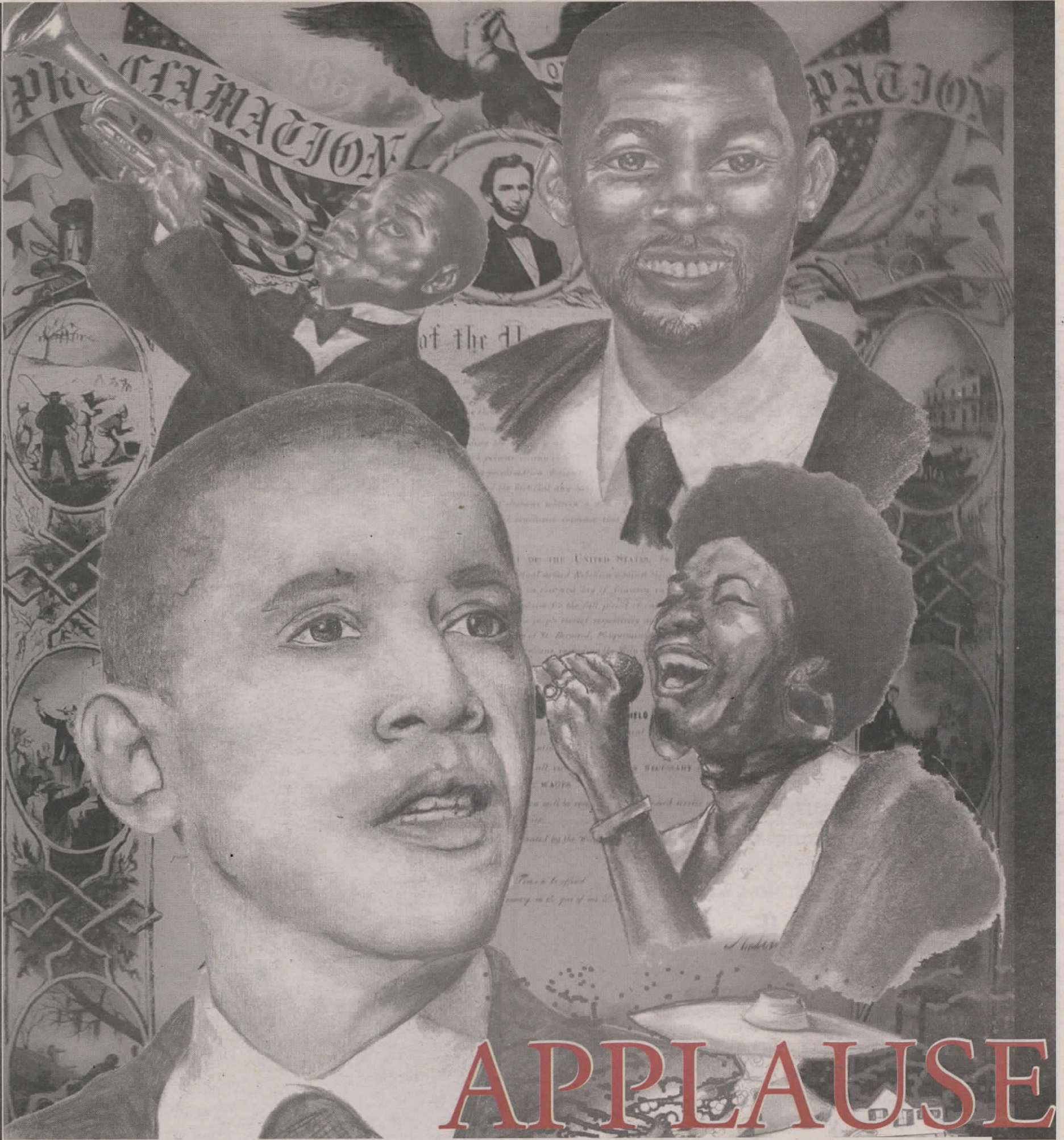


February 2009

School of the Arts

Vol. 10 Issue 6



APPLAUSE

Editor's Note



It's been a busy month for SOA. The cast and crew of *The Wiz* finished up their fantastic production, Valentine's Day is upon us, and it's Black History month. Applause is celebrating the month with profiles of local African American artists, and our own Kimberly Jenkins has a report of last month's historical inauguration.

Happy Valentine's Day!

K. Chaney Long

Cover art by
Kenish Magwood
and
Chrissy Thorne



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Applause
the official student publication
Charleston County School of the Arts

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Behind the scenes of *The Wiz*

By Chelsea Adent

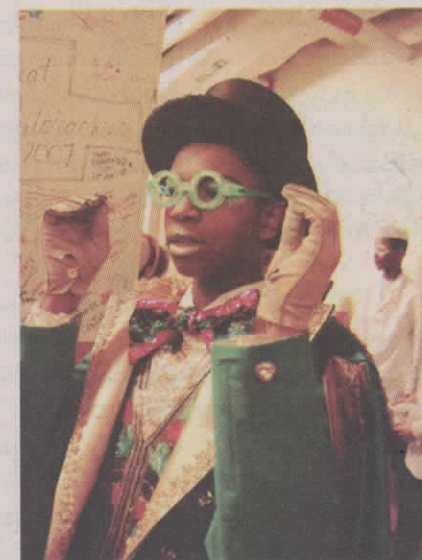
The Wiz could not have been such a big success without the time and dedication from all of the people involved with the costumes and set.

Much time and effort was put in by thirty-five students and seven teachers to complete over 180 costumes for *The Wiz*. Costume II students began researching movies and productions and looking at work by famous designers beginning last March. Then in August, they began to sketch and work with the colors and patterns for the most difficult costumes, while the Costume I students worked on costumes for the Munchkins, Winkies, The Wiz, and the Scarecrow, along with many others. All of the costumes took hours of planning and

sewing, but some were more challenging than others. Junior Visual Artist Jacki Brown says that, "The Tinman was definitely the most challenging costume. It was all metal and ductwork. Jacob had to be wired into the costume before every show and cut out after." While some of the costumes were very challenging, the students agreed that the crows definitely gave them the most laughs. Every student involved in the costume design process had the honor of seeing his or her designs and accomplishments on stage for four performances. Costume Director Ms. Marie Nichols says that, "Years from now I will remember every student and every design. Seeing how much the students and their skills grow and change is so rewarding.

I just love working with all of the students."

Mr. Younts along with sixteen co-workers and students helped to design and construct the sets for *The Wiz*. They began planning in June and began building in July for two complete weeks. During the fall, four whole Saturdays were dedicated only to the building and construction of the sets. Then after the winter break, almost every day work was done on the sets. The sophomore and junior visual Artists helped to paint all of the sets for the production under the direction of Mr. Moore. Mr. Younts said that, "The most challenging aspect of the set building was definitely the fact that it was very time consuming."



Creative writers recognized in *Charleston* magazine

By Rebecca Foreman

Charleston magazine's January issue was all about the Lowcountry's literary world, so it is no surprise that an article about SOA's Creative Writing program was featured. The piece is a prime example of the creative writing program's success, and proof of the recognition it has received, not only locally, but nationally. The article discusses the young adult writers our school has nurtured since 1995, and their many accomplishments. In the past thirteen years the Creative Writing students have won more Scholastic Writing Awards than any other school in the country. For those who have no heard of Scholastic, it is the most prestigious American writing

competition for high-school students, annually flying top winners out to New York for a ceremony. The article also discusses two former SOA students, Sara Saylor and Jessica Atkinson. Both are winners of the Scholastic Portfolio Award and its 10,000 scholarship. Jessica was even featured in a *New York Times* article. Of course, none of these awards could have been possible without the head



of the department, Rene Miles, an accomplished writer in her own right. With three Scholastic Golden Apple awards, she still sees her true prizes as the accomplishments of her creative writing students. "What I do best for my kids is communicate my own love and

personal struggles with writing. Teachers must be models as writers for our students," she explained in *Charleston Magazine*.

Also featured in the magazine is an article about former SOA Creative Writing teacher Marjory Wentworth. She is now South Carolina's poet laureate, and helped shape the school's program in its early days. The article is now part of the ever-growing list of our school's accomplishment in the arts. I encourage School of the Art's students and faculty to pick up a copy of *Charleston* magazine, and support their writers as they have supported ours.

New school update By Dorothy Behre

Construction is on schedule, and students and teachers can count on moving in to the new School of the Arts in January 2010. The goal is to get the certificate of occupancy early, so that teachers can start preparing their classrooms to be ready to start class with no delay.

Electricity has already been installed in the area, and every building of the campus is already up except for the administration and media center.

Just looking at the current construction promises a large, unified campus, however many of the benefits involve the advanced technology that will be implemented when school starts. For example, instead of announcements being broadcasted over the PA in the morning, students will produce a morning news show that will be shown on

teachers' smartboards. According to Mr. Reinhart, from a technology standpoint, the new campus will be "the coolest school around. The opportunities will be enormous."

In addition to up-to-date technology, there will be areas in both the middle and high school sections of the building where students will help design wall decorations, and even what furniture to put in the 'hang out' sections, places for students to relax in between class, offering a Starbucks-like sitting area.

In the midst of all the excitement of having a new campus, Mr. Reinhart is not only enthusiastic about the construction and technology, but about the opportunities it will provide for the students.

February Arts Calendar

Mondays: "Monday Night Blues" at East Bay Meeting House
Tuesdays: volunteer night at the Charleston Stage Company, help build sets and props. 7-9pm
February 13th - 14th: Southeastern Wildlife Exposition
February 13th: Book signings by Jack Bass, author of *The Orangeburg Massacre*, and Cleveland Sellers, author of *The River of No Return* (LOOK UP LOCATION)
February 14th: Winter Formal at the Aquarium
February 14th: State Radio at the Music Farm
February 16th: Robert Lewis Trio at Mellow Mushroom
February 23rd: Duda Lucena at Mellow Mushroom
February 28th & 29th: "African American Heritage Days" for elementary and middle schools at Wannamaker County Park.
February 29th: CCPL big book sale at The Navy Yard at Noisette
March 1st: Masterworks Concert, including W.A. Mozart's Piano Quartet in g minor K. 478; R. Haken's "Suite for Viola Pomposa"; C. Franck's Piano Quintet in f minor 4pm at the City Gallery at Waterfront Park, \$35
March 2nd: Pulse Trio at Mellow Mushroom
March 6th: French Quarter Art Walk, downtown Charleston
March 9th: George Kenny Quartet at Mellow Mushroom
March 16th: Quentin Baxter Trio at Mellow Mushroom

The 3D's

By Kimberly Jenkins



Now that we have a new president, many people are looking forward to what he will offer. I decided to ask Mr. Davis, "What change do you think the new president will bring to our country?"

"There are a number of things that he needs to address, but I think the main thing is the economy. We're in bad shape right now and with Congress he needs to find a way to get our economy going again."

Mr. Dawson can always be seen working hard around SOA, but in the current economic crisis, many people have lost their jobs and have no source of income. I wanted to know, "How do you think the new president will help create more jobs?"

"I think with the help of other people, he can do it. It's just like his slogan, 'Yes We Can.' If we're divided, we'll be all messed up, but if we stand together, we can work things out together. The president can't do it by himself, but with everyone else gathered in and in one accord, I believe that we can do everything that we put our mind to. We have to give him a chance to do what he says he's gonna do. It's not gonna be cleared up in a year or two years, but with God's help we can do it."



February is Black History Month and with the election of our first African-American president, many people believe that this is the "ultimate fulfillment of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream. I wanted to ask Mrs. Darlene, "How do you think the election of President Obama will help race relations?"

"I think President Obama's election will help race relations because there are many people who are now more open to the new ideas of our new president."



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College acceptances for the class of 2009

Michael Ancrum- Jacksonville University
Daniel Anthony- Clemson University
Dorothy Behre- Washington College
Paige Brockington- Spelman College, Hampton University
Arthur Brown- Randolph-Macon College
Monique Collins- College of Charleston, Winthrop University, Wofford College
Serena Doose- University of North Carolina Asheville
Jamie Duckett- Columbia College, Converse College, College of Charleston, Francis Marion University, Winthrop University
Taylor Evans- College of Charleston, Winthrop University
Amy Fox- Anderson College
Paige Griffith- Charleston Southern University
Devon Heyward- Wingate University, Mercer University, College of Charleston
Preston Hogue- Belmont University, University of South Carolina
Michael Horlback- Bethune Cookman College
Lamar Hunter- Wingate University,

Hampden Sydney College, College of Charleston, Elon University, Wofford College
Aubrey Isaacson- University of South Carolina Upstate, Coastal Carolina University, College of Charleston, University of North Carolina Wilmington
Robert Kleiman- University of South Carolina, American University
Kenish Magwood- East Carolina University
Shakira Major- Queens University
Quinterra Middleton- Queens University
Penelope Murray- College of Charleston, Oglethorpe University
Andrea Musselwhite- College of Charleston, Coastal Carolina University, University of South Carolina
Amelia Nixon- College of Charleston, App State
Joshua Norris- Furman University, Presbyterian College, University of South Carolina, College of Charleston
Stephanie Popowski- Indiana University Bloomington
Forrest Putnam- College of Charleston, University of South Carolina Beaufort

Wilfred Rivers- Xavier University of Louisiana, Ashland University, Winston Salem State University, Clark Atlanta University, Jacksonville University
Kathryn Safford- Mercer University
Charlotte Savage- Fashion Institute of Technology, Savannah College of Art & Design

Saray Smalls- University of West Florida, College of Charleston, Florida State University, Queens University, Howard University, Winthrop University, High Point University
Julia Whirley- College of Charleston
Samuel Whitley- Winthrop University
Robert Widlowski- Lynn University

SOA auditionees face large competition

By DeAnna Kerley

SOA students rarely realize the opportunity they are given with their acceptance into the school and the competition that takes place during auditions. On Monday, January 5 of 2008, those opportunities and the stress of auditions were made incredibly clear. Out of 758 total applications, 505 sixth graders came to the school to vie for a place in one of eight art majors: band, creative writing, dance, piano, strings, theater, visual arts, and vocal. "It was very exciting seeing all of the students getting ready," commented Ms. Wade, who happened to stop by the fine arts building Monday afternoon. Unfortunately, all of these students will not

be receiving acceptance letters; only 156 slots are open for the sixth grade next year. 74 students auditioned for band (normally 25+ admitted), 110 for creative writing (around 12 admitted), 95 for dance (25+ admitted), 34 for piano (12 admitted), 54 for strings (25+ admitted), 132 for theater (20 admitted), 133 for visual arts (20 admitted), and 136 for vocal (25+ admitted). One thing is for certain: it was a busy day for all teachers involved. Ms. Henry recalls, "There were three sets of auditions that were two hours apart throughout the day. There were only three teachers who conducted the interviews and the selection process lasted for two days. Overall, everything went very well."

Junior wins Poetry Out Loud regionals

By Alek Mihok

Junior **Lauren DiNicola** participated in the regional Poetry Out Loud competition in January that decided which three out of nine contestants would go on to state.

"I was pleasantly surprised and very excited!" Lauren answered when asked what it felt like after she

was selected as one of the three lucky participants. When asked what she looked for when selecting a poem, she said "I have to read the poem out loud and see if I can truly feel any of the language in it." She needs to find energy and passion inside the text she reads, and will not have it any other way. The poems Lauren chose were "A Psalm of

Life" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and "Preludes" by T.S. Elliot.

"Stage fright isn't a very big thing for me; I try not to think about

it. Plus, I have always enjoyed performing in front of people. I simply channel my nervous energy into pure energy that I can use in my recitation." Two judges and an accuracy judge evaluated the competition, and Marcus Amaker introduced each poet. There were two rounds, the first in which the contestants had to recite a pre-20th century poem, and the next in which they were allowed to select a poem of their choice.

Lauren will compete in the state competition on March 21st in Columbia.



Lauren DiNicola (third right) stands with co-winners, judges, and emcee Marcus Amaker (far right).

Senior selected for prestigious honor

By Tanya Lewandowski

Zachariah Taylor, a senior band major at SOA, has been selected to participate in the prestigious "King Kamahameha Classic" in Honolulu, Hawaii for his outstanding achievements in football. He will be attending this prestigious showcase in July.

Tanya Lewandowski: How long have you been playing football, and which positions have you played?

Zachariah Taylor: I have been playing for the past four years. I try to play as many diverse positions as possible such as left tackle, right tackle, right guard, defensive end, and fullback.

TL: At what time in your football career did your coaches approach you to help strengthen your skills?

ZT: My sophomore year. He recognized my potential to play at the college level.

TL: In late December you received a letter from the Elite Sports explaining how you had been

selected for the prestigious "King Kamahameha Classic" out of thousands of other high school students. What do you think the deciding factor was for your acceptance into this annual showcase?

ZT: A few months ago, Elite Sports sent scouts to evaluate players around the country. I guess they felt that I was the best at the position that I play defense so they selected me.

TL: What are you the most excited about?

ZT: I am most excited about experiencing the feeling of playing with other athletes who share the same passion for football as I do. I'm nervous about playing on a field that has been home to some of the greats. Also, I am having the feeling of impatience, because I cannot wait to go to Hawaii!



Mr. Scapaletto brings new perspective

By Rebecca Forman

So far, what about SOA excites you most?

I really have enjoyed meeting the students. That's what's got me most excited. Everybody is smart and enthusiastic, and they want to learn. I like the concept of the majors, the fact that the people in creative writing for example, like to write and read.

What experience do you have in writing?

I've published short stories and poems in journals over the years. I wrote a novel that won a national award, called *City of Secret Places*. Then I've been in a couple of anthologies for non-fiction pieces. I used to do some book reviews for the *Post and Courier*.

Where else have you taught, and how do you think it will compare to SOA?

I taught at a small, private school in Tennessee for four years, then I came here and I taught at Porter Gaud for seven or eight years. I stopped teaching for about six years. The place in Tennessee was more of a rural school with a lot of farm children, so we did a lot of teaching of the basics. The students were great kids, some really smart, but then I went to Porter Gaud. It's very tough there. I was pretty rigorous. Now that I'm here, I'm not teaching in a core academic area. I like it, because I can be a little more laid back, and our focus is more on one thing.

What creative writing classes will you be teaching, and how do you plan to approach them?

I have non-fiction for sophomores, and then I'm teaching a poetry workshop to middle school. My approach to teaching has always been that it's about the people first, my students. I really want to get to know the students first, and then what I teach goes from there. Students figure out what they're good at and what they're bad at.

Do you feel you can fill the large shoes of Ms. Henry and Ms.

Miles? In what way do you want to modify the curriculum?

Well, I'm a size nine. You could say that my feet are bigger than theirs are, but no, I can't try to be anybody but myself. I think I'll bring some mischief to the department. I'm a big practical joker, and you can just say that most days I'll be Mrs. Miles personal assistant.

What is the best experience you have had teaching?

I had a seventh grader that was nothing but trouble. None of the teachers liked him; he was just a rotten kid in their eyes. I had him in English, and his father, a soldier, had been killed in a helicopter crash. His dad died right before he was born. We had gone on a clash trip to Washington DC, and he was in trouble, so he was by my side the entire trip. We got along well though. When we were in Arlington, he said "I think my dad's buried here." So we peeled off, went to the information desk, and looked up his dad's name. We sort of went off from the group, and found his dad's headstone. It was a cool experience, because he'd written about his father all year long. And I thought, here's a case where something came out of his writing. This real miracle occurred, and I was there to witness it. And it's kind of corny, but I think this is why I do what I do.

Tell me about the best piece you have written:

One of my novels that I've written, the last third of it takes place in Spain. I had visited there, and I was really pleased with myself in terms with being able to integrate all this research I had done into a story without it overshadowing the story. I was really happy with how that came out. But I'm a tortured writer. Most of the things I write I don't like, or I think could be better.

What advice would you give to young writers?

Quit, if you can.

Mr. Hammis joins writing faculty

By David Sass

Where are you from?

I was born here in Charleston, but I've lived most of my life growing up in Orlando, Florida.

What brought you here to the School of the Arts?

Actually, I live right in the neighborhood, and I heard that the school was looking for a new Creative Writing teacher. I love writing and teaching, so I decided to apply for the job.

Where have you taught before?

I taught in Virginia at a private school for children with learning disabilities.

What experience in the Creative Writing field do you bring to SOA?

I've been writing all my life, and I have an MFA in Creative Writing, from Old Dominion University in Virginia.

Have you had anything published before? If so, what? Fiction, poetry, etc.?

I have written two novels so far. One is a middle-grade fantasy novel, sort of like J. K. Rowling or C. S. Lewis, and right now it's actually

with an agent trying to get it published, and the other is a literary novel, like what you read in English class.

What was your high school experience like?

I went to an extremely small private school. It was nice because the teachers could focus on individual students easily, but there weren't too many people. My graduating class had about twenty students in it.

What are you looking forward to about the rest of the year?

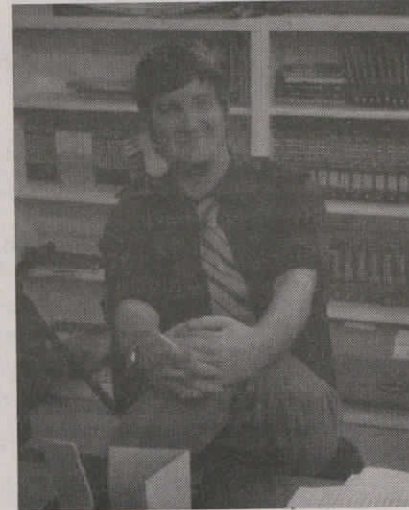
I'm looking forward to teaching, and to the kids, who seem really cool. I'm really excited to get in there and teach for the next few months, and hopefully, a couple years after that.

What was your first impression of the school?

Since I moved into the neighborhood, I've heard all about how SOA is one of the best schools in the state. Even on my first tour, I could see how friendly and warm all the teachers and students are. Some students even gave me high-fives!

Who do you read regularly?

I read a lot of Stephen Dunn, definitely E. H. Fairchild, and Tim O'Bryant.



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Israel is justified in conflicts

By Collins Rice



Who came first, the Arab or the Israeli? It seems like a simple enough question, easily answered by a run through the trusty Google, but when you consider the millions who have seen their countries

divided, seen their people turned to refugees, seen their loved ones killed over that question, the lines become just a little blurred. Though the modern state of Israel was not officially established until 1948, the city of Jerusalem has been the Jewish capital for over 3,300 years, a solid 1,900 years before the religion Islam was even developed. So when asked the question, "Is Israel justified in its recent attacks on Palestine and the Gaza Strip after being the subject of over seventy years of brutality and violence at the hands of terrorists from said region?" I'd say yea, it's about time.

Throughout the past seventy years the only significant move toward any sort of peace were the Oslo accords which, though they won Arab leader Yasser Arafat the Nobel Peace Prize, were simply an agreement to negotiate. A five year window was given for said negotiations to take place, however changes in government have somewhat reversed the agreement, especially the election of Hamas in Palestine in 2006 who have refused to recognize Israel, to renounce violent resistance, and accept some agreements previously made by the Palestinian Authority.

Ever since the original Israeli Empire was conquered in 720 B.C.E, the history of the Jewish people has been a history of wandering and persecution. Contrary to popular Arab belief, Arabs were not driven out of their homes following the UN decision on Partition in 1948. The Arab refugees were encouraged to leave Israel by Arab leaders, promising to purge the land of Jews. They argued that an "Arab presence" would only get in the way of the planned devastation. Sixty-eight percent left without ever seeing an Israeli soldier. By the same token, the basis of the Arab claims of Israeli attempts to overtake the whole of their land may be questioned; if the Palestinian leaders are capable of driving over half of their people to become refugees because of their disdain of a people, who is to say that any of their claims of the Israeli people have any validity. Palestine does not even have any religious significance in the Islamic faith.

The sad truth is that, in Palestine, terrorists represent one percent or less of the population. But these terrorists aren't the crawl-into-a-hole-when-soldiers-come-after-you terrorists. No, these are the kill-as-many-people-as-you-can-until-the-bitter-end, anything-to-prove-the-cause terrorists. It is a sad fact that actions of so few radicals throw the lives of innocents into chaos. When history is taken into account with respect to the Arab-Israeli conflict, it is clear that Israel is completely justified in engaging in a conflict along the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

Bombings in Palestine must stop

By Wes Snell



Imagine the silence that follows an air raid. The air is thrumming, for nothing else can be heard beyond the stunning silence that follows the dropping bombs. The ground is burning and shaking, buildings are collapsing.

People are dying. All of this encapsulated in a bubble of silence...until the rush of the outside world, of reality, of anguish and fear and chaos, pierce that bubble and bring the entire world down on the victims and survivors. Imagine this, and then imagine it happening to an elementary school, to a hospital, to a neighborhood. That's the situation in Palestine right now. That's what they have to deal with. Can you imagine?

I'm not here to defend any terrorists. I don't support Palestine or Israel one way or another; I don't think it's my place to argue who should get what land. It's certainly not my land, and thus not my business. I'm here to defend the civilians of Palestine, the ones caught in this horrifying crossfire. Israel has responded harshly to the Palestinian leader Hamas's attempts to smuggle weapons and other supplies into Palestine as well as Palestinian bombings in southern Israel. It is not justice that they wield, but a harsh and disproportionate thirst for vengeance and dominion. Israel is not targeting military bases, but instead firing haphazardly into crowded cities and empty farmland. More than one farmer tending his fields has lost his entire family, his crops, or his life to air strikes that come from nowhere and for no reason other than speculation on the location of underground tunnels – rumors about as authentic as the stockpiles of nuclear weapons in Iraq.

The list of innocent victims is so dramatic it almost defies belief. One grandmother was killed on her doorstep,

another man shot while driving a taxi. The list ranges from pregnant women to nurses to over a dozen refugees. One child was shot fifteen times by an Israeli soldier, and an entire extended family, eighteen people, was blown up while sound asleep in their home. Israeli helicopters bombed an international elementary school in Gaza last year. The number of Palestinian casualties has tripled since the Israeli ground invasion. The Palestinian Ministry of Health reports, as of last month, showed that the number of Palestinian casualties stands at 971 killed, of whom 311 are children and 76 women, and 4,418 wounded, of whom 1,549 are children and 652 are women."

This has to stop. No assault, no matter how justified, no matter what the defense, is worth the lives of innocent people. The "wrong place at the wrong time" argument is not applicable when repeated over and over again on such an appalling level. But I see it over and over again, these rationalizations for the death and poverty of people in the name of supposed justice. Justice from what perspective? Tell the man whose wife and year-old daughter were killed in a bombing that these attacks are justified, that he's being protected from the terrorists. You cannot degrade human life to fit into an ideal that fits the way you think the world should work; life is beyond our concepts and rationalizations, beyond capitalism and socialism, beyond terrorism and justice. Whatever the system we choose, it must be one that works in accordance with the preservation, respect, and enhancement of human life, on all levels and at all costs. This system doesn't work. One percent of the population of Palestine is not worth the lives of the other ninety-nine.

The opinions expressed in Point/Counterpoint do not necessarily represent those of Applause or School of the Arts.

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Applause's own Kimberly Jenkins experiences the inauguration

Like 2.5 million other people, I was fortunate enough to witness the inauguration of President Barack Obama first-hand. Being in Washington, DC during the inaugural festivities was the experience of a lifetime and one that I will never forget.

I was invited to attend the inauguration by LeadAmerica, a leadership program designed for middle and high school students. I left Charleston on January 16, looking forward to what I knew would be a great six days in our nation's capital. Arriving in DC was one of the most exciting parts because I knew that the chance to experience history awaited me. Reagan National Airport was bustling with thousands of excited people. After getting my bags from baggage check, I found the LeadAmerica representative and some of the 600 students that I would be spending my time with over the next six days. As to be expected, there was the awkwardness of being with unfamiliar faces. Eventually everyone began to warm up, (even though the temperature didn't) and we started sharing the basic information (name, hometown, etc.). After what seemed like forever, the shuttle had finally arrived to transport us to our "home away from home." As more conference participants arrived, an excitement filled the air. As I prepared for dinner and the opening ceremony, I hung out with the remarkable people that I had met earlier that evening.

As the conference continued, I got to hear from the impressive lineup of guest speakers and visit Mount Vernon and the

Smithsonian American History Museum. Our guest speakers ranged from Mr. Ollie Cantos, a middle aged blind man, who with persistence, worked his way up to the U.S. Department of Justice where he works currently, to Mrs. Mary Beth Tinker, who, as a child stood up for her constitutional right to free speech, and won. I had such a great time at the newly opened Smithsonian American History Museum. Throughout the conference we participated in government simulations, and I was elected representative for my group. It was a great experience to act out the issues that the new president will face in office.

Two days before the inauguration, as a welcome to the new president and his family, a concert was given in his honor at the Lincoln Memorial. Our program coordinator wanted us to get good seats so he insisted that we be dressed and on the bus by 7 AM. I was bundled in at least five layers of clothing because of the predicted 19° temperature that day. The concert was spectacular and featured musicians and actors from the likes of Beyoncé, will.i.am, Bruce Springsteen, Jack Black, Tom Hanks, George Lopez, John Legend, Bono, Stevie

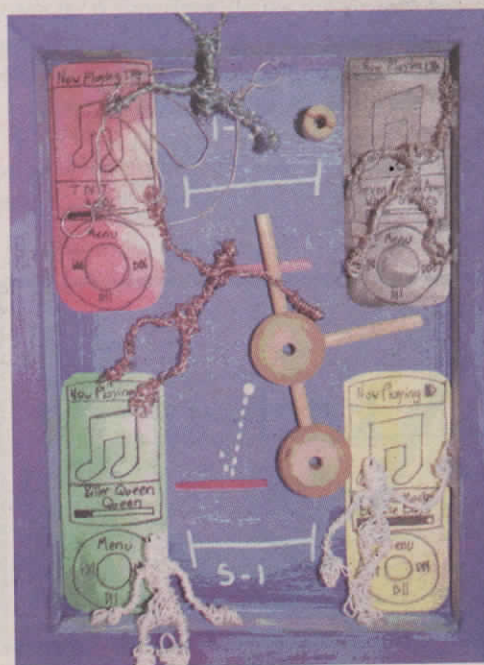
Wonder, and Usher. It was enthralling to be among millions of people who were celebrating our new first family.

Inauguration day was the most incredible thing that I have ever seen. In order to get a fairly decent spot, I knew that we would have to be up early. Our coordinator required that we be on the bus at 2 AM! I thought that he was absolutely crazy, but realized that it would be totally worth it. We didn't get home until eleven o'clock that night, so I decided that I would never be able to wake up in three hours so I, along with all the other girls, never went to bed. At 2 AM

we loaded the buses and pulled out from the hotel headed downtown. After a thirty minute bus ride, we arrived at our drop-off point two blocks away from the entrance. It was freezing cold with temperatures topping out at twelve degrees. It was still jet black outside and there were already thousands of people waiting for the historic event. We managed to get a really good spot right behind the ticketed section, so after some thought, I was really glad that we had gotten up at 2 AM. My group and I huddled together and played mafia

to pass the time. It was finally time for the inauguration to begin and I had never seen a group with such excitement and enthusiasm. We watched on the projector as President Obama and his motorcade made its way down Constitution Avenue, on the way to the ceremony. When he finally stepped out of the motorcade, a huge roar of excitement came over the crowd and everyone realized that history was minutes away from being made. As Obama and his cabinet members walked out onto the Capitol, everyone began screaming and jumping up and down in anticipation of what was about to occur. Aretha Franklin sang an energetic rendition of "My Country 'Tis of Thee" that brought me to tears. Pastor Rick Warren led in a beautiful and heartwarming prayer. As Obama took the oath of office, everyone started cheering and there was so much hope in the air. Everyone started jumping up and down and hugging total strangers. It was inspiring to see how everyone came together and united as a country to see the inauguration of our new president.

Attending the inauguration was the experience of a lifetime and something that I will never forget. When I grow up, I will share my experiences with my children and help them realize that anything is possible if you just work hard and follow your dreams. President Barack Obama is the perfect example of what can be accomplished if you put your mind to it.



"Tinker Toys and Creationism"

by Devin Dukes

"Brain in a Box"

18 mixed media box constructions

January 27th - February 20th

School of the Arts Media Center

Mr. Charleton Singleton

By Kimberly Jenkins

Mr. Charleton Singleton has been important to the Charleston jazz scene for many years. He is a musician, composer, arranger, and was the middle school band director here at SOA.

Where did you attend college?

I graduated from South Carolina State University in 1994 with a BA in Music.

How did you become involved in music?

I started taking piano lessons when I was three years old. I also played the organ, violin, and trumpet.

What musicians have had an influence on you?

There are too many to name, but, the main ones are Miles Davis, Harry "Sweets" Edison, Wynton Marsalis, Stevie Wonder, and Prince.

Why did you decide to stop teaching?

I decided to stop teaching in order to chase some performance goals that

I have.

Who has had the biggest influence on your life and musical career?

The biggest influence in my life has definitely come from my parents.

They still treat me like I am a three year old performing. Lots of smiles and pictures (to this day!). Musically, again, too many to name.

How exciting is it to perform around town almost every night of the week?

It is very exciting. We see a lot of different people. On the other hand, like any career, there are some days that you don't feel like going. At that point, it becomes a job. I love it, but, you have those days.



Black History Month Events

compiled by Tanya Lewandowski and Lizzie Caulder

Black History Month, formerly Negro History Week, will be celebrated once again this year in Charleston. Black History Month came to be in 1976, when Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who was referred to as the Father of Black History Month, founded it. Every year, Charleston shows its unique ways of celebrating Black History Month. This year there is an assortment of presentations, local events, exhibits, book signings, poetry, and much more. Here is a brief itinerary of some of the local events that you can attend during Black History Month.

February 13: Book signings by Jack Bass and Cleveland Sellers. 6:00 p.m.

Jack Bass, author and retired professor of journalism at the University of Mississippi, will discuss and sign the new edition of his book, *The Orangeburg Massacre*. Cleveland Sellers, Director of African-American Studies at the University of South Carolina, will also be on hand to discuss and sign his book, *The River of No Return: The Autobiography of a Black Militant and the Life and Death of SNCC*. The proceeds from the sale of these books will benefit the Avery Research Center and South Carolina State University.

February 20-22: The Southern Conference on African American Studies, Inc. (SCAASI) 24th Annual Convention. Theme: "African American Legends and Legacies," hosted by the Avery Research Center. Embassy Suites Hotel, 337 Meeting Street. Registration Fee: \$150 in advance; \$160 on site. For more information, contact Dr. W. Marvin Dulaney at 953-5929, or Dr. Howard Jones at (713) 641-7911.

February 22: Annual Carter G. Woodson Luncheon, 12:00 noon. Sponsored by the Low Country Chapter of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History. For tickets and information call 953-7609.

Quentin Baxter

By Wes Snell

Quentin Baxter, world-renowned percussionist, was born right here in little ol' Charleston in August of 1970. He grew up playing percussion in local churches with his three brothers. "I've been playing percussion instruments in church for as long as I can remember," says Quentin on his website, baxtermusic.com. "As a matter of fact, I don't remember not playing some type of percussion instrument!"

Quentin graduated from North Charleston High School and, in his teens, was a first-call performer for regional concerts throughout Charleston. He went to University of South Carolina and earned a Bachelor of the Arts in Music Theory and Composition from the College of Charleston, where he now serves as Adjunct Professor of Jazz Percussion.

Known for his encyclopedic knowledge

of an array of percussive styles, Baxter has performed with such artists as James Spaulding, Tommy Gil, and Frank Gordon and toured extensively through Europe, Japan, Korea, and the Caribbean. I've had the honor of seeing Baxter perform with the Quentin Baxter Trio at the Charleston Place, and his impressionistic style amazed me. He turns seconds into brushstrokes, minutes into splashes of color, time into art. These days you can find him performing at the Charleston Place Thursday through Saturday nights and around town with groups such as Gradual Lean, Quentin Baxter Ensemble, and the students and faculty of College of Charleston. He even performed here at School of the Arts last year as



a part of the Jazz Initiative.

Marcus Amaker

By DeAnna Kerley

Marcus Amaker is a local poet and musician. When he's not working for the *Post and Courier*, Marcus can be found performing his poetry for the public. He has performed at Monday Night Blues at the East Bay Coffee House and was the emcee for Poetry Out Loud.

How has being a black artist affected and shaped your career as a writer and musician?

It hasn't really affected me too much, honestly. I think the main thing that I have to deal with are stereotypes and pre-conceived notions about my work by my own people. When you are a "spoken word poet," it's sometimes hard to stay true to your own voice when that voice differs from other people in the room. It's true that a lot of that comes from within, but I have encountered a few people who want you to sound and look a certain way that isn't true to myself.

What has been the most challenging moment of your career so far? The most rewarding moment?

The most challenging moment has to be always coming up with something new. I am not one to settle for just doing the same things over and over, so I challenge myself to stay fresh and not go on autopilot when I perform. Rewarding moments happen often - when I find myself inspiring other people, and making people cry. (ha). It's really amazing, though, to make an emotional connection.

Where do you find inspiration for your poetry and music?

Music, art, life and love. Sounds like a stock answer, but it's true. Music has always been a spark for me - I am a huge fan of Ani DiFranco and Prince, and their music makes me want to create. And life. It's so precious - I've been reminded about how quick it can all go away. I don't want to waste any time.

How would you describe your specific writing style? Music style?

It's true to me. Completely honest. Even ugly, at times. My writing is very fluid (or so I hope), and I often go with my first or second version of a poem. If I work on a poem too much, it feels like I'm dissecting it too much, thus losing the original feeling. My music is the sound of my heartbeat and the rhythms in my head. Sometimes my music doesn't make much sense to other people, but it sounds perfect to me.

Who is your favorite writer or musician and how have they affected you?

Joni Mitchell. She's the best writer and musician I've ever experienced. Her words and her work are extraordinary, and her influence on me is so evident in everything that I do. I didn't really feel like I started writing until I heard her music.

How long have you been writing? Producing music?

I started creating art when I was 8. I recorded myself singing and playing music, and I still have those tapes in good condition. That was my first memory of writing, too, because I wrote all of the songs in this big red notebook. Ah, memories



Where were they then? Mr. Justin Baker

By Alek Mihok

Mr. Justin Baker joined the SOA faculty in 2007, and currently teaches Musical Theater and Arts Management. He has also co-directed *The Wiz*, and has an upcoming production featuring his Musical Theater classes.



Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born and raised here in the Charleston area, and family has moved all around the city, starting in Summerville, then Hanahan, and then Goose Creek. My parents finally settled down in Moncks

Where are they now? TJ Robinson

By Chelsea Adent

TJ Robinson is a band alumnus from the SOA class of 2006 who attends Manhattan School of Music in NYC and majors in classical trombone. He is currently in London studying at the Royal College of Music.

What made you want to study in London and how did the opportunity come about?

I had a friend who studied in London for a year (who also plays trombone) and he said that he loved it. I'm always up for new and exciting experiences so I applied and was accepted.

While being in London, what has been the most memorable experience?

It would be really hard for me to choose the most memorable

Corner, and I just recently made the big step of buying my first home in park Circle.

What were your favorite hobbies as a child?

Though it may be a surprise, I enjoyed being the center of attention in my neighborhood!

I was usually the kid who always got things started, like a neighborhood puppet show, or making some huge theatrical production out of old Halloween costumes and cardboard tubes and tape. I also loved exploring, hiking and being very imaginative. And of course, I always enjoyed playing the piano.

Where did you attend college and how do you think that time period

affected your life today?

I received my Bachelor of Arts degree in Vocal Music at Charleston Southern University. My college years seemed somewhat of a roller coaster ride. There's a bit of uncertainty in your life when you have to make the decisions yourself, and

experience because there are so many! But I would have to say the most frightening and hilarious was when a squirrel tried to attack me for food in the park (he was obviously jealous of the birds). I tried my best to fight him off with my umbrella after he made it half way up my leg.

How is studying abroad different from studying in America?

Studying abroad is different from being in America because of the

you are learning who you are as an adult, a professional, and a musician on the way.

I also met some of my closest friends in college.

The biggest impact I've had were my amazing college professors and mentors who molded me into who I am today.

Were you always interested in teaching? If not, what else?

Originally I wanted to be an astronaut, but then I found I didn't like roller coasters, so that would never work. Then I wanted to go into film directing, and pursued that for a short time until I went the Psychologist route – I was a bit of a soul-searcher and tried a little it of almost every career.

Finally I realized that my true calling was a teacher. I

always wanted to help others grow to their potential and benefiting from that energy of learning. Teaching chose me.

What attracted you to SOA?

I was the Music Director at North

Charleston High School for three years, and remember having to drop off some music



for a colleague here at SOA.

I had never been here, but was quickly whisked away by Mr. Smyth who showed me all of the greatness of this place and the

people that make it all happen. I wanted to bring that energy back with me, and it did! I found myself falling in the lap of SOA sort of by happenstance. I never thought it'd be teaching here the following year.



world around you.

What are you most looking forward to in your remaining time in London?

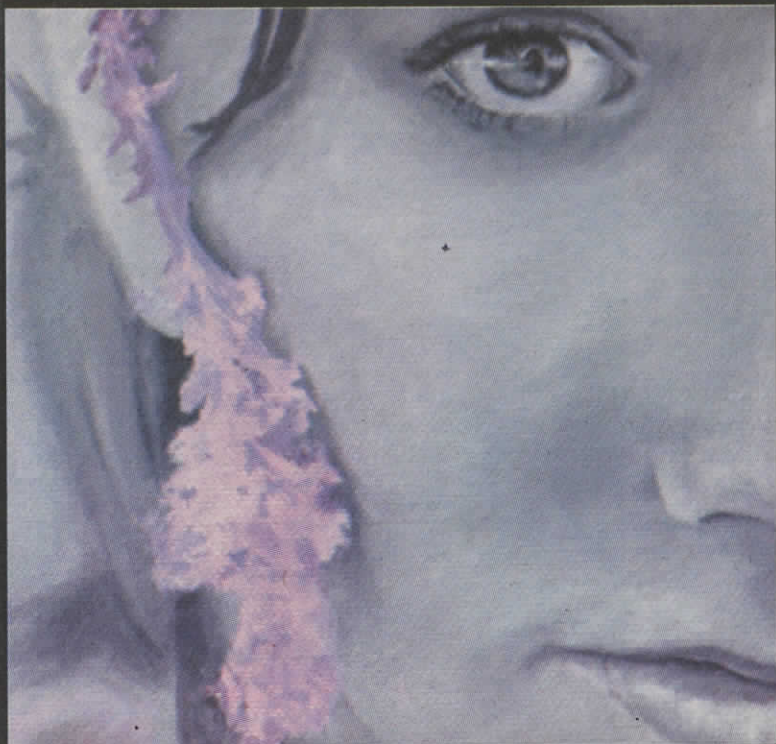
I'm most looking forward to having more fun!! And learning things that would make me a better musician of course....

How has your SOA experience affected you as you continue your education?

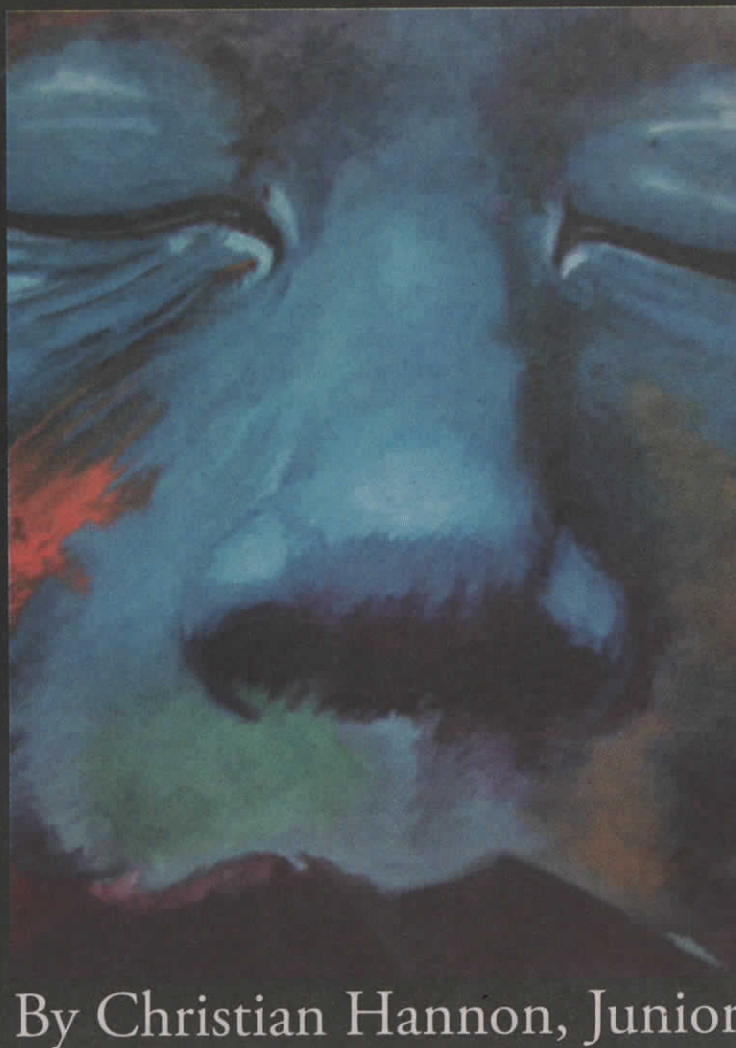
SOA was a fantastic place (and still is), and I am thankful I had the chance to be a part of it. I will never forget the lessons I learned while being there. My advice to everyone there now is to learn as much as you can, take risks, and have fun! It's as simple as that, really. Everything else seems to fall into place....

because it can give you a healthy perspective of the

Student Artwork



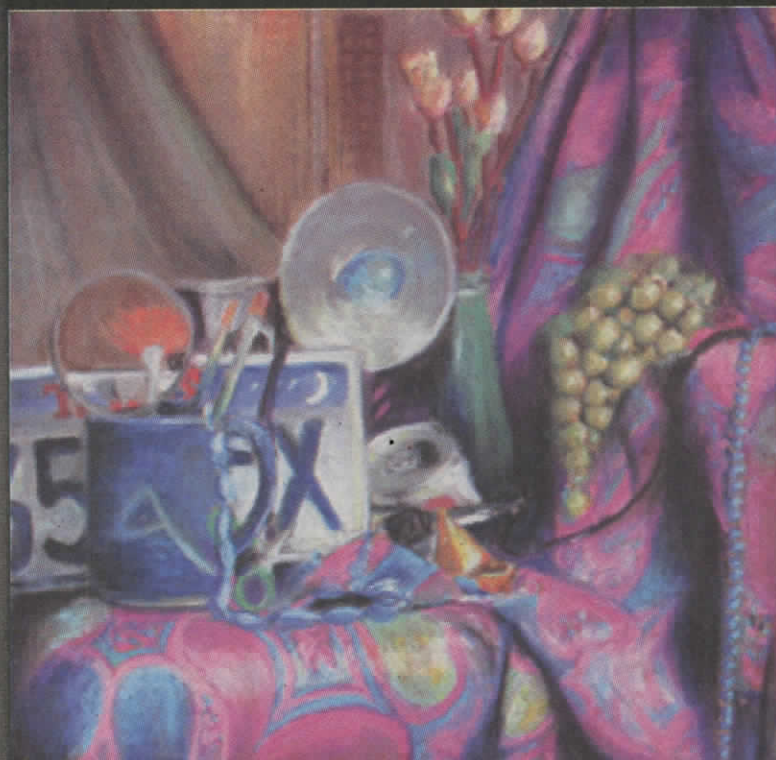
By Chrissy Thorne, Senior



By Christian Hannon, Junior



By Skylar Spies, Senior



By Jessica Davidson, Senior



By Wade Judy, Senior

Beyond Strange: Remembering the dead

By Sam Whitley



As a society, we really don't have that much respect for the dead. Just a quick look on the Internet will inform you that you can get a Jimmi Hendrix branded lighter, a Dale Earnhardt memorial clock, and not one, but two expensive statues of Dimebag Darrell. If we could just charge people for punching bodies, we probably would by now. However, this phenomenon isn't limited to the rock stars – the strangest example is found in history.

Grigori Rasputin is a man who's known for a variety of reasons. Infamous as a "mad monk," he's known just as much for his drunken escapades as his spiritual healing. He came to prominence in Russia during the turn of the century, a time when the country was tearing itself apart politically. Contrary to his depictions in recent movies, he wasn't a singing wizard with a talking bat companion – he was traveling holy man who came to heal the young Grand Duke, who

Bad Fashion: Baggy Pants

By K. Chaney Long



At SOA we are encouraged to express our unique personalities through our work, artwork, and occasionally, our clothes. On occasion, the latter choice is taken a bit too far.

Take, for example, the baggy pants style. You know, the one in which the clothes wearer sports his or her pants not at the waist, not at the hips, not even a little below the hips, but somewhere between the mid rear and upper thigh. I have never seen the appeal of this particular style. Actually, does anyone? What is it? Is it the dirty hems dragging in the dirt, or is the oh-so-attractive flash of bunched up boxer shorts that innocent members of society are forced to view as the wearer bends forward? No offense! I'm

was suffering from hemophilia. As political tensions rose, he was murdered in 1916, an event that has spawn a wide variety of legends.

In addition to being simultaneously shot, drowned, and stabbed, a certain body part was reportedly severed from his body. Since then, it has attained almost mythic status, changing hands like some cursed treasure. In the 1920's, Rasputin's *shai-hulud* was worshipped as a fertility charm by a cult of Russian women. At this point, the events get fuzzy: Rasputin's daughter, Marie, demanded it back, and had it until her death in 1977. Shortly afterwards, a man purchased a great deal of Marie's manuscripts, and the legendary organ along with them. Sadly, it wasn't the genuine article, only a severely decayed mollusk. It's not all bad news for the true believers: a Russian museum, claiming to have the real deal has recently put it on display.

No one can tell for certain if the museum truly has Rasputin's priceless appendage, but like Santa Claus and reality television, I will believe. Next time you see Heath Ledger memorial neckties, remember: it could always be worse.

just curious. Perhaps my beliefs are a tad too puritanical, but when I wake up in the morning I prefer to make sure that my undergarments are covered, but that's just me.

I'm not exactly sure what the point of wearing one's pants in this particular fashion is. I have always assumed that the point of clothes is to keep a person warm, protected from the elements, and covered. If your pants can't even cover your underwear, why even wear the pants? Why not just wear a pair of boxers and some legwarmers? The wearer would be just as covered as they were in their baggy pants, and they'll look just as ridiculous.

Maybe I'm just too closed minded to understand the statement that baggy pants make, but the only statement I'm hearing is, "Hey, look at me! I need a belt!" So boys, and some of you girls, I see London, I see France, please, oh please, pull up your pants.

The Truth About Friggatriskaidekaphobia

By Sam Whitley

This month, Friday the 13th is upon us! Who says nightmares and chaos have to stay on Halloween? The thirteenth of a month is usually bad enough, but having it on a Friday is good reason to keep your serial killer repellent handy. But why is Friday the 13th so unlucky? This month, I'm taking a good look at the origins of this fear, and its roots in history and religion.

Dubbed friggatriskaidekaphobia (the greatest word you are ever going to hear), the irrational fear of this day has been kept alive for centuries, though few friggatriskaidekaphobics actually know why. Possible reasons for hating Friday appear in the Bible, with the crucifixion of Jesus taking place on that day. Some sources also suggest that the most cataclysmic events, such as the great flood, were also on a Friday. Reasons for fear of the number 13 are even less clear. Several encyclopedias are quick to

Sass-Attack: The downward spiral to nowhere

By David Sass



Did you miss my unwarranted cynicism back in January? I bet you did; in fact, I know you did, thanks to the hypno-conditioning I've been gradually sinking into your skulls with the power of my

almighty words. And soon, my plan to conquer the world shall come into fruition! Now, be the good minions that you all are and forget that you have read this new revelation about my devilish scheme, and continue to enjoy yourself reading the *Applause* as you doom yourself to my rule.

Ahhh... Smell that? I'm talking about the sweet stench of despair, the fragrant fetor of unfiltered human fear. Yep, it's a new year, alright, and the future is looking bleaker than ever as we head into the Second Great Depression. I'm still the grumpy, misanthropic pessimist whose column you all love to read (for some odd, unknown reason that continues to boggle scientists worldwide). And to top off this worm-riddled banana split sundae with curdled whip cream and a half-decayed cherry, it's now my least favorite month of the year. I won't elaborate, suffice to say it has something to do with a completely commercialized holiday, and it being the coldest month of the year.

It's the end of the capitalist world as we know it. I am neither a naysayer nor a

mention that Judas was the thirteenth disciple at the last supper. Problem solved; chalk it up to Christian superstition, right? Not exactly, because the Mesopotamian Code of Hammurabi dated a far older 1760 B.C.; omits the number 13 from its list of rules. Much like Jimmy Hoffa's body and the reason why kids love Cinnamon Toast Crunch, the number 13 remains a mystery.

Unfortunately for civilization, there's only more gloom and doom on the horizon. 2009 has note one, but three Friday the 13ths, with an additional one arriving in March and another in November. It might already be taking effect: if you received this paper later than Friday, then it's because we were TOO CURSED to meet the deadline! If not, well, I bet the chances of Earth getting wiped out by a killer asteroid have tripled this year.

prophet of doom (what am I saying, of course I am; I am the Messiah of the Apocalypse!), but as far as I can see, things are looking just like they did about four score years ago. I have nothing against our new President Obama, but unless he's a resurrected Franklin D. Roosevelt zombie behind a mask with another New Deal tucked up his magician's sleeve, I'd have to say that we're pretty much stuck in the deep blue in a cheap, aluminium shark cage while looking for Jaws with a bucket of chum around our neck.

Just because we don't have F.D.R. to save us with a miraculous plan doesn't mean we are totally doomed. I mean, we could always just start the Third World War with Germany, or maybe even China, earlier than our devious, sneaky world leaders have planned (never trust a politician; they have mad skills in scheming, conniving and Senate seat selling!). I'm sure that neither country would mind too much if we just shot off a missile or two-dozen at them. They'd understand that it's all for the good of Mankind, and by Mankind, I mean America, and by America, I mean me.

All in all, I've got no idea how we're going to get out of this new hole we've dug ourselves into this time, nor do I know if we will even get out of it this time. Maybe this is the end of America, the end of everything bright and glorious, everything noble and free. Maybe we are about to go down in the annals of history as a valiant, yet ultimately flawed attempt at democracy, to be forgotten eventually in the far, far future. Or, more likely, I have no clue what I'm really talking about. My money is on the latter of the two.

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V
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



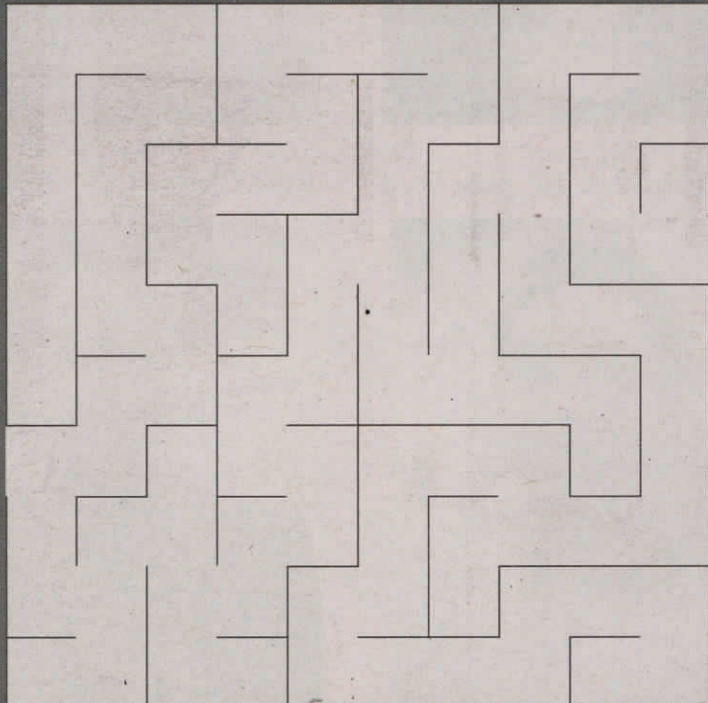
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Finding Juliet

By Antonio Tony



Greetings, all of you friends, lovers, and tender little songbirds with romance in their hearts! It is February, and it is Antonio Tony's favorite month, for the air is filled with poetry: the tender kiss of two lovers, the clink of a wine glass, the delicate scent of a bouquet of flowers. But all is not well. Several of you have written me about problems during this beautiful time. Fear not, dear plebians; I have taken the time out of my romantic evenings to bestow you with my words of wisdom.

Dear Antonio Tony,

There's this girl in my class that I really like. I want to ask her out, but each time I try, the words never come out! How can I overcome my nervousness and tell her how I feel?

- Shy in Turkmenistan

While you are no doubt less chiseled and handsome than moi, you must look deep, and find the courage within yourself! You have been behaving like a mere pussycat – it's time to unleash your inner tiger! Find the words and show her your tiger roar! You are the king of the jungle; there is no need for fear! Don't be afraid of rejection, but if it does happen, know that it is part of love's natural, wonderful cycle. Love is like growing a delicate flower; sometimes it is able to grow and blossom, while sometimes an early frost can strike it down. For all the rest of you poor, less romantically blessed individuals, you should find your own courage and enjoy the beauty of February. Like an especially attractive oracle of Ancient Greece, I only wait to teach you in the ways of wisdom.

Horoscopes

By Zordon

Aquarius (January 20 – February 18): You will die when...

This is a free excerpt. For the complete horoscope, sign up for *Applause Gold Account™*.

Pisces (February 19 – March 20): February is the month of spending time with a loved one. This year, get them the greatest gift of all – there's nothing more romantic and thoughtful than a Big Mouth Billy Bass.

Aries (March 21 – April 19): Don't waste your days in front of the television; go outside and do something. All that factory exhaust and carbon monoxide is going to give you mutant superpowers!

Taurus (April 20 – May 20): It's time to take more risks this month, like telling a hobo you're stuffed with drugs.

Gemini (May 21 – June 21): It's important to pay attention during science classes; you may be able to apply it later in life. Don't you want gills one day?

Cancer (June 22 – July 22): Horoscopes can be mighty sinful. Rumor has it there are spooky backwards messages in them. SGNIHHT LAETS FFUTS KAERB

Leo (July 23 – August 22): Lowering your own personal standards can be the key to happiness in life. Was today complete agony all throughout? No? Then it must be time well spent.

Virgo (August 23 – September 22): In life, it's always important to follow your heart, no matter what government lists you end up on.

Libra (September 23 – October 22): While it's important to concentrate in school, you should already be making long term plans for the future – what will you do about the Mayan apocalypse?

Scorpio (October 23 – November 21): I have been requested by the Nigerian government to contact you for assistance. I am trying to transport a large sum of money out of Nigeria, approximately \$35,000,000. If you donate to *Applause*, you will receive a 20% dividend of this sum. We must hurry, before the government takes the money for itself!

Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21): This horoscope has performed an illegal operation and will be shut down. If this problem persists, contact the newspaper vendor.

Capricorn (December 22 – January 19): It's important to keep an open mind. It will better accommodate the tunneling shriekbats that have returned to nest.

Who would be your perfect Valentines Day date ?

Compiled by Chelsea Adent and Lizzie Caulder



"Joe Jonas."

Halie Stevenson- 6th grade, Visual Arts



"Fergie."

Simeon Washington- 6th grade, Theatre



"Zac Efron."

Justice Murray- 7th grade, Dance



"Paris Hilton."

Matt Watson- 7th grade, Visual Arts



"Ashley Tisdale."

Brent Hubbard- 8th grade, Strings



"Keira Knightley."

Tanner Cooper- 9th grade, Band



"Trace Cyrus."

Charlie Martindale- 10th grade, Vocal



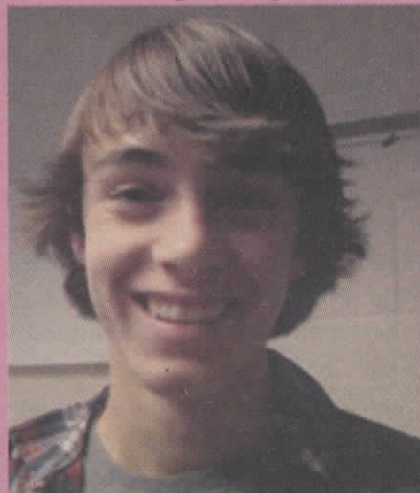
"Jessica Alba."

Ryan Clawson- 10th grade, Vocal



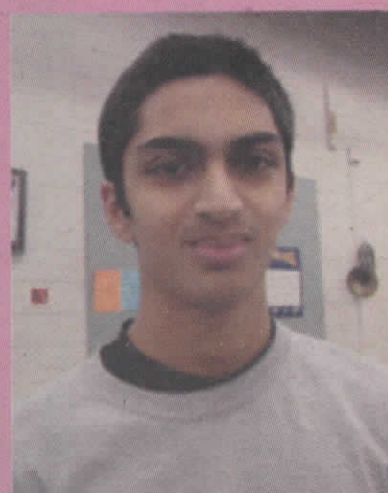
"Paul Bettany."

Hannah Chilcote- 11th grade, Strings



"Scooby-Doo. But it would be like a play date."

Addison Dent- 11th grade, Theater



"Dr. Price, because she completes my valence."

Vickrum Tipnis- 12th grade, Band



"Billie Holiday."

Mr. Clark