

# Applause

Volume 3 Number 3

Charleston County School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC

December 2001



## In This Issue



Where are they now? *Applause* interviews Sohayla Roudsari. (page 4)



Paul McCrae & Courtney Dix interview Ms. Jaycie Rappold. (page 3)



SOA vocal majors honor America (page 2)

## Tis the Season for Traditions

by Allison Orvin

History books refer to the United States as "the melting pot" where all nations and traditions blend together. Our Holiday celebrations would, indeed indicate just that.

We have English carols that we hear about 700 times during the season and a dying evergreen tree, all decked out in our living room thanks to the folks from Germany.

Santa Claus, or St. Nick., our short, fat, jolly pipe smoking friend frolicking around in a dandy red suit, originated in Scandinavia and his arrival to squeeze his plump self down the chimney to fill stockings is reminiscent of the Netherlands. His magical sleigh drawn by reindeer, On Donner, On Dasher yeah you know the rest, began in Switzerland, and our parades, which encompass those enormous flying Bart Simpsons, may be a carry-over from Latin processions.

So what kind of traditions are upheld by the students and faculty of SOA? I hunted people down and pried into their lives and boy did I find a lot of similar answers.

The majority of the lot who celebrate Christmas seem to put up the good ol' tree and humiliate its natural beauty by decorating it with blinding tinsel and embarrassing ornaments that were made in 1st grade that are now rotting cause, yes, play-dough's shelf life doesn't withstand a decade.

Senior Amber Rosintoski says her family once had a 12 foot Christmas tree! That definitely qualifies as a fire hazard!

Freshman Ava Hill commented that her family always puts up the tree on Thanksgiving! Talk about getting an early start!

Senior Jasairi Whipper said that his sister's birthday is on December 1st and that's when his family puts up the tree and they gather around the "first fire!" Well Whipper, if you want to warm up, go stand outside in shorts and a tank top because oh yes it's not Christmas in July in Charleston but July in Christmas! I crack myself up!

It seemed that a common tradition was cheating and opening up a present on Christmas Eve. Middle School guidance counselor Mrs. Miller says that she "always gives her daughters pajamas that night before Christmas."

Now how about the grub! Mrs. Miller says her family enjoys Eggs Benedicte on Christmas morning followed by Prime Rib in the afternoon! Ok guys we know whose house to go to on the 25th!

Senior Caroline Bailey said "We always have ham!" Ham it up Caroline! The Hovis's have pie on their menu from strawberry to apple! Go bug Ms. Hovis, she will make you one so you will go away, I know this from personal experience.

Mr. Cusatis offered a lot of tasty tidbits about his family's fun, "We had a real Italian Christmas Eve dinner

complete with squid and aglia olio (Spaghetti with olive oil and garlic)". He came from a family of nine brothers and sisters and they would "search the house for stockings that elves supposedly hid while we were eating. They were so fast we couldn't see them do it. I believed in them till I was about nine or ten, well maybe thirteen." We all know Mr. Cusatis still has nightmares of the elves!

Not only is Christmas celebrated in our great nation, but other holidays such as Hanukkah and Kwanza come to mind.

Hanukkah, which means "dedication" and is also referred to as "The Festival of Lights", is a Jewish festival which begins on the Hebrew date of the 25th of Kislev and lasts eight days, through the 2nd of Tevet. This year, that corresponds to December 9th through December 18th. Hanukkah commemorates the victory of the Maccabees (led by Judah) over the Hellenistic Syrians in a revolt that took place around 165 BC.

The most important Hanukkah ritual is the candle lighting. Jews light candles in a special candle holder called a "Menorah" or a "Hanukkah." Each night, one more candle is added. The middle candle, called the "shamash," is used to light each of the other candles and it is lit every night. Therefore, on the first night of Hanukkah, two candles are lit (the shamash and the candle for the first night) and on the last night, there are nine lit candles. (continued on page 6)

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# Editor's Page

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*Applause is a student produced publication of the School of the Arts.  
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## Congratulations French winners!

SOA French students have never had a better day than at Saturday's Declamation Contest at the College of Charleston. There were close to 1,000 entries in the combined categories of poetry recitation, tee shirt and poster designs for Middle School and High School.

High School Poetry Winners for French I were: Tabatha Deas (first place), Hollie Reeves (second place), Maddie Stoddard (fourth place), and Carmen Ashley Cooper (honorable mention); French II winners were: Mya Laurie (fourth place), and Casey O'Neill (honorable mention); French III winners are: Eva Sclippa (first place), Meredith Neville (second place), Christie McNally and Whitney Perdue (honorable mention); French IV winners are: Jennifer Haycook and Thomas Rowell (honorable mention); French V winners are: Katie Hovis (third place), and Ashley Gaston and Rissa Hanagriff (honorable mention).

High School Poster design winners: Jonathan King (first place), and Becky Annand, Danielle Daniels, Jenna Mcswain, Gabby Smith, Josh Smoak and Gia Williams (honorable mention).

## From the Editor's Desk

Thank you for browsing through our latest issue of *Applause*. I would like to thank the staff of *Applause* who worked very hard to squeeze in a December issue prior to the Winter break. I would like to reemphasize that the views given in *Applause* do not necessarily reflect the views of *Applause*, SOA, or any of the paper's staff. I hope you enjoy our third issue and continue to give your support. We hope everyone has a safe and happy break. See you next year!

Ian O'Shea  
*Applause*, Co-Editor

## September 11th Tribute a Success

by Caroline Bailey

At the end of October, an SOA pep rally was called in tribute to those who lost their lives and loved ones in the September 11th tragedy, along with those who have been called upon by America's armed forces.

After the usual pep rally dances and cheers, a violin solo performed by Michael Williams, warmed the SOA student body's hearts, followed by a chorale performance that brought many to their feet in honor of their country.

Ms. Tisdale wanted to bring the school together: "I got wonderful feedback from students and teachers alike, and because of its success, the format of our pep rallies has been changed so that we highlight majors each month."

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# SOA Features

## Visual Arts teacher tells it like it is



**Paul:** "Where did you spend your childhood?"

**Ms. Jaycie:** "I grew up in Gainesville, Florida."

**Paul:** "What do you love to do outside of school, besides art?"

**Ms. Jaycie:** "I love rock climbing and white water kayaking. I've been rock climbing all over the U.S. and in Italy, I've been white water kayaking in southern Chile and in Costa Rica. I also got to see the Straights of Magellan."

**Paul:** "Wow, that's amazing. You must be quite an athlete. So, what about the art field did you find alluring?"

**Ms. Jaycie:** "My father, grandfather, and great-grandfather were all artists, so I guess it's in my blood. I grew up with art all around me."

**Courtney:** "Where did you train to become an artist?"

**Ms. Jaycie:** "I trained privately for about three years and was a painting apprentice for another two years, and I also attended Florida University."

**Courtney:** "How long have you been an art instructor?"

**Ms. Jaycie:** "For six years now."

**Paul:** "Where were you teaching before you came to SOA?"

**Ms. Jaycie:** "I was Studio Director at Charleston Arts where I taught some of the students that already attended SOA. Also, I taught at Middleton High School."

**Paul:** "What brought you to SOA?"

**Ms. Jaycie:** "I was working at Charleston Arts when Ms. Neville called me. I told her about myself and got an application, and, eventually I got the job."

**Courtney:** "How do you like teaching here?"

**Ms. Jaycie:** "I love it, but I'm sometimes overwhelmed at the demands that are put on me, and I do tend to overload myself with work. When I first arrived here it was like I had to put out a bunch of fires that were already ablaze, but now everything has leveled off and it's great."

**Courtney:** "How did you get involved in *Peter Pan*?"

**Ms. Jaycie:** "I was appointed by the administration to be the Head Scenic Artist."

**Paul:** "What, exactly, is it that you do, and who's been helping you?"

**Ms. Jaycie:** "I've done all the designs for the sets and props, and the sophomores have been helping me to bring them all to life."

**Courtney:** "Are you excited about the final product?"

**Ms. Jaycie:** "Oh yeah! About ninety-five percent of it is finished already. The students worked so well together."

**Paul:** "Do you feel you've learned something from all your students?"

**Ms. Jaycie:** "Absolutely. I've taught students from age 6 to 65, I've found adolescents to be the most challenging, but it's a challenge that I enjoy."

**Courtney and Paul:** "Thank you for sharing your time with us."

**Ms. Jaycie:** "You're very welcome."

## SOA's Musical Wonder Woman



**How long have you been at SOA?**

**Kayla:** Since the sixth grade actually... approximately 6 years. I auditioned for the school's theater program and the vocal program but I decided to come to

theater.

**Did you have any outside theater experience or training?**

**Kayla:** In middle school I was in *The King and I* at the Dockstreet Theater. As a freshman I became a part of the "Wings" program for the Charleston Stage Company, where I work in technical theater. Last year I was Ann in *Cheaper by the Dozen*. I am also a member of the National Thespian Society and have attended the National Thespian World Conference for the past two years.

**When you first auditioned for *Peter Pan*, what part did you originally audition for?**

**Kayla:** When I first stepped in to the office I couldn't see myself as Pan. I had my heart set on the part of Smee, Hook's right hand man. However, I am glad to have the part because it is a great challenge as well as a lot of fun. And besides **Ben Pooser** does a wonderful job at the part.

**How did you think your audition went when you walked out of the office?**

**Kayla:** I didn't think it was anything special, and I never expected to get *Peter Pan* after I had done that whole Smee routine. I didn't even try out for Pan until the call backs.

**How have rehearsals been for you, especially in the lead role?**

**Kayla:** Rehearsals are great. They are so much fun. Everyday we laugh so much. Usually the rehearsal process is so long, hard, tedious, and ultimately boring, but we have great fun. They are extremely time consuming, though. I actually quit my job at Wild Wings in order to do this show, and to be the washing machine girl in **Mallory McLane's** senior thesis project.

**How do you like working with Mr. Wood?**

**Kayla:** I've never been taught or directed by him before. It's fun and educational. We joke around a lot; we've become friends. But we still manage to work really fast. We're on schedule in spite of the playing around we do.

**Is there anyone in the cast that you especially like working with?**

**Kayla:** I love the whole cast!! However, I must say that watching **Heath Richardson** and **Ben Pooser** is the most fun. They are so great together. The dynamics of their friendship fit the duo of Smee and Hook so perfectly.

**How have fight rehearsals with Mr. Younts been?**

**Kayla:** Those fight rehearsals are rough but it's interesting. The fight scenes are so cartoonish, and comical; it's different from your usual stage combat which makes it challenging but good for laughs!

**Thanks for your time Kayla!**

**Kayla:** No problem.

## Where are they now?



Sohayla Roudsari

*Sohayla Roudsari is attending the University of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina. Katy Hovis talked to her about college life.*

### What is your major?

My major is psychology, because I find people to be incredibly and completely enigmatic. So, I figured I'd make a career out of this, maybe. (That could change.) My minor is music performance, you guessed it, on the cello.

### How long did it take you to adjust? Was it hard moving to Columbia?

To tell you the truth I don't think I needed much adjusting. The people here in Preston

College (my dorm) are wonderful. They were very friendly and made everyone feel right at home from the moment we moved in. I have my moments, but that's the nature of life. As Pierre Trudeau, put it...(a nice little quote for you)..."My life is one long curve, full of turning points."

Nope, moving to Columbia wasn't hard at all. I had 2 cars to move my stuff with, fortunately. The hardest part was saying goodbye that first day, cause everyone gets emotional. I had to say goodbye to my family and my best friend, leaving me in a place filled with unfamiliar faces. Once you get past that, everything pretty much falls into place.

### Have you been homesick at all?

Charleston's only 2 hours away, so when I get homesick I catch a ride home. I've had a few stress-filled days when I just wanted to drive home and visit some of my favorite spots, the beach..but I settled for pictures instead.

### What classes are you taking?

I'm taking English 102, math 115, biology 101 and lab, French 121. That's it. 15 hours; I was told in my first semester that I should take less than the max hours (18) to ensure that my GPA would be decent. I think they underestimate freshmen.

### Do you like them?

For the most part I think my classes could be more challenging. I enjoy my French 121 class and English 102 class, because both professors set high standards and want you to get involved in class discussions. They want you to be an active part of your education. My math class is an interesting one, refer to my helpful hint. Biology 101 might be enjoyable if the lecture was not with 60 other people and if the professor maybe knew my name, or cared to learn it. The biology lab is wonderful; it is taught by a graduate student, but my teacher knows what she's talking about. She's well educated and wants to teach you all she can. The labs are smaller and the one-on-one style teaching is my personal preference. Another side bar, don't underestimate grad students, they can be very helpful. Sometimes more so than the professors. (helpful hint: don't take courses from professors with non English sounding names, trust me, not a good idea. (language barriers are not fun.)

### What is your favorite class? Why?

English, because it's open discussion style, seminar style as Ms.. Marshall calls it, except less controlled.

### What are some similarities/differences between high school and college?

The biggest difference is the style of learning. You basically teach yourself or make sure that someone teaches you. You have to take part in your education. Professors won't chase you down to teach you something. Also, student life is a much larger part of education. You learn so much, life lessons I guess you could call them.

### What is the hardest thing that you have had to deal with?

My math professor. Yeah, that's a unique case though.

### How is the city? How is it similar/different than Charleston?

The best description I've heard of Columbia is that it is a "gray city." I think that's pretty accurate. USC is the life of Columbia basically. There is no beach, which makes me feel amazingly landlocked and a little more edgy. I suppose it's just that you feel surrounded by the city, the beach seems like an escape.(..just me though.) There's a lack of sophistication that I think historic Downtown adds to Charleston. Columbia is just the neighborhood my school is located in for me.

### What are the "cool places" in Columbia?

The hangouts are downtown Columbia, the Vista, and Five Points. Believe me, nothing like Charleston. They have decent restaurants and that pretty much sums that up. (My favorite restaurants: The Salty Nut and The Basil Pot.)

### What is the most exciting thing that has happened to you since you started college?

Um, well, I got mooned a couple times. :) and I've met plenty of people who offer those sorts of "favors."

### What advice would you give to graduating seniors?

Don't stay sweet.

To be less philosophical, don't burn yourself out. Find something you enjoy and pursue it (try not to procrastinate too much). Don't let go of everything you've learned, and enjoy yourself.

*"The supreme accomplishment is to blur the line between work and play."*

- Arnold Joseph Toynebee

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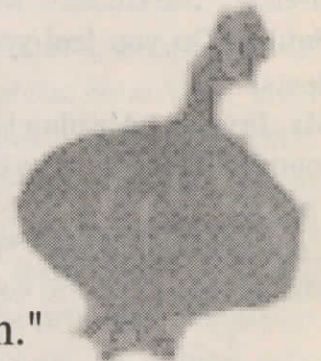
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# News & Views

## HOROSCOPES

### Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb 18)

Don't let your friends hold you back from anything you want to do, or make you do something you don't want to do. Be sure not to confuse friendly advice with peer pressure. The stars have spoken!

### Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20)

You have been feeling a little down lately. Go out and have fun. Do a little, and I do mean little, damage. Stop worrying about what tomorrow holds for you. Leave that to me. The stars have spoken!

### Aries (Mar 21-Apr 19)

Work on bringing up your grades. Hard work will pay off, trust me. Your efforts will inspire those around you to do the same, so set the example. Your work will bring you rewards. The stars have spoken!

### Taurus (Apr 20-May 20)

Get more involved in things you normally wouldn't. You may be surprised at how interesting they can be. If the new you doesn't suit the old you then simply shed what doesn't work. The stars have spoken!

### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Love is in the air! Cupid always goes where he's least expected. So be patient, romance is on the way. The stars have spoken!

### Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Start thinking about your future. Where do you want to be in 20 or 30 years? If you want something done you have to do it yourself. Seek new territory that you would like to conquer. The stars have spoken!

### Leo (July 23-Aug 22)

Take your art more seriously. You may not realize the power that you wield with your gifts. Others may not understand just how special your talents are, so show them. The stars have spoken!

### Virgo (Aug 23-Sept 22)

The holidays are all about family. Spend this time talking to the older members of your family. Dive into the past and discover your roots. The past will shape the future. The stars have spoken!

### Libra (Sept 23-Oct 22)

Don't spend more time arguing than you would laughing. Laughter prolongs your life. Try not to force your ideals on others. Realize the more important things in life and be more open minded. The stars have spoken!

### Scorpio (Oct 23-Nov 21)

Spend more time with your family and bridge the gap that exists between you and them. Find common grounds and expand on that. Family is so important, especially around the holiday season. The stars have spoken!

### Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec 20)

Don't let small fires burn you up. Many annoyances will come your way, but just relax and don't let it upset you. Everything must run its natural course. The stars have spoken!

### Capricorn (Dec 21-Jan 19)

Even though you may not realize it yet, you are being observed, not stalked, but observed. Put your best foot forward. A little pretension never hurt anyone. The stars have spoken!

## Is Christmas Overemphasized?

"I really don't care as long as I get what I want and other people are happy."  
--**Michael Jamison**

"Yes, there is a lot of commercialism and too much temptation to buy things we don't need. The true meaning of Christmas is about Christ's birth and giving to others." --**Ms. Nichols**

"No, I don't pay any attention to it." -- **Lauren Shaw**

"Yes I definitely think it is! It would be nice to hear about Hanukkah, Kwanza, and other religious celebrations." --**Ms. Marks**

"It seems as though everyone celebrates Christmas, even Jewish people."  
--**Chris Polk**

"I think that Christmas is a little over advertised, but that is only because more people celebrate Christmas." --**Tedra Coakley**

"Yes, and the only thing I can't stand is Christmas decorations out at Halloween." --**Angela Artega**

"I don't pay attention, so I think it is fine." -- **Chris James**

"I think that Christmas is over advertised, but not too much. I think that people need it more right now than ever." --**Ashley Cooper**

"No I don't, because the TV episodes are fun to watch and it brings a happy, tingly feeling in your body. The feeling of Love." -- **Jason Basil**

"No, because Christmas is wonderful." --**Rachel Thomas**

## Top 10 Worst Gifts

10. School Supplies
9. Happy Meal Toys (You know that is too ghetto.)
8. Subscription to a magazine such as National Geographic, National Wildlife, and Reader's Digest.
7. One of those Idiot's Guide books (It takes more than just a guide to help a true idiot.)
6. Bath & Body Works basket (It is like telling someone to take a bath.)
5. Granny panties and whitey tighties (Enough said.)
4. Christmas Memorabilia such as sweaters, ties, socks, etc.
3. Cheap Perfume (It smells like vinegar and B. O.)
2. An edited CD from Wal-Mart (Need I say more.)
1. Fruit Cakes (You know nobody eats them, they just save them to give to someone else next year...in fact some people have been regiving the same fruit cakes for 30 years.)

# Editorials

## What About Hanukkah and Kwanzaa?

by Emily Schwimmer



With the holiday season approaching, people are starting to get into the holiday spirit. Many stores are displaying their holiday decorations, books, trees, and gifts. Actually most of the stores had their displays up right after Halloween. To me that seems a little bit early. It's not even Thanksgiving and everyone needs to be thinking about what to get

their friends, family, relatives and other close people for the holidays. Yet, as I walk through the mall and look at the displays they have out, all the decorations and ornaments are for Christmas. Do people in America only celebrate Christmas? What happened to the holidays like Kwanzaa and Hanukkah? Being Jewish, this bothers me every year. Also, I think Christmas is way too advertised. As everyone knows, the true meaning of the holiday is lost and that's a sad thing.

A couple weeks ago I went to Barnes and Noble to buy some Hanukkah gifts for my cousins. While I was there I decided to get them gift wrapped, but all the wrapping paper was Christmas oriented. God forbid there actually be wrapping paper for other holidays. I ended up choosing wintry type paper with children in the sky reading books. It was quite cute I'd have to say. Once the woman was done wrapping the two gifts she said, "Merry Christmas!" I looked at her with a smile and responded with, "You have a Happy Hanukkah too!" She looked back at me with a very confused look, like she didn't know what to say. Almost as if she didn't realize anyone celebrated Hanukkah. She did not say anything after that, so I quietly walked out the store, feeling very proud that I had said something instead of nothing. I expressed my anger and frustration in a very positive and polite way. However, I am still bothered by the way people only pay attention to Christmas. Why is it that people can't understand that there are people in America and even the world that are not Christian and celebrate other holidays besides Christmas?

On local TV stations they advertise the holiday season with Christmas decorations all over the screen. Yet, I will say that there is a little, teeeny Menorah in the bottom of the screen and Kwanzaa colored candles in the other corner. If they really meant "Happy Holidays," the TV station would have the commercial equally advertising all the holidays. If they did this, some people like myself would not take offense to some aspects of the holiday season.

Now, I am not attacking everyone who celebrates Christmas or the holiday itself, but it is just people who don't understand that it is not the only holiday celebrated during this time of the year. Even though, I do understand that the majority of

Americans celebrate Christmas, that does not excuse the fact that all other holidays are not recognized. By reading this article I want people to understand that I don't HATE Christmas. I just wish for ya'll to be careful when ya'll wish a Merry Christmas to someone you don't know, because he or she may not celebrate it. Therefore, Happy Holidays to you all and to all a good night!

(continued from page 1)

Junior Emily Schwimmer says "After lighting the candles of the Menorah we like to sing festive Hanukkah songs and spin around like dreidles." Right!

It is traditional to eat foods fried in oil during Hanukkah. Some common foods are potato latkes and "sufganiot" (jelly doughnuts). That's where the spinning exercise comes in handy!

Junior Maggie Silver enjoys spinning the dreidel during her family's celebration and making orange drop candy. When asked how she felt about also celebrating Christmas coming from a family with a Jewish father and Christmas observing mother, her response was "I really don't care, I have to go to class!" Ahhh the enjoyable as well as an annoying job as a journalist!

Kwanzaa is an African American and Pan-African holiday which celebrates family, community and culture. Celebrated from December 26 through January 1, its origins are in the first harvest celebrations of Africa from which it takes its name.

The name Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza" which means "first fruits" in Swahili, a Pan-African language which is the most widely spoken African language.

Kwanzaa builds on the five fundamental activities of Continental African "first fruit" celebrations: in gathering; reverence; commemoration, recommitment and celebration.

Kwanzaa was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966. It is celebrated through singing, speaking, dancing and reciting traditional. Kwanzaa is built on seven principles that are commonly known as "Nguzo Saba."

These principles are: umoja - unity, kujichagulia - self-determination ujima - collective work and responsibility, ujamaa - cooperative economics, nia - purpose, kuumba - creativity and imani - faith. Each day one candle either black, green or red is lit which represents each principle.

Senior Zora Johnson and her family celebrate this holiday. Why? "To light candles and eat some holiday ham. Also it's a remembrance of our heritage."

Whether decking your halls with boughs of holly or getting dizzy from spinning around like a dreidel or feasting on some Kwanzaa holiday ham, enjoy the opportunity to celebrate your traditions because we live in a free country!

## SEASONS GREETINGS

FROM THE APPLAUSE STAFF

# Student Writing

## 3rd Eye

Meghan Lee

In my mind, memory gently inflates like a rising diaphragm  
yet to fall, until a callous on a palm or a whisper becomes  
a prickling static growing as new channels are received  
facts distort- like words on a wet newspaper clipping  
bleeding blackly into a uniform smudge  
the 3rd eye, feels its way around my mind, carefully peeling  
apart  
moments like socks from feet, skin from bones  
and lays them out to dry under the dim black light  
this silent playing picture show  
flashing brightly in the dark

## Untitled

Kimberly Anderson

Between sleep and dreams  
i linger  
here  
we are all tired  
insomnia and narcolepsy  
and eyelids that weigh  
i wonder why we believe  
only in what happens between blinks

we are all tired  
and falling and catching each other  
like the rain so i go to bed  
forget my body  
let it fade from under me until  
instinct and flesh  
snatch  
me back to the cold between the sheets

we are all weaker than ourselves  
never fall completely  
because we know  
losing blood is easy  
losing love is the same

we are all tired  
and want to lose ourselves  
so that we don't know we are  
gone or that  
we ever were

## Sip

Nicole Stasko

My mother  
is making a dress.  
She takes string and pins  
me up to the wall,  
toes,  
legs,  
stomach,  
sides,  
arms,  
fingers,  
head,  
face,  
hands  
me my blood in a pattern.  
She doesn't want me to faint,  
makes me take a drink,  
holds my mouth open,  
her four fingers  
grip the insides of my bottom  
teeth,  
her thumb pressing up  
under my chin.  
She pours blood into my  
tongue,  
mouth,  
throat,

down the inside,  
lining my body;  
I taste my insides,  
choke  
and shove  
my arms into her ribs,  
grab her heart,  
lungs,  
stomach,  
intestines,  
push them out  
beyond her back,  
rip the skin open  
with my fists,  
drop them.  
She screams outloud  
into my open mouth,  
blows the blood into my  
throat  
and I can feel it creep  
out of the pinholes.  
We are tongue twisted  
and tie-dyed red.

## Untitled

Jennie Cowen

An orphan left in the snow freezes  
and she becomes Winter.  
(Anthropomorphized by countless eighteenth-century poets,  
her frail fingers leave frost on glass  
and her complexion is tinged with blue.)  
She wanders through the House, its tree-green halls bare,  
where she meets another: leafy red, she cannot decide  
whether he is Fire or Fall, resolves to ask him, but he floats--  
spritely and whirling, above her head, fading into brushstrokes,  
iron-red flakes, face obscured by flames, nebulous--  
and she reaches out with her icy fingertip, touches the whirl-  
wind:  
for an instant her cheeks suffuse with colored, her hair  
blows back, blonde again, her little pink mouth gasps silently an  
o...

...and from above, the firestorm watches her sit down suddenly,  
watches her white gown puff up with cold air, and the life drain  
slowly,  
again, from her icy flesh.

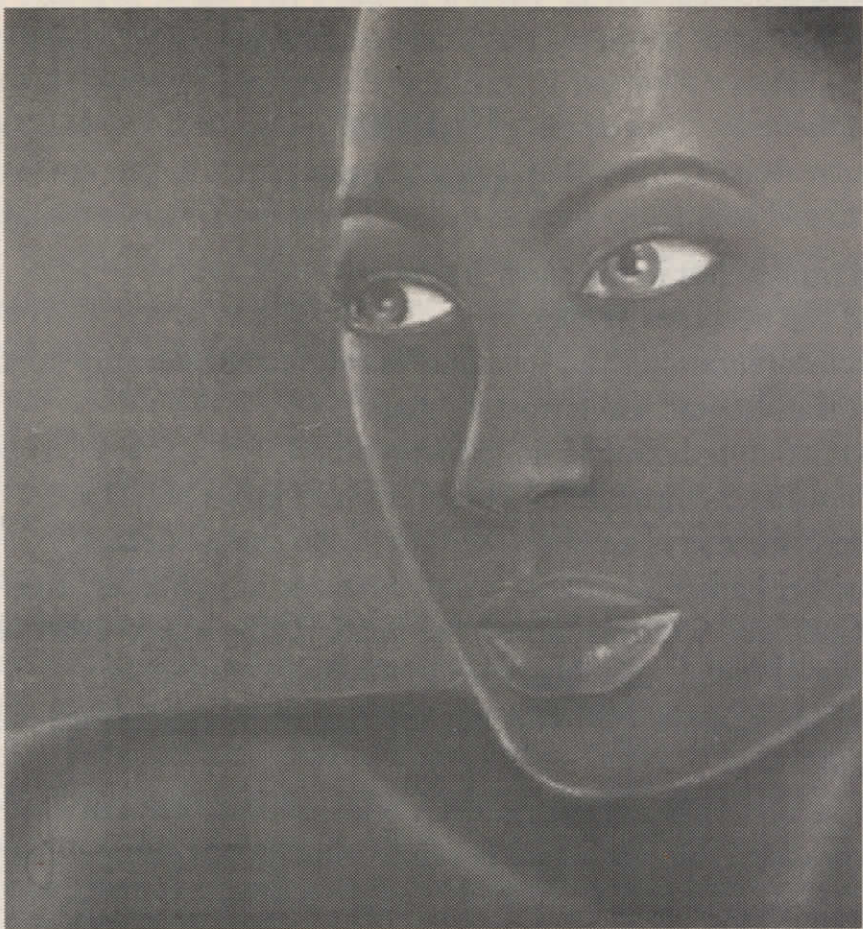
# Student Art



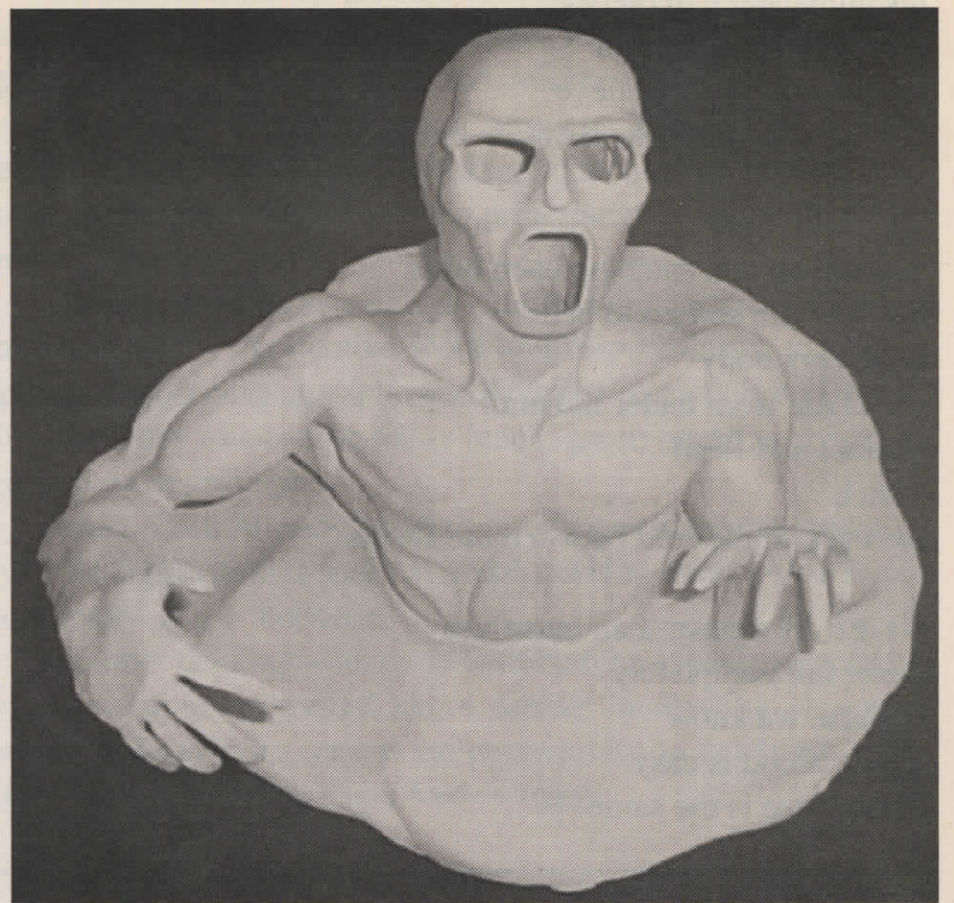
**-Greg Swinton**  
11th grade



**-Harper Marchman-Jones**  
11th grade



**-Jasiri Whipper**  
12th grade



**-Robbie Olson**  
11th grade



# Reviews

## Lowcountry Dining

by Allsion Orvin and Emily Schwimmer

If your in the East Side, East Cooper that is, slide your hunk of junk into the Boulevard Diner at 409 Coleman Boulevard. What once use to be the Dairy Queen in the good ole' 70s, the Fish and Shrimp House, has now been transformed into a retro diner that meets modern cuisine with a kick of Southern flavor.



The menu is a diverse grouping of classic home cooking and modern favorites catered towards the family and of course the Southern at heart. For starters you can chose from Fried Green Tomatoes with shrimp remoulade sauce (\$5) to Blackeye Pea and Sirloin Chili 'Sundae' with crab au gratin (\$5).

If you're a light weight you might want to try the Spinach, Apple, Cucumber, and Carrot Salad with bacon, green onion, and buttermilk dressing (\$6) and you can add crispy fried oysters or grilled chicken. Are you drooling yet?

The Boulevard Diner also offers an assortment of sandwiches from the Francis' Grilled Pimento Cheese with ham (\$5) or the Open faced Tuna Melt on an English muffin with cheddar cheese (\$6).

And if you're a hungrin' for a big dinner you can choose from the Over Roasted Turkey with fresh cranberry and the fixin's, cornbread, mash potatoes and gravy, and the choice of a vegetable such as down south collard greens or lima beans (\$8) or the Cajun Style meatloaf (\$8). They're open Monday- Saturday from 11am-9pm and 9:30 on the weekend and you can't miss their huge sign of the "Big and Juicy Burger," their logo with their name, towering above all the cars in the parking lot.

Upon arrival, we were greeted by a bubbly hostess willing to seat us. The joint was packed full of families and young couples all seeming to enjoy themselves, great first impression! There is an open kitchen, filled with attractive line cooks may we add, with a counter in front complete with swirly seats. The rest of the restaurant is decked out with tables and booths. The 50s rubber maid teal and shrimp pink colors jumped out at us, along with the mobiles and tin sculptures of kitchen ware.

Our server, Tammy was friendly and helpful in suggesting items, definitely a plus for service! We settled on sweet tea because hello where do you think we are! We decided on a unique appetizer of Fried Dill Pickles (\$4), yes we said FRIED DILL PICKLES and much to our surprise they were scrumptious, complete with honey mustard.

After Tammy came around for a third time, Emily ordered the Fried Eggplant, Tomato, and Blue Cheese Sandwich (\$6) with lettuce, onion, and fries. Complete with an enthusiastic "That's really good", she devoured the 'healthy' sandwich that was a big helping and really messy.

I went for the Crab cake Sliders (\$7) which were mini sized chunky Low country crab cakes with remoulade sauce between three dinner rolls served with fries. It didn't appear to be enough for a diner, but I was proven wrong as clutched my tummy in delight. And of course I needed more of the remoulade case I like to drown my food in sauce, especially ketchup!

To satisfy our sweet teeth, we dived into the Peanut Butter Tart (\$4) which we are pretty sure was 'homemade' by Sarah Lee. But the desert was enjoyable and was the icing on the cake, no pun intended!

So if your in M.T.P, swing your soul self into the Boulevard Diner for some renditions of some old favorites in an art deco style diner. We're pretty sure you'll be thanking "The King" for his tunes as you gobble up your burger!

## "Echoes" - The Best of Pink Floyd

by Jessica Gaskins

The legendary Pink Floyd has finally come out with an encompassing collection that gives fans a great perspective towards their fabulous talent. With 26 songs from such albums as "The Piper at the Gates of Dawn" ('67), "A Saucerful of Secretes" ('68), "Meddle" ('71), "The Dark Side of the Moon" ('73), "Wish You Were Here" ('75), "Animals" ('77), "The Wall" ('79), "The Final Cut" ('83), "A Momentary Lapse of Reason" ('87), and "The Division Bell" ('94), it's no wonder that these two cd's seem to have a complete array of the band's sound.

From Pink Floyd's mellow British voices, to their simply perfect guitar, difficult bass rhythms, unique blending of drums, techno-sound effects that at the moment were way beyond their time, and of course piano, an instrument also shared by the classic rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd, they are definitely an eclectic music group.

This album, with such hits as "The Happiest Days," "Another Brick in the Wall," "Echoes," "Hey You," "Money," "Comfortably Numb," and "Wish You Were Here," gives listeners an understanding of why Pink Floyd was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1996 after pioneering their way into music for three decades. Granted the only people who may have had the opportunity to see these musical masters in concert were our parents, but they were, at any rate, the first to incorporate light shows and photo effects in their live shows, acts that created a precedent that has probably never been equaled by any other band.

When speaking to adults about this collection, the fact that their favorite songs are finally on clear sounding CD's instead of records is a plus as well as the fact that they couldn't think of any classic songs that were left off, a rarity with most collections. So here is music that can actually be listened to by parents and children alike. After all, who wouldn't like pure talent that has lasted this long?! Absolute melodies, simple yet thought provoking lyrics (which are all helpfully included in the case cover), and just a different sound from your present day screaming/teenybopper/rapping music today. I highly recommend paying the Millennium price of \$24.95 for it

*Come Fly With Us*

**Charleston County  
School of the Arts**

*presents*

***Peter Pan***

At the North Charleston Performing Arts Center  
January 24 and 25

Ticket Prices

Student Matinee: \$3.00

Student Evening: \$5.00      Adult Evening: \$10.00

# Arts Update

## Creative Writing

After the Winter Break, all grades except eighth and twelfth graders switch teachers. Mrs. Schwaner will be teaching her sixth and seventh graders fiction and her eighth graders fiction along with drama. Mrs. Miles will teach Modern Poetry to her ninth and tenth grade class. Non-fiction to her tenth and eleventh grade class. And of course the seniors will be working on their senior thesis.

On Friday, January 11, 2002, the middle school will be attending Poetry Alive, which is a group from North Carolina who perform famous poems.

## Orchestra

Middle school string majors will be performing their winter concert at the North Charleston Performing Arts Center, December 13th at 7PM. Tickets are \$5, and they are available at the door.

After students return from winter break, orchestra rehearsals for *Peter Pan* begin January 10th-23rd. January 24th-25th orchestra majors will be performing with the other high school majors as the actual *Peter Pan* performances begin at the North Charleston Performing Arts Center.

## Visual Arts

The six graders have been studying Egyptian art and practicing still lifes in 1 and 2 point perspective. They have been competing in the Duck Stamp Competition. The National Parks and Services and Fort Sumter sponsored a contest, "What's in Your Snowglobe?". Out of twelve participants, three students from our school won. Robert Simmons and Zack Collins received first place and \$500 savings bonds. Hannah McCleskey received Honorable Mention and a \$100 savings bond. All three of them were honored at a breakfast and received a free trip to Fort Sumter and a snowglobe with their artwork inside. The seventh grade has been busy with printmaking and positive and negative designs. They have also been competing in the Reflections Contest, the Scholastic Competition, and the Duck Stamp Competition. The eighth graders are participating in the Duck Stamp Competition, Reflections, and Scholastic Competition also. They have been creating still lifes and landscapes in pastels and watercolors.

All of the High School Visual Artists have been competing in the Reflections Contest and the Scholastic Competition. For instance, the Juniors have been making pop-up books for children in which they depict fairy tales, legends, and fables.

## Vocal

November 28th and November 29th at downtown's Garden Theater were magical nights due to SOA's Vocal Winter Concert. The Chorale, Freshman Ensemble, and Harmony performed a wide repertoire of music which included Hebrew, Latin, and Gaelic as well as traditional holiday favorites such as, "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year." New faculty member **Debbie Benson** provided wonderful accompaniment on piano with **Brian Reed** on bass and **Eddie DeLong** on drums. Under the direction of **Victor Varner**. SOA's Winter Concert was a memorable night.

## Dance

If you have heard that the Testing Grounds II /Senior Thesis Concert was good, and you didn't get the chance to attend. Don't worry they will be having another one in the Spring, with totally different dances. It's will be cool and we'll keep you posted.

Honors Ballet 3 and 4 are working a little more on their pointe work in class. So Dancers come prepared for class with both flat shoes and pointe.

The repertoire dance classes just recently had to read an article about the dancer's body. After they were told to express how they felt about the article in an essay. The essays turned out to be very good.

## Theater

Senior theater majors are about to begin the rehearsal process for their senior thesis in March. During the week of December 3rd through December 7th, seniors critiqued their shows. During exam week on December 13th, seniors will presented just a small sample of what their show is about to their mentors, teachers, as well as their classmates.

Other grades as well as any senior who would like to participate, are beginning to prepare for the Thespian Festival in January at the College of Charleston. Students may participate in one act shows, duet acting, monologues, solo musical, duet musical, group musical, and solo pantomime. High school theater majors are performing scenes and the like in order to prepare for the competition.

## Piano

On December 2nd at the La Fontona restaurant the piano majors performed their classical repertoire with demonstrations of their jazz repertoire.

Currently the piano majors are working on new piece for a recital in the spring.

## Band

Well, middle school first. They had a Winter Extravaganza, with all the performing arts, on December 13th. This show was held at the North Charleston Performing Arts Center. On December 8th they had All County Auditions and the Clinic is coming up on January 4th and 5th. About a week later, on January 12th, they have Region Auditions and if you place well you may go on to All State Auditions on the 26th.

Now about high school. Their Winter Concert was held December 9th so they are getting ready for the New Year. Everyone knows *Peter Pan* is coming up fast and will be performed at the Performing Arts Center on January 24th and 25th. Practice dates for the Orchestra are to be announced in January. Now a new thing for the Band. On January 30th, the College of Charleston is holding a Battle of the Bands and all proceeds are going to SOA Band. If you would like to buy tickets ask a high school Band member or Mr. Kerr. Well that's it for the month.

# Announcements

## SOA Calendar

**December 17** - 7th and 8th grade band and jazz band put on their Winter Concert

**December 18** - End of first semester  
- Last day for students

**December 19** - Staff Development Teacher Workday

**December 20** - Teacher workday

**December 21** - Winter Break Begins

### Happy New Year!

**January 3**- School resumes

**January 4-5** - All County Band Clinic

**January 4-6** - Thespian competition at College of Charleston

**January 7**- Report cards

-Solo Ensemble money due \$5.00

**January 8-11** - After school Peter Pan rehearsals

**January 9-10** - 6th grade piano finals

**January 12** - All Region Auditions

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

PLEASE RESPOND BY: DECEMBER 16, 2001

Place your order today.

If you have already ordered, please disregard this notice.

**Yearbook** Your school's 2002 yearbook will capture all of the important memories from the school year! Don't miss out on the opportunity to receive this once-in-a-lifetime keepsake!

**Basic Options Package** Hear the Year CD, One Line of Personalization, and One FREE Icon. (\*\*Package does not include yearbook).

**Deluxe Options Package** Hear the Year CD, Two Lines of Personalization, an Autograph Section, a Free Clear Protective Cover and FREE Icon. (\*\*Package does not include yearbook).

**Jostens Personalization** Customize your yearbook with your name, a special phrase, and one or two icons that represent your personal interests.

**Jostens Hear the Year CD** A multimedia CD featuring 12 of the year's hit songs, video clips, interactive trivia game, and more.

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### STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS SAT PREP COURSE

This course made a dramatic difference in my SAT scores. I recommend it to everyone." -Jessica Gaskins, SOA Senior

**SCORE INCREASE GUARANTEED OR YOUR MONEY BACK!**

Classes Held At Several Convenient Lowcountry Locations at 7:00 PM

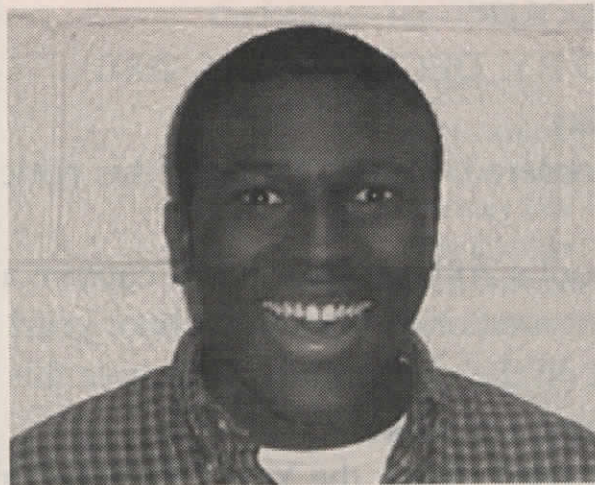
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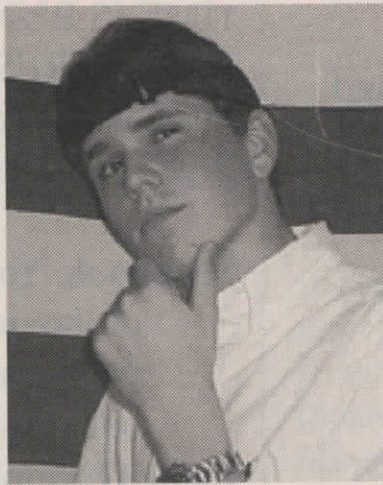
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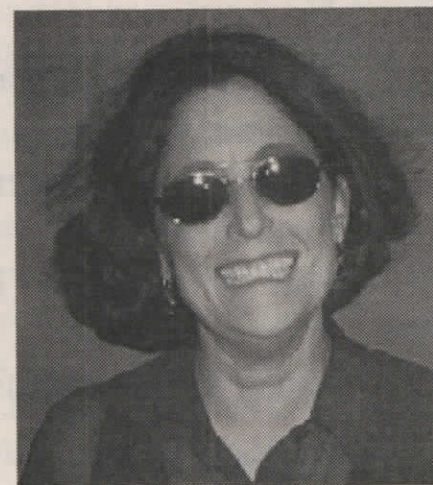
# Question of the Month



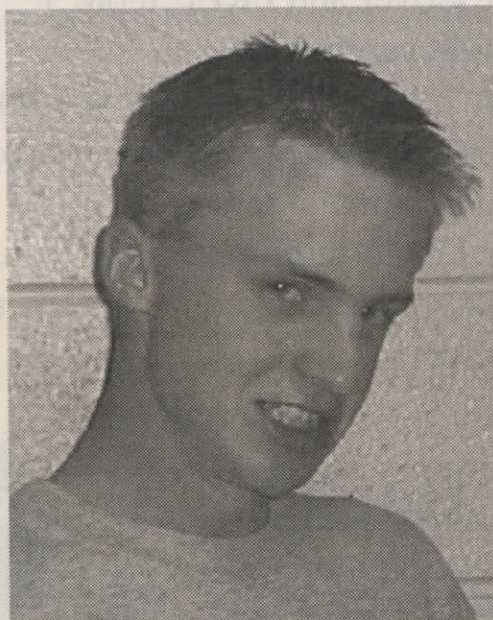
"I hope that Santa Clause brings me a drum set for Christmas, because I LOVE TO PLAY THE DRUMS!"  
**Devoe Sullivan, 11th grade**



"I'm writing Santa Clause every-day for him to send me an Atari. Complete with a tetris game cartridge."  
**Bubba Bryant, 12th grade**



"I want all my precious chicks in my east coast nest."  
**Ms. Marshall, English teacher**

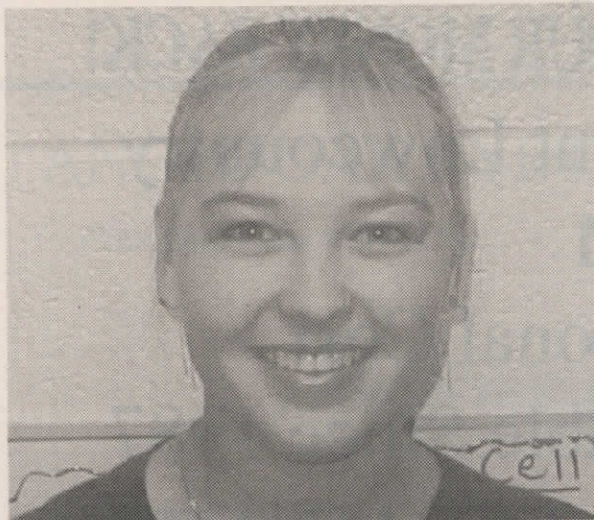


"I want some knee high Christmas tree stockings (not worn)."  
**John Foley, 10th grade**

## What do you want for Christmas?



"I sent a letter to Santa pleading for a small puppy for every boy and girl, so that the whole world can feel the love that I have."  
**Steeven Nelson, 10th grade**



"I would like to visit my family in Russia for Christmas."  
**Katya Demcheva, 12th grade**



"I'm wetting the bed every night in anticipation of some leather pants so I can look like Jim Morrison"  
**Dan Earnst, 12th grade**



"I would like a date with NSYNC, and world peace."  
**Emily Steele, 8th grade**