



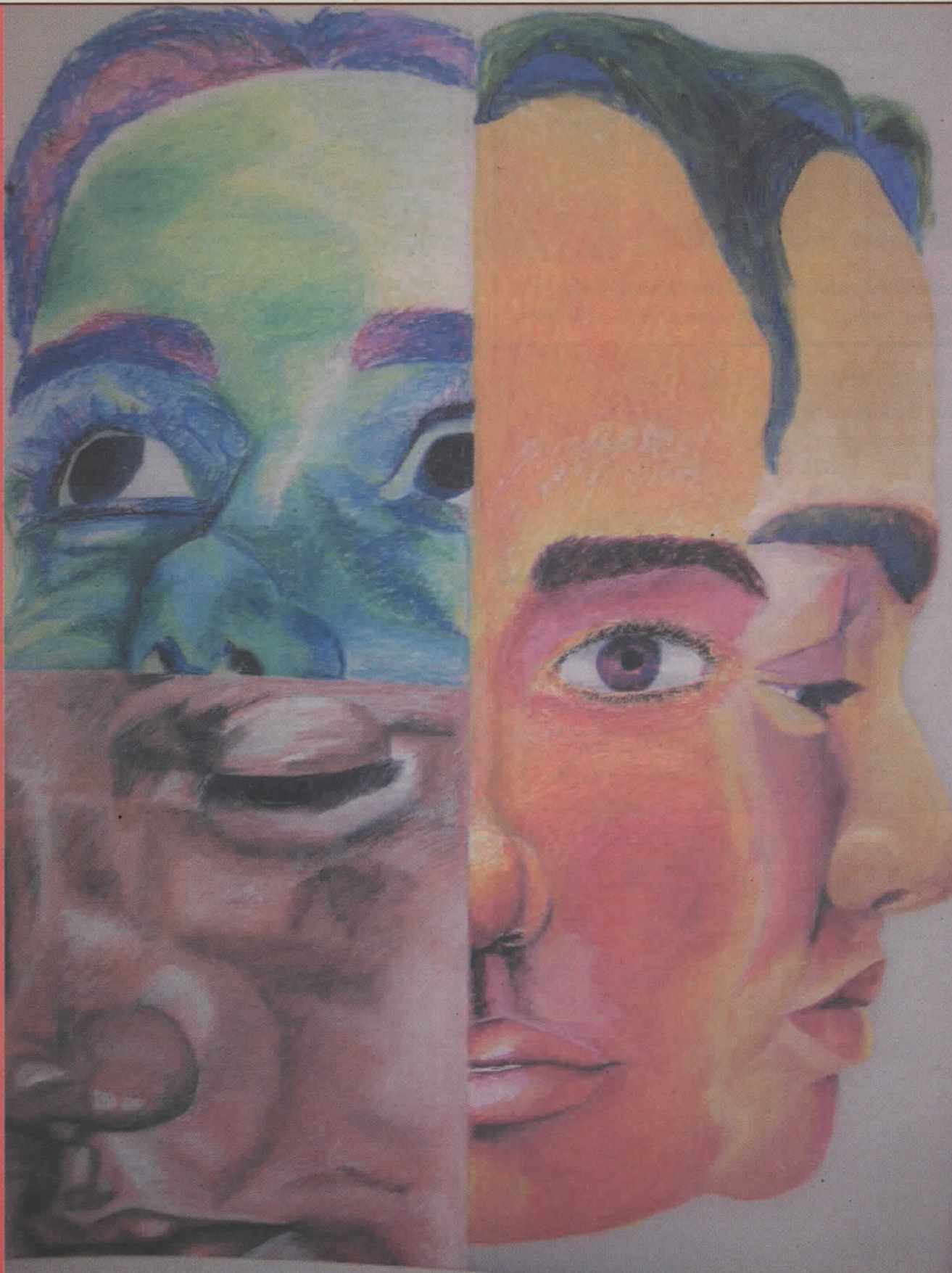
Applause



Volume 5 Number 3

Charleston County School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC

December 2003



Seeing the World through the Arts

Editor's Page



Applause Staff

Editor: Emory Frazier

Jeanne Albinger
Ashton Coons
Samantha Danna
Lane Elsey
Sarah Haynes
Sara Houser
Casey O'Neill
Noelle Willams
Traci Trotter
Ben Forney

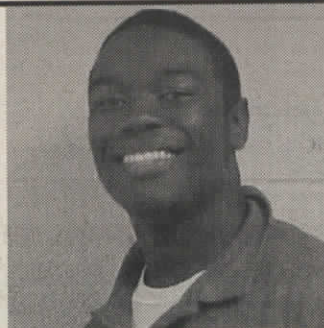


Faculty Advisor: Dr. John Cusatis

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

A note from the Editor

I would like to welcome our readers to the third edition of *Applause*. The featured art area this issue is visual arts. We have also included articles on recent events such as the Fall Ball, Ring Ceremony, the seventh graders' trip to Barrier Island, and *Fantasia*. I would like to thank everyone who contributed art work or pictures to this issue. I would especially like to thank Amanda Jones whose art work is featured on this month's cover. My staff and I hope that you enjoy this issue and wish everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.



Sincerely,
Emory Frazier
Applause Editor



Congratulations to the three SOA teachers who were awarded National Board Certification this year, Ms. Lawson, Mrs. Miles, and Ms. Tisdale.

SOA Upcoming events

- Dec 15 - HS Orchestra Winter Concert - 7:00 PM
- Senior Thesis Dance Performance - 7:00 PM
- Dec 17 - Middle School Dance Performance - 7:00 PM
- Dec 19 - End of first semester
- Dec 22 - Winter Break: Dec. 22 - Jan. 6
- Dec. 31 - Fighting Gnomes at First Night Charleston
- Jan 5- Teacher Workday- No Students
- Jan 6- Teacher Workday- No Students
- Jan 7- School Resumes
- Jan 8- French Club meeting- 3:40-4:15 in Miss Emory's Room T-2
- Jan 9- Reports Cards
- Jan 11- HS - Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition, 3:00 PM, location TBA
- Jan 12&13 - Seventh Grade Theatre- Short Form Improv, 4:00 PM

**DIRTPITS* TRUCKING* SITEPREP/HIGHWAY
DEMOLITION* CLEARING* SEWER & WATER**



W. FRAZIER CONSTRUCTION, INC.

7050 MOBERRY RD. RAVENEL, SC 29470



WILLIE FRAZIER

President

OFFICE 843-556-8784

FAX 843-556-4430

PAGER 937-7360

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD EYE CARE SPECIALIST SINCE 1991

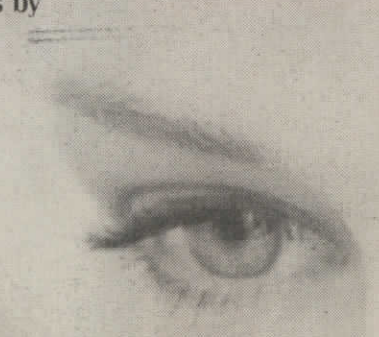
- Comprehensive Eye Health Exams by **Dr. Paul Bohac**
- Contact Lens Specialist
- Professional Optical Services
- Specializing in No-Line Bifocals
- Full Selection Of Eyewear & Sunglasses In All Price Ranges
- Fill/Duplicate Your Rx
- Most Insurance Accepted

Angel Oak Eye Center

2875 Maybank Highway • Johns Island
Phone: 843.559.5333

E-Mail: DrBohac@AngelOakEyeCenter.com

Hours: Mon-Fri 9-6 • Sat by Appointment



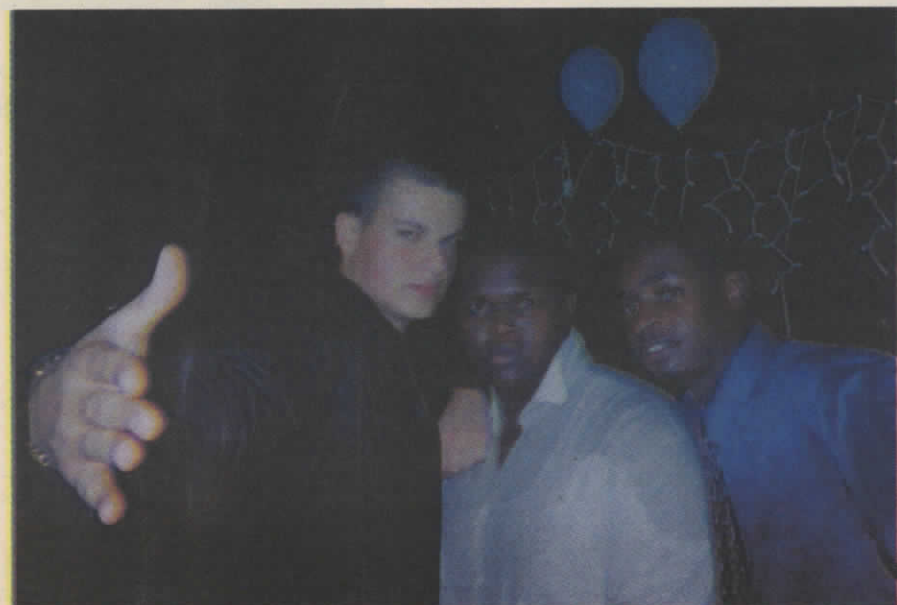
School events



Fall Ball 2003

by Sara Houser

November 1, 2003 marked the date of SOA's Fall Ball. If you didn't go, you missed out on a great dance. The student council decorated the normally mundane cafeteria, transforming it into an ambient ballroom as well as providing entertainment for everyone. The spacious location lent plenty of room to get crazy on the dance floor. For all you wallflowers, a quaint cafe setting created a safe haven where you could avoid dancing but not feel too out of place. Whatever you do at dances, from hovering around the food table or dancing the night away, the Fall Ball was a night of excitement...except for those of you who are socially inept.



Features

Fantasia: Behind the Scenes

On November 12 & 13 SOA performed its variety show, *Fantasia*, which proved to be a great success. Ashton Coons went behind the scenes and spoke with several performers.

Creative writer Rachel Goldstein recalls not only the good and bad experiences of *Fantasia*, but also shares some career choices as well. She states: "Ms. Miles sort of tricked Elizabeth (Bowers), Tedra (Coakley),



and me into being a part of *Fantasia*. She said they needed creative writers in the performance. She also said we would read a poem or something minor and that it wouldn't take up a lot of our time. We were shocked to find that not only were we reading poems written by a former student but we were performing, expected to move. So we rehearsed, grudgingly, in Ms. Hurtado's studio, every other day dur-

ing first block, sacrificing precious writing time for meeting ten page deadlines and finishing homework due next period. We were annoyed that it turned out to be a bigger commitment than we had anticipated. We rehearsed mostly with Mr. Wood directing us, Ms. Hurtado directing the dancers simultaneously. Mr. Wood really helped us project and move and to overcome our fear of being shown up by our dancer counterparts. He really made everything come together for us, for everyone, the whole show. He deserves a lot of credit for the success of the show. I'm glad I did it. It was a good experience, something new for me.



Behind the scenes there was often chaos. The first performance was only the second time we had ever run through the full show. I'm shocked it all came together. It was nerve-wracking backstage, waiting to be called on or to set props. It was a good time for bonding and talking, though. I shared a dressing room with the choir dancers for *Swan Lake*, which was interesting, they were



booty dancing in tutus and leotards to rap favs. like "Tootsie Roll." There was a lot of make-up everywhere and some stretching, legs flat against a vertical wall...I would describe *Fantasia* as: chaotic, nerve-wracking, tense, intense, and stressful. Every teacher and performer was mad or yelling at someone else. The whole thing was very dramatic. But, I have to say my day in the life of a performer was well spent. I know writing is my calling, that euphoric feeling performers feel never came. I'll get my rushes from standing stationary reading my poetry."



Piano major Jenna McSwain shared with *Applause* the great accommodations of the NCPAC and the criticism of Debussy. She says: "If you were to walk backstage during a production of *Fantasia*, you'd be bombarded with large tutus, clown-like faces, and performers trying to read each other's lips while tip-toeing through the halls. Inside the dressing rooms the girls were scrambling to get to their mirrors, which were sometimes shared by three or four girls. I think the meaning of the words

"girls' dressing room" was overlooked in the vocal/piano girls' area, because every few minutes I would turn around and see that a different male had entered the room. The pianists had a small dilemma with forgetting music (there's no need to mention names), but this was remedied when the gracious stage crew let us use their handy-dandy copy machine at the last minute. Thank you, NCPAC stage crew!

To prepare for *Fantasia*, Ronald, Sara, and I first looked at Debussy's "La Cathedrale Engloutie" individually for two or three weeks and worked one-on-one with Mrs. Benson perfecting our notes. We then began working together. The piece was difficult to do in ensemble form because the tempo varies throughout the piece, and what sounds correct is determined by whoever is playing it. When Debussy wrote "The Cathedral," it was intended for one piano to depict a magnificent cathedral rising out of the ocean and then sinking again. It was very rewarding to see our ensemble come together. I think Debussy would be pleased!

Band majors Hollie Reeves and Stacey Tocaryzk tell of the thrilling pit, the experiences made from it. They tell *Applause*: "Behind the scenes of *Fantasia* was kind of chaotic at times, especially for those of us in the Orchestra Pit. There was only one set of bathrooms for everyone in the pit, so the intermission was a race. But "behind the scenes" was also fun. We shared a lot of jokes with each other.

The band rehearsed constantly during school and outside of school with the orchestra, vocalists, and dancers. Mr. Kerr made the band practice the music everyday all the time.



Music Page

SOA duo spices things up

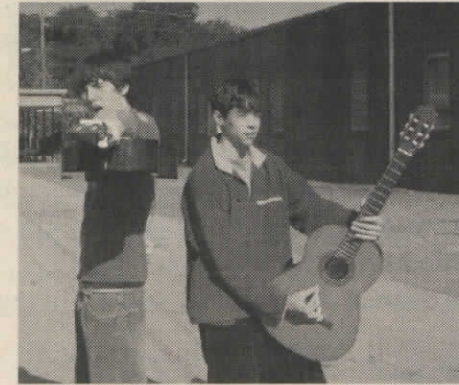
by Sara Houser

"We should be bandits," a light bulb flashes above Chris Gingrich's head. "We should be spicy bandits," adds Ben Forney, a man full of intellectual input.

It was an ordinary day in Ms. Fitzgerald's orchestra class when Ben met Chris. But the cosmos have been in disarray since The Spicy Bandits rose from the primordial soup of hell and evolved into the cataclysmic duo that is The Spicy Bandits. With covers of Marvin Gaye's "Lets Get It On" and a rendition of "La Bamba" that would make Richie Vallens blush, the Bandits are taking SOA by storm. Evidence that two guys and acoustic guitars equals mass appeal. But these guys don't limit themselves to pop classics. They've

been known to bust out Tom Petty's "You Don't Know How It Feels" and even Pink Floyd's "Wish You Were Here" on any given day.

The most direct results of these influences are the Spicy Bandits' original songs. "Blue Clover," an Irish Jig written by Ben is a dedication to certain Irish customs. The second of the two songs written as well as performed by these prolific songwriters is "The Ones I Know." Much of the song maintains a rock style but breaks off into a bluegrass rhythm packed with mandolin and all.



Chris Gingrich (left) and Ben Forney (right) make up the group The Spicy Bandits

Recently The Spicy Bandits had the opportunity to perform and give back to the fan base that has supported them through thick and thin. Friday, November 28 marked the date of the annual Rumph Roast and the long-awaited debut of The Spicy Bandits. With intestinal fortitude, the band took the stage and played their acoustic little hearts out. They endured a total of an hour and a half of bitter cold weather that left their fingers numb and tingly after each set, but that didn't stop Ben and Chris. They stayed true to their rock/bluegrass sound and captivated the audience of 100 people almost effortlessly. All the work put in during orchestra class sure did pay off for the boys. Their explosive debut has many fans asking, "Just who are The Spicy Bandits?" If anything I hope this article has shed some light on the mystery and intrigue that surround The Spicy Bandits.

An additional tidbit of information, Chris Gingrich's side project, Crimson Perception, has been gaining notoriety locally as well. Although nothing can compare to the merging of Ben and Chris's musical genius, Crimson Perception has many fans "seeing red." But don't expect fame and fortune to sidetrack either of the two guys. They remain levelheaded and focused on their music.

In the Aeroplane Over the Sea

by Sarah Haynes

From the seemingly insane and surreal world of Jeff Magnum's mind, *In the Aeroplane Over the Sea* was born. His inspiration and motives are unknown but perhaps it is better that way. The writing can be whatever the listener wants it to become. The music is a complete puzzle. In addition the album contains nostalgic overtones. The interesting part is that Magnum makes it accessible and acceptable to sing about these things. It reminds one of a cross between Anne

Frank and a circus. It's the world seen through the eyes of a once very inquisitive child who is now a man looking back on his life, documenting his experiences as best as he can. The album is raw and ambiguous, thundering on like an insane dream or a bad trip. The beginning of the album suggests childhood nostalgia in the opening song "The King of Carrot Flowers," when Magnum belts out "When you were young you were the king of carrot flowers and how you built a tower tumbling through the trees in holy rattlesnakes that fell all around your feet." The album deals with abstracted thoughts that leave the listener literally shivering with curiosity as the songs canter on unstoppably. The cryptic lyrics can often be interpreted to mean different things to different people, as I certainly get into discussions with friends about their possible purposes. Although there seems to be a common theme running throughout the album, which is supposedly Anne Frank. She appears to be the topic of "Holland, 1945," especially so with the lines "The only girl I've ever loved/ Was born with roses in her eyes/ But then they buried her alive one evening 1945/ with just her sister at her side/ And only weeks before the guns all came and rained on everyone... And it's so sad to see the world agree that they'd rather see their faces fill with flies/ All when I'd want to keep white roses in their eyes." Enigmatic as the lyrics may be, there are other themes running madly through this album. Another possible one could be about the beauty and absurdity of the world. This theme is most evident in the album's title track "In the Aeroplane Over the Sea," with the passage "And one day we will die and our ashes will fly from the aeroplane over the sea/ But for now we are young let us lay in the sun/ And count every beautiful thing we can see/ Love to be in the arms of all I'm keeping here with me... What a beautiful face I have found in this place that is circling all round the sun/ When we meet on a cloud I'll be laughing out loud/ I'll be laughing with everyone I see/ Can't believe how strange it is to be anything at all." Closely following this is "Ghost," a shiver-inducing epic. Its imagery and many possible underlying meanings make it one of the more interesting songs on the album. Magnum conveys one of his more outrightly stated stories with the lines "And one day in New York city baby/ A girl fell from the sky/ From the top of a burning apartment building/ fourteen stories high/ And when her spirit left her body/ How it split the sun!/ I know that she will live forever/ All goes on and on and on and/ She goes/ and now she knows she'll never be afraid." *In the Aeroplane Over the Sea* is a very intense, stream-of-consciousness beauty that rambles on like a Kerouac novel.

The great thing about this Indie album is that no over-analysis is required to appreciate it's melancholic sweetness. It is simply beautiful as a mystery. There is no pretentiousness here and quite frankly no crap either. Like I've mentioned before, get off that Emo, because this isn't it. At least try something that an intelligent person composed, not something that was nicely marketed and packaged perfectly to sell to the mainstream audience. Although not as well composed as some of the other albums I have reviewed in the past, it is still one of the more interesting.

Relatively New CD Releases

Mainstream: Nelly Furtado-*Folklore*, No Doubt-*The Singles...*, Madonna-*Remixed & Revisited*, Counting Crows-*Films About Ghosts*, Jamiroquai-*Late Night Tales*, Alicia Keys-*The Diary of...*, Britney Spears-*In the Zone*, No Doubt-*Boom Box*.

Alternative: Pearl Jam-*Lost Dogs*, Blink-182-*Blink-182*, The Flaming Lips-*Ego Tripping*, Jet-*Get Born*, The Offspring-*Splinter*, Default-*Elocation*

Classics: Nat King Cole-*The Classic Singles...*, Johnny Cash-*Unearthed*, The Beatles-*Let It Be...Naked*, David Bowie-*Sound + Vision*

Hip-Hop/Rap: Missy Elliott-*This Is Not a Test*, 112-*Hot and Wet*

Rock: Turbulent-*Turbulent*, Rage Against the Machine-*Live at the Grand Olympic Auditorium*

Metal: Korn-*Take A Look In the Mirror*



Featured Art Area

Bringing talent to new levels

Sarah Haynes interviews Ms. Jaycie Rappold, high school Visual Arts instructor.

Sarah: What are some of the major activities going on in high school Visual Arts?

Jaycie: Currently, many students are working on their projects for the National Scholastic Art Awards in December. Many of the seniors are working on their AP portfolios. The 11th grade is working on an appropriation project based on the Andy Warhol and Red Grooms Exhibit they visited at the Gibbs Museum. The 9th graders are working on a project for the MUSC Childrens' Hospital. The Childrens' Hospital just re-tiled their hallways with inlayed sea life, crabs, seahorses, etc. We are donating about 40 tropical fish that will hang on the walls. The students drew the fish out on hardboard, then we cut them out with a jigsaw and now they are being painted. Some students are sculpting the fish out of foam so that they will have a three dimensional element to them. It is our way of giving back to the community.

Sarah: What is your goal for HS VA this year?

Jaycie: I have many goals for HS Visual Arts each year. They include: providing my students with an environment to take their art to a higher level, completing the AP portfolios, having a spring art show that is as successful or more successful as the ones we have had in the past two years and having my students become more confident in their ability to create works of art.

Sarah: Personally, what type of art do you admire most?

Jaycie: It changes constantly. It really depends on what I am working on personally or what type of research I am doing at any given time. I am a painter so; a lot of the works I admire and get my own inspiration from are painters. I have been looking at several artists lately that paint the figure in an interior environment. Artists such as Edward Hopper, Bischoff, Bonnard, and Diebenkorn are the ones I have been admiring lately.

Sarah: What drew you to SOA as a teacher?

Jaycie: SOA actually called Charleston Arts, where I was the Studio Director at the time. SOA was in search of a high school visual arts teacher. I had heard a lot of good things about SOA and knew Mr. K. I got my resume together, met with Mrs. Myers and as the cliché goes, "The rest is history."

Sarah: Where did you go to college?

Jaycie: I attended college in Gainesville, Florida. I am currently taking classes at the College of Charleston.

Sarah: What are your personal endeavors in art currently?

Jaycie: Lately, I have been commissioned to paint several murals. I just completed one in a blank lobby in Meeting Street, Downtown. In addition, I have been working on a ceiling mural out on Kiawah since the summer. I am eager to finish, but it is extremely difficult and time consuming. The home I am painting in is on the Gibbs Museum Tour of Homes in April and I am the "feature artist." They have an amazing eclectic collection of artwork. The homeowners chose to feature me. It is quite an honor. I am also in the beginning stages of developing my own body of work with guidance from my painting advisor, artist, Lynn Ryding.

Capturing the world through art

Jessica Fink, a 12th grade Visual artist gives us some insights into her major.

Sarah: What is your concentration for AP portfolio?

Jessica: I don't have a concentration yet. I've got a lot of time to decide what it will be. Right now my focus is on college applications.

Sarah: Describe a little about the concepts of your portfolio.

Jessica: I have a lot of different concepts in the works going into my portfolio. One of the main things I've been doing is experimenting with color relationships in oil paint and acrylic. Another is depicting the struggle of the individual to understand the world around them. I've also been trying to define a concept of Robinson Jeffers, that each work that a true artist creates is a reflection of themselves.

Sarah: Have you encountered any problems or difficulties yet?

Jessica: My own limitations in trying to capture the world around me in my art.

Sarah: Do you plan to pursue art in college?

Jessica: I'm going to go to art college and probably major in painting.

Sarah: In what ways has SOA helped you as a Visual artist?

Jessica: SOA has given me a place to work every day.



An honest approach

Noelle Williams interviews highschool/middle school Visual Arts teacher, Mr. Moore.

Noelle: What is it like teaching Visual Arts?

Mr. Moore: Very exciting and fun. You get to work with lots of students all with different opinions and views about art.

Noelle: How do you judge if a piece is good or bad?

Mr. Moore: You look at overall composition and technique and whether the artist was successful at trying to convey the message.

Noelle: Do you ever get bored teaching art?

Mr. Moore: No, never. There is always something new going on.

Noelle: If you could improve Visual Arts as a major, what would you do?

Mr. Moore: Give the students unlimited motivation.

Noelle: Are you open with your students? (or do you often take a friendly approach to teaching and share your view with your students):

Mr. Moore: I give them a honest approach, sometimes it's friendly and sometimes not.

Noelle: Why did you decide to become a teacher?

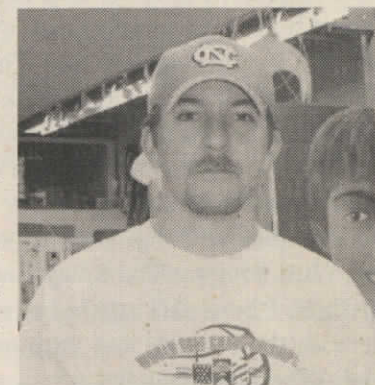
Mr. Moore: I wanted to work with young artists.

Noelle: When did you first become interested in art?

Mr. Moore: I took my first art class my senior year in high school and have been hooked ever since.

Noelle: What types of art do you like best?

(continued on page 7)



Applause on line at:
www.ccsosa.com

Featured Art Area

Mr. Moore: I like pottery the best and have recently have gotten into graphic design.

Noelle: What characteristics do you need to become a great artist?

Mr. Moore: Patience and motivation.

Noelle: In your definition, what is an artist?

Mr. Moore: An artist is someone who creates as a way of expressing themselves.

Noelle: Were you ever scared to go into Visual Arts as a career? Why?

Mr. Moore: Never scared, I knew I wanted to be an artist and I would find a way to do that.

Noelle: What classes did you take in college in order to be able to teach an arts class?

Mr. Moore: I have a BFA in art, as well as lots of education classes.

Noelle: When you were little, were you interested in Visual Arts?

Mr. Moore: No, actually I did not get into art until college.

Noelle: What advice would you give a fellow artist?

Mr. Moore: Work as hard as you can and you can achieve your dreams.

Noelle: Does your experience as SOA help you to grow as an artist? How?

Mr. Moore: I am inspired by all the creativity and excitement students have about art.

The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test: a review

by Sarah Haynes

If remembering the sixties means you weren't there, then Tom Wolfe has done the impossible. Politely declining the acid induced state Ken Kesey was preaching, he was able to write the one of the most famous documentations of our parents' generation. His novel is a tale of Ken Kesey, the famous author of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, his Merry Pranksters, and the revolutionary ideas they brought about. As good natured as these ideas were, they turned out to be dangerously mischievous.

Published in 1968, *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*, documents the "Transcontinental Bus Tour," Kesey and his followers, The Merry Pranksters, undertook as they made their way to the World's Fair in New York for the release of Kesey's novel, *Sometimes a Great Notion*. Their transportation method was a shockingly painted Day-Glo bus, they called Further. With them was Neal Cassady, prototype for the hero of Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*, who drove the bus. This inspirational trip even touched Paul McCartney, who once said Kesey was very influential to his *Magical Mystery Tour* film. The bus even stopped to have a visit with hippie icon Tim Leary. Once the trip was over and Kesey and his followers were home, they began holding publicly open "Acid Tests," where a psychedelic atmosphere was induced with lights and music provided by The Warlocks (later known as The Grateful Dead). These tests allowed hundreds of people including the Hells Angels to partake in the insanity. Acid Tests evolved into the Trips Festival, leading to the eventual arrest of Kesey for possession of narcotics.

The novel takes a poetic and journalistic approach in documenting these events. It is the ideal book for those interested in our parents highly active and revolutionary generation. It definitely contains the same caliber of information that you might want to hear when your parents' old buddies are in town, exchanging stories of the old days late at night when the kids are thought to be asleep. It is also a must read for those interested in early 20th century history.



Where are they now: A conversation with SOA class of 2003 valedictorian, Andrew Bentz

What is your major?

Currently I am pursuing a BA in Music with an emphasis on vocal performance (I will also be pursuing a performance certificate). Next semester I will be pursuing a second major in International Relations.

How has SOA prepared you for college?

SOA definitely prepared me for college. Many of the classes I am taking now are easier than the ones I took in high school. The AP track gave me the skills I needed to get through the first semester without too much stress. I don't know what I want to do in life yet. The only combination I can think of with my majors is to be a CIA operative with my cover being an opera singer.

How is college different from high school?

College is more emotionally difficult than academically. It's hard to go from having the same friends for seven years to having no one you know. It's also hard because you are surrounded by people 24/7. At home you can go in your room and close the door. But at college you have a roommate to deal with.

What advice would you offer to SOA students to prepare for college?

For advice I would say apply to all those places you want to go. But make sure you apply somewhere you know you can go and you know you can afford. It's a shame but when it comes down to it you will probably end up going where it is cheapest.

How does your college experience compare to your expectations?

College was pretty much what I expected. There were no academic surprises. The hardest thing is being on your own for the first time. You have to learn how to control yourself, when to say, "No I can't go out tonight I have to sleep." I've seen many people crash and burn this semester because they learned too late how to manage their time.

How is college preparing you for your future?

I can't say yet whether USC is preparing me for my job because I don't know what it is going to be. But my voice lessons are going great. I love my teacher. I am doing two operas next semester. I will be in the chorus for *La Boheme* and then I will play Ferrando in *Così fan Tutte*. So the singing is going great. Also the concert choir is going to tour Italy this summer.

How do you like USC?

USC is growing on me. At first I was opposed to it wholeheartedly. But I have found people who are like me yet from different backgrounds, which makes them fun to be around.

Any advice for next year's college students?

Learn who is in your classes. Talk to them even if you don't want to because when it comes to studying they will be your best allies.

Do your best the first 4-6 weeks in every class. That way the teachers will know (or think) that you are a good student and, if something happens (like a late night party) they will be more lenient on penalizing you for not turning in something. Sit in the front of your classes. You get better grades because the teacher will know your face and hopefully your name. When that happens the teacher is grading *your* work, not student 67's work. They will be much nicer.



Reviews

Voyage to the Dub Side of the Moon

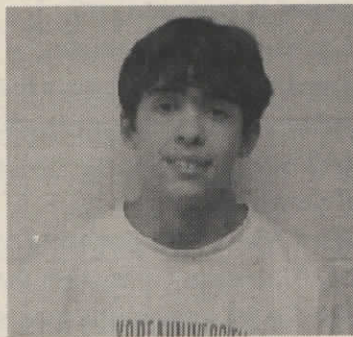
by Ben Forney

On Sunday, November 16th around 10:00 PM, while most of you were probably at home working on last minute homework assignments or watching a little TV before the start of the new school week, I was at Charleston Beer Works shooting pool with my father and my uncle. What would possibly motivate my dad to take me to a bar on a Sunday night when I should be getting a good night's sleep? The answer lies in our mutual admiration and respect for the music of Pink Floyd, particularly the landmark album *Dark Side of the Moon*. This incredible work of art chronicles the mental decay of a man into paranoid insanity, a concept which many people must be able to relate to, as the album ranks amongst the highest selling albums ever. After stumbling across an ad in the paper for a reggae band's interpretation of the record, which they labeled *Dub Side of the Moon*, we knew we had to take advantage of this rare opportunity to hear the album performed live in concert.

Unfortunately, the show didn't start until around eleven o'clock, giving us the opportunity to play a few games of pool to pass the time. We didn't know what to expect. The band, Easy Star Allstars, was unknown to us, and we were convinced the make up of the audience was going to be jobless druggies out partying on a Sunday night. However, when we arrived at The Music Farm, where the concert was to be held, we were surprised to find that most of the people there were average college kids acting pretty subdued and normal. When the band took the stage, everyone gathered around on the floor and waited to hear what these guys sounded like. The band's line up consisted of a keyboardist, drummer, bassist, guitarist, saxophonist, trombonist, and two singers that interchangeably sang the melody. Their first set consisted of all original songs. They were surprisingly catchy and upbeat tunes and with each opening riff the crowd became more alive. Although the lyrics were completely indecipherable and seemed to be in some kind of Rastafarian dialect unknown to me, it did not detract from the overall good vibe of the music.

As the first set ended around midnight, I began to really have high expectations for the second half. After a short break, the lights dimmed even lower than before and the band moseyed back onstage very casually. When they were set, the opening pulse of a heartbeat, the first sound heard on the album, began, and my attention was held until the very end. This band did an incred-

ible job of blending their own reggae style into the music while still maintaining the original feel and flow of the songs. Their horn section pulled the piece together, recreating many of the memorable riffs in a familiar yet unique vibe that everyone in the crowd was enjoying. Some of the highlights included their rendition of "Time" and "Us and Them" which brought in a couple of disco balls, covering the venue in a surreal, sparkly glow. As the band neared the climactic finish, I couldn't help but think that



Floyd would be proud of the Easy Star Allstars, not just for the royalties they collect from them, but for their ability to take a near perfect album and give it a Jamaican twist, while still holding true to the original Floydian mood. If you only see one unknown reggae band cover a 1970's concept album this year, make it the Easy Star Allstars *Dub Side of the Moon*. You won't be disappointed, and you'll leave the concert feeling like "there's someone in my head, but it's not me."

The Food's Always Fina in China

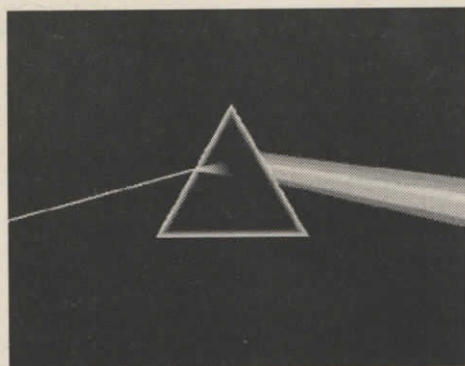
by Sam Danna and Casey O'Neill

For our third restaurant review we decided that we should continue with the Eastern theme. So we attempted to eat at an Indian restaurant. They were closed, but we didn't let that discourage us and quickly settled on an Asian restaurant called Oriental Garden. Located on Coleman Boulevard, this cozy restaurant is close to everything. When we walked in, it looked like your typical Asian restaurant until we noticed the unusual fish tanks. The fish looked strangely plastic and moved in a vertical fashion which led us to believe they were fake; they were.

The moment we were seated, mysterious rolls magically appeared at our table. We were not sure what they were but the J-man thought they might be egg rolls, so Sam tried them. She discovered they tasted cloth-like, almost as if they were moist, hot towels; they were. Although we were slow to place our order, it was only due to the extensive menu. We started off with the rock & roll sushi, that consisted of a tempura fried rice shell filled with crab and asparagus. We reveled in its deep fried goodness. Our waitress then appeared with Miso Soup and salad with ginger dressing. Now Casey has eaten many a Miso soup and this was truly different in that it had tofu in it! While Casey doesn't enjoy tofu, Sam who eats it occasionally thought it was top notch. The salad was covered in a delicious ginger dressing. It was of lighter substance than ranch, but less greasy than oil and vinegar. In short it was perfect. The last appetizer we ordered was Gyoza, or Chinese moon shaped dumplings filled with a garlic flavored pork. They were slimy yet satisfying.

We continued on our journey through the Orient by ordering Teriyaki Chicken with steamed rice and Yaki Soba or beef with noodles sauteed with fresh vegetables and fried rice. Although Casey was sure the steamed rice was the best rice she'd ever eaten Sam argued that her fried rice was the true winner. After trying each others rice we decided it was too close to call. The Teriyaki chicken was succulent and morsels melted in our mouths like Oriental M&Ms. The Yaki Soba's noodles were unlike any noodles we had ever tasted and the beef was scrumptious.

To end our Oriental escapade we devoured some tempura fried ice cream. This was a mystery to us because the ice cream was still cold and it had been deep fried in boiling grease. Despite its unusual preparation it was yummy yummy in our tummies. The biggest surprise of the night was at the end of our meal when we were presented with suckers instead of the traditional fortune cookie. In conclusion the evening reminded us of that old Chinese proverb Hen-hao chi (the food was good)!



Student Art

Amare et orcus

by Shana Dykema

Falling in love is like dying -
necrosis of the heart and soul
Looking at her,
I realize that I am infected

I.

He slides calloused fingers along the block of ivory
standing in the center of his cave.

It is warm; the smells here are earthy and strong
and he is reminded of Africa, of elephants
and dark-skinned natives aiming
their straight, brown spear shafts.

He runs his finger along the apex of the corner
and thinks of fair-skinned women from long ago
standing on balconies, perfumed and coiffured,
pretending not to see the butchery below them.

II.

Lunchtime;

he is eating an apple and goat cheese,
contrasting flavors creating a simple cacophony in his mouth.

He pictures himself as Eve,
naked and pale in the garden,
as she reaches for the fruit.

The serpent is watching through half-lidded eyes,
coiled around a branch and waiting
for the first bite.

Her teeth slice through the ripe flesh of the apple
like guillotine blades;

there are torches
alight in her eyes
and in the serpent's;

only a woman could have fallen to such
obvious
temptation, and only woman
could have tempted someone so.

Gouge

by Ashley Chaplin

It was done, his sight had been restored. After the awkward smell of the hospital had penetrated into our skin. After all the fluorescent lights had made life surreal. He was poked and cut and tested to finally be given a gift not even God had spared. He would stand amazed at the chandelier. Crystals dangling like little translucent fingers. He held them, moving the light. It was this child-like hand always reaching out for him. With all the sites and scenes outside this house he wished to hide away from it. He can't see, he says. "The confusion is agonizing."

He can't see. Though the night before, I watched his eyes like white moths fluttering against the window pane. I couldn't hear them when they threw themselves against the glass, but I knew they wanted out.

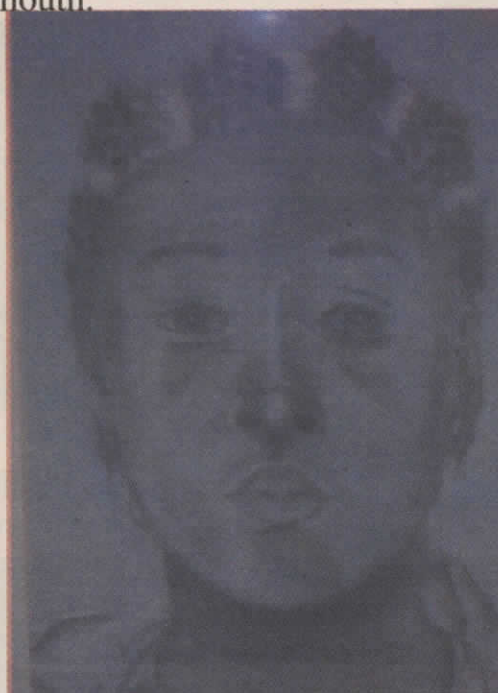
Then in the morning, silence had taken the house hostage. I noticed him on the way to the fridge. The chandelier broken and twisted against the hard wood, and him lying there just like it. That red finger in his palm, and the blood from his face. The moths had flown away.



Sarah Haynes
11th grade



Hanna Trusler
8th grade



Adrian Brown
8th grade



Austin Dukes
11th grade

Features

An experience to remember

Jeanne Albinger talked to three seventh grade students about their experiences at Barrier Island. These are the stories they shared.



just watching the dolphins playing and splashing around.

At Barrier Island I was in a Marine Mammals class. We went down to the beach with binoculars to see anything we could in the ocean. After looking for a while I saw at least six dolphins swimming no more than three feet off shore! The sun was just setting and it was an awesome sight! We were out there for twenty minutes



were falling off. It was a cold walk.

-Chris Shepherd

The first day at Barrier Island, the seventh grade went to the beach. My friends and I were talking when all of a sudden a crab comes out of the sand. He makes his way to my foot and

-Molly Stone

We were at the mud pit and I ran into a very deep hole all the way up to my chin. I lost my shoes, my camera, my glasses- all of it. On the way back to the cabins I had to take off my pants because they were so heavy with mud they



tries to walk up it. At first I thought it was a spider and then I moved my foot and there was a crab. Everyone started to scream. The teachers told us to calm down. We left the crab on the beach and we went to lunch.

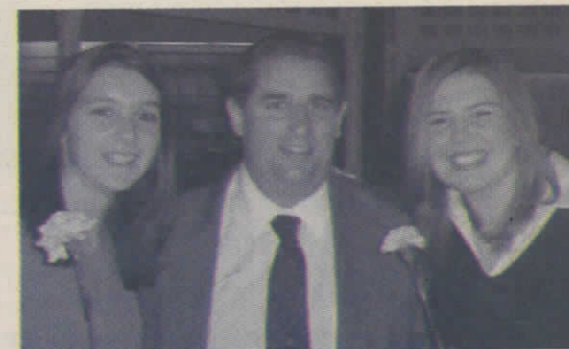
-Landon Washington



The Lords of the Ring

by Casey O'Neill

This year's junior class ring ceremony and banquet took place on November 22, 2003 at the Sheraton Hotel. The Class of 2005, dressed in their best, arrived at the Sheraton at 7:00 where they proceeded to have dinner. The students were seated with the teachers they had chosen to present them with their rings. As dinner came to a close excitement filled the room. Mrs. Caldwell took the floor, and as the eighth grade english teacher for most of this year's junior class she was able to make some amusing observations about the students as well as some inspirational remarks. Yaeger Deas, the junior class president, then welcomed the students and teachers with a heartfelt speech.



Tiffany Bonaparte spoke about the history of the ring as a cultural symbol and how our class rings symbolize our love for our school and the

memories we have of it. Bonnie Richardson then explained that the design of the SOA emblem on the band of the ring has an artist's palette, a treble clef, ballet shoes, drama masks, and a pen. These graphics each stand for the majors that make up the School of the Arts. Shenay Starks and Jennifer Goodwyne then presented and occasional poem they had written for the class of 2005. Evelyn Palomo explained that upon receiving a class ring it should be turned away from the



heart or toward the pinky by enough people to represent the year of graduation before finally "locking it" by having it turned toward the heart by the most inspirational figure in your life. Samantha Danna then took the floor to explain that when wearing the ring before you have graduated the year of graduation and the school emblem should face the inside. Upon graduating it should be turned so that the school emblem faces the outside.

The students were then presented with their rings by the teacher of their choice. The students chose the teacher that was most influential during their years at SOA. Once every student had received their ring, the turning began! After all rings were turned and finally locked, the ceremony ended and the class of 2005 had completed their first step toward graduation!



Holiday Recipes

Bon Appetite!

The Applause staff would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and give some recipes to enlighten your Christmas experience.

Lady Fingers

1 pack vanilla pudding
1 package Lady Fingers
cool whip
1/2 tsp almond extract
1/2 tsp vanilla extract
Strawberries



Get a large bowl. Layer with Lady fingers, vanilla pudding with almond and vanilla extract in it, strawberries, and cool whip. Repeat until the bowl is full.

Garlicky Mashed Potatoes

2 heads of garlic
2 tbsp olive oil
1/4 cup white vermouth or dry white wine
1/4 cup canned low-salt chicken broth
3 1/2 lb Yukon Gold potatoes, cut into 2-inch pieces
1 cup half and half
6 tbsp (3/4 stick) butter, room temperature

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Remove papery outer skins from garlic heads. Cut off top 1/4 inch of each head. Place garlic heads in small baking dish. Drizzle with oil. Bring vermouth and broth to boil in saucepan. Pour vermouth mixture around garlic. Cover and bake until garlic is very tender, about 45 minutes. Cool slightly. Squeeze garlic from skins into small bowl. Mash garlic with fork. (Roasted garlic can be made 1 day ahead. Cover and chill.) Place potatoes in large pot with enough cold water to cover. Bring to boil. Cover partially and cook until potatoes are very tender, about 20 minutes. Drain. Return potatoes to pot and mash. Heat half and half in small saucepan until hot. Add to potatoes and mix well. Mix in roasted garlic and butter. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Chilled Sweet Potato Casserole

Step 1

2 cups crushed pretzels
2 sticks oleo margarine (melted)
Mix alone and put in an oblong casserole dish. Bake for 15 minutes at 350 degrees.

Step 2

1-8oz. cream cheese (softened)
1 cup sugar
1-9oz. cool whip
Mix together and spread on baked crust.

Step 3

3 cups sweet potatoes (cooked and mashed)
1 cup sugar
1 egg
1 stick oleo margarine
1 tsp vanilla
Cook over low heat, cool slightly. Spread potato mixture over the top. Chill thoroughly and serve.

Chocolate Pie

2 squares unsweetened chocolate
2 tbsp butter

1/3 cup flour
1 cup sugar
1/4 tsp salt
2 1/2 cups milk (or half and half), scalded
3 eggs, separated
3/4 tsp vanilla

Breakfast Casserole

1 small package of Jimmy Dean Sausage
7-8 eggs
1 1/2 cups cubed velveeta cheese
1 can cream of celery soup
1 bag tater tots

Mix eggs and soup together. Put tater tots, velveeta cubes, and sausage in a 9 by 13 pan. Pour egg and soup mixture over it. Bake for about 1 hour at 350 degrees. You can fix it the night before and refrigerate it until morning.

Baked pie shell

Melt chocolate with butter over hot water in double boiler. Mix flour, sugar, and salt, than stir into chocolate mixture, mixing until well blended. Add 1 cup of hot milk (or half and half) and stir until smooth. Add remaining milk, and continue to cook, stirring frequently until mixture is smooth and thickened (about 15 minutes). Beat egg yolk well, and stir a little of the chocolate mixture. Combine with the rest of chocolate mixture and cook 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Pour pudding into a bowl and cover with wax paper. Put in refrigerator. Before serving, pour into pie shell and top with real whipping cream.

Horoscopes



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) - Have fun for the holidays, dress up like a fruitcake!

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) - Feeling bored lately? Go to the mall and chase the Santa around.

Aries (March 21 - April 19) - 'Tis the season for giving. Give your teacher an apple and maybe you'll actually pass.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) - Be on Time! If you're late you might miss out on all those parties you were invited to.....cough cough.....

Gemini (May 21 - June 21) - Suck up to your parents and maybe you'll get that life size doll of Johnny Depp you've been dreaming of.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22) - Support your school! Buy a SOA tee-shirt and wear it proudly!

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) - Go on a holiday vacation. You could use the time to relax and besides no one will miss you that much.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 23) - Put on those hot green tights you've been hiding in your closet and go be an elf at the mall!

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23) - Do a good deed! Donate your well earned dollar to a starving child or a bum today!

Scorpio (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21) - Karaoke time! Go out and sing your favorite Sir-Mix-ALot song!

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) - Family knows best. Wear the "adorable" sweater your grandmother gave you. No one will notice those frilly pink bows.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan 19) - Don't be embarrassed. Everyone already knows your favorite band is the Backstreet Boys and they only pretend they don't know you in public places.

Question of the month

What is your New Year's resolution?



"To watch more *Batman*. *Batman* is my favorite show and I haven't gotten to watch it for quite a while."

Chaz Cooper, 7th grade



"To not be tardy. I'm always tardy."

Kerri Gallagher, 12th grade



"Actually do my homework so I can make better grades."

Anna Brown, 8th grade



"To remember more stuff."

Blake Crawford, 6th grade



"To get a girlfriend."

Eric Black, 9th grade



"Don't procrastinate and do my journal entries".

TJ Mott, 10th grade



"To redecorate my room."

Briana Soto, 12th grade



"Make better grades."

Michael Robinson, 11th grade



"Be happy every day."

Quenby Kiesler, 11th grade