

Applause

Volume 5 Number 4

Charleston County School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC

January 2004



*"We are the music makers...
the dreamers of dreams"*

Editor's Page



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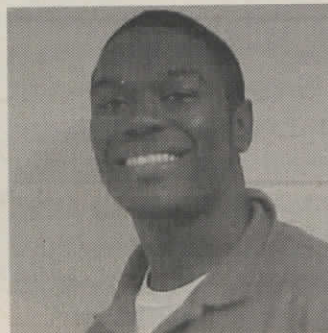
Applause is a student produced publication of the School of the Arts.
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A note from the Editor

I would like to welcome our readers to the January edition of *Applause*. The featured art area this issue is piano. We have also included articles about our exchange students and student interns, one of which, Ms. Mitchell, will be helping us publish *Applause*.

I would like to give a special thanks to Ms. Marshall's students who wrote book reviews. Thank you to all our new advertisers. I hope that all of our readers enjoy this issue.

Sincerely,
Emory Frazier, *Applause* Editor



Cover quote by Authur William Edgar O-Shaughnessy

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SOA Upcoming events

- Jan. 22 - HS Orchestra Booster Meeting
French Club meeting - 3:40 -4:15 in Miss Emory's room
- Jan. 26 - MS Vocal All-County Chorus Workshop and Performance
All County Chorus(HS Vocal)
Fighting Gnomes Outreach at Academic Magnet High School
- Jan. 29 - Early Release Day
Biology student to SC Aquarium
- Feb. 1 - 12th grade Theater Chicago Audition Trip through the 8th
- Feb. 2 - HS Orchestra deadline for All-State Preregistration
- Feb. 4 - HS Creative Writers - Poets and Painters Contest
1st Block High School Convocation in Black Box
HS Creative Writers field trip to Gibbes Museum
- Feb. 5 - SCMEA Conference
MS Creative writers field trip to Gibbes Museum
- Feb. 7 - USC Summer Dance Program Auditions
- Feb. 10 - HS Orchestra Deadline for Solo and Ensemble Registration
Senior Beta Club Meeting
- Feb. 12 - Interim Reports
HS Orchestra - Dinner Concert Fundrasier
- Feb. 13 - Teacher Workday - No students
- Feb. 14 - Valentine's Day!
- Feb. 16 - President's Day - No School
- Feb. 19 - HS Orchestra Booster Meeting
French Club Meeting
- Feb. 20 - "Battle of the Bands" 6-8 in the Black Box
Fighting Gnomes Outreach to Porter Gaud
- Feb. 21 MS Vocal Solo and Ensemble
HS Vocal Solo and Ensemble
HS strings Chamber Ensemble to perform Pre-CSO concert
- Feb. 24 - Middle School Dance Performance 7pm at Sottile Theater
- Feb. 25 - High School Dance Performance 7 pm at Sottile Theater
- Feb. 27 - HS Orchestra - All-State Orchestra Weekend
MS Vocal - 6th grade Choral Clinic - 9am
Fighting Gnomes Outreach to Whiteside Elementary
- Feb. 28 - MS Vocal - Prayer Circle Competition

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Music Page

Album Review: *Songs For Dust Mites*

by Sarah Haynes

Songs for Dust Mites was created by Steve Burns. The ex-co-host of the popular children's show *Blues Clues*. If that fact alone frightens you into thinking that the album may be reminiscent of that annoying song he sang with the blue dog, keep in mind that his two favorite CD's are *The Soft Bulletin* and *OK Computer*. Burns's wise decision to branch out and leave the blue dog gig behind left him under the care of Steven Drozd, member of *The Lips*. Aided by Drozd, who I last saw wearing a *Super Furry Animals* shirt, Burns released *Songs for Dust Mites* sometime in September.

Although well produced for a first album, *Dust Mites* is not anything fantastic. It opens up with *Mighty Little Man*, a very *Lips* influenced piece with a deep bass in the background. It is probably the most impressive song on the album. The rest of the songs contain a child-like innocence and understanding of the world around him. This is evident in >1, when Steve describes a nighttime bike ride around his front yard, "...one day you and I will live on the moon, back inside I don't know if I'm Spiderman or if I'm G.I. Joe, build a fort in our mothers room, crawl inside she'll find us soon." In >1, Burns is actually playing an empty ice cream container and somehow a thinking chair. The lyrics are simple and he often rhymes one word with itself in the next line. Burns invokes an imaginary world of dust mites and nano-people in the title track *A Song for Dust Mites*, with the lines "...the biggest baddest world you've ever seen is smaller than a tear where all the kids have a robot hearts and dust mites fight with micro-gears remember when the earth was still and the universe spun round and round..." The use of childish words like "baddest" gives the album a whimsical and approachable sound.

Burns went through the best career change a man could make, from children's show champion to a good singer/songwriter. Although far from being an outstanding album, one can be certain that *Songs for Dust Mites* was a personal success for its creator. It is an array of atmospheric pop that takes a few chances now and then, while still remaining firmly planted in the comfort zone of song writing akin to a that of a child's comfort zone of home.

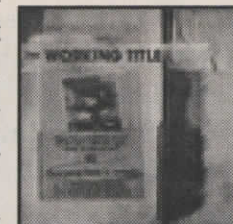


Album Review: *The Working Title*

by Casey O'Neill

Charleston's very own *The Working Title* recently released their debut EP *Everyone Here is Wrong...* on Redemption Records and as a digital exclusive in the Apple iTunes store. The EP showcases the quartet's fondness for melodic heady arrangements and emotionally charged vocals. It features "The Mary Getaway" and "Beloved" from the *American Wedding* movie soundtrack. The band has quickly built a die-hard audience in the Southeast over the past year, also gaining the attention of local press. As the *Charleston City Paper* noted, "Much of the Working Title's recent success is due to the band's loyal and ever-growing fan base."

On December 27 at 9:00 the Music Farm was already full to the brim and still had a line of people waiting to get in. The opening bands *Favorite* and *Nineteen-eighty-four* played for the first two hours. Yet it was obvious everyone was waiting for *The Working Title* to take the stage. Right around 11:20pm they finally appeared on the stage. They proceeded to perform for over two hours. They performed songs from their new EP and their first album *Sincerely*. Among the highlights of the show were the performance of "The Mary Getaway," "She Says," and "Never Forever." Having drawn a crowd of more than 200 people, many of *The Working Title's* fans already knew their songs well enough to sing along at the tops of their lungs. By the end of the show one thing that was apparent was that you can expect these four talented musicians to pour their heart and soul in to their music. With an average age of 20 and a dynamic electric-acoustic sound, *The Working Title* are the only post-hardcore band you can rock out to in the car before the show, at home under the covers, or on 15-cent wing night with the guy from *Theta Delta Chi*. Look for the *Working Title's* full length release on *Universal Records* in 2004!



Battle of the Bands

by Sara Houser

Interested in competing in the Battle of the Bands??? Well all you need to do is grab a buddy (at least two people are needed for a band) and get ready for the audition on January 26th after school in the Black Box. Before the audition you will need to submit an entry form stating your band name, the titles of two of your songs, and the equipment needed for your band, all due by January 22nd with a 5.00 entry fee. For those of you who aren't as musically talented as others it's always fun to go and watch! The Battle of the Bands will be held in the Black Box February 20th at 6pm. Tickets go on sale Monday February 9th and you better get them while you can because tickets will not be sold at the door. You'll get to see the bands trying to win over our celebrity judges for the grand prize! Refreshments will be sold for the low prizes of a dollar or less and sadly there will be no moshing allowed. So remember to hurry and get your ticket for the Battle of the Bands!

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Features

Dr. Cusatis completes fifth marathon

by Ben Forney

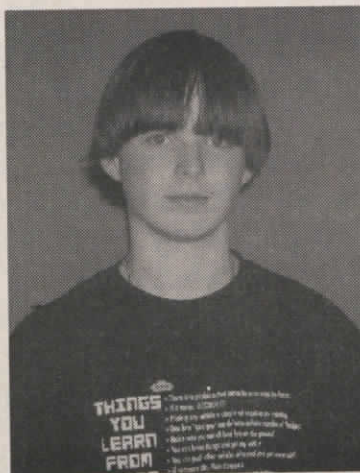
What do the finest wines and SOA's own Dr. Cusatis have in common? Both become better and more refined with age. In the case of Dr. Cusatis, his skill as a long distance runner has been cultivated throughout his youth, and along with experience and raw talent, he was able to run his fastest marathon time ever in December. He finished the 26+ mile race in the impressive time of 3 hours 31 minutes. This shattered his previous best of 3:47, which he accomplished in 2000 by 16 minutes. This marathon, his fifth in five years, took place in Jacksonville, FL. Other marathons he's run have been in exotic locations such as Anchorage, Alaska, Dublin, Ireland, and Negril, Jamaica. He was surprised to have done as well, since he did not train as extensively as he had for previous races. He claims his improvement was based largely on using his energy efficiently (not starting out too fast), eating properly before and during the race, and keeping his body pumped full of extra strength Tylenol to stifle the leg aches. In fact, he felt so strong at the finish line he discovered that "you can run a pain free marathon."

Now this AP & Honors English teacher has his sights set on bigger game- the Boston Marathon. Missing the cut off by only a few minutes, he's hungry to make it into the most famous of all marathons. He's already begun training for a summer race in Italy where he hopes to rip apart the competition like a wild Kenyan hunter. When asked what he thinks about throughout all those long miles, he said the things that go through one's head during a race cannot be described to those who have not shared that experience, but he usually focuses on the race, "always conscious of time and pace." He also passes the time by reading "a spiritually uplifting, philosophical book" the night before and thinking about it while running.

While no one may ever fully understand the multi-faceted mind of Dr. Cusatis, it's clear that he possesses a drive that few mortals can compete with. Anyone who has the stamina to push his bodies to the limit for 26 miles and then go home and grade A.P. English essays must be very dedicated to his work. Congratulations on a great run. His next challenge: convincing Mr. Davis to run one with him.

SOA Sophomore travels to *Return of the Kings* Premiere in New Zealand

A wonderful experience was enjoyed by one of our fellow students, Jonathan Squires, who visited the wonderful land of Middle-Earth. He had taken a trip to the rolling countryside of New Zealand. He was very devoted to being awarded this trip, having entered the AOL/Verizen Wireless *Lord of the Rings: Return of the Kings* Premiere contest 6985 times. He was also awarded the honor of viewing the world premiere of the final Chapter of the *Lord of the Rings*. After watching the film, which he said was perhaps one of the best motion pictures he



has ever seen, he met the cast at the premiere's after party, although he didn't meet Elijah Wood, Orlando Bloom, or the director Peter Jackson, he did see them as he walked down the red carpet, standing within just a few feet of all three. Some of the stars he did acquaint himself with were Sir Ian Mackellan, Viggo Mortensen, Andy Zerkis who plays Gollum, Hugo Weaving, Sean Astin, Liv Tyler, and another star who was not in the films yet still rather famous, Seth Green.

There were many more things that he saw in New Zealand. He said that in one day alone he saw four completely different environment settings, ice cap mountains, sandy steppe desert, green rolling hills, tropical jungle, and coniferous forest, all in one day's drive! Jonathan also said that the waterfalls he had seen were the most crystal clear blue, he has ever seen. In the earlier days of the trip he visited the only remaining set of the films, which were the remnants of the Hobbiton set. Also absorbing the native Maori culture and bustling blend of Asian and European city life it was like traveling around the entire world in just a week. Jonathan says he wishes to go back one day perhaps even live on the beautiful green hills of New Zealand.

A whole new world

by Emory Frazier

This time last year Dana Busse and Benedikt Baumgart were in school on the other side of the world, but in August of 2003 there lives were changed forever. Dana and Benedikt enrolled in a foreign exchange program back in their home of Germany that brought them into the homes of the Selby's, the Rumph's, and SOA.



Dana, who stays with the Rumph's, is sixteen and in the eleventh grade. She is majoring in strings and plays the cello in the orchestra. In her free time she loves to play playstation, especially DanceDance Revolution. According to Jessie and Capers Rumph, both students at SOA, Dana is "cool and

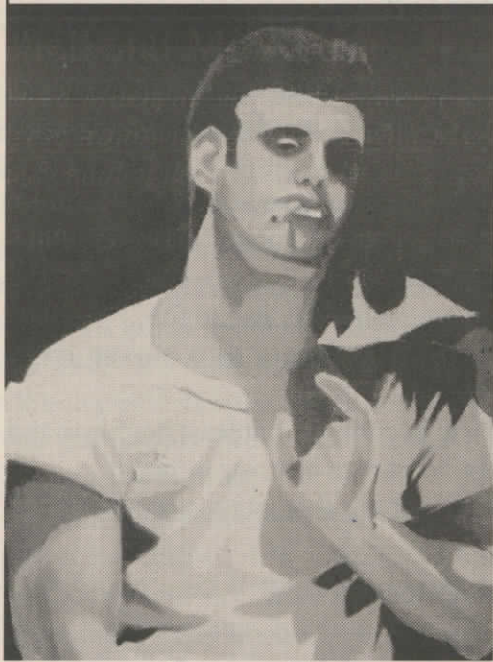
funny". The Rumph's have tried to make Dana feel right at home seeing as though they built her her own room and gave her, according to Jessie, "more love than she can handle."

Benedikt is seventeen and in the eleventh grade. Like Dana, he majors in strings, but Benedikt plays the bass in the orchestra. Benedikt enjoys computer games and he says he loves steak. The Selby's, with whom Benedikt stays, feel that it has been "very cool to have a new person from a different nation in our household. We all love him."

If you see one of these students passing by, simply introduce yourself and help to make them a part of the SOA family. We all hope this will be a positive experience that both Dana or Benedikt will value forever.



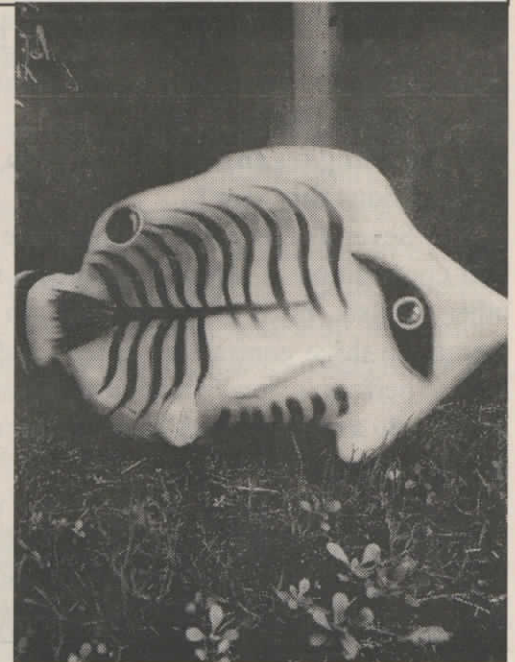
Student Art



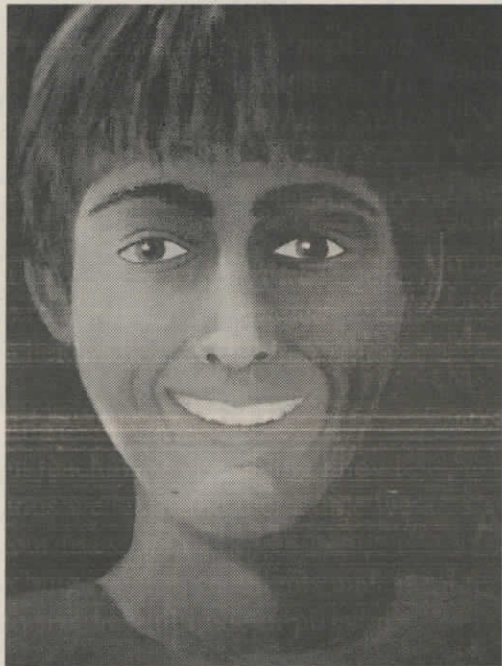
Bryson Cook
12th grade



Sara Tisdale
12th grade



Chris Miller
9th grade



Ricky Bickerstaff
12th grade

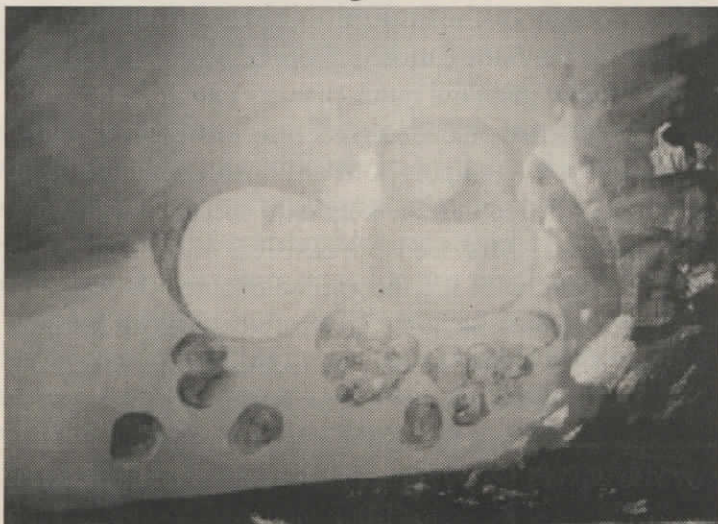
Works in Progress



JJ Jordain
11th grade



Tommas Tanner
11th grade



Anahita Tipnis
11th grade



Oneka Buck
11th grade

Featured Art Area

The next Billy Joel

Lane Elsey interviews piano major Jenna McSwain about her major and experiences in piano.

Are you going on any field trips or to any competitions this year?

Several of us will be going to the district competition in March to compete with other pianists. Each of us has to learn and memorize three contrasting pieces and we have to perform a slew of technical exercises. **Do you do anything with their major outside of school?**



Mr. Clarke gets gigs for some of us at Satchmo's restaurant in Mt. Pleasant where we play jazz standards with a combo made up of students. I also play for church services and I accompany and help teach music to the south of Broadway Theater's Youth Company.

How long are you supposed to practice each day?

Mrs. Benson asks an hour every day and gives us one day off every week. But I also have to learn music for Mr. Clarke's jazz piano class and for jazz band, along with any other gigs I'm doing outside of school. So after playing for two periods at school every day, I usually practice for over two hours at home.

Are there any particular ways you learn or rehearse a piece of music?

If a piece is difficult, I have to start out playing really slowly and sometimes play the same measure 107 times in a row until I get it perfect. Sometimes when memorizing a piece, I make the letter of each chord into an acronym. For instance, if the chord progression was D-B-E-G-D, I could think "Dumb Bats Eat Guacamole Dumplings" and it would be easier to memorize.



Are you planning on using your talent in college or as a career? Although my first choice is to join the circus, I definitely want to study piano. My goal is to become the next female Billy Joel. I'll be the Piano Wu-Man.

Practice makes perfect

Lane Elsey sat down with Seth Zimmerman, Winnie Long, and Hayley Daen to get some insight on the major of piano.

How do you like being a piano student at SOA so far?

Hayley: It is really fun! I like it a lot!

How long have you been playing the piano?

Seth: About six years.

Winnie: Three years.

What made you want to audition for SOA?

Winnie: I thought that it would be fun to have piano as a class while having other classes in the same school

Seth: My mom made me, but now I am glad she did.

Do you have any performances coming up?

Seth: Yes, a spring concert.

What are you playing in it, and how do you prepare for performances?

Winnie: I'm playing When I Fall in Love. I prepare by playing the song over and over again.

How do you like your piano classes and teacher here at SOA?

Hayley: Mr. Clarke has a very interesting sense of humor, so you have to think like him to it it. He is very nice though!

Winnie: I think the teachers are nice and my piano classes are fun.

Do you think you will use your talent in the future as a career on in college?

Hayley: I think that I might major in music in college or at least double major with it and something else. I would hope to pursue a career in piano.

Seth: I might want to be a jazz composer or if not then play jazz at bars.

Pianists, not pushovers

by Sara Houser

If the music world were an elementary school playground, pianists would be the quiet kids that get bullied and whose feelings are ignored by their jughead peers. They don't speak often or draw too much attention to themselves. They maintain composure at all times, whether it be a mistake, mistreatment, or cruelty. But what the bullies and flippant bystanders don't know is that they depend on the quiet kid hiding behind the piano to maintain musical equilibrium. For all of those unaware of this musical caste system (which is anyone who isn't a piano major), let me shed some light on the situation. For centuries it has been understood that a pianist's job is to follow and accompany when playing in a group. They are there for the effect but more importantly they add sound to compliment the "one-noters" of band. Solos come and go unnoticed, missed notes are scrutinized, and the poor pianist is criticized by peers who don't even play piano, they just think they do. Wait, this is getting too personal, but I cannot help but use this opportunity to say what I think everyday. Oh well, no more sidetracking. The goal of this article is to not only turn the spotlight on the little guys (and girls) and for once give them the mike to speak of the humiliation and oppression I've come to know, but to also let people know just how much pianists can do.



Sara Houser diligently accompanies the jazz band at the PTA meeting

What most people know is that piano is a great base instrument. Meaning once you learn the basics, you can apply it to any instrument and learn more quickly. All music theory is tied into the keyboard and that knowledge unlocks dozens of doors in music. Mrs. Benson, classical piano teacher at SOA, taught herself basic clarinet with the theory she attained through her piano lessons. This theory, to Mrs. Benson, is the greatest advantage of learning to play piano. Mr. Clarke, Jazz Piano teacher at SOA, agrees with Mrs. Benson however believes the "infinite amount of harmonic interpretation" is the best element of piano, claiming "it's like having an orchestra at your fingertips," no pun intended. Both give considerable advantages to the musically inclined but personally, I saw the biggest advantage in muscle memory. I picked up the guitar much quicker because my hands could always remember where to go. Either way, piano is a good starting place for anyone look

Featured Art Area

ing to become involved in music.

One common mistake of non-pianists is to doubt the versatility of the instrument. Very few instruments are able to play in so many genres and fit the part. No matter if it's a rock band or full orchestra, a grand piano adds class and style to the most outlandish environment. Perhaps because it is the luxury car of musical instruments (a concert grand piano can be priced over \$40,000). But mostly because of the elegance surrounding its history. Well that sounds like a car commercial too but whatever.



Not everyone takes the formal approach to piano. Mr. Clarke has taught himself almost everything he knows about music. It all started when his father offered music or dance lessons to him and his brothers and sisters. Turned off by tutus and tights, Mr. Clarke took to percussion. He took lessons for two years until the company went out of business. After that he was forced to go out on his own and at 15, he began playing drums for the James Island High School Band. Later he taught himself to read music and was switched to xylophone. Junior year, openings for trumpet players came about and all summer guess what he did?? That's right, taught himself to play trumpet. School came around and he played trumpet his senior year. College arrived and Mr. Clarke enrolled at the Citadel and got a degree in psychology. Unlikely? Yes, but his degree actually helps him with his jobs today. In his big band, he noted that "it helps when you have to deal with seventeen personalities and uniting them into one group." With teaching, he finds that knowing "learning strategies and that people need unstructured as well as structured opportunities" helps him understand his students and how to

manage them. Now a days Mr. Clarke teaches but also gigs around town with his combo and big band. But it's not all "Days of Wine and Roses." According to Mr. Clarke, "the hardest part [about being a professional musician] is finding a balance between evening performances and family time."

On the other end of the major scale is Mrs. Benson. She took piano for eleven years prior to attending Converse College. There she majored in piano

performance. Her musical background, though primarily centered around piano, is just as diverse as her co-worker. She began by figuring out notes on an organ her mother played. But all was let loose at the tender age of five years old when she began formal music lessons. It was a nonstop party from there on and in third grade she was accompanying her music class. Later she branched off and joined the Middleton Singers for four years while she continued to accompany band students. She also took Clarinet lessons every other week and played in a studio band. This exposed her to a whole different world of music. She even got funky with a Jazz Band (then called a "Dance Band"). Amidst all her musical endeavors, Mrs. Benson stayed true to her love for piano. Where some are turned away by the independence of solo piano, it was that very thing that appealed to her. "You get to work individually and get more personal treatment [than you



would with any other instrument].” It is this very path that led her to where she is today and the only drawback she says is “the paperwork, it’s sickening.”

Both Mrs. Benson and Mr. Clarke can attest to the under appreciation of the pianist. Band and orchestra instruments seem empty when played by themselves, with the exception of a few. They might not now, but someday they will realize how much pianists are needed and on that day everyone will see who's really in charge. So I ask all those pianists out there being pushed around or brushed aside, 'go to your window, open it up, stick your head out and yell "I'm mad as he** and I'm not going to take it anymore."'

Remembering the Fun at Funtasia

If you weren't at Funtasia, then you really missed out! Our faculty's remake of Fantasia was as funny as we all knew it would be. The audience was able to hear the talented voices of Mr. Clarke, Ms. Fairchild, Ms. Edwards, Mr. Singleton, and of course Mr. P, whose performance was so entertaining he sang twice and had the crowd



roaring with applause. We were also able to see the teachers' version of *Swan Lake* which included Ms. Olson, Ms. Rickson, and many others, showing

us how "graceful" they could really be. Although the highlight of *Swan Lake* had to be Dr. Ball's appearance dancing across the stage in his wet suit. The English department dazzled us with their literature reading with Ms. Colquitt's interpretive dancing skills. The Ben Pooser of this performance was none other than Mr.



Smyth, who looked adorable and goofy in his little baseball cap, bringing the performance together. Naturally they ended all together on stage singing "The Long and Winding Road," which ended the shortened yet completely hilarious version of *Fantasia*.



Features

Welcome, Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Reese

Jeanne Albinger spoke with Ms. Rebecca Mitchell, who will be working with Dr. Cusatis, and Ms. Barrett Reese, who will be working with Ms. Lawson, about their internships at the School of the Arts.

Where did you grow up?

Mr. Reese: I grew up in a small town, Central. Central is located in Pickens County, and has a population of 3,500 residents. As a historic railroad town, Central once marked the halfway point between Atlanta and Charlotte.

Ms. Mitchell: I grew up in Pittsburgh, Pa. Well actually it was a suburb just outside called Wexford.

Tell me about your family.

Mr. Reese: I am the oldest of three children. My brother Douglas attends D. W. Daniel High School, and my sister Gale is enrolled in a joint program for nursing students at Tri County Technical College and Clemson University. My father owns a small real estate company, and my mother has worked for the Allied Signal Corporation for ten years. My family has resided in Central for the last twenty years.

Ms. Mitchell: My family consists of my father Robert, a former FBI agent, my mother Janet, a Registered Nurse, My brother Brian, a paramedic, and his new wife Michelle, a kindergarten teacher, and her 2 children from a previous marriage, Becky and Jessie.

What is your favorite thing about teaching?

Mr. Reese: The thing I enjoy the most about teaching is conveying knowledge to someone. In many respects, the things we learn and the people we come to know remain with us throughout our lives.

Mrs. Mitchell: My favorite thing about teaching is helping students understand their full potential and enable them to see the multitude of possibilities that exist in life.

What inspired you to become a teacher?

Mr. Reese: Although there are a number of reasons I have chosen to become a teacher, the person that inspired me the most was one of my college professor, Cleveland Sellers. Dr. Sellers, as a former member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, has taught me the importance of commitment, "I am caught up in the strong current of a river of no return... I have developed patience and constantly renew my dedication to mankind and to the creation of a more humane world."

Ms. Mitchell: In all honesty I was inspired to become a teacher because I had so many bad ones. They were mean, disrespectful, intentionally cruel, and lacking in knowledge of the real world. I love talking to people, reading and writing, and I believe that everyone deserves respect regardless of age or education.

Where have you gone in pursuit of higher education?

Mr. Reese: Although my formal education has taken place at The University of South Carolina and The Citadel College of Graduate and Professional Studies, I am a life long student. Everyone you meet in life has something to teach you.



Ms. Mitchell: I started my education in Wexford, Pa. K-12; then I went to College of Charleston for my BA in English; while studying at C of C I spent a semester in England and backpacked through the UK and Europe. I am currently finishing my Masters Degree at the Citadel.

As a child, what did you see yourself becoming?

Mr. Reese: As a child, I often thought that I would become an engineer or architect. I was fascinated with building things.

Ms. Mitchell: Lots of things. A vet first, then a dancer, an archaeologist, a Marine Biologist, a Marine archaeologist, Lawyer, writer, photographer and now a teacher. I actually still do all these things in my own way.

If you were a student at School of the Arts, what would your major be and why?

Mr. Reese: I would have to double major in theater and Band. I have always wanted to learn how to act and play the drums.

Ms. Mitchell: Ohhhhhhhh tough one. Well I love the arts in general. I however lack talent in drawing/painting, ballet (don't ask), & gave up on musical instruments. I am good at tap dancing, photography and writing so I'd choose one of those.

Have you been involved in any other occupation?

Mr. Reese: For the last three years I have worked in the food and beverage industry, and I have also worked as a teacher's assistant at an after school program.

Ms. Mitchell: Yes. In fact I don't know any graduate students who haven't. I've been a sales clerk at the mall, assistant at a medical office, a temporary assistant for legal firms, a waitress, & a Graduate assistant in the OASIS office at the Citadel.

List five words to describe you.

Mr. Reese: Respectful Determined Practical Considerate Loyal

Ms. Mitchell: fun, zany, creative, smart, serious. I love to learn and talk and have fun with students but learning is the utmost priority.

Coming up in the next issue of the Applause: **A Celebration of Black History Month**



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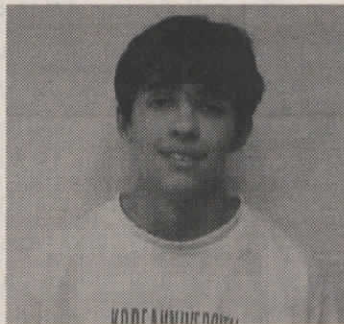
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Reviews

Master and Commander

by Ben Forney

It is rare that a movie captures your attention to such an extent as to make you feel like you're actually in the film. Yet *Master and Commander* accomplishes this feat with stunning perfection and was without a doubt one of the best movies I've seen in a long time. Walking out of the theatre I felt like I was walking off the nineteenth century British warship the movie focused on, and the drive home seemed lacking in



adventure after witnessing the continual onslaught of danger faced by the sailors. The movie stars Russell Crowe as "Lucky" Jack, captain of the HMS Surprise, assigned to locate and destroy a much larger and faster French ship in the waters off Brazil. Their search takes them around the

stormy southern tip of South America into the mighty Pacific Ocean via the Galapagos Islands. On board is a doctor, brilliantly played by Paul Bettany, who seeks out many of the unique species while on the islands. There are many other memorable characters, including a young boy on the ship who had his arm amputated near the beginning of the film.

This movie particularly shines in its attention paid to all the details aboard the ship. The producers obviously did a great amount of research to really give the viewer a good understanding of what daily life was like aboard one of these vessels. It shows shots of goats and

chickens kept on board to give the crew fresh milk and eggs during the journey, and scenes of surgery aboard the ship showed the gruesome aftermath of battle. The action scenes were among the most realistic I've ever seen. The splintering wood seemed to fly off the screen with each thunderous boom of the cannons, and the screams from squeamish audience members added an interesting surround sound effect.

All in all, I recommend *Master and Commander* to everyone who likes good movies. It is well made and exciting, and you'll leave the theatre with a new knowledge about life on the high seas.

I give it ten out of eleven stars.

Book Review: *A Clockwork Orange*

by Sarah Haynes



A Clockwork Orange, by Antony Burgess, documents the strange life of Alex, a troubled teenager who lives in the disturbing world of the future. The struggles facing Alex can be easily identified with the problems of the youth today, minus the governmental efforts of direct mind alteration. The novel delves into taboo issues of rape and crime and presents them in a shockingly graphic and honest manner.

Burgess makes his novel even more

believable with his invention of a futuristic slang that parallels the language of the youth today. The slang takes a while to get used to when one first starts out reading this novel, but is quickly picked up. Alex is always up to no good. The violence he is capable of is shockingly evident when he beats an old lady to death after he breaks into her house at the encouragement of his "Droogs," or companions. All of Alex's problems and crimes are likened to the issues facing teens today, yet his are heightened to a frightening level. Alex's morals are very different as well. He feels no guilt even when he rapes a woman in front of her husband. Alex is eventually caught and he is sent to place where they try to fix him by setting him up in front of a movie screen where images of violence are shown to him in an effort to reverse his own inner violence. "Every day, my brothers, these films were like the same, all kicking and tolchocking and red krovvy dripping off of litsos and plotts and spattering all over the camera lenses. It was usually grinning and smeking malchicks in the height of nadsat fashion, or else teeheeheeing Jap torturers or brutal Nazi kickers and shooters. And each day the feeling of wanting to die with the sickness and gulliver pains and aches in the zoobies and horrible horrible thirst grew really worse. Until one morning I tried to defeat them by crash crash crashing my gulliver against the wall so that I should tolchock myself unconscious, but all that happened was I felt sick with viddyng that this kind of violence was like the violence in the films..."

The science fiction overtones give the book a dark complexity that deserves a second or third reading. The novel addresses the impact of attempting to manipulate a person's mind, by scraping the malicious nature from it by blasting it with images of horror and bloodshed. The title may represent the unchanging nature of the human mind and psyche. It is like trying to change an organic thing into something it is not, something mechanical and man made in nature. *A Clockwork Orange* is an exciting must read that will appeal and relate to generations to come.



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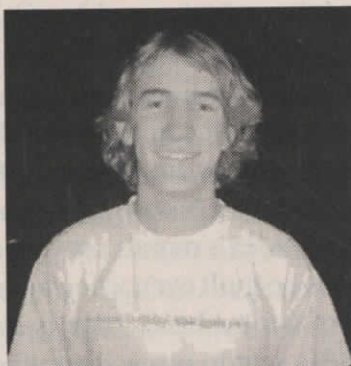
The Robert Ivey Ballet is in residence at
the College of Charleston School of the Arts
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Reviews

A Strange Journey Through Time

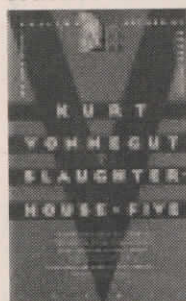
by Paul Saylor

What do teapot theft, space aliens, World War Two, and the expression "po-to-weet" all have in common? They are all key elements in the bizarre world of Kurt Vonnegut Jr.'s *Slaughter House Five*. Vonnegut, notorious (throughout his body of literary work) for his absurd juxtaposition and brilliantly intricate gag lines, puts all his wit and wisdom together to create this gripping and comical look at the realities of World War II.



While centering on the firebombing of the German city of Dresden in 1945, the story frequently jumps randomly through time to explore the life and times of its protagonist, Billy Pilgrim. Through its stylistic ridiculousness, Kurt Vonnegut's *Slaughter House Five* presents a profound, depressing, and simultaneously humorous look at mankind and the inescapable nature of time. While the subtle and obvious stylistic choices and symbolic elements in Vonnegut's work are too many to name, the most noteworthy is probably his incorporation of his vision of an ideal society, which takes the shape of a race of space aliens from a planet called Tralfamadore. Through their ability to see in the fourth dimension, they possess knowledge of all time and space, and as such live simultaneously in the past, present, and future. Vonnegut incorporates this into his novel by dividing it into a series of short blocks of text, each in a different spot as Billy Pilgrim "travels through time." Furthermore, the Tralfamadoreans possess an emotional detachment from death, seeing it only as one moment rather than a permanent change, and such respond to it with the expression "So it goes," an utterance which Vonnegut inserts any time death is mentioned, thereby demonstrating his own morbidly uncaring look at the struggles of life.

Vonnegut continues throughout the novel to call upon his mastery of absurd language and situations, particularly when the book finally reaches the actual bombing of Dresden. As an American prisoner of war, Vonnegut witnessed the bombing firsthand, and the realism of his description deriving from his experiences enhances the effect and the realism of the ridiculous plight of Billy Pilgrim, who by the time of the bombing is "a clown in [a] toga and silver shoes." This is the Vonnegut style American hero. The bombing itself is not described with any predictable lamentation or horrendous detail, but with the sound of giants' feet walking, an image of the surface of the earth made to look like that of the moon, and the casual mention of the thousands killed in battle. Then of course, to finish it on a consistent note, comes the casual acknowledgement of "So it goes." The complex and witty layout of *Slaughter House Five* permeates a number of levels too vast to mention here. Despite its sometimes confusing arrangement, *Slaughter House Five* is a must-read for anyone who has ever given thought to how strange the nature of mankind really is. Through his imaginative world, dry humor, and never ending supply of random profundity, Kurt Vonnegut Jr. creates a masterpiece which provokes thought on a level that no other novel can match. Perhaps, upon reading *Slaughter House Five*, one might find themselves seeing the world in a whole new dimension.

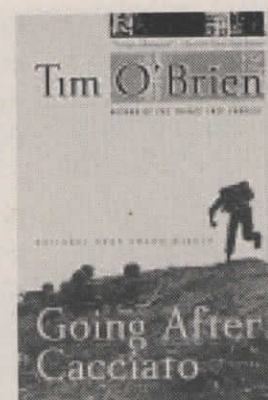
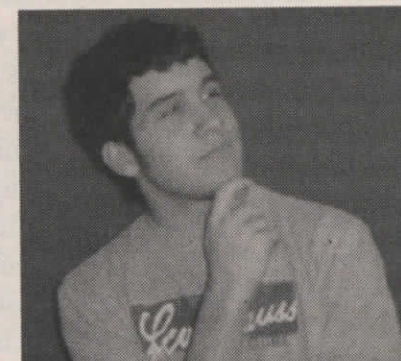


Catching Cacciato

by Shawn Jordan

"To call *Going After Cacciato* a novel about war is like calling *Moby Dick* a novel about whales." *The New York Times* seems to capture the overall feeling of the amazing novel *Going After Cacciato*, written by Tim O'Brien, winner of the 1979 National Book Award. O'Brien's ability to reveal the horrors, insanity, and inescapability of war will hold any reader captivated.

The story takes place during the Vietnam War, beginning in Vietnam and slowly progressing towards Paris. It begins with Spec Four Paul Berlin's squad pursuing Cacciato, a deserter of the war who decides that he is going to Paris by foot. To most of the men in the squad, they know that this isn't rational as the trip is thousands of miles long, but to Paul Berlin, who has a very creative imagination, the thought of escape creates many different ideas in his mind. The quest to capture Cacciato leads the squad all the way across



Asia and straight into Paris, following Cacciato's trails of M&Ms and other clues left behind. Along this journey, Paul sees the wages of war and the many ways which it follows and hurts people. Scenes alternate between times along his journey and events taking place throughout the war, such as fighting or watching guard. His experiences soon reveal to him that war is virtually inescapable, and even when one decides to ignore it or turn away, it follows them and returns them to their place. This idea is clearly O'Brien's purpose. Paul Berlin's characters also reveal many different views on war.

Doc, the squad's most rational thinker, represents those who saw the war realistically, knowing that what is told must be done. The Lieutenant is one who saw the war as something which they could never leave, whether they liked it or not. He viewed the war as an event which must take place giving the nature of man. Paul Berlin was a strong dreamer and showed the longing not to be in the war at all. His dreaming shows a strong yearning to escape the inescapable. He represents those who want the happiest outcomes even if they might lose some of their rationality in the process. O'Brien's various characters and mixture of thoughts create an inventive and exciting atmosphere among the men.

O'Brien's portrayal of the war reveals the men's longing to be free from the demands of war. He shows that war is undeniable and will keep men within it no matter what. This theme can both delight and disappoint a reader, as it creates amazing events and stories which the reader only discovers to be imagined. The inescapability of war is a very strong theme in this novel.

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Miscellany

Restaurant Review: Bella Bocci's

by Sam Danna and Casey O'Neill

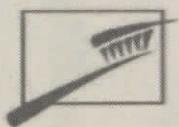
Hey fellas, are you looking for a romantic hideaway to take your special gal on the most holy night of love, Valentine's Day that is. Well we got the place for you. Bocci's, located off of the Market in Romantic Downtown Charleston is the perfect place for your Valentine's Day rendez-vous. It has an old world feel that cannot be matched by any other restaurant. And if you're worried about the chaos of downtown parking it's not an issue here, there is a spacious five story parking garage right across the street.



Sam's date arrived late while Casey's date was right on time. We began the meal with Calamari, fried squid with Marinara sauce. Although it was good we felt it was too heavily breaded and lacked the tenderness we were accustomed to. We felt overwhelmed by the extensive menu which took awhile to look over and make educated decision. When we were finally ready to order our sneaky waitress tricked Casey into spending ten additional dollars on a meal she did not want. (So watch your waitress carefully folks!) Both Sam and Casey's dates ordered baked Ziti, Ziti consists of homemade ziti noodles tossed with bolognese sauce, fresh parmesan and topped with provolone and baked. Casey's date ordered the half portion vegetarian style baked ziti which tasted like the love felt for all God's creatures. Sam also hopped on the vegetarian bandwagon and ordered the half portion of eggplant parmesan of which she still had enough left over for Casey to eat for breakfast the next morning. It was so good that Sam nearly ran into the kitchen to kiss the chef. She decided against it because she thought her date might get upset. Casey on the other hand asked the question "Where's the Beef?" and "beefed" it up by ordering the beef tenderloin wrapped in pancetta and served with sauteed spinach. While Casey felt she should have ordered the half portion she still thoroughly enjoyed the meal.

As the meal came to a close, we decided to order two delectable dessert's; tiramisu and chocolate almond cassata cake. Although what Sam's date really wanted was some hot "berry" pie. As the desserts arrived our waitress spilled water all over Casey's date. Which upset Casey and caused her to run into the restroom for a good cry, but eventually decided that dessert was more important than her pride. The tiramisu was scrumditiyumptious and made us fall in love with the Italian culture all over again. The chocolate almond cassatta cake reminded us of our time spent on the Mediterranean. When we received our checks, Casey was surprised to see her's had risen to over thirty dollars, but refused to let that upset her and once we had finished paying we went on our merry way.

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Horoscopes



by the SOA Astrologer

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb.18)- Listen closely to the lyrics in, "Hey Ya", they have special meaning in your life.

Piscies (Feb. 19-March 20)- The next time you get the urge to eat, don't get worried, remember you're not alone.

Aries (March 21-April 19)- Don't underestimate the power of a riding lawn mower.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)- If you're getting your guidance in life from a horoscope, I wouldn't want you on my team in "Survivor".

Gemini (May 21-June 21)- Those little packages of white crystals in shoe boxes are not good luck charms.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)- Batting your eyelashes at a judge won't always get you out of a speeding ticket.

Leo (July 23-Aug.22)- If you still haven't gotten the attention of that certain someone, don't bother playing hard to get. It will only be easier for them to avoid you.

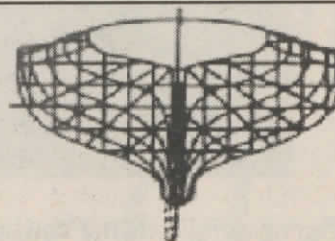
Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 23)- Lying about your age won't get you that 1% senior citizens discount.

Libra (Sept.23- Oct.23)- Restrained footwear will block your flow of creative thinking.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)- Invent your own holiday and take a day off from school or work.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan.19)- If you don't already own a pair of glasses, buy some fake ones, people will start to take you more seriously.

Sagittarius (Nov.22-Dec.21)- Next time you cross a busy street, grab the first hand you see and make someone feel safe.



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Question of the month



"I can do a back flip."
Michael Ancrum, 7th grade



"I have over fifty nicknames."
Nadia Harrison, 10th grade



"I lived in Germany for a summer."
Mr. Eakes, vocal teacher



"I'm adopted."
Lindsay Gallagher, 10th grade

What is something interesting about you that most people don't know?



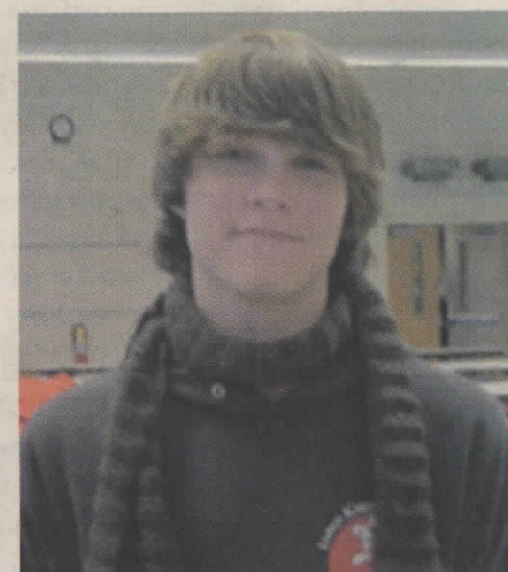
"I like the smell of horse manure."
Dana Gilmore, 7th grade



"I went swimming with sharks in the Caribbean."
Alyssa Hartwell, 7th grade



"I don't bathe or wash my clothes."
Kathleen Smith, 10th grade



"I like to dabble in the fine art of fondu."
Ryan Crawford, 11th grade