

# APPLAUSE

Volume 12 Issue 4 School of the Arts 5109 W. Enterprise St., North Charleston, SC December 17, 2010





## School Calendar

### December

Thur. 16th - HS Vocal Concert, 6:30 PM, Rose Maree Myers Theater

Fri. 17th - Last day for Toys for Tots

"A Night in New York" Dance performance fundraiser, 6:30 PM, Rose Maree Myers Theater

Sat. 18th - Last day of school and beginning of Winter Break

### January

Mon. 3rd - First day back

Thurs. 6th - Junior Ring Ceremony, 6:00 PM, Rose Maree Myers Theater

Mon. 13th - 14th: Furlough Day for teachers, No school

Mon. 17th - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, No school

Wed. 19th - Report cards

## Editor's Note



The *Applause* staff has the gift you've been waiting for this holiday season: our December issue. And with it comes our warmest wishes. Personally, I need all the well-wishes I can get during the flurry of SATs, ACTs, and upcoming midterms. I wish all our readers a relaxing holiday and a happy New Year.

I'd also like to congratulate School of the Arts for not only accomplishing but

exceeding our goal of a 1,000 toys for Toys for Tots. We were grateful for News 2 for covering our successful endeavor.

Thank you to our hardworking staff, patrons, and readers for their continued support. Thanks again, Gabby, for a festive and politically correct cover. Please email *Applause* with news and/or feedback at [savannah@soa-applause.com](mailto:savannah@soa-applause.com). We'd love to hear from you!

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Cover art by  
Gabrielle Wolfe



## Jefferson Service Club awards two students for the month of December

By Shaless Robinson

*The Jefferson Service Club gives monthly awards to students that go above and beyond in community service. This month's winners are junior Sabrina McIntyre and freshman Ann Branham Smith. Congratulations to both winners!*

### Sabrina McIntyre

As a child, charity commercials inspired Sabrina to take action. She stated, "it is not fair that I get so much when other kids get nothing." She started small, donating clothes and toys that she didn't need to local organizations.

Sabrina started to seriously get involved in community service last year. Her first official service project was with the Jefferson Service Club where she helped to collect and sort books that were donated to children in Uganda. Later she volunteered with the Jefferson Club at Tri-County Youth



Service Day where she helped serve food with a broken leg. She said that "putting someone's health and happiness before ourselves...makes a huge difference." Other service events that Sabrina has been involved with are the Help for Haiti Project, numerous beach sweeps, babysitting children at church, donating and helping at a blood drive, and the 2009-2010 Kids Fair.

Sabrina feels that when you volunteer you receive "a sense of pride knowing someone somewhere is in a better condition now that you have given your time."

### Ann Branham Smith

When Ann Branham was in sixth grade, she got involved with the community through the Golden Retriever Rescue. Ann Branham said that the project affected her because "it was incredibly sad; the conditions that some of the dogs came from." Helping the dogs made her want to do more service related projects.

One of Ann Branham's favorite service projects was a mission trip to Georgia with her church where Ann Branham

and her church family helped out at a Boys and Girls club. She also went to a nursing home to spend time talking to a patient with Alzheimer's. Another recent project that Ann Branham has participated in was Operation Christmas Child. She went to the OCC work house to help pack gifts for less fortunate children in Iraq and Ukraine. Reflecting on her years serving the community, Ann Branham says that "it feels really good to know that you have made a difference."

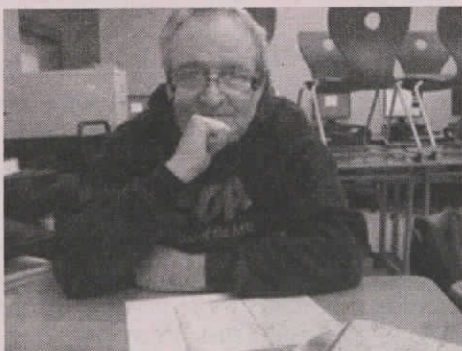


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## What is your New Year's resolution?

By Allie Augustine



"To do one thing at a time... slowly."

-Mr. Dawson



"My new year's resolution is to live every day focused on all the great things that are happening in the world."

-Mr. Reinhart

## Applause

the official student publication of

**Charleston County School of the Arts**

*Founded in 1995 by Rose Maree Myers*

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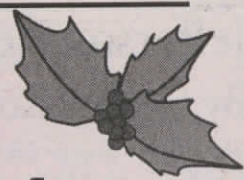
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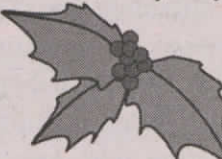
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## A new kind of *Christmas Carol*

By Bailey Gaskin

Every year, **Mr. George Younts**, the theatre teacher here at School of the Arts, performs his one man rendition of the Charles Dickens classic *A Christmas Carol*. This year, however, there is a new and added twist to the show: it's a Theatre of the Deaf Production. The entire piece was accompanied by sign language performed by **Mr. Dean Walters**, a teacher for the deaf students at SOA, and three of the deaf/hard of hearing students enrolled at SOA: **Michael McKelvey**, **Donesha Hargrove**, and **Alex Cavadias**. One thing is for sure, *A Christmas Carol* has never been seen like this before.

A beautiful dance of rehearsed characterization and sign, Mr. Younts' rendition of *A Christmas Carol* is the same story we all know and love except for the fact that it's performed by only one man. Mr. Younts himself plays every single character in the story,

switching between them flawlessly in the blink of an eye. Each character is different and has a life, body, and voice of its own. However, this year, Mr. Younts was not performing alone. The assistance from the members of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program added an element of theatrics never before performed at SOA.

The evidence of heavy rehearsal and ensemble work was clear in this production. Each cast member complimented not only each other, but the whole show.

George Younts' *A Christmas Carol* was a

wonderful way of exposing us to the unknown talents of our teachers and peers. The show was a real spectacular of visual and vocal effects that opened our eyes to just how talented and able everyone in this school really is. If you missed it this year, be sure to catch this one-man phenomenon next year. It was a wonderful kick off to the holidays is perfect for people of any age.



## Toys for Tots far exceeds goal

By Chaisson Dangerfield

Every year, the senior class takes on a community service project. These past two years, they chose to support the Toys for Tots program by holding a toy drive at SOA.

We have about 1050 students at SOA so our goal of 1000 toys was based on an average of just under one toy per student. To generate interest and help meet our goal of 1000 toys, we decided to hold a "Toys for Tots Blitz" this week.

Our plan was to hold activities everyday that would bring in money to buy toys. Monday, we bombarded our administrators with water balloons and earned \$125. Tuesday, we sold cookies and decorations and earned another \$104. Wednesday, we sold cookies again; overall for cookie sales, we earned \$229. Thursday, middle school students bought "pies" (aka whipped cream on a plate) to throw at teachers. We earned \$75. Friday, instead of a lunch activity, students brought in one toy for an Ice Cream social that was postponed until Tuesday during 5th period. In total, Friday, we earned 220 toys! We were

also given permission to sell cookies during AMHS lunch. All money collected during the Blitz last week will go to buy toys for our drive.

We are also involved in the NEWS! CountOn2 News is the primary promoter of Toys for Tots in the Charleston area, so we contacted them early in the drive to discuss our goal. They were very supportive and ready to help! At the start of our drive, **Rob Fowler** visited the school



to promote the drive on our morning news. Video updates were made with the help of **Mr. Baker's** Radio & Television class, and for the most part, the videos were sent 2-3 times a week and aired without further editing at News 2. Toys were brought to the News 2 studio on Tuesday, Dec 14th. They asked that some of our students ac-

company the toys and appear live on the news with him that evening. We are fortunate to have their support and assistance. With 1,561 toys (including two large bikes donated by middle school) collected as of Dec 14th, **Ms. Wojciechowski** was pleased that we "met 150% of our goal."



# Hungry? Broke?

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## New technical theater class to start in 2011

By Cory Steglin

School of the Arts has plenty of students performing onstage, but now, with the help of **Mr. Barnwell**, SOA can have students working backstage too. Any student interested in lighting, production management, sound, rigging, stage management, live video and projections, scenic construction, or video editing can now pursue their curiosity. When asked what inspired this program, Mr. Barnwell said, "I want everybody to have the opportunity to work with all of the state of the art equipment we have in the theater."

Starting January 2011, SOA students will learn how to use the high quality equipment. The students will attend work calls, workshops, and will even have the opportunity to work shows. Workshops are dedicated to teaching the students new skills, and work calls are dedicated to fine tuning

what they have learned.

The students will be able to apply their newly developed skills by working events. By the end of the program, Mr. Barnwell expects that students will be able to fully operate a light and sound board. Mr. Barnwell says, "Those things are universal, not just to theatre specifically, but to every production we do in the theater." If students are able to work our equipment, then they will be able to work most other equipment too, because as Mr. Barnwell says, "All the technology that we have here is in a lot of other places in our community and abroad," so with the knowledge students gain from this program, they will be able to work with almost any equipment they might use in any venue.

## Dr. Cusatis publishes first book on 2009 National Book Award winner

By Shaless Robinson

*Born in Dublin, Ireland, Colum McCann has published five novels and two short story collections since moving to America in the mid 1980s. In 2003 Esquire magazine named him "Best and Brightest" young novelist in the country. In 2009, he was awarded the National Book Award for his novel Let the Great World Spin, which is currently being made into a movie by Paramount under the direction of J.J. Abrams. In the meantime, Mr. McCann found time to visit SOA on two occasions: first to deliver the commencement address for the graduating class of 2009, and again to deliver the key note speech at the dedication ceremony of the Rose Maree Myers Theater for the Performing Arts in April 2010.*

*Understanding Colum McCann, written by SOA English Instructor Dr. John Cusatis, is the first book to be published about Mr. McCann's work.*

*Dr. Cusatis teaches CP and AP English at SOA and is the advisor to Applause. In addition to his book on McCann, Dr. Cusatis published another book in 2010, Postwar Literature, 1945-1970, as well as a journal article and a book chapter on the poet Robinson Jeffers, and more than forty encyclopedia entries. Understanding Colum McCann will be available through any bookseller on December 20. Applause writer Shaless Robinson interviewed Dr. Cusatis regarding his work:*

**Shaless Robinson:** How did you feel about writing the first book about Mr. McCann?

**Dr. John Cusatis:** Thrilled and daunted. The first book becomes the foundation for all the others that will follow. This is a big responsibility for the writer, who must make sure he gets everything right. Otherwise, factual errors or misreadings of the works may be perpetuated by later writers. Since I started writing this book in early 2008, I learned of three other books on McCann that are being written. But it is nice to have the first say regarding his work.

**SR:** Why did you decide to write this book?

**JC:** There was a big need for it. McCann is a tricky writer, and students who encounter his work needed somewhere to turn for help with it. I started teaching his stories in 2000 to the first SOA graduating class. Our discussions were always fruitful and in-

## Festival of Lights continues to be a holiday staple

By Grace Collins

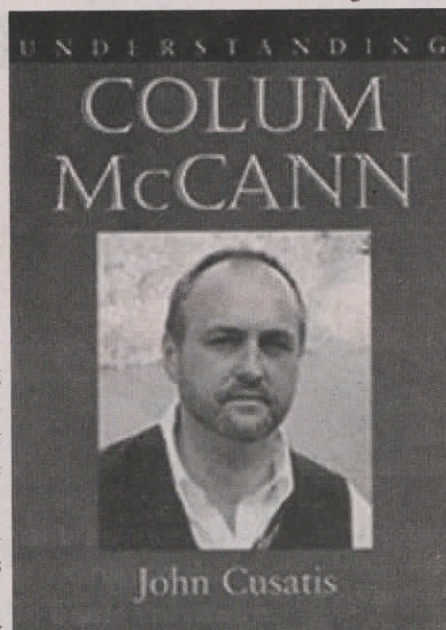
The Holiday Festival of Lights at James Island County Park is THE place to experience the ultimate Christmas cheer; the festival runs from November 12 until January 2, and families can enjoy roasting marshmallows, warming up with hot chocolate, and visiting with Santa (not to mention seeing our very own School of the Arts students working at the festival, helping make the magic happen). Unique lights from the festival have been around for years: the classic Rocking Horse, Golfing Santa, and the cart wheeling Gingerbread Man. The lit sights are set in themes, including the Toy Land, Dino-Land, Outer Space, Candy Land, and Sea Land. These sights entertain those who embark on the three mile car ride.

In addition to the beautiful display of lights, visitors can take part in the

joyous carousel rides, the delicious tradition of marshmallow roasting, rock climbing, and the incredible sand sculptures that enhance the traditions of the festival. All together, the sights and activities are the ultimate Christmas experience!

Juniors **Jacob Elsey**, **Katie-Erin Clancy**, **Sullivan Hamilton**, and Seniors **Ellen Underwood**, **Linda Wozniak**, **Tyler Chambers**, **Christin Darling**, and **Elliot Russell** all take part behind the scenes in making this James Island Festival of Lights tradition successful. When asked what Jacob Elsey does to contribute, he said "I cook kettle corn, fry funnel cakes, and help out."

The Holiday Festival of Lights is a place full of joyful Christmas tradition and cheer. Try to make it out this year!



teresting. At one point I decided I needed to start publishing our interpretations of his stories for others. A former professor of mine, Dr. Matthew J. Bruccoli, the editor of a prestigious series of books called Understanding Contemporary American Literature, asked me if I would like to write a volume for the series. Together we convinced the publisher that a book on McCann would find an audience. In the meantime, McCann's career took off, and it became urgent to get the book done while interest in him was gaining momentum.

**SR:** How did you prepare to write the book?

**JC:** First, I started rereading his books and gathering all the interviews and articles that already existed. I also read as much Irish literature as I could and all the books that I

knew influenced McCann's work. I met McCann at the University of South Carolina in 1997 in the early days and we kept in touch over the years, and that helped. Right after 9/11 he sent me an incredible e-mail about

his thoughts on the disaster and how he hoped to write about it someday. I used that e-mail in the book, as well as lots of other materials accumulated over the years. It makes a big difference when you are writing about a living person because you can consult him if he supports your efforts. In December of 2007, I flew to Manhattan to conduct an interview that helped me a great deal in enhancing my own understanding of his work. In 2008 Mrs. Miles and I went to hear McCann speak at Town Hall in New York City for the 50th anniversary of Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*. I used a lot of what he said that night in the book, I also used material from his 2009 SOA commencement address. What made it particularly challenging was that I was working on another book and several articles at the same time.

**SR:** What are you working on now?

**JC:** I'm finishing an article for a book called *Short Story Criticism* on McCann's short fiction and writing a paper comparing the poets Robinson Jeffers and B. H. Fairchild that I will present at a conference in Long Beach, California in February. Fairchild is giving the keynote speech at the event. I'm also trying to grade a stack of research papers from my AP students, trying to finish answering Shaless's questions so Hailey can send off the December issue of *Applause* ... and Christmas shopping.



## Equestrian, Allie Augustine, speaks to *Applause* By Gordon Hay

**Gordon Hay:** Where do you ride?

**Allie Augustine:** Ever since my first pony ride, I have ridden at the Seabrook Island Equestrian Center.

**GH:** How long have you ridden?

**AA:** I have been taking riding lessons since my 8th birthday which means that I have been riding for 9 years.

**GH:** What events do you show in? What event are you best at?

**AA:** I show in several medal classes and the junior hunter division. The height ranges from 3 foot to 3'6. I am better at the medals because they are judged on me as a rider instead of the horse. The medal classes have more twists and turns in the course. They also have tests in them which allow the rider to show off the horse's talents as well as their own.

**GH:** Do you own or lease your horse?

**AA:** At the moment I am leasing two horses; Citizen and London. I just recently sold my horse, Playboy. Citizen is a 12 year old Zangersheide. She has previously had 2 babies and has also competed in everything from the timed jumpers to the Children's Hunter with a 14 year old girl. She is also one of the many granddaughters of

the famous Secretariat. My other horse London is a 7 year old Dutch Warmblood. He doesn't have an extensive background like Citizen does. When I got him I taught him most of what he knows now. He knew the basics, but now is up to a much higher level.

**GH:** What events have you completed so far this year? How did do in them?

**AA:** I have done very well in all of the main events that I have participated in this year. I am showing nearly every other weekend and almost always get ribbons in the classes no matter what the competition is. Early December, I have a medal finals horse show and plan to take another new horse to compete in this.

**GH:** Do you plan on riding in college or do you plan to have a career in riding/horses?

**AA:** I do plan on riding in college. An equestrian team is one of the main things that I am looking for in a college. There are multiple great riding teams around the South East and hopefully I will be attending one of these in the future.

## Senior visual artist enjoys competitive skating By Gordon Hay

SOA students are participating in many different sporting clubs and leagues this winter season. For example, **Mary Lee Carter** has been a figure skater since 2006.

Mary Lee explains that figure skating is an individual sport and athletes don't really skate for any one specific rink, unless you are on a synchronized team. She skates at the Carolina Ice Palace, "the only ice rink within a hundred miles." While describing the benefits and fun aspects of figure skating, Mary Lee also noted the downsides; air travel, for example, can be quite a challenge. Mary Lee explained that



Mary Lee Carter is a competitive figure skater.

"airport security somehow feels that I'm going to hijack a plane with the blades, so I have to insulate them with bubble wrap."

Mary Lee has participated

in multiple skating events and two Christmas shows. In addition, she was on a synchronized skating team, which performed a "fantastic number with a huge, rotating, kickline wheel." Her competitive skating team also won first place performing a routine skating to Michael Jackson's Thriller, dressed up as zombies.

One of her goals for this year is to reach level 6 in free-style skating lessons. As of now, she is at level 5 and she must land an axel to achieve level 6. Mary Lee also hopes to perfect the camel spin, a spin in which the skater lifts into a spin with their body horizontal and legs at a 90 degree angle.

Mary Lee hopes to continue skating for the rest of her life. She does not expect to have a career in skating but she commented, "I'll keep buying skates until my knees give out."

## Mix It Up Day 2010



Middle school students celebrated their diversity on Mix It Up Day at SOA Fest through M.S. Guidance activities focusing on stopping prejudice and stereotyping.



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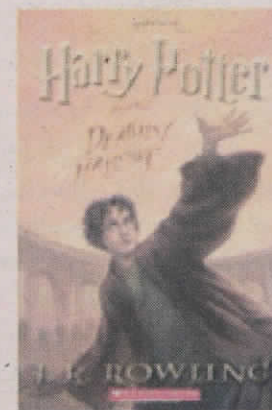
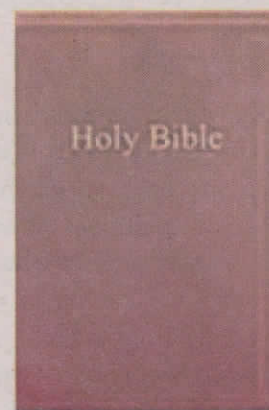
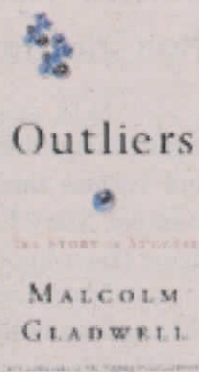


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**Beach Rides:** This exhilarating ride tours the North Beach area and is for advanced riders only. The rider must have a minimum of two to three years riding experience and have good control at a walk, trot and canter. Advance reservations are required.





### High school:

- 1.) *Understanding Colum McCann* by John Cusatis
- 2.) *The Harry Potter Series* by J.K. Rowling
- 3.) *The Bible*
- 4.) *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell
- 5.) *The Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger
- 6.) *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
- 7.) *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens
- 8.) *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson
- 9.) *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* by Dr. Seuss
- 10.) *Animal Farm* by George Orwell



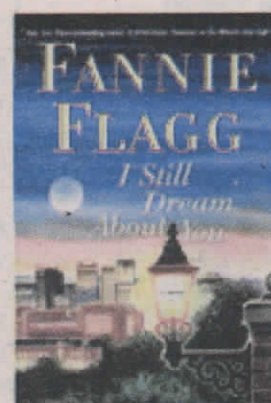
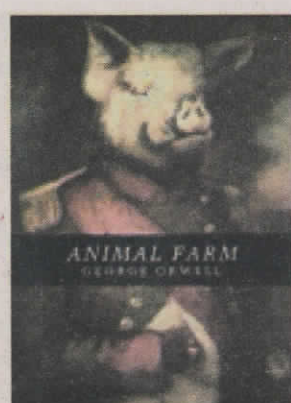
*SOA's top*

*Staff and adm*

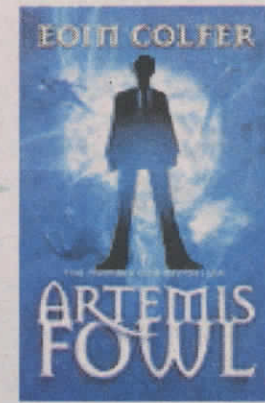
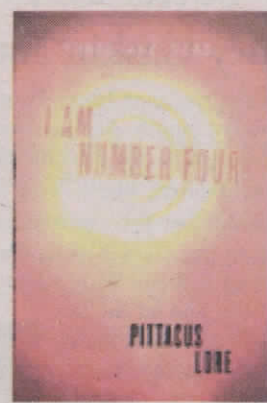
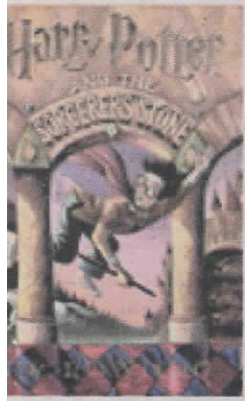
*I Still Dream About You* by Fannie Flagg



*The Mitford series* by Jan Karon



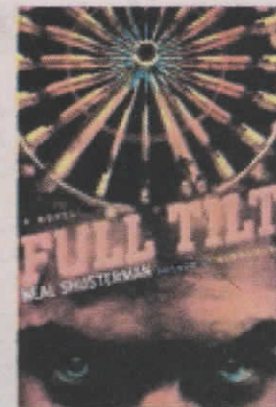




# winter reads

## Middle school:

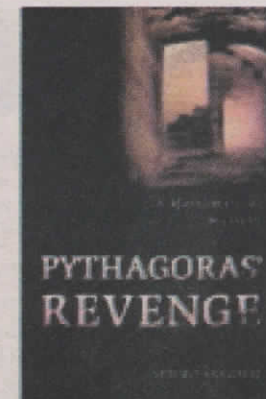
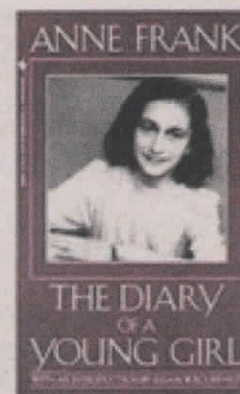
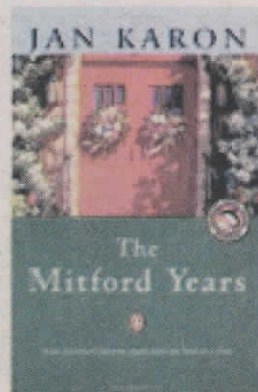
- 1.) *The Harry Potter Series* by J.K. Rowling
- 2.) *The Lost Hero* by Rick Riordan
- 3.) *I Am Number Four* by Pittacus Lore
- 4.) *Mocking Jay* by Suzanne Collins
- 5.) *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
- 6.) *Artemis Fowl* by Eon Colfer
- 7.) *Breaking Dawn* by Stephanie Meyers
- 8.) *Full Tilt* by Neal Shusterman
- 9.) *Pythagoras's Revenge* by Arturo Sangalli
- 10.) *The Diary of Anne Frank* by Anne Frank



*The Mitford series* by Jan Karon



*Decision Points* by George W. Bush



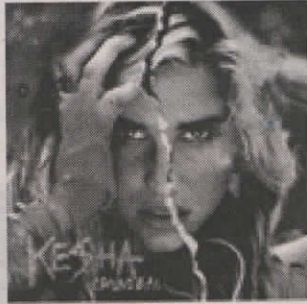


## Ke\$ha: Cannibal

By Bailey Gaskin

It seems like forever ago that super pop sensation Ke\$ha released her groundbreaking first album, *Animal*. With her rude and crude lyrics and auto-tuned style, Ke\$ha's sound is unlike any other cookie cutter female vocalist out there. No one can deny just how far she'll push the envelope. Her new album *Cannibal* continues the tradition in true Ke\$ha style: dance beats to a party theme.

Released only ten months after her debut, *Cannibal* serves as a mini-album intended to compliment what she began in her previous CD, *Animal*. In fact, the tracks on this album sound exactly like their predecessors (three cheers for consistency). Ke\$ha constantly delivers fun, catchy tunes that, admittedly, make you want to get up and dance. The first song on the album "We R Who We R" entered the Billboard



Top 100 at number 1...and stayed. However, she's not limited to party tunes. The album also features "The Harold Song," a ballad of sorts displaying Ke\$ha's serious side that David Hayer says pushes her "closer towards role model status than ever before."

Overall, the album is perfect to blast in the car with your friends on a Friday night. However, "C U Next Tuesday" falls horribly flat and throws off the whole feel of the album. The song is attempting to be a mix of a dance beat with this sensitive undertone that just...does not work. BUT don't let it deter you from *Cannibal* altogether. It is the epitome of fun, dance, pop music that can set the tone for a night out or any time you feel like...well...dancing. Download it NOW!: "Blow," "We R Who We R," and "Cannibal"

## Your Pie: My pie. Our pie. Let's eat...pie

By Chaisson Dangerfield and Bailey Gaskin

∞ Enlightenment (excellent!)    ☯ Zen (Average)    ☯ Chi (not the best)

Location: Savannah Hwy, West Ashley  
Type: PIZZA, Paninis, Bread Bowl Salads, and Gelatos  
Grade: A

Zen Consensus: ∞

Your Pie, located in West Ashley on Savannah Highway right in front of Harris Teeter, is in the same franchise as Moe's Southwest Grill and the brand new frozen yogurt shoppe, Yobe. Your Pie was founded in order "to bring together great, personalized service and a commitment to celebrating who you are and what drives your persona," as stated in their website by the founder himself.

Walking in to the small restaurant, Bailey and I certainly felt at home. We were eventually greeted by a young man (it was around 4 o'clockish so business was a little slow) who was friendly and ready to serve. Taking a look at the menu, largely displayed up above the serving bar, our mouths watered at the many many choices of toppings offered. According to their website, owners comment, "what a better wholesome food to celebrate that time than authentic pizza pies made from natural, homemade hand-tossed dough, a combination of old family recipe sauces, all natural cheese and a wide variety of fresh toppings - crafted by no one other than you!" To make your own, you were able to pick what dough (wheat or white),



sauce (8 different choices!), cheese (also... 8 different choices!), fresh veggies, and your premium toppings. There were also other items to order such as "Our Favorite Brick Oven Pizzas," Brick Oven Paninis, and Bread Bowl Salads (and for dessert there was gelato, although very costly!) There was SO MUCH to choose from! But we finally decided what to order.

Bailey ordered a unique and genuine "Your Pie." She ordered white dough, traditional marinara sauce, and PINEAPPLE. Straight PINEAPPLE. Nothing else. I, on the other hand, ordered a "Favorite Brick Oven Pizza," The Hippie's Pie. It contained sun-dried tomato basil sauce with low fat mozzarella cheese, tofu, spinach, artichokes, baby bellas, and roasted garlic (and I also ordered onions). DELICIOUS! We were each contently satisfied after our full serving of a completely perfect size pie.

Overall, crew hospitality was friendly, the speediness of the service was perfect (seeing as how we were basically the only customers), and the food quality/taste was satisfying! Cleanliness was... squeaky... clean. The experience was nice as we sat in a booth and stared around the restaurant at the TV's, beer choices (not that we were going to order any... since we're not of age...) and the infamous BRICK OVEN! Your Pie is a perfectly perfunctory pizza place worthy of praise.

## Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1

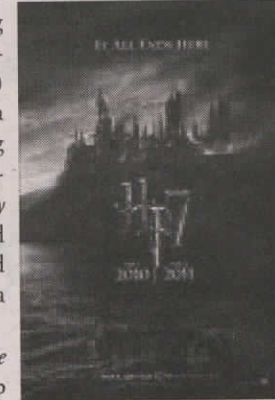
By Bailey Gaskin and Chaisson Dangerfield

Part one of the two part Harry Potter finale came out this last month. And yes, that means that the end is nigh for the dynamic trio: Harry, Hermione, and Ron. Harry Potter is almost over, but do not fret yet...we still have one more movie to go. HOWEVER, that is not what this review is about. We're talking strictly about Part One, and let me just say, that's plenty... considering how darn breathtakingly beautiful Rupert Grint (Ron Weasley) looked the WHOLE two and a half hour spectacular. Starring the same cast of lovable characters, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* is a guaranteed good time, especially if you've followed the story and consider yourself a Harry Potter type person.

*Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1* picks up where *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* left off: Dumbledore has passed on to the other side and it's up to Harry and his crew to defeat Lord Voldemort. Leaving behind the security of Hogwarts, Harry, Ron, and Hermione set off on a dangerous adventure to finish the mission Dumbledore has left behind for them: find and destroy the Horcruxes (bits of Voldemort's soul) in order to weaken the enemy and save the Wizarding World. They must protect themselves not only

from Voldemort himself, but also from Death Eaters, rough terrain, and, at times, each other.

Of course, the main question that everyone is asking is "WHY DID THEY SPLIT IT UP?!" The answer is obvious: it will increase profit exponentially and drag out the finale process. This causes tensions to be high and people to be anxious thus making demand for the second movie rise. Splitting it up, however, does not negatively affect the first part in the slightest. This film is packed with plenty of danger, romance, and everyone's favorite... magic. Although they make no great lapses in magical effects, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* is everything you could want out of a Harry Potter film. Unfortunately, if you haven't seen the other films, you're going to be behind and maybe even slightly lost (No better reason to catch up, slackers!). Due to its ability to keep you on the edge of your seat while still making you laugh, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* is a must-see this winter even if you're not hip to the Harry Potter jive. So, grab your Nimbus 3000's and your wands and head on out to the movie theatre because it's HARRY POTTER TIME! Also, gear up for the sequel and finale coming out this July. \*giddy dance\*



## Animal Farm: The Animal Revolution

By Catherine Santos

In a tale meant to parallel the Stalin era before WWII, author George Orwell does a magnificent job at weaving an elaborate set of events into something easy to read and understandable for everyone.

Old Major, a prize winning boar, delivers a rousing speech about how the animals on the Manor Farm are oppressed and mistreated by the humans. He speaks of a dream he had in which the animals live peacefully, with humans nowhere in sight. Three days after delivering the speech, Old Major dies of an unspecified cause.

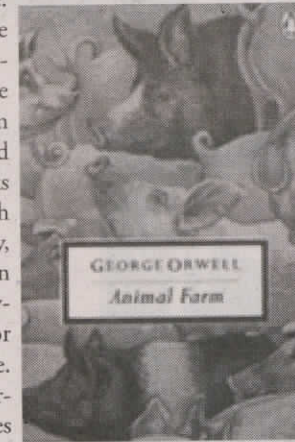
The drunk and irresponsible Farmer Jones soon finds himself kicked out of his own farm when two pigs (Snowball and Napoleon) decide to revolt. Quickly they rename the farm "Animal Farm" and

adopt Seven Commandments of Animalism.

Although the farm is running smoothly, there is trouble afoot. Napoleon runs Snowball out of the farm and begins purging anyone he believes to be in contact with the other pig.

Soon the commandments start having small changes made. However, all the animals brush it off as something of very little importance. In a twist of events that leaves the reader on the edge of their seat, the most important Commandment of Animalism changes into "All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others."

This book is recommended to anyone who enjoys an interesting story complete with tyrannical pigs, wild revolutions, battles, and glue factories. It is also recommended to anyone who would like to understand Stalin's rise to power or the ideas of Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin.





## Sass Attack: Stooping to others' levels

By Bailey Gaskin

Unlike every other aspect of this month's paper, I'm not going to talk about the holidays. None of that Chrismahannakwanzaka jabber here. Instead, I'm going to be talking about something that has really been irking me and serves as one of my main pet peeves. Besides motorcycles in the good parking spots, my biggest pet peeve is when people falsely accuse me of things. It has happened to us all, at least once, especially here in a school environment. Everyone can take a deep breath because I'm about to say, here in this article, possibly EXACTLY what you want to say when you are wrongly accused.

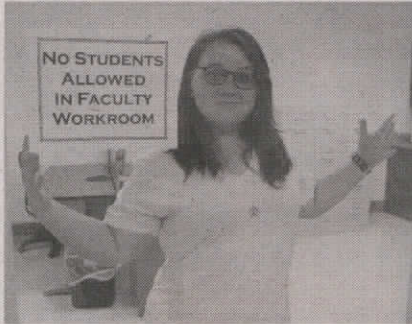
Let me quote the Bill of Rights on this one...for evidence's sake. The Sixth Amendment clearly states that all accused persons have the right "to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense." HAHA-HAHAHA! Oh gosh...got a little carried away on that one. Isn't it funny how that rule seems to NOT apply in school or parental situations? Doesn't it just make you want to pull out that handy dandy pocket Constitution you bought at the Smithsonian gift store and SHOVE IT IN SOMEONE'S FACE?!

LOOKIE HERE! THE CONSTITUTION SAYS YOU CAN'T DO THAT TO ME! Doesn't it make you want to scream and cry, "PROVE IT?"

We've all felt personally called out and attacked when either A) you didn't do anything or B) when everyone else was doing the exact same thing. Just breathe. And remember that daydreams of proving them wrong are just as good as the real thing, except that they won't get you thrown out on the street or thrown out of school. Personal experiences have shown me

that these issues are on the rise in home environments and at school. So maybe it's time for a little assessment. Teachers, parents: have you been unnecessarily harsh lately? \*cough\* Students, kids: have you been acting out? Be it on accident or on purpose?

"I'm done being walked all over," one of my friends said after one of these exact situations. I'll just say that that mindset is good, but watch how you approach it. BE PRODUCTIVE. Think civilly. Talk civilly. Act civilly. Be civil. Don't let things build up though either. Be open, not only with yourself, but also with others. You could solve your issue all in one conversation (or you could just make a mean blog about it. Ah, the perks of online diaries.)



## How to Survive: Winter Apocalypse

By Catherine Santos

For many Southerners, a snowstorm may seem unlikely. However, last year, I was comfortably snuggled in my blankets and watching Silent Night Deadly Night when all of a sudden the power goes out. Of course, I nearly have a heart attack because suddenly it's dark and I do not want Santa to beat me up. What's my natural reaction? I run out of my house and face plant on the porch. Then I realize it's snowing, and my power is out. Quickly, I run back inside because I don't want to get mauled by a yeti. Just because I am that awesome I am going to tell you how to avoid doing anything stupid during a time like this.

A blizzard or snowstorm may be a great excuse to snuggle with your significant other or a pet. In addition, if an angry polar bear bursts through your window, your sweetheart is an excellent meat shield, and you will not get mauled. The isolation can

really get to a person, so it's probably best that you stick with at least one other person.

Before you make the mistake of running outside and hunting caribou, keep in mind that, as a Southerner, you are not conditioned to survive the harsh cold. You are used to warm skies and beaches, not the Ice aAge. Seriously though, coats are the best invention since homo sapiens learned not to burn themselves with fire. Just wearing something warm can prevent your arms and legs from falling off. Either way, I advise you to stay inside because, as a Southerner, your body cannot handle the freezing temperatures.

Once again, following my advice will most likely keep you from getting mauled by polar bears, suffering bizarre instances of frostbite, and getting trampled by caribou.

## Great guesses about gifts for girlfriends

By Gordon Hay

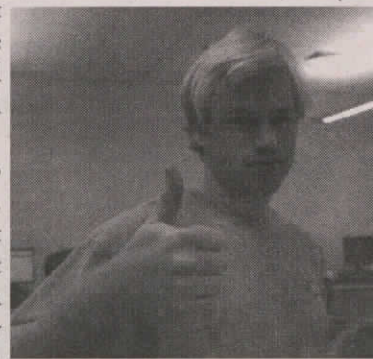
It is that time of year again, Christmas, and we all know what that means... time to buy presents for your girlfriends. This can be difficult considering almost nothing you buy is really going to please them. Considering you are probably completely lost on what to get, I have come up with a couple of solid ideas for presents that no girl can knock down.

First I would like to address the issue of clothes. Buying clothes is not a great idea because if you don't know her size, and you get a size to big, she will probably kill you. She may kill you even if you get the right size, so the safest option would be to buy something you know is too small, and then she will be flattered. Or maybe she will still kill you, depending on the girl. On top of all of that, you probably do not have any idea about what kind of clothes to buy, so I recommend sneaking into her house and stealing some clothes out of her closet. She will be devastated about being robbed and you will be her hero when

you give her favorite dress back (pretending that you just happened to buy the same dress that got stolen). Afterwards, just sell the extra clothes you stole on e-bay, making it a win-win situation. Then you will have more money to buy other friends and family presents, or you can just keep the extra money for yourself.

Another great gift idea is a 20 gauge Remington 870. Every girl wants to be able to go hunting with you, and if you get her a shotgun she will no longer feel left out. She will be ecstatic now having the ability to go duck hunting with you anytime you want. But on the other hand, you may be her first target, so that may not be an excellent idea either.

All of these ideas have their pros and cons, but I believe your best option is to simply break up with your girlfriend before Christmas so you don't have to get her anything.



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Rock-A-Bye  
By Katie Ridgeway

Love Tempest surging through the night  
Manic through my patient candlelight

That urging burning lustful flame  
Flickers a sign, calls out a name

At sound it shatters my solid mear  
Dreams welcome in my best nightmare

Curtains break, the gale glides in  
Winds wrap the burning wick in sin

Funnel swallows flame, the light goes out  
Floods of desire wash over my drought

Thunderstorm's eye bids me sweet good-nigh'  
Its frightful hummed lullaby

Song of Peril! Such enticing pain  
Of being embraced by anger again

I dream the ravage of my stable  
Break the tree branch, rock my cradle.

**Madison Smith, 12th grade**



**Angelica Halverson, 11th grade**



**Allie Acerino, 11th grade**



**Gabrielle Wolfe, 12th grade**



**Apples and Honey**  
By Rebecca Witcher

Push body  
through viscous life  
hoping they will cling  
and be delicious.

Sweet dipping into sweet  
as a wish  
as hope  
as a display to pressure the universe  
for new year  
to keep to its name  
and forgive me  
as I promise apples and honey.  
Others trust in the sugary foreshadow.  
This year, I beg.  
This year, I am scared it will forget me.  
This year has taught me not to trust.

Honey is slow and takes time  
to fall  
to reach the sour soul  
so I will eat apples  
while I wait  
so I will be ready  
for sweeter days.



## Where are they now: Lauren DiNicola

By Allie Augustine

*Allie Augustine sat down with last year's valedictorian Lauren DiNicola to find out how she is adjusting to college life.*

**Allie Augustine:** How are you furthering your education after SOA?

**Lauren DiNicola:** I graduated from SOA in June 2010. I am currently a freshman at Harvard University. My concentration (tentatively) is Psychology.

**AA:** How have you pursued your art after SOA?

**LD:** I haven't been writing as much as I would like to, but I am on the editorial board of Harvard's general interest literary magazine, called *Tuesday*. Editing has always been one of my favorite parts of the writing process, so I am enjoying it, and I may apply to take a Creative Writing course next semester.

**AA:** How did attending School of the Arts prepare you for the future?

**LD:** Creative Writing most definitely

provided me with invaluable writing experience that is helping me in every single one of my classes. SOA's long class periods and challenging course material also helped prepare me for the workload I have now. Above all



Lauren and her friend Catherine

though, the healthy learning atmosphere at SOA really taught me about balance. Whenever I feel uptight, I can still hear Mr. Brehm and Mr. Donnellon telling me to relax.

**AA:** How are you currently spending your life?

**LD:** I am a student-athlete. I run

cross country and track on Harvard's varsity team, but I did not have much of a freshman cross country season due to a stress fracture in my shin. Still, athletics and academics are the two main parts of my life.

**AA:** Do you still participate in your art area today?

**LD:** These questions may be for older alumni... Like I said, I am on the editorial board of a literary magazine, and I may take more writing classes because I really do love to write, but currently, I just write random stories for fun.

**AA:** Any advice for students who are heading off to start the rest of their lives?

**LD:** Work hard. It is important to find a balance between work and leisure, which I am still attempting to do, but take school seriously, and push yourself. It will be worth it.

## Where were they then: Mr. Lindgren

By Chaisson Dangerfield

*Chaisson Dangerfield sat down with one of SOA's teachers, Mr. Kirk Lindgren, to see what the self-proclaimed nerd did before SOA.*

**Chaisson Dangerfield:** What were your childhood dreams/ aspirations?

**Kirk Lindgren:** I had no idea what I wanted to do for a living.

**CD:** What high school did you attend?

**KL:** I attended Albemarle High School, in Charlottesville, Virginia.

**CD:** What was your first job?

**KL:** I was a juggler. I would do children's parties with a magician. I would juggle fire!

**CD:** What colleges did you attend and what was your major?

**KL:** I went to the University of Virginia, where I majored in Physics.

**CD:** When did you have the first inkling that you wanted to pursue Physics?



**KL:** When I was in high school, I took my first physics course. My teacher, Tony Wayne, was the most incredible teacher! We managed to have fun while we were learning science! I had no idea that that was possible. I knew then, that I wanted to study physics.

**CD:** What did you do before you came to School of The Arts?

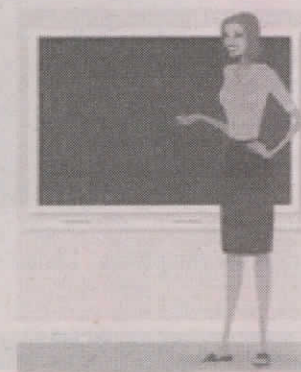
**KL:** I was a bartender during graduate school at the University of Virginia, at a Mellow Mushroom.

**CD:** Why did you decide to come to SOA?

**KL:** I was teaching at Stall High School, for my first year of teaching, and I came over to SOA for a teacher seminar at the start of the year. I struck up a conversation with Bill

*NHS Tutoring*  
*Mondays and Thursdays*  
*3:10-4:15*

*Mrs. Drennan's Room*



Smyth, who told me all about the school, the musicals, the students, etc. I could tell from the murals on the walls, and the fact that there were students there on their day off, that this was a very special place.

**CD:** Have you ever lived anywhere other than South Carolina? If so, where?

**KL:** I was a bartender in the Virgin Islands for a year. I lived in my tent in Aspen, Colorado. Backpacking around Europe. I drove 14,000 miles on a road trip around the country. I have hiked the Inca trail to Machu Picchu in Peru.

**CD:** Did you or do you have any heroes or role models?

**KL:** Captain Planet, he's my hero, bringing pollution, down to zero!



## Junior artist's work garners attention

### By Shaless Robinson

**Devin Dukes**, a junior Visual Arts Major, has recently grabbed the attention of both the art community in Charleston as well as College Board's art department. Over the course of two and a half months, Devin created a series of pieces using cardboard that mimic swans and turtles rising from water. He says that going out and experiencing nature is what served as his inspiration for the pieces. Devin says



that the "idea is that these organic made cardboard pieces will lie out and be photographed each day as they deteriorate back into nature." To create the pieces Devin looked at realistic objects in wild and made abstract forms out of them. He made seven pieces and the largest one is 6 feet by 30 inches. For all of those interested in Devin's project, there will be a showing in the Black Box in late December.

## Come support dance majors' NYC trip

### By Shaless Robinson

On December 17th in the Rose Maree Myers Theater, SOA students and the community can help support the junior and senior dance majors by coming to their upcoming dance performance. The performance is a fundraiser for the senior dance trip to New York City. The dancers will perform a variety of genres including jazz, modern music, hip hop, and



more. Senior dance major **Jessica Murray** says that the dance performance will be "something different for the audience to see, not like our usual dance performances."

The show will begin at 6 PM with a silent auction and reception to follow. Tickets are \$10 for students, \$13 for adults, and children 10 and under are free.

## SOA holds second Convocation

### By Grace Collins

The School of the Arts' second Convocation took place in the Rose Maree Myers Theater on Tuesday, November 23rd, and it was as entertaining as always. Once again, the high school came together to enjoy the talents of our peers; this time with the Symphony Orchestra, the Vocal Lyric Choir, Piano, the senior Theater majors, and Percussion ensemble.

Kicking off this exciting event was our very own Symphony Orchestra; performing "American Salute" by Morton Gould, based on the song "When Johnny Comes Marching Home." The Symphony Orchestra was incredible and was great way to begin Convocation.

Following the orchestra were the Vocal Lyrics Choir singing "Las Amarillas" that **Mrs. Slenk** said was "fun" and that even at some points, "the song's lyrics were multiplication tables." The Lyric Choir looked concentrated and precise as they performed, but don't let that trick you into thinking they were not enjoying it themselves; **Allie Augustine** states that "we had

a lot of fun with it and it was nice to see how many people enjoyed it."

After them came the freshman piano majors, **Olivia Pharis** and **Tyler Sim**, who were represented through the Jazz Ensemble. Also performing was **Anthony Vaird** who played a solo piece called Zambra-Op.55 No. 1 by Turnia.

Next were the senior Theater majors in a scene from *Snapshots*. In the scene they performed, three main actors, **Rachel Riddle**, **Javen Hodge**, and **Adrienne Miller**, played the intense role of answering the phones of people who were in the buildings and part of the tragedy of September 11, 2001. This scene from *Snapshots* left the audience speechless as they took in the sincerity of the scene itself.

Last, but most certainly not least, was the group of percussionists, **Robert Moring**, **Tanner Cooper**, **Brian Giles**, and **Calvin Baxter**, who brought this performance to an upbeat and fantastic close, and even with a little humor!

**Excuse Me, while I Eat This Pie.**

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Help Captain Lindgren solve this crossword!

## Horoscopes!

**Sagittarius, The Centaur (November**

**22-December 21):** Take a look around; accidents are caused by carelessness.

**Capricorn, The Goat (December 22-January 19):** Invest in your health and you will be paid in years.

**Aquarius, The Water Carrier (January 20-February 18):** Congratulations! The stars are aligned to make your dreams come true.

**Pisces, The Fish (February 19-March 20):** Keep things in order this month, you may have unexpected guests.

**Aries, The Ram (March 21-April 19):** There is trouble in your future when Santa realizes what you have done.

**Taurus, The Bull (April 20-May 20):** It is time for you to fight for what you believe in.

**Gemini, The Twins (May 21-June 21):** Stop repeating the past and move towards the future.

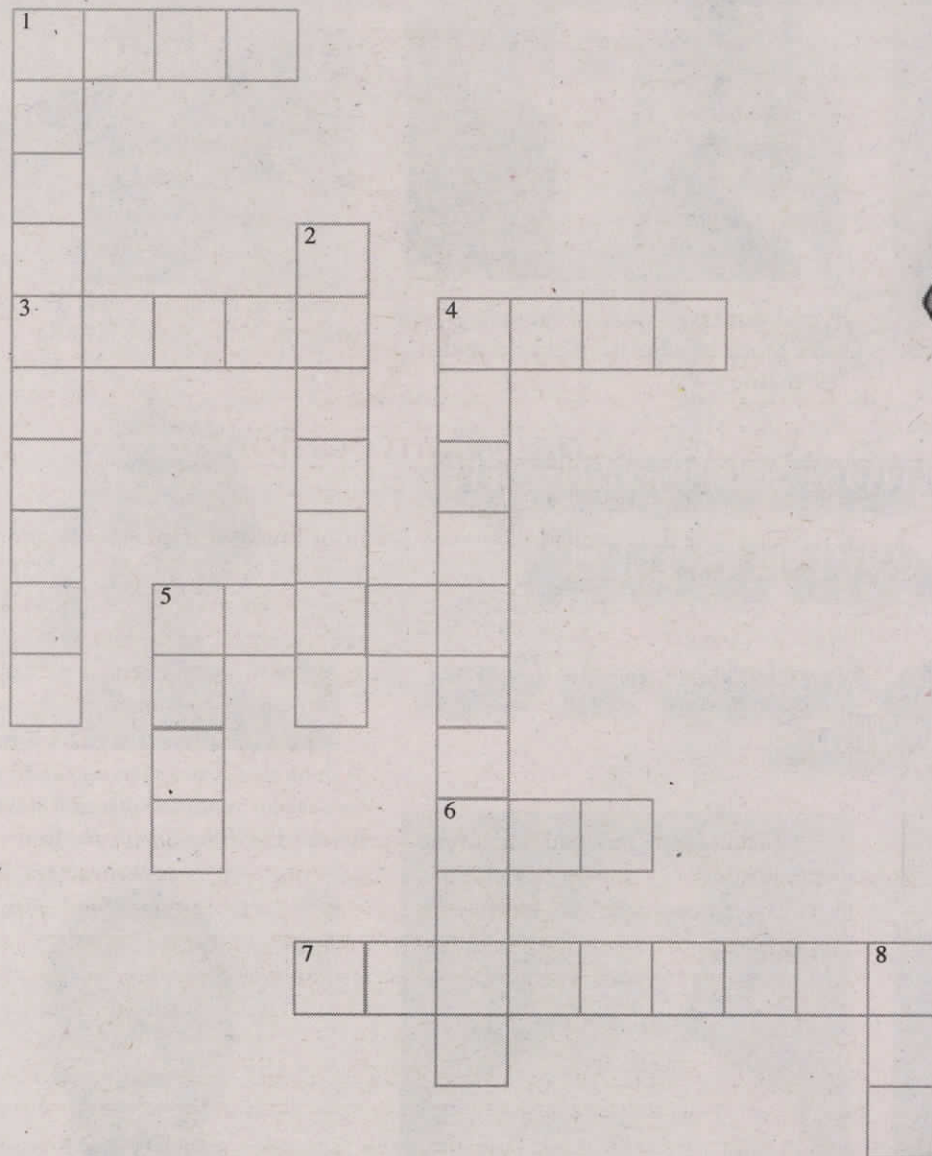
**Cancer, The Crab (June 22-July 22):** Your quest is almost over; 2011 will bring the answers you seek.

**Leo, The Lion (July 23-August 22):** When things get tough you will always have the simple comforts to fall back on.

**Virgo, The Virgin (August 23-September 22):** Avoid spending too much time on one thing. Remember: Moderation.

**Libra, The Scales (September 23-October 23):** Secrets, secrets are no fun unless you share with everyone.

**Scorpio, The Scorpion (October 24-November 21):** Indulge in something delicious.



### Across

- Over \_\_\_\_\_ the world's tropical rain forest have been lost.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ protects the Earth from harmful UV radiation.
- South Carolina has \_\_\_\_\_ hydropower plants.
- \_\_\_\_\_ energy comes from the sun.
- This is the acronym for chlorofluorocarbon.
- \_\_\_\_\_ use the wind to create power.

### Down

- \_\_\_\_\_ has been used since ancient times and utilizes water.
- Reduce, Reuse, \_\_\_\_\_.
- Compact \_\_\_\_\_ light bulbs use about 75% less energy.
- This haze covers Los Angeles and is bad for your health and the environment.
- The \_\_\_\_\_, though far away, is a great energy source.

Answers to November's sudoku

1	7	9	2	5	6	8	3	4
6	4	8	3	7	9	1	5	2
5	2	3	1	8	4	6	9	7
7	3	5	6	2	1	9	4	8
9	8	6	4	3	5	2	7	1
4	1	2	8	9	7	3	6	5
8	6	1	7	4	3	5	2	9
2	5	4	9	6	8	7	1	3
3	9	7	5	1	2	4	8	6





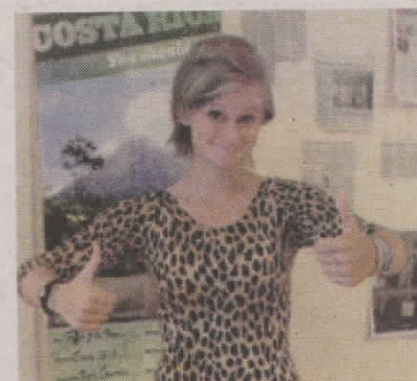
"Last Christmas my grandma thought it was really cool to get me some tattooed sleeves."  
Ethan Courville, 9th Vocal



"My Grandma gave me Ramen Noodles."  
Dana Gilg, 12th Band



"A card that said 'Here's my life savings' and had a penny taped to it."  
Ricky Schmidt, 7th Theatre



"A leopard-print body suit."  
Hadley Preganz, 11th Creative Writing



"A brick with two glued eyes on it, like googly eyes."  
Emily Trent, 11th Piano

## What is the most unusual gift you have ever received?

Compiled by Allie Augustine and Grace Collins



"I think that is two years ago and I got coal because my mom thought that it would be funny."  
Price Long, 10th Theatre



"A piece of wood."  
Jay Holt, 10th Visual Arts



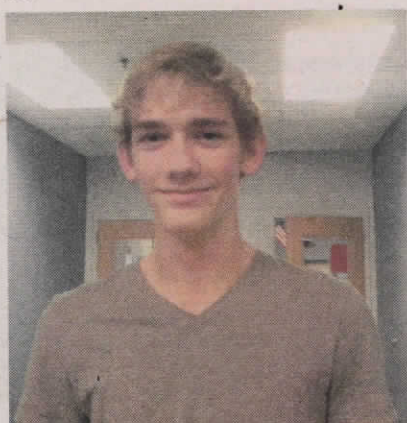
"Three years ago I got a rubber chicken for Christmas."  
Grace Peterson 10th, Visual Arts



"Forks... and knives and spoons."  
Elliot Russell, 12th Strings



"A turtle shell with a dead turtle in it."  
Kiara Lemons, 6th Dance



"I once got glow in the dark underwear."  
Ben Sewell, 8th Theatre



"I got a beta fish for my birthday. I thought that was a little bit awkward."  
Kedrick Pasley, 11th Dance



"One year my brother-in-law gave me the cement molds that were used to make his fake teeth."  
Ms. Wade, Computer Tech



"It's like a tradition to give some people a pair of cheetah underwear and I got that one year."  
Victor Swatzyna, 9th Vocal