

Applause

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Charleston County School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC

November 2000

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Shannon O'Shea pours over a collection of poetry.

Senior Creative Writers team up with professional authors

by Jane Lucas

How many high school students get to meet each week with a published author for assistance with their writing? At SO, the answer is ten. Mrs. Miles' creative writers have chosen regional authors to serve as their mentors during their senior thesis project.

Every senior at the School of the Arts is required to complete a thesis project that incorporates the skills they have developed in their art major. The Creative Writers are required to write a 100 page work of poetry, fiction, or non-fiction. Twelve pages

are due monthly. Students are also required to study a lengthy work of literature in their genre. In addition, they must write double journal entries in response to the piece of literature that they have chosen to study. They have all been given their choice of a mentor to meet with on their own time. "Students are getting the opinion of a writer other than me," says Mrs. Miles. The purpose of the project is for the student to have the opportunity to work with someone who is making a living as a writer. "They get a taste of what it will actually be like to have someone they do not know criticize their work," she says. Mrs. Miles' seniors are Alan Strozier, Dustin Moss, Alison Palmer, Shannon O'Shea, Hamadi Brown, Chandler Jenrette, Elaine Hume, Elizabeth Steel, Nikki Griffin, and Michael Badger.

Alan Strozier says that when he gets together with Jerri Chaplain, she reads his work and offers advice about new topics. He chose to write a novel for his senior thesis. Chaplain is a poetry therapist, someone who gets patients to write their feelings down to help them therapeutically. He says the main skill his mentor has helped him to accomplish is how to control his thoughts.

Dustin Moss and his mentor, Dennis Stiles, former president of the South Carolina Poetry Society, meet at Port City Java downtown. Stiles has received recognition in countless poetry contests. "It seemed as if in every contest, Denny either won or received honorable mention," Dustin says. They mainly discuss poetic technique.

Alison Palmer works on her prose poetry thesis with Marjory Wentworth. Alison says, "I have learned to be more open to new ideas. This helps me experiment with different writing forms."

Shannon O'Shea's mentor is Jeff Schwaner, who works as an online editor. They meet at Clair's Cafe downtown, a place that Schwaner and his wife, Mary, often visit. His online editing job is called greatunpublished.com. Shannon will write a combination of poetry and prose for his senior thesis. They discuss style and subject matter. Jeff has helped Shannon to look at things from many perspectives. Shannon says that this is difficult but that it balances his writing.

Hamadi Brown's mentor is the wife of Shannon's mentor, poet Mary Winifred Hood. Since Hamadi's senior thesis will involve a variety of styles, He and his mentor mainly focus on the different techniques. Hamadi apply's the following types of literature in his senior thesis: monologue, poetry, short story, and

flash fiction. Hamadi has mainly learned that his writing needs expansion and length in order to be understood. This is difficult for him, he says, since he likes giving his readers only what is absolutely necessary, but he says that he must be willing to try new things. (continued on page 2)



Mrs. Miles' Senior Creative Writing class

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Editor's Page

Senior Thesis (continued from page 1)

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Applause is a student produced publication of the School of the Arts.
We can be contacted at ccsoa@email.com or 843-529-4990.

A word from the editor



Thank you to everyone who gave us their input regarding our October *Applause*. We enjoyed seeing your support after just the first issue and appreciated what you had to say. We encourage others not to be afraid of sharing their opinions.

We are no longer mailing *Applause* home. Every student will receive a copy at school, and we strongly encourage you to take them home to share with your family. Hope you enjoy this issue.

Applause Editor,
Jacquelyn Glover

Chandler Jenrette and her mentor, Beth Webb Hart, meet at Mrs. Hart's office at St. Michael's Church. Ms. Hart is a former SOA Creative Writing instructor. Chandler is writing a novel based on all of the characters that she used in her short stories last year. She says she relates well with her mentor since Ms. Hart just finished writing a novel herself. They get together and discuss how her novel is going to be shaped. They split up the novel into three sections, says Chandler, instead of just looking at the whole work, which can be overwhelming. Ms. Hart helps Chandler by suggesting certain novels for her to read that are action centered, since that is what Chandler feels is lacking in her writing. She said that she has learned how to convey all of her ideas in the form of a novel and that it is okay to just write out all of your ideas and then go back and revise.

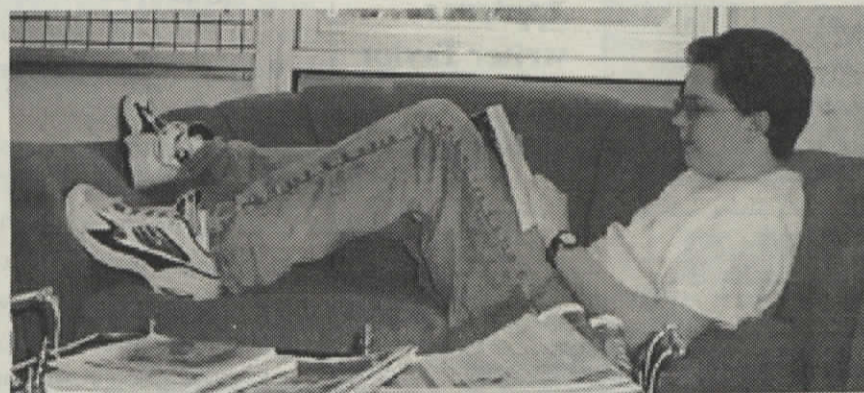
Elaine Hume and her mentor Susan Sully meet at Susan's house. Susan is one of the best known new writers in Charleston, having recently published *The Late Bloomers Guide to Success at Any Age*. Elaine says, "I love Ms. Miles, but a fresh voice of criticism is great." Elaine really admires Susan because she performs her "hobby" for a living and has been writing since she was very young. They talk about Elaine's goals and how to get started. Her senior thesis is going to be half poetry and half fiction.

Elizabeth Steele really enjoys meeting with her mentor, Constance Pultz. Elizabeth is writing short stories but mostly poetry for her senior thesis. She says her mentor has taught her the importance of considering her audience.

Nikki Griffin is a poetry and short story writer. She and Sandy Lang Quick meet at the Community Center to discuss the stories that Nikki e-mail's her. Nikki says, "Sandy has taught me to truly question who I am and where I am going."

Michael Badger is working with Dr. Caroline Hunt, an expert in Science Fiction who teaches at the College of Charleston. The two meet in the department of English to discuss Michael's work. Michael writes science fiction as well. Dr. Hunt helps him focus on the whole story instead of just a section. Michael says, "She has taught me the value of plot over character."

Mrs. Miles has taught these students since eighth grade and it is a new experience to send them out and view the way these mentors change their writing. She says she can see how much their writing has changed over the past four years and this final work shows their ultimate achievement.. We look forward to seeing the work of our Creative Writers on the shelves at Barnes and noble.



Michael Badger relaxes while working on his thesis.

Charleston County School of The Arts Masquerade Ball

Saturday Evening- December 9, 2000
eight o'clock- eleven o'clock

Gaillard Auditorium- Exhibit Hall

Formal costume dress requested

couple: \$25.00 single: \$15.00



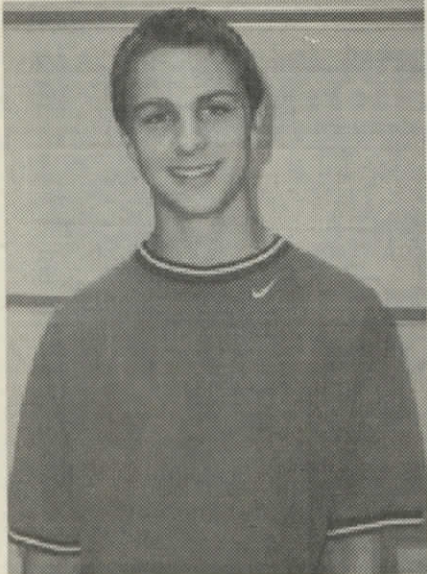
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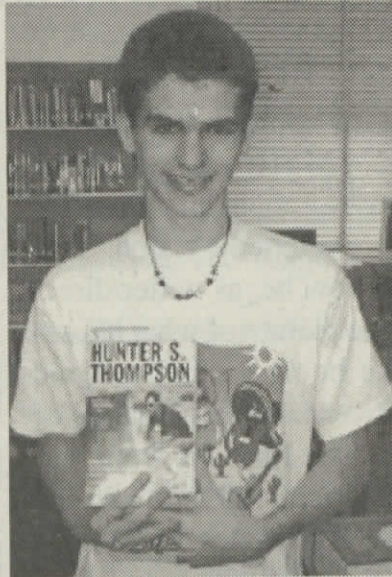
Question of the Month

Who should be the next president?



"Bush, because we need a fresh start in the White House."

Mohsen Roudsari



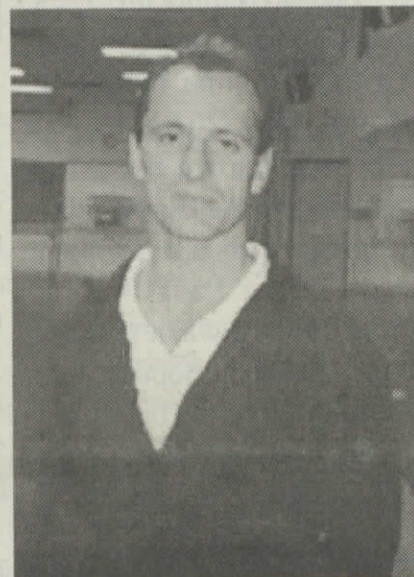
"I wouldn't vote for any of them because they are both lying in order to get people's votes."

Alan Strozier



"Bush, because I am a Republican and because of my concern for Supreme Court justice appointments and national defense."

Ms. Ambrose



"Al Gore, because of his pro-environmental policies and his pro-choice stance as well as his intention to use the budget surplus to pay down the national debt."

Mr. Anderson



"Bush, because he is for less government, and I believe that this country does not need the government interfering with the lives of the people."

Jessica Grantham



"Bush, because I believe in his policies, and I believe he will be quicker to follow through with his social security plan for the elderly and work on giving the middle class a better tax break."

Ms. Wilkinson



"I'm still forming my opinion."

Ryan Whitehead



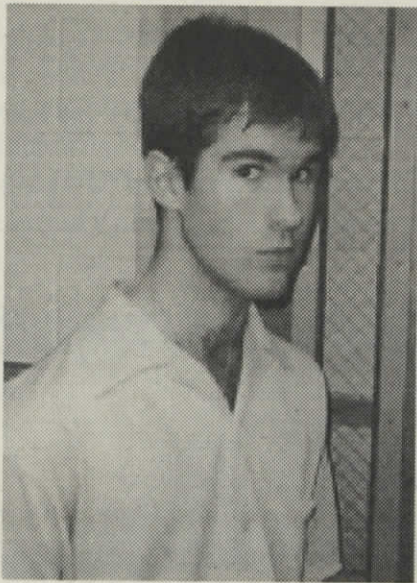
"Bush; for one thing, he has picked people to help him that have a lot of experience on the national level even though he does not. He is going to be a little bit more sensitive than a Democrat would be."

Ms. Newton

Features

REALISM VERSES SURREALISM: TWO FILMMAKERS

Matthew Riddlehoover discusses film debut with Ian O'Shea



Sophomore Matthew Riddlehoover

I recently sat down and talked with sophomore Theater major **Matthew Todd Riddlehoover** about his debut feature film, "Peripheral Vision." We discussed how he, as writer/director, paints a picture of what it's actually like being a confused and lonely 13 year old on the verge of manhood. The film, set from August 1998 to June 1999, follows the desperate chronicles of Mark's (Mohsen Roudsari) empty life. He's an 8th grade former Honor Roll student who fills his time by taking pictures for the yearbook. All

Mark's ever wanted was to be liked. Sure he was known for being smart and quiet and nice... But that wasn't his ticket to the trendy table in the cafeteria. He was stuck at a far off corner with all the other outcasts, the slums of their audition-applicant Finger Paint School. Mark's only companion, Jackson Maury (Ivan Flood), was even beginning to get on his nerves. He yearned for the chance of popularity... something only the chosen few achieved. But all dreams of a better life cease when Mark finds himself deep within this so-called "ideal" network of lost and libidinous individuals who have been hand-picked to celebrate.

IAN: How long did it take to write this script?

MATT: I spent 9 months on it. It's my baby.

IAN: Your script is a massive 406 pages and your cast consists of over 70+ speaking roles. What's it like working with so many people?

MATT: People have no perception of how difficult it is to work with that many people. It's not entirely easy. Scheduling and planning ahead doesn't always work with almost a hundred actors with completely different schedules of their own. But everyone's been great so far. It's much easier to deal with the crew, though. It's small. This is an indie picture.

IAN: Really? I haven't heard you mention anyone other than yourself working on the film. Who's working on the crew?

MATT: Jane Lucas is choreographing a dance sequence that pops up sometime during the run of the film. Ivan Flood is the film's sound supervisor, and Rebecca Reuter is developing the film's original score. I'm really excited about the score. Really excited. You have no idea.

IAN: What do you want the viewers to get from "Peripheral Vision"?

MATT: I don't know what to expect out of the audience... What they'll think... What they'll feel... Personally, I'm rather bad at describing my film to people... It's entirely up to interpretation, based on your own moral values and how you were brought up... But, for me, what I was trying to delve into when writing the script, had a lot to do with those important relationships we have... Whether it be between two friends, siblings, a mother and a son, a father and his daughter, or the person you hate the most... It's a special connection with someone, worth the entire experience. It helps you grow. At its core, though, *Peripheral Vision* is about the things people get away with... whether it be known and brushed off or gone unnoticed, hidden away....It's my way of ex-

pe.riph.er.al vi.sion



take a picture. it'll last longer.

aggerating my personal opinions about society onscreen.

IAN: What plans do you have for this film?

MATT: It'll have its slot in selected film festivals. One goal I have, though, is to meet the deadline for the 4th Annual Magnolia Independent Film Festival in West Point, Mississippi. It's January 19th. My fingers are crossed.

"Peripheral Vision" has a large ensemble cast displaying SOA's wide variety of talents, including Allison Orvin, Devin Vaughan, Ashley Carrier, Rebecca Reuter, Caroline Bailey, Sam Church, and John Chritton... Oh, and moi, Ian O'Shea.

Applause is not the only newspaper to take an interest in Matthews's project. He was recently interviewed by the *Post and Courier* for an upcoming article.

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Features

Craig Baurley releases second film

I recently spoke with **Craig Baurley** about his up coming film *Placebo*.

How would you describe the Plot of your film?

Complicated... and I'd have to say that this plot is second to the stylized approach. **Ryan Scott** plays the real world, unnamed protagonist. Every subsequent character is an element of his mind portrayed by someone he knows in reality. When a major life-threatening event occurs in the protagonist's life he is thrust into his mind, consciously locked to the outside world. It's got a little bit of everything: humor, action, sci-fi, and some serious drama. *Placebo* is about exploring the inner workings of the human brain. For those that have seen the "Emmy-Award-Winning" *Assailant*, this

Do you feel a certain connection the film?

Yes, with the massive amount devoted to it, I would hope so. What differs here from the commercialized Hollywood is that I have a hand in everything, where as often times movies give people specific tasks that becomes a job. This is not a job to me.

What do you want the audience to get from your film?

Some laughs . . . Intrigue . . . Thought? But above all, to be entertained.

Who do you have on your crew?

Well, there is no crew per say. Every shoot is different, though I would have to say that the main cast doubles as a crew. **John Fisher** is going to create the music as well as lend a hand here and there. **Sasha Shaw** has been there on several occasions to both take still photos and . . . carry stuff.

How did you get involved in film making?

The first time I can think that I set hands on a camera was third or fourth grade. You'd find my brother and I shooting fireworks off in the garage making sci-fi flicks about this time. What got me into it? Movies, duhh!

What's your favorite aspect as a filmmaker?

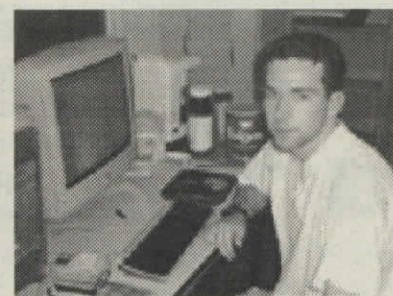
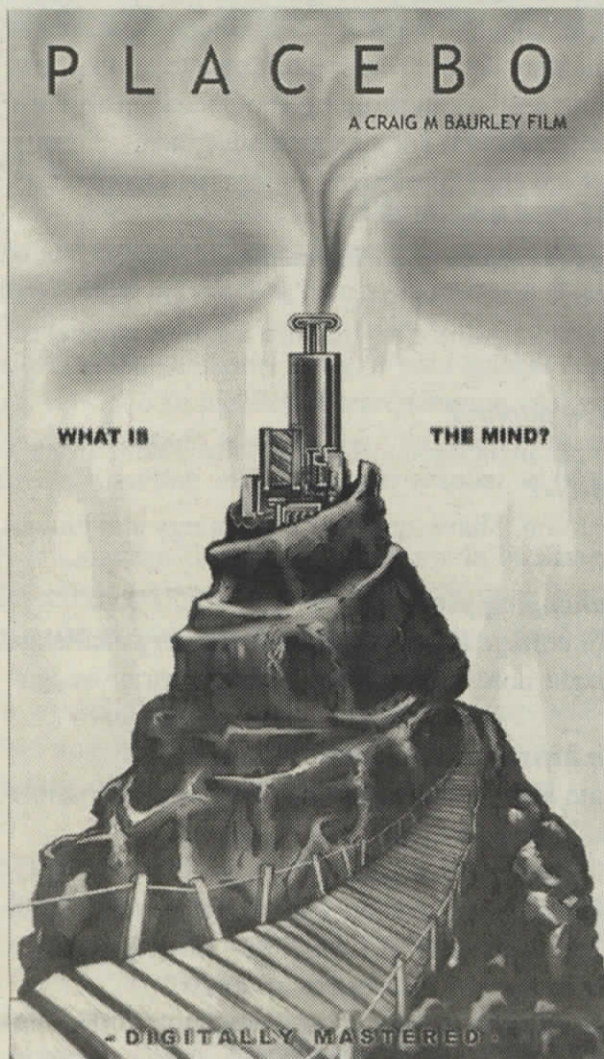
People always say that the camera captures life... this isn't necessary true at all. The great thing, to me, about a film is its capability to take you away from reality, an exit from the trouble of everyday life. a film places you in a situation that probably wouldn't and or couldn't be experienced in the way the writer/director have. Some try to day true to life, yes. Some try to strike a cord in the viewer, yes. Ultimately, however, they present an opinion. If you feel that opinion because the director has connected it to you, the viewer, by means of reality; I think he/she has achieved the goal.

Any other comments?

Yes, buy *Placebo* today for 15 dollars. I encourage pre-orders so we have enough money to finish.

You can get updates on the film and other information by visiting the official web site at <http://members.tripod.com/baurley> also linked through the school site www.ccsa.com

The film includes the following main cast members: **Ryan Scott, Patrick Tropeter, Kate Colbert, Jennie Leonard, and Justin Babcock** (a few other main role have not yet been cast).

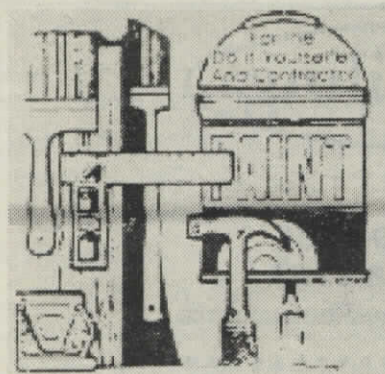


Craig Baurley

is going to be a little (a lot) different. The same type of humor from *Assailant* is rolling over but with a purpose, scattered by that pesky little thing called story.

Did you come up with the script?

Funny you should ask. Well, I came up with the "story" and I along with **Ryan Scott**, and **Patrick Trompeter** are filling it in, even now, well into shooting. A chain of events and general sequencing has been written out. As the shooting date of specific scenes closes in, depending upon whom is available for what, a scene is written out under the guidelines of summary. The movie will be cut to a typical feature-length despite a great deal of other usable material. I'd rather keep you really watching for a 90 minutes then to drag it out for three hours.



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Features

8th grader shares stage with Britney Spears

by Tawanna Tolbert



Michael Robinson

SOA students, like all teenagers, enjoy using slang. However, are you familiar with the expression "That's so beat"? SOA eighth grader **Michael Robinson** can tell you it is the same as "That's tight", "That's off da chain", or "That's phat." Why is he on the cutting edge of slang? He claims to have heard it from pop recording artist Britney Spears, but Michael didn't pick it up in a magazine or on T.V. He learned it right from Britney.

Michael Robinson, a dance major at SOA, is very well known around campus not only as a wonderful dancer with a great personality but as one of Britney Spears back-up dancers. Michael is currently not touring but he is still recognized by many Britney Spears fans and many who would love to be his girl.

Britney Spears uses creative dance combinations that combine hip hop and jazz. It was Michael's dream to become a back up dancer only for her because her dances have a lot of movement and flipping- which Michael enjoys doing. During the summer of '97 Michael, then a rising seventh grader, went to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for open auditions. The dance was demonstrated once, and Michael moved right along with no problem. "The people in charge of the auditions were very picky, and I did not believe my dream was to come true," he says. Well, the next day Michael was called back and his dream *had* finally come true. Michael was the youngest dancer of them all and the only one from Charleston. "Everyone welcomed me and allowed me to be apart of their little family," he said, "There were a lot of back-up dancers, but I grew a stronger relationship with the main dancers such as Nick, T.J, Andre, Andrew, Christy, and Huwan." Michael and Britney Spears also grew close, and he thinks she is a very sweet person. Though he says: "she could be a little dorky at times and say very corny things."

Michael got the opportunity to travel from Florida to New York with the group. He traveled for several weeks and says he had many good and bad times. Michael doesn't miss the 4-hour long rehearsals or feeling so hot and exhausted after the shows; however, long rehearsals surely paid off. "Of course I got paid," he says, "and it wasn't chump change either." He was paid according to the profit of the concert, ranging from \$ 150-200 every performance. Michael danced every 2 days for the entire summer and earned around \$300-400 a week. Can you say "Bling, Bling?" That is some cash flow for someone as young as Michael.

Michael, who began his training at Ashley River Creative Arts, says lots of students can have the chance he had. "Go out and look for all the auditions you can," he says. There are many opportunities for teenagers today, but we all have to believe just like Michael - SOA's superstar. While interviewing Michael, I observed the way he battled with many girls to get off him. I mean why wouldn't they? Why shouldn't they? All the girls around SOA think "Michael is so beat."

Sasha Shaw talks to Applause

by Staci Oliver



Sasha Shaw

How and when did you begin drawing / painting?
Technically, I've been drawing since I was 5 or 6 - elementary school finger painting and all that, but I didn't really start thinking about ideas in art until after the New York trip in tenth grade - 3 years ago. I saw the Museum of Modern Art's exhibit and things began to click.

What is your favorite art medium? Why?

I haven't been able to try all of them yet, but so far I'm comfortable with ink and acrylic paint. They require the least amount of patience to work with.

Who are artists whose work you admire?

Lucien Freud, Jackson Pollock, Francis Bacon, Robert Matta, Frank Stella

How do you get ideas for projects?

They just come somehow - intuition. I have an interests in energy and movement too.

What has been your most challenging project?

Preparing a decent portfolio for college applications has been very challenging - I'm in the middle of it right now. (I'm so sick of self-portrait assignments....)

What goals do you have as an artist?

To become one, to communicate ideas visually and as effectively as possible through the possibilities of art. To learn as much as I can handle..

What are your plans after graduating from SOA?

Hopefully I'll be going to art college somewhere like Philadelphia, Tyler School of Art maybe - or California....that'd be nice, if I can pull it off...

To what extent have you had commercial success as an artist?

I've sold a few paintings for as much as a few hundred dollars.



by Sasha Shaw

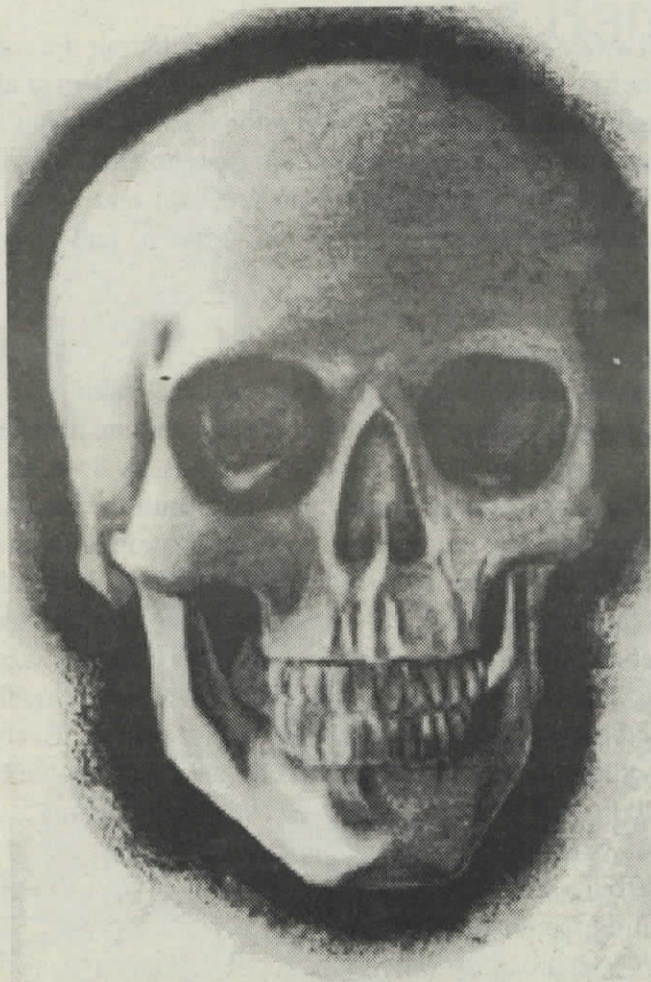
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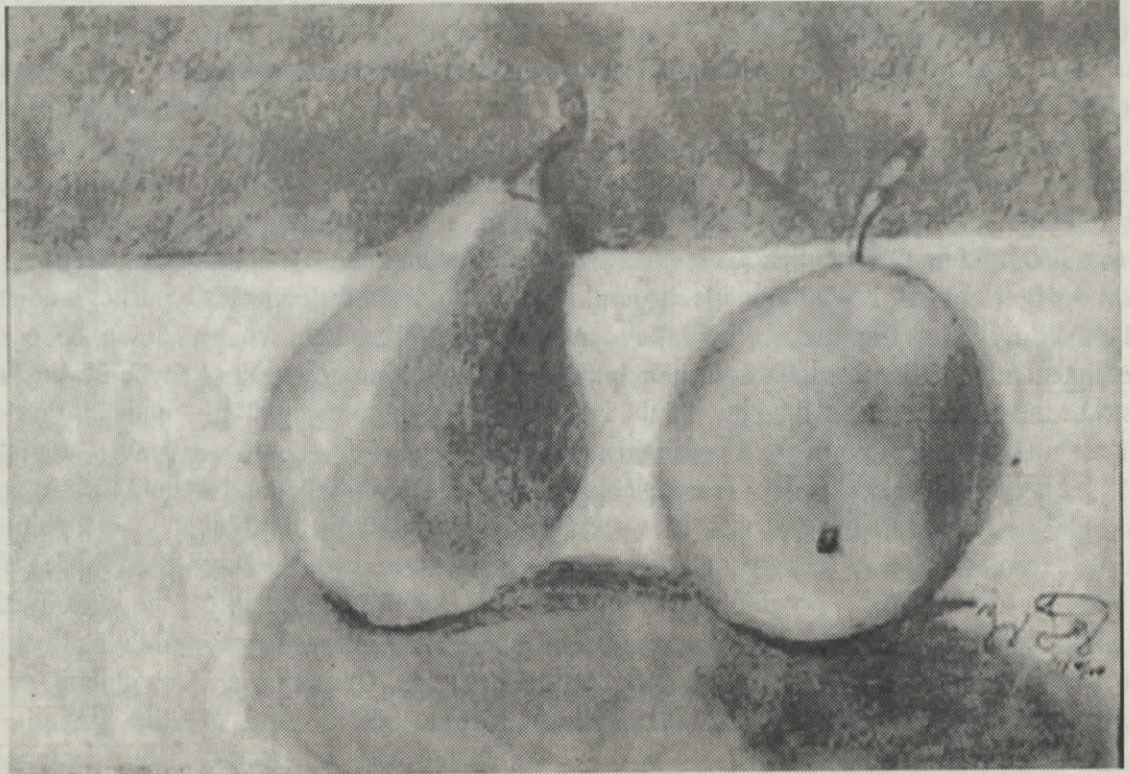
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Student Work



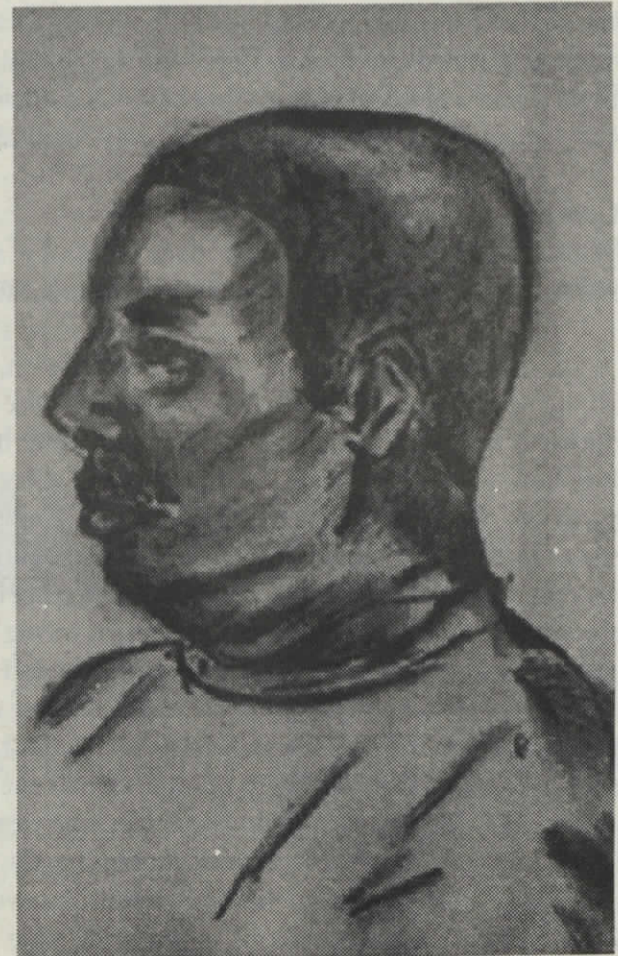
Autumn Gerome Grade 12

Ying Fang Grade 6



Andrew Smith Grade 6

Thomas Tanner Grade 8



Student Work

Metal Whale Bleeding Fire by Eva Sclipa

They should've been here by now. At least that's what I keep thinking. I don't know anymore. Everything is wrong. We sleep all day and all night, only getting up to go to the bathroom, or eat, and breathe thinly, lightly, till we make ourselves dizzy and we can't think straight. And then there's the darkness. Always, even where there're no lights clinging to the ceiling, everything seems a shade darker, more dangerous, waiting for sunlight to visit so it can be pinned down and swallowed by the shadows, with us watching helplessly...

Sometimes I think I can hear them overhead. Puttering back and forth uselessly in their little boats, holding useless meetings and shoving useless ideas at each other while we sit down here, waiting, rotting, hoping for a miracle and holding our breaths. Gladichev swears he can hear them too, but he thinks he can hear the fish outside, around us, swimming in little circles and chuckling at the big, metal whale that can't move. A big, metal whale bleeding smothered fire into the salty water, with its last meal pounding against its stomach walls, facing nothing but death. I don't like that picture, and I tell him to shut up so I can go back to holding my breath.

Everyone else, when they're not sleeping, wanders around their cabins, or in the halls, moaning about never seeing their wives, their children again, or coming up to me and asking why, when, when. Always when. I try not to think about things. Try not to remember Katyana, pouting childishly as I left this time, saying something about pompous shows of pride as I turned around and marched onto the sub. She was always being the humanitarian, loving the world. Never liked this, what I was doing with my life. I would've burned the picture I keep of her to stop remembering if I didn't know it would waste oxygen, take it away in my petty destruction and let us starve for it.

Sometimes I wonder what it would be like to be the air. With no way out. On one hand, to be swallowed, inhaled sharply in one quick gulp and mutated into something deadly, on the other, to simply run out. Die. Disappear. Then I realize that I already know.

Now, I sit on my bunk, too awake with distilled fear to sleep, just breathing as shallowly as I can, chest moving only centimeters. I watch crewmen pacing, my eyes flicking back and forth, the only alert things on my body. One of them steps in quietly, walking slowly so as not to waste his precious air, but his arms tremble with a burning anxiety. He is young, and for a moment I feel a flash of pity for his life, but I scrub it harshly off my mind. I can almost feel the raw red throbbing as we speak in rasping whispers.

"Comrade Korchek?"

"What is it?"

"Gladichev. He, well, won't wake up....he isn't dead. Not yet, anyway."

I sigh, indulging in the luxury of wasted breath, rub my eyes, and stand, walking behind him, both of us in slow motion; the other crewmen see us and follow. I trail the man down the narrow, white hall, everything the same: white hall, gray door, white hall, gray door. I try to find something interesting in the hallway, but can't, and become momentarily lost in the swirling monotony, not realizing that my feet are moving. I can feel every muffled thud of my heart shooting hot blood through my body. Every inhale and exhale, my eyelids fighting me for the reins, trying to slide down and hold me in their semi-blackness. The young man ahead of me stops, and I pull myself from the movement-induced lethargy long enough to halt the jerky escalator beneath me. We've arrived at a gray door close to the end of the hall, and we walk in, limbs pulling the balance and energy from our heads to themselves, then leaking it slowly to the floor in weak, invisible drops. One in the crowd that follows us has to sit down. I walk to the bunk, where a pale, nauseatingly thin Gladichev lies still, breathing evenly, deeply, taking away our air. I lean in closer, staring at the thin, blue and purple veined eyelids that just barely hide his eyes from the light. Underneath them, noth-

ing is moving. I pull away and stand, thinking. He's taking our air...taking our breaths from us before we breathe them, and he can't use them at all...

I motion for anyone from the crowd to step forward. A younger man, Sergei, I think, steps up. He is taller than I am, but thinner, and has a slight stoop in his shoulders that makes him look curved over and lanky. My hand rises, taking action before my mind can conquer it, and points at Gladichev.

"Kill him."

The young man looks at me, shocked, confused.

"Kill him if you want to live as long as you can. He's taking our air." A look of understanding crosses the young man's face, then one of fear. He steps back quickly, almost ramming into another man as he does so. He meshes himself into the mass, finally dissolving darkly into the back. The crowd rustles in the silence, a few murmuring. After a few moments, another man steps up. He takes the pillow from underneath Gladichev's head and pushes it down on his face until the back starts sinking into the mattress...down, down, deeper. Someone in the crowd utters a strangled cry, but swallows it when everyone looks at him. The form on the bed finally stops breathing, ends his thieving, and I twitch my hand up, telling the man to stop. Everyone leaves, not talking, not looking at each other. I pull a sheet up over the body, and turn to go back to my cabin.

It's quiet, now. No more people pace the halls. Everyone just in their cabins, sleeping, breathing. I sit, lie down, stand up, try everything to banish the interminable waiting from my room, but it clings. I tell myself to stop moving, that it wastes both breath and energy, but something on me is always twitching, or tapping, or drumming, and always draining out more and more life. Finally, I sit on my bed, and shuffle through photos and papers, not feeling anything because I tell myself not to.

I calculate things to pass the time. How much water left? How much do they drink? That man yesterday...I remember watching him raise his head from the almost empty bowl, watching the drops of liquid quiver and run down his nose and chin, around his still open mouth, and thinking he looked like some wild beast ending a long, deep drought from a river. Wasteful.

Suddenly, it comes to me. Not sneakily like most of my ideas, not waiting around a corner; it just comes. I drop the pictures, wondering why I didn't think of it before, and try to banish the creeping, inching, curling smile that is seeping onto my face. Gladichev wasn't, isn't, the only one stealing breath. All of them, lying, stealing, thieves. They're thieving from me. They're taking my life away. Do unto others as they do unto you.

I lean down, and grab the nearest thing: my letter opener, barely noticing the shreds of paper from Katyana's latest letter drift to the floor as I stalk out. Her picture slips from my desk in the dark.

The Death of a Child. . .

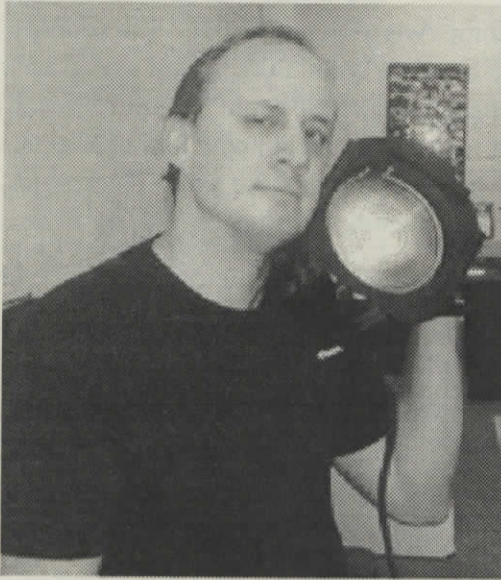
Death is no longer afraid of you,
coffins are made one by one, for each lost soul.
Working hands pound metal, boil skin.
The rain seeps through the rusted roof.
Life is like a symptom of the mind.
The wood on the ground, soaked. . .
Mothers crying, sorting through a smaller selection.
A sweet symphony of chaos runs through your blood, giving you
endless chills.
Never once did you see a victim, but you know.

Ashley Chaplin
7th grade

November Interviews

Yo, Yo, Younts

by Loreal Brown



Mr. Younts

If you didn't know Mr. Younts and were to see him in the hallway, your first reaction would be to get out of his way. However, in time you would discover that he is easygoing, maybe a little wacky, yet one of the most intriguing individuals that you will ever have the opportunity to meet. These personality traits make up George Younts, a theater and impromptu coach at the school. Most of the faculty at SOA would probably like to be identified as "teachers," but not Mr. Younts. He says, "I don't believe you can teach anyone anything; you must

set up situations where people can learn." Mr. Younts holds this opinion especially in the arts. He believes that it is hard to teach someone how to act or draw. But a coach can set up an environment where a person can guide an individual with the knowledge he has gained over the years.

Mr. Younts was born in South Chicago, and his parents were ministers. He was educated at Wesleyan University in Illinois where he achieved a B.A. of Theater. After graduating from the university Mr. Younts went on to graduate school at DePaul in Chicago.

After college George Younts was faced with being a starving actor. He lived in New York and West Palm Beach, Florida for three years. He also lived in Georgia for four years. While living in Georgia he ran a theater company. Still needing money, Mr. Younts also had to work the graveyard shift. He worked as a security guard, convenience store clerk, a doorman, and as an entertainer singing Frank Sinatra songs. Unfortunately he made more money doing Sinatra gigs than acting. If he was to say that he was a successful actor most Americans would tell him "No you're not because you're not in Hollywood." But Mr. Younts says "you should make a life for yourself in theater. You should write, do tech work, act, and perform. Don't pencil yourself into one position." Mr. Younts practices what he preaches. Recently Mr. Younts played the role of Brutus in *Julius Caesar*. *The Post and Courier* raved about his performance. He has written about twenty compositions which range from comedic reviews to adaptations of Shakespeare. Recently he wrote a piece called *Bubble Head* which the 8th grade theater majors performed. It is an absurdist play dealing with morality. Mr. Younts has an ingenious mind that allows him to produce plays about situations that one thinks about, but doesn't have the cleverness to bring together. He also coaches a tech class where students learn how to create sets for a production. Not only does he work vigorously during school hours but his passion leads him to coach impromptu after school. He loves impromptu because it's a wide open style of acting. He enjoys watching actors work well together on stage. When auditioning students for his impromptu class he looks for "a sense of play in them and the ability to go for it."

Other than theater, Mr. Younts enjoys reading, working out (when he feels like it) and the outdoors. When he was younger he was quite an adrenaline junkie. Mr. Younts thought jumping off high places like mountains and cliffs was amusing. He mountain biked and sky dived as well. When he got older he realized that what he did as a young man would eventually catch up with him. When Mr. Younts felt the pain of his actions he immediately resigned. Mr. Yount's humorous side is coupled with the

most distinguished laugh on the face of this planet. It sounds like a hog and a chicken quarreling. Although Mr. Younts enjoys having fun, sometimes he also has to be stern. "Its a balance, you must walk a line between two extremes (strict-----fun) and I am somewhere in the middle."

What attracted Mr. Younts to the School of the Arts was that it is a smaller school and he would have the opportunity to work with high school students. The main lesson that he wants his students to take from him is to "stick it out for the long run. Theater is a life long goal." Mr. Younts hopes his students will be true to the arts. Yes, acting is fun to do but theater involves much more than that. George Younts is a coach that has accomplished more than he knows. While observing his class I saw the way his students respected him, looked at him with admiration, and laughed at him. The most important thing that he might not realize is that all of his students love him. George Younts, more than a Hollywood star.

Mr. P, a real Renaissance Man

by Sara McCoy

Would you expect to find the poetic works of Baudalire, Rimbaud, and Verlaine shelved next to the scientific works of Darwin, Mendel and Pastwen? Well, you just might if you were to look at Mr. Pezzeca's personal library.

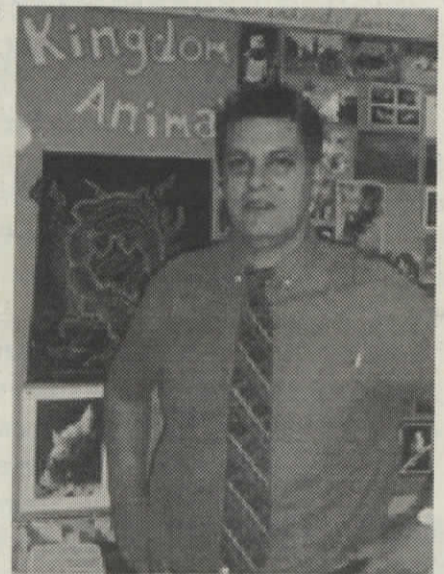
SOA's ninth and tenth grade honors biology and marine science teacher not only holds degrees in biology and entomology from the Citadel, but also a degree in French literature from Rutgers.

He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and raised between there and Montrel, Canada. Mr. Pezzeca has also lived in South Africa and Bermuda. "I lived in the wine growing country for two weeks with an Afrikaner family... there I discovered Cape Town" he said. In Bermuda, Mr. P. worked as a biologist using deep sea submersibles to look at the creatures on the bottom of the ocean floor. "It was really neat just to look at these cool creatures that no one had ever seen before," he says, "but it was kind of sad because they would explode. The pressure was too low for them on the boats." His favorite place he has visited is the Bay of Fundy.

Mr. Pezzeca became interested in biology when he began reading *Silent Springs* and other biology related novels. "I was reading Rachel Carson when I was young, and learning to appreciate nature."

Mr. P. finds that the arts are just amazing. "I have come to art, and art is beautiful." Mr. Pezzeca also takes great interest in activities such as photography, shell collecting, stamp collecting, drawing, biking, gardening, body surfing, and any other water sports. "I was in a band in Montreal," he said, "Les Flyees. (Crazy Fools)" in which he was the lead vocalist. Mr. Pezzeca also played a twelve string and acoustic guitar when he was in younger days. Even though he gave that up a while ago, Mr. P. still loves to sing. Mr. P. has two rabbits, Bubba and Nita. He also owns a Siamese cat named Baby, and a "personal bill shredder," or gerbil, named Rikki.

Mr. Pezzeca is very comfortable at the School of the Arts. "I appreciate the respectfulness the students have for themselves and their teachers. All students are capable of being "renaissance students."



High School News

Let's try it again! by Jacquelyn Glover

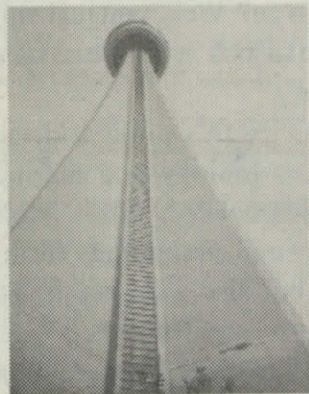
Since the cancelation of the strings and vocal's Italy trip, Ms. Hovis and Mr. Varner have been working on other possibilities for a trip this year. Due to complications the trip was not able to be carried out. Because they were taking a working tour it was necessary that they have a certain number of students signed up in each vocal section and string's section. Mr. Varner especially wants to offer his students a chance to travel so that they may be able to "represent their school, their city, their county and their talent."



At the edge of Niagara Falls

The Chorale is planning a trip to Toronto, Ontario, Canada and Niagara Falls. They will be gone from May 3 through May 6, 2001 for a competition and a tour of this area. When they first arrive they will have shopping time and eat lunch at the Eaton Center, a five level Shopping Galleria with 600,00 square feet of

total floor space. For dinner that night they are going to the Old Spaghetti Factory. They will spend their first evening watching The Lion King at the Princess of Whales Theater. The following day they are planning to perform at York University's Burton Auditorium. There, the full Chorale and their smaller jazz ensemble, Harmony, will compete for a rating and comments from the judges. They will then have lunch at the Food Court in the Student Union. They will enjoy dinner with a view from the Hard Rock Cafe at the Sky Dome. That evening they



CN Tower

are visiting the CN Tower which is the highest indoor observation gallery. On their third day, the Chorale departs for Niagara Falls, where they will take a cruise on the Maid of the Mist. They will later have lunch and go shopping at the Table Rock Complex. After lunch, they will take a journey behind the falls. That evening the Chorale will participate in the



Maid of the Mist Cruise

Awards Ceremony and then attend the medieval banquet and jousting tournament at Medieval Times. During their final day in Canada the Chorale will be accompanied by a Step On Guide on a tour of the city and its many attractions. Some of these include Old and New City Hall, St. Michael's cathedral, the Sky Dome, an outward view of the CN Tower, and many stores, markets, museums, galleries, old churches, mansions, and unique, modern buildings. After lunch at the Town and Country Restaurant the Chorale plans to head to the airport for their flight home to Charleston.

The strings majors have two possibilities for their trip. They may either go with the visual arts majors on their trip to Italy, or to Carnegie Hall and perform. If they go with the visual arts majors they will not be going on a performance trip, but strictly a tour.

These new trips are still in the works and also depend on how many student performers commit to go. The vocals' new plan has a much lower budget, so hopefully this will help their numbers. Many of the details have not been worked out yet and nothing is definite, so we will try to keep you informed as we find out more.

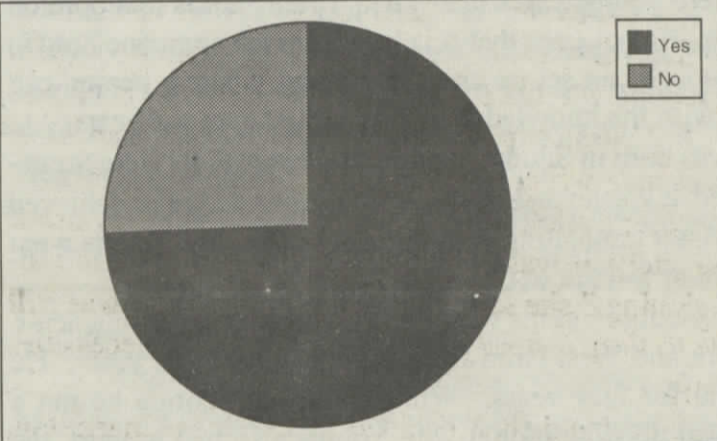
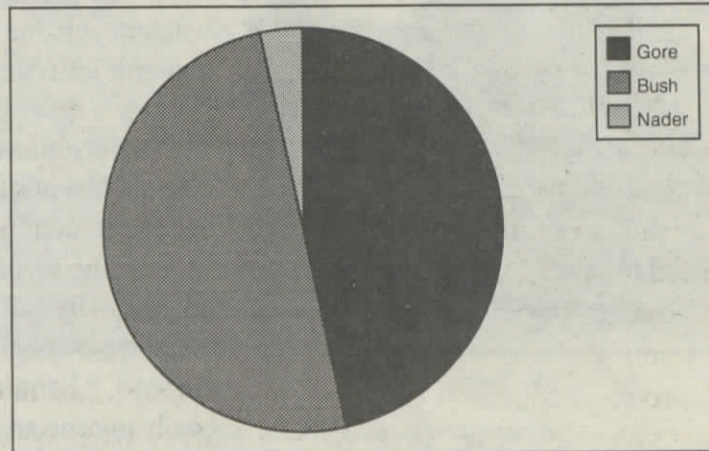
Student Vote 2000

by Loriel Brown and Kimberly Cozart

The Charleston County School of the Arts along with 194 other schools in the Charleston area participated in the Student Vote 2000, which was sponsored by the *Post & Courier* and Trident Technical College. The purpose of Student Vote 2000 was to give students across the county a voice in the political process and to compare their results with those of the popular vote. The results pertaining to the South Carolina Lottery and President of the United States are as follows:

Presidency Results

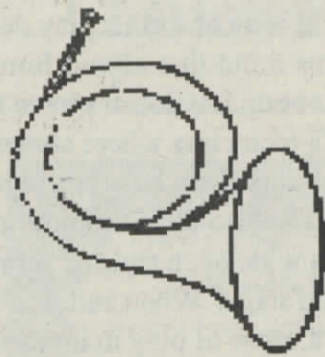
Gore-329
Bush-353
Nader-23



Lottery Results

Yes-537
No-184

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Featured Local Artist

Author Susan Sully: "Choose what is most in your heart."

by Taylor Silver

If any writer ever has doubts about his talent or the risks involving the pursuit of a writing career, they need to have a chat with Charleston resident, Susan Sully. Susan, a former fund raiser, grant writer, strategic planner, and consultant, knows all too well about the self-doubt and risks that often come along with the choice to pursue a writing career. "Choose what is most in your heart," she says. Susan's risks and life experiences have helped to launch a successful writing career.

When Susan left high school, she knew she wanted to write. However, after she arrived at Yale, she became intimidated by other writing students as well as her own question: "Am I good enough?" All of this combined with a lack of encouragement from home, she decided to study Art History. As she was roaming from job to job, she met a man living in a small room in a warehouse with no food or furniture completely living for his artwork. She had now found someone to motivate her. Both her husband's support and her being tired of suppressing her "true" occupation led her to write her first book.

"My writing had to develop as I developed." After being away from writing for so long, Susan felt that she was not ready to write a large piece. Her first book was titled *Fish Out of Water*. The book was written for children, but Susan explains that it was really a metaphor of her early experiences as a writer. It was published soon afterwards. Her next book was a young adult novel, a pretty large change from her first book. Unfortunately, it wasn't published. "Writing doesn't always pay in the beginning," she says. During all of this she was still working on the side to keep a steady stream of money for necessities coming into the house.

Susan and her husband then decided to move to Charleston, mainly because Susan had fallen in love with the architecture. She believes a house is an "expression of someone's soul." Susan soon undertook her first adult book, *Charleston Style*. After the completion of the book, it took about a year to get published. Last month Susan enjoyed the publication of her latest book, *The Late Bloomer's Guide to Success at any Age*. The book is modeled after her experiences in life leading up to her big career change. The self-help book explains how anyone can switch careers late in life, all it requires is conviction. "The biggest challenge in being a writer is figuring out what to say, how to say it, and last but not least, how to sell it." She has appeared on numerous radio shows, attended many book signings, and hopes to be on a new television show premiering on FOX soon. Susan also writes for many home design magazines; she's always working on something. Susan also has many plans for the future, "Though," she says, "I never know exactly what to write until I start."

In contrast to her mother's warnings, Susan says that "the easiest thing to do is to follow your talent and your heart." Susan has done exactly that. "I see people living quiet lives of desperation." Our short talk together was enough to motivate even the largest pessimist. Susan is a fabulous success story and a great person as well. "After college, life is like a game of musical chairs," says Sully, "you may choose the first opening you see. Every day that you spend in a job that makes you unhappy, a little piece of your soul is dying."

You can find Susan Sully's books at Chapter 2, Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble and bn.com.



Taylor Silver interviews Susan Sully as her dog, Pinkney watches on.

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Upcoming Events

November

Wednesday 22	Schools closed or make-up day <i>Applause Editor, Jacquelyn Glover's Birthday</i>
Thursday 23	Thanksgiving holiday, school and office closed
Friday 24	Thanksgiving holiday, school and office closed
Tuesday 28	PTSA Board Meeting at school 7:00 pm

December

Friday 1	Chorale and Orchestra Winter Concert 7:30 N.Chas. Performing Arts Center SOA Winds concert 7:00 MUSC
Tuesday 5	Theatre Mask Project Grade 9, 7 pm, Room 215 SOA Winds, 7:00 pm, Sottile
Wednesday 6	MS Dance Concert, 7:00 pm, Black Box
Thursday 7	HS Dance Concert, 7:00 pm, Black Box Piano Recital, 7:30 pm, NCUMC, Sanctuary
Friday 8	Monologue Project, Grade 6 Theatre, 7 pm, Black Box
Saturday 9	Orchestra All - State Solo Auditions All County Band Auditions @ Drayton Hall HS Student Council Masquerade Ball, 8:00-11:00 pm
Friday 15	Exams Start
Wednesday 20	End of 1st Semester
Thu 21-Wed 3	Winter Break
Fri 22-Tue 26	Holiday for all employees

Good Luck with Midterm Exams!

APPLAUSE Plus

Here is some help with the world wide web

-by Taylor Silver

I know most teenagers think they have a pretty good handle on the internet, but just in case you don't, here are some services and other cool sites you might not know about on the web.

-www.alltheweb.com- Some of your teachers may have told you about this one. It is a very good educational search engine. All you do is type in the person or thing you are trying to research, and the site will come up with some good places that covers what you are looking for without all of those unwanted "garbage" sites.

-www.stas.net- If you are interested in building web sites, this is a great place to get unlimited space for building an extremely large web site. Most places limit the amount of space to around 5 MB, which isn't very much.

-www.scholarship.com- All of you Juniors and Seniors, this is a great web site to find any kind of scholarship you are looking for. This site has over 1.8 billion dollars worth of scholarships in its database.

Teacher's Favorite Sites

-**Mr. Shaw**---www.weather.com- (weather channel) That's right! Our own Assistant Principle has nothing better to do than stare at the 5-day forecast.

-**Mr. Orvin**---www.murraybrothers.com- (fishing/hunting) Well...we all have our hobbies.

-**Mr. Cusatis**---www.lycos.com/games- (games) Tangleword?....No lie, this man has clocked over 14,000 rounds of this boggle-like word game in only two years! Each round is two minutes, with one minute in between! You do the math for the amount of time this man has spent. - Mr. Cusatis....what else can I say?

-**Ms. Emory**---www.wheeloffortune.com- (more games) Trivial Pursuit...What is it with teachers and games?

Student's Favorite Sites

10th-**Jennifer Haycook**---www.musicforce.com- (music) A large christian music site.

10th-**Rebecca Rueter**---www.twistedhumor.com- (humor) This is a formal warning: There are some sick jokes on this site!

11th-**Anthony Norris**---www.wwf.com- ("sports") The official WWF website.

Remember, go to these websites knowing that the internet is composed of a lot of offensive things to many of you-Go at your own risk! And teachers and faculty this was good-hearted humor...please don't hurt or fail me.

Reader Responses

Applause Plus received these e-mails in response to last months editorial by Emily and Emily regarding the dress code.

As parents of a 9th-grader at SOA, we wholeheartedly agree with the editorial in the October issue of "Applause Plus" concerning the school's new, or newly-enforced, dress code, particularly the unreasonable demand for shorts to be no more than four inches above the knee--it is impossible to find girls' shorts that long, and Charleston is simply too hot for a number of months during the school year to wear long pants all day. We do believe, however, that certain rules regarding appropriate clothing in school are necessary. Thanks for your attention and keep up the good work.

Ellen and Norbert Sclipa
Languages Division
College of Charleston

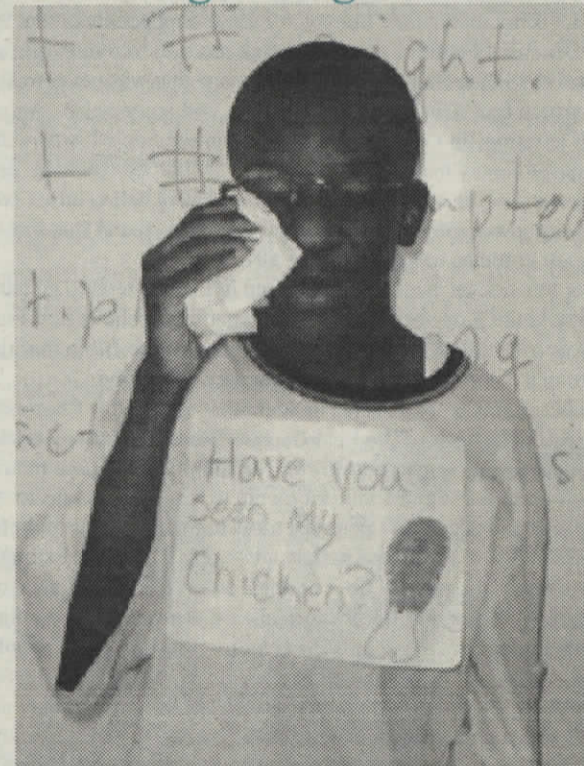
Dear Applause,

Yes, I think the dress code is completely unfair. I agree with those who say that now we can't express ourselves through our clothes. I don't like the part of the dress code that says we can't wear shorts shorter than 4 inches above our knee cap, either. I can understand that they wouldn't want us to wear shorts up our behinds, or our armpits showing. Now that's a reasonable dress code.

I totally think that whoever blamed it on the sixth graders is wrong. We don't wear shorts up our behind. I see more older students wearing illegal things. I have seen older people wearing halter tops, and more inappropriate clothes than us.

-A disgruntled 6th grader

Student still grieving for his chicken



Sophomore **Marty Washington** has not given up the hope of being reunited with his chicken wings. The wings, which Marty admits he obtained by sneaking off during a field trip, were confiscated by SOA staff members. SOA staff members refused to comment, although an anonymous source reported seeing bones in a faculty room wastebasket. "Please, Please, Please give me back my chicken," pleaded the distraught teenager.

My Karma Ran Over Your Dogma

Separation of Church and What?

Emily Moebes

"Harry Potter had never played a sport while flying on a broomstick. He's never worn a cloak of invisibility, befriended a giant or helped to hatch a dragon, but all of that is about to change." Sounds like a great idea for a children's novel right? That was exactly what I thought when I read the opening to *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. Yes, *Harry Potter*. A novel, or collection of novels rather, that have grown more and more popular since they were banned for 'religious' reasons.

For months people have been asking 'Why?' Why ban a book that makes even the most unscholarly children want to read? I asked myself this over and over as I read the first page-turning novel in the course of one day. Although my opinion is somewhat biased being that I am not a religious person myself, I know that most of the religious people I associate with would agree that when you start banning children's novels due to your own close-minded religious views you are simply taking it too far. *Harry Potter*, however, is not the first outstanding book to be banned for 'religious' reasons. Internationally acclaimed books such as *Ulysses*, *All Quiet On The Western Front*, and *The Satanic Verses* have been banned in various countries. *To Kill A Mockingbird*, for example, was banned simply because it showed the dark prejudiced side of society during the fifties.

There are certain books such as *Mein Kampf* and *The Communist Manifesto* that were banned for very obvious reasons; however, these books were banned in countries where religion is the law and personal rights are few and far between. It is actually rather rare that a book is banned in the United States; after all, it is against the Constitution. The woman responsible for the banning of *Harry Potter* claimed that it promoted the use of witchcraft. Give me a break! I would be willing to bet money that the woman grew up watching *Bewitched* and *I Dream Of Genie* on television, and Elizabeth Montgomery and Barbara Eden were far from being dark practitioners of Satanic rituals. Like it or not, witchcraft was formed when those who worshipped animal gods (the first religion ever on Earth) were oppressed by the newly-formed Christian church. Black Magic came way before people even spoke the name of Christ or read a Bible; however, it is simply a sad case of majority versus minority. Most Christians believe that Christianity is the ultimate religion and anyone else who believes other wise is confused or misled. They never take it into consideration that maybe they are the confused ones, not us.

If these books had been banned in a private Catholic school, I could understand it (not that I'd agree with it). However, this was not the case. I mean, that's like trying to ban a book that spurs racial controversy simply because the majority of a school's students are white part of the majority of white upper-middle-class Christians.

Last time I checked the Constitution (yesterday), there was a not-so-small amendment known as the separation of church and state. I keep this in mind on a daily basis as a watch my fellow classmates stand up and pledge allegiance to not only their country but to 'God.' I am aware that this act is not mandatory, but you try reminding people of that when they are accusing you of being a Satanist. I believe that the pledge has no place in public schools. It is simply a custom from the days when church and state were one that was never really looked at for what it was: a pledge written by Christians, for Christians, and no one else. Another example of this is the not so small lettering 'In God We Trust' that is printed on all American-made money. Once again, it is minority versus majority. If they said 'Allah' or 'Buddah' or referred to any other religion whatsoever you can bet the Christians would have hell to raise (excuse the pun). I mean, is the thought that another religion is equal to Christianity really that bad, or is it that that someone such as myself could have no religion at all?

It is for this reason that Christianity and hypocrisy tend to go hand-in-hand. The Bible says that you should not judge others no matter what their beliefs; however, most people tend to conveniently skip over this verse. They use the parts of the Bible that fit their needs, and manipulate them to make non-Christians think that they are wrong.

A perfect example of this is the incident that occurred in Charleston this year during the Jewish holiday Rosh Hashanah. The First Baptist Church downtown held a congressional inviting people from the Synagogue to convert to Christianity. I suppose their intentions were good, but let's face it, if another religious minority were to invite Christians to convert, they would be extremely indignant and take it as a personal blow to their religious beliefs. Can't they just take it into consideration that maybe these people are happy with the religion they chose? I mean, if they wanted to convert, they would do it on their own. They don't need overzealous Christians pushing them into it. They don't seem to realize that forcing their religion on people is only going to make them oppose Christianity even more. I mean, if you people reading this have so much faith in your religion and the fact that it is 'the' right religion, than the least you can do is have faith that people will choose it on their own. The only thing that ever came from years of oppression by Christians is death and deep-seeded hatred. Every day I have to live with the fact that if I were born in any other country I would be killed simply for my beliefs, but the most painful part is that it would be my friends, Christians, that would have my blood on their hands.



Hitler Strikes Again!

Emily Wahrer

"The freedom of speech is the freedom to offend." These words were spoken by Salman Rushdie, a man who gave up his country, his way of life, even fatherhood, all for his right to express himself. It is believed that today we are allowed more personal freedoms than ever before; there are no more witch burnings, but the same kinds of things are still happening. Ignorance pushes man to violence, only now we're forced to handle it civilly, through legal loopholes. Art is at the center of all of this, and the biggest question is: is it art if it offends?

The definition of art varies from person to person. Some think it is beautiful and inspirational; others think that the perfect piece of art is not one that pleases and pacifies, but one that invokes emotion, and if that emotion is rage, so be it. Recently, there was an art exhibit in New York which caused much controversy. It was supposedly sacrilegious and quite offensive to Christians; Mayor Rudolph Guiliani therefore labored to ban the exhibit. The exhibit featured a painting of the Madonna; the surface of the painting was splattered with manure. It was immediately thought to be a blatant anti-Christian statement. Perhaps if the artwork was examined more closely and without religious prejudices, then the true artistic vision might shine through. Though I wonder, were it a painting of Vishnu or Buddha, would Mayor Guiliani have banned the exhibit, or done anything at all? Because, after all, the majority of the nation is Christian; why side with the minorities when there aren't enough of them to vote you into office?

Looking at a piece of art is like reading a caption taken out of context. If one were to read an excerpt from Swift's "A Modest Proposal", in which he suggested that the Irish eat their own children to resist famine, one might think he were an inhuman monster, but if they researched it, they would see he was merely trying to express the despair that his people had fallen into. He felt the need for graphic, horrible images that shocked the reader into paying attention. He didn't force anyone to read it, and anyone who did only had themselves to blame if they didn't like it, though they probably were quite shocked. Still, if you're going to an art exhibit or poetry reading, or just opening a book, you must know that the only limit to it's contents are the same as that of the most twisted and beautiful human soul. You only have yourself to blame if you can't handle it. And if what you experience horrifies and sickens you so much, you can always get your money back. When you judge art, it is as fair as squeezing a woman's foot in a shoe four sizes too small, both of which are done far too often. Is judging art for content any different than judging it for artistic merit, which is done every day by art dealers? Not all art can be exhibited, because if it could, the Metropolitan would be having an exhibit of children's finger-painted refrigerator art instead of Cubism. Art has to be judged on taste and emotions, but never on what those emotions are. Bigotry in art is quite common, but seldom are the bigots artists or educated critics.

Artists are often misunderstood when they include Christianity in their political statements. In the sixties, there was no bigger musical group than the Beatles, but their popularity took a tremendous (but temporary) setback when John Lennon told a reporter that the Beatles had become "bigger than Jesus". The comment was taken completely out of context, and of course was used against them in every way possible. The public backlash was instant and unavoidable; people everywhere burned their Beatles records, dolls, magazines, and any other Beatle-related items in huge public bonfires. Years later, long after the Beatles had disbanded, John was interviewed, and he revealed his reasons for his statement. He meant that in recent years, religion had taken a sharp decline in popularity; people would rather worship pop stars than go to Church.

A few years ago, Sinéad O'Connor was the musical guest on Saturday Night Live. She ended her stark rendition of Bob Marley's 'War' by holding up a picture of the Pope and ripping it in half. This act was seen by most as an act of religious intolerance, sacrilegious behavior, even devil-worshipping. But she was really crying out against injustices that she had seen perpetuated against her homeland, Ireland, and she blamed the Catholic Church. She believes, as I do, that religion has been used for years as an excuse to steal power. People have been murdered, wars have been fought, whole countries have been destroyed, all in the name of God.

Though there are many laws that supposedly separate church and state, there are still many religious remnants that have yet to be erased. For example, on the week of October 16, students took the P.S.A.T.'s. On the front of the answer booklet, there were several questions to be filled out: name, birth date, etcetera. But at the bottom, there was a question asking for the test-taker's religious preference. There were several choices for many different sects of Christianity, but very few slots for anything else. There was no slot for Atheism; there was, however, a slot labeled 'no religious preference'. I found this to be extremely insensitive, because most people (coughcoughChristianscoughcough) don't know the difference between believing in nothing, as in Atheism, and not believing in anything. And I think that the purpose behind this question should be examined. They only ask these questions about age, race, gender and religion so they can turn the test takers into a graphable statistic. I would personally never want to be viewed just as '15-year-old Caucasian female w/ no religious preference', because I'm not. That's not who I am. This is just another example of ways in which gender, race and religion are kept an issue in America.

Mail your responses to:
applauseplus@yahoo.com

Reviews

A fantasy classic - *The Lord of the Rings*

By Taylor Silver

I know many of you turn your heads the other way as soon as you see the word "fantasy" associated with a book. I personally do the same to almost every fantasy because most of the books I have read from this genre have poor plots, dialogue, and an overall unappealing style. However there are always a few exceptions. One such exception comes from the mind of JRR Tolkien, a former professor, and the genius behind *The Lord of the Rings*.

The Lord of the Rings, actually trilogy, takes place in Tolkien's fantasy world, Middle-Earth. Tolkien is so thorough, the book comes with a detailed map. The story revolves around a young "hobbit," named Frodo (Hobbits are a miniature version of people). He is appointed to go on a heroic quest with a band of his faithful friends. They are headed for the heart of the evil lands to defeat the major evil force of Middle-Earth, Sauron. During their adventures, you become exposed to the amazing landscapes and people of Tolkien's imagination. You will wish their was the book didn't end.

Tolkien, who unfortunately passed away in the late seventies, wrote fantasy with well developed dialogue and plots. I would recommend this book even to people who detest fantasy just for the wonderful style and imagery Tolkien uses in his books. Let the imagination of this great author introduce you to new worlds. I guarantee it will be one of the most satisfying books you have ever read.

By the Way-I would strongly recommend reading the introduction book to *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Hobbit*. If you would like to find out more about JRR Tolkien or this book, visit <http://www.tolkien.com>.

The SOA theater majors have done it again!

by: Sarah Ann McCoy

The play "Our Town" by Thornton Wilder was performed by the SOA sophomores on October 18 and 19. What a show! The pantomime play was incredibly breath taking, and such a wonderful experience. Seeing fellow school mates up on stage performing and extremely popular piece of literature (and doing it extremely might I add) is totally incredible. **Kayla Morris** played the main character of Emily Webb, a brilliant girl who didn't hesitate to tell the truth, while **Ian O'Shea** exhibited the base-ball crazed character named George Gibbs. The stage manager, played by **Ivan Flood**, takes the audience through time in each scene of every day life in Grover's Corners, and a peek into the house holds of the Gibbs' and the Webb's.

Since the play was of extreme emotion, it took lots of hard work from the sophomore theater majors, but rewarded them greatly with a particularly wonderful performance. Other performers include: **Sam Church, Chris Hay, Matt Riddlehoover, Tawana Tolbert, Melissa Cormany, Courtney Dix, Ashley Carrier, Chela Coleston, Lori Lamb, Rebecca Toms, Abby Pitsanburger, Brandon Draper, Sherard Moultry-Brown, Ben Newhaws, Ryan Young, and Mallory Lipton** who play characters ranging from the milk man and paper boy to the mother and father of George Gibbs and Emily Webb.

If you see any of these students in the hallway, don't forget to give them a friendly pat on the back for a job well done. If you missed "Our Town," you missed out on a great show, so don't hesitate to attend another of theater's performances!

Meet the Parents

By Staci Oliver

Most of the time "meeting the parents" can be your other half's biggest fear. In the movie *Meet the Parents*, Gaylord (Greg) Focker makes all his fears reality. When Greg goes with his girlfriend, Pam, to meet her parents, everything goes wrong from the beginning. First, the airport loses his luggage, and then when he gets to the house he can tell right off that her dad doesn't like him. The entire weekend he can't seem to do anything right. He knocks the urn of Pam's grandmother's remains off the fire place and to make that even worse, the cat comes over and does his "business" on them. That is relatively small compared to some of the other things he does, and the fact that Pam's father was in the C.I.A. for about 30 years of his career doesn't make his stay any easier. One night he he stumbles into the wrong room, her father's "secret study" and is practically forced to take a polygraph test or better known to some as a lie detector test. These are just a few of the mishaps of the weekend that almost ruin his and Pam's relationship. If you want to laugh, *Meet the Parents* is the movie you should see.

Taproot: The new kind of boy band

By: Sarah Ann McCoy

"Just need some time to myself again. Need to bring back the old days when I was in control of my life." When I first listened to the band Taproot (signed by Atlantic Records), these lyrics jumped from the player and flung themselves at me. As I went on listening, I noticed that a large the lyrics often relate to life that a lot of teenagers face every day.

Taproot isn't your average boy band; you won't see them kneeling on stage reaching for a screaming chick's hand. You would find them jumping around and singing to a crowd of moshing concert-goers. Though the lyrics don't have much to do with walking hand in hand with your life's love under the moon, Taproot spins off some crazy tunes you just can't refuse. "We just want to reach as many people as possible. I think our message and our music can affect a lot of people in a positive way, so we want it to be very successful for that reason and that reason only" said singer/lyricist Stephen Richards. This is a very good attitude to have in a time where the finger is pointed at musicians and entertainment sources when someone decides to go on a shooting rampage.

Some songs that I thought had a positive message and more or less a great beat included titles such as "Smile, Mirror's Reflection," and my personal favorite, "Dragged Down." The best thing about Taproot is they put the truth right out for you rather than put it in a fancy world of goo. I definitely suggest you check this hard core rock band out!



TAPROOT



Puzzles, Games & More

Applause Word Jumble

Try your best to unscramble all of these writing words.

- 1) ayess 2) sansanoce 3) aprpe
- 4) mope 5) hateprom 6) epn
- 7) kuaih 8) soepr 9) lipcen
- 10) tatiierallon 11) milesi 12) wyteptierr
- 13) ptutjaspoiinx 14) gyimera 15) horst tyosr
- 16) tificon 17) gpybaihor 18) noyri

Who am I?



Horoscopes

by SOA Astrologer Janesha Simmons

- Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)- Don't alienate yourself from others. Learn to mingle with your peers.
- Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)- Friends who thought you were wasting your time will develop new respect for you.
- Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19)- Don't mix business with pleasure. It only leads to trouble.
- Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20)- If you lighten up and enjoy your daily experiences, you'll heal from recent clashes and crisis.
- Gemini (May 21-June 20)- Don't hide behind a mask, let your true personality show.
- Cancer (June 21-July 22)- You can't buy someone's love, but you can convince them that your feelings are genuine.
- Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)- Don't always be the clown of the group. Everyone is laughing at you, not with you.
- Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)- Learn to budget your time. If you don't you will become inundated with work. Who am I?
- Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)- The trials and tribulations you are experiencing will soon be resolved. What doesn't kill you only makes you stronger.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)- Learn to be frugal with your money. If you don't, you will find your accounts depleting.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)- Try doing a good deed for someone. It will brighten your day.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)- Your family is very important to you. If you don't achieve your goal, your family won't be disappointed; just try again.

Shoutout to Melissa Yarborough:
Happy Belated Birthday!

Fill in The Lyrics

by Tawana Talbert

Fill in the lyrics: Put your music knowledge to a test and see if you can fill in the blank of each song and know who the artist is.

- 1) Attention all yall playas and pimps

Artist: _____
- 2) She had dumps like a truck, truck, truck, thighs like

Artist: _____
- 3) Hey, boy don't you know I got something going on

Artist: _____
- 4) Cause I am whatever you say I am , if I wasn't

Artist: _____
- 5) Round here we pop dem collars, round here we get dem dollars

Artist: _____

Cryptogram

Each letter consistently represents a different letter. Clue: H=U

Y FG VUUVEIC RV GYJJYVLFYSIE, DHR YR PVHJC DI
 CFLAISVHE RV VBBIS GI RZI UVEYRVL.
 -GFSW RPFYL

Answers

- 16-Fiction
 - 13-Juxtaposition
 - 10-Alliteration
 - 7-haiku
 - 4-Poem
 - 1-essay
 - 2-assonance
 - 3-paper
 - 6-pen
 - 9-pencil
 - 12-typewriter
 - 11-simile
 - 8-prose
 - 5-metaphor
 - 17-biography
 - 14-imagery
 - 15-short story
 - 18-irony
- Word Jumble
 Who Am I? Sarah McCoy
 Wow
 5) Every girl I meet that look right I might just gotta holla. Artist: Lil Bow
 won't even play my jam. Artist: Eminem
 4) Then why would I say I am in the paper, the news, everyday I am , radio
 tina Aguilera
 3) I got an invitation don't you keep me waiting all night long Artist: Chris-
 again. Artist: Sisqo
 2) Wha, wha, wha baby move your butt, but, but I think I'll say it
 can't mess with me. Artist: Mystical
 1) Right now in the place to be, I thought I told yall dudes before yall dudes
 Fill in the Lyrics
 -Mark Twain
 Cryptogram
 I am opposed to millionaires but it would be dangerous to offer me the
 position.