

# Applause

Volume 4 Number 5

Charleston County School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC

January 30, 2003

## Diversity at SOA





## Editor's Page



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*Applause is a student produced publication of the School of the Arts.  
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## Editor's Note



Welcome to the fifth edition of *Applause*, as well as to the new year. This paper features some teacher and student athletes of School of the Arts. Although School of the Arts is not known for sports, these athletes are among those who break the stereotype. The featured art major for this edition is piano; see the interviews on page 8. The staff and guest writers have worked hard to produce this January paper, so with that I hope you enjoy it.

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## SOA Upcoming Events February 2003

- 1-FEB-03** All-County Band Clinic (tentative) 9 AM  
Forensics Team @ Acedemic Magnet High School (Flescher)
- 2-FEB-03** All-County Band Clinic (tentative) 9 AM
- 3-FEB-03** MS Theater-8th grade Wonka Ville (Rehersal) After School -BB
- 4-FEB-03** MS Theater-8th grade Wonka Ville (Rehersal) After School -BB  
High School Open HOuse - 5:30 in Black Box  
School Tour - 8:45 (Patty) For Prospective Students and Parents
- 5-FEB-03** MS Theater-8th grade Wonka Ville (Rehersal) After School -BB
- 6-FEB-03** Family Math Night-6:00- offered by the Math Dept.
- 8-FEB-03** Forensics Team @ Bishop Englad High School
- 9-FEB-03** HS Band Boosters Oyster Roast- 2-5PM @ Bowen's Island
- 10-FEB-03** Defensive Driving Assembly- 12:00-1:00 PM (for all 9th graders in BB)
- 14-FEB-03** Valentine's Day/ Teacher Workday - NO STUDENTS!  
HS Dance Rehersal  
Wildlife Expo Jr. Duck Stamp Exhibit (14-16)
- 15-FEB-03** Wildlife Expo Jr. Duck Stamp Exhibit (14-16)  
Forensics Team @ Clemson Univ.  
HS Valentine's Day Dance 8-11 PM - by Student Council (Tisdale)
- 16-FEB-03** Wildlife Expo Jr. Duck Stamp Exhibit (14-16)
- 17-FEB-03** President's Day- NO SCHOOL
- 19-FEB-03** MS Dance Performance - Sotille Theater - 7 PM  
MS Visual Arts Exhibit - Sotille Theater
- 20-FEB-03** HS Vocal Spaghetti Supper & Performance - 5:30 PM - Cafeteria  
Dance Outreach Program  
MS Dance Field Trip - Charleston Ballet Theater
- 21-FEB-03** Region Band Clinic  
All-State Orchestra Weekend (21-23)
- 22-FEB-03** Region Band Clinic  
All-State Orchestra Weekend (21-23)  
MS & HS Vocal Solo & Ensemble - MS - 12:00 - HS- 9 AM @Wando
- 23-FEB-03** All-State Orchestra Weekend (21-23)
- 24-FEB-03** School Improvement Council 4 PM
- 26-FEB-03** Senior Theater Thesis - 7PM BB
- 27-FEB-03** Senior Theater Thesis - 7PM BB  
All-State Jazz Clinic- Jazz Festival
- 28-FEB-03** Senior Theater Thesis - 7PM BB  
Orchestra Solo & Ensemble Festival  
All-State Jazz Clinic - Jazz Festival  
All-State Orchestra  
SATB Choral Clinic (7th and 8th grade only)  
Forensics Team - State @ Dorman High School (Feb. 28-March1)



## Features

## The Fighting Gnomes

On January 23 Mr. Yount's Fighting Gnomes Improv Troupe will be traveling to Georgia. The trip will last four days, and the Gnomes will perform for numerous high schools while on their trip. These schools include Academy HS, Athens Montessori HS, Oconee County HS, and the South Carolina Governor's School of the Arts and Humanities. This school year the Fighting Gnomes have already performed for many local high and middle schools and at First Night Charleston.



*The Fighting Gnomes are Ivan Flood, Courtney Dix, Ben Pooser, Jake Hennesey, Jenny Parnow, Andrew Bentz, Mark Heyward-Washington, Jennifer Kleiman, Joshua Jourdain, Heath Richardson.*

## Stories

by Meghan Lee

At night I dream the endings to books  
I never finish,  
left on the rail of the beach house, curl-  
ing pages sticky with salt,  
tucked in the dark warm foot of a sleep-  
ing bag or forgotten  
in a dusty school locker, smelling stale  
and of mildew.

Oliver Twist runs away to the country,  
lives off pears and sunlight.  
Holden and I find sanity making break-  
fast, cracking eggs,  
and in *Love in a Time of Rage*, I am  
not left standing on a misty hill

the smell of my horse and dark earth sinking into my skin like so much  
sadness

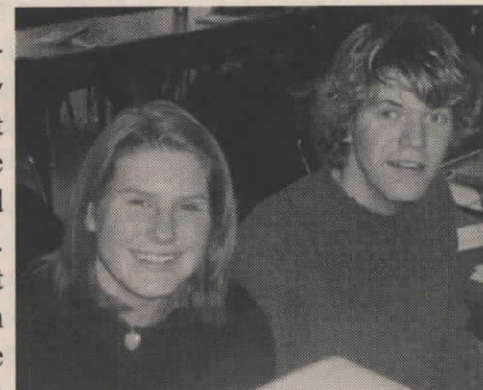
but on the train with anarchist Julian, brilliant and burning with youth  
leaning into his shoulder as we rush past the mountains  
gaining speed like a gyroscope let loose across the kitchen floor  
trees and hills blurring like wet words that were not meant to be read  
but touched and tasted and known.



## It was a fine night to stay at home

*A review of American Idol by Ben Neuhaus and Alexandra McCarthy*

At a moment like this, some people wait a lifetime. These immortal lyrics were made famous by Kelly Clarkson as performed on the first *American Idol*, the show that made stars of several young artists and showed thousands the path to success. Last Tuesday and Wednesday night millions of people tuned in to watch the second *American Idol*. While many from our school watched for the chance to see what Simon said to former SOA student Josh Strickland, others watched to see what talent would turn up, and oh the talent that did turn up.



Tuesday night was an hour and a half feature on the auditions in New York, Austin, and Miami. Our personal favorite was one man who auditioned in New York City. Simon told him, after a very special audition, that he thought he was the worst singer in New York. I appreciated that the Fox network then followed the young man around New York as he searched for somebody who sang worse than he...which he was unable to find. Some other memorable characters were Edgar, the man who just couldn't take a hint. He sang an Enrique Inglesias song and was then told that he would never make it in L.A. Edgar then proceeded to walk around for a half an hour telling everybody that he would, see them in Los Angeles." And let's never forget about the wonderful man who had his pants slit up the side. I mean it takes a pretty confident man to say he's wearing a thong on national television...but there was no reason for him to be confident though as he was the worst singer ever. Tuesday night also featured some singers who were good, but they were far less interesting.

Wednesday night was the best night by far as it included the very special performance by Lady Tiger", a female boxer, who for whatever reason thought she could sing. Hahaha. It's funny just thinking about it. There was also the girl who got so scared before her audition that she had to go throw up in the bathroom. And sure enough, the cameramen were right there to follow her into the bathroom and film her vomiting for all the world to see. Of course, after her nasty audition, everyone had forgotten. One girl who made it to L.A. dressed up as Dorothy and sang "Somewhere Over the Rainbow." Now, kudos to her for knowing the lyrics, but I don't know what tune she was singing them to. Another girl who made it to L.A. only made it because she kissed the judges. She bombed her audition but she just refused to go away, she kept singing until they let her in. And what did she sing? Oh she sang a song from one of the best artists in the music business...Pink. Hehehe, yeah right.

But the biggest downer of both nights was that they didn't cover the auditions in Atlanta where it is believed that Josh Strickland went for his audition. So for those of you who just can't wait until next Tuesday night, let me just tell you that I know. That's right I found out from an SOA Alumni what Simon told Josh, so if you really want to know, just ask. Oh, and believe me, it's good. But if you just want to wait then so be it, because I imagine that if the first two nights were any indication of the mayhem and madness to come, than it will prove to be some quality television.



## Reviews

## White Oleander

by Jessie Rumph



You may think you've got family problems, but they probably pale in comparison to those of Astrid Magnussen, the main character in Janet Fitch's first novel White Oleander. Astrid is a young, creative, impressionable teenager who's always lived in the shadow of her mother Ingrid, a well-known artist in California where they live. Ingrid is uncompromising, hates self-pity, and hates weakness. She tells her daughter all the time that they are indomitable Vikings who fight for their lonely survival, and that weakness is a characteristic of sub-

human people. She proves how strongly she believes this when she murders her boyfriend, whom she found cheating on her, with the poison from the oleander flower. She is sentenced to life in prison and Astrid is thrown into one foster home after another. Each one forces her to face questions about who she is and where she's come from.

Like Astrid, Janet Fitch grew up in Los Angeles. She graduated from Reed College in Oregon and originally aspired to be a historian. While she was a student at Keele University in England, she realized that she wanted to write fiction. White Oleander, her breakthrough novel, was so well accepted by readers that it was made into a movie by Warner Brothers only three years after its publication. Although it's well done, the movie doesn't do justice to the language and metaphors Fitch uses. Two qualities that characterize her writing are eloquence and description. There are two images for almost everything; for example, the moonlight reminds Astrid of her mother's pale hair because the steely, cool moonlight matches the cool and collected persona of her mother.

The novel is centered around a typical coming of age story that reminds us even though we may not be exactly sure what we're all about, no one can tell us who we are. It's thoughtfully and reflectively written and has many character and setting changes that keep the reader paying attention. Next time you're willing to question where other people leave off and you will have to begin, pick up White Oleander and read through Astrid's journey to answer just that question?



## The Near-Sighted Farseer

by Courtney Clark



Robin Hobb's debut trilogy is "superbly written, wholly satisfying, unforgettable; better than any fantasy trilogy in print - including mine!" raves fantasy author Melanie Rawn, and I could not agree with her more. The Farseer trilogy comprises Assassin's Apprentice, Royal Assassin, and Assassin's Quest. The work is Megan Lindholm's first series under her penname, even though she has already penned eleven novels. The Washington state resident was greatly praised for her trilogy, and Assassin's Apprentice was nominated in 1997 for the British Fantasy Award in the Best Novel category.

Hobb's story is told by FitzChivalry Farseer, the bastard son of King-in-Waiting Chivalry, who abdicates the throne and leaves his child in the care of Burrich the stablemaster. The king then has the boy trained as his assassin. Years pass and Fitz kills in the name of his king many times. He believes he has grown up until his mentor points out to him that he always puts himself in the middle of danger without thinking about the consequences. The King's Fool labels him "the Catalyst" because he is always changing the paths that fate has already shaped for the kingdom. After living through many

hardships, Fitz decides that he doesn't want to be the Catalyst and says this to the Fool: "If fate is some great wave that is going to bear me up and dash me against a wall, regardless of what I choose, why then I choose nothing. Let it do with me as it will."



When King Shrewd is murdered, Fitz's favorite uncle King-in-Waiting Verity is searching for the mysterious Elderlings in the distant Mountain Kingdom. Verity's greedy younger brother Regal takes the throne after claiming that Verity is dead. The new king plans to kill his nephew, but Fitz feigns death and goes off to find what really happened to Verity. While

on his quest, he finds that he must make many sacrifices, and once again change the fate of the kingdom.

Robin Hobb uses the first person narrative to make FitzChivalry one of the most believable characters I have ever come across. He is surprisingly naive while being very observant and can put together complex political puzzles, but he has trouble dealing with the puzzles in his own life. Fitz has to deal with so much pain that the reader sometimes wonders how he can possibly go on, but he always has some greater purpose that drives him to continue his life's quest. His adventures, losses, and his final decision leave the reader wondering how one man could be brave enough to give up everything that is dear to him.

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## Achievements

### Faculty & staff among SOA's athletes

by Rebekah Bevins

Students are not the only ones at SOA involved in sports. Members of the administration and faculty are also active competitors. Mr. Davis, the School of the Arts middle school assistant principal, first began running when he was in high school, but he started running competitively about twenty years ago. Mr. Davis runs every other day, five or six miles, and runs eight miles on Saturdays. On the days when he's not working, he goes to the gym and works out for two hours.



Mrs. Tilton running in San Diego to raise money for the Leukemia Society.

Mr. Davis is a top local competitor in road races, including the Cooper River Bridge Run and the Laura Griffin Run. He's won numerous first, second, and third place awards in his age division. He plans to run until his "old bones give out."

Over the next few weeks he will be competing in the Charlie Post Run and the Save the Lighthouse Run and in the Running of the Bulls.

Mr. Davis said that running really affects his overall life. "It's very time-consuming," but he tries to juggle it between work, his family, and his new grandchildren! "When I miss a day of running, I feel I haven't accomplished anything."

Mrs. Tilton, a math teacher, is another athlete who deserves recognition. She's also a runner, who runs to "stay fit and relieve stress." She began running in eighth grade, has competed in many local 5K and 10K races such as Hampton Park 5K and Cooper River Bridge 10K, but she has also competed in many longer races such as the Suzuki Rock-n-Roll Marathon in San Diego, Kiawah Island Half-Marathon, and the Rock-n-Roll Half-Marathon in Virginia Beach. She plans to run some local races soon such as the Extra Mile 5K on James Island and the Cooper River Bridge, but her main focus is September's Rock-n-Roll Half-Marathon in Virginia Beach, again.

Her recent achievements include being Fastest Woman in the 5K Series Winter in 2001, 2nd place Kiawah 5K in 2001, and 1st place Extra Mile 5K in 2002. In the Rock-n-Roll Marathon she finished in 4:26:35 for the 5,819th out of 20,135 runners and finished the Rock-n-Roll Marathon in 2:00:19 for the 3,186th out of 15,000.

If she is training for a longer race (half or full marathon) her mileage is higher per week, but she basically runs 4-5 days a week, averaging 15-35 miles per week and she lifts weights two to three times per week for an hour or so.

According to Mrs. Tilton running has a strong impact on the other aspects of her life: "Running helps keep me focused on my goals athletically as well as professionally and personally. When I run competitively I am more disciplined with the scheduling of my time so that each day I have time not only to train by to get my homework done, cook dinner, grade papers, and yet still have time for the fun stuff too, like going to a Stingrays hockey game, reading a good book, or watching CSI and Friends."

Mr. Cusatis, my journalism advisor, completed his fourth marathon in four years on December 14th on Kiawah Island. He and his wife, Anna, completed three previous marathons in Anchorage, Alaska in 1999, Dublin, Ireland in 2000, and Negril, Jamaica in 2001. As part of their first two marathons they raised over \$15,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

He competed in track and cross-country in high school and was a constant sub-5 minute miler. He coached both sports for ten years in Pennsylvania and South Carolina. In 1995 he coached St. John's High School to the Regional, Lower State, and State Championship. He was named Lowcountry Male Track Coach of the Year by the Post and Courier and South Carolina Track Coach of the Year.



Mr. Cusatis at the twenty five mile mark of December's Kiawah Marathon



Dr. Ball

Dr. Ball is also an athlete, but he's not a runner. He plays a very interesting sport - Underwater Hockey and Soccer! He practices two days a week for Underwater Hockey, but there are more practices for soccer.

He's competed in National Championships for Underwater Hockey and has participated in the Mt. Pleasant Recreational League for soccer. When asked what achievements or milestones he's accomplished in this sport, he replied "I haven't drowned yet."

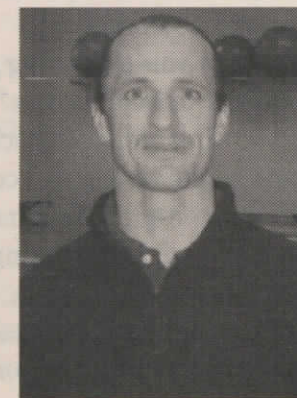
He started playing soccer in high school and saw a group playing Underwater Hockey, so he thought he'd try them both.

Overall, he's met interesting people. He actually met his wife playing Volleyball and he currently coaches his kids in soccer.

Mr. Anderson, who "doesn't compete in sports," considers himself a very "active cyclist and surfer." He spends about eight hours a week cycling (during the school year about 140-180 miles) and increases this to ten or more hours during the summer (175-200 miles per week). He took part in several century bike rides during the past year and travels frequently to find better waves than we usually get in SC.

He was introduced to both cycling and surfing by his parents, learning to surf as soon as "he could stand." He began cycling at 16, competing through college.

He takes part in these activities primarily for his health and as a way to relax. It is his way of practicing what he teaches as a Physical Education teacher.



Mr. Anderson



## Featured Athletes

### Success on the field and in the classroom

*Cody Palmer interviews Matthew Steele, who has played varsity baseball for North Charleston High School for the past four years, along with American Legion for the past two. During the fall Steele has played for Mount Pleasant for three years running.*



*Matthew Steele for North Charleston High School*

**What do you like most about playing baseball?**

Ever since I was little my father taught me how to play the game. I love watching the sport on television. I have been a Boston and Atlanta fan since I can remember. I've enjoyed the team spirit that comes with baseball. Baseball is America's past-time and makes me feel a part of a tradition. When I'm on the field I get an adrenaline rush, it's a drive towards success.

**What is your most memorable moment in your baseball career?**

My coach says that, "when you look back on your baseball experiences you remember the small things, as in life." My most memorable moment was my sophomore year, while playing first base for North Charleston in the playoffs.

We were leading two to one with two outs in the 6th inning with men on first and second. The All-American catcher and I decide to throw behind the runner on first, we had the runner picked off when the throw skips under my glove and goes into right field. On the play two runs score, the final score was three to two, we lost. Oh, how I learn from my mistakes!

**What position do you play?**

I play first base for North Charleston and American Legion. I play various positions in the fall for Mount Pleasant, for example short-stop, and all outfield positions.

**How are you preparing for the upcoming high school season?**

Everyday after school my brother and I hit the weights for conditioning. We are on a program that increases stamina and strength by including strength training and running sprints. This improves my baseball fundamentals.

**What is it like to play on the same team as your brother?**

Michael and I have played on the same team since T-ball, he is my favorite player. He strives to be a better player, and I respect that. Having him on the team makes us both better players because we keep each other in line and want the best for each other.



*Matthew at age seven(left) and his brother Michael Steele at age six(right)*

**Do you plan on playing in college or beyond?**

Yes, I hope to play for Charleston Southern University. I have played on their brand new field and hope to once again as part of their team. At point in my life baseball will always be there. I want to take it as far as it will let me.

**How do you fit baseball into your academic and arts schedule?**

No matter how hard it is at the time with projects or homework etc., I aim to perform at 100% in all areas. Grades come first because without good grades you are not allowed to play high school sports. Extracurricular activities strengthen your work ethic, so that you can perform better in the classroom. Baseball is my passion, and "that is all I have to say about that."

### Tennis player receives full scholarship from Clemson University

*Tim Smith talks with senior Ryan Young about his full scholarship to Clemson University, as well as what it takes to be a competitive athlete.*

**How long have you been playing tennis?**

I have been playing tennis since I was four years old. Through routine and practice I have been dedicated to stick with it.

**Tell me about your tennis scholarship.**

Clemson's head coach Chuck Kriese awarded me with the scholarship after we were ranked for our performance on the court. The scholarship covers everything I need including books, food, academic courses, and tuition. The total scholarship came out to be \$9,300, which includes the money from the Hope Scholarship. I get a free ride to college for something that I enjoy doing.

**What do you plan on doing after college?**

I plan on perfecting my skills throughout college so that I have a good chance of making it to the professional level. If I don't make that, than I will probably focus my time on giving tennis lessons.

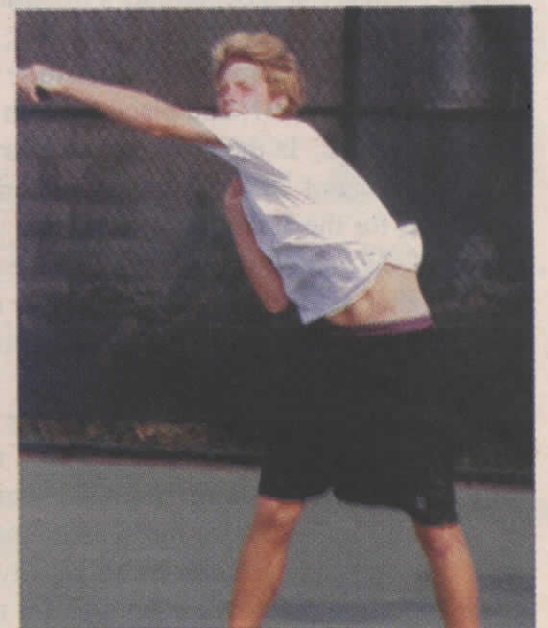
**What are some of the awards that you have received?**

This year I was awarded \$1000 for tennis towards college from the South Carolina Tennis Foundation.

**Does tennis interfere with your school and social life?**

Tennis does not interfere with my social life because I go out at night. My tennis practices are from 2-3 and 4-6 out at the Daniel Island tennis center. I usually practice with Jason Basil.

(continued on page 7)

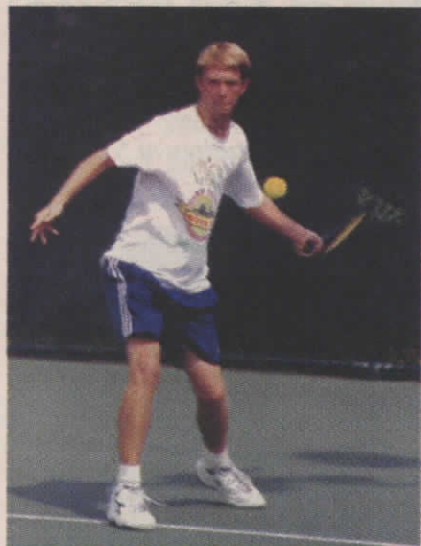


*Ryan Young in action on the tennis court.*



## Feature

(continued from page 6)



### *How has tennis changed your life?*

Tennis has kept me out of a lot of trouble throughout my high school years. I have gained a full scholarship by doing something that I enjoy doing all the time.

### *What is expected of you in order to keep your scholarship?*

I am expected to keep a 2.2 GPA which was decided by the NCAA rules. I will have to perform up to their standards in order to stay.

## Soccer player plans to play in college

*Tim Smith sits down with Mohsen Roudsari and talks with him about how soccer fits in with the rest of his life.*



### *What initially interested you in soccer?*

Well, I started playing soccer when I was three and I joined a team at the age of four. I enjoyed it so much I stuck with it. My father influenced my interest in soccer. He played in college.

### *What is your position on the field and what team do you play for?*

I play center and right outside midfield as well as left defense for the James Island Battery. Our team is the U18 boys Premier League and is sponsored by Gilston Insurance company and 00CL.

*What*

### *have you gained from playing soccer?*

Soccer is very time consuming since I take it seriously. I think that it has kept me in good physical shape as well as enhanced my mental awareness.

### *What are the biggest demands for varsity soccer?*

It only requires two hours after school everyday but that isn't sufficient when in competition with the number one team in the state. It's quite a commitment.



### *How does soccer fit in with your school and social life?*

It demands a lot of my time and takes money from my pay check. As far as a social life, I don't see any problems. Games for varsity soccer occur on weekdays so that doesn't really interfere with my social life.

### *Do you plan on playing in college? Are you eligible for any scholarship money?*

Yes, I will play for whatever college I plan to attend. When the varsity season starts, recruiters begin to draft, so I'm waiting.

## *Lookin' for love in all the wrong places?*

Well, come to the SOA High School Valentines Dance. The dance is on Saturday, February 15th in the cafeteria, from 8 PM to 11 PM.

Tickets go on sale Monday, February 10th



## Attention Parents...

We need your help, and this is what we need...

- 2 parent chaperones per grade
- white lights (preferably "net style")
- small round tables

### Parents with last names:

- A - F / soda pop
- G - P / desserts
- Q - Z / salty snacks

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## Feature

### Piano teacher inspires creativity

*Rebekah Bevins sits down with piano instructor, Mrs. Benson, and talks with her about the job she does for SOA.*



**What colleges did you attend and what degrees did you earn?**

Converse College in Spartanburg, SC -- Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance

Music Education degrees and certifications in Choral and Instrumental music.

**What is your musical background?**

Aside from college, I began taking private music lessons in 1st grade, accompanied music classes

in fourth through sixth grade, was the accompanist for the Middleton High School all four years of high school. I began taking clarinet lessons from Danny Leonard when I was in 10th grade and played in the studio band and jazz band at Leonard's School of Music. I accompanied for various groups in the community. In college, I was a piano performance major. I was selected to perform a Concerto with the Spartanburg Orchestra - twice.

**Tell us about the art major you teach and what skills you aid your students in developing.**

In piano, the overall goals are learning the art of discipline and an understanding and appreciation for music. The pianist has to learn many technical skills in order to play the advanced repertoire. They also learn a lot of theory and develop repertoire.

**Do you participate in any major competitions?**

Solo and Ensemble Festival.

**Do you see any of your students going on to a career using their art major?**

Some definitely have the potential if they so choose. Most probably won't but have developed some life-long skills. Some may use it as a hobby or an extra income.

**How do you inspire creativity in your students?**

Creativity is often inspired through interpretation of the music. I try to get students to express themselves and the composers' ideas through their playing.

**When kids are auditioning for you art major, what do you look for?**

Good attitude towards learning and willingness to try new things. I also look for some knowledge and skill that can be further developed.

**What role models do you try to introduce to your students?**

Others who are talented pianists and use their skills in different venues.

**How many students do you teach?**

23 major students plus 35 exploratory students each 9 weeks.

**How quickly do you expect beginning students to progress?**

If they work hard in class and do the required practice outside of class, they should move along quickly, usually almost twice as fast as the student who just takes private lessons once a week.

### Middle schooler prepares for recital at Performing Arts Center

*Bekah Bevins talks with Zan Isgett about her piano studies at SOA.*



**What made you choose piano as an art major?**

At first, my parents made me take piano lessons... after a while I grew to like it. Turns out I have a knack for it!

**What awards or honors have you received?**

I haven't done many competitions, but I scored superior in Solo and Ensemble last year. I am going to perform in the Honor's recital at the Performing Arts Center in February.

**Describe your history in music.**

I've taken piano lessons for about five years now. Before that, my grandmother taught me a few songs. Right now, I am studying classical and jazz piano.

**Who has inspired your musical creativity the most?**

If it wasn't for my grandmother, I would have never gotten started with my musical career. Piano takes a lot of self discipline.

**What other types of music do you enjoy?**

I like punk rock and other rock music, for the most part: The Used, Good Charlotte, Nirvana. I'm also just starting to appreciate classic rock such as the The Rolling Stones, The Beatles, and Led Zeppelin.

**What themes are in your music?**

Loud and impressive is usually what I'm looking for, but I love soft melodic pieces too.

**Do you write your own music?**

Sometimes we improvise in jazz.... but for the most part I usually pick out songs on the piano that I hear on the radio.

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## Feature

### Where are they now?

*Bea Heyward talks with Rissa Hanagriff about how she is doing in college, and how the School of the Arts has prepared her for the step.*



**What College are you attending, and what are you majoring in?**

Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts. Well, we are not allowed to declare until sophomore year, but when the time comes I plan on majoring in studio art with a focus in photography and minor in theater and marine biology.

**What do you plan on doing after college?**

Well, when I finish I plan on using my degree in marine biology and photography to explore and take pictures of life under water. Hopefully in the tropics. As for theater I plan don't plan on going off to Hollywood, but I do plan on staying involved in the acting community.

**What are the biggest cultural differences you have noticed while living in Massachusetts?**

The North vs. the South. I usually get picked on by my friends for being from the South. The good old Yankee vs. Confederates. Oh yeah it's soooo cold. Right now it's about 2 below 0. As for the snow, it's fun to play in when it first hits the ground but after while it becomes dirty and boring.

**What would you consider the pros and cons about living 18 hours from home?**

I would say that the pros are stepping out into a new environment. I mean living in Massachusetts really forced me to grow. It has also taught me a new appreciation. I really appreciate my mom and little brother more because in Massachusetts I don't have a mom and I don't have a little brother, so every time I see them I have a greater appreciation for them. Some of the cons would include the weather, and the cultural differences. Can you believe that there is no sweet tea. When I ever want a glass of sweet tea, I have to make it my self.

**How has the School of the Arts prepared you for college?**

Mr. Cusatis' AP English class taught me not only how to read a lot of books and enjoy them but it also taught me how to study for a college class. Theater for 7 years helped me to realize that I need theater in my life. Ms. Emory was really good at treating students as adults. The food was a whole lot better!

**Has your theater experience helped you in any way?**

YES! Senior year, as much as we hated the long, hard, grueling, process I have to say that it taught me a lot. I now know how to prepare for major research projects. Mr. Wood's work requirements have shown me how to take one topic and find enough information to write my own one-man show. As a matter of fact my senior thesis play has been picked for judges to read. My theater teacher at Wheaton College said that if selected it would be performed during the AIDS Awareness Week.

**What advice do you have for the Seniors at SOA?**

At this point, considering the first semester is over, have fun! In having fun don't be afraid to let go of your friends and loved ones when the time comes to go off to school. As much as it hurts letting go. Getting out of your old environment will help you be a better person. Besides, the really important people will be there when you come back home.

### The sound of music

*Rebekah Bevins interviews Sarah Harper about her piano skills.*

**What got you interested in piano?**

I was hearing piano music in my head, and I wanted to write it down (and actually learn the instrument).

**Describe your history in music.**

I took about three piano lessons from two different teachers and I quit because they were making me play major scales and "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."

**Are you pursuing music outside SOA?**

Right now, I'm taking a music class at the College of Charleston.

**Who has inspired your musical creativity the most?**

My dad and my grandfather - they're the only ones who ever taught me anything about music.

**What other types of music do you enjoy?**

Hard rock, not-so-hard rock, the occasional rap song, "She Thinks My Tractor's Sexy," opera (yes, opera), Gregorian chanting.

**What is the most challenging aspect of learning the piano?**

For me, sight reading, because I am not very good at it and I would rather learn by ear.

**What are you currently working on musically?**

Beethoven's "Pathetique" and "Appassionata", and Rachmaninov.



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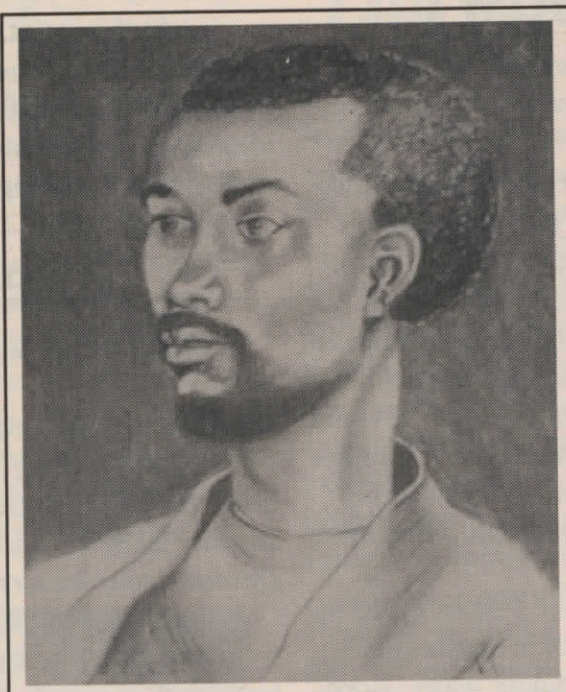
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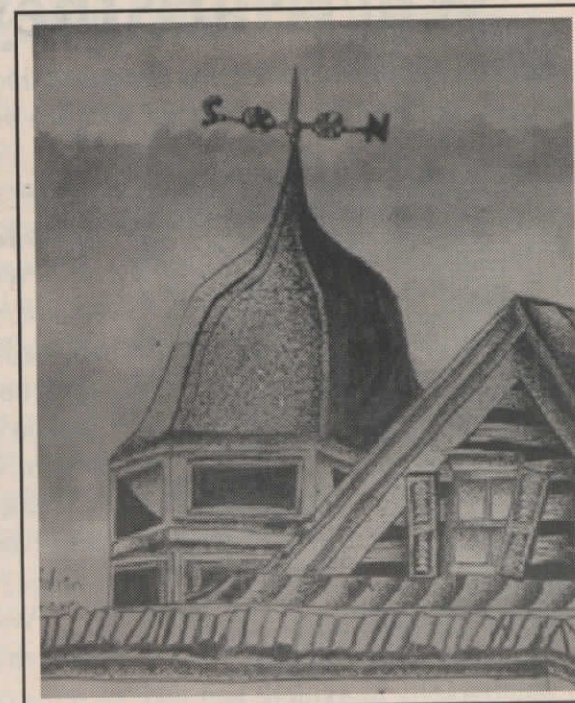
# Student Art



*Artist: Lainey Harrison  
9th grade*



*Artist: Tonya Tarvin  
9th grade*



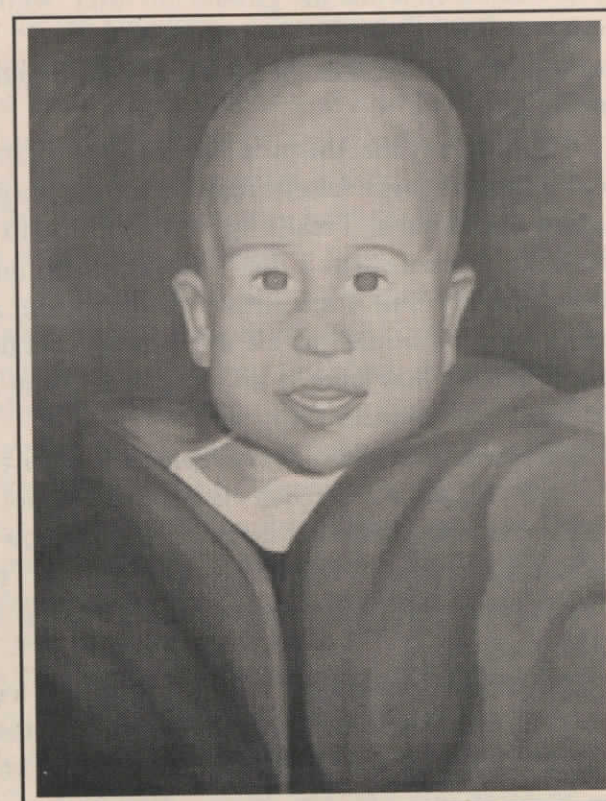
*Artist: Adrin Brown  
7th grade*



*Artist: Shelton Simmons  
11th grade*



*Artist: Robert Olson  
12th grade*



*(a work in progress)  
Artist: Trey Williams  
10th grade*



## Miscellany

### Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots - The Flaming Lips

by Harper Marchman-Jones



For this edition of *Applause* I was given the opportunity to review an album of my choice. The previous year produced some great albums, but one that stands out in my mind, and that in my opinion has broad appeal, is the Flaming Lips' summer release *Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots*.

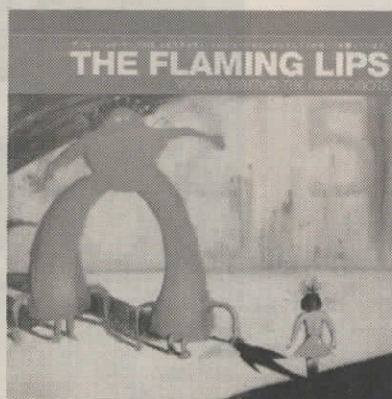
It is indeed a semi-concept album about a Japanese girl who battles giant robots. However, any cohesive narrative is abandoned after the title track, and the album is ultimately a collection of songs about feelings and sentiments that are vaguely related. The album succeeds in conveying a

message about the brevity and urgency of life, and the importance of love.

Which is not to say *Yoshimi* is overblown and pretentious. In fact, it's extremely accessible. Describing the musical style is difficult. It falls somewhere between mellow alternative pop/rock, dub and house techno. The Lips use a conventional guitar/drums/bass setup, but flesh out their sound with a full compliment of synthesizers, found sounds and sampled, orchestral interludes.

The songs are all of very high quality. They are intricately arranged and expertly performed, from the hookier, poppier numbers like the energetic album opener "Fight Test" to darker, spacier numbers with pulsating, meandering basslines like "One More Robot" and "The Morning of the Magicians."

I can't recommend this album enough. Everyone I've exposed to it, regardless of their musical taste, has loved it. If my description of this album appeals to you at all, obtain this album immediately. You won't regret it.



## Horoscopes

### **Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb 18)**

Watch out, your love interest will do something that you don't agree with.

### **Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20)**

Maybe it's about time you did something a little more spontaneous, don't get bored with yourself!

### **Aries (Mar 21-Apr 19)**

Good fortune has not found you yet, but don't expect that to change anytime soon.

### **Taurus (Apr 20-May 20)**

You are a wonderful person, look to the future and decide where you want to go in life!

### **Gemini (May 21-Jun 20)**

Bad weather is a sign that maybe it's time to cut the grass and get jiggy with it.

### **Cancer (Jun 21-Jul 22)**

Be strong now more than ever, because you may find your favorite cereal has been discontinued.

### **Leo (Jul 23-Aug 22)**

Start saving your money while you have it, poor times are in your future.

### **Virgo (Aug 23-Sept 22)**

You may not agree with an authority figure, avoid a clash of words.

### **Libra (Sept 23-Oct 22)**

Start listening to other people's advice rather than just your own.

### **Scorpio (Oct 23-Nov 21)**

Try showing off the qualities that make you unique.

### **Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec 20)**

Good fortune will be close by, go for the gold.

### **Capricorn (Dec 21-Jan 19)**

You have a great personality, show it off to someone special.

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# Question of the Month

## "What is your favorite sporting event of the year?"



**Morgan Simon**

My favorite sporting event is the Superbowl because I like to watch the half time show and the commercials.  
10th grade



**Pierre Alston**

I love to watch the NBA Finals, if Lauren isn't bothering me.  
12th grade



**Caleb Fischer**

X-Games skate boarding  
7th grade



**Tara Wolfe**

World Surfing Tournament  
9th grade



**Adrian Westendorff-Pickle**  
The World Series  
10th grade



**Charlie Richardson**

World Cup Soccer Tournament  
8th grade



**Dr. Price**

The National Skiing Championships  
Chemistry teacher



**Ben Aton**

World Surfing Tournament  
9th grade