

APPLAUSE

Vol. 11 Issue 2

School of the Arts

October 2009



Editor's Note



Salutations!

Stores are putting out Halloween decorations. The Disney Channel is playing a nonstop marathon of their worst Halloween films, and the weather seems to have developed a split personality disorder between the heat and humidity of summer and the biting cold of winter. It must be time for the October issue of *Applause*!

Staff members are currently hard at work to get together our Art Smart issue in just a few weeks, and our tenth anniversary issue in December.

Have a brilliant October!

-K. Chaney Long

Cover art by
Adam Fallen

Congratulations to our
October Patron of the Month
Barbara Blake

Applause
the official student publication
Charleston County School of the Arts

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Bringing the characters to LIFE!



Louisa Ballou as The Lady in Black, Peter Page as Robert Lebrun, and Serena Townsend as Edna Pontellier from *The Awakening*.

By Rebecca Forman

In a world of summer reading essays, tests and annotations, it feels good to take a literary breather every so often while applying your analytical knowledge. Mrs. Passarello provided this opportunity in the form of a summer reading celebration in which SOA juniors selected characters from one of their summer reading assignments, dressed up as them, studied them, and took on their character for a full class period. On top of this, the students were to apply their art major to the project. The results were phenomenal.

Creative writer Joyce Waggoner played Curly's wife from *Of Mice and Men*. She wrote a poem in three parts from the character's point of view about how women of the time were treated by men, loneliness and her unhappy marriage. Madison Smith, visual artist, portrayed the character from *The Awakening*, Ms. Ratignolle, and a picture of the perfect mother figure. She created a collage of specific symbols from *The Awakening*, such as the ocean, indicating an escape from society, and birds symbolizing freedom. Tyler Wilson applied his musical endeavors by picking a piece he believed to portray the theme of solitude in exchange for the theme of individuality found in almost all of the books. Vocal majors Christin Darling, Jamie Amick and Caroline Britt rewrote the words to "There Goes my Baby" by The Drifters to show the love triangle in *The Awakening*.

Perhaps the greatest part of the assignment was getting to see which character your friends chose. I met a female Chris McCandless from *Into the Wild*, various visions of the same tragic Edna Pontellier from *The Awakening* and fellow students' views of the fragile, mousy Laura of *The Glass Menagerie*. The project was both a creative assignment and an opportunity to showcase our highly cultivated talents to other grades and majors. Mrs. Passarello put a unique spin on the concept of testing her students' literary analysis skills, while giving an unforgettable impromptu performance to all privileged enough to have seen it.



Juniors Serena Townsend, Madison Smith as Ms. Ratignolle, and Colleen Brennan as Mademoiselle Reisz from *The Awakening*.



Ms. Passarello embodies the Harlem Renaissance and strikes a pose with her students (from left to right) Kristina Bruce as a Farival twin from *The Awakening*, Will Cammer as Huckleberry Finn, Chaiison Dangerfield as Aunt Polly from *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and Devante Lee as Huckleberry Finn.

Student Council gives back

By Rebecca Forman

This month, School of the Arts is competing against other Charleston County schools in the Lowcountry Food Bank drive to see which school can collect the most food. The Lowcountry Food Bank is a combination of community service providers, including religious organizations, donors from the food industry, senators and individual volunteers. Its goal is to provide food to ten coastal counties in South Carolina. It serves as a collective clearinghouse for excess and damaged packaged goods from grocery stores and manufacturers, and helps senior citizens, single-parent families, low-income couples, disabled children and adults and victims of personal tragedy. It offers a great community service opportunity for the students of SOA, and will be



the student council's main focus this month. A couple thousand dollars will be rewarded to the winning school, as well as an opportunity to help the community and support the student government.

This will be the first year the food drive is hosted in the South East, but the Food Bank has had major success in Iowa, raising over 40,000 pounds of food. Our final date to collect food is October 29th, so clean out your pantry, bring in cans and watch for collection boxes around our school. Until then, student council will be holding class competitions, raffling tickets to

Paintball Charleston and possibly holding a combined school dance for Academic Magnet and School of the Arts in October. Stay tuned and be sure to contribute to this cause.

Senior Lunch

By Samantha Dahabi

Recently, teachers with third period classes consisting mostly of seniors were asked to switch their classes to second lunch. Some teachers had no objections to the switch, but a select few were unwilling to comply, leaving a grand total of ten plus seniors (myself included) at first lunch, to fend for themselves while fighting off the mobs of underclassmen.

When asked how seniors felt about being switched to second lunch, students replied in a variety of ways. **Brittany Ropp**, vocal, likes "having second lunch a lot better because [she has] an early out" and is able to leave immediately after third block at 1:15 instead of 1:50. Some students are indifferent to the new schedule. **ShaRonda Grimball**, theatre, doesn't mind having first or second lunch. She feels "that because we're seniors, we should have the seniority and privileges to make it first lunch. That's the perk of being a senior, being able to do things first, right?" Other students responded negatively to the switch. Some seniors are in classes still attending first lunch. This interferes with the social activities held during lunch. "I don't like it because I don't have a chance to play any sports" during first lunch says **Adam Bailey**, band. Dance major **Christina Slaton**, another senior stranded at first lunch, claims, "It's empty out here." As you can tell there is a mixture of feelings among the senior class. Some teachers may benefit from the switch, but others will be hearing complaints from the senior class until June 5, 2010. In this situation a true equilibrium seems far from attainable.

The Green Scene

By Maddi Phillips



Hey there, School of the Arts! It's that time of year again – the birds are chirping, the sun is shining, and students are settling into their classes. Minds are being filled with knowledge, bags with books, and trash cans with...recyclable goods?! The last few weeks have been Recycling Month for Ecology Club, so I feel it is my duty to pass our insight onto you! Did you know there is a plethora of recyclables here in our little SOA community? In fact, they're all around you! See that soda bottle your friend has just thrown away? As long as it is a #1 or #2 plastic (usually located on the bottom of the item), it can be rinsed out and recycled after the cap has been thrown away! And the "do you like me?– check yes or no" note you've found on the floor? You guessed it: un-crumpled paper belongs in the blue recycle bins, not the floor or the garbage can. Glass, junk mail, magazines, and paperboard packaging (like a cereal box) can all be salvaged too. Even our dear old *Applause* should be recycled when every last breaking story has been scoured. Unfortunately, modern technology can not yet recycle used napkins and tissues, pizza boxes, or candy wrappers, so for now those will be laid to rest in the trash. For any questions about recycling, Ecology Club is always ready and willing to help! Until next time: reduce, reuse, and RECYCLE, SOA!

Paintball Charleston and possibly holding a combined school dance for Academic Magnet and School of the Arts in October. Stay tuned and be sure to contribute to this cause.

Senior Thesis Update: Creative Writing

By Shaless Robinson

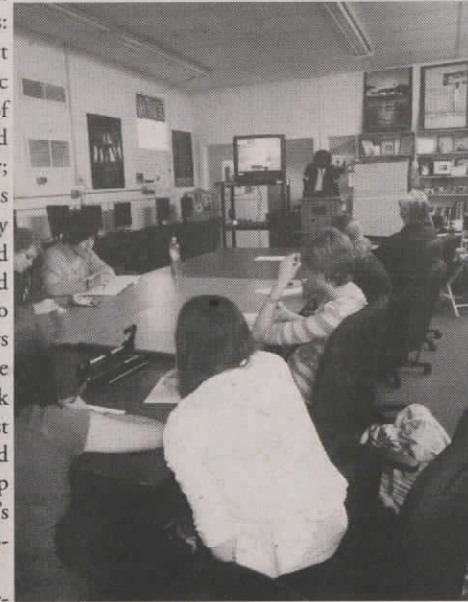
The Creative writing thesis requires every senior to write a book in one of the following genres: Creative Non-Fiction, Short Stories, Novels, Dramatic Scripts or a Collection of Poetry. Each senior is paired with a professional writer; the writers include Marcus Amaker (poetry), Marjory Wentworth (poetry), Ted Rosengarten (fiction) and SOA's own, Sean Scapellato (fiction + poetry). Seniors meet with their mentors once a month to critic their work in progress. Mentors suggest what students should read based on their pieces to help inspire them. "The mentor's job is to help guide the process," says **Ms. Miles**.

The students prepare for senior thesis by attending a retreat during their junior year to hear seniors present their work. All three writing teachers will be there this year to

help students through their creative blocks. The juniors also receive help with their work at the retreat and any problems.

The seniors must write ten pages over the summer. During the school year, ten pages are due every three weeks. Thesis students reflect weekly about their progress. Reflections include the status of their mentor's help, creative problems occurring and what they are currently reading.

Right now students have written pages twenty to thirty, later in the year they will be design-



Creative writers working on their thesis

Swine flu has come to a school near you

By Cat Bowler

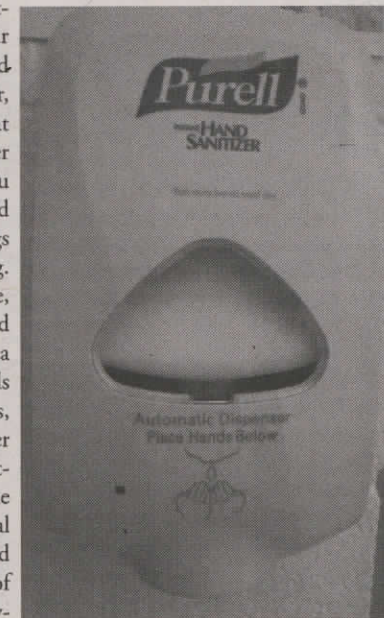
Admit it. Since the beginning of the 2009 school year, the fear of catching Swine Flu has flitted through your mind at least once. Perhaps you've considered cutting the bacon out of your diet...but only as an added precaution, of course. Or, you may be re-evaluating that decision to pursue a career in farming – with Swine Flu sweeping the nation, it could just be best to give the pigs their space for the time being.

Kidding aside, H1N1, or the cleverly coined "swine flu," has become a major threat within schools across America. Nevertheless, it is important to remember that your chances of contracting Swine Flu are about the same as catching the seasonal flu, and that if you do wind up with this new version of the flu, the chances of dying from it are equivalent to your falling into a strategically-placed open manhole while strolling through your neighborhood tomorrow afternoon. Those who are most susceptible to Swine Flu are school-aged students because we are in close proximity to one another for a minimum eight hours daily sharing drinks, coughs and legions of germs. However, the peo-

ple who struggle the most with recovering from the Swine Flu are very young children, pregnant women, people with immune deficiencies, and the elderly; it's safe to say that the majority of our student body at SOA does not fall under those categories and therefore should not panic in the event that one of our own catches "the swine."

Symptoms of the Swine Flu include but are not limited to fever, cough, sore throat, and headache. According to SOA's school nurse, **Ms. Kym Huff**, "the primary indicator is a fever. No fever, no flu." If you are absent from school with a fever, it is essential that you notify the nurse and **Ms. Mullins** in the attendance office promptly. The CCSD Health Services is tracking the number of students and faculty who are suffering from flu-like symptoms and

your cooperation with attendance will simplify the process. Remember to use those nifty Purell Hand Sanitizer machines and keep it classy by coughing into your arm rather than palm to help avoid falling victim to Swine Flu.



Point/Counterpoint

The Issue: Public Health Care

By Jonathon Hart

Currently, there are people out there attempting to push legislation through congress that would, if passed, create federal healthcare insurance that would, in theory, be a cheaper alternative to existing healthcare insurance. While at first glance, this plan appears to be a good decision, it is simply not realistic or even useful and, although proponents of this plan would attempt to sway you with loaded rhetoric and emotional pretext, I wish to do something else: appeal to you on the basis of reality.

One of the most important and common arguments for the public option regards the number of uninsured currently living in America today. Everywhere I go, I hear this statistic repeated like dogma:

"There are 47 million uninsured in America today." Almost every single person I've talked to or heard from regarding the public option, from President Obama to Mr.

Donnellon, has lathered this figure all over their arguments. So, although I'm not really a statistics guy (I think they usually just get in the way of sound thinking), I think that this statistic merits further inspection. The following quote is by Bala Ambati, a director of research at the University of Utah.

"On the 47 million people without health insurance point, that too is a statistic where there is less than meets the eye...of that 47 million, 14 million are already eligible for existing programs (Medicare, Medicaid, veterans' benefits, SCHIP) yet have not enrolled, 9.7 million are not citizens, 9.1 million have household incomes over \$75,000 and could but choose not to purchase insurance, and somewhere between 3 and 5 million are uninsured briefly(2 months) between jobs... Needless to say, extending the blanket of coverage to [the remaining uninsured] should not cost \$1.5 trillion and require a wholesale overhaul of all of medicine." Oh, and just to add to that quote, the remaining uninsured in America make up a grand total of 0.03% of the population.

Another major problem with the public option is the economics of the matter. Obviously, Medicare and Medicaid are the closest approximations we have of what this public option would most likely look like financially and, according to President Obama himself, "Medicare and Medicaid are the single biggest drivers of the federal deficit and the federal debt by a huge margin." So what will make this plan any better? The public option would not be any more efficient financially than past government healthcare plans and would, in fact, increase costs radically. According to the CBO (Congressional Budget Office), "In the legislation that has been reported we do not see the sort of fundamental changes that would be necessary to reduce the trajectory of federal health spending by a significant amount. And on the contrary, the legislation significantly expands the federal responsibility for health care costs."

Proponents of the public option have, as of yet, been unclear as to whether the or not the public option will have a chance to succeed. I strongly believe that opposition to the public option is support for better healthcare. Who knows? The life you save may be your own.

However, if the public option receives no tax payer funding, then it would basically be a nonprofit health insurer and, if this were feasible, then how come it has not worked in the past? To quote Harvard economist Greg Mankiw, "If a public plan without taxpayer support would succeed, so would a nonprofit insurance company. The fundamental viability of the enterprise does not depend on whether the employees are called "nonprofit administrators" or "civil servants." In closing, I urge all of you to strongly oppose the public option. We may not be able to vote yet, but we have a voice. After the research that I've done for this article I strongly believe that opposition to the public option is support for better healthcare. Who knows? The life you save may be your own.

Let me show a little play by play of how things will work out if the public option is passed and publically funded. First, the government sets up a publically funded public option. This public option becomes, due to the fact that it's cheap and that your paying for it either way (by means of taxes), the leading health care insurer in the country. However, like Medicare or Medicaid, these things don't come cheap and as tax payers become more and more annoyed about the giant deficit that's being created, pressure falls on the government (specifically all those old guys who don't want to lose their jobs in the coming elections to those new guys promising to shape up the budget) to cut back on the cost of running the public option. Basic economic principle dictates that when the government has a monopoly (or at the very least an extremely dominant position in the market) medical suppliers (a.k.a. doctors, researchers, and producers) will have to take what they can get from the government and the government will be able to force prices down. This is where it gets bad. Over time, because of not being able to get the prices they want, medical suppliers will end up producing less. This creates a shortage. A shortage creates rationing. By producing less, I mean that there will be fewer doctors, fewer nurses, fewer life-saving technologies, and finally, there will be less living people. That's a scary thought. Oh, and to all you people out there thinking "well, it works in Europe", I'd like to point out that the United States of America is BY FAR the leading advancer in medical technologies and that (please research this for yourself if you don't believe me) the rest of the world is almost entirely dependant upon us for medical advancement. Eliminate that advancement and people will die.

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By Wes Snell

The public option is losing in Congress right now. It isn't losing because Americans have smartened up to the socialist agenda or because we want to protect our grannies from death panels. It's losing because of the irrational, fear-mongering arguments made by lobby-backed corporations, particularly cable news media, who distort fact and reason to preserve a system that makes them a lot of money. The system they defend is not one that works. It is a system not designed to maximize quality and efficiency: the World Health Organization ranks our health care system 37th, just ahead of Slovenia. It is not a system that costs us less: we spend fifteen percent of our GDP on health care, the second highest in the world, while most industrialized countries spend less than eleven percent. It is not a system designed to protect its clients or ensure coverage. It is a system designed to produce not healthy citizens, but piles of money. A public option would be a step in the right direction to providing for people who are sick based on their need, not their economic status. And it might save us from the mess we're entrenched in now. Wendell Potter, the one-time communications director for CIGNA, the fourth-largest insurance company in America, described the process by which our insurance companies deny coverage for profit. Purging is one such technique insurance companies use to deny coverage to a group of people, such as those that work for a corporation that provides health insurance. If one person at the company gets sick or requires surgery, the insurance providers will "jack the premiums up so much, so high, that the business has no alternative but to drop the insurance for their employees." Rescission is the process used to deny individuals. Essentially, if a person incurs a lot of medical debt or requires extensive coverage, insurance companies will review their medical history for any sign of a preexisting condition or other loophole that will allow them to deny coverage. Potter summarized it this way, "You've paid your premiums on time, sometimes for years and years and years, and when you need it most, they'll kick you out because they don't want to have sick people on the rolls." We have a system in which

People argue that the government, if given an inch, will stomp all over our current system. UPS has survived U.S. Postal Service because it is obviously better-run and more effective when it comes to delivering our mailed goods. Parents still send their kids to private schools if they prefer them over the government-run alternative. The reason a public insurance option would run the other insurance companies out of business would be providing similar coverage for less. Isn't that what capitalism is all about? If the insurance companies want to stay afloat, they would be forced to lower their prices and provide better coverage. Fox News tells us that our doctors will be shorthanded and thrown out on the streets by the bureaucrats, that we must think of our medical personnel. According to the New England Journal of Medicine, sixty-three percent of the United State's physicians favor a public option, and ten percent want a completely government-run system. Only twenty-seven percent favor the privatized system we have today. Who should we trust: the political scientists and Glenn Beck, or the doctors who are actually providing the care?

Rationing is another argument. We recently learned in economics that any government-run system will produce shortages. What we don't realize is that we already ration our health care. We will always ration our health care. The difference between our rationing and other nations is that theirs is based on need and ours on wealth. People here survive illnesses according to how much they can pay for the surgery, not how badly they

The Jefferson Award

Seniors Lauren DiNicola and Wes Snell win the Jefferson Award for public service
By Cat Bowler

Representing School of the Arts at the Youth Service Initiative Conference for the Jefferson Awards that will be held on October 16th, 2009 at North Charleston City Hall are **Sarah Brown** (9th), **Haydon Strable** (9th), **Ian Jones** (10th), **Alex James** (10th), **Marcus Schuler** (11th), **Ebony Clemmons** (11th), **Jamie Amick** (11th), **Collins Rice** (12th) and **Raven Washington** (12th). **Mr. Smyth** and **Mrs. Amick** will be chaperoning these students.



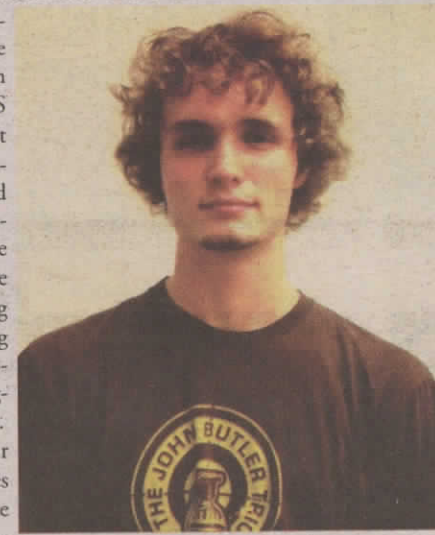
Senior Lauren DiNicola

This month's recipients of the Jefferson Award are

Lauren DiNicola (12th) and **Wes Snell** (12th). Lauren DiNicola has been volunteering at the South Carolina Aquarium downtown every other Sunday for three hour shifts throughout her high school career. Normally stationed at the touch tank, she provides visitors with information about the animals, helping both children and adults learn how to handle the animals so that they are not harmed. Lauren loves interacting with both the people and animals that inhabit the aquarium, because "it is really rewarding to teach someone a fact they had never heard before, and even more exciting when someone from out of town comes to the aquar-

ium that has never seen some of the animals" In addition to her volunteer work at the aquarium, Lauren participates in NHS tutoring, serves at St. Benedict's Catholic Church, and works at soup kitchens twice a year. She is a member of the Creative Writing team that is starting the after school program at Morning-side Middle School.

Over the summer, Wes Snell worked at the San Pedro Spanish School in San Pedro, Guatemala. The school is a private tutorship program that extends an opportunity



Senior Wes Snell

for education to the children, ages ranging from six to nineteen, of local impoverished families. The staff at San Pedro consists of all volunteers, and while most teach English, individuals teach whatever other skills that they have to offer. Wes taught English and Guitar classes Monday through Friday for two hours daily to "kids who were really intelligent, eager to learn and helpful." Because the student spoke little to no English, he was forced to teach them in broken Spanish. "Imagine taking a grammar course from someone who can't speak the language. It isn't easy," Wes explained. The school is currently suffering financial distress from lack of funds, and Wes is trying to raise money for the kids who he worked with this summer.

It's not easy being GREEN

SOA students clean up the IOP connector

By David Sass

Bright and early on a clear-skied Saturday morning, dozens of cars began to roll into the parking lot in front of the Piggly Wiggly in the shopping center by Seaside Farms in Mount Pleasant. This was not a nomadic band of minivan-driving mothers hunting down the perfect bargain. No, far from it: these were hard-bitten world warriors with the single-minded drive of Jason Statham in any of his movies. Their mission? Taking out the trash.

On September 12th, SOA students converged on the Isle of Palms connector to clean it up.

The primary road to the Isle of Palms, the connector was adopted by the SOA Ecology Club. Headed by **Maddi Phillips**, senior vocal major, and **Chaisson Dangerfield**, junior theatre major, it is the Ecology Club's duty to keep the connector looking nice and neat as part of the Adopt-a-Highway program. Started here in South Carolina in 1988,

the Adopt-a-Highway program has spread across the entire nation.

In 2008, during the Carolina Spring Clean Week, nearly 2,000 SC Department of Transportation employees picked up almost 220 tons of litter along 3,000 miles of highway. In a single morning, at least thirty students from SOA gathered enough trash from both sides of the half a mile-long green stretch to completely fill the back of senior visual artist **Maddie Moore's** station wagon. "The overall turnout of students was overwhelming, a whole lot more than expected," commented Maddie Moore. "We got so much done."

Throughout the rest of the school year, the Ecology Club will be sponsoring several more local clean-ups such as this one, along with other events to help raise environmental awareness. If you want to get involved, or just help during a clean-up, talk to Chaisson or Maddie P. to find out when the next event is.



Ecology club in front of their Adopt a Highway sign

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REVIEWS

Grinds offers mouth watering menu

By Brittany Ropp

A New West Ashley restaurant, Grindz Burger and Brew, opened in September. The owners chose this name because they grind their own burger meat. Grindz menu is very diverse, jumping around from wings to burgers to pizza to shrimp to sandwiches to milkshakes and everything is fairly priced. The atmosphere is very laid back and inviting with a friendly and outgoing staff. The first thing one notices when walking into Grindz is the large number of televisions on the walls. They also have a juke box run by iTunes that has all of the latest hits and has a Super Search that can find any type of music. To the right of the entrance is the Grindz lounge and a closed circuit broadcast of major sports events are available without a cover charge.

While deciding what to order, I drooled over the menu, and finally decided on a burger and four large, soft, rice crispy treats topped with melted marshmallows and a warm chocolate dipping sauce. Very odd for a restaurant to serve, I



know, but it was tasty. Another time I enjoyed a side of Monterey Jack cheese and bacon fries with a specially made ranch dipping sauce. Another item that caught my eye was the large grilled pizzas with a smoked flavor and a very chewy crust. They offer fifteen wing flavors and four are signature sauces, The Angry Dragon (dark Asian BBQ sauce), Hibachi, Van Helsing (Garlic flavored wings), and Parmesan Garlic. For the more health conscience, Grindz substitutes any burger with Portabella mushroom or a 5 oz. chicken breast.

Overall, Grindz is family oriented and a delicious place to eat. I strongly suggest you stop by and check out their menu.

Address: 1720 Sam Rittenberg Blvd in the Village Square shopping center

Hours: 11 AM to 11 PM: Sunday-Thursday

11 AM to 2 AM: Friday and Saturday

Number: (843) 556-0257

Not Your Typical Movie Review

By Tori Roy

Unlike last month's article, this is not your normal movie review. Today, I wanted to share the intellectual genius of screenwriter/director Marek Dobes and his firefly thoughts and extraordinary comedy in *I was a Teenage Intellectual*. Keeping in mind that their short films do not contain your ordinary humor, you have to approach this film not as something different or foreign, but as the funniest 16 minute film you will ever see.

As much as I would love to continuously praise this film, I also have to look at the negative side of the movie. Some of the jokes are lost in translation with references that only Czech or European citizens will understand, and this is a problem that most short films share, whether they are American or European. At times, the story drags in attempts at suspense and seems to stretch out elements that could have been much shorter. But, if you can look past the diminutive flaws this film is sure to make you laugh.



In the opening of our film we have a warning that even now, there may be an intellectual in the very room you are in now. The Stars of the film, Pavel and Eva, your average teenagers who spend their days immersed in action films, pop music, McDonalds, and the all time favorite, candy. But one dark, foggy night Pavel stumbles upon a secret gathering of intellectuals in the woods on his way to the video store. Not wanting the secret of the Intellectuals to be exposed, the chief Intellectual bites Pavel in the leg. Soon after, Pavel begins changing. He loses interest in Kung Fu and Coco Cola, rejecting Eva for philosophy and scholarly books. Can the power of television, Eva's love and the music of pop star Michal David save him from the intellectuals' evil curse?

I was a Teenage Intellectual's main point is to parody *I Was a Teenage Werewolf* and *I Was a Teenage Frankenstein*. You can find this film on Google.com by searching "I was a Teenage Intellectual" (pretty straight forward). It is no longer on Youtube.com so save the time and go straight

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Your vision will become clear only when you can look into your own heart. Who looks outside, only dreams; who looks inside, also awakens.

— C. G. Jung