

# APPLAUSE

VOLUME II ISSUE 6 SCHOOL OF THE ARTS 1509 W. ENTERPRISE ST., NORTH CHARLESTON, SC MARCH 2010

ARTWORK BY JAMES VICKERS



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## Editor's Note

In our constant effort to be the best we can be, we encourage our readers to contact *Applause* with your opinions and ideas. Feel free to send a letter to [Chaney@SOA-Applause.com](mailto:Chaney@SOA-Applause.com).

## March Events

- Tuesday, March 9th** – Dance Senior Thesis 3  
**Wednesday, March 10th** – Early Release Day for Staff Professional Development  
 High School Masterworks Concert at 7 pm  
**Thursday, March 11th** – HS Theatre Showcase at 4 pm  
 All State Band trip to Furman University through the 13th  
**Monday, March 15th** – School Improvement Council meeting  
**Monday, March 22nd** – End of Quarter  
**Tuesday, March 23rd through Thursday, March 25th** – Concert Festival for Band and Orchestra  
**Friday, March 26th** – Teacher Workday  
**Monday, March 29th through Thursday, April 1st** – Theatre Senior Thesis Part 2, 7 pm auditorium  
**Tuesday, March 30th** – report cards go home  
**Friday, April 2nd through Sunday April 11th** - Spring Break  
**Wednesday, April 14th** – Dance concert at 7 pm  
**Thursday, April 15th** – MS Visual Arts show  
**Friday, April 16th through Sunday, April 18th** – MS and HS Band Trip  
**Monday, April 19th** – HSAP testing all week  
**Thursday, April 22nd** – 11th grade CW reading  
**Friday, April 30th** – Prom at Boone Hall Plantation 8-11 pm

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# The Jefferson Award

## Students show spirit with community service

By Cat Bowler

The Jefferson Award winners for the month of March are sophomore **Alex James** and junior **Marcus Schuler**.

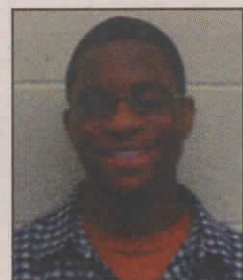
Alex has been active in community service almost since birth. As a young child, his mother brought him along to help her serve food at Crisis Ministries, a homeless shelter downtown where he has volunteered every couple of



**Sophomore Alex James is a founding member of SOA's Jefferson Service club.**

months since. Two years ago, Alex expanded his volunteer goals abroad and traveled to Honduras on a mission trip to work with LAMB, the Latin American Mission and Bible institute. His plan to go to Haiti this year was devastated by the recent earthquake; in that trip's

place he will attend a mission trip to upstate South



**Marcus Schuler has been volunteering since middle school.**

Carolina. Alex, along with eight other SOA students, was among the founding members of our school's Jefferson Service Club. He has participated in each of the JSC's events, helping the club's following continue to grow. Community service has "strengthened

[Alex's] character; [he] thoroughly enjoys doing it."

Marcus began volunteering in middle school. In sixth and seventh grade, Marcus volunteered at James Simmons Elementary tutoring other students. He has pursued his love of helping others in high school by volunteering at Ms. Parker's after school center, tutoring and cleaning the classroom. Marcus

played a large role in collecting books for both Ms. Parker's program and various book drives, including SOA's Book Drive for Uganda. Marcus utilizes his skills as a musician singing and playing piano at every fund-raising event that he can to "help others who aren't as fortunate as most."

Along with other members of the Jefferson Club, Marcus volunteered at the "Breakfast with Santa" event for hearing impaired children and contributed to SOA's "Hearts for Haiti" fundraiser.

Congratulations to Alex and Marcus!

Photos: Zach Donaldson

# Congratulations!



**Mr. Smyth has been chosen as one of five finalists for the Charleston County Teacher of the Year. The winner will be selected on April 27. Check out our next issue for a full feature on Mr. Smyth.**

## SEWE reconizes visual artists

By Zach Donaldson

Visual artists eighth grader Patrick Page and senior Miles Merritt were recognized by the South Eastern Wildlife Expo Kids for Conservation program, a program designed to promote wildlife and environmental awareness.

Patrick participated in the photography contest, submitting a photograph of an ostrich from the Riverbanks Zoo and Garden. Patrick said he "just took a picture and sent it in." For second place, Patrick won a \$200 savings bond, four tickets to the South Carolina Wild Life Expo, and a \$75 gift card to Artists and Craftsman Supply.

Miles participated in the birdhouse section of the competition. His birdhouse, which he composed entirely of drift wood, received an honorable mention. Miles says, "When lazy or bored you can always turn to wood to make things better and fresh."

## Mardi Gras at SOA



Photo: Zach Donaldson

Ms. Bednarczyk celebrates Mardi Gras while her French 3 students practice phone conversations. Mardi Gras, or "Fat Tuesday," was celebrated February 16. In 1704 the French settled a colony on the Mississippi river. They called it the Point du Mardi Gras. These celebrations of French culture are being held in the United States and can last up to a week long. So celebrate Mardi Gras and let the good times roll. .



Photo: Zach Donaldson

**Senior Miles Merritt was reconized for his birdhouse.**



Photo: Zach Donaldson

**8th grader Patrick Page displays his winning ostrich photo.**



# Applause

the official student publication of

## Charleston County School of the Arts

Founded in 1995 by Rose Maree Myers

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## Editorial

School of the Arts is first and foremost an arts school, and the students here have to find a balance between their arts and their academics on a daily basis. Doing that alone is a great deal of work, but there is also a large number of students who have to spread themselves just a little bit further to find a balance between their arts, their academics, and their sports. There are great deals of students who find the time in their already busy schedules to be a part of a sports team.

These students often go unrecognized by their peers and students. I know, personally, that I am one such student that has not been as aware or supportive to my classmates that also moonlight as athletes. At a school that is so arts-centric that is not incredibly surprising, but it is also disappointing.

At *Applause*, we are trying to do our part to address this problem. We will be striving to give our student athletes the coverage they deserve. Though we are still an arts school, it's important to shine a light on those that occasionally leave the warm comfort of our artistic walls to excel elsewhere.

## Team SOA

By Wes Snell



When I attended the first School Improvement Committee meeting earlier this year, one of the first issues brought up for bettering the school and retaining students (particularly middle school students) was the introduction of South Carolina League-sanctioned sports to SOA. The proposal came from a concerned parent who said, "It's embarrassing to tell other parents that my son goes to SOA because the first thing they always is, 'Oh. It's too bad no other guys go there'... We need to have a sports program so we'll have more macho guys at the school." I was sitting right next to her. Everyone laughed a little awkwardly, but the issue stuck. Other members of the committee agreed that sports would be a powerful incentive towards attracting middle school students and retaining the growing number of eighth-graders who are leaving SOA for other schools. In the

past several weeks the committee has introduced the idea to the school in the form of a survey to see how students would respond. In my opinion, league-sanctioned sports run contrary to the focus of our school. As far as students leaving this school to compete at others, let them go. If we're worried about retention rates, we should be scouting for more artists, not athletes.

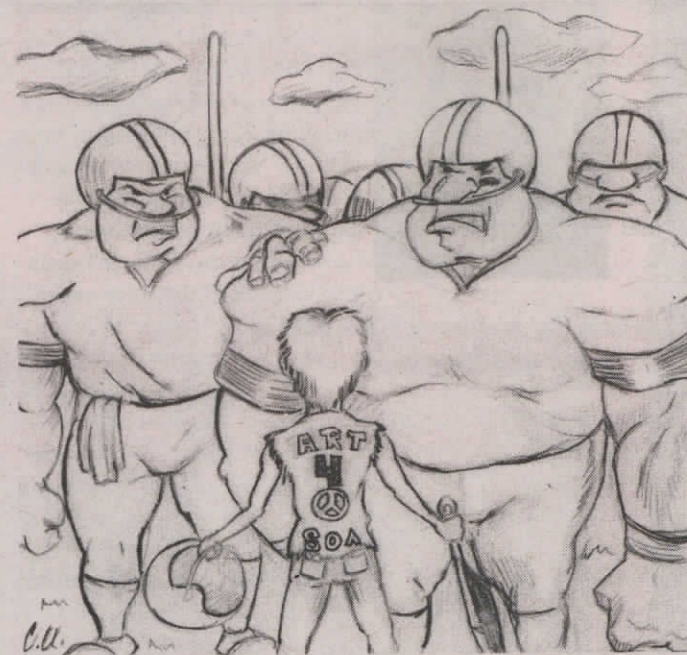
I don't think anyone would deny that SOA has a specific character – an unorthodox motley of brilliant, often intense artistic minds. We are a school on a mission, united by our diversity. That mission is to develop our creative ability and academic foundation to the fullest. That's why we auditioned to come here. I know many students – myself included – who take comfort in the fact that the we attend a school that prides itself in its eccentricity and the real, tangible talent that comes from creating something out of nothing.

We attend a school that caters to our students' wants and needs by giving them the best instruction around in all fields and still negotiates with other schools so that those who desire to play

sports can not only play them, but compete on a level that our small school couldn't possibly match. If a student were trying to attract the attention of college scouts, he or she wouldn't be likely to find them following a AA-division arts school. Star athletes at our school such as seniors **Lauren DiNicola**, **Tyrell Jemison**, and **Cat Bowler**, have much greater scholarship opportunities competing at their AAAAA home schools than they would here. "The level of competition in my soccer league is a huge part of why I enjoy playing so much," said Bowler, who plays center midfield for West Ashley High School. "Sure, the commute isn't fun, but it's worth it to play on a highly competitive level." If we introduced a single interscholastic sport to SOA, whether it be football, soccer, or water polo, any other student athlete playing any other sport would be automatically ineligible to play for their home school. And let's face it: there are simply not enough students at our school who want to participate in sports to be able to fill a diverse roster

playing basketball, I'll attest to the danger this situation presents. "By having sports teams here, we will structurally ensure that this possibility likely will happen much more often," Kerr added. I'd like to state for the record that I am not an opponent of interscholastic sports. I played competitive basketball right up until I came to SOA, and when I was younger I played both football and baseball. I used to spend hours in my backyard shooting hoops and loved the feeling of stepping out onto a gleaming court to the roar of a five-hundred strong crowd. My eighth-grade team in Atlanta played against varsity high schools in an extremely competitive county and went undefeated to the championship. I know the rush; I know the importance of sports to the average teenager. But when I decided to transfer from Wando to SOA, I also made the conscious decision to leave that part of me behind. I think the same is true for many other students at this school, and many more had no interest in the first place.

Kids switch to other schools to compete at a higher level all the time, even amongst AAAAA juggernauts, but we auditioned here to develop ourselves as artists - and this is one of the few schools in the entire state that offers what we want. We knew what we were signing up for, and not just the students. English teacher **Dr. John Cusatis** coached cross-country and track for ten years. After leading St. John's High School boys track team to the state championship title in 1995, he was named the South Carolina Boy's Track Coach of the Year. "Sports, like the arts, are a great motivator," he says. "I miss coaching. It was a major part of my life for many years, but I knew when I came here that I'd be giving it up for opportunities



Cartoon by Chris Ulmer

of athletics. Inevitably, some students would be forced to give up their favorite sport, or at least be reduced to competing on a drastically lower level. As U.S. History teacher **Mr. Michael Donnellon** says, "At SOA we want to help our top students, not hinder them."

Interscholastic sports would confuse the priorities of the school and our student athletes. Our main objective here is our art. All the academic and arts faculty I've spoken to agree. As Band teacher **Mr. Basil Kerr** wrote in a widely circulated email, "When one of our students currently joins a team, he or she does so with the understanding that their art area comes first, and that if they are injured in such a way that they can't practice their art, their continuing at our school is in jeopardy."

For example, if a visual artist broke his or her dominant hand or a dancer sprained an ankle, their opportunity for artistic development is gone. Poof. As someone who has broken his tailbone and knocked out a couple of teeth while

unavailable elsewhere." That's the point: we have opportunities other schools can't offer, just like they have a level of athletic competition SOA can't offer. I'm fine with that. To each his or her own.

Students here are already stretched thin by rehearsals, band performances, public readings, vocal concerts, senior thesis, and other extracurricular ways in which they pursue their passion. If we were to join the South Carolina Sports League, we'd be submitting ourselves to their scheduling and deadlines. We'd have to hire coaches, buy equipment, and secure facilities to practice and compete. We already have enough on our plates. If there is a demand for school sports, I think we should develop an intramural program with strong mind-body development programs such as martial arts or yoga, besides all the fun "traditional" sports. League-sanctioned sports are simply not feasible. Finally, we don't need to form any new teams or divisions in our school because, as Mr. Kerr aptly puts it, "We're all on the SAME TEAM— THE SOA TEAM. And we're undefeated!"





Photos: David Sass

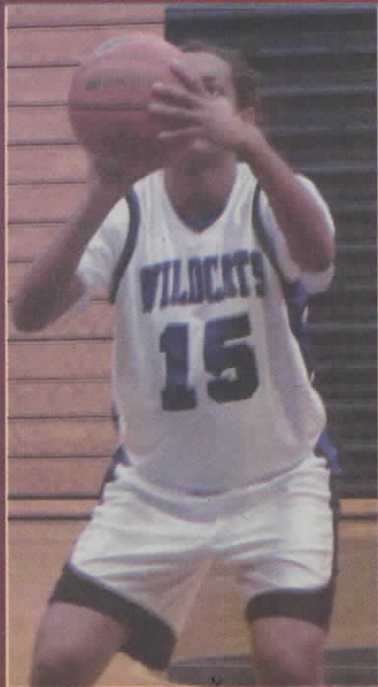


Many SOA cheerleaders rooted on the Wildcats to victory.

## SOA athletes complete winter season at home schools

By David Sass

Right now, School of the Arts is in a pickle as the question of whether or not to have South Carolina League sanctioned sports teams has been brought out onto the field. However, there are some students here who, despite having proven successful in their endeavors playing for other schools' teams, have often gone largely unnoticed. This season, Senior Piano major **Kiki Jenkins** and junior Band major **Hilary Ferguson** helped the West Ashley High



**Hilary Ferguson** is a junior band major who plays for West Ashley High.

School girls' basketball team become Region Champions for the first time.

On top of their championship, the Wildcats' victory over the Lady Panthers of Carolina Forest High School on the 19th of February marked West Ashley's first time ever to win a Class AAAA playoff game. Even though they were eliminated in the following game to the Silver Foxes of Dutch Fork High School, "being the first girls' basketball team [at West Ashley] to win the regional championship is great," commented Kiki.

The Wildcats ended their basketball season with 19 wins and only 5 losses. Kiki and Hilary weren't the only girls to get their game on; senior Band major **Angel Pope** played a power forward for the Burke High School varsity girls' basketball team this season. Since becoming a senior, Angel had a great personal season, having started in almost every game and averaging the second most rebounds on her team. "I almost dunked [the ball] during one game," she stated proudly.

Angel's team had a good season as well, placing 3rd in the region's Class AA division.

The boys fared just as well as their female counterparts. **Michael McKelvey**, a junior enrolled in the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing program, played for St. John's High School basketball team this year.

Despite losing his hearing to a high fever when he was only three, Michael has pursued sports with a vigorous passion,

as evidenced by his excellent performance. In January, in a game against Hardeeville High School, Michael scored a whopping 18 points, a full quarter of his team's 72-point total. "I felt like I had really contributed to the win," he remarked.

Overall, the St. John's team did well, reaching the Playoffs before losing by a single point to Calhoun County.

Writing a hundred poems and scoring double digits is no easy feat to accomplish, but senior Creative Writing major **Tyrell Jemison** proved more than up to the task.

Tyrell led the Warriors of the R. B. Stall High School basketball team as their team captain this year, as well as completing his thesis project of writing a book. "It often left me exhausted, [but] they're both my loves, so I gave my all in each activity," he said.

Tyrell played an outstanding season, leading his team in assists with an average of five per game. Also, he garnered an impressive three "double-doubles," meaning both his points and assists were in the double digits.

Even though SOA may not have any league sports teams of our own, that didn't stop any of these students from going out on the court and proving themselves.



**Hilary** helped the wildcats win their first regional championship.



## Speaking volumes by staying silent

By Shaless Robinson

"The Day of Silence" is an annual symbolic representation of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered youth, and their supporters, that have been silenced by bullying and harassment. It was started by college students of the University of Virginia (UVA) in 1996. Over 150 of the students got together and organized the event; the goal was to make schools safer. After the UVA's success at raising awareness, the Day of Silence became national. The National Day of Silence is in its fourteenth year. Schools all over the nation have participated in promoting respect for diverse sexual orientation.

The 2008 National Day of Silence (April 25) honored Lawrence King, a fifteen year-old student in Oxnard, California that was shot and killed by a classmate because of his sexual orientation. That year, more than 100,000 students and 8,000 schools honored the National Day of Silence.

Participants refrain from speaking for one day. Most people find it helpful to carry around cards explaining why they are not going to speak for the duration of that day. The original cards say:

"Please understand my reasons for

## Creative Writers dominate Scholastic

By Rebecca Forman

In the annual regional Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition, sixty-eight School of the Arts students received Gold Keys. This is truly an achievement and an honor. Our region includes South Carolina and North Carolina, and Scholastic received twice as many submissions as last year. Though the Creative Writing department has always been known to dominate the prestigious competition, it has not received this much recognition in years. The senior class was also rewarded five General Writing Portfolio Gold Keys, breaking our senior class record in this prestigious category.

Applause is pleased to announce that the following students have earned Gold Key recognition in The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards of 2010 in one or more of the following categories: Poetry, Short Story, Humor, Personal Essay/Memoir, Dramatic Script, Short Short Story.

Our 7th grade winners are **Zoe Abedon, Chelsea Ames, Maryclaire McCarthy, Astrid McGlone, Emma Miller, Maddy Seabrook, Taylor Dahl, and Amelia Nielson.**

Our 8th grade winners are **Emily Thomas, Ryan Dobson, Alex Peeples, Olivia Carbonero, Courtney Carrick, David Dobonszenski, Emily Fairchild, Conor Gatton,**

not speaking today. I am participating in the Day of Silence, a national youth movement bringing attention to the silence faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their allies in schools. My deliberate silence echoes that silence, which is caused by name-calling, bullying and harassment. I believe that ending the silence is the first step toward fighting these injustices. Think about the voices you are not hearing today. What are you going to do to end the silence?"

Day of Silence.org says "GLSEN's (Gay Lesbian and Straight Educational Network) 2005 National School Climate Survey found that 4 out of 5 LGBT (Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgendered) students report verbal, sexual, or physical harassment at school and more than 30% report missing at least a day of school in the past month out of fear for their personal safety..." It's true that many of us view diversity in sexual orientation as a norm, but we should still support those students that do not have the freedom of being at SOA. We have all been bullied, but imagine being harassed about a part of your personality, your identity. We must advocate for victims of harassment.

**Dmitri Grigorieff, Ayla Jenson and Mary Shannon.**

**Our 9th grade winners are Lily McRae, Maya Novak-Cogdell, Ashley Prentice, and Cory Stegelin.**

Our 10th grade winners are **Farrell Harris, Savannah Miller, and Sam Rames.**

Our 11th grade winners are **Alexandre Berry, Haley Dixon, Rebecca Forman, Miriam Hagood, Aubrey Moore, Y-Danair Niehrah, and Slyvester Rodd.**

Our 12th grade winners are **Deborah Crocker, Lauren Dinicola, Katie Drennan, Allison Hilton, William Jemison, Deanna Kerley, Caroline Rogers, and Wesley Snell.** Lauren Dinicola, Katie Drennan, Allison Hilton, Caroline Rogers and Wesley Snell received General Writing Portfolio recognition.

We would like to thank **Mr. Hammes, Ms. Miles, and Mr. Scapellato** for coaching and supporting these students' efforts in the arts, and representing our school in the national arts and education community.

Congratulations to our Creative Writers for their success in The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. We wish you good luck on your consideration for National Gold Medal awards.

## Rose Maree Myers Theater to open in April

By Wes Snell

On April 16th SOA will celebrate the opening of the custom-built theater for the performing arts and pay homage to the person who made this celebration possible – **Rose Maree Myers.** The theater will be named the Rose Maree Myers Theatre of the Performing Arts in honor of our founder and first principal, who championed the need for elementary middle and high school arts magnet schools in Charleston County.

I attended the county school board



Photo: Wes Snell

**The theatre is set to open April 12th.**

meeting when the naming proposal was made and saw over a dozen people – teachers, parents, former students, local artists, and prominent citizens – stand up and defend the necessity of recognizing the person who envisioned and fought (fiercely, according to testaments) to give the arts the focus and respect they are due. "As educators we need to model gratitude, to let young people know it still matters," said English

## Saving lives one bowl of pasta at a time

By guest writer Cecelia McTighe

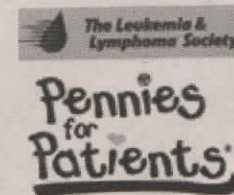
Every year, hundreds of schools across South Carolina participate in the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Pennies for Patients campaign. The money that is raised through this drive goes directly to Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, which is dedicated to helping cure blood cancers and improve the lives of people diagnosed with it. Last year, the National Honors Society organized School of the Arts campaign raised hundreds of dollars that went to this cause, and it hopes to do the same this year. This time, though, there is a twist! Olive Gardens throughout the state have decided to sponsor the Pennies for Patients (which has been suitably re-named Pasta for Pennies) drives in nearby schools, including School

teacher **Dr. John Cusatis**, addressing the board and **Dr. Nancy McGinley.** "Naming our new theater in honor of Mrs. Myers is a small way to say thank you for a giant gift."

Amongst other testaments the words "passionate," "tenacious" and "visionary" were common if not constant, in testimonies from Mr. Karl Clark, **Mrs. Rene Bufot Miles, Mrs. Sally Newell, Mr. Bill Smyth** and others, such as Mrs. Ann Cheek of Ashley River Elementary. After founding SOA in 1995, Mrs. Meyers recognized the limitations of what she knew was a temporary campus and set out to build a new school for her students. She battled the school board for approval; she even worked with contractors and architects designing the layout. One thing of which everyone at the board meeting was sure: we would not be here today were it not for Rose Maree Meyers.

In honor of the dedication and as a celebration of the arts in education SOA is organizing a grand opening that will include tributes from prominent educators and artists as well as student performances. National Book Award winner and last year's graduation speaker Colum McCann offered to return to Charleston to speak at the ceremony out of his deep respect for Mrs. Myers and SOA. Proceeds from the event will go to the Rose Maree Myers Scholarship Fund. Remember to mark Friday, April 16th on your calendar!

of the Arts. Olive Garden has challenged the participating schools to raise as much money as possible for Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. In return, at each school, the class (middle school class in our case, sorry high school) that raises the most money will be rewarded with an Olive Garden Pasta Party! Through this new corporate sponsorship, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society hopes to create more participation for its cause and raise a record-breaking amount of money. In previous years, School of the Arts has been one of the highest ranked schools for money raised; hopefully this year we can do even better and raise thousands of dollars for blood cancer patients across America.





## The cast of *Rent* inspires students

By Brittany Ropp

The musical *Rent* tells the story of young adult musicians trying to make a living in New York's Bohemian Alphabet City (people who travel without direction and take risks) during the AIDS outbreak. *Rent* explores homosexual relationships, AIDS, drug addiction, friendships, and the idea of living each day to the fullest. An American



The cast of *Rent* sang with the SOA vocal majors

composer and playwright, Jonathan Larson, wrote *Rent* based on Giacomo Puccini's opera *La Bohème*.

White Tuxedo Productions and Jimmy Flannery directed a cast that performed the musical at the Charleston Music Hall downtown. The show ran from January 21s to February 14th.

**Ms. Chris Ambrose** has been friends with the directors for years now. They offered to come to SOA on Wednesday, February 10th to conduct a singing workshop. Their main objectives were to teach the vocal majors *Rent's* most famous song, "Seasons of Love", and to provide tips for aspiring performers reaching suc-

cess. Patrick Dorow, who plays Angel, took charge and began teaching all of the students "Seasons of Love" by ear. The students that wanted to learn the two solos (one women's solo and one male's solo) did so in the practice rooms with the cast. It was really impressive to see my classmates getting up in front of an audience and performing a solo that they had just learned. Dorow instructed all of the students to stand in a large circle and perform "Seasons of Love" with the solos. The moving lyrics say to live your life to the fullest each day, value your friendships, and don't judge life by materialistic objects, but by what you've achieved. The cast shared with us how they got into the business. Surprisingly, not all of them had aspired to work in show business. Jennifer Fogarty (Mimi) told us that she didn't get into musicals and plays until she was in high school and holds a BA in Communications. Since Fogarty found her passion for musical theatre, she has been in many musicals including *High School Musical* as the lead female Gabriella. The cast also told us to never let doubts hold you back, follow your dreams, and dream big! Dorow said that if you wake up in the morning and think about musical theatre then you were meant to make a living doing musical theatre. The entire cast and the director were very inspiring and gave all of the students many hints on how to achieve their goals and dreams. It was a very influential workshop that I'm really happy that I was a part of.

## Guidance announces changes for next year

By Deborah Crocker

SOA is preparing for several changes to be made during the 2010-2011 school year. It has already gone through some significant adjustments throughout January, and we are currently enjoying a new state-of-the-art facility. However, the future of academics and electives at the school will be changed considerably.

Late ins and early outs will no longer be allowed. "With high schools expanding curriculum and adding more courses, students have much to gain from being in school for a full day to take advantage of the courses," informs high school guidance counselor **Mrs. Diane Marks**. "In addition, when early release is allowed for students to report to jobs, the school is often in the uncomfortable and inappropriate position of scheduling students around their jobs. For example, a student might be able to be in a small econ class in the afternoon but wants to, instead, take econ in a large class in the morning because of a work schedule. Our school has routinely seen this. Our school, as well as other schools, wants to add a good variety of elective classes. When we add these classes for the benefit of students, we find that early release and late arrival

drain students out them, consequently causing the class not to make. Then the students who actually want and need the course, can't get it. Colleges also weigh in on the issue of early release and late arrival. University and college presidents want student to "exhaust the curriculum" of their high school, taking high level courses and other offerings available to them. This trend is demonstrated on the reports they require guidance counselors to complete. Colleges request a list of all courses offered at a school so they can compare this against what students actually take. They also ask the maximum number of courses a student can take each semester and year." If students have any questions or concerns about the new policy, they are encouraged to contact **Mr. William Smyth**.

New electives have also been made available to students, such as creative writing for non-majors, for example. The electives cannot be implemented into the school system unless enough people choose to sign up. Classes for students of 2010-2011 are currently being decided, but it is unknown as to how many people have already signed up for these new electives.

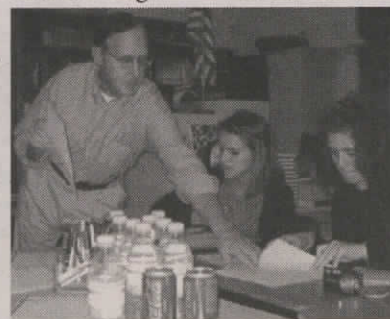
## Students come together to help Haiti

By Tori Roy

As we've seen in the past week, SOA students have taken the initiative in Help for Haiti. According to **Mr. Smyth**, our school has raised over \$3,762. High school brought in \$1,762 and middle school came in with over \$2,000. High school performed 20

concerts in the cafeteria, two a day for ten days. Performances included the Women's Vocal Ensemble, the Gnomes, and countless individual student performers including a assortment of instruments and a collection of singers. During these performances, students were encouraged to donate and support their fellow students with the proceeds going to Haiti. The likelihood of continuing these concerts is probable, Mr. Smyth stated, "The students would like to continue the concerts perhaps one week a month for the rest of the year. We wouldn't raise money.

We'd just enjoy the music". We have to give a shout out to **Mr. Clarke** and **Mr. Kerr** for setting up the electrical equipment, as well as the National Honor Society, who raised funds by selling carnations during first and second lunch.



Mr. Smyth leads the Jefferson Service Club.

Middle School did their part as well. Eighth graders, **David Doboszinski** and **Noah Butler** sold hot chocolate for three mornings to raise money. The middle school held a competition to see which homeroom could raise the most money and the winner, **Mr. Perkins'** home room, collected over \$400.

SOA is encouraging students to join studentsinaction.net where "student leaders, faculty sponsors, coaches and Jefferson Awards Regional Directors can connect, share resources, engage in discussions, and have a good time" See Mr. Smyth for more information on the Jefferson Service Club.

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# Convocation February 19, 2010



11th grade visual artists display work that they presented for the Charleston Food and Wine Festival. The project was to create portraits using only beans, rice and seeds.



Duncan Pfahler, Addison Dent, Leila Gorstein, Christian Williams and Rachel McIntyre perform scenes from their thesis, *Love is a Leap*.



Tyler Droze, a senior vocal major performs "O Del Mio Dolce Ardor" in Italian.



Seth Zimmerman, AJ Dales, Brittany Mitchell and Calvin Baxter show off their jazz skills.

Photos: Samantha Dahabi



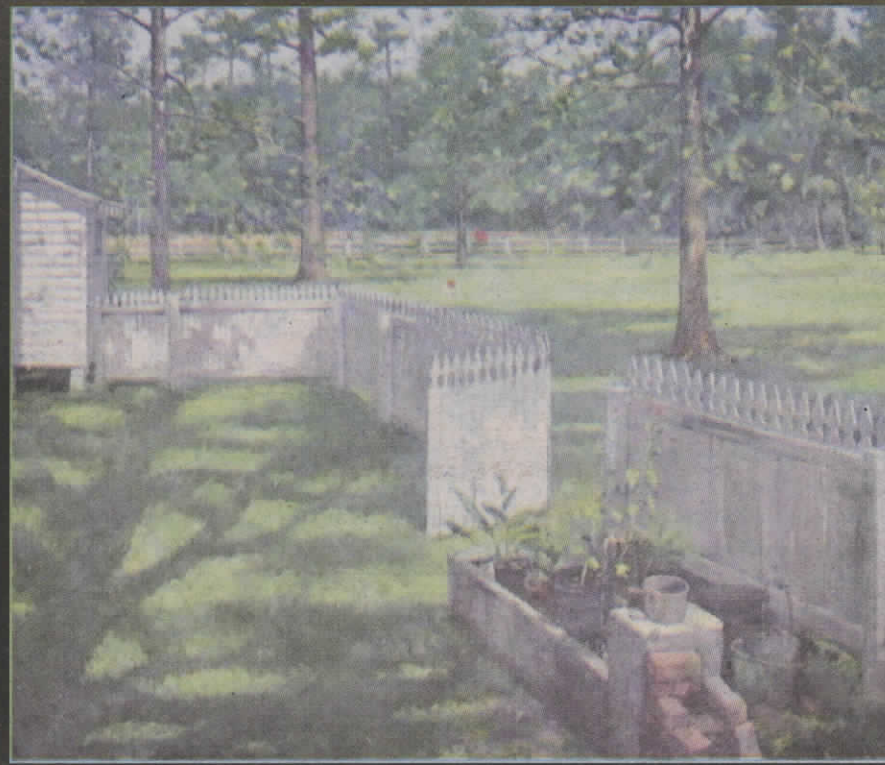
# Dance Senior Thesis

by Samantha Dahabi

With third quarter comes the third installment of dance thesis. This annual feat takes the skills acquired in junior composition and pushes the dancers past the task of just creating choreography. The process of achieving this is both tedious and rewarding. Each dancer has been assigned a local artist to serve as their inspiration. Using the same methods as junior composition, each dancer chooses a painting by their artist and creates choreography based on the paintings. They then contact the artist and conduct an interview. The goal is to find out the artist's inspiration in comparison to how the dancers interpreted it in their choreography.

I was assigned local painter William McCullough. I started by visiting some of his work at the Helena Fox Fine Art gallery in downtown Charleston. I researched McCullough online and found that he used the common themes of landscapes, portraits and still-life. He derives inspiration from the Lowcountry, his family farm in Kingstree, SC and his home in Poudresse, France. Having gathered a solid idea of his artistic background, I decided it was time to call Mr. McCullough. Calling someone you don't know, a famous artist in particular, can be nerve-racking. I dialed his number, I wondered if the renowned artist would even give me the time of day. To my surprise, Mr. McCullough answered the phone as well as all of my questions.

For my thesis I selected a work entitled Garden Trough. The painting is set at McCullough's home in Kingstree. To choreograph a painting-inspired dance, one must look for symbolism in the artwork. On top of this, you have to find movement in the painting to incorporate into your dance. I believe that music choice plays a huge role; it can make or break your dance. My choice of music, an instrumental version of She's Leaving Home by Strings Unlimited, helps portray the story in the painting and in my choreography. If you wish to support me and the other senior dance majors, attend our performance on March 9 in Ms. Slowinski's dance studio.



## Eighth Grade show 2010



Photo: Gabrielle Wolfe



Photo: Gabrielle Wolfe

Eighth graders Pretice Clark, Ray Nugent, Nolan Bateman, and Clayton Rosenbaum in *The Government Inspector*.



## Dear John is predictable but compelling

By Tori Roy

*Dear John* is the story of a war veteran who falls in love with a naive college girl while on leave in Charleston, SC is a story that is well known to Nicholas Spark fans. The movie follows John Tyree (Channing Tatum) and Savannah Curtis (Amanda Seyfried) through two weeks of the most youthful example of love, and through his seven years in service to the US Military. A love at first sight leads to an ongoing flow of letters between Savannah and John, which becomes the only thing that keeps John going through his time in the Military. But these two seemingly ideal lovers would eventually succumb to situations and circumstances that not even true love could have foreseen.



The timing for the release of *Dear John* could not have been more ideally planned. Showing through the Valentine's weekend, *Dear John* was a packed theater.

Though some of the scenes seemed rushed and undeveloped, the acting and familiar scenery were more than enough to make up for it. The story itself was excellent, but large parts of the first half were easily predicted and had quite a few cliché moments. The ending really gave a well needed twist while keeping the story realistic.

So next time you're in the mood for an excellent *Notebook* style film, go and see *Dear John*.

## Rent delivers a moving performance

By Brittany Ropp

Sunday, February 14th, 2010, was the last performance of White Tuxedo Productions musical, *Rent*. Two former SOA students, Hussain Williams and Meredith Kearns, performed as numerous characters. There was no better way to spend Valentine's Day than going to see the play with a couple of friends, but our night started off horribly. After picking up my friend, Khaleil, we started heading down the wrong way on King Street, causing us to be 30 minutes late to the show. Fortunately, we had an idea of what was going on because we'd seen the movie, but I missed my favorite song/scene, "Will you light my candle?" Brett Travis' (Roger) solo was stunning. When the cast visited our school, I didn't get a chance to hear him sing, so it was a surprise hearing him on stage. Through the entire show I was on the edge of my seat. Either I was laughing hysterically or in tears. The actors and actresses of *Rent* were triple threats. Not only were they theatrically skilled, but had amazing voices and could dance, too.

The scenes that brought me and others to tears were the scene where Angel

is dying from AIDS and his funeral scene. Mimi sings a very sorrowful song that sets the mood for what is about to come. It was heart wrenching to see Angel's partner crying about his death and was incredibly believable. When "Season's of Love" started playing, all of the SOA students and a few other people started singing along.

When the cast began to bow, the director came onto the stage to hug everyone in the cast. Most of the members of the cast were in tears because in

the next few days, they'd travel back to New York to begin their lives again up north.

After the show, my friends and I stayed to see the cast. They seemed just as excited to see us as we were to see them. We snapped a couple of photos with the cast and talked for a few minutes before leaving the auditorium.

All in all, the performance was just as moving as the cast was the day they came to our school to work with us. Their personalities thrived up on stage making the show very fun and entertaining to watch.



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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



## Where were they then? Ms. Crawford

By Alek Mihok

There isn't a doubt in my mind that the entire of School of the Arts has heard of **Ms. Beth Crawford**, our all-star Spanish teacher. However, most don't know about the rich, cultural background in which she was raised. I had the honor of interviewing Ms. Crawford about her past and personal inspirations; this is what she had to say...

*Tell me about your childhood; why did you move around so much?*

We moved because my parents were missionaries. Once we had the opportunity to travel, we loved seeing other places and experiencing other cultures.

*Out of every country you've ever lived in or been to, why did Chile impact your life the most?*

That is the country where I spent the most time. The Chilean people are warm, friendly and welcoming, so I have wonderful memories of living there and of the people. It is also a really beautiful country, surrounded by the majestic Andes mountains, lakes, rivers, volcanoes and a long coastline!

*At what age did you begin to learn*

*Spanish? Do you speak any other languages (excluding English of course)?*

We moved to Costa Rica when I was in elementary school and I was immersed in the language there; "trial by fire", "sink or swim" I guess! I do not speak another language fluently but I would love to learn Italian!

*What sparked your interest in educating students in the art and linguistics of Latin America?*

I wanted to share the fun of being able to talk to people in another language. I also was and still am excited about the huge variety of culture to be learned, from customs to food, to art, music, dance, religion, sports, etc.

*I heard through the grape vine you used to teach at Goose Creek, what are some differences, if any, of the students there vs. the students at School of the Arts?*

I loved my students and Goose Creek and I love my students here. One difference is that many of my former students did not have a lot of financial resources nor family support. This made them very appreciative of any help or caring a teacher offered. There was a different type of discipline problem with some students at the school, for example fights. But in my own classroom, my students were respectful and generally cooperative. I have noticed

a huge difference at SOA because most students here are very talkative in class and I often have to ask them to be quiet repeatedly. It does not seem to occur to them that this is disrespectful. When my current students leave the room, they often leave trash behind if I don't remind them to throw it away, or leave clothes, books, assignments, etc. I am not accustomed to this and I wonder if it is because my former students did not take for granted what they

had and that they were not used to having someone to remind them to do these things. *Are you happy you moved schools? Does the artistic environment of SOA suit you better as an individual than the confinements of Goose Creek?*

I am very happy I moved. I love it here and I am trying to make adjustments for the differences I experience. I do enjoy the artistic element and I love seeing my students perform. I also have noticed that my students at SOA excel at speaking another language and I think it is because they are used to performing and are not afraid to speak in front of others. They are very willing to practice speaking Spanish, and that makes me so happy!



Photo: Alek Mihok

**This is Ms. Crawford's second year at SOA.**

## Where are they now? Preston Hogue

By Alek Mihok

Graduate Preston Hogue, a SOA 2009 theatre major who's currently thriving at Emory University in Atlanta recently took time to answer questions about life after School of the Arts.

*What are you majoring in at Emory University? Since when have you known that this was what you wanted to do for the rest of your life?*

Well...good question. I haven't declared a major yet, and I don't have to for about a year, so I guess technically I'm "Undecided." I came to Emory thinking I would be a double major in Theater Arts and History, but I'm not sure that's where God is calling me, so now I'm looking into a joint major in Religion and History, but we'll see. Like I said, I have about another year to decide.

*You live in Atlanta now, what are the ups and downs of attending a college far from home?*

"Far" is a relative term, especially at Emory. Besides the Georgians at Emory, I live closer to home than most everyone else! So my situation here is rare, considering I can pretty easily drive home for the longer breaks like Fall Break and Spring Break. Atlanta is a good middle ground in that respect; I'm close enough to be able to get home quickly if I need too, but I'm far enough away that I can't just scoot home for the weekend and get my laundry done (oh how I wish I could, though!). It's nice having that distance, but I would certainly like to make it home more often. Since I'm going on a trip over Spring Break, I probably won't make it home this semester, and that's hard for me—but probably harder for my mom! *Have SOA teachers prepared you for "the real world"?*

I'd definitely say that **Mr. Brehm** prepped me for a college with respect to the distribution of coursework. I may have dreaded his tests last year, but they are good preparation for how most classes are in college. Along those same lines, I'd say that the onslaught of novels and plays that **Dr. Cusatis** had me read last year in AP Literature helped me to learn how to pace myself and establish a better work ethic.

*What was your major at School of the Arts? Do you still use it on a day to day basis? How so?*

I was a theatre major. I'm not sure I would say I implement day-to-day usage of my SOA major, but I am involved with student theatre at Emory. I have continued with one of my favorite extracurricular activities from SOA—the FIGHTING GNOMES!—as I am a member of Raths-



Photo: Provided

**Preston Hogue graduated last year**

kellar, Emory's improv comedy troupe. I have also just started rehearsal for *The Laramie Project*, which I am super excited about since it is this play's style that helped to inspire and shape Part II of my Theatre Senior Thesis last year.

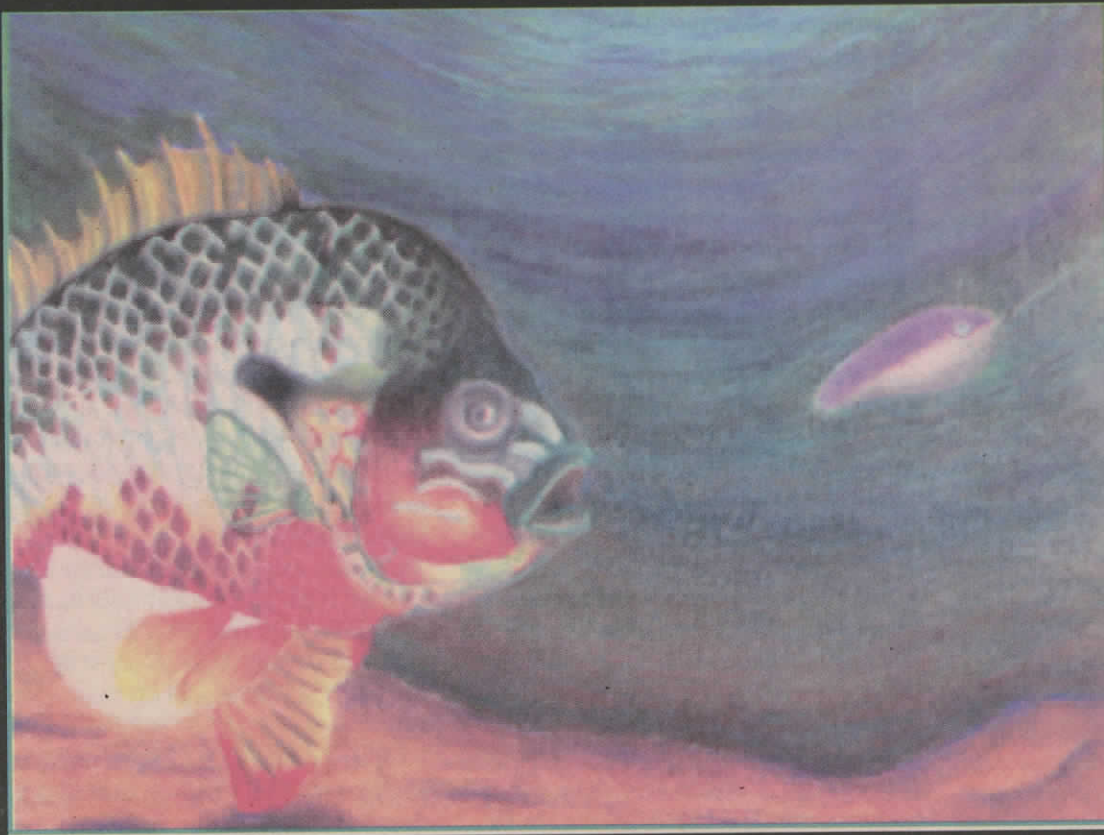
*You've most definitely heard about the new campus... One: Will you ever come back and see it for yourself? Two: What do you think you'll miss the most about the old SOA?*

One: Of course! My brother, Wesley still goes to SOA, so I will be back, if for no other reason, to see him perform or to pick him up from school or something like that. But aside from that aspect of it, I want to check out the new space for myself! I am really excited for the theatre department and the opportunities that the new black box lab presents, and I'm even more excited that SOA finally has a campus of a caliber that matches that of the artistic endeavors that are undertaken there.

Two: That said, I am going to miss the old campus terribly. I mean, it may have been a dump, but it's where I spent seven years of my life, so it's a dump I have an attachment to. That attachment gives me a lens through which I see not a dump, but a fantastical domain of creation and camaraderie! The thing I will miss most, though, is probably going to be the Black Box Theatre and the theatre shop. They may have been one of dumpiest parts of the dump, but the multitude of memories I have that are associated with that dump make me see it as the magnificent acropolis of the mighty SOA realm. But enough with the cheesy poetry, I'll control my nostalgia now. Like I said, I will miss the "old SOA," but I'm definitely optimistic that the "spirit of SOA" will fill—and is already filling—the new campus.



# Student Artwork

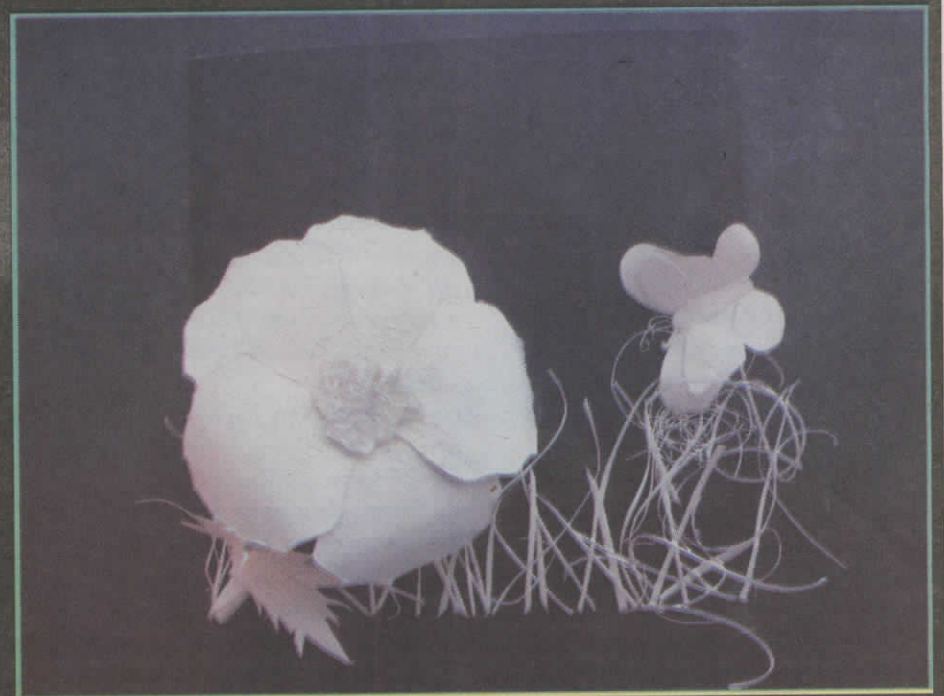
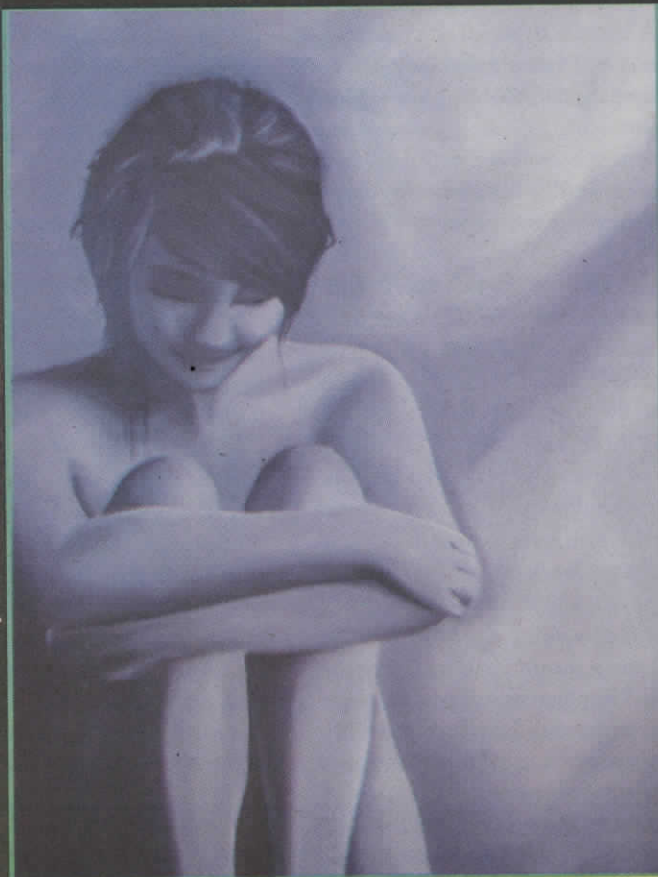


By Tavaris Brooks, 7th



By Colleen Brennan, 11th

By Gabrielle Wolfe, 11th



By Collette Harper, 6th



## We really need *more* humans

By Deborah Crocker



I miss the old television shows. As of the 2000's, quality television has gone dramatically south.

Cartoon Network, for example, is for cartoons. Recently, they have added live-action shows

to the lineup, naming the new section "CN Real." The name itself is a huge contradiction. It includes shows such as "Destroy Build Destroy," which involves kids aged 12 and older destroying various objects, building cars with them, and racing them against another team. The winning team gets to pick how they want the losers' car to be obliterated. It's here that I wonder what we're teaching our kids. To make things worse, there is no plot to these live-action "CN Real shows." All we get for entertainment is a bunch of crazy high school boys making a giant pizza or something.

For years, Animal Planet has been recognizing and appreciating animals, talking about and providing information for caring for animals, studying various aspects of animals, and examining the habitats of— shall we say it again?— ANIMALS. Where did all of these human-oriented shows come from? "I Shouldn't Be Alive" is more or less about people lost in the wilderness or stuck under trees a million miles away from civilization. If you're lucky you might find an episode about an animal attacking a human. According to this show, all animals are

## Random Etiquette: Chewing Gum

By K. Chaney Long



I find there to be something incredibly vile about chewing gum. I just cringe at the thought of some sort of manufactured, neon colored, amorphous

blob being repeatedly chewed and sucked on for hours. I simply can't stand that smacking and slurping noise accompanied by the toxic odor of some sort of imitation fruit. It's disgusting.

For the record, there's a reason we're not supposed to be chewing gum at school. It's distracting to the school environment! This seems to be a problem that pertains just to me, but I know somewhere there's a student that can't stand the smell of fruity bubble gum permeating from their seat partner's mouth during class.

Not only is gum disgusting while

bloodthirsty killers. Their newest show, "The Haunted," is only a dumbed-down version of "A Haunting," but it just happens to have animals thrown in. In one episode, we get a close-up of two cuddly kittens, and later we find out that all the animals were killed, apparently with help from the resident ghost.

It gets even stranger as you flip channels on a lazy weekend. Sci-Fi (or, shall we say, SyFy) is the network for crazy space stories, futuristic events, ghosts, and terrible (but occasionally good) B-movies. What is wrestling doing there?

The channel that used to be reserved for Saturday morning kids shows is now for news only. Nickelodeon has been cut about an hour short, shoving "Nick At Nite" into its time slot for the rest of the evening. What's going on here? Nothing makes sense any more as far as television entertainment is concerned. If it's not drugs, sex, and violence. It's completely random madness written by someone who drinks nothing but coffee and chocolate milk all day long. Writers these days have apparently stopped trying to make their work appealing to anything but squirrels. Even little kids would rather go color something than sit through an episode of "Dora The Explorer" (Where's the mountain? Ooh, I don't know, try three feet in front of you?).

So the next time you see a television show that makes you question the fate of humanity, just remember: they more or less didn't care.

it menaces there collecting the germs of your bad breath, it's also repulsive when it has been removed from the mouth. Let's face it, people are really bad of disposing of their gum. There's nothing more cringe worthy than the feeling of pulling up a chair and having your fingers accidentally run against someone's crusty archaic mouth germ collector. But even ancient dried gum isn't the worst of it. The worst is when you're innocently walking down a street or the hallway and all of sudden you feel it. That gummy, sticky, gooey feeling pulling your shoe back towards the ground, and as you look down you see those long thin strings attaching themselves to your once free foot and chaining it to the ground. I have literally thrown shoes away because I couldn't bring myself to go through the life scarring act of scraping some worthless sloth's gum.

Next time, please place your nasty little globs in the nearest trash bin, or, better yet, don't chew them at all!

## Sass Attack: Save Sass from the wrath

By David Sass



"Sass, you're the Sports Editor now." "Huh?" "For the rest of the year, you're in charge of keeping up with all the sports news here at school." "What?" "Start working on a wrap-up of the winter sports and cover the start of spring sports." "... Okay..."

This is the conversation pretty much in verbatim between Dr. Cusatis and me which led to the mantle of "sports editor" being thrust upon my shoulders. Yes, I am now the Sports Editor for *Applause*. Check page four if you don't believe me.

For some reason, of all the people on the staff, Dr. Cusatis chose me for this job. I'm one of the lesser sports-knowledgeable people here; why he didn't choose Cat, our resident soccer player, is beyond me. But he stuck my head beneath the guillotine's blade, and now I've got to hit the ground running if I want to keep my head on my neck.

What I'm getting at is that this is one of those terrible situations where you get saddled with a job or assignment that you couldn't really care less about, but you have to do it, for fear of failure (which, here in the Journalism room, equates to a gory dismemberment at the blood-stained hands of Chaney).

If I wanted to be snide and sarcastic, as is my wont here in this column, I could pretty much say that this is the way a large percentage of all students feel about school in general. However, the majority of these students also realize that they have to slog through this swampy morass of apathy to get to the reportedly decent parts of life.

In my opinion, this ability to suck it up, put on

your big boy/girl underwear and deal with it is the by far the most crucial skill you are supposed to develop in your school career. I say this because eighteen years of watching adults struggle to deal with all of the aggravating and inane aspects of life have made me increasingly aware of how awfully much I miss the days of kindergarten.

Sure, you don't have any real choice in what you do, what you wear, where you go, and all that. But think about it this way: you get snack-time, you get naptime, you get playtime, and all you have to do is smile big and enjoy yourself because you don't have a care in the world. I'm willing to bet that at least half of the senior class would vote in favor of a naptime period in school were the issue to be debated.

The second most critical skill to be acquired before you leave the comfortable monotony of school for the harsh realities of the outside world of prioritizing everything you need to do in some order of importance, time constraints, and self-interest.

Take me, for example; right now, my time would probably best be spent working on my AP Literature paper, which is a very important paper, is due in less than a week, and will pretty much determine whether I pass or fail the class. However, writing my column overrules it simply on a matter of self-interest: not doing this would be equivalent to the act of jumping headfirst into a roaring wood-chipper (i.e. the wrath of Chaney).

Trust me about the sheer necessity of these skills; as someone who is finally coming to grips with them, I can tell you just how desperately you will need them. Now, while you begin to organize your life and worry about the dark, grim future ahead of you like a dog at a bone, I'm going to try to stay alive a little longer.

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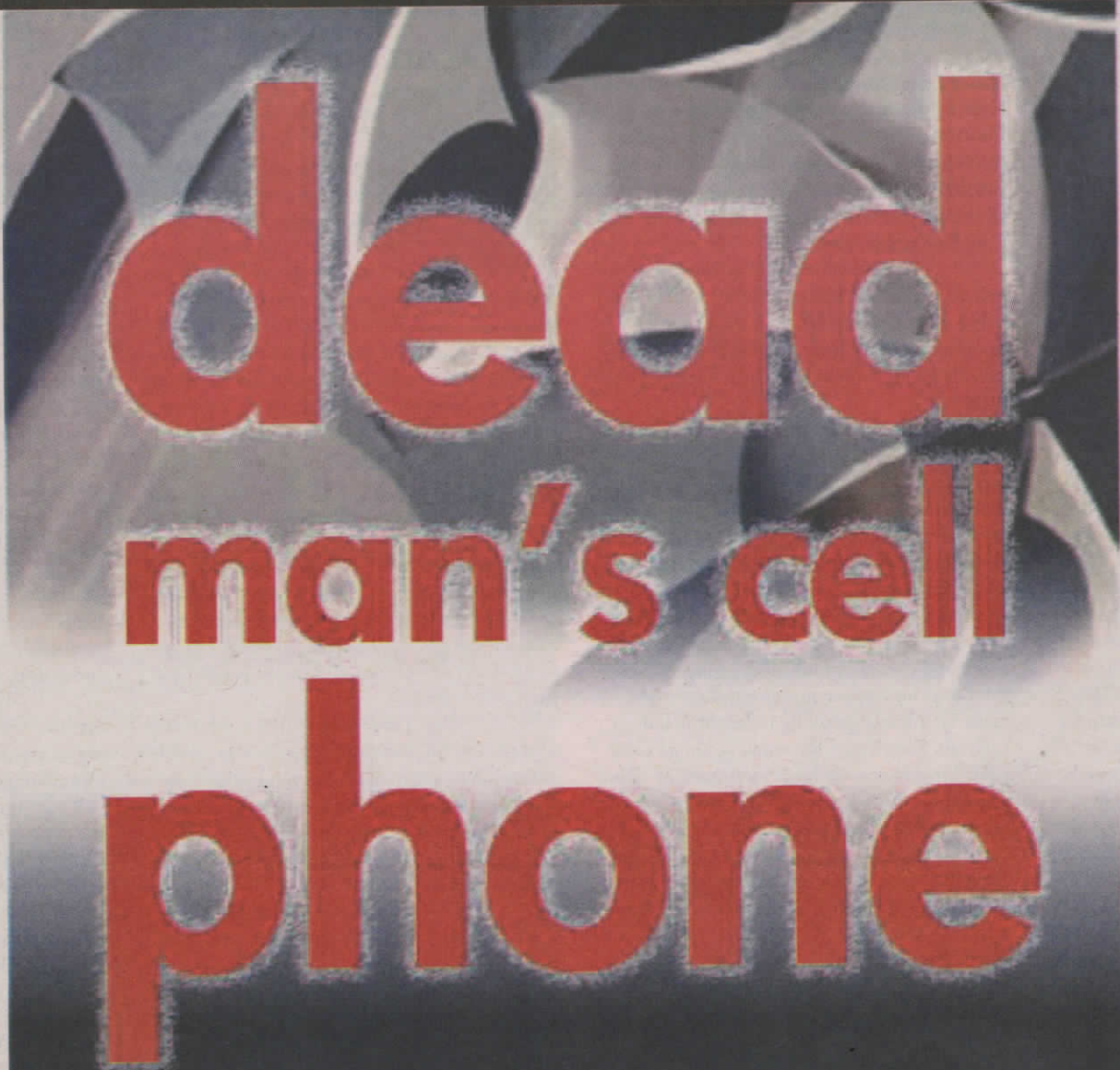
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## School Spirit Week

Kicking off Thursday March 25th  
 with a dance in the cafeteria from 3:30-5:00 (All proceeds go to Noah's Ark)  
 Harry Potter vs. Twilight March 29th  
 Decade Day March 30th  
 Pajama Day March 31st  
 SOA Spirit Day April 1st





# dead man's cell phone

a comedy by Pulitzer prize nominee  
sarah ruhl. directed by keely enright.

feb. 26, 27 @ 8pm mar 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20 @ 8pm.

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tickets \$25 adults \$23 seniors \$20 students

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## Last chance to catch CSO performance By Cat Bowler

To enjoy a performance of classical and contemporary music, catch the season finale of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra's Backstage Pass series on March 25 at 7pm at the Memminger Auditorium downtown. The concert, "Beyond Belief," will feature a Greek mythology theme and last about an hour, during which the audience can look forward to hearing guest conductor and Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra Music Director Mischa Santora's commentary on each piece. Tickets are on sale at the door beginning at 5pm or online at CharlestonSymphony.com. Students can purchase their tickets for \$5 with a valid ID, and regular tickets are \$25.

### Saint Patrick's Day Word Search

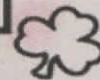
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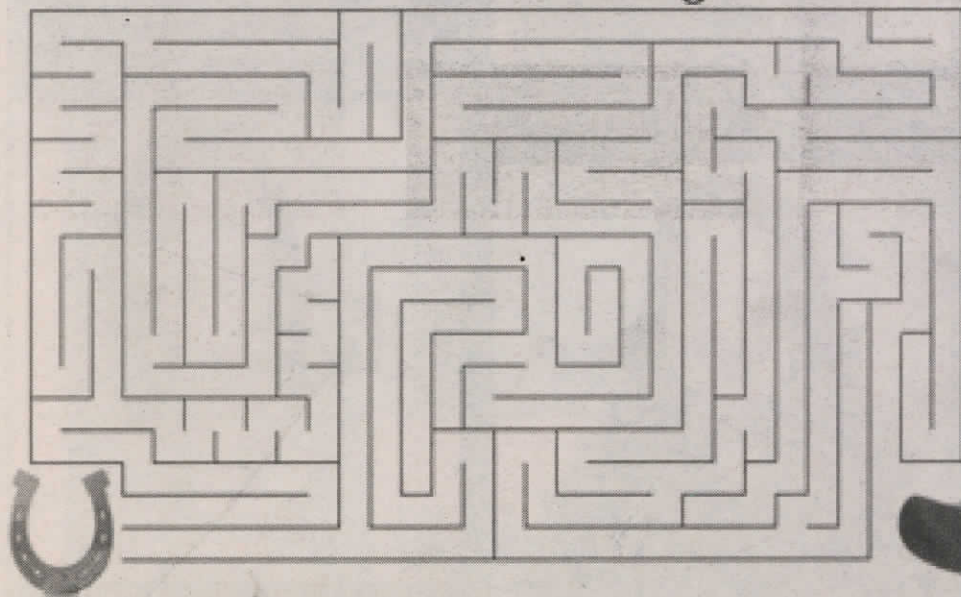
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POTOFGOLD  
SHAMROCK

DUBLIN  
IRISH  
LIMERICK  
RAINBOW  
SNAKES

GREEN  
LEGEND  
PATRICK  
SAINT



*Make Dannelon the Leprechaun Happy Again!  
Get him back his Magic Horseshoe!*



## Horoscopes!

### Aries - The Ram March 21 - April 19

Pay attention, political statistics may become important for you today, for instance, gun crime is said to be rising dramatically around the country...but it isn't clear as to how this is necessarily important to you...so watch out for bullet-shaped objects.

### Taurus - The Bull April 20 - May 19

Friends, lovers, and family members love your devotion, but not your late night calls. Try to reign in that big personality from time to time.

### Gemini - The Twins May 20 - June 20

You'll get an extremely important phone call today, but you won't be able to find a pen in time to write down the message...life.

### Cancer - The Crab June 21 - July 22

When trying to take the top off a bottle of Paracetamol, you may find yourself contemplating destroying the universe.

### Leo - The Lion July 23 - August 21

You're one of the 10 types of people in the world, those that understand binary code and those that don't.

### Virgo - The Virgin August 22 - September 22

With great determination, a lot of patience, first-class medical coverage, ample support from friends, cooperation from your family members, and minimal expectations from your teachers and employers you just might make it through this month...just might.

### Libra - The Scales September 23 - October 22

You could have easily avoided suspension from your little joy ride to IHOP if you brought pancakes to administration...rookies.

### Scorpio - The Scorpion October 23 - November 21

Dress up, go someplace fancy, pretend to be better than you are. You might just fool somebody special today.

### Sagittarius - The Centaur November 22 - December 21

You don't have to like unlikeable people, but today, they seem to really like you. Look busy.

### Capricorn - The Goat December 22 - January 21

You critical and practical goat! This is probably going to be a baaad and useless horoscope. You're highly intelligent and will undoubtedly find this entire page to be a sham. But the step-by-step nature may enjoy the following equation:  
Capricorn + Other Person's problem = Solved  
Capricorn + Capricorn's Own Problem = Deep, dark, despair

### Aquarius - The Water Bearer January 21 - February 19

What on Earth is "The Water Bearer"? Aquarius, you so got the shaft.

### Pisces - The Fish February 20 - March 20

Your full-o-crap-o-meter is well-tuned and highly functioning. Today is a good day to cast judgment on others.



# Should SOA implement varsity league sports and/or intramural sports?

Compiled by Brittany Ropp and Samantha Dahabi



"I'm not for SOA to participate in High School League sports. If we were able to fill a team in every sport, that would be acceptable, but SOA would only be able to fill a handful of teams. It would not be fair to students that participate in other sports."  
Mr. Percy, Math



"Sports will bring out our school spirit."  
Emily Dipaolo, 6th Visual Arts



"No on varsity because I don't think we have enough students to offer all the varsity sports the diverse population wants to play. And people should be able to play any sports they want."  
Mr. Cummings, Health



"I don't think we should, because the people playing for other schools will lose the opportunity to play a specific sport if we don't offer it."  
Will Isaacson, 9th, Vocal



"I think we should have sports because it'll give us something to do besides our major."  
Natalee Phoenix, 9th Dance



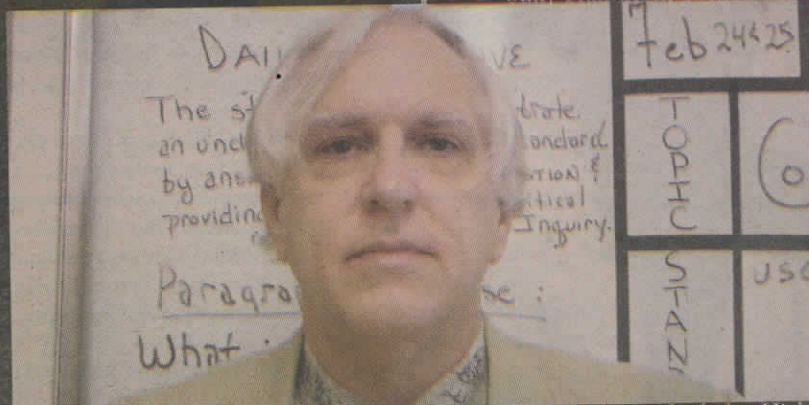
"Students that are participation in sports at other schools wouldn't have the same opportunities. They'd have a better athletic future at other schools."  
Sully Hamilton, 10th Theatre



"To not have them because everybody's already at their home schools."  
Caroline Tanner, 11th Dance



"I'm for intramural sports, but against varsity high school leagues. If we have one sport, we can't play for other schools. For example, if they had football here, I wouldn't be able to run for Wando."  
Lauren DiNicola, 12th Creative Writing



"I strongly support student exercise and wellness programs at SOA. I do not think that High School League competition is a desirable way to meet that goal. Only a limited number of students would participate in League play and the truly gifted athletes would be hindered at the Class A level. In addition, some students would be denied opportunities to participate in sports offered at their home schools, but not at SOA. Development of after school intramural, martial arts, yoga, and somatic programs would serve far more students."  
Mr. Brehm, Government/Econ



"It depends on how many people want to participate."  
Kim Palomo, 12th Visual Arts



"As an arts school, we focus on our arts rather than athletics. Arts and sports should be separate."  
Vika Balyasnikova, 12th Dance

Photos: Sam Dahabi and Brittany Ropp