichols**, the costume designer, says, "It is excellent to work with the dedicated students on the costume crew and we're having fun getting the perfect costumes for each cast member." And the musical director, **Mr. Kerr**, boasts, "The book (music that we play) is much more difficult than 'Oklahoma.' It has a lot of jazz and is very challenging. There are professional groups I know of that couldn't play it as well as these kids do."

This performance is guaranteed to be a big hit, so bring all of your friends and family to see "Guys and Dolls," on April 13 and 14 at 7 pm at the beautiful new North Charleston Performing Arts Center. The tickets for this great night of family entertainment are only \$5 for students and \$10 for adults. Please come and support everyone that has worked so hard.



Students such as **Allison Menick**, a theater tech student, are working hard in all aspects of the show. Not only does she work on the set but she is also a cello player in the orchestra. Alli says "I love having the ability to participate in more than one aspect of the show. It makes me appreciate all the hard work that goes into each portion of a musical. *Guys and Dolls* was quite a challenge to put together, but our hard work will pay off. The show is going to be magnificent. I can't wait until opening night."

photo by **Antwayn Randolph**

April 2000

May 2000

Wed 12th- 7,8,9 Gr. Dancers to Florida (12-15th)
Dress Rehearsal

Thurs 13th- HS Theater presents *Guys and Dolls*-NCArts Center
CCSD public hearing about budget @ Gaillard at 7pm

Fri 14th-HS Theater presents *Guys and Dolls*-NCArts Center

Sun 16th-SOA Riverdogs day at "The Joe" 2:05pm

Mon 17th-Fri 21st- Spring Break

Mon 24th- School is in session Snow Make-up Day

Tues 25th- PACT Test

Wed 26th- PACT Test

Thurs 27th- Music Festival and competition Williamsburg, VA
PACT Test

Fri 28th- Music Festival and competition Williamsburg, VA
PACT Test
SC Thespian Conference @ C of C

Sat 29th-Music Festival and competition Williamsburg, VA
SC Thespian Conference @ C of C

Sun 30th-Music Festival and competition Williamsburg, VA
Return to SOA
SC Thespian Conference @ C of C

Tues 2nd- HS CW Literary Reading 7pm BB

Thurs 4th- 6,7,8 CW Literary Reading

Fri 5th- Solo/Ensemble Festival
SOA auction Riviera Theater 7-9pm

Mon 8th-Dress Rehearsal for "Chorale"

Tues 9th-Dress Rehearsal for "Chorale"

Wed 10th- "Chorale" HS Chorus Spring Show BB

Thurs 11th- "Chorale" HS Chorus Spring Show BB 7pm
Armed Forces Day Assem. Patriot's Point 9-12:45pm

Fri 12th-Middle School Theatre picnic-Charlestown Landing

Tues 16th-Dance Dept. Spring Repetory Concert BB 16-18TH

Thurs 18th-MS Singers Spring Concert 7:30 pm

Fri 19th-High School Theatre Dinner-Ramada Inn

Sat 20th- 8th Grade Prom-Dinner and Dance (Cafeteria Re-served)

Thurs 25th- 8th Gr. Presents *Comedy of Errors* BB 7pm

Fri 26th- 8th Gr. Presents *Comedy of Errors*

Mon 29th- Memorial Day School's Closed

SOA taking auditions for CD

SOA will embark on a challenging project beginning in May: a CD written, performed, and produced by SOA students. Student artists will design the jacket. The project will culminate with a concert next spring. Auditions for songwriters and performers will be held in May. Please listen for announcements. For more information see Mr. Cusatis.

Thanks to everyone who attended the March 20 public hearing. SOA appreciates your support.

Sheila Wertimer

ASLA

Landscape Architect

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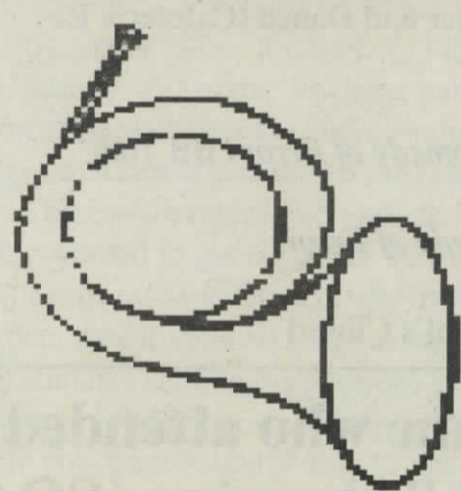


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