

APPLAUSE

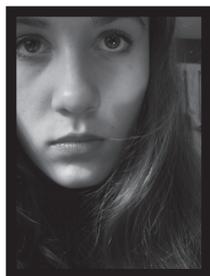
Vol. 10 Issue 3

School of the Arts

November 2008



Editor's Note



With a new campus on the horizon, *Applause* wanted to report on the beginning of SOA. In our centerfold, we have pictures from the year the school opened, along with personal accounts about SOA's earliest beginnings.

As we move on to a new campus, it's important to keep in mind the obstacles the school has overcome in the past. Hopefully our beautiful cover, by senior Kenish Magwood, will help you to keep SOA's offbeat and unique spirit in mind. I hope you enjoy the issue!

K. Chaney Long

Letter to the editor? E-mail Chaney at Chaney.SOA@Gmail.com

Cover Art by
senior Visual Artist

Kenish Magwood

Congratulations to our November
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Stephen Y. Putnam

Stephen will be receiving a \$20 gift certificate from
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Applause

the official student run paper of

Charleston County School of the Arts

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Events around the school



Creative Writers demonstrate their unique personalities.



Theatre majors poke fun at themselves in a piece titled *Six Reasons not to be an Actor*

Artsmart 2008

By K. Chaney Long

Eighth graders just finished up the annual SOA Artsmart. Through various unique performances students demonstrated the best of their majors to fifth grade students from across the county.



Band majors perform in front of 5th graders.



Theatre majors Eli Dent and JC Chapman perform.

Tri-M Induction Ceremony

Chelsea Adent

On Thursday, October 23, the Black Box was crowded with friends and family of the thirty-six students that were nominated for induction into the Tri-M Music Honors Society. Performances by **Jordan Baer, Lizzie Caulder, Aubrey Crawford, Trey Cooper, Devon Heyward, Michelle Hillenius and Jillian Suter** demonstrated the talents of the many students recognized for membership in the Music Honors Society. To become a member of Tri-M, students are required to maintain As and Bs in all academic classes and an A in their art major. Congratulations to new members **Chelsea Adent, Jamie Amick, Rachel Anthony, Daniel Baer, Jordan Baer, Jessica Baldwin, Teshia Barr, Caroline Britt, Lizzie Caulder, Trey Cooper, Aubrey Crawford, Demetrius Doctor, Sean Fowler, Devon Heyward, Leah Hildreth, Michelle Hillenius, Amanda Holcomb, Emily Horres, Bethany Iverson, Megan Lewis, Josh Miller, Brianna Murray, Alex Nickell, Sean Papa, Kitty Rice, Hannah Riddle, Graeme Rock, Josh Rodriguez, Charlotte Savage, Marcus Schuler, Leanne Sullivan, Jillian Suter, Kelsey Swatzyna, Kevin Wessels, Linda Wozniak and Seth Zimmerman**. Chapter Sponsor **Sarah Fitzgerald** says, "I am proud to know such talented and motivated young musicians."



Tri-M inductees in the Balck Box Theater

Senior Council Update

Dear Class of 2009,

This is an update coming from your class president, Lamar Hunter. We have gotten off to a great start this year. The senior wall is completely finished. Thank you to all who helped out in anyway possible, and a special thanks to Tanya Lewandowski for buying pizza. Ms. Awkerman is now planning on getting our hands on the wall. The hand prints will be done by major. Currently, our prime objective is to jump start our senior bake sale and begin to plan senior activities. Grub on the green is soon to come, and also other activities. The senior bake sale is every Wednesday. Each week four majors are selected to bring goodies to sell. If your major is that week, please bring something to contribute to the bake sell. It is greatly appreciated.

Our list of senior council members has changed

because of the addition of some individuals. They are:

Council Board: A. Lamar Hunter (President), Alex Dana (Vice President), Sa'Navia Paisley (Secretary), and Taylor Evans (Treasurer)

Council Members: Kalyx Johnson, Nicholette Singleton, Paige Brockington, Robert Kleiman, Darbie Keck, Monique Collins, Arthur Brown, Kenish Magwood, Alecia Coutain, and Sha-ri Jenkins

Look for updates on the senior bulletin board, located next to Ms. Awkerman's room.

Once again I would like to thank the class of 2009. Remember, "It's 09's time to shine!"

Truly yours,

A. Lamar Hunter



Officer Debbie Reinhardt speaks to Mr. Smyth's Psychology class.

based on the stories of Jean Shepherd Directed by Keely Enright

Not part of the regular season

Sponsored by: Dr. Thomas Funcik

Nov 28, 29, Dec 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20 at 7pm
Sunday Dec 7 and 14 at 3pm

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November

Thursdays- open mic at Kudu Coffee

Mondays- Monday Night Blues at East Bay Coffee House

November 28th- "Carlos Mencia At Close Range" North Charleston Coliseum Performing Arts and Convention Center

November 29th- free astronomy Class/ stargazing session Old Santee Canal Park, 900 Stony Landing Rd, Moncks Corner

December

Thursdays- open mic at Kudu Coffee

Mondays- Monday Night Blues at East Bay Coffee House

December 6th- Daniel Island Holiday Festival & Tree lighting Family Circle Tennis Center on Daniel Island

December 6th- Charleston Tree Lighting Ceremony at Marion Square

December 10 & 11th- "Annie" musical at the North Charleston performing arts center, 7:30

December 13-14th- CBT "The Nutcracker" at the Gaillard

December 20th- "A Christmas Carol" at the North Charleston performing arts center, 7:30

December 26th- "Moscow Ballet Great Russian Nutcracker" at the North Charleston performing arts center

December 31st- New Years celebration Marion Square, downtown

The 3D's By Kimberly Jenkins

Mr. Dawson can always be seen around campus keeping the school grounds clean, but it is important to have time to rest with family. I decided to ask him, "How do you plan to celebrate Thanksgiving?"

With my family. With my wife and my mother-in-law. My sister-in-law won't be coming down until about Christmas time. Then with whoever else drops by.



As one of SOA's most loved administrators, Mr. Davis enjoys working with middle and high school aged students. I wanted to know, "What do you enjoy the most about Thanksgiving?"

Being with family. There are only two times a year when my wife and I have the whole family together, especially with my grandchildren. Then of course the food and getting time off from school.



As queen of the cafeteria, Ms. Darlene and her crew are always cooking up delicious sweets and treats. Since she does such a great job keeping us fed here at SOA, I was anxious to know, "Do you follow a traditional Thanksgiving meal or do you spice it up a bit?"

We follow a traditional Thanksgiving meal. I love celebrating with my son and the rest of my family.



SOA students reenact history in *The War of the Worlds* at the Village Playhouse

By Dorothy Behre

To celebrate the 70th anniversary of *The World of the Worlds* broadcast by Orson Welles and the Mercury Theater players, SOA

Village Playhouse that conveyed the power of radio on the public in the 1930's.

The stage was set as a broadcasting studio.



(From left to right) senior Robert Kleiman, junior Addison Dent, 8th grader Price Long, and senior Chris Richardson stand on the *War of the Worlds* set.

Photo courtesy of Keely Enright

theater majors Addison Dent, Austin Jur, Robert Kleiman, Chaney Long, Patrick Price Enright Long, Steven Moskos, Eric Payne, Christopher Richardson, and former SOA student Laura Blackwell performed a stage adaptation, directed by Keely Enright, at the

All of the wires, microphones and sound effects props were exposed. Although I was watching the broadcast unfold onstage before my eyes, and could see that the story they were telling was, in fact, only a story, I was spooked. The stage performance only contributed to the

erie effect of the broadcast.

In today's culture where radio has been overshadowed by the rise of television, the power of radio broadcasting has been forgotten. When we watch scary movies today, the monster is revealed on screen, but if you listen to *The War of the Worlds*, the monster is created by the mind, where there is no limit to its terror.

In 1938, the year of the original broadcast, radio was still the primary source of information to American households. With the Nazi invasion of Czechoslovakia still fresh in the minds of Americans, *The War of the Worlds* struck at a vulnerable time in history. Because the broadcast played without

commercial breaks, using short music clips instead, the broadcast had a strong impact on already paranoid Americans. Many families left their homes in fear, only to realize that they had been fooled.

The War of the Worlds broadcast enraged many people who had taken it to be true. Witnesses of the broadcast, including one man who bought a train ticket only to realize miles later that he had been fooled, were portrayed in the stage adaptation. Headers from real newspapers and quotes from witnesses were also announced onstage to give the

viewers a true sense of the panic the broadcast caused. The combination of realistic costume, setting, and acting, made the *The War of the Worlds* stage adaptation unexpectedly powerful, even in this age.



Senior Steven Moskos as Orson Welles.

Photo courtesy of Keely Enright

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*Senior Lifestyle Portraits
by Liz Duren*

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Rock-N-My Style: Express yourself

By: Monique Collins

This week I felt uninspired. I searched and searched but couldn't find anyone to capture behind my fabulous Nikon camera. Everyone had about the same style, nothing unique for me to take a picture of. I was just about to give up, howl to the moon and throw my camera in the trashcan. Then there was a miracle. I saw this cool looking guy sitting right next to me in my journalism class. He wore purple pants striped with black and a wicked jacket painted with graffiti and a fur fringe on the hood. Even his name sounded cool: **Alek Mihok**. So I said, "Alek, what's up with your style, how would you express your look?" I thought he



Junior Alek Mihok demonstrates his style.

would give me the traditional answer, like "I'm punk, I'm emo, I'm gangsta," but I was wrong. Alek explained that although musicians such as Mason Musso, Tom DeLonge, and Pete Wentz inspired him, he had a style that can not be named, a look of his own creation. "People might call it stupid, people might call me a scene kid, but I disagree with labels, I'm just Alek." So students, come on, give me something wild and crazy to take a picture of: express yourselves like no one else can.

SOA continues to "Ease on Down the Road"

By Tanya Lewandowski

SOA's all high school production of *The Wiz* is quickly approaching. The Cast has been hard at work singing, dancing, rehearsing into all hours of the night, and much more. The performance will be held January 21st and 22nd at The Performing Arts Center. There will be both matinee and evening performances, so don't forget to purchase your tickets in advance, or your very own *Wiz* t-shirt. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Wiz

Cast List

Aunt Em- **Sabrina McIntyre**
 Dorothy 1- **Oleta Johnson**
 Dorothy 2- **Johanna Schlitt**
 Uncle Henry- **Christopher Richardson**
 Addaperle- **Alecia Coutain**
 Scarecrow- **Landon Washington**
 Tin Man- **Jacob Fanning**
 Lion- **Demetrius Washington**
 Gate Keepers- **Bailey Gaskins Paul Runyon**
 The Wiz- **Francis Smalls**
 Evillene- **Lydia Kemmerlin**
 Lord High Underling- **Brittany Greene**
 Solder Messenger- **Austin Jur**
 Austin Jur Glinda- **Candice Jenkins**
 White Cane Awareness Day

By Kimberly Jenkins

On Wednesday, October 15, "White Cane Awareness Day" was celebrated across the nation. A collaboration between the Charleston County School District and the American Council for the Blind, the program was implemented to celebrate the white cane as a symbol of independence and to raise awareness for the blind and visually impaired. The day began with an opening ceremony and continued with fun activities such as jump castles, obstacle courses, and performances.

Students from Berkeley, Dorchester, and Charleston counties participated in the poetry and rap competition and competed for prizes. Sophomore strings major **Brianna Murray** won first place in the competition with her poem, "Independence."

Applause is now online

visit

SOA-Applause.com

The Wiz

Based on the story "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" by Frank Baum

Book by William F. Brown

Music and Lyrics by Charlie Smalls

January 21 and 22

North Charleston Performing Arts Center

Tickets are on sale now!

Matinee:

Students \$5

Adults \$10

Evening:

Students \$10

Adults \$15

The Advantages of Universal Healthcare

By Wes Snell



Universal health care in America is a necessary step towards a healthier America. I hear many of the rants against a socialized health care system, how it will denigrate the freedom and treasured capitalist system we use today. But the truth is a capitalist health care system could not exist without leaving a large percentage of the population unable to provide their family with the health benefits those better off enjoy. It's easy to speak of equal opportunity and individual responsibility when you're comfortable and taken care of, but try telling that to the mother with two jobs who can't afford health insurance for her kids. Is this her fault? Is she not trying hard enough? Often times the people working the hardest are the ones who can't afford to do less. If all men are created equal, they should have equal access to caring for the most basic of needs - their health. In fact, the United States is the only industrialized nation that does not provide health care as a right of citizenship.

There are currently fifty million people living in the United States without health insurance, and those numbers are rising as the economy plummets. We rank far behind other industrialized nations who implement universal health care in terms of infant mortality rate, life expectancy, and immunizations. There's something very wrong with denying the sick or dying access to medical attention that could save their lives because they might not have enough money to pay for it. We're sending a message

of social Darwinism to the poor, huddled masses we once welcomed with open arms: Only the rich survive. I say provide us with our basic needs, like health and education (our education system is, by the way, very much socialist) and leave the rest to us. All the luxuries - the big houses or well-paying jobs or fast cars - leave that to the market. But the right to live and to live healthily is a basic right, not one to be left to a callous and fickle economy.

People claim that universal health care would equate higher taxes and ultimately do more damage than it's worth. This is not true. The United States spends 40% more on health care per capita than nations with universal health care. Studies in Massachusetts and Connecticut on the benefits of the Connecticut Health Care Security Act show that a single payer universal health care system would save one to two billion dollars even after covering the uninsured and raising health benefits. As far as quality goes, Americans are more dissatisfied with their medical system than France, Canada, Britain, Cuba, or any of the other industrialized nations who use their "communist agenda" to take care of their citizens.

All the talk of communism and socialism is paranoia akin to the Red Scare tactics of the 1940s. Universal health care makes sense. It's fair. The government has a responsibility to provide its people with the means to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. But the fact of the matter is if you haven't got your health, you haven't got anything.

The Disadvantages of Universal Healthcare

By guest writer Collins Rice



Do you want the government to be responsible for the most important aspect of your life, your physical health? Do you want a health care system that sees no difference between a patient with cancer and a person with a cold? Do you want American doctors to be overloaded, constantly inundated with the stress of serving the masses taking advantage of free treatment? I suggest moving to France, Canada, Britain or, hey, why not Cuba? Everybody loves socialism/communism, and nothing beats a good Cuban stogie, right? Those thousands of people that risk their lives trying to get out of Cuba every year must be just plain selfish.

In extending the parameters by which we, as a people, allow ourselves to be governed, we pave an easier road for future socialistic or even communistic developments in America. If all men are created equal, it should not be unreasonable to expect all people to take responsibility for themselves and not rely on the initiative of others.

Classic Book Review: *A Clockwork Orange*

By Dorothy Behre

"Come with uncle," I said, "and hear all proper. Hear angel trumpets and devil trombones. You are invited." The narrator of the 1962 classic *A Clockwork Orange*, a brutally violent teenager named Alex, immediately draws the reader in with his unique slang which his generation calls nadstat. Within the first chapter, Alex vividly describes his typical activities: waking up, going out with his droogs, or fellow gang members, drinking milk laced with drugs at the Korova Milk Bar, and then savagely beating, raping and sometimes murdering whoever happens to be passing by.

At first, Alex's slang can be confusing and almost incomprehensible. His unusual speech transports the reader into his world of violence and crime and makes it feel as if he is speaking directly through the pages. This effect is commanding, especially when he

The postulate that doctors would not care as much about their patients if the government controlled their industry is not irrational. It would result in hasty and inaccurate diagnoses. What is the purpose of government-run healthcare if the citizens would not get accurate care?

It must be said that a socialized health care system, though claiming to be free, would not be free at all. How do you expect the government to pay for this fabulous free health care? Taxes. You can bet people bringing their kids into the emergency room for cough syrup while a man with a broken arm sits in the waiting room aren't paying taxes. Socialized health care would only serve as means for the financially unsuccessful to receive health care at the expense of the more financially successful. Such a practice punishes success and rewards financial irresponsibility. The government would not be able to handle the financial burden. Hawaii has recently ceased its universal child health care program after only seven months, naming insufficient government funds the primary cause. When it comes to healthcare, one is inclined to believe one gets what one pays for.

reveals in his love for brutality: "then out comes the blood, my brothers, real beautiful." All at once, the reader feels drawn in and pushed away by his extreme violence.

This juxtaposition of good and evil is a potent element. As the government takes custody of Alex they assume control over his moral conscience, and proceed to turn him into an 'upright citizen' by brainwashing him. When he is released, he is incapable of committing violence, but his desire for it is still there. Anthony Burgess conveys these moral dilemmas effectively through his vivid description of Alex's crime ridden world and leaves the reader questioning morality in their own time. While invented jargon may hold the reader back at first, those who stick with *A Clockwork Orange* will find a great and haunting reward.

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Applause

SOA's humble beginnings

Story by DeAnna Kerley and photos compiled by David Sass



Former SOA students study in the school's original media center.



When the school opened, it was given the county's used computers



Founding principal Rose Maree Myers outside the block building.

Within the next year, School of the Arts will find itself at a climactic turning point in its move to the new campus. While it is important to look toward the future of the school, it is equally essential to recall its first days, under the leadership of its founder and its principal for eleven years, the tireless Ms. Rose Maree Myers.

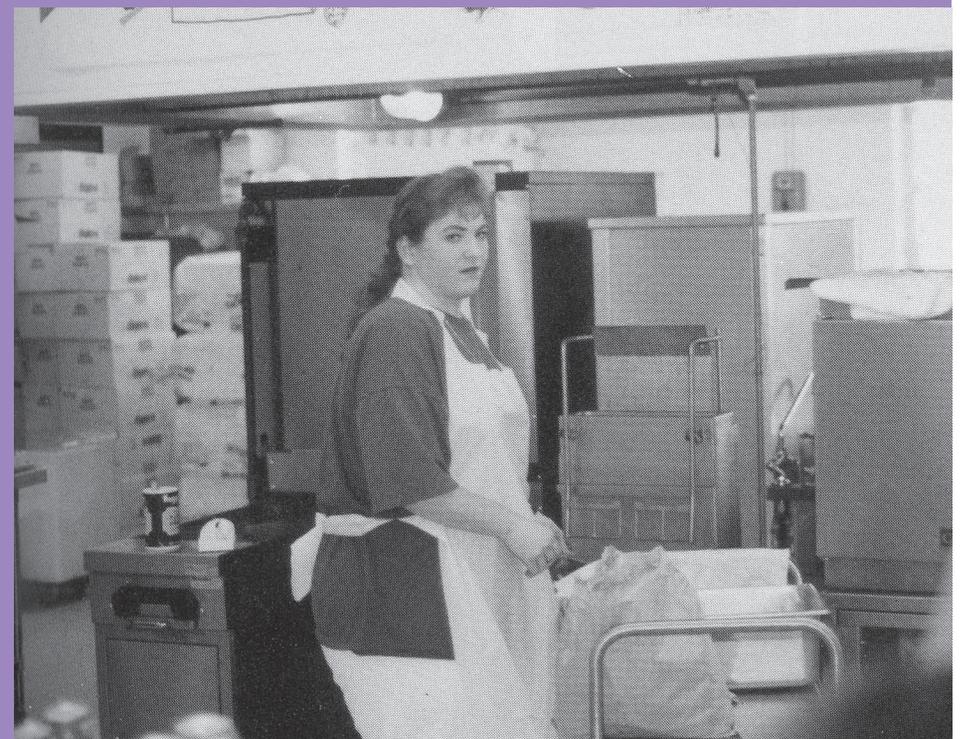
SOA first opened in 1995. "When the school first opened it was very small," says Ms. Darlene. As Mr. Smyth remembers, SOA first held sixth and seventh graders – 100 students per grade – and 20 staff members. Piano wasn't even offered as a major!

According to Mrs. Miles, the teachers first taught in "self-contained classrooms" where a teacher was in charge of all subjects: math, language arts, science, and

social studies. She reminisces, "We had really close relationships back then, not only with the students but with the teachers, with one another, because it was very small. It was arts and academics all mixed up together, which actually was very cool, because we integrated the arts and the academics more than we do now."

"Everybody knew everybody; I knew every student's name and parents and everything else. It was a nice, cozy little family feeling," says Ms. Wade, who served as the school secretary before becoming the Computer Technology teacher.

But the students and teachers then did not know the same school that we are so familiar with now. SOA first included the fine arts building and the block building. Ms. Miller remembers:



The kitchen, located in what is now the middle school art room.

With a new campus on the horizon, *Applause* takes a look at SOA's early days

"[The Berry Building] was Berry Elementary." Separating the two campuses was "a little bit of brush and a chain-link fence. We had to crawl through a hole in the fence to get over on to the campus!" And that was not the only problem SOA first faced. At its opening, construction was a constant distraction.

"It was a disaster. Windows were broken, there was glass on the ground. It was really dilapidated," says Ms. Miller.

Signs of the school's history were everywhere. Mr. Younts showed that the shop room was first used as a "cement room."

One of the main difficulties was that the school cafeteria was located in the high school art room and the kitchen was placed in the middle school art room.

As Ms. Miles says, "Pots were clanking. You'd have the smell of food. It would get so hot in there that they would open those doors and all the smell and heat of the kitchen would come [out]!"

Ms. Wade recollects, "When we started in the office we didn't have any decent furniture; we had left over furniture and furniture we got from other schools and computers that still had 'Garrett High School' written on them. But, we made the best of what we could with what we had."

Soon, the school began to expand. It embraced a high school and the Berry Building once Berry Elementary closed. Even then, the first group of students were seen as "the pioneers". According to Ms. Miles, "It seemed exciting every single year, because it was evolving, it was changing. It seemed to me that the first few classes of kids... they were pioneers, they were coming someplace that wasn't established, that didn't have a reputation. They believed in it. They wouldn't complain; they were looking forward to it. We were inventing it right along with the kids. So there was this sense of pioneering and excitement that was special."

But against all odds, the school survived, and continued to grow. As Mr. Rogers says, "Everybody wanted to make the school successful. They did everything possible; they went overboard. Parents and students, they were all ready to go!"

SOA Founder, Mrs. Rose Maree Myers



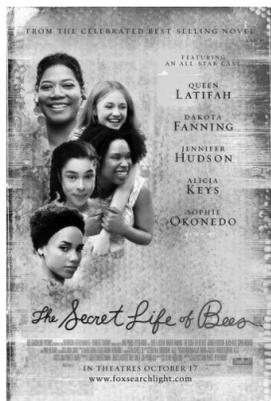
The Secret Life of Bees

Reviewed by DeAnna Kerley

With a cast of Dakota Fanning and Queen Latifah among others, and Will Smith serving as the producer, *The Secret Life of Bees* was set for success. Yet the film misses the mark. Directed by Gina Prince-Blythewood, the film takes place in the familiar setting of our South Carolinian coast, and is an adaptation of the novel by Sue Monk Kidd.

Set in the 1960's, *Bees* tells the tale of a teenage girl seeking to escape from her abusive father and to discover the secrets of her late mother's life. When Lily (Fanning) and her nanny are threatened, they run away to find refuge with the Boatwright sisters, three women who run their own honey company.

Latifah and Fanning give powerful performances, but the film still gives the "made for TV" vibe and leaves the viewer unsatisfied. The film is not horrible, in fact, it happens



to be one of the better family movies of this year. However, Prince-Blythewood did not do Kidd's novel the justice it deserves.

Frontier Eatery: Durango's

By Forrest Putnam

Located on the outskirts of civilization, in the tiny town of Hollywood, is the best Mexican restaurant in Charleston County. Durango's offers typical Mexican cuisine in every regard, except that it is uniformly of a higher quality than any more urban rival. Durango's is a very new establishment, opening only a couple of months ago.

Much of Durango's vast selection of entrees are similar, but the restaurant is unique in providing a wealth of distinct sauces to differentiate the staple tacos, burritos, and enchiladas. Even the uninteresting refried beans are vitalized by a hint of peppery spice. Unlike rivals, Durango's focuses on high-class versions of traditional Mexican ranch food, so some of the flavors (if not the physical appearance of dishes) are not to be found at similar Mexican eateries. All side

Classic Movie Review

Reviewed by Lizzie Caulder

On October 3, 1980, audiences stood in line to view director Jeannot Szwarc's *Somewhere in Time*, the movie based on the popular novel by Richard Matheson.



The film takes place in 1972 where Richard Collier (Christopher Reeve) is approached by an elderly woman who gives him a golden pocket watch, begging him to go back in time

with her. Eight years later Collier sees a photograph of a beautiful woman. He looks at another picture of this woman in her older years and realizes this woman was the same who had given him the pocket watch. He becomes obsessed with trying to go back to the year 1912 to find this beautiful woman he so longs for. "He sacrificed his life in the present to find love in the past" (The official tagline).

The movie is filled with passion and romance, but does not drag on as dramatic movies tend to do. It jumps into the plot and grabs the viewer's attention right away.

Somewhere in Time was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Costume design.

dishes are conveniently available *a la carte*, to compliment appetizers and main dishes. Signature Mexican desserts like Flan and Sopapilla are just as good as everything else here.

The interior is spacious, with lavish and tasteful decorations of Mexican banners and visuals. Everything is immaculately clean.

Though it may not be convenient for residents of Mount Pleasant or North Charleston, Durango's is a fantastic gift to the more rural regions around Hollywood, Ravenel, and Yorges Island. It provides a welcome touch of superior quality and class to an area which is otherwise pretty much bankrupt in a culinary sense. So if you are passing by, or you are a lover of great Mexican cuisine, Durango's is an absolute must.

Lydia's album *Illuminate*, a whirlwind of emotions

Reviewed by DeAnna Kerley

There are few times in my life where I have been able to say that any lyric, song, or album has had the power to move me to tears. Lydia's *Illuminate* does just that, fit to burst with poignant instrumentals and heart-breaking lyrics.

Lydia formed in 2003 in Gilbert, Arizona, and is now fronted by lead singer Leighton Antelman. Since its beginning, Lydia has participated in The Bamboozle Festival, the Zumiez Couch Tour, and the Vans Warped Tour, enjoying widespread popularity throughout the country. It's easy to see why.

Each song sends the listener

through a whirlwind of emotions, Antelman's smooth voice accompanied by Mindy White on the piano. Lydia infuses their own bold statements in every line. In my favorite song, "Stay Awake", Antelman sings: "Stay up late so you're sure/ sure that I won't stray too far/ but surely that got too hard/ love is not for me/ I promise/ one more day/ just one more."

However, if you're in the mood for an upbeat chorus or bubble gum pop, this wouldn't be the album to grab off your shelf. While Lydia has its own unique voice, it rarely strays from its "suffering artist" tone, a tone that leaves its listener hungry, wanting for more.



Classic Album: Led Zeppelin IV

Reviewed by Rebecca Forman

Led Zeppelin IV is not a "deep" album, nor does it possess any central thesis or philosophy, other than perhaps sex and blues. I, being an unusually emotional person, tend to toss aside music that doesn't whine about self-important things. It is one of the best selling albums in history, making it undeniably famous.

"Black Dog," the first song, sets the tone for the rest of the album. Robert Plant, singer, echoes in time to Jimmy Page, on guitar, and John Paul Jones on bass. His famous voice acts as an instrument itself. In songs like "Four Sticks," and "When the Levee Breaks," John Bonham exhibits why he is one of the greatest rock and roll drummers of all time. He, like Plant, is able to blend into the song,

and perhaps that is what makes the album stand apart from other classic rock albums of the time.

Like a four man orchestra, what could be an album chocked full of gratuitous noise, turns into a collection of epic, three part songs like "The Battle of Evermore" and the famous "Stairway to Heaven," then recedes back into something soft and surprisingly cheerful like "Misty Mountain Top." Perhaps its only fault is that some of the less intricate songs can become too bland.

If you are a music collector, a classic rock fan, an instrumentalist in general, this is an album you should own. Led Zeppelin IV has earned its place in music history, along with the musicians that created it.



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Where were they then? Mrs. Link shares her aspirations and influences

By Alek Mihok

Mrs. Megan Link began teaching Theatre at SOA three years ago, after moving from Wisconsin, and this year she is currently directing the SOA musical *The Wiz*.

Applause staff writer **Alek Mihok** asked her some questions about her life before SOA.

Where did you grow up?

I was born in Two Rivers, Wisconsin, which is about half an hour away from Green Bay, then moved to a suburb of Milwaukee for the latter half of my life. It was great growing up there.

Where did you attend college?

I completed my undergrad at the University of Wisconsin in Oshkosh where I began as a special education major and then changed to a theatre major. I then went to study with the Moscow Art Theatre for a year, and that was amazing! I finished my MFA in Acting with an emphasis in Directing at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. I met Billy Whitelaw, who worked closely with Samuel Becket and also with Mary Overlie (a performance artist). I found that you can learn so much from people you may think might not have had anything to teach.

What are some events that happened earlier in your life that had the most impact on you?

When I was ten my sister was born and that made me realize that caring for others had to be a part of my life. I had wished and prayed that she would be a girl because I didn't want to be the only daughter in the family; I even threatened to run away if she wasn't female. There was also the moment when I grasped the idea that theatre could be used for more than just entertainment.

What were your aspirations as a child

and who, or what, was your biggest influence?

As a child I wanted to be an astronaut, a teacher, or a dancer. Then the Challenger blew up, which shook me. I then wanted to be either a nurse or an actor, or both. My biggest influence was, and still is, my family, and we are freakishly close.

Did you have any other professional aspirations? If so, why did you abandon them?

I did fulfill my aspirations, as I was an actor in the regional circuit, and also directed. When I began working here, I backed off from the acting and directing, but I believe I will come back to it again. I needed to hang back from it so I could devote my time to my family and students.

Besides SOA, where else have you worked?

First Stage Theatre Company as an actor and a teaching artist for about six years. I also worked for Milwaukee Shakespeare as an actor, director and teaching artist, and in Tandem Theatre, Madison Rep, and Mill Mountain as an actor. Some jobs I've had to make ends meet were working at the Disney Store and at Kopps Custard as a custard scooper. South Carolina does not understand the love of frozen custard. It is divine.

What has been the proudest moment of your life?

The proudest moment thus far was the birth of my son.

When you look back on your life, do you have any regrets?

The only regret I can think of is living so far away from my family. Other than that I don't view anything I've done as regret, and all the decisions I have made make up who I am today.



Independence

by **Brianna Murray**

People say she cannot see
then how can she travel like
you and me
the answer is simple and
easily found
she taps her white cane on
the ground

she travels through towns
countries and cities
the places she can go are
many
with her cane in her hand
the places she can go expand
she can travel with friends or
travel alone
where she is going is still
unknown
now she has the power of free
will and choice
because of what she holds she
can rejoice

independence is a beautiful
gift
now that she has it she can
shift
into independence and
happiness to
there are no limits to what
she can do

she can walk and she can run
nobody can stop her fun
now she can travel
independently
because of her cane she can
now see

Student Artwork



Caroline Cash 7th Grade



Eileen Szwast 8th Grade



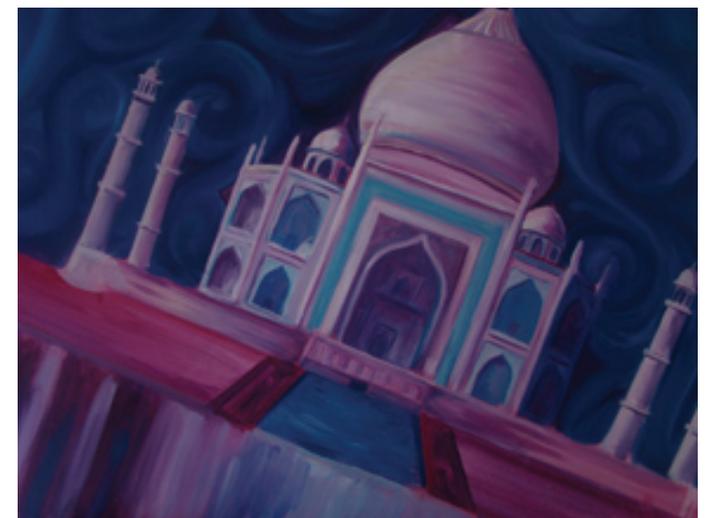
Austin Jarvis 11th grade



Henry Camp 8th Grade



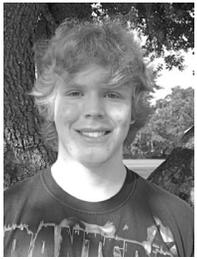
Althea Holenko 9th Grade



Jessica Davidson 12th Grade

Beyond Strange: Musical torture

By Sam Whitley



Torture can be a pretty touchy subject these days. With the controversy still raging over the use of water-boarding, there have been several investigations into the US government's use of torture. Of course, interrogation doesn't have to include violence and brutality. According to reports from prisoners and military personnel, the army has taken a downright whimsical approach with Iraqi prisoners – they play loud music for hours on end.

The prisoner is forced to stand in a dark room, where music is played at deafening volumes. The idea is that, after hours of exposure, the prisoner will be irritated enough to talk. According to Sergeant Mark Hadsell, "These people haven't heard of heavy metal. They can't take it." In addition to metal, the army plays any music that they think the prisoners will find culturally offensive. When Metallica's 'Enter Sandman' plays, the captives have cried that it sounds like the voice of Satan. When Eminem's 'The

The Preah Vihear Predicament

By Forrest Putnam



On October 14, a battle was raging inside the magnificent Cambodian temple of Preah Vihear. The temple, originally built by the ancient Khmer kingdom as a shrine to the Hindu god Shiva, has since been converted to Buddhism. It lies 280 kilometers from its sister temple of Angkor Wat, the masterpiece of 10th century Cambodian architecture.

On June 8, this vast, four-square kilometer temple complex was declared a World Heritage Site, to the delight of devout Buddhists and patriotic Cambodians alike. However, Preah Vihear is located within a disputed borderland claimed by the Kingdom of Thailand. In August, jealous Thailand sent a thousand troops across the Cambodian border to occupy the temple. The Royal Cambodian Army responded immediately, rushing to meet the Thai forces camped inside the temple grounds in an area appropriately named Eagle Field. For months, the two

Real Slim Shady' plays, they've cried that it isn't even music.

While heavy metal and offensive rap are appropriate to torture some people, that's not all that's used. In a plan that only be conceived by Captain Kangaroo, 'I Love You' from Barney and Friends is one of the most popular torture songs. In a very ironic way, the hippies were right – songs about love and friendship can make combatants put down their guns and talk. Of course, the peacefulness of this method hasn't stopped the press from jumping on this one like Rosie O'Donnell on a pork roast. Some news reports have called musical torture inhumane, and want it to stop immediately.

Apparently, soldiers playing junk from their iPods is a violation of human rights. If being forced to listen to music you don't like is a crime, then the head honchos at MTV should be arrested for crimes against humanity. I think that any prisoner ought to be glad that they're only listening to music and aren't going to be force-fed scorpions. I guess the only way to make everyone happy is if you just ask them very nicely where the rebel base is.

armies stared each other down through rifle sights, awaiting some sort of diplomatic resolution.

October arrived without any meaningful dialogue between the two kingdoms, and the guns could no longer be silent. First was a three-minute exchange of fire on October 3, which caused no deaths. Both sides halted immediately out of respect for the temple infrastructure. On the 14th, however, a furious shootout erupted inside the temple as Cambodian and Thai soldiers opened fire on each other over this sacred Buddhist shrine. Six men from both sides were shot dead, and the Cambodians herded 13 Thai soldiers into a trap, taking them prisoner. Sheer luck prevented the battle from escalating into a war, but now the entire Thai-Cambodian border has become militarized. Thailand has set her eyes on other temples along the border as well, and neither side is backing down. Most disturbing of all, both armies are now deploying heavy artillery and rocket systems around the grounds of Preah Vihear. If the leaders of Cambodia and Thailand do not wake up and realize what they are doing, there may not be any temple left to fight over.

Sass-Attack: Politics for morons

By David Sass



From the smoking ruins of several thousand voting booths, Barack Obama has emerged victorious. I cannot speak for anybody else, but I know that I am sick and tired of turning on the television and having to hear about how Obama is an inexperienced, socialist terrorist and how McCain is a hot-headed, creepy old guy on the verge of death who wants to wage war in Iraq for the next century or three. I know that this is an extremely important point in the history of America, but at least it will mean that nearly two years of constant mud-slinging and negative campaigning are over. At least for a couple of years until the next election, that is.

Under more ordinary circumstances, I would refrain from discussing politics and matters of the election in my column and instead entrust my far more politically knowledgeable colleagues, Kimberly and Wes. But these are not more ordinary circumstances, are they? Right now, We are fighting a war that costs us \$720 million a day with no end in sight, and I have yet

to complete the time machine that my future self is no doubt constructing as I write to send back to this time and rescue me from this dreary nightmare.

What I really love is how everyone (and by "everyone", I mean both "the liberal elite media and the liberal regular media", as only Tina Fey knows so well) was calling this "the most important election of our generation." I just think that they're saying that to hype people up so that their ratings go up.

On the other hand, what really miffs me is that instead of telling the people what they will do if they are elected, campaigners instead spend the majority of the time slinging mud at the opposing candidates. It is a complete disgrace to both the candidates and the rest of the country. I think we should have elected Chuck Norris as president and been done with it. All we would have to do is just tell the countries we don't like that they are about to get a visit from a rather angry president, and Prego! Ragu! no more war. Anyway, I'm going to go watch Tom & Jerry now, since JoeBama and McPalin aren't spamming the boob tube anymore.

But if Stephen Colbert is right and Palin really is the maverick she claims to be, soon she'll be running for 2010...

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SEASON EIGHT



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



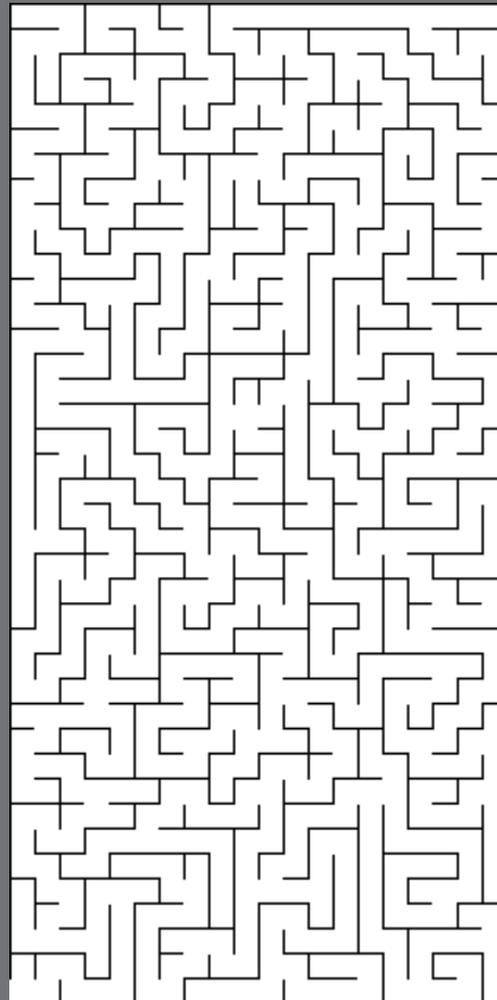
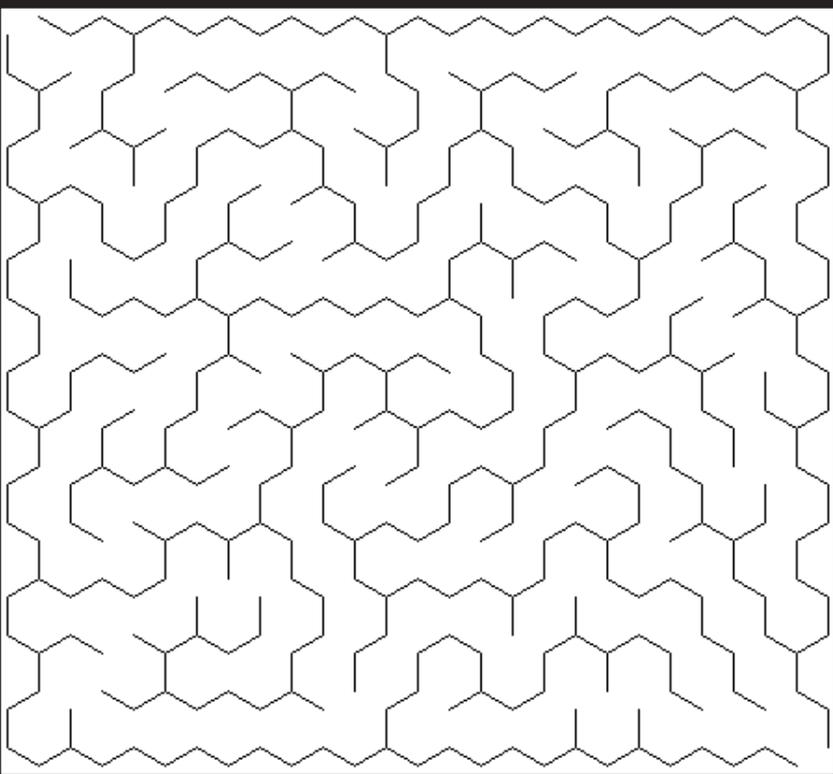
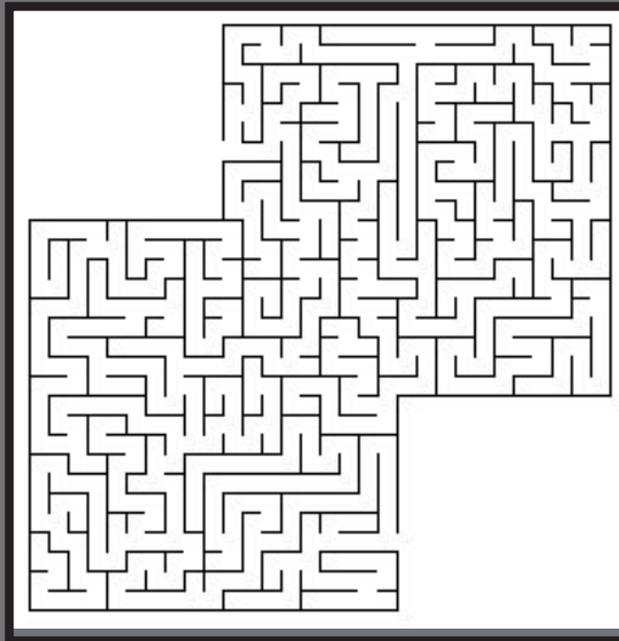
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Horoscopes

By Zordon

Scorpio (October 23 – November 21): It's time to get in touch with your spiritual side –the snake goddess has been displeased with you lately.

Sagittarius (November 22 – December 20): One of these days... Bang, zoom, straight to the moon!

Capricorn (December 21 – January 19): You should regularly get your house checked for ninjas. Remember, for every ninja you don't see, there are ten hiding right behind you.

Aquarius (January 20 – February 18): If you've been having bad dreams lately, its best not to concentrate on them. It's just the Great Old Ones rending the fabric of space and time.

Pisces (February 19 – March 20): Only you know the truth! Make a Youtube video with stock footage and scary music – it's the only way to bring down the Man and let the facts be known!

Aries (March 21 – April 19): Building interpersonal relationships is the key to a healthy life. To start, try using the phrase "Smell ya later" more often.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20): It's the time to show your crush how you really feel! Let them know you care by following them home and burning your name into their lawn.

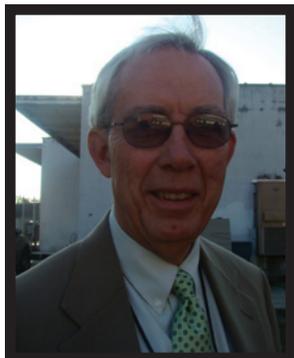
Gemini (May 21 – June 20): Get in touch with nature. Spend some time far out in the wilderness, away from all the bustle of the city. Out there, nobody can hear anyone scream.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22): If you send this issue of Applause to at least five other friends, you will be kissed by the love of your life! If you don't, you will face an eternity of being ravaged by intestinal parasites.

Leo (July 23 – August 22): Only you can prevent forest fires. Yeah, you. So tell me again, why were you too busy to save California?

Virgo (August 23 – September 22): Take some time off for yourself and have a nice, relaxing bubble bath. It will make you forget your impending doom by atomic hellfire.

Libra (September 23 – October 22): According to the laws of Thunderdome, "two men enter, one man leaves." Turn to the person next to you. Only one of you will leave.



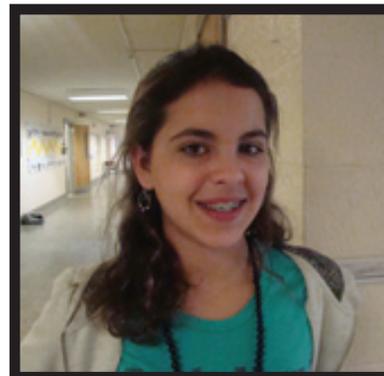
“Being with my family and all of the great food.”

Mr. Davis
Assistant Principal



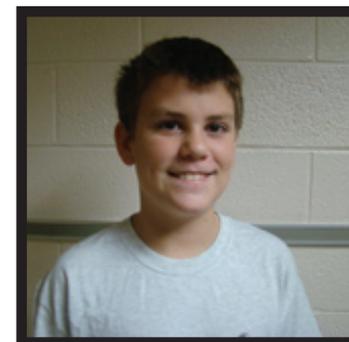
“Going paintballing with my friends.”

Omar Perez
6th grade, Vocal



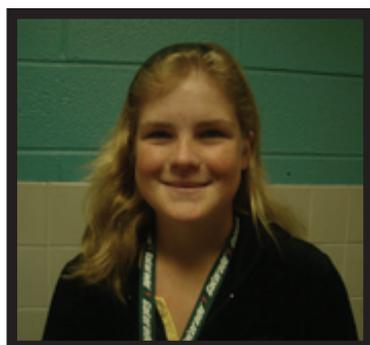
“Playing board games with my family and the awesome food.”

Claire Winkles
7th grade, Vocal



“All of my aunts and uncles coming over and playing a big football game.”

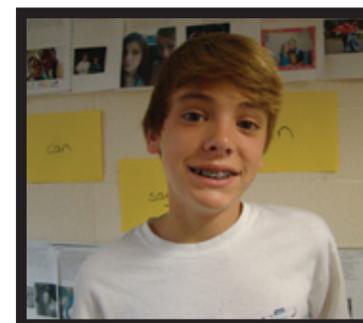
Brian Dunleavy
7th grade, Band



“Going to the mountains with my friends and family like we do every year.”

Masha Voronina
8th grade, Visual Arts

What will be the highlight of your Thanksgiving?



“Eating mashed potatoes!”

Brent Hubbard
8th grade, Strings



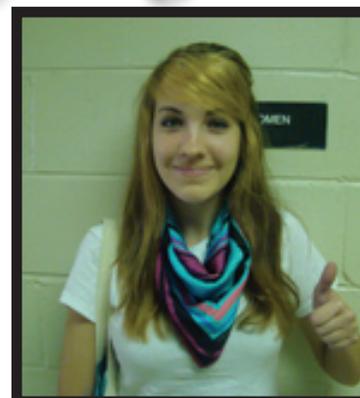
“Seeing my family and spending time with them.”

Nicole Brondsema
9th grade, Dance



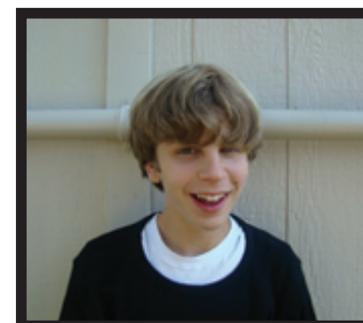
“My birthday is over Thanksgiving break, so I'm looking forward to my birthday presents.”

Ian Jones
9th grade, Band



“My parents are going to Las Vegas, so I get to stay with my best friend, Chaison.”

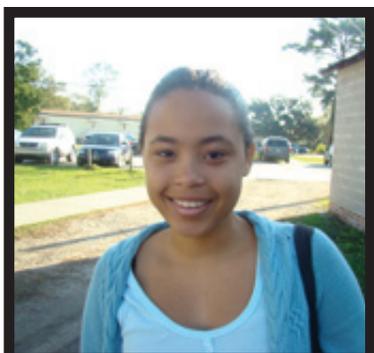
Christina Crossley
10th grade, Creative Writing



“Going to my grandparents' house and eating a lot!”

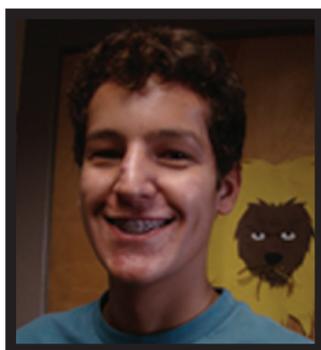
Collin Daffin

10th grade, Dance



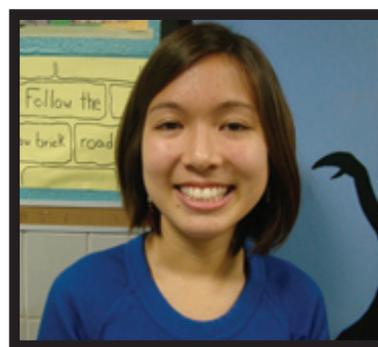
“Cooking and baking with my new oven.”

Audrey Johnson
11th grade, Strings



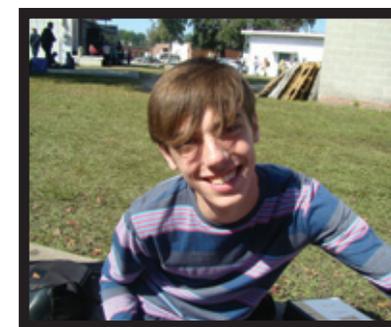
“Getting and playing the video game, Little Big Planet.”

Everett Pompeii
11th grade, Theatre



“Being able to sleep in later and the good food.”

Serena Doose
12th grade, Band



“Putting up the Christmas tree, like we do every year.”

Christopher Richardson
12th grade, Theatre