

# APPLAUSE

Vol. 10 Issue 2

School of the Arts

October 28, 2008



## Editor's Note



Once again, it's time for *Applause's* annual Art Smart Issue! We would like to give a big welcome to all visiting fifth graders, and hope you enjoy your day at SOA. In addition to Art Smart, students at SOA are gearing up for *The Wiz*, which will be performed on January 21 and 22 at the NCPAC. Hope you enjoy our latest issue!

*K. Chaney Long*

Letter to the editor? E-mail Chaney at [Chaney.SOA@Gmail.com](mailto:Chaney.SOA@Gmail.com)

*Cover art by Henry Camp, Shatika McCullough, Tre Raynor, Jazzy Jordan, Ryan Bing, Christiana Keinath*

*Cover design by Alek Mihok*



Congratulations to our October

Patron of the Month, Mr. Orvin.  
His \$20 Barnes and Noble gift card was presented by *Applause* staff member Chelsea Adent.

## Applause

the official student run paper of

**Charleston County School of the Arts**

**K. Chaney Long, Editor-in-chief**

### Editors

Chelsea Adent  
Kimberly Jenkins  
Tanya Lewandowski  
David Sass

### Staff

Dorothy Behre  
Lizzie Caulder  
Monique Collins  
Becca Forman  
DeAnna Kerley  
Alek Mihok  
Wes Snell  
Sam Whitley

John Cusatis, Ph.D., Advisor  
Gage McAngus, Student Intern  
Charleston County School of the Arts  
1600 Saranac Street  
North Charleston, SC 29405

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# Summer reading comes to life in Mrs. Passarello's English Class

By Forrest Putnam

If you have seen what looked like multiple Jay Gatsbys infesting the corridors of the school, do not worry. You are not insane, nor are the individuals you may have encountered. It is only Mrs. Passarello's honors and college prep English classes, who recently expressed their understanding of summer reading requirements in quite an original way. Each student was asked to portray a character from one of the four summer reading titles in question using a style unique to their art major. In costume and ready with food items appropriate to the time period in which each book was set, the class was essentially having a sort of literary party where their understanding of the reading was tested. Students also performed a routine or presented a piece of art specific to their field. Most frequent were acts relating to Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. Celeste Riddle played Billie Holiday as she sang at one of Jay Gatsby's parties, while Lauren DiNicola penned a poem that might have been from Daisy Buchanan. Addison Dent entertained his peers with a shockingly realistic portrayal of Gatsby himself.

Mrs. Passarello commended the success of the project, saying "I think it made the books come alive as the student's understanding of the characters was conveyed to others." This is a good example of the effort SOA teachers put into making education both fun and meaningful.



## October-November Calendar

Oct 28<sup>th</sup> - Report Cards Issued  
 Oct 28-30<sup>th</sup> - Art Smart Open House 9:30 - 11:00am  
 Oct 29<sup>th</sup> - HS Orchestra to perform on Lowcountry Live  
 - Early Dismissal Day  
 Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> - HS Orchestra Annual Oyster Roast  
 Nov 4<sup>th</sup> - Election Day, No School  
 Nov 7<sup>th</sup> - Gifted & Talented Testing in Ms. Colquitt's room  
 Nov 11<sup>th</sup> - Explore Testing - 9<sup>th</sup> Grade  
 - Plan Testing - 10<sup>th</sup> Grade during 1<sup>st</sup> two blocks  
 - HS Vocal All State Auditions in Columbia, SC  
 - MICA College Visit - 1:50 pm  
 Nov 11-15<sup>th</sup> - National French Week  
 Nov 13-16<sup>th</sup> - Dance Senior Thesis Trip to Kingston Plantation - Myrtle Beach  
 Nov 17<sup>th</sup> - Senior Jostens Meeting  
 Nov 18<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Literary Reading in Black Box at 7:00 pm  
 - MS & HS Dance Performance at Hanahan High School 7:00 pm  
 Nov 19-20<sup>th</sup> - MS & HS Dance Performance at Hanahan High School 7:00 pm  
 - PTSA Meeting - 6:00 pm Pizza Social - 6:30 pm Meeting with Entertainment  
 Nov 21<sup>st</sup> - Senior Jostens Orders during both lunches  
 - Lowcountry Region Orchestra West Ashley High School  
 Nov 26-28<sup>th</sup> - Thanksgiving Holidays No School

## New Campus

By Chelsea Adent

As many people have seen *and* heard, the new school campus is finally being built and moving along at a great pace! Before this winter, the School of the Arts part of the campus should be under a roof if all continues to go well.

The facility which is being built for Academic Magnet and School of the Arts is considered a "flagship school," which means it is the best of the best. It is also the most expensive school the state of South Carolina has ever built!

Everyone is probably wondering when we will move in. School of the Arts students will remain on the current campus until after Winter Break next year. Then, when we return to school in January 2010, we will be entering the new campus. In fall semester of 2010, Academic Magnet will join us. The two schools will share a media center, cafeteria, gym, and athletic center.

Some new features to look forward to in the new campus are elevators, an orchestra pit, a gym, and an auditorium. Mr. Reinhart assures us that the school will also include many "green" features.

## Rock-N-My Style

By: Monique Collins

"Swagga. I got a crazy swagga. I'm sick baby, brrr!" said Akeem Rivers, a 12<sup>th</sup> grade



visual artist, when asked how he expressed his style. In his black Coogi outfit and gold bling, this senior creates a bold look that matches his vivacious personality. How does he achieve his image? Rap artist like Gucci Mane and Juice Man inspire him. Akeem is definitely rock-n his style, are you rock-n yours?

## Upcoming Local Arts Events

Mon- Monday Night Blues at East Bay Coffee House  
 Thurs- Open mic night at Kudu Coffee  
 Oct 17<sup>th</sup>- Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>: Stage adaptation of *War of the Worlds* celebrating the original broadcast's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Village Playhouse  
 Oct 30<sup>th</sup> - Nov 8<sup>th</sup>- Coastal Carolina Fair  
 Oct 31<sup>st</sup>: Badfish at the Music Farm, 8pm, \$15  
 Sat, Oct 11<sup>th</sup>-Nov 15<sup>th</sup>: All-day "figure-drawing" marathon at the Gibbes Museum, \$15 students  
 Oct- Nov 1<sup>st</sup>- Scarecrow Corn Maze at Boone Hall  
 Nov 1<sup>st</sup>: "Banana monologues" performance at Theater 99  
 Nov 1<sup>st</sup>: Harvest Fest, Johns Island County Park- bluegrass, dancing, food  
 Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>- Chamber Music Charleston Downtown House Concert Series  
 Nov 7<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup>: Fine Arts Annual, 20 nationally renowned artists, gallery & auction  
 Nov 14<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>- "Faith Hope and Charity" tells the tale of the increasingly desperate attempts of a young woman to obtain money, PURE theater, 150 Meeting Street.  
 Nov 15<sup>th</sup>- Jan: Festival of Lights at James Island County Park  
 Nov 19<sup>th</sup>- Trans-Siberian Orchestra at the Coliseum

## The 3D's By Kimberly Jenkins

*Applause* is reviving an old feature in which staff members hear from the 3D's: Mr. Dawson, Mr. Davis, and Ms. Darlene. For our first column, Kimberly Jenkins asked them for some basic facts.

### Mr. John Dawson

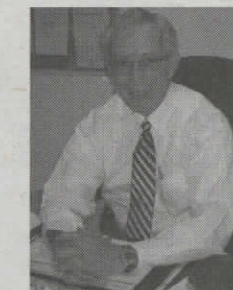
Hobbies: Church  
 Favorite Food: Red rice and fish... I like that!  
 Favorite book: The Bible  
 Most recent movie seen: *Passion of the Christ*  
 Dream car: Right now it would be a 2009 Sport Trac  
 Favorite sport: Football  
 Favorite music genre: Gospel  
 Favorite actor/actress: Denzel Washington  
 Favorite color: Blue  
 Dream job: None



Favorite college team: University of South Carolina

### Mr. Ace Roy Davis

Hobbies: Coin collecting, reading, running  
 Favorite food: Lowcountry seafood, Mexican food  
 Favorite author: Robert Ludlum  
 Most recent book read: *The Shack*  
 Dream car: 1984 Mercedes Sports  
 Favorite sport: Track and field  
 Favorite music genre: Beach music of all kinds, classical  
 Favorite actor/ actress: Barbara Stenwyck  
 Favorite color: Blue



Dream job: Being an administrator, working with middle and high school students

Favorite college team: I'm divided between Clemson and USC. I have daughters who attended both schools. I would say the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame.

### Mrs. Darlene

Hobbies: Reading, cooking  
 Favorite food: Any Italian food  
 Favorite author: Stephen King  
 Favorite movie: *Ghost*  
 Dream car: Mercedes  
 Favorite sport: Football (college)  
 Favorite singer: Josh Turner  
 Favorite actor/ actress: Matthew McConaughey  
 Favorite color: Baby blue  
 Dream job: Restaurant owner



Favorite college team: University of South Carolina



## A Day in the Life of a 6<sup>th</sup> Grader

By Savanna Osborne



In the mornings after I wake up, I get ready for school. My homeroom teacher is Mrs. Newell so I spend a few minutes in her classroom every morning. On A days, my first class is ELA writing with Mrs. Newell; this class lasts a couple of hours. Then, my second class is math with Ms. Wojo, which is a pretty exciting class because after it's done, we go to lunch and recess. Lunch usually lasts 20-30 minutes; recess lasts awhile. Third period is Creative Writing with Mrs. Miles. We write poems and stories on the

computers, and some days we have a response group, which involve judging other people's work on word choice, topic, and other aspects. My fourth class is social studies with Mrs. Blake. Homework there is a little challenging, but I definitely enjoy it. On B days, my first class is literature with Mrs. Mitchum. In this class, I have noticed that we have to prepare for a variety of assignments. Second period is math again. Third period is the same, because I have Creative Writing again, but fourth period I have science. In science I also have guidance. Mrs. Miller comes and talks to us about saying 'no' to drugs and doing well in school. After fourth period I head back to Mrs. Newell's trailer to pack up. Then we all wait for the bell to ring so we go home.

## What is Art Smart?

By Monique Collins

You're probably thinking the name sounds cool, has a nice little jingle, but what does Art Smart mean? Well, Art Smart was established in 1995 by middle school guidance counselor Ms. Miller, "to get students excited about applying for the school," Ms. Miller said. During Art Smart, SOA welcomes nearly one thousand fifth grade students. The students tour

the campus and learn about the eight majors offered at SOA: piano, band, strings, creative writing, theater, dance, vocal, and visual arts. Every fifth grader in Charleston County is invited to attend; letters are sent to their home addresses as well as their schools. Eighth graders at SOA perform for the visiting students, giving them a taste of what it's like in their majors.

## A Day in the Life of a 6<sup>th</sup> Grader

Cynthia Schlenker



and "B days." You see on an "A day," you have certain classes that you wouldn't have on a "B day," and vice versa. You always have your major, math and homeroom no matter what day it is. I even have an "A day" book bag and a "B day" book bag to make it less complicated. Each of my book bags is lighter than the one I had to carry in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, which makes my day a lot easier, at least in that way!

At the SOA, your day always starts with homeroom; my homeroom teacher is Ms. Wojciechowski, one of the math teachers. After you get to your homeroom, you unpack your book bag and get what you need to be ready for first period. My first period class is math everyday. My second period is either Ms. Newell (the writing teacher) on an "A day," or Ms. Mitchum (the literature teacher)

Since

I got to the School of the Arts, I've had a lot of fun. Although it's fun, it's also hard work. Here at SOA, we have "A days"

on a "B day." Then we go to lunch with our second period. After a thirty minute lunch, we go to recess. There, we can talk and joke with our friends. Then we have our major for third period. My major is strings; I play the violin. My strings teacher is Ms. Johnson, and she is so nice and fun. After major, we have fourth period. My fourth period is either Ms. Blake (the social studies teacher) on an "A day," or Ms. Moschella (the science teacher) on a "B day." Last, we go back to homeroom to pack up and go home after the announcer dismisses us.

SOA is a hard working school, but it's so fun. Just seeing the paintings in the school halls created by the SOA visual artists is fun. Most majors even go to places, like Myrtle Beach, and to other schools too, where they either perform, or see other performances. Some majors even get to compete with other schools. This is a school of very talented kids, and I hope that everyone who goes here will enjoy it the way I do. I feel very lucky to be able to go to a school like the Charleston County School of the Arts.

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## Student teacher Mr. McAngus brings a new perspective to the English department

By Sam Whitley

Mr. Gage McAngus will be working as a student intern with Dr. Cusatis until late November

*What colleges have you attended, and what majors did you take?*

I have attended the College of Charleston, where I studied English and Creative Writing. And, following that, I started attending the Citadel where I'm getting a Master of Arts in teaching English.

*What inspired you to go into teaching?*

It started with a lot of my own high school teachers that really pushed me to do a lot of work, and kind of pushed the way that I thought about things. Especially in English classes. And that was followed up by one particular professor that I had at the College of Charleston

that really opened my eyes to the ways that education can help you improve yourself in innumerable ways.

*Now that you've spent years of your life as a student, how does it feel to be a teacher?*

More than anything, it feels good being able to craft my own lessons. Looking back on my time as a high school and college student, I remember feeling most rewarded by

the assignments and activities that I knew teachers had spent time crafting, ones that come from the heart, soul, and mind. As a teacher, though, I now realize the tremendous

amounts of pressure and effort that go into that, but feel, beyond the shadow of a doubt, up to that challenge.

*Before you came here, what did you think the School of the Arts would be like?*

I knew that it was going to have the best students in the nation. I knew that for a fact from looking at reports online, school reports, and I knew that it was going to have a lot of individuals. A lot of times in high school it can be easy to fall into a group, to kind of lose your own identity, but I had a pretty good feeling that at School of the arts that wouldn't exactly be the case.

*Is it different from what you thought in any way?*

I would say it's different because it's actually exceeded my expectations. Being in the classroom with students I feel like I'm in an advanced college classroom usually. The level of intellect, person ability, has completely exceeded my expectations. So, it is a little bit different, and that's definitely for the better.

*What's your favorite thing about School of the Arts so far?*

My favorite thing has been getting to share my passion for learning, literature, and culture with such a diverse and talented group of students. I feel part of a community at SOA,

one bound by a collective understanding of and appreciation for the arts. It is rare that you see so much talent under one roof (metaphorically speaking, of course), and I feel honored to play a small role in contributing to that.

*Do you have any musical or artistic abilities yourself?*

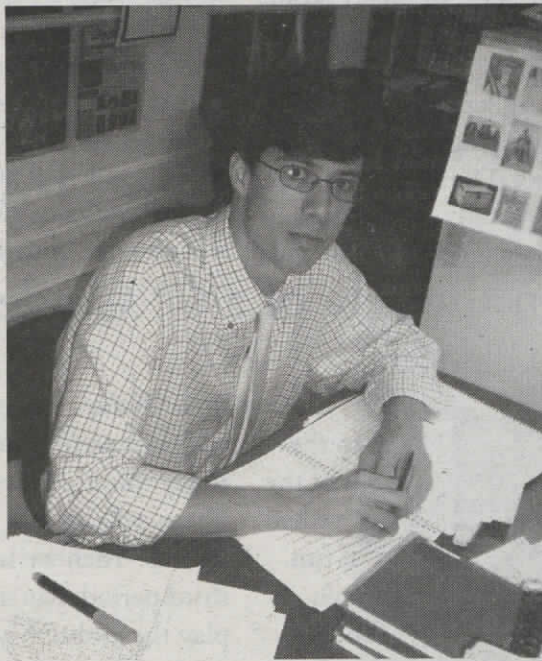
I do actually. I play a variety of stringed instruments. I've played the guitar since I was eleven years old and moved to start playing a mandolin, banjo, bass guitar. Pretty much anything with strings that doesn't have a bow intrigues me.

*Now, if you weren't working here today, what would you be doing?*

If I was not working here today, I would probably be reading, substitute teaching, or trying to find a way to get a job at this school.

*What are your plans for the future?*

My biggest aspiration would be to become full-time staff, full-time faculty, and down the road, future, I would like to get my PhD in English literature, and hopefully to make an impact in students' lives, and further down the road, start a family, take it from there.



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## Barack Obama for president

By Kimberly Jenkins



Senator Barack Obama is truly the candidate that will bring change and hope to America. He is not stuck in the old ways of Washington and wants to bring about reform that will help

the many middle class families struggling to survive in today's economic crisis.

Obama has a plan that will help to boost the economy and those who need it the most: the average middle class family that is struggling to pay their mortgage, provide healthcare for their children, and fund their children's college education. Obama has a plan to cut taxes for those who make less than \$250,000 and end the tax breaks for companies who continue to ship our jobs overseas. McCain has been quick in his accusation that Senator Obama's tax cuts will raise taxes for most small businesses. That is simply not true. Most of small businesses, 98 percent to be exact, make less than \$250,000 and will not be affected by the tax increase. Senator Obama has even offered to increase tax breaks for small businesses because they provide the most jobs and help to drive our economy. Senator McCain has voted along with President Bush four out of five times on

the national budget. Now, if that doesn't say anything about McCain's heavy ties to those in Washington, I don't know what will.

Senator Obama, along with running mate, Joe Biden, has proposed ways to end our dependence on foreign oil and be totally independent of Middle Eastern oil in ten years. Obama favors nuclear technology and wants to invest in solar, wind, and geothermal energy. Senator McCain has constantly blamed others in Washington for not supporting alternative energy sources, yet in his 26 years in Washington he has voted against using alternative fuels 23 times.

As a senior planning for college, education is a very important issue to me. It is important to make sure that young students can perform in a global society. That is why Senator Obama proposes a plan that will fund head-start programs and other early childhood education programs. He also wants to address the drop-out rate and create a tax credit, which will ensure that the first \$4,000 towards every college education is free.

The facts speak for themselves. McCain offers four more years of the same Washington policies and corruption that has filled the Bush administration. We need the energy and drive of a young new leader, someone who can go to Washington and speak up for the teachers, the firefighters, the nurses- the voices that are seldom heard.

kimberlyj.soa@gmail.com

## Obama dominates in student poll

By Kimberly Jenkins

*Applause* polled three hundred SOA High School students to determine which issues were most important to them during this election and which candidate they support. Among the issues, the economy dominated with 62%, followed by the war (21%), health care (7%), education (18%), immigration (4%). Barack Obama (Dem) earned 55% of the vote, followed by John McCain (Rep) with 39%. Tailing Obama and McCain were Ralph Nader (Ind) with 4%, and Bob Barr (Libertarian) and Cynthia McKinney (Green) garnered 1% each.

## John McCain for president

By Wes Snell



John McCain is the presidential candidate for us. He and his running mate, Sarah Palin, provide a country in need of change with the kind of radical energy that

McCain has wielded since his early days in office. From day one, McCain has fought for the American people against an encroaching government that threatens to dilute our rights. He is a true and blue Republican.

McCain has starkly opposed pork barrel spending, which is essentially the acceptance of bribes from big-money corporations in return for political support. Barack Obama has never fought against such a critical vein of corruption in politics. And though it can be admitted that McCain has closely followed the Bush administration in their policies, it would be more appropriate to say that he is going to bring necessary change to our nation while upholding the strong, core family values for which Bush has so fervently fought. He supports the traditional definition of marriage. Barack Obama, who has admitted to using cocaine

and smoking pot, is not a man who will preserve our values and traditions. And that's saying nothing about his affiliations with terrorist William Ayers or fraudulent companies like ACORN.

Our nation is in trouble right now. We are involved in a draining war, one that everyday adds to our ten trillion dollar debt. We can't afford healthcare, we can't afford to live in our houses; we can't even afford to put gas in our car. We need someone with experience to guide us through this crisis, someone with the strength and willpower to rescue America from its economic crisis. John McCain has that strength and that willpower. His plans for energy independence give us the means to provide for ourselves. I don't know anybody my age that can comfortably pay to drive his own car. McCain will break us from the oil conglomerates in the Middle East. He will also put the homeowners first in his plan to solve the economic crisis. He will impose a blanket-spending freeze and put a halt on our rampant and irresponsible spending. This is a man who is concerned with making each of us independent and self-supportive, a man who will give us the reigns and point us towards a new and fresh America.

Wes.soa@gmail.com

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# Jump Jive and Wail 2008

By Dorothy Behre and Wes Snell



On the first cold night of October, SOA students and staff gathered under the Visitor's Center bus shed to create their own heat on the dance floor. Over 800 tickets were sold this year, and as Mr. Kerr states, "I think this was the best Jump, Jive, and Wail we've had in years. The band played great and I really liked the crowd participation." He's right. From big band swing to James Brown, from soft ballads to a funky cover of Tower of Power's "What is Hip?" the Jazz Band were strong all over the musical board. The crowd responded with equal enthusiasm. Whether you were an experienced swing-dancer or if it was your first try, you were welcome on the floor with everyone else.

Looking around one observed, there were smiling faces, twirling skirts and twinkling lights. Passersby were drawn to the music and energy radiating from the bus shed and stood outside to listen. The music was the pulse of the evening, and kept it alive and dancing. Despite the disproportionate girl-to-guy ratio at SOA, every girl had someone to dance with. The end came too soon, and while there were a few complaints about sore feet and the cold weather, the energy of the night still lingered, making it a night to remember. Many people pass schools dances off as trite and flat; Mr. Kerr and his Jazz Band transcended the stereotype and proved it can be fun for the music critics out there as well. They deserve every penny they raised.





# SOA prepares for *The Wiz*

By Rebecca Forman

Go to any other school and you'll have your football team, your track stars, your homecoming king and queen and perhaps a colorguard team or five, but here at SOA we value our ultimate Frisbee team and our school play- a sickening amount. I say that endearingly, but honestly, the level of enthusiasm would take anyone by surprise for this year's school musical, *The Wiz*.

Written in the 70s, *The Wiz* is a modern version of *The Wizard of Oz*. For anyone who has not seen or read *The Wizard of Oz* (has anyone not?), it is a true classic. Personally, I think it is one of the most eerie children's movies ever made. It follows Dorothy, a young girl trying to find her way back home from the land of Oz, who befriends a talking tin man, lion, and scarecrow.

"*The Wiz* will take these classic characters and add a little bit of soul and attitude," Ms. Slenk, *The Wiz*'s music director explained, "but the story line is basically the same."

The audition process is, of course, a very tedious but important part of putting on a production. 150 high school students, grades 9-12, auditioned, but for the few who didn't, the audition was held over three days. On one of the days the students learned a dance, and on the other, a musical excerpt from *The Wiz* itself. On the third day of auditions, they had to perform the dance with six other people, and sing the song with the accompaniment of

only a piano.

With so many talented students, what were they looking for? "The students who could dance and sing got call backs. They had to read from a script to show their acting potential as well. We were just looking for the most well-rounded artists, ones who could sing, dance *and* act," explained Ms. Slenk.

If you auditioned, but did not get a part, you could still have been an immensely talented singer, dancer, or actor. They were looking for triple threats. A fourth, often underestimated skill, is dedication, and if you did get a part, you'll need it. This is no ordinary school musical; it's a representation of everything SOA stands for, and the talent our school cultivates from 6<sup>th</sup> grade up.

Rehearsals will be held at least twice a week, sometimes 3-4 times. The play will be performed at the *North Charleston Performing Arts Center*, and with all of the characters, we're going to need 160 costumes and multiple sets.

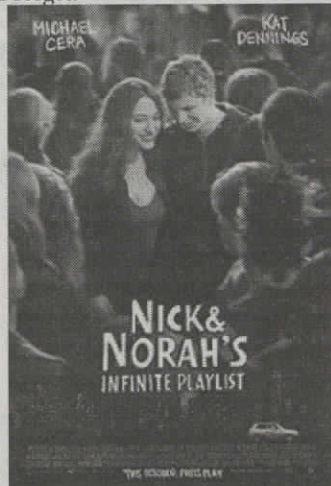
Every major plays a role. Visual artists are helping with costumes and set designs. Instrumentalists, such as band, piano, and strings majors are going to be involved in the pit orchestra. Even our academic classes are making an effort to support *The Wiz* through the "Follow the Yellow Brick Road" program, where we will hang our academic work outside of the classrooms for Art Smart visitors to see.



## Nick and Norah's

Reviewed by DeAnna Kerley

Directed by Pete Sollett, *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist* stars Michael Cera and Kat Dennings. The two teens meet when Norah is forced to prove to Tris, Nick's ex-girlfriend, that she did not come to the concert alone. Norah kisses the unsuspecting Nick and opens up a night filled with a search for Norah's friend and a wild date the two will never forget.



I had exceptionally high expectations, and I was not disappointed. Pete Sollett crafts a unique take on the classic teenage movie, using a script crammed with witty humor reminiscent of *Juno*. Each actor brings his own talent to the big-screen, leaving the audience with a sense of compassion and sympathy for every character. There is no doubt about it, *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist* is the *Say Anything* of our generation and will not be soon forgotten.

## Thai House: Authentic Hole-in-the-Wall

By Forrest Putnam

Squeezed into the mini-mall adjacent to the old Wal-Mart, is a new restaurant offering the only genuine Thai cuisine in West Ashley. It looks like a cheap Chinese take-out shop, but appearances are deceiving. Inside is an immaculate sit-down restaurant resplendent with Thai décor and friendly service. Comfortable accommodations, dim lighting, and classical music complete the establishment's impressive style.

The menu carries familiar favorites like Pad Thai noodle casserole and a dizzying variety of delicious meat stir-fries. Pad Thai is their specialty, a helping of noodles fried with eggs, crushed peanuts, and a generous portion of meat. Other offerings consist of meats and vegetables fried in your choice of sauce including curry, ginger, garlic, or peppers, each served with white rice. Appetizers include items such as overstuffed spring rolls and marinated roast chicken strips served with plenty of hearty

## Classic Movie Review

Reviewed by Lizzie Caulder

Stanley Donen and Gene Kelly's *Singin' in the Rain* was a smash hit of the 1950's.

It takes place in 1927, when silent



movies were becoming obsolete, and talking pictures were the new craze. Gene Kelly stars as Don Lockwood, along with Donald O'Connor, Debbie Reynolds, and Jean Hagen.

*Singin' in the Rain* was made directly for a film, not a Broadway adaptation. This is hard to believe with wonderful songs, including "Fit as a Fiddle," and of course "Singin' in the Rain."

The film was nominated for two Academy awards with Jean Hagen, as best supporting actress, and also for best original music score. It really was a "Singin' Swingin' Glorious Feelin' Technicolor Musical!"

peanut sauce. The level of spice in any dish is entirely up to the customer. Almost the whole menu can be made vegetarian, if desired.

Thai House offers a single dessert that shames any other confection made from rice. Underwhelmingly titled "sticky rice," this item is a hot pudding of silky white rice ground with some kind of creamy saccharine sauce. It has the consistency of whipped grits and a sublime, spicy-sweet flavor reminiscent of cloves or cinnamon. This is one of the best desserts I have ever tasted. As for the wine list, there is a wide selection of Japanese sake with prices reaching up to thirty or forty dollars a bottle.

Thai food boasts some of the most complex and highly developed flavors of any cuisine in the world, and Thai House gets it right. This, along with the restaurant's clean atmosphere and remarkable service, makes Thai House a dining experience you do not want to miss.

## Okkervil River: *The Stand Ins*

Reviewed by DeAnna Kerley

Lead by Will Sheff, Okkervil River released their fifth album, *The Stand Ins* on September 9, 2008. *The Stand Ins* has already charted at #42 on the Billboard 200, surpassing their previous album *The Stage Names*, which landed a spot at #62. This album could very well be the best of their career.

In every track, the band stays true to their trademark sound: dark and poignant with an indescribable restlessness. Yet they definitely aren't afraid to explore each musical genre, from the rockabilly "Singer Songwriter" to the pensive poetry of "Blue Tulip." Sheff delivers another incredible vocal performance that compliments the profound introspection of



every lyric, the coarse resonance of his voice a refreshing break from the overplayed pop of 95SX. As he declares in one of my personal favorites, "Pop Lie": "All sweetly sung and succinctly stated/ words and music you calculated/ to make you sing along/ with your stereo on."

My only criticism? The brief instrumental songs ("Stand Ins, One; Stand Ins, Two; and Stand Ins, Three") that serve as intermissions to the CD give the album a choppy, disjointed feel. However, the positives of *The Stand Ins* definitely outweigh the negatives; it's definitely a CD to add to your collection.

## Classic Album: *Brighten the Corners*

Reviewed by Rebecca Forman

*Brighten the Corners* by Pavement is possibly our last gift from the 90's alternative scene. Before the all consuming themes of apathy, arrogance, and the elusive lyrics of what we now refer to as "indie," before whiny pop music became "emo," before Weezer transitioned from being freaks to charming geeks, there was Pavement.

Formed in Stockholm, California in 1989, Pavement's songs often convey the cookie cutter normalcy of the suburbs that we still feel today. For instance, in the simple tune "We are Underused," they sing of pot roast, a fantastic host, and the useless feeling we are left with after an effortless dinner party. The same is done in their modest single, "Shady Lane." As Stephen Malkmus wails

the lyrics, "Freeze, don't move./ You've been chosen as an extra in the movie adaptation /of the sequel to your life./ Shady lane, everybody needs one," develops a nostalgia for something they have never had: paradise. This is what turns the upbeat nursery rhymes into a tear jerking roller coaster.

Living in the days of ipods and limewire, we rarely find an album we can enjoy all the way through. *Brighten the Corners* flows together, because it is not afraid to break conventions, and experiment with any style they momentarily feel like, from punk to country. Perhaps the first successful indie band to avoid a major label, I encourage anyone interested in alternative music's roots to listen to this album.

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## Where were they then? Creative Writing teacher Dr. Bundschuh shares her childhood

By Wes Snell

Wes Snell spoke to our new Creative Writing teacher, Dr. Bundschuh, about her life before SOA.

*Where did you grow up and what is most memorable about your childhood?*

I was born in Denver, Colorado. I spent my childhood in Colorado and Arizona. While still in Colorado, I lived in a little town at the base of the Rocky Mountains. We had the option to drop our last class and take skiing lessons every day. - It was enormous fun, but sadly I had to move before I had fully perfected downhill skiing, including negotiating the mogels.



*Where were you educated and what did you like most about your early schooling?*

One memory I have of high school at Cactus Shadows in Cave Creek, Arizona is the gift of revision; my English teacher, Mrs. Burke, allowed us to revise, revise, revise an essay, each time earning a higher grade. I now appreciate that she was willing to read so many drafts of my surely mediocre essays!

*What college did you attend and can you describe the experience?*

I studied at many universities in the US and I have a PhD in Creative Writing and English Literature from the University of Houston. I did my

Bachelors at the University of Arizona where I had a work study position at the Center for Photography. It was such a thrill to enter the archive and see all these masterworks of photography, from Ansel Adams to Richard Avedon.

*Have you had any other jobs?*

Another favorite job I had was as a translator in Germany for articles on virtual reality; I would go down to the lab and they would put on the goggles and data glove and explain, what was at the time, cutting edge technology.

*How did you discover your passion for writing?*

I began by visiting the poetry aisles at the Phoenix Public Library—I was drawn to those slim little volumes of poetry, waiting patiently for my arrival.

*What did you do to pursue this passion?*

I was able to fully devote myself to poetry when I began a Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Writing and joined the warm collegiality of a writing community of my peers.

*What brought you to SOA and what do you think of our school?*

I was brought to SOA by the chance to work with Rene Miles, a gifted creative writing teacher, and to direct such a talented group of young people.

I wish I could have had such an experience in junior high and high school.



## Where are they now? Former Applause staff member David Whitley discusses college life

By Sam Whitley

David Whitley graduated from SOA in 2007, a Creative Writing major. He now attends Wofford College in Spartanburg. With his newfound college wisdom, he shares his story.

*How has SOA prepared you for college?*

SOA's curriculum has come in handy more often than I thought it would initially. Many of the poems in my English Literature classes are already familiar to me and because I took AP English Lit, I got to skip the first year (which I highly recommend, the upper level classes are fun.) In addition, since history is unchanging, a lot of my Western Civ. class has been review. There's a whole train of consequences – all good so far – that have come from going to an arts-oriented school.

*How is college life different from high school?*

Primarily I think the point of high school was to give you a general education for all areas of life, whereas the point of college – particularly the student organizations and greek life – appears to be to indoctrinate you into the holier-than-thou professors' socialist philosophy (not all of them, but some). It's sad, but true. That's another thing that SOA, particularly being a creative writer has taught me, not being afraid to voice my opinion even when it's against a large majority.

*Do you ever start to miss all the trailers?*

I miss all my classes being on the same level on the Z axis. We have lots of hills and multi-story buildings here. I'm happy for all the benefits having class inside a real building offers, such as

high-tech hardware that couldn't be run through a trailer very well, a great view out the window that only having class on the third story can give, and air conditioning systems that don't crap out and flood the room with a stench like that of burnt hair.

*What is the strangest thing that has happened in college?*

I guess the strangest/kookiest/zaniest thing that has happened was when somebody shut off the power to Marsh dorm and set off a bunch of fireworks in the girls' hallway right when they were turned on. Our Campus Safety have placed a literal bounty on his/her head of, if I remember correctly, close to one hundred dollars. Nobody has turned in a suspect, however, as far as I know.

The second most interesting thing that has happened is when I – along with several other students – volunteered with our Campus Safety officers and local police in a "sting operation" of sorts in which underage students were driven around to local 7-Elevens and the like and attempted to purchase alcohol. If we were sold it, the officer would come in and serve up some piping hot bowls of smackdown

soup. We were recompensed for our expenses in these purchases and the alcohol was impounded as evidence, the latter bringing much dismay to some of my companions in fraternities.

*What jobs have you held outside of school?*

My latest summer job has been to yell at misbehaving children and berate their negligent parents as well, which I suppose is the most fun-sounding job description for Lifeguarding. My job was to stare at a bunch of buffoons who can't bother to read the signs at the entrance and abide by rules that should be common sense in the first place, whistling and then shouting at them when they inevitably break these rules, and forcing them to leave the park when they give



me the finger.

*If you don't have any work to do, what are you doing?*

At the moment, I'm getting in the seasonal Halloween spirit by watching the meager selection of horror movies that our campus

library has to offer, reading a collection of short stories by H.P. Lovecraft like "The Call of Cthulu", coding HTML, writing, and practicing guitar and piano, as well as composing music digitally. My piano playing sounds terrible, since I've only composed digitally previously, but I've learned to hammer out the opening chord progression to "Hangar 18," so that makes me happy. My ability with the guitar is better, although not really anything to brag about yet. Everyone assumes I'm better than I really am, though, since every time I go into a Guitar Center, Hot Topic, or similar store I keep getting initially mistaken for the guy from Coheed and Cambria. I used to cruise around town with my friends, but the gas prices have been going up and everyone's busy with midterms here, so that is infrequent. We've even had two of our gas stations dry up because the town sucks and isn't resupplied like it should be.

*What advice do you have for us at SOA?*

"Seize the day," "hang in there," "don't give up on your dreams; nothing else matters," or something else that no one ever says outside of those motivational posters middle school teachers seem to be mandated to have at least eleven of.

*Any plans for the future?*

Three words: Emperor of the World. You can mock me now and say that is four words, but once I ascend my throne, you will not dare contradict me for fear of excommunication.

# Ars Poetica

by Hadley Preganz

a poem should be  
annoying  
but motivating  
attractive,  
confusing,  
and an honest lie.

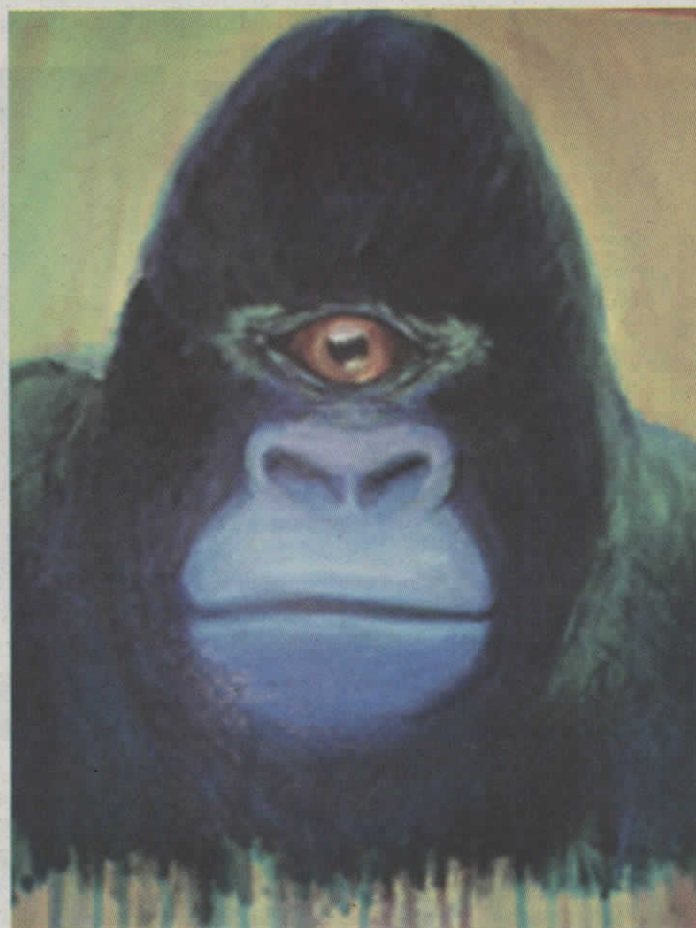
it should be a  
metaphor  
of a small something  
in the background.

it needs to be palpable,  
different, similar,  
vivacious.

it could be difficult,  
dark, bright,  
saddening.

a poem should be  
repetitive,  
but limited.  
powerful,  
meaningless,  
a message in a bottle.

a poem should be the  
writer.



By Senior Jessica Davidson



By Sixth Grader Demetrius Jenkins

# Student Artwork



By Senior Katie Safford



By Senior Sarah Dimuzio



By Sixth Grader Olivia Dipaolo

## Sass-Attack

By David Sass

With a prayer to Lady Luck on your tongue, and your rabbit's foot and four-leaf clover clutched in one hand, you blow on the lucky die in your other hand, then let it fly. The twenty-sided die clatters across the board, finally coming to rest on a malicious looking 1. With a scream of despair, your wild sword swing eviscerates naught but air, and the flame-spewing dragon leans forward casually to snap you in half with one bite of its giant maw. Too bad, it looks like Jorge the mighty barbarian might've just raided his last dungeon. Until you get back to the town in your mom's basement, that is.

Most people have seen only the media version of the "geeks, nerds and social pariahs" who play Dungeons & Dragons and any of the hundreds of games like it, so that's the image they associate with it. I think like that too, and I myself play one such game! Well, I try to play it, at least... But thanks to the media derogatively portraying these games and those who play them as "the epitome of geekdom," I believe that the kids in high school who play them are afraid to let their friends know about their secret passion for fear of being teased. And to that I say nay! Stand up and declare, "I love Warhammer 40K (or whatever game it is you play), and I'm bloody proud of it!" And if people mock you still, just tell them that Stephen Colbert, Vin Diesel, Mike Myers and Robin Williams all proudly play D&D. That'll shut them up for sure.

But enough praise, it's time to mock, bash and ridicule that which I love! As one who has invested quite a bit into the gaming hobby, I can say without a doubt that it's not exactly cheap. I mean, I've spent well over \$300 just on models, and I've only been doing it for about 2 years! Then there are the crazy rules that must have been written in an insane asylum. The main rulebook alone weighs nearly ten pounds, is about as thick as my history textbook, and just as complex and wordy, if not more so! And on top of that are the individual rulebooks for each race. And don't even get me started on how many dice are involved. I swear, between a D&D and a W40K starter kit, I have about 15 to 20 dice. It's just ridiculous!

Hobby gaming is pretty much like the football of geeks, except that it requires the people who play to actually have brains instead of 200 extra pounds of muscle. That, and they have to be willing to empty their wallets real quick to get a model before anyone else. So if anyone is looking for a game, my Ultramarines are waiting to crush your puny army!

## Transnistrian Dreams

By Forrest Putnam

Nestled in an obscure corner of the world, far from the spotlight of Western-influenced Europe, is a wonderful country that remains undiscovered and unknown. Beyond the Dniester River and the traditional experience of the West lies a nation of untapped promise: Transnistria.

Transnistria, officially the Pridnestrovian-Moldovan Republic (PMR), is a very small country occupying a tiny strip of land between Ukraine and Moldova. It has a proud history of resistance and defeated an invasion by Moldova in 1992, at the cost of many Transnistrian lives. The PMR government is based on socialist democratic ideals and is known for its popular support and lack of corruption. Transnistria is a former Soviet territory, so its economic system is a blend of capitalist and communist doctrine.

In addition to its established economy, based on exports of military hardware and fresh fruit, Transnistria is very interested in foreign tourism as a source of national revenue. The nation boasts the very best hospitality, plus plenty of their world-famous Kvint Cognac, for anyone willing to visit.

The PMR has a modest population of no more than half a million people. This size enables the country to maintain a small-world atmosphere emphasizing individual respect and friendship. In fact, Transnistria is so small and obscure to outsiders that it would not be unreasonable to expect a banquet in honor of any foreigner. Transnistria prides itself on its generosity and kindly treatment of visitors.

Not to say that Transnistria is very experienced in the matter of international relations. The country's government seems utterly ignorant of Western travel expectations, and their recent efforts to appeal to tourists are little more than a joke. Their official travel website, [www.visitPMR.com](http://www.visitPMR.com), advertises such attractions as the Koumant-Zelensky Gasmask Museum, the finest apples in Europe, and the famous Transnistrian "tank monuments," made out of WW2 tanks mounted on pedestals.

Transnistria, however, is much more than disconcerting museums and rusting weaponry; it is a nation of decent, honest people who desperately need foreign friends. For the first time in history, the region is its own nation and is extending a welcoming hand to the world. So if you are looking for a vacation that no one else on the block could even imagine, try Transnistria. They guarantee that although their country "may not be paradise on Earth, it is not Dante's Inferno either." Now *that* is self-confidence.

## You'll wish you didn't know: Zombies

By Sam Whitley

It's that Halloween time of year again. Jack-o'-lanterns are on our streets, horror movies are on our televisions, and Christmas decorations are up at Wal-Mart. All bitterness aside, Halloween's the time to celebrate all the things that keep us up at night. To honor that spirit of terror and dismemberment, this column is dedicated to the zombies of the world. The undead aren't just the beloved cannon fodder of our movies and video games. It's time to start boarding up your windows, because zombies are real. No, this isn't a US Army experiment gone awry – it's an ancient Haitian tradition.

Zombies first appeared in Haitian folklore hundreds of years ago. According to Voodoo superstition, a powerful sorcerer can bring people back from the dead, and keep them as zombie servants. As odd as it seems, there is some truth to this belief. Upon hearing accounts of these practices, Harvard biologist Wade Davis traveled to Haiti to investigate. He observed that the "sorcerers" would first feed their victims a powder that made them lose consciousness

and appear dead. Unaware, the family would bury them, while the sorcerer returned that night to dig them up. Awakened from the grave, the zombie had no choice but to become his undead slave. Davis discovered that the powder given to the would-be zombie contained venom from puffer fish and several types of toads. The puffer fish knocks the victim out and makes his vital signs slow for hours, leading relatives to think they have died. Meanwhile, the toad poison irritates the skin, lending the victim a ghoulish appearance. Most of all, the fact that the victim believes in zombies leads him to conclude that he is one. That, and enough drugs to make Hunter S. Thompson jealous. True, they're not zombies in the B-movie sense, but I'm still keeping them away from my grey matter. Until Westvaco moves next to our cemeteries, this is the closest we're going to get. Have a good Halloween everybody. Just don't dig up any corpses.

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speed-the-plow  
sept 12 - 27, 2008



war of the worlds  
oct 17 - nov 2, 2008



a christmas story  
nov 28 - dec 20, 2008



doubt, a parable  
jan 16 - 31, 2009



a flea in her ear  
feb 27 - mar 15, 2009



a delicate balance  
apr 3 - 18, 2009

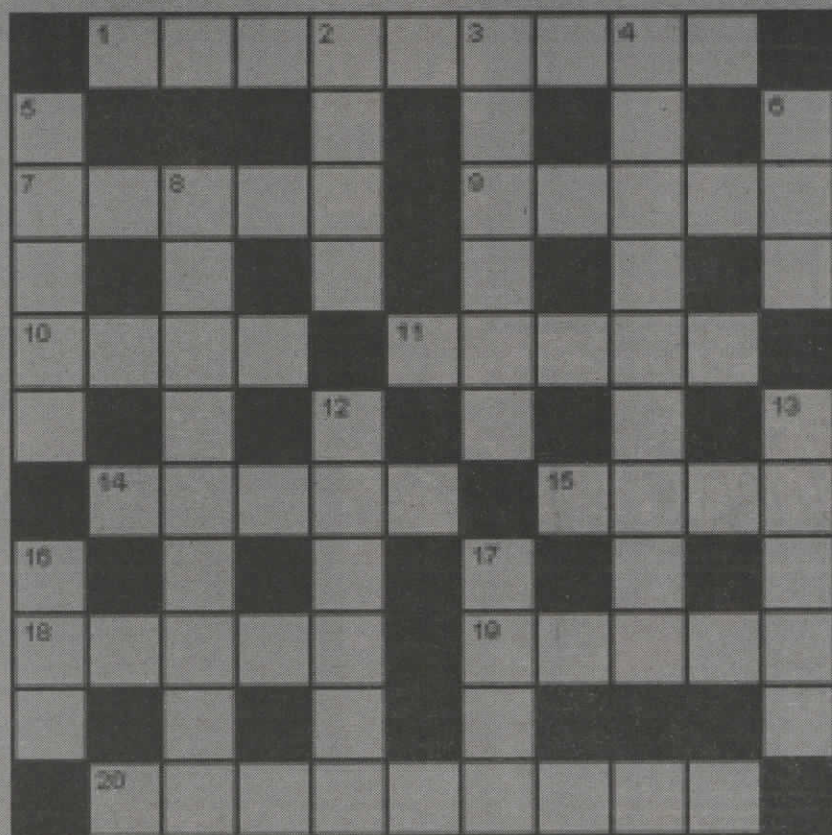


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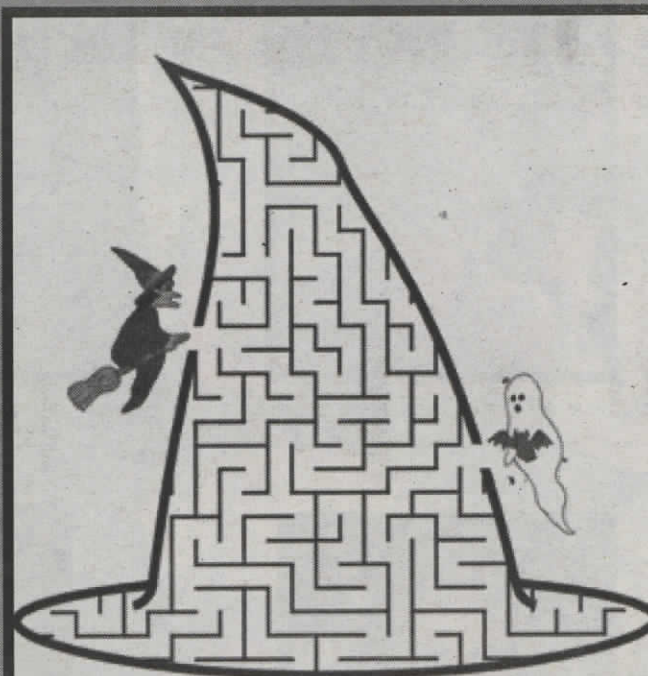
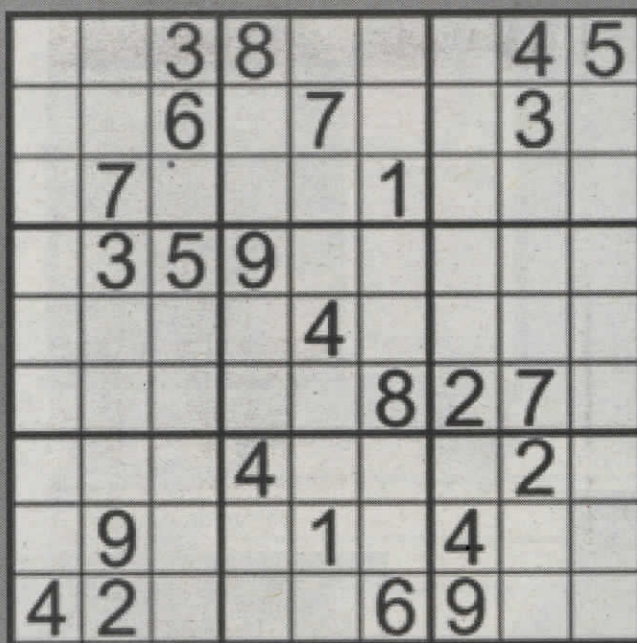
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**Across**

1. Come into existence
7. Desert plants
9. Entice
10. Paddles
11. Pugilist
14. Brass instrument
15. Wood file
18. Magical incantation
19. Last letter of the Greek alphabet
20. The history of a word

**Down**

2. Profit
3. Country
4. Moderate
5. Performer
6. Pig pen
8. Rotund
12. Downhill ski race
13. Lance
16. Make a request
17. Hard work



Help the witch fly to the ghost

A Note from Mr. Davis:  
*All SOA students are required  
 to wear or carry their student ID  
 at ALL times.*

**Horoscopes****By Zordon****Libra (September 23 – October**

**22):** When choosing a candidate, you must know where they stand on the important issues – will there be another “Weekend at Bernie’s?”

**Scorpio (October 23 – November**

**21):** TYPE IN ALL CAPS. EVERYBODY LOVES IT (ESPECIALLY TEACHERS) BECAUSE IT MAKES THINGS EASIER TO READ.

**Sagittarius (November 22 – December**

**21):** Don't pour your unwanted chemicals down the drain – think of the mole people!

**Capricorn (December 22 – January**

**19):** \*Insert hilarious Dane Cook quote here!\* Oh wait, there aren't any.

**Aquarius (January 20 – February 19):**

Stop lying to yourself. One day you'll have to live up to your own failings and face the emptiness.

**Aries (March 21 – April 19):** The Zombie Alert level has been raised to orange. Keep your crowbar handy.

**Taurus (April 20 – May 20):** Rebel against society's rebellious attitude by going to college and getting a job in an office somewhere.

**Gemini (May 21 – June 21):** It's true; we've got about five billion years until the sun expands and obliterates all traces of civilization and humanity. I guess you didn't pray hard enough.

**Cancer (June 22 – July 22):** If you see any pirate ghosts, don't worry; they're probably just trying to scare you away from their treasure.

**Leo (July 23 – August 22):** Quick! Kill your toaster before it's too late – prevent the robot uprising!

**Virgo (August 23 – September 22):** Reply hazy; try again.

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"Drawing the bird house and the shoe. It was challenging and new."

Frank Fabor  
6<sup>th</sup> grade- Visual Arts



"When I fell out of my chair during class."

Mary-Claire McCarthy  
6<sup>th</sup> grade- Creative Writing



"Our first dance ever. Everyone was all excited and hyper."

Ben Rindge  
7<sup>th</sup> grade- Dance



"When people get crazy haircuts, we like to draw each other."

Amanda Russell  
7<sup>th</sup> grade Visual Arts



"We went to Wanamaker Park and we ran around in the sprinklers."

JC Chapman  
8<sup>th</sup> grade- Theatre

## What is your favorite memory from you art major?



"The Orlando trip because we got a superior and I had a lot of fun."

Erin Cook  
8<sup>th</sup> grade- Strings



"Playing truth or dare in the band room."

Zach Sharpe  
9<sup>th</sup> grade- Band



"Rehearsing at the Sotille in 6<sup>th</sup> grade."

Ivy Anderson  
9<sup>th</sup> grade- Dance



"When Pete put on a pair of long johns."

Joey Dixon  
10<sup>th</sup> grade- Visual Arts



"When Mrs. Slowinski tripped Taylor when Taylor had a hurt knee."

Jordan Hall

10<sup>th</sup> grade- Dance



"The last concert for middle school when I sang for Mr. Singleton."

Demetrius Doctor  
11<sup>th</sup> grade- Band



"Flute day! We made T-shirts and ate a lot."

Aubrey Crawford  
11<sup>th</sup> grade- Band



"When Steven picked up a chair, threw it against the ground, and broke it, almost hitting Patsy."

Raymond Caulder  
12<sup>th</sup> grade- Theatre



"Dancing to the Holy music."

Pepi Rodriguez  
12<sup>th</sup> grade- Vocal