

APPLAUSE

Volume 12 Issue 6 School of the Arts 5109 W. Enterprise St., North Charleston, SC March 3, 2011



School Calendar

March

Thur. 3rd - Sat. 5th - All State Jazz Band, Newberry College
 Wed. 9th - Sat. 12th - HS Vocal ACDA National Conference, Chicago
 Fri. 11th - Sun. 13th - All State Band, Furman University
 Thur. 17th - Sat. 19th - All State Choral, Winthrop University
 Mon. 21st - Teacher workday, no students
 Tues. 22nd - Report Cards

April

Thur. 7th - 6th Grade Creative Writing Reading, Media Center, 4 P.M.
 Fri. 8th - Prom, Sand Dunes Club, Sullivan's Island, 8 P.M.

Editor's Note



I welcome spring and all that accompanies it: the perfect running-the-bridge weather, summer job applications, homemade floral crowns, and the beginning symptoms of my own senioritis. And although this brand-new sunshine may be clouding our thoughts with visions of surfboards and King Cones, there is still so much to appreciate about our school during these next few months. In March specifically, I am proud to congratulate my fellow Creative Writers on winning gold keys and the senior theater majors for

finishing up their group senior theses. In addition, our March issue also covers your everyday Facebook etiquette, a new page dedicated to Media news, the National Honor Society blood drive, and much more.

Thank you to our patrons, advertisers, and readers for your continued support and encouragement. Also, do you have any questions, comments, or you're just plain bored? Email the *Applause* at savannah@soa-applause.com. We always love to hear from you!

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Mr. Clarke	Heather Stegelin
Chaney Long	Steve Stegelin
Claudia Monroe	Mark Wesling

Bronze

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Ms. Bunch	Ms. Miles
Janice Cafaro	Ms. Olson
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Samantha Hord	Nancy Santos
Mr. Johnsen	Ms. Wade
Elizabeth Kitchens	Dylan Walsh

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Cover art by
Gabrielle Wolfe

Jefferson Service Club gives two awards for the month of February

By Shaless Robinson

The Jefferson Service Club gives monthly awards to students who go above and beyond in community service. This month's winners are freshman **Rachel Hunsinger** and theatre teacher **Mr. George Younts**, who is the first to receive this award at SOA. Congratulations to both winners!

Rachel Hunsinger

Rachel enjoys religious-based volunteer opportunities and completes most of her community service work through the Jewish Community Center. She has participated in Kids Fair since fifth grade. She is also a member of the Remember Committee which helps spread knowledge of the Holocaust through school presentations and the annual Yom Hashanah event.

However, not all of the service events that Rachel has participated in have been religious-based. She has also volunteered cleaning cages at the SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals). She has also volunteered at the



Lowcountry Food Bank, where she organizes food packages. Her goal is to "get all types of people together, working to help fix or improve the world we all live in."

Every Wednesday, Rachel participates in Charleston Stage's Wings program. While working with CSWP Rachel gains educational training about the theater, such as how to create sets, and how to do lighting. She chose this as her "main source of volunteer work" because she is "helping (to) spread the arts, which is the best service you can give to any-one person."

Mr. George Younts

Mr. Younts has been involved in community service all of his life. His religious upbringing has a lot to do with his profound consideration for others. Both of his parents were Methodist Ministers and inspired him to reach out to the less fortunate. Mr. Younts uses his love for theater when he volunteers, directing and performing in the Charleston theater scene. He does a tour of solo poetry called *A Box of Rhymes*, participates in mentoring theater students, and directs and advises SOA's Improv group, the Fighting Gnomes.

During *A Box of Rhymes*, Mr. Younts sacrifices 30 minutes of his planning period to perform for CCSD elementary students. He dedicates his time to directing the Fighting Gnomes practice for shows during and after school, and sometimes



on the weekends. Throughout the Christmas holiday, Mr. Younts organizes a one hour, one man version of *A Christmas Carol* which tours to various places such as prisons, theaters, hospitals, gyms, schools, churches, and retirement homes. Last December, Mr. Younts also worked with the hearing impaired students to produce his version of *A Christmas Carol*.

Mr. Younts, in the words of George Bernard Shaw, feels that volunteering is "the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one; the being thoroughly worn out before you are thrown on the scrap heap; the being a force of Nature instead of a feverish selfish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy."

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Editorial: Veganism is no longer for hippies

Vegetarianism and veganism are both on the rise, with more and more people switching to meatless and dairy free diets. The latest group to join the movement is men in their 40s and 50s. Nicknamed "vegans," these men are embracing what would typically be considered a fufu diet with food for tree-hugging hippies. They are realizing, like many others, the benefits of cutting out meat.

With movies like *Food Inc.* and *Super Size Me* exposing the health concerns associated with the American food industry, it is not difficult to understand why so many people are choosing this lifestyle. When the main ingredients of a hamburger are byproducts of flour, water, corn, and soybeans, why not take these same ingredients and make them into something that is healthy? It is smarter in both the short term and the long term.

Lately, people have strived to be healthier and have begun persuading others to follow their actions, even in the midst of a recession. Although prices have been high, in 2006 the organics market rose by 21% and has continued to grow. Many Americans are willing to spend extra money to know where their food is coming from and to make sure it is chemical-free. Additionally, its very common nowadays to spot bumper stickers or bags that read "Buy local, be local," a phrase that urges citizens in their community to take responsibility and know their food as well as help their neighbors.

Whether by cutting out meat, buying organic, or both, Americans have begun a general shift towards getting healthier. A diet rich in real food, fruits, vegetables, and meat from your community's farmers, has no consequences, but several benefits. We do not want to be the land of the obese; the land of the free has a much better ring to it.

Applause

the official student publication of

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Founded in 1995 by Rose Maree Myers

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Quotes of the month

"We must forever realize that the time is always ripe to do right."
- Nelson Mandela

"A good man would prefer to be defeated than to defeat injustice by evil means." - Sallust

"Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goals." - Henry Ford

"It is better to know some of the questions than all of the answers."
- James Thurber

"No one can make you feel inferior without your consent." - Eleanor Roosevelt

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Senior band major helps WAHS to playoffs

By Gordon Hay

Hilary Ferguson is one of many SOA kids who has played league sports for their home school this winter season. Hilary is a senior band major, who plays for the West Ashley High School's Girls Varsity Basketball team. Hilary and the Lady Wildcats are contenders for a AAAA state title.

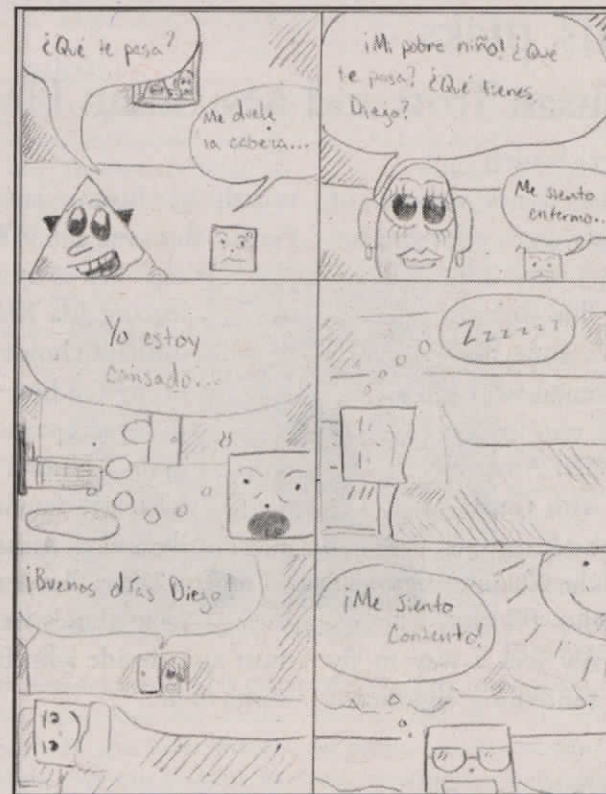
Hilary started playing basketball when she was seven years old, with the help of her father. She started on the West Ashley Girls Varsity Basketball team her freshmen year. This is her last year on the team and, she hopes to win the regional championship as the



Hilary going for a goal.

team accomplished the year before. Hilary commented that her greatest achievement this year was when she got the chance to be a starter. In addition, Hilary is planning on playing soccer next year in college.

Recently, West Ashley Wildcats beat Wando 63 - 38 in the third round of the division AAAA playoffs. Hilary was very pleased with the win commenting, "I had my best game of the whole season." She scored 12 points and grabbed 16 rebounds. With only two more games before the possibility of winning the State title, we wish Hilary and the rest of the Wildcats the best of luck.



Creative Cartooning

All of Mrs. Gorritti's Spanish two and three students participated in a cartooning project run by her substitute, Ms. Doddington. The students have been learning about feelings and states of being. Students' cartoons tell a story about how a character feels using reflexive pronouns. The students will end their story by resolving their characters' feelings. Armando Smoak's cartoon is shown above.



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Librarians' picks

By Ms. Susan Trott and Ms. Susan Henley

Flygirl, Sherri Smith

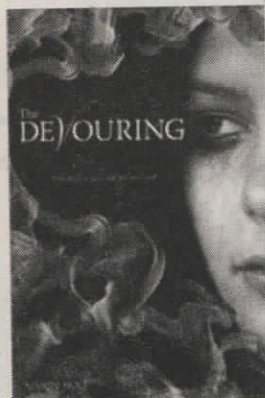
Ida Mae Jones dreams of to help her brother stationed in the flight. Her daddy was a pilot and be- Pacific. But even the WASP won't accept her as a black woman, forcing Ida Mae to make a difficult choice of "passing," or pretending to be white to be accepted into the program. Hiding one's racial heritage, denying one's family and denying one's self is a heavy burden. While Ida Mae chases her dream, she must also decide who it is she really wants to be.



The Devouring,

Simon Holt

I don't usually read horror, but this is a creepy one! It's the story of Reggie, whose mother has mysteriously disappeared. But it's also the story of Jeremiah, who lived in another time, and whose soul was stolen on Sorry Night by the Vours. Could this happen to anyone that



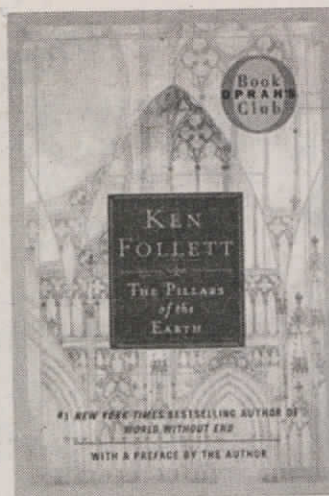
Reggie knows? Read it and creep out!

Memorable Quotes by Vours: "When dark creeps in and eats the light, bury your fears on Sorry Night. For in the winter's blackest hours comes the feasting of the Vours. No one can see it, the life they stole, your body's here but

not your soul..."

Pillars of the Earth, Ken Follett

This book is keeping me up at night! I want to finish it so I can get some sleep - but I also don't want it to end!! Awesome story about a woman some think is a witch; Tom, master builder of a cathedral; the prior of the cathedral; an evil Earl; and an even more evil bishop. It doesn't get any better than this - if you like historical fiction.



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Words from the Media Center

By Ms. Susan Trott



The labs, in the library, are open for student use during all lunch periods unless there is a class going on. Students can check out a lab computer at the checkout desk to work on class assignments. We ask that students be respectful of others by working quietly. You may print up to 10

copies, but after that, please pay €10 a copy. Using white backgrounds for Power Point Presentations also saves ink. Leave all food and drink on the sign in table. Remember to log off and return your number tag to the front desk. We are currently experiencing problems with viruses and computers that won't shut down. Please see a librarian for help.

Freshman wins Independent Reader Award

By Shaless Robinson

SOA's Literacy Committee has awarded Emily Fairchild the Independent Reader Award for this semester. The Committee is focused on promoting and encouraging students that are avid readers. Our school's Committee has had a small start, with the two core members: one of our librarians, Ms. Trott, and Mrs. Drennan, an English teacher.



The Independent Reader Award is given to the high school student that has read the largest amount of books, both over the summer and throughout the first quarter of the school year, combined. In order to be considered for the award students had to turn in a reading log.

Emily Fairchild is a freshman creative writing major at SOA and greatly enjoys reading. She spends her summer vacations, time on the bus, and nights reading books. Emily read a over 40 books and received a \$50 gift cer-

tificate from Barnes and Noble. A few of her favorite books were, *Daughter of the Forest* by Juliet Mariller, *Looking for Albrandi* by Melina Marchetta, and

A Ring of Endless Light by Madeline L'Engle. Some of these books are located in the Media Center. Emily feels that her love of reading has highly influenced her writing. Reading different genres not only has inspired her to try them on her own, but has enriched her vocabulary. Emily says that she feels "really excited to win the award, because I adore reading, and it was seriously awesome that the summer reading I did other than the required reading counted towards something, because that's basically all I did this summer."

The next Independent Reader Award will be given in May. The deadline to submit reading logs is April 30th, 2011. Forms are available via Ms. Drennan or at the Media Center check-out desk.

Newly acquired books:

The Tao of Pooh - Benjamin Hoff

The Gift - James Patterson & Ned Rust

And Then There Were None - Agatha Christie

Understanding Colum McCann - John Cusatis

King of the Screwups - K.L. Going

Shiver - Maggie Stiefvater

Muchacho - Louanne Johnson

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind - William Kamkwamba

Twilight Director's Notebook: the story of how we made the movie based on the novel by Stephenie Meyer - Catherine Hardwicke



Junior Council president dicusses up coming senior-junior prom

By Hailey Bowers

Hailey Bowers: Where is prom being held this year?

Zachary Sharpe: We're having prom this year somewhere we've never had it before. Its going to be at the Sand Dunes Club at 1735 Atlantic Ave, Sullivan's Island

HB: Why did Junior Council choose this location?

ZS: We chose this spot because of its location, its beauty, and because of its size. We feel as though it's going to be the perfect accommodation for a school our size, and it sits right on the beach, which plays well with our theme of "Under the Boardwalk".

Its going to offer a great atmosphere for everyone to let loose and have a good time.

HB: How did Junior Council come up with the theme?

ZS: We put a lot of thought into the theme because we wanted to base all aspects of the prom off the theme.

We really wanted to come up with a theme that would give us room to do something fun, and exciting, but still maintain a classy atmosphere. So in our search, we came up with the idea of having a boardwalk theme. I think it's going to look amazing.

HB: How will the Prom Court be chosen this year?

ZS: This year, in hopes to make things a little more fair, we've decided to do away with the money ballots. We didn't feel comfortable with giving the titles based on money. This year we're going to let the junior class nominate their choice of candidate for both prom prince and princess,

and the senior class will nominate their choices for king and queen. The nominations will take place in an upcoming homeroom. The three top scoring nominees for each crown will be put on a ballot, and junior and seniors will have a chance to



The Sand Dunes Club on Sullivan's Island.

vote just before the day of prom. Prom Court will be announced the night of prom, so it'll be a surprise. **HB:** When and where will students be able to pay to attend prom? How much will the prom be this year?

ZS: This year, we tried really hard to

keep admission price as reasonable as possible. Students will be able to purchase their vouchers during lunch beginning March 21st. Admission for prom will be \$30 from March 21st through March 25th, but will go up to \$35 on March 28th through April 1st. Tickets will also be available at the door the night of prom for \$40. There are a few new security policies we're going to implement this year. Whenever students come to buy their admission, they must show a picture I.D.

HB: What about dates?

ZS: As far as dates from other schools go, students are allowed to bring whomever they choose, so long as they're able to present a picture I.D. the night of prom. If there are any specific questions about a date, Mrs. Passarello and Mrs. Crawford can appraise individual situations.



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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.

Where are they now: Ryan Young

By Hailey Bowers

2003 graduate **Ryan Young** attended Clemson University where he was a sports management major as well as a key player on the school's tennis team. Now, he is busy touring the world and playing tennis, but found time to talk to Applause's **Hailey Bowers** about his time at SOA and his life now.

Hailey Bowers: How did SOA prepare you for your future?

Ryan Young: SOA helped prepare me for my future in lots of ways. The one way that I'm most grateful for is my senior thesis. As a theatre major, we had to each produce a one-person show where we did everything; the writing, acting, dressing, lighting, etc... This helped me in so many areas because it was a 30 minute show, and I had to face many difficult deadlines and had to be on stage acting for 30 minutes by myself. The process of my thesis was

year long, and looking back, I learned and gained so much confidence going through that difficult season. In the end, it is something I'm very proud of and appreciate greatly even to this day.

HB: Did you pursue your major in anyway after SOA?

RY: I did not pursue my major in anyway in college or since college, but I have been asked to speak in front of people several times and am so glad for the training that Mr. Wood and Mr. Locklair gave to me during my time with them.

HB: What are you doing at this time in your life?

RY: Right now, I'm in the middle of my career as a professional tennis player.

When I finished my career at Clemson University I began competing on the ATP professional tennis tour around the world.



This is my fourth year on tour, and hope to be playing in the grand slams soon (US Open, Wimbledon, French Open, and Australian Open).

HB: Has your major helped you in your everyday life?

RY: I actually began as a dance major and switched to theatre as a freshman in high school. Both majors helped tremendously for different reasons. Dance played a huge part in my athletic career because it helped me with movement and flexibility. Even to this day,

I'm flexible because of the work I put in as a dancer.

Theatre as well as dance and all the performing arts are incredible because they put you on stage in front of people and you have to really step out and go for it. I have found in life the only way to be successful is to lose yourself and go for it. Leave caution to the wind and chase your dreams.

HB: Do you have any advice for SOA current students?

RY: Get into the habit of giving your best in everything that you do. Most people don't give their best because they are afraid of failing, afraid of looking bad for not succeeding. There couldn't be a bigger loss told. Sometimes when you lose you actually win, and you always win when you have the guts to step outside of your insecurities and weaknesses and go for your dreams!!

HI students lend a hand at Old Navy

By Shaless Robinson

A few of SOA's hearing impaired students, including **Caneiceeah Harrison** (11th grade), **Shamar Smith** (9th grade), **Maya Perry-Skinner** (8th grade), and **Kanard Simmons** (6th grade) have been

working at Old Navy in Tanger Outlet on Thursday mornings. Students are taken to the location on a CCSD bus through the Occupational Credential Program, which aims to teach the students functional living and vocational skills. **Ms. Duffy**, one of the teachers for deaf students, said that working on job sites teaches students "job-related skills in a hands-on work setting. The students learn



Caneiceeah Harrison on the job

at Old Navy. how to report to a supervisor for job assignments and general work behavior expectations." She believes that this will help them to be well-rounded in their future. The students also go to the Lowcountry Food Bank to clean and sort

cans, and discard expired food items, and re-box donated items.

The students are allowed to work on school mornings because learning job skills is a part of their curriculum. Ms.

Duffy said that "store layout, how to purchase items, where stores are located, learning to order and pay for food at restaurants, how to ride the city bus, where certain city governments offices are located and various settings for developing vocabulary concepts" are the main points addressed. While reflecting on the benefits of the community-based instruction, she also said that "communication is a big obstacle for deaf people. These

opportunities not only allow for real world language development (sign language) in meaningful contexts, but give these students a variety of experiences they may not typically have access to."

SOA students donate blood to the Red Cross

By Savannah Miller

According to the Red Cross, every minute of every day someone needs blood, and on February 18th, SOA had the opportunity to do something about it. The National Honor Society sponsored a Red Cross Blood Drive in the middle school gym, and throughout the day, students and teachers volunteered to donate a pint. The Red Cross's goal was 56 pints and SOA was very close, with a total of 45 approved units from potential 71 donors. The blood is immediately taken to a lab in Columbia to be tested and is then sent throughout the state, the majority going to MUSC. Blood donors are crucial in South Carolina at the moment because our state is still considered an "import state." **Mr. Lindgren** explained, "South

Carolina only has 5% of its population donate blood (one of the lowest in the nation) and we have to import the majority of it to meet demand

of it to meet demand. Applause asked several students during the drive if they had a personal reason for donating blood. **Nicole Bronsler** answered, "My friend is in a coma and I want her to live." **Julia Woodward** stated "I want to give back to my community as much as I can." **Mr. Lindgren** replied that donating blood "saves people's lives that need blood transfusions."



Junior Emily Trent showing off her bandage after giving blood.

It is highly encouraged that next year anyone six and older should highly consider donating because one day it may be you or a loved one that will be receiving it.

Winter Formal 2011

By Cory Stegelin

Students from all high school grades got dolled up for SOA's Winter Formal dance on Saturday, January 29th. Traditionally, Winter Formal is hosted at the South Carolina aquarium, but this year it was held at a beautiful new venue, the Cooper River Room at Waterfront Park in Mt. Pleasant.

Mr. Donnellon and Mr. Reese were the teacher coordinators for this year's dance. When asked why they changed the location, Mr. Donnellon commented, "Many students said that while they liked the aquarium, they wanted something new." Also, "we can't have food in the aquarium, and we wanted food," he said.

We wanted food, and we certainly

proud of everything we had done and the reaction of everyone there made it so much better" she said. The delicious cupcakes as well as all of the other great food were definitely worth the change in location.

The food was not the only aspect students were involved in. The event was primarily organized by student council members. "We spent months looking at venues, DJs and food options," stated Zachary Sharpe, Student Council vice president. In addition to the months spent planning Winter Formal, some students arrived at the Cooper River Room over thirteen hours before the dance to set up tables and prepare all of the food. Madison and Serena even had a "Team Cupcake" com-

Eighth grade theatre majors perform *Love on the Rails*

By Bailey Gaskin

Love Rides the Rails... or Will the Mail Train Run Tonight?, a melodrama by Morland Cary, was performed as this year's annual 8th grade theatre play on February 10th and 11th. Directed by Mr. Younts, *Love Rides the Rails* featured two separate casts in order for every 8th grader to appear on stage. Showing both in the morning during their major period and in the afternoon, the 8th graders worked meticulously for 9 weeks to create and perfect the play, displaying their hard work that truly paid off with 4 wonderful performances.

Love Rides the Rails is a melodrama about an evil villain, Simon Darkway, with plans to take over the Walker Valley Pine Bark & Pacific Railroad with his two confidantes Carlotta Cortez and Dirk Sneath.



8th graders performing during *Love Rides the Rails... or Will the Mail Train Run Tonight?*

However, every story has to have heroes, and this play is no exception. Truman Pendennis, the beautiful Prudence Hopewell, the Widow Hopewell, and Harold Standfast all oppose the sinister schemes of Darkway. Pendennis is even tied to the tracks of an approaching train, but the lovely Prudence arrives just in time and saves the day.

This play displayed an impressive amount of talent from the 8th grade class, allowing them to show off their funny side through the melodrama style which features "slapstick activities, self effacing asides, one liners, larger than life comedic acting styles, musical numbers, singing a long and much audience interaction." Transforming the Black Box with an amazing set, George Younts and the 8th grade created a show that will surely go down in the theatre major history book.

Junior accepted into international arts festival

By Bailey Gaskin

Avery Perlitz, a junior grade dance major at SOA, was recently selected to participate in an international art festival specifically for creative Jewish teenagers. The festival includes multiple art specialty areas from culinary arts to rock/ pop bands. Held in multiple locations, the JCC Maccabi ArtsFest runs for a week this summer and consists of creative workshops in the selected area of study and community service ending with an exhibition and performance on the last day. The festival is designed to help these kids develop their artistic flair while also strengthening their bonds with each other and their Jewish heritage.

The students are exposed to all arts from acting, writing, dancing, singing, and drawing, to photography. Workshops

are taught by "artists-in-residence" who serve as mentors with personal experience in each art specialty. Available to Jewish teens entering grades 8-12, the JCC Maccabi ArtsFest is an unique opportunity for these artists to collaborate and develop their artistic abilities.

Each year, the festival features Jewish teens not only from North America, but also from Israel and other countries around the world. This year, Avery will be participating as a dancer in the program, traveling all the way to Jerusalem, Israel for the first time. Having been introduced to the program by her brother, Bradley, Avery hopes this

experience will allow her to "meet a lot of new people." She says that she knows "it's going to be a really good experience to dance with people from all over the world."



Teacher and students enjoying Winter Formal. (Left to right) Elizabeth Kitchens, Mrs. Passarello, Mrs. Bronk, Anna Mathias, Claire Bailey, and Nicole Butler.

not it. The majority of it was catered by junior Bailey Bowers, and her mother Laura Bowers, who created a taco bar, as well as tables full of chicken fingers, meatballs, fresh fruit, eggies, and miniature strawberry shortcakes. Additionally, Serena Townsend and Madison Smith baked cupcakes for the event. "Serena and I have a passion for baking and cupcakes are our specialty... It was definitely a challenge trying to bake as many cupcakes we did... Our prons were covered in batter and batter was rusted into our hair. We made all the icing and put it into bags to ice at the Cooper River Room and finally went to sleep at about 3 AM," Madison said.

But Madison thought the final product was worth all the hassles. "We were very

prised of student council members Jacob Hallex, Aaron Charpia, and Amanda Kasman dedicated solely to icing cupcakes, which was just the icing on the cake of an overall fantastic event.

Even though the teachers knew more of the words to the songs than the students, Winter Formal was successful. It provided a fun night for all students. "As a senior, it was nice to have one night to get dressed up and see all my friends," said Joyce Waggoner. Participants in the dance were not the only critics who praised the dance. "I thought it turned out awesome! I think everyone had a blast, and I think it's going to grow from year to year," Zachary said.

The Black Bean Co.: Organic goodness

By Hailey Bowers

I don't like wraps, but the idea of an organic restaurant with locally grown vegetables was too good to pass up. I stopped by The Black Bean Co.'s Spring Street location on my way home one evening and picked up some food to go. The Black Bean Co. gives many different ways to order, and receive your food. You may order online and have your food delivered or carried out, but for the traditional, the option of going to the restaurant and sitting down is still open.

The interior matches the food; earthy and calming. A bold parrot blue chair rail dominates the lower half of the wall, but the saffron yellow above relaxes the powerful color, reminiscent of a deep blue sea and warm golden sun. Vines with small leaves wind their way behind the paintings by local artist and shelves of artwork line the restaurant.

The Black Bean Co. serves breakfast, lunch, and light dinner seven days a week, so you can always get that good organic energy. Breakfast includes certified Rainforest Alliance coffee, in EcoProduct

cups I might add, and an assortment of vegan baked goods. Lunch and dinner share the same menu which includes "Springers & Energizers", "Pure Energy Wraps", "Good for the Soul Wraps", "Power Gyros", "Salads", and "Vegan Wraps". I ordered a Spring Street wrap with hummus, heirloom tomatoes, cucumbers, fresh homemade tzatziki, mixed greens, and sprouts. I may not like wraps, but I'm willing to try anything one more time, especially if it has tzatziki on it. I'm extremely happy I did give it a second chance; this wrap was delicious. My mother got a caprese salad and a bowl of gazpacho to have for lunch the next day. Unfortunately, I did not get to try either of these, but she loved both of them.

I would definitely recommend The Black Bean Company to anyone who cares about the food they are putting into their body. Vegan or meat lover you can find a healthy quick meal. The second location will be opening up this March on Folly Road. So, this summer as you are headed to the beach or walking around downtown stop in and get some food that you can feel good about.

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

By Bailey Gaskin

After a resounding "that sounds too complicated" from my mother and an overwhelming desire from the school to receive this book under the tree for Christmas, *The Hunger Games* became a must-read on my long list of Novels to Read Before I Kick the Bucket. Often dismissing it as kid book, I put it on the back burner until my inner child began screaming from the mystery surrounding this book. To my grand surprise and pleasure, this novel lived up to and exceeded the hype. *The Hunger Games* is an absolutely phenomenal and nail-biting story that (and I know it's cheesy, but in this case, it can't be more true) is humanly impossible to put down.

Following the story of Katniss Everdeen, *The Hunger Games* tells the story of a futuristic North America separated into twelve districts and dominated by an exceedingly powerful center city called the Capitol. Every year, a boy and a girl are drafted via lottery to compete

in an event (The Hunger Games) of vicious and gladiatorial proportions. Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, our lovely heroine, Katniss, becomes a participant in the games and is forced to fight for her life against 23 other contestants doing the exact same thing.

All I can say is, look out *Twilight*, 'cause there's a new trilogy in town; one that packs a lot of punch without the teeny bopper language. *The Hunger Games* grabs hold of you and then latches on for dear life. Suzanne Collins has created an unbelievably macabre story, but infused it with pain-stakingly relatable characters with distinct personalities and world views. The reader will absolutely fall in love with Katniss and then be forced to fear for her life for the entire rest

of the book. Think of it as an "edge of your seat" thriller and a definite book to check out AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. (Also, be sure to check out the rest of the trilogy: *Catching Fire* and *Mockingjay*!)



The Roommate: Save the money, wait for the rental

By Bailey Gaskin

With movie tickets at the steep price they've risen to, deciding what movie to go see is a much bigger decision than ever before. As for *The Roommate*, it's safe to say, save your precious and most valued nine dollars on something less typical. Although this movie raked in 15.6 MILLION dollars on its opening weekend, *The Roommate* was as cliché as it was creepy. Although the premise and the actors (Leighton Meester (whom I, Bailey, adore in *Gossip Girl*)) SEEM (emphasis on the "seem") like the basis for a good horror film, this movie falls flat and leaves much to be desired.

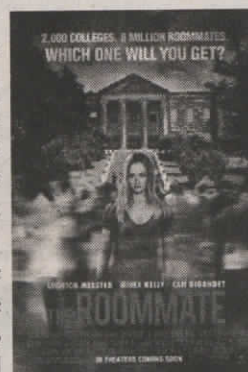
The Roommate tells the story of Sara Matthews, a college freshman at ULA, who comes to college to get away from her small town life and her deceitful ex.

Things turn for the worse when Sara meets her new roommate, Rebecca Evans, who starts as a friend, but slowly morphs into an obsessed, possessive stage FIVE clinger. Rebecca wears Sara's clothes, talks to Sara's ex-boyfriend on Sara's phone, and even goes as far as messing with her friends and pet kitten. As expected, things get out of control

and lead to a big fight scene where the evil girl ends up maliciously dy...nevermind.

Overall, this movie received horrible reviews and multiple bashings from normal people and critics alike. One critic even went as far as saying that the director, Christian E. Christiansen, "has no flair for suspense." The acting, although terrible at times, was what really helped this film (thank you walk-on who says "Um, am I going to get my mocha" in the most hilarious way). Minka Kelly, in her first MAJOR role, is beautiful, but not very impressive, and the wonderful Leighton Meester might be quite believable portraying a crazy girl, but just not enough to save this film. The plot, script, and execution were all extremely poor, and the best

part of the experience was when our friend stuffed his mouth full of gummy worms and made faces. Sad, yes. So sad. Receiving only 8 out of 100 from the website Rotten Tomatoes, *The Roommate* is clearly not our top choice of movies, but if you're adamant about seeing it...save the money, wait for the rental.



The Decemberists': The King is Dead

By Bailey Gaskin

Known for their bombastic use of literary language and storytelling lyrics, The Decemberists have taken a small step away from their traditions and composed *The King is Dead*. After an overpowering arrangement of story in their last previous album, *The Hazards of Love*, The Decemberists have simplified and condensed their sound to fit ten new songs in the short span of 40 minutes for *The King is Dead*.

Featuring no distinct story line, *The King is Dead* is a literally strips down all the fluff of narrative and simply sings the themes of nature, loss, and homage. Recorded in a converted barn in Oregon, *The King is Dead* is truly a backwoods production, from its album cover displaying pinewoods to the harmonica and folk infused tracks. Colin Meloy's incredibly distinct vocals, of course,

keep the album true to The Decemberists' styles, but it's the appearance of not only R.E.M.'s Peter Dinklage on guitar, but also the song writing that sets this album apart from the rest of The Decemberists' discography.

Although the fans have lost the storytelling, so classic to this band, they get back the simplicity that has recently been missing from the band's work with a few intense vocabulary words thrown in here and there. I must admit, it's still the slower, ballad type songs from these guys (and girl) that steal my heart. Overall, this album is a crisp, clean display of everything we love about the Decemberists with a rural, Americana feel. Looking for a new band to put on your iPod? I'd recommend this one. DOWNLOAD IT NOW!: "January Hymn" and "Don't Carry it All"



Facebook Etiquette Guide

By Catherine Santos

How many times a day do you log onto Facebook? How many hours do you spend on Facebook? Honestly I seldom log on, but when I do I am bombarded with waves of crap. Sometimes I nearly throw the computer out the window. Apparently Facebook has decreased the intelligence of the population significantly, as I see tons of stupid status updates and dumb pictures. Unfortunately I do not speak "HERP DERP" therefore cannot understand such people. I can only assume the guilty parties read.

Stop taking a million pictures of yourself. You do not need a photo of yourself in the same "Myspace Angle" photoshopped to make you look "lyke totally hawt guize!" We can all tell that you do it and we think it is ridiculous. If you have a photo of yourself in a bikini (where you are clearly standing in your house) you need to take it down. You look crazy. Gentlemen please stop taking photos of your "abs." It makes you look like a muscle head. Your grandmother does not appreciate that. I am certain potential employers do not enjoy that either.

Don't update your status with too much information or use status updates to get attention. We do not care that Mrs. Bronk is "like totally mean" for making you write an essay. Perhaps if you stopped

updating your status it would not be that difficult to write the essay. I do not need to know that you are having indigestion. If I log onto Facebook one more time and see "hai guize. im single. life stinks. :(" I will scream. We get it that being single is the equivalent of having some horrible disease that is slowly consuming your body but we do not care. Nor do we need to know.

Speaking of single, couples stop changing your status to "engaged". It's not cute. As a matter of fact it is really annoying. We get that you have been dating for two months and are "serious" and "in love." It is just ridiculous.

You aren't getting married anytime soon so stop it. Getting engaged in high school is ridiculous. It is the most fascinatingly illogical thing I have seen for a while. When you get in a fight with your significant other do not change your status to "it's complicated." You are either "single" or "in a relationship." There's no such thing as "it's complicated." Stop doing that.

Perhaps you should just log off of Facebook and do your homework. Maybe then we will be able to find the location of the United States on a map. If you know someone who is seriously speaking the language of "HERP DERP" on a regular basis notify your English teacher at once.



Sass Attack: Rarely, comest thou, spirit of delight!

By Bailey Gaskin

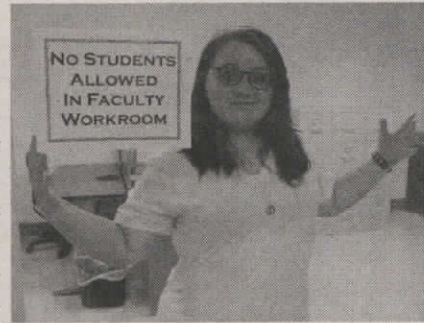
February: the month of love, the month of black history, my birthday month (best one in that list). However, February is always that month for me that is never truly finished. The poor fellow got jipped out of a good three days (or two if you want to get technical). I always feel like there is more to be done in this, the second month of the year. And with time flying the way it seems to nowadays, February is gone.

Besides the birth of a newborn every 4.2 seconds, exciting things are happened every day of February. My 18th birthday on the 11th day of the month also represented the release date for the undoubtedly epic Justin Bieber movie, which I know everyone is dying to see. Three days later, the lovers and heart-broken alike all recognized the ever-so-lovely day o' Valentine's. Now, all you single people out there, do not despair BECAUSE I had (and have extra of) *Legend of the Guardians* Valentine cards, and if you want one, hit me

up and we can be still be each other's Valentine. *winky face*

Speaking of Valentine cards, does anyone remember the days in elementary school when you would design a pouch in art class, tape it to the back of your seat, and everyone would go around giving EVERYONE in their class a Valentine? I can practically feel the love as I type this. (d'aww the innocence of childhood). Honestly, how many happy things can we pack in ONE month?! Obviously, there needs to be a little switcheroo in days of a month here. Give February those

two or three days back...steal 'em from March...and everything will be even. With its perfect weather pattern, beautiful name, and inspiring events, it really is too bad that February only comes once a year. P.S: this article could and probably is EXTREMELY biased due to the fact that I was born during this month making it more awesome than any of the other 11 months. No questions about it. Sorry, March. Cry me a river.



The importance of student IDs

By Gordon Hay

SOA has given out student IDs for about 2 years now, but this year the administration has started to make kids actually wear them. Most students don't understand that they are for the welfare and safety of the school. They are also nice for when the administration forgets your name. With the IDs, the Administration does not have to learn your name in the first place, allowing them to focus on more important things like.

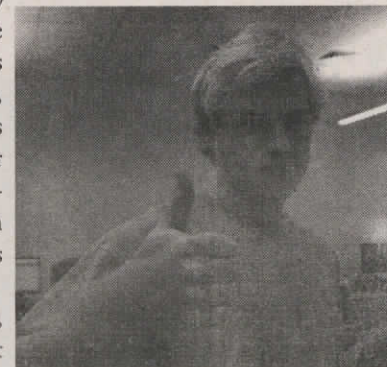
I have an ID, or at least I had one at the beginning of the year.


I had the brilliant idea to swap my ID with Devante's, which I wore for about 2 months. If anyone asked about my ID picture I simply told them I had a summer tan when the picture was taken. After a while I gave Devante his ID back, and he give mine to Will Cammer, who apparently still

has it on his dresser. None of this bothers me since I still have my ID from last year; well actually I threw that one out the window of my car, so I use my ID from 2 years ago, and I keep in the front pocket of my backpack, with the lanyard I stole from a middle schooler.

But all jokes aside, this year I truly realized the importance of the IDs... They are great projectiles! Just throw them like a card and they go really fast, they can even penetrate cardboard! As I write this, I am still bleeding from where Eric's ID hit me in the head! Concluding this column, ID's are awesome.



P.S. For any teachers reading this, you better not come after me about my 2 year old ID. But I'm not worried because y'all probably have more important things to do than read my column anyway.





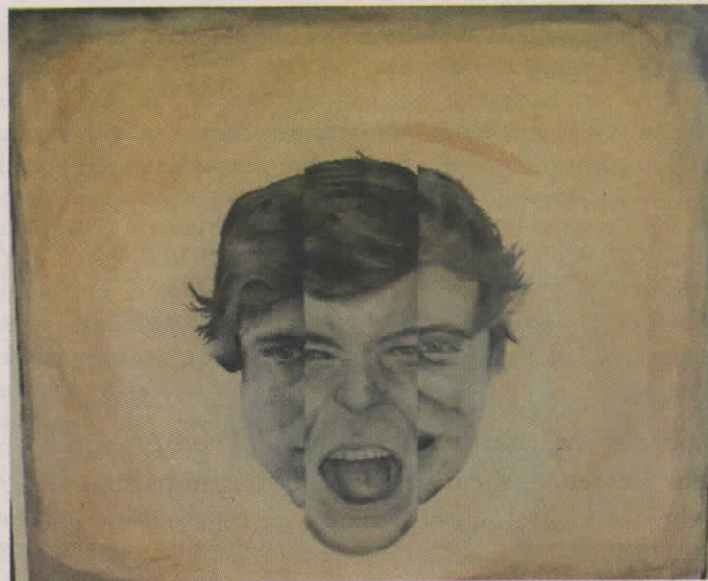
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Will Cammer, Twelfth Grade



Brendan McLaughlin, Ninth Grade



Colleen Brennan, Twelfth Grade



Maria Voronina, Tenth Grade



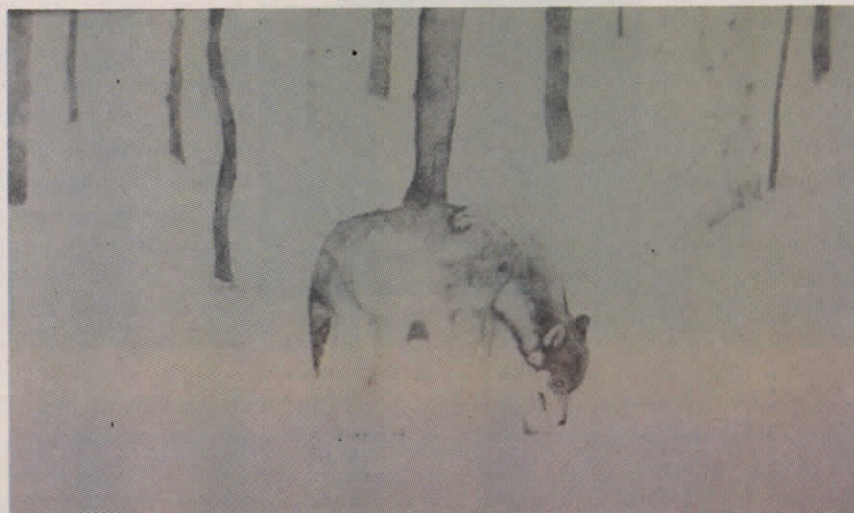
Abriana Titus, Tenth Grade



Dylan Scheer, Eleventh Grade



Eli Hayden, Tenth Grade



oak trees

By Marisa Henthorne, Eleventh grade

I wonder who has past
laid in your shade.

I wonder who has past
stumbled over your roots.
or worn you Spanish moss as hair.

whose faces have you seen?
walking pass your knarled trunks.
whom have your leaves waved to?
shaking in the ancient breeze.

I wonder if you've ever been hurt
by notches carved into your strong chest.
and your drooping branches sat upon.
and your weak twigs snapped into pieces,
used as dueling swords.

and I wonder what made your
backs so sore, you have to bend
to stand.
maybe it's the hundreds of years,
spent watching over.

to wise to leave,
to old to care.
you let others take care of you.
others protect you,
from the advancing centuries.

pushing to close for comfort.
but you don't waver.
merely stand.
as tall as your twisted spines allow.

An excerpt from *Reverse Plot* by Hadley Preganz, Eleventh grade

He loved words. He liked the way sentences sounded and how letters looked printed on the soft pages of a book. He would never call himself a writer, because he knew writers produced stories. What Lawrence would thoughtfully jot down he himself couldn't have considered stories; most always lacking ending and often times a beginning, occasionally an actual plot. He liked the way words bounced around playfully but flowed poetically. There was once something he wrote about love: *It is nothing but a pen with no ink, an overdose of water, meat without salt, a saxophone with no soul, a magician without sleeves to keep his tricks up, carrying a dozen boxes of empty Styrofoam, thinking you have reached the top of the world to discover it is upside down.* Lawrence did not believe a single syllable of what he had written. It just sounded nice. He loved words.

Carly was his puppet master. She was beautiful, but realistically she was sinister. Lawrence could not seem to recall how he met Carly, where they went on their first date, or why she refused to address him as Lawrence. She called him nothing in particular. He adored that about her. He adored everything about her. They were together for a long while, or perhaps not long at all. From the day Lawrence met her, he began working on a letter. It was intended to be an old-fashioned love letter, in the end he even crumpled and burned the corners of the paper for effect. He read it at their wedding. Something about his lifelong wait for someone like her, her spunk and laugh. It was not memorable to anyone but him. Carly had just smiled and nodded. All she had to say was "I do."

All of the Money I Had for College

By N. Aubrey Moore, Twelfth grade

is in the warm, new, still small breasts
that my mother always wanted,
is in between her two lowest vertebrae,
in the stitches of her back,
is in my father's eight ounce glass glasses
behind fake mahogany cabinet doors,
is in the belly of my car's engine,
in treads of the wheels of it's tires,
is loaded in the guns we fired
too many times this year,
is locked up in loosing stocks
and liquor and cigars,
is pretty much gone
and soaked up into the ground
of the four acre lot,
behind our paid for in cash,
two story house.

The Past is Dripping from My Shoulders
By Rebecca Witcher, Twelfth grade

Chemical tack lines—
markers of my mistakes
—pattern strands like lines on a snake's skin.
This hair is heavy
two years old
with things I do not want to hide,
forget or throw away.
I nail two years to my bathroom wall
bound at the base with a rubber band
curling into a fountain of forgiveness.
Why carry it
on my head
to weigh me down
with all the memories of people
that are not me anymore.
Each layer is another thing I did wrong,
stratumed on itself
to tell me it's over.
The scissors are two clean slates cutting timelines.
Threads on a life loom,
they start me over.
Split ends hurt
from my plam.
Another two years wait over my shoulders.

Middle School students impress peers at convocation

By Savannah Miller

On February 16th, SOA's middle school came together in the RMM Theater to celebrate the talents of their fellow students. A variety of majors performed, including a collaboration between the seventh grade creative writers and band, the sixth grade dancers, and a jazz band trio. The middle school band opened the show, entertaining the audience with a march. The seventh grade creative writing-band collaboration succeeded with an act that blended poetry and music together through jazz. The writers recited the



8th grade jazz trio performs a piece by Duke Ellington

poem "Jazz Fantasia" by **Carl Sandburg**, and the musicians added their own flair. **Ms. Miles**, creative writing teacher, says that after the seventh graders had begun studying the poem, "I brought the poem to **Mrs. Reed** and asked if she could provide sound effects, and that's how the idea was born." An eighth grade jazz trio went afterward, along with an India-inspired dance by **Ms. Cline's** sixth graders, then eighth grade creative writers, and finishing convocation was a solos from

seventh grade piano majors.

Ms. Benson, director of the arts, was pleased with the middle school convocation. She wanted the children to get the experience of the new theater and noted that convocation is similar to a pep rally; however "instead of rooting for the basketball team, you're rooting for the arts." Convocations' and other similar performances teach the students how to appreciate the talents of their friends, how to perform in front of larger audiences, and learn theater etiquette. **Ms. Miles**

agrees, stating "now that we have a theater large enough for the entire middle school to gather, the experience of performing in front of a large audience is important for students." And the students certainly want more. Eighth grader **Lyla Zimmerman** appreciates the opportunity to see the talent of her friends on stage and eighth grader noted that the creative writing-band collaboration was her favorite. **Ms. Benson** is planning on providing more convocations and performances for the middle school students in the future.



6th grade dance majors performing.

Hope you didn't miss out: Theater senior thesis group pieces

By Cory Stegelin

Senior theater majors performed their group senior thesis pieces on February 24th and 25th at 6:30 p.m. in the Rose Maree Myers Theater. The students were not only the performers, but writers, costumers, directors, lighting and sound designers for their respective scenes. Students had complete control over their projects as long as they were appropriate for the audience, meaning no nudity or foul language.

The schedule was as follows. Thursday, February 24th: **Free Kopsak**, **Margaret Mevers**, **Rachel Riddle**, and **Michael Lowman**, followed by **Bailey Gaskin**, **Javen Hodge**, **Austin Cope**, and **Adrienne**

Miller; Friday, February 25: **Chaisson Dangerfield**, **Lauren Hatchell**, **Becca Fox**, **Samarina White**, **Tyler Wozniak**, **Devante Lee**, **Gordon Hay**, and **Eric Payne**.



Theatre majors Eric Payne, Gordon Hay, Devante Lee, and Tyler Wozniak

Each thesis included four cast members. **Gordon Hay** was the mastermind behind his group's piece. "You know Tiananmen Square—the massacre? We made it into a musical," he said. The seniors worked on their scenes after winter break, and when asked if he and his group members were ready for their performance, **Devante Lee** said, "Heck yeah. We've been prepared for this. We were born for it."

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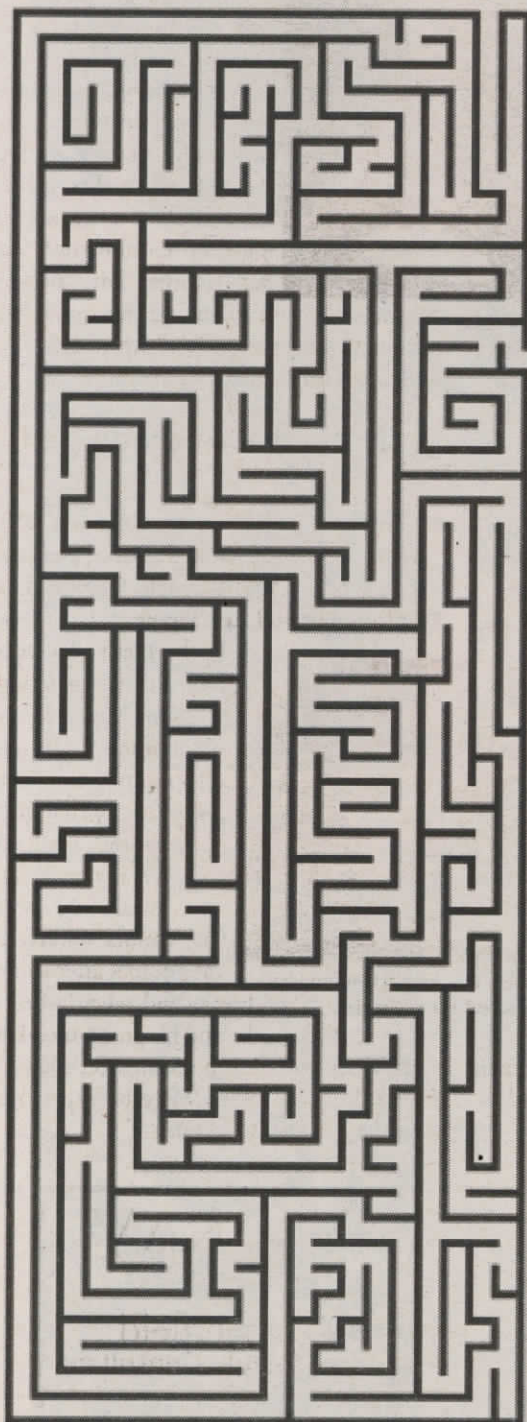
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Maze



Sudoku

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

January's Sudoku

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

Horoscopes!

Pisces: The Fish (Feb. 19 – Mar. 20) - Having money problems? The stars recommend you sell a kidney on the black market.

Aries: The Ram (Mar. 21 – Apr. 19) - A horde of angry Beliebers will vandalize your Facebook page.

Taurus: The Bull (Apr. 20 – May 20) - If you cannot take the heat then just turn down the thermostat.

Gemini: The Twins (May 21 – Jun. 20) - Avoid consuming cheesecake. Something sinister lurks within its cakey layers.

Cancer: The Crab (Jun. 21 – Jul. 22) - Sarah Palin knows what you did. She's locked and loaded.

Leo: The Lion (Jul. 23 – Aug. 22) - Do not violate any noise ordinances this week. They'll hear you.

Virgo: The Virgin (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) - Wrapping your body in bubble wrap to avoid injury will result in worse injury.

Libra: The Scales (Sept 23 – Oct. 22) - It would be an intelligent decision to begin bathing again.

Scorpio: The Scorpion (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) - You will become a famous vuvuzela master. It is a lot simpler than it seems.

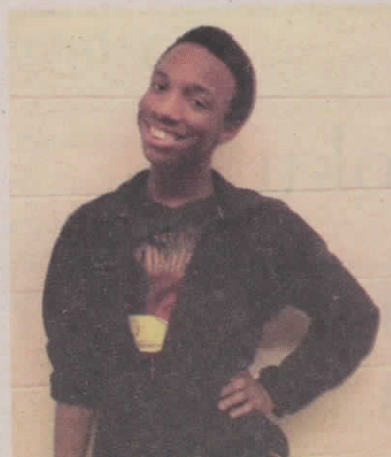
Sagittarius: The Archer (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) - Eating raw snails will result in parasites invading your brain. Do not eat any raw snails this month.

Capricorn: The Sea-goat (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) - You know that box you threw out the other day? It was someone's house. Homewrecker.

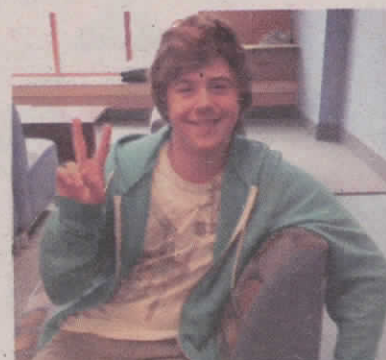
Aquarius: The Water Carrier (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) - Just keep swimming away from the giant, man-eating shark. You'll out swim it eventually.



"I fell out of a bus."
Anja Evenson, 11th Grade Piano



"I stepped in dog poop on the way to school." Khaleil Burden, 10th Grade Vocal



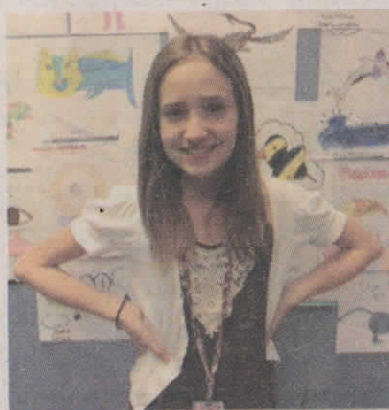
"I was told I look like a Jonas Brother."
Graham Crolley, 8th Grade Creative Writing



"I thought a girl was talking to me, but she was on her bluetooth." Kenyan Boxley, 12th Grade Band

What is your most embarrassing moment?

Compiled by Allie Augustine and Grace Collins



"I tried my lock a thousand times and it wouldn't open." Jenna Peterson, 6th Grade Dance



"When I tried to pet a duck and it came and attacked me." Sydney Franklin, 8th Grade Visual Arts



"Singing some of the rap songs at Winter Formal with Mr. Reese right behind me." Izzy Strobing, 10th Grade Band



"I was at Towne Centre and walking when these two girls came up behind me and pants-ed me as a car went by." Michael Mullane, 6th Grade Theatre



"When Clemson loses to South Carolina." Josh Foster, 12th Grade Band



"I messed up the unity of time with the nudity of time." Haley Dixon, 12th Grade Creative Writing



"I was once a young lad and I was eating my chocolate pudding and I threw up in the cafeteria." Mr. Reese



"Last year in Mr. Perkins's class during the mock trials I sat in an invisible chair." Karin McQuade, 10th Grade Strings