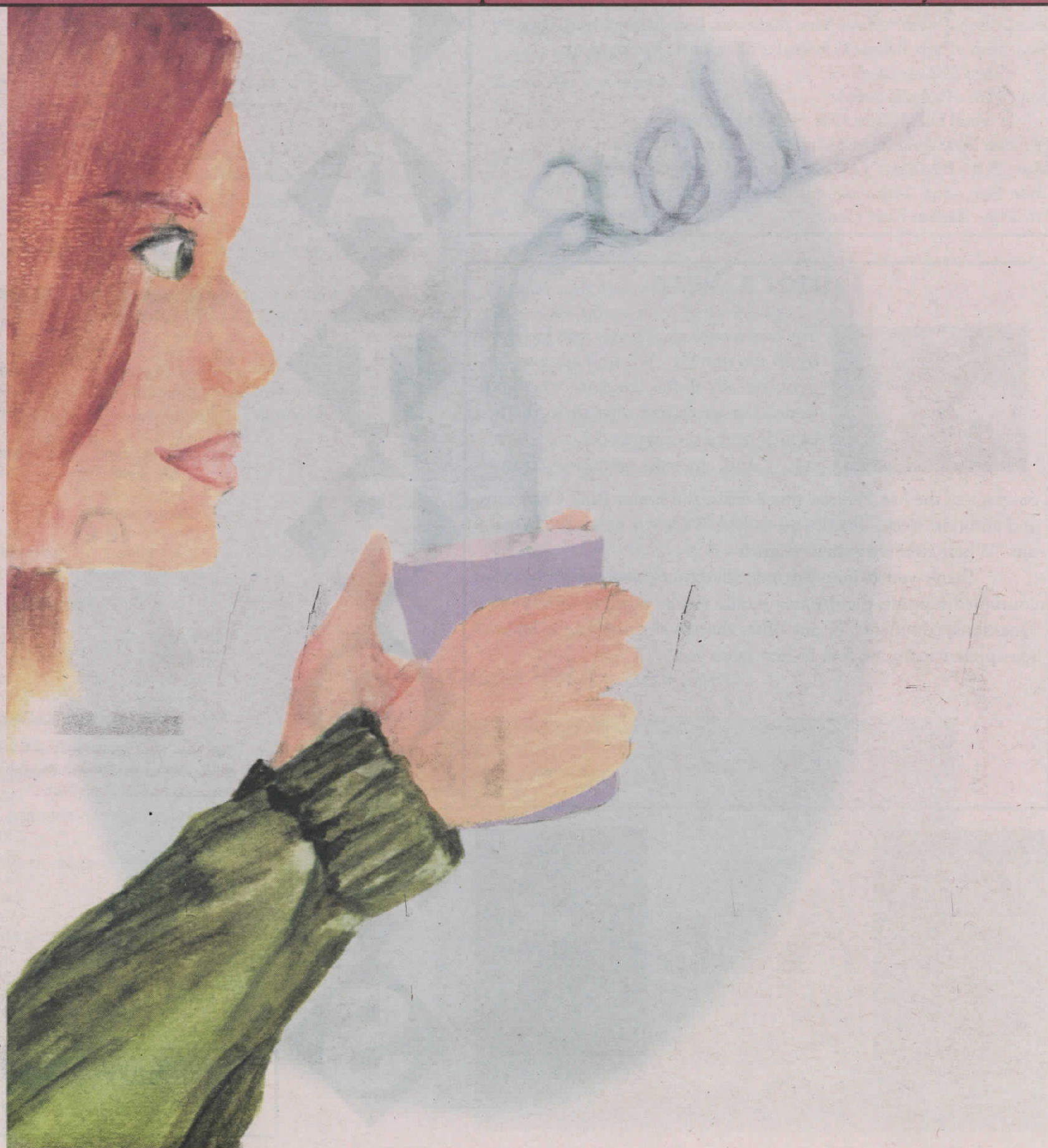


# APPLAUSE

Volume 12 Issue 5 School of the Arts 5109 W. Enterprise St., North Charleston, SC February 1, 2011



## School Calendar

### February

Thur. 3rd Intermezzo Club, Gaillard Auditorium, 7 PM  
 Mon. - Tues. 7- 8th - Music Man Auditions, Rose Maree Myers Theater  
 Wed. 16th - Early Release (2 hours), Professional Development  
 MS Convocation  
 Thur. 17th - Progress Report  
 Vocal Girls' Night Out, 6:30 PM, Cafeteria  
 Fri. 18th NHS Sponsored Blood Drive, All day, MS Gym  
 Mon. 21st - Presidents' Day (Schools closed, offices open)  
 Thur. 18th - Sun. 20th - Senior Dance majors in NYC  
 Fri. 25th - Region Band Clinic

## Editor's Note



The first month of this new year has flown by all too quickly. We are happy to congratulate all of the students who auditioned last week, and offer them the best of luck in the coming weeks.

This month's *Applause* features

coverage of the Mr. Perkins' mock trials, the Junior Ring Ceremony, and audition week. Thank you to Ms. Wade for being the focus of our "Where were they then" feature.

Thank you to our patrons, advertisers, and reader for your continued support, the *Applause* would not be possible without you. Questions, comments, or any other thoughts? Email me at hailey@soa-applause.com, we love to here from you!

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Chaney Long	Steve Stegelin
Claudia Monroe	Mark Wesling

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Alone

**Haley Dixon, 12th grade**

Blue television light reflected off waxy walls. The room had a coffee table and a yellow couch, the floor was carpeted with faded blue.

The man on the couch looked old. Melanoma spotted his skin. Greasy patches of white gruff grew in the deep caverns of his wrinkles. He wore a wife-beater and a plaid blanket—all covered by dust.

Dead shorts sit in an old alligator skull ashtray. One of those shorts sat between his lips, hanging there, hanging between the limbo of his lips. Decay and old, the ash had gone out long ago.

The waxy hall kept to itself. At the end of it was the kitchen. Narrow and door-less, the doorway was black, as black as the pupils of an eye, as black as the space between worlds.

The only pictures in the house lay on his lap, in a book. He didn't open the book—he never does open the book. His hand lay on the top of it and he stared at the television.

Dust had settled in the house, through the hallways, inside the rooms, on shelves and on fans. Minutes and seconds tick by. Mice and skinks live in the walls. They walk through the dust—black and listless.

An Elephant Grave Yard

**Aubrey Moore, 12th grade**

My youth lies with grackle songs and  
breadcrumbs  
alongside blackened bones and dead mam-  
mal stink.

I left it there the first time someone told me  
what it would be like for me in hell,  
what it was always like, for the faithless.

I left it there to die or maybe to wait for  
God  
while I was torn between the teeth of sex  
and verse.

My youth lies with sandspurs and cartoon  
jungle kings  
in an eyelet dress, I'm sure, with ivory  
bangles, stampeding,  
both over those who died and those who  
walked on water.

Strawberries.

**Marisa Henthorn, 11th grade**

You used to take me picking,  
I languish in the memory.  
I crave the sweet taste,  
the scarlet something,  
lingers.

I roll the round, imperfect circle.  
My mouth salivates, expects  
to savor that memory again,  
contemptuous and yearning.

It takes only that pop, a crunch.  
Burst: the tributary of tangy liquid  
deludes my closed eyes.  
It takes me back.

I curved down, you rested next me;  
laid out like a blanket from childhood.  
I touched the crimson, misshapen orb to your lips.

The recollection starts to weaken, as the aftertaste fades.  
I swallow down the pain, it closely follows sweetness.  
Then I delve into the bowl again; a pop, a crunch.  
And I return.

**Aleighta Blakley, 12th grade**



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

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 senior Michael McKelvey and sophomore Shelby Studebaker. Congratulations to both winners!*

### Michael McKelvey

Michael McKelvey has been involved in community service for three years. He was inspired to help out in the community by his teachers in the Hearing Impaired Program, Mrs. Amick, Mr. Walters, and Mrs. Duffy. Michael's first service project was reading with younger deaf students in elementary school at Charlestown Academy. He immensely enjoyed helping and felt that the elementary-aged deaf students learned a lot from him and the older students. For the past three years, Michael has been a mentor to the elementary students, and he enjoys this great opportunity.

Michael has been a member of SOA's Jefferson Service Club for the past two years and attended the 2010 Spring and Fall



Conferences. The purpose of the conference is to bring together youth who are interested in volunteer work and teach them aspects that can help their school's volunteer clubs. During both conferences, Michael felt that it was "impressive to see many students from different schools helping each other." Michael also had fun helping with SOA's canned food drive everyday at lunch for a week. He says that his favorite event was "So You Think You CAN Dance." Michael feels that using the concept of dance was a very remarkable way to inspire students to volunteer. Michael says that

he tries to "encourage all students to get involved with community service to teach (them) compassion and leadership."

### Shelby Studebaker

Shelby Studebaker got involved in community service in 2007 when her mother started working for the Lowcountry Food Bank. During the summer of 2007, Shelby went on a local mission trip with her church. An entire week was spent helping in various places; they worked at the Lowcountry Food Bank, cleaned up at Camp St. Christopher, and donated clothes to a homeless shelter.

For Shelby's 16th birthday, she asked her guests to substitute presents with cans of food. The food collected was donated to the Lowcountry Food Bank amounting to more than 130 pounds of food. Shelby believes that "knowing you did something to make someone's life better should be



enough" of a reason to volunteer. Shelby also traveled with her church during the summers of 2009 and 2010 to Guatemala for a week each time. In 2009, the church members helped out in a small village outside of Antigua, Guatemala. They played with the kids, helped to build a one-room house, and helped with a Sunday school event. Last summer, Shelby and the three other girls from the Guatemala trip helped in an all-girls' school called Proximos Pasos. They assisted in classrooms by helping the teachers teach, cleaning up classrooms and making signs to decorate the classrooms.

Shelby states that in Guatemala "it was the simple things that made the largest difference."

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## Quotes of the Month

"Learning is the beginning of wealth. Learning is the beginning of health. Learning is the beginning of spirituality. Searching and learning is where the miracle process all begins." -Jim Rohn

"A poet can survive everything but a misprint." -Oscar Wilde



## Auditions for The Music Man

Open to current 8th through 11th graders



Monday, February 7  
After school

Tuesday, February 8  
After school

## Applause

the official student publication of

Charleston County School of the Arts

Founded in 1995 by Rose Maree Myers

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**Savannah Miller, Co-Editor-in-Chief**

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Gordon Hay, Sports Editor

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### Staff

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Grace Collins

Zach Donaldson

Shaless Robinson

Catherine Santos

Cory Stegelin

John Cusatis, Ph. D., Advisor  
Charleston County School of the Arts  
5109 West Enterprise St.  
North Charleston, SC 29405

## Editorial: Will we ever say enough?

Just recently Starbucks released another Italian named cup size—Trenta. Trenta is a step up from the Venti cup and is a full 10 ounces larger. This is for those who *really* love their iced coffee or tea and *need* to in take 31 ounces of their favorite flavors.

These extra large cups are not unheard of or even rare. McDonald's largest drink is 42 ounces. In fact, extra large seems to be a common theme throughout America. America over indulges at every level. Gluttony and greed are two of the deadly sins we, as a nation, seem to have mastered. We have people driving around the city in Hummers and SUVs, we stare mindlessly into 100+ inch TV screens, and our food portions are all "supersized" even if the name is missing.

Will we ever say "enough?" We do seem to be cutting back on a few fronts. We are trading in our gas-guzzling tanks for the more compact cars and sedans that are now being seen on the roads. It is now push to give tiny portions for an incredibly inflated price. These are small steps, but hopefully those steps will start reversing our habits. One day, there might not be a need for the Trenta cup.

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## Where were they then: Ms. Wade

By Chaisson Dangerfield

*This month Chaisson Dangerfield sat down with SOA's beloved computer teacher, Ms. Deborah Wade to find out a little more about this wonderful woman.*

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

**Ms. Deborah Wade:** I ALWAYS wanted to be a teacher!!! I had a doll when I was a little girl called "Suzy Smart." She sat in a little school desk, had a chalkboard, and could read!! I played teacher with that doll until I was ... well, never mind.

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

**DW:** I can't say that I have any one hero or role model, but the influence of my parents, sisters and immediate family molded me into the person I am today. I acquired my basic value system and work ethic from them. My parents loved me unconditionally, and that provided a safe and stable environment for me as a child. I also had many teachers that fostered my desire to teach; one was Matilda Dunston who later went on to become an area superin-

endent in CCSD. She was the quintessential teacher – wise and caring – and she made quite an impression on me in seventh grade.

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

**DW:** I graduated from North Charleston High School in 1971. Mr. Roy Davis was the assistant principal while I was there. It's funny because he seemed so much older when I was a teenager and he was a principal. But when he started working at SOA, somehow we had become the same age!!!

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

**DW:** My first job, when I was about 16 years old, was working at the tomato sheds on Johns Island!!! Several of my friends and I thought it would be

fun. We worked from sun up until sundown staring at tomatoes going by on a conveyor belt. It was my job to grab the rotten ones as they rolled by. I guess you could say I was a

"tomato inspector." It was many years before I could eat tomatoes again, but I did learn some valuable life lessons from that job.

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

**DW:** I graduated from College of Charleston with a major in Business Administration. I had a great job opportunity in Civil Service, so a business degree seemed to be the right decision at the time. But, I knew in my heart that I really wanted to teach.

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

**DW:** That is a long story that many people have heard me tell, but this is the short version: I quit my civil service job when I had children to stay at home for a while. When my youngest child started school, the principal said, "Since you are here all of the time anyway (I did a lot of volunteering), you



Ms. Wade, Class of '71

might as well get paid." So, I started working at my children's elementary school part time. When Rose Maree Myers was in the planning stages of the newly created School of the Arts she offered me a job as one of her secretaries.

That was one of the best decisions I ever made. (The long version involves Mrs. Myers interviewing me and subsequently hiring me from her Cadillac in the parking lot of the old campus!) It was also Mrs. Myers who gave me the opportunity to finally pursue my dream of teaching. I was first year teacher at 50 YEARS OLD!!!

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

**DW:** My husband and I moved to Alexandria, Virginia, right after we were married because he had a job with the FBI in Washington DC. It was my first time away from home, and I was miserable. It was too cold; there was too much traffic and THEY DIDN'T SERVE SWEET TEA in restaurants!!! After nine months of being homesick and crying every day, my husband decided it was cheaper to bring me back home than to continue buying Kleenex by the

## Where are they now: Wes Snell

By Savannah Miller

*Wes Snell, a creative writing major, graduated from SOA in 2010. Savannah Miller caught up with the former Applause writer to find out how his life is after SOA.*

**Savannah Miller:** How are you furthering your education after SOA?

**Wes Snell:** By attending Reed College in Portland, OR, where I've spent the past few months among brilliant and intense conversation enthusiasts. In a related story, ego death.

**SM:** What led you to decide to go to the Pacific Coast for college?

**WS:** There were many factors involved: visiting my brother during his five-year jaunt in San Diego, roadtripping up and down the west coast and seeing the incredible variety of culture and topography, the mountains, the coffee, Powell's Book Store, those two sweet Reedies I met in Guatemala a couple of summers ago, a change of pace, a switch of scenery, Horace Greeley, an exciting adventure full of romance and exciting characters and the token sassy gay friend, Blue Like Jazz, etc. Really, once you add it all together, I didn't have much choice.

**SM:** In what ways has your art major continued to play a role in your life?

**WS:** Honestly, I've hardly written anything since publishing my thesis. I'm taking a poetry class this semester, which I'm very excited about,

as it will be my first. Sort of nervous, too. But if my major has had any sort of impact on me, it's in the way I experience the day-to-day minutiae of my life. I think practicing an art lends something like a "poetic" or "artistic" or "musical" depth to our perception. Not that that makes anything more clear, or more understandable - in fact in might just be

one more speck of dust in the looking-glass – but it definitely makes things more beautiful. Having to frantically churn out 10 or 15 pages of poetry at a time last year made me take an extra-hard, even desperate look at that urine



Wes backpacking in Europe

stain in the bathroom, in hopes of seeing something beautiful and poetic there. Often not. Sometimes, though, yes, and those are the moments that make my years at SOA worth it.

**SM:** In what other ways has your SOA education benefitted you?

**WS:** Even though some teachers might bemoan otherwise, there are some classes at SOA

– I won't specify which – that keep giving an giving no matter how deeply you dig, and the credit for that goes to some really spectacular inspiring teachers who I miss greatly. As cliché as it may sound, these classes have taught me that learning is not just a cross-section of logic, reason, and unspeakable boredom, but fun. Thank y'all for that.

**SM:** Do you have any particularly strong favorable memories from SOA?

**WS:** Plenty, but nothing Cusatis won't edit out. (Note: He'll probably edit this out.)

**SM:** What are some of your goals for the near future?

**WS:** I think I need to listen to that voice in my head (on the street) that keeps saying "Get a job, hippie." Other than that, do work here at Reed. As a college student, those are my only two responsibilities. The rest is fun and games. And as a college student, my goal is to exploit the most amount of freedom and at least amount of responsibility that I'll ever have in my life as much as possible. Insuper-ape-like sound-off here.

## Seventh graders try their hand at law

By Grace Collins

Continuing tradition, **Mr. Perkins** led one of the infamous Trials of Jeremiah Birch with his 4A class on January 7, 2010. The tension between Prosecution vs. Defense began to rise as **Zois Manaris** played the role of Jeremiah Birch facing the charges of Ivan Wolff, played by **Parker Gustafson**. Scarlett Hood was played by **Ann Fulmore**, **Shelby Levine** played the grandmother, **Ada Mae Moses**, **Carly Christy** played Foxy Howling, **Collin Lloyd** played Porkson, **Elliot Lyles** as Mr. Martin, **Hunter Price** as the Sheriff, and playing the lead role of the Judge was Mr. Perkins. These energetic seventh grade students portrayed their characters by dressing up in professional business attire.

For those of you who are not familiar with this trial, it resembles the story of the Red Riding Hood bringing goodies to her grandmother, **Ada Mae Moses**. However,

her grandmother is not your average senior citizen; she is active in the community and especially in the local theatre. She is holding auditions and **Ivan M. Wolfe** was determined to get the lead role. Unfortunately, Wolfe was unable to attend the scheduled auditions and was invited by Ms. Moses to audition for the part at her own home. While at her house, Wolfe was found by **Scarlett Hood** trying on Ms. Moses' clothes. Although she was unaware that this was not her grandmother, Scarlett's curiosity led her to suspect that something was not right. After realizing he was an imposter, she screamed. In hearing the cry for help, **Jeremiah Birch** walked in the room, ax in hand (claimed to be used for defense), as Wolfe's hand covered her mouth.

In this specific trial, Birch was charged with aggravated battery for injuring Wolfe in the defense of **Scarlett R. Hood**. The defense won its fair game against the prosecution.



A mock lawyer defends her position

## SOA welcomes audition week

By Allie Augustine

As everyone has noticed by now, auditions were run a little bit differently this year at SOA. The audition week was chosen so that all people trying out for the school to come within a one week period. This lessens class interruption from tours and wandering families. Since the auditions were crammed into one week, the major teachers had a full schedule and were unable to take breaks to teach all of their regular classes. This allowed opportunities for students to branch out of their majors and attend classes that were taught by teachers from other schools

and local artists. The classes included everything from specialized voice lessons to African drum and dance to wire sculpture making, and a poetry workshop with South Carolina

Poet Laureate, **Margory Wentworth**. All of the responses from students on these classes have been extremely positive. **Sabrina McIntyre** really enjoyed "the special voice session with the vocal director from CSV" and **Brent Hubbard** stated: "I enjoyed trying different forms of art such as wire sculpture."

Audition week this year seems to have been a huge hit with teachers and students all over SOA.



"Poetry Alive!" actors perform during audition week



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## Sass Attack: Backstage, Hammersmith Odeon, 1966

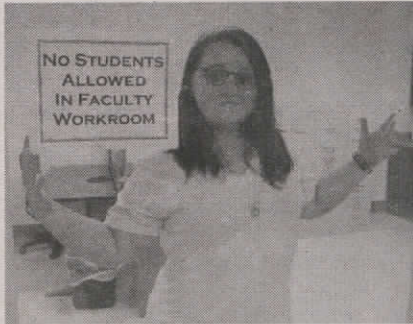
### By Bailey Gaskin

Embarking into the beginning of a brand new year, the population looks back on the laster year and reminisces in review of the past occurrences in the times of yore that happened previously at some point in the year. No, but real talk, the personal "Year in Review," as I like to call it, is truly essential (even if subconsciously)

to getting out of the funk of 2000 and late and moving into the future. However, "Year in Review" does not mean remembering who you dated for five minutes or that one episode of the "Jersey Shore" where Mike the Situation was

trying to pull the robbery on Vinny's...I digress. Instead, this is an activity in which you analyze the year and learn from it, go through pictures and rehash forgotten moments, an activity in which you remember the fallen heroes of the year.

Did you make a New Year's resolution? How about this, how about we live every day to better ourselves? Not just the month of January until we forget or give up. Deep, I know, but I'm right, eh? I am



serious when I say that by November, New Year's resolutions are just, as the valley girls would say, "like so last year." I recently saw an advertisement on the television for that acne...stuff... Proactiv. The commercial told the impressionable consumer to "make it your resolution to get clear skin." Honestly,

Proactiv? Did they get an increase in acne...stuff... sales due to people who just suddenly had this urge to get clear skin due to the start of a new year? I don't know. I am not a sales rep for Proactiv solution. (I apologize for not being able to supply that NEED TO KNOW

statistic.) Where was I going with this? I don't even remember.

Anywhozzle, the moral of this story article-y thing is happity dappity new year. Review last year and then let it go. Don't pressure yourself too hard to live up to this totally ridiculous New Year's goal. Let's get out our old pictures, order our Proactiv and get a move on this thing! P.S: there is gonna be a LOAD of 11:11 coincidences this year, so make a LOAD of wishes!

## How to Survive: The Apocalypse

### By Catherine Santos

It's 2011! Although now you may be thinking of what to do with your year, you are ignoring one VERY important fact...WE ARE A YEAR CLOSER TO THE APOCALYPSE!!!!!! That is slightly worse than Y2K. You know, in 2000 where all the people thought the computers would stop working and that aliens were among us and all that jazz? I assure you the only alien among us is Tom Cruise.

The Apocalypse is viewed differently by many different people. Some believe that the elder god Cthulhu will appear and wreak havoc on us all. Others believe that the sun will burn out and we will freeze. There are theories about four horsemen and a battle at Armageddon. Apparently, on December 21, 2012, a planet known as "Nibiru" is also expected to collide with earth. A "scientist" has also claimed that Sagittarius A (a black hole 30,000 light-years away from Earth) would cause the "galactic alignment" to mess up and doom us all.

I have come up with the most accurate sequence of events. This is all going to happen at once. The elder god Cthulhu

will rise from the sea, and Tom Cruise will be revealed to be from the planet Nibiru. Then the horsemen will run around wrecking havoc and Nibiru will collide with earth. Judging from Tom Cruise's size, the circumference of Nibiru is 20 feet. When it collides with earth, minimal damage will come of it.

All of the computers will go out due to the magnetic field of earth being ruined, causing a legion of basement dwellers to panic. Their panic will then cause mass hysteria and nerd rage, resulting in what cultists believe to be a zombie apocalypse. Then we will simultaneously burn and freeze to death while the sun collides with earth simultaneously burning out, while being sucked into a black hole.

The best way to survive the Apocalypse is the same way I survive most of my classes. I take Dr. Cusatis' advice and stay in my hovel. I eat plenty of Doritos and play solitaire when no one is looking. Go find a hobbit hole and eat the hobbit. You're alive. You have a nice dwelling, food and entertainment. Problem solved!



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## My kind of new year's resolution

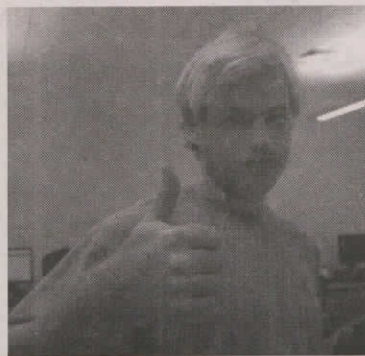
### By Gordon Hay

It's now 2011 and that means it's time to set unrealistic expectations for ourselves that we will give up by next week.

For example, one of my goals this year is to pass high school; I gave up on that on January 2. I am not going to write this column about my resolutions, mainly because I screwed them all up already. Instead, I am going to tell all of you what your new year's resolutions should be.

New Year's Resolutions are often simple things like making all A's or losing 20 lbs. It is resolutions like these that we need to avoid. In the end, people cannot live up to these high expectations and people become more disappointed in the long run. That is why we should make our New Year's resolutions more realistic. For example, last year instead of setting a resolution to make

all A's, I decided my resolution would be to not fail all of my classes. I achieved this resolution, because I passed 4th period (lunch). Then, instead of losing 20 pounds and keeping it off, you can set a goal to lose 1 pound at some point during the year. You can achieve this goal by simply weighing yourself with a jacket on, then weighing yourself with the jacket off.



By making your New Year's resolutions nice and simple, you can meet your own lower expectations every year. I feel that we should stride for mediocrity in every aspect of our lives, and then we can never fail. That is the American way and that is why my columns are extremely average and quickly written.



## Black Swan: Mind freak of the year

### By Bailey Gaskin and Chaisson Dangerfield

At least one thing can be said for Darren Aronofsky's wild thriller *Black Swan*, it will not be what you expect. One should prepare themselves for an unexpected and, frankly, shocking and intense view into the career and mind of an overworked and overly dedicated ballerina. Instead of the predictable fairy tale of the ballet, this movie is a dark and haunting insight into the ultimately destructive world of the competitive nature of dance. Starring the phenomenally graceful Natalie Portman and "That 70's Show's" Mila Kunis, *Black Swan* is sure to please, but is also sure to not only freak you out but also leave you speechless.

In *Black Swan*, Darren Aronofsky takes the audience on a psychological journey with the young and fanatical ballerina Nina Sayers. After dedicating years of performance to a prominent ballet company in New York, Nina finally receives the chance to star as the Swan Queen in the new, edgy version of Swan Lake. Although she has the ability to capture the precise and naive White

Swan, the director fears she does not have the edge it takes to embody the darker and more seductive Black Swan. However, when a new dancer in the company, Lily, enters with the passion and attitude of the Black Swan, Nina begins to feel that her role as Swan Queen is being threatened. The movie then takes a turn for the worse as her body and mind begin cracking under the pressure accompanied with the never-ending stress of her role as the Swan Queen.

*Black Swan* is, hands-down, the most suspenseful and fantastic mind-freak since *Inception*. It is riddled with amazing performances, impressive direction, and impeccable dance sequences. This film has the amazing ability to take you on the journey into madness WITH the actors instead of simply showing it to you. Everyone is talking about the film; therefore, everyone must see *Black Swan*, even if they are not a big ballet fan. Although it has some sequences that are extremely racy and, at times, hard to watch, *Black Swan* is a beautiful and devastating film that will surely take the Oscars by storm this year.



## Florence + the Machine: *Lungs*

### By Bailey Gaskin

Although the debut album from Florence + the Machine was released in mid 2009, *Lungs* didn't really catch fire until the smash hit "Dogs Days Are Over" was released. Now, the indie pop band can't stay out of the limelight. Performing on MTV's Video Music Awards for 2010 and launching the album to number fourteen on the Billboard 200, Florence + the Machine has made quite a name for itself in today's music scene.

Featuring fourteen songs led by London native Florence Welch, *Lungs* is a mixture of rock, soul, and an unbelievably powerful set of vocals. Imagine, if you will, Woodstock and all the little hippies dancing on the green. Florence + the Machine makes music reminiscent of that era: flowy, rhythmic, enchanting songs. Using the cacophony of harp, synth, and drums, Florence + the Machine's songs tend to be, at times,

too much to handle. It's not an album one can speed through. Honestly, you have to LISTEN closely to fully appreciate what the band is trying to portray. Florence + the Machine has a flair for the dramatic that is constant throughout the album from its lyrics to its heavy drum beats. However intense it may seem, *Lungs* is a fun filled album from its smash hit "Dog Days are Over" to more powerful songs like "Drumming Song." Although they make some seriously odd music videos, Florence + the Machine are anything but odd. Michael Cragg said it perfectly when he said that *Lungs* is "a bold, inventive record that bristles with energy and passion." It's a definite check out this year (although we're two year behind its original release).

DOWNLOAD IT NOW!: "Drumming Song" and "Cosmic Love."



## Five Loaves Café: A plethora of variety

### By Hailey Bowers

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

Location: 43 Cannon St. Downtown; 1005 Johnnie Dodds Blvd, Mt. Pleasant  
Type: Soup, salads, sandwiches, and pasta.  
Grade: A

Zen Consensus: ∞

Five Loaves is a colorful café located in Crickentree Village in Mt. Pleasant. When my mother and I first walked in for lunch we were told to take a seat wherever we liked. It is a small restaurant, and the seating is limited, but if main area is full there is a year-round screened in patio that is just as comfortable as the interior. We chose a table in the back corner so that we had a full view of the restaurant and could easily see the special and dessert boards. There was very interesting group of people scattered about; two teenage girls gossiping, a husband and wife enjoying their meal, the mother of a young child with another on the way, and three young professionals in the middle of a lunch meeting.

The menu offers something for everyone in this broad group consisting of soups, salads, and sandwiches. Both salads and sandwiches come in half and whole, and their soups are made fresh daily. Salads come

with the choice of six different dressings and sandwiches can be made on five different types of bread. With all the choices and options it was difficult for me to choose. Spicy Garden Burger on sourdough? Tomato and Mozzarella salad with wild mushroom and soy dressing? Vegan vegetable soup? After changing my mind several times I decided on the Spinach salad with balsamic and roasted garlic dressing. My mother went with a half Cobb salad with roasted red pepper and oregano dressing.

One aspect of the restaurant that caught my attention was the kitchen. It is a semi open kitchen, which means you can see part of what is going on, while avoiding contamination. Also, the staff works quickly; as the restaurant filled up our meals came. To say that my mother loved her salad would be an understatement; all that was left was the avocado. I enjoyed mine as well. The large bed of spinach came with their homemade mozzarella, warm polenta croutons, caramelized pearl onions, and toasted almonds. The soft mozzarella and croutons countered the crunchy almonds. All the flavors blended well into one delicious salad.



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## Juniors receive class rings

By Savannah Miller

On the evening of December 20th, 104 SOA juniors, their families, and several teachers congregated in the Rose Maree Myers Theater lobby to laugh over past memories, gaze at the ice sculpture, and take pride in the new auditorium. The Junior Ring Ceremony, a long-standing school tradition was put together by the hardworking Junior Council and advisors, **Ms. Passarello** and **Ms. Crawford**.

At 6:30, families found seats in the auditorium and soon the juniors filed in together and took the first few rows. Vocal Majors **Samantha Hord**, **Jasmine Lynes**, **Alex James**, and **Lizz McMichael** sang SOA's Alma Mater, and afterwards the speeches began. As each student approached the podium, a recent and baby photograph projected on a large screen. After all of the students had walked on stage, the officers of the Junior Council, President **Zachary Sharpe**, Vice President **Anna Mathias**, and

Secretary **Phoebe Crouse** led the students in the turning of their rings twelve times for their class of 2012. Zachary Sharpe remembered, "The turning of the rings was my favorite part of the ceremony because we did it together as a class. That's something really special and I couldn't imagine it any other way."

There is much tradition behind class rings and SOA's Junior Ring Ceremony. At the beginning of the ceremony **Mr. Reinhart** recounted how class rings originated at military academies, and gave

a history of SOA's custom. As junior **Allie Larkin** explains, "SOA's unique atmosphere fosters close relationships between teachers and students and the Ring ceremony embodies this sense of a close knit community." The bond between students and teachers is illustrated not only in each teacher's words of praise, but in the honor a student renders a teacher chosen to present their ring.



Claire Bailey receives her class ring from Mr. Orvin

One well-known regular at the ceremony is **Mr. Orvin**, a Global Studies teacher, who gave rings to eleven students this year. He

noted that every speech he gives is spontaneous and from the heart. "Each person is an individual," Mr. Orvin explained, "and the stories come to me very easily on stage." When asked about his popularity at the ceremony, he commented, "when students, now on the cusp of being seniors, reach back and remember me from their freshman year, it means a great deal to me."

Lastly, this year's ceremony was very different and special from others in the past because, as Mr. Orvin warmly stated, "we finally have a home." The ceremony, for the first time, was held on campus in our very own auditorium.

Now as the juniors have walked down the stage once, we ask if this is an ending or another beginning. While School of the Arts may be coming to a close for the juniors, they have a successful life ahead of them, filled with just as many memories, and, of course, another animated year before graduation.

## Peer Gynt: A Theater Practicum

By Chaisson Dangerfield and Bailey Gaskin

School of the Arts Sophomore and Junior Theatre Majors nine week's practicum, *Peer Gynt*, was a great success as it showed on Tuesday, January 12th and on Tuesday, January 19th. *Peer Gynt* is a dramatic fantasy written in verse by a Norwegian folk hero, Henrik Ibsen. Ibsen's works concentrates on individuals in realistic psychological conflicts; this particular play conveys just that. Throughout the piece, important existential phrases and philosophical questions seem to reappear. Some of these include: "To thine own self be true," and "To be one's self is to deny one's self." Although this piece of work may be a tad confusing at times, overall, the audience gets acquainted with *Peer Gynt* and his travels from childhood to death.

The students spent nine weeks studying and rehearsing this three act play. Directed by **George Younts**, *Peer Gynt*

was casted so that each actor got an equal amount of stage time. Students were forced to portray an abundance of characters due to the demanding roles the script calls for. The play was able to grab the attention of the younger, middle-aged, and older crowd due to accurate representations of each age



Actors performing in Peer Gynt

group throughout the piece. **Carl Barnwell**, the lighting designer for the show, used a collection of lighting instruments from Production Design Associates as well as smoke effects adding to the ominous feel of the play. All of these effects were able to be done in the School of the Arts Rose Maree Myers Theater including the

audience sitting on stage, forming a long walkway as the "stage" for *Peer Gynt*. The whole experience was one that could only be shown at this school, thanks to the administration, George Younts, Carl Barnwell, and of course the 2011 Sophomore and Junior Theatre Majors.

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

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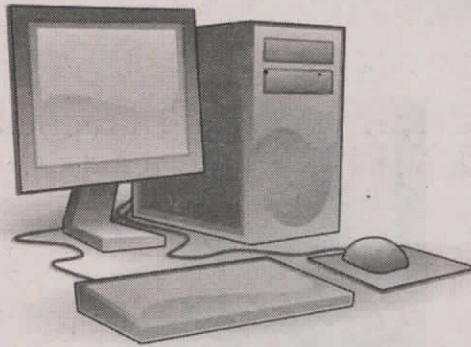
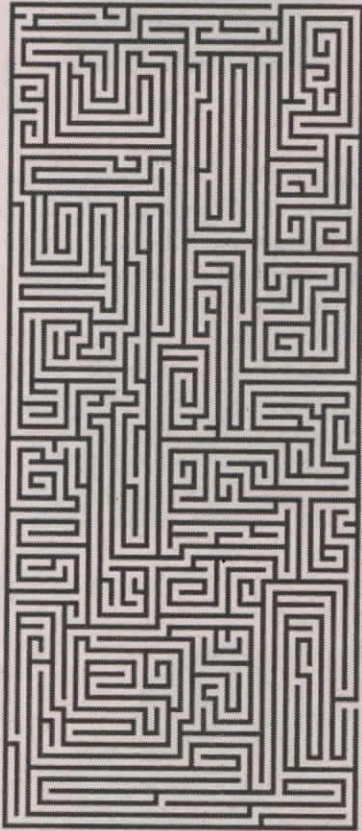
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## Horoscopes!

**Capricorn: Jan. 20 – Feb. 16:** Don't be afraid of grabbing the reigns! Even if you are enjoying the way those in control are dealing with things, it's time for you to take charge.

**Aquarius: Feb. 16 – March 11:** You feel tied down and you are getting antsy trying to find a way out. Wait a few days and then reassess your position before making a mad dash.

**Pisces: March 11- April 18:** Don't try to control your fantasies. It's perfectly normal to dream big, however once you have had time to think things through decide which dreams are sensible to follow.

**Aries: April 18- May 13:** A positive change in your life is coming fast. Open your eyes, mind and heart and don't be afraid of your own greatness.

**Taurus: May 13- June 21:** Now is a good time to challenge yourself. Go beyond your usual comfort zones and try your best, even if you find the job drab.

**Gemini: June 21- July 20:** Don't over plan. Anything can (and probably will) change at a moments notice to disrupt your perfect picture. Try to focus on the positive and use your flexible qualities to reach your goals.

**Cancer: July 20- Aug. 10:** Your creativity is at an impressive height right now. Make sure to channel this energy in a positive way; if you don't, you may end up overwhelmed.

**Leo: Aug. 10- Sept. 16:** Don't let your pride get in the way of your success! Someone is eager to help you, but you are not the type to open up and let others help you. Be wary of those around you and be careful not to appear too self-sufficient.

**Virgo: Sept. 16- Oct. 30:** Stop being a perfectionist! No one and nothing is perfect, forget about fine-tuning. Today, relax and take the time to evaluate your current situation.

**Libra: Oct. 30- Nov. 23:** Instead of focusing on excitement, complete an unfinished task. But don't worry about missing out on the party, something later this week will top any plans you may cancel.

**Scorpio: Nov. 23- Nov. 29:** Try to let go of the negativity that is circling around you. If you make a solid attempt you will start to see a way out of everything that is holding you back.

**Ophiuchus: Nov. 29- Dec. 17:** Use your peace-making skills to settle a brawl. Even if you don't want to get involved, both parties will thank you later.

**Sagittarius: Dec. 17- Jan. 20:** This might upset the fiery archer, but do not judge a book by its cover. Everything that sparkles is not gold and if you take the time to look farther it might save you from a heart break.



"To be nicer to people." Gabe French, 8th Band



"Stay in shape." Maclain Borsich, 12th Visual Arts



"My New Year's resolution is to practice my French horn everyday, and kick butt at All-State." Grahmn Schertz, 10th Band



"To have fun." Taylor Smith, 9th Band



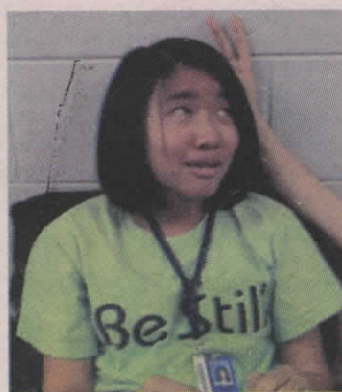
"To be healthier." Giovanni Mieli, 6th Visual Arts

# What's your New Year's resolution?

Compiled by Allie Augustine and Grace Collins



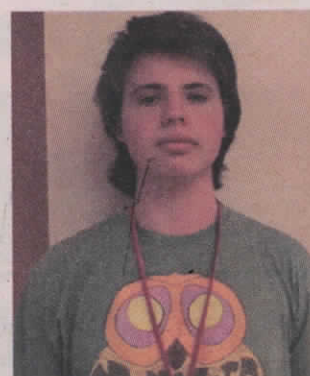
"My New Year's resolution is to improve my artistic abilities." Morgan Nuss, 11th Visual Arts



"To do a prank." Heather Lee, 7th Piano



"My New Year's resolution is to not slack off in school. I tend to do a lot of that." Samantha Molony, 10th Dance



"To show the haters what's up." Will Dodge, 10th Creative Writing



"Try to control myself a little bit better." Ian Jones, 11th Band



"To get my permit." Katie Augustine, 9th Vocal



"To support women's rights more." Devante Lee, 12th Theatre



"My New Year's resolution is to sketch more." Sage Beiring, 10th Visual Arts



"To spend more time with my best friend Lauren Twitty." Maddy Parnell, 8th Vocal