



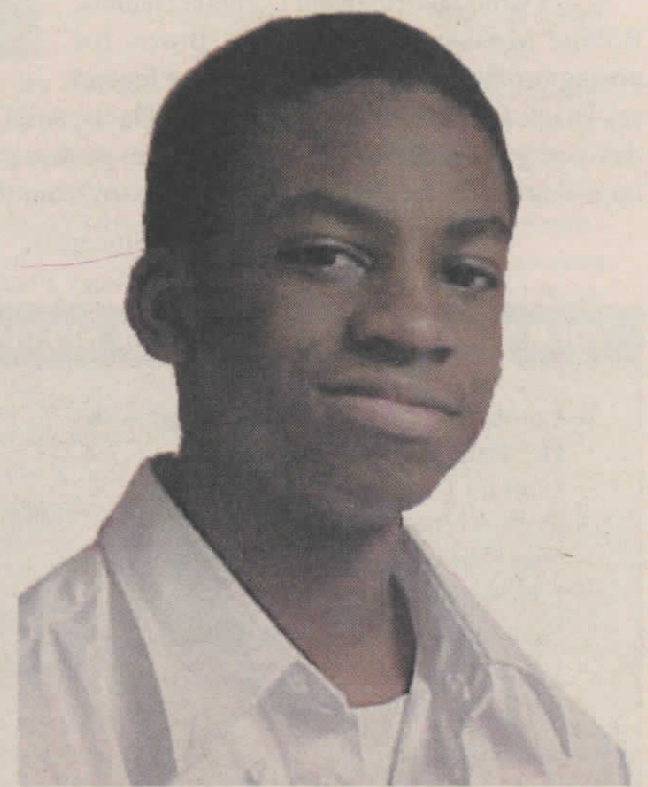
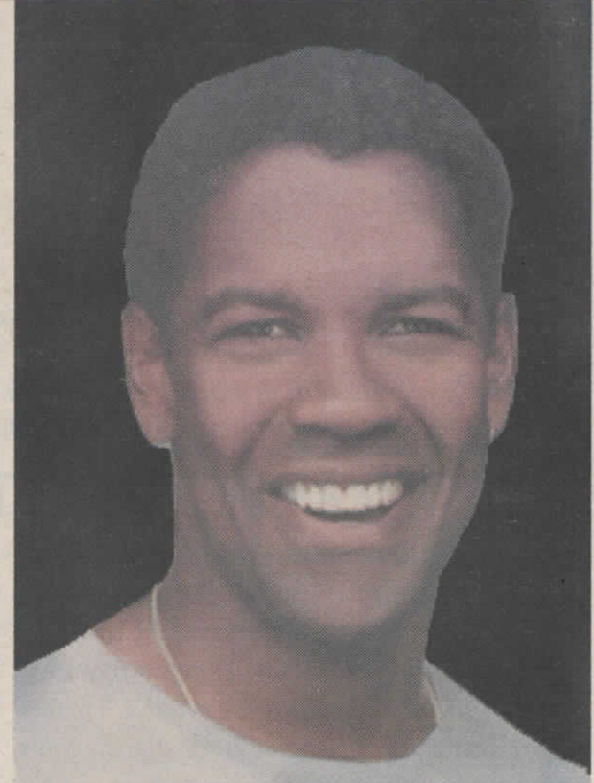
Applause



Volume 5 Number 5

Charleston County School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC

February 2004



Changing the Face of Black History

Editor's Page



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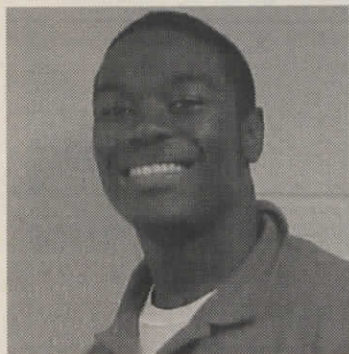


A Note From the Editor

I would like to welcome everyone to our Black History issue of *Applause*. My staff and I have worked very hard to bring our readers lots of Black History features. The featured art area this issue is band. Thanks to Mr. Kerr and Mr. Singleton for sharing their time so generously with our reporters.

I would like to thank Danielle Daniels, Robbie Madison, and Matthew Bostic for posing for this issue's cover below the legendary Black artists Billie Holiday, Miles Davis, and Denzel Washington. One day you guys will have the same impact as these artist have had on us. I hope that all of our readers enjoy and learn from this issue.

Sincerely,
Emory Frazier, *Applause* Editor



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SOA Upcoming Events

Feb. 27 - HS Orchestra - All-State Orchestra Weekend

MS Vocal - 6th grade Choral Clinic - 9 am

Fighting Gnomes Outreach to Whiteside Elementary

Feb. 28 - MS Vocal - Prayer Circle Competition

March 3 - HS Theater - SETC Trip

March 7 - Youth Symphony/Charleston Symphony Combined Concert

March 9 - Senior Beta Club Meeting - 3:30 to 4:00

March 11 - End of Third Nine Weeks

PTSA Meeting - Concessions - 5:30; Meeting - 6:00

MS Vocal SATB Choral Clinic - 9 am

Do you know your Black Inventors??

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1)Norbert Rillieux | a)Open Heart Surgery |
| 2)Sarah Boone | b)Method for Making X-Ray Spectrometer |
| 3)George Grant | c)Sugar processing |
| 4)Lewis Latimer | d)Shoe-Making Machine |
| 5)Benjamin Banneker | e)Ironing Board Adaptation |
| 6)Clatonia Joaquin Dorticus | f)Carbon Filament |
| 7)Jan Matzeliger | g)Traffic Signal |
| 8)Walter Sammens | h)Golf Tee |
| 9)George Washington Carver | i)Farmer's Almanac |
| 10)George Alcorn | j)Photo Print Process |
| 11)Marie Brown | k)Hair Straightening Comb |
| 12)Garrett Morgan | l)Peanut Butter, Crop Rotation |
| 13)Thomas Stewart | m)Video Home Security System |
| 14)Daniel Hale Williams | n)Self-Wringing Mop |

Answers:

1)c 2)e 3)h 4)f 5)i 6)j 7)d 8)k 9)l 10)b 11)m 12)g 13)n 14)a

The Battle of the Bands

Time: 6-8

February 20th

Admission: \$5

In the Black Box

Tickets will be sold at lunch February 10-19



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Reviews

A look at local Black History

by Jeanne Albinger

Did you know that.....

slaves were never sold from the Market Place? The property was given to Charleston by the prominent, Pinckney family for a city market, with the stipulation that the property reverts to any living heirs if used for any other purpose.

Did you know that.....

William Deas, a black man, created she-crab soup at 116 Broad Street while he was the butler for Robert Goodwyn Rhett, a former mayor of Charleston? William Deas was "Rhett's butler."

Did you know that.....

in 1886 the building at 91 Broad Street housed the first black law firm in America? It was the law firm of William Whipper (related to the late Rev. B. J. Whipper), Macon Allen, and Robert Brown Elliot. Elliot was a West Indian who was educated in Jamaica and at Eton College in England. He was also the editor of the oldest black newspaper in America, The Missionary Recorder, an A. M. E. Newspaper published by A. M. E. Bishop, Richard Cain.

Did you know that.....

many of Charleston's black senior citizens pronounce Calhoun, "Kill-hoon?" When asked about this mispronunciation, they exclaimed, "Oh we can say "Calhoun," we mean "Kill-hoon!" Did you also know that John C. Calhoun is the great, great, great, grand uncle to Lena Horne? Again, did you know that the statue of John C. Calhoun,.... oops.. "Kill-hoon," was erected in 1886 by the Daughters of the Confederacy on a low base pedestal but blacks desecrated the statue so bad and so often that the girls had to raise it up on the present high base pedestal.

Did you know that.....

Porgy (Sammy Smalls) lived the last few years of his life in Catfish row (Cabbage Row)? Bess (Maggie Barnes) lived on Romney Street. They may have frequented the area because blacks and whites lived together all over Charleston. Charleston has never had segregated houses or churches. If one were to do research on the civil rights movement in Charleston, there will be very little to write about; Charleston's civil rights movement was very short lived.

Gullah is a very individual and eclectic culture. It is a manner of living, working, and story telling that traces its roots to the first slaves arriving in the Charleston area in the early 1800s. These original African immigrants were instrumental in the development of the rice trade. Their homeland agricultural skills gave them the knowledge to adapt the swampy marshlands of our coast to a rice growing community.

Still surviving in communities in and around Charleston, the Gullah island lifestyle is simple in practice, but rich in heritage. It is a way of life that is constantly being threatened by the ever-increasing coastal development around these areas.

On these barrier islands among the Gullah communities, traditional storytelling, cooking and crafts thrive and thus inspire visitors to travel to the Low Country. Visitors to Charleston's Market can watch the basket ladies weaving the world famous Charleston Sweetgrass baskets. The most complicated tool used in this process is the broken off handle of a spoon. Gullah, the dialect, is a manner of speaking which was at one time common among the people of the South. It is part Elizabethan English and part African. It's spoken in a rhythm and most times spoken rapidly which makes it difficult to understand for even those who grew up around it. The language still lingers in the unique "gullah" accents carried by many descendants of these original settling plantation families.

Some common gullah words are:

Charleston: Chaa'stun invite: eenbite come here: come'yuh
Ravenel: Rab'nel children: chillun woman's talk: she she talk



you: hunnuh

february: fibbywerry

democrat: dimmycrack

Much thanks to GullahGourmet.com and Alfonso Brown for their assistance with this article.

The Celebration of Black History Month

by Ashton Coons

Well, it's that time again...Black History Month. There are so many activities going on to commemorate this month: February 10, award-winning author and poet Quincy Troupe will read from recent works and discuss his colorful associations with jazz great Miles Davis and other legends; the New York City Police Museum is celebrating the life of Samuel Jesse Battle (first African-American hired by the NYPD) by featuring photographs, archival documents, and transcripts of a rare candid oral account by Battle; the museum for African Art in Queens and 651 Arts in Brooklyn are focusing on contemporary African art and performance; Walmart displays commercials commemorating the great deeds of African-Americans....the list goes on. Every year, we watch the commercials, attend the festivals, sing the spirituals, and read the literature that marked an era, but do you truly know why we celebrate this month? Do you know the origin of it? If you do not, here's some food for thought.

It was in the 1920s, a time of controversy, a time when America threw off the constraints of the "status quo" to birth a new era, a new culture. Along with the birth of flappers, organized, fundamentalism, and the Harlem Renaissance, there also arose the origin of Black History month. Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a man "born to parents who were former slaves," (1) is considered to be the father of Black History Month.

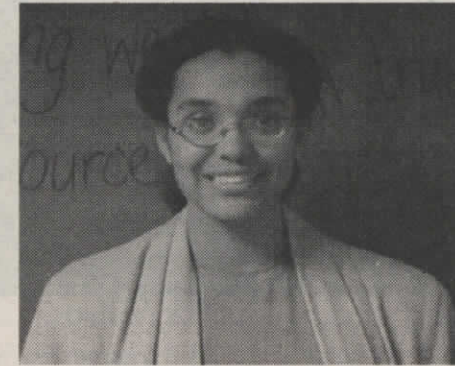
"Disturbed to find in his studies that history books largely ignored the Black American population...[and] in ways [were] reflected [as] the inferior social position," (1) Woodson began what was known then as "Negro History Week... in the second week of February of 1926." (1) Woodson "established Negro History Week to foster an examination of the contributions blacks had made to American life. Woodson chose February..because it was the birth month of two foremost leaders in the abolitionist cause: orator and editor Frederick Douglass and President Abraham Lincoln." (2)

Since the 1920s, the desire to expand the celebration of Black History, and to make known the achievements of African-American in America slowly grew. "In 1976, on the 50th anniversary of Woodson's achievement, Negro History Week was expanded to Black History Month by one of the proclamations issued during celebrations marking America's bicentennial." (2) As America grew and matured over the years, it became increasingly harder to overlook the extraordinary contributions made by the so-called "inferior race."

From 1926 to the present, the celebration of Black History month has not only been established as a month of recognition of African-American Achievements, but has evolved into a culture, a year-round interracial celebration of American culture. It is a celebration not only for African-Americans, but for the whole of society. It is the basis of the developing acceptance of African-Americans in America. It also serves as a reminder of how far this race has come from slavery times. So remember this as you celebrate Black History Month. Celebrate not only of what African-Americans have done, but celebrate what America, as one melting pot, has become.

References:

1. <http://www.infoplease.com/spot/bhmintr01.html>
2. <http://www.nynewsday.com/news/local/newyork/nyc-blackhistbox0130,0,2352746.story>



Student Art



Patrick Wilson
7th grade



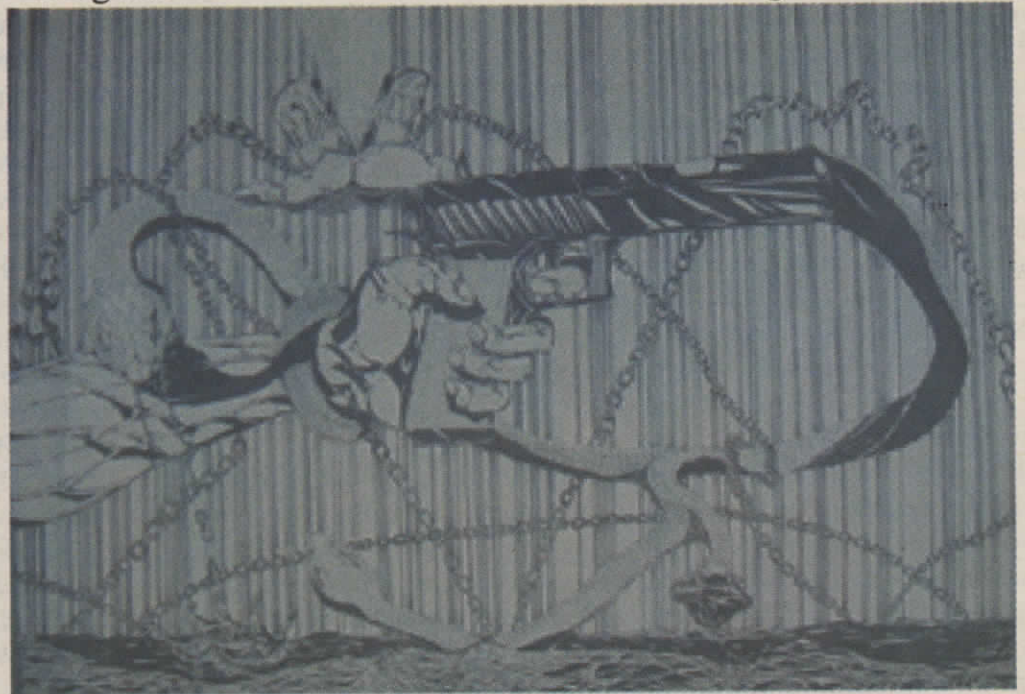
Akeam Rivers
7th grade



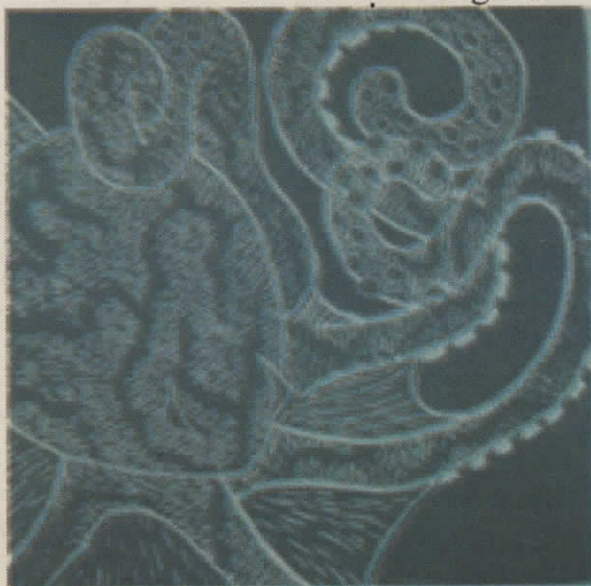
Shane Crosky
7th grade



McNealy Tunner
7th grade



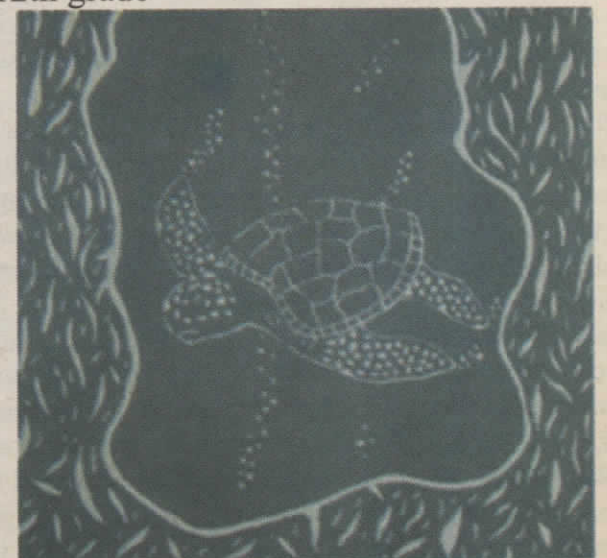
Shelton Simmons
12th grade



Amastasia Timind
7th grade



Chelsea Keak
7th grade



Katie Safford
7th grade

Feature

Where are they now: A look into the college life of a former SOA student

Noelle Williams interviews Ben Neuhaus about his life as a college freshman

What college are you attending?

Marymount Manhattan College

What is your major?

I am a Stage Management Major

What is dorm life like?

Well my dorm situation is different from most schools. There are only four rooms per floor and they can be occupied by 4 to 6 people. The 6 person rooms have two bathrooms, whereas the 4 person rooms have only one. Every room has a kitchen and living area which is nice. The rules in the dorms are pretty strict, but all of the R.A.'s are awesome so it isn't like we are constantly worried about breaking the rules.

Name one thing that you miss about being in high school.

Warmth! Right now it is in the 20s, and my walk to school is 16 blocks. I really miss the mild winters, and also having a car to drive to school in and blast the heat the whole way there.

What are some things that you like about college?

Well every day is an adventure, I owe that mostly to the fact that I am going to school in NYC, but still there is always something really great going on. I have no patience for my classmates who say they are bored when you have the whole world right outside of your dorm room.

What classes are you taking?

Well my classes haven't started yet for spring semester, but I will be taking; Plagues and Humankind, Stage Management 2, General Sociology, and Critical Thinking 2, as well as a filler class that will allow me to get credit for stage managing the spring musical.

What do you hate about going to college?

I hate the people who don't take it seriously. People who slack off on papers or come late to class every day, or complain about how much they hate their classes. If you are going to pay this much for something you should take advantage of it and make sure it meets your needs. Nobody is forcing students to go to college so if you really don't like it that much then maybe college just isn't for you.

If you could change one thing about going to college, what would you change?

I would change the intensity of it. I had myself so worked up before the first day of class that I was a wreck. I wish somebody would have told me that I was prepared for class and not to worry, instead of making college into this big monster that I had to face.

Have you ever gotten a chance to use any of the skills you learned at SOA?

Many many times.

How did SOA prepare you for college?

There is really no way to explain how much SOA has prepared me for college. It is really amazing, not just in my art area but in my classes as well. I feel like I have a much better foundation to build off of than many of the other people in my classes.



Do you find it hard to pay attention in your classes?

Well I found most of my classes really interesting last semester unless we were doing something that I had already learned from high school. For example, when we spent an entire day going over "My Last Duchess." I have to admit that I spent the class text messaging people.

What is the food like?

Our school only has a small cafeteria which is more like a cafe. They make pizza and sandwiches and one special every day. Most people just go to the little stores on the street corners for food while at school.

How has attending college taught you how to be a responsible adult?

Ummm, I had to learn really fast the importance of looking before you cross the street.

When you first arrived, did you feel scared about being away from home? If so, how did you overcome this fear?

I didn't really feel scared, but it was a big shock. I was used to the intimate classes of SOA where you have known most of the people since 6th grade. It was hard to suddenly have to prove to everybody that I was worthy of being friends with them instead of just knowing who your friends were. Luckily I got through it and now I have a great group of friends.

Do you like the class sizes?

The class sizes aren't very different from SOA. they can be anywhere from 15 to 20 people. Its really nice because over the course of the semester people actually become friends. I am really grateful for the size considering some colleges can have classes of up to 300 people.

Would you consider going away for college a good experience for people entering adulthood?

Well I think it depends on what your life was like in high school. I was really never at home and even when I was home my parents were usually out and about. Because of this I am not really feeling much different as a result of going to college. However I do think going away for college would be really beneficial for a lot of people who are feeling stifled by their parents and are getting really antsy to not worry about curfews and all that kind of stuff.

Do you like your professors?

Well, just like in high school, there are certain professors I just clicked with better than others. All of my teachers were great, but there were certain ones that I still talk to when I see them in the halls, which is really nice.

Denyse DuBois Steen

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Featured Art Area

Seventh grader says "practice"

Noelle Williams interviewed Vickrum Tipnis, a seventh grader about majoring in band.

Describe a typical day in band.

We assemble our instruments, tune up and warm up, and start to practice our pieces we will play for concerts.

Did you ever wish you could play other types of music? Why?

Yes, I would like to play pop music, like movie theme songs.

What are two things that you like about band? Why?

I like to play new music after playing old music for so long. I like performing in concerts too.

What are two things you dislike about band? Why?

I don't like practicing but it helps a lot, and I don't like sight-reading either.

Do you ever get bored playing music in band? Why?

Sometimes when we play music for a while.

How many hours a day do you practice if any?

About 30 minutes a day. It helps a lot.

Would you consider band to be one of the hardest majors at SOA? Why or why not?

No, if you practice the music, it's easy.

Do you feel a lot of pressure when you're performing? Why or why not?

Yes, because everyone is watching you and if you mess up then it will be embarrassing.

Do you ever have to perform on your own? If so, do you find that you are more uneasy about performing alone than as a group?

Yes, during county and region auditions. No I'm actually more confident by myself.

Some people believe that you don't feel as much accomplishment as a musician than if you would if you were in a major that required you to perform by yourself. Do you think that this is true? Why or why not?

No, I think it is a great accomplishment to play in a band.

Do you find band to be a rewarding major overall? Why?

Yes, because you get to perform for your parents and impress them.



Did you ever wish you could play other types of music? Why?

I've been interested in jazz music because it sounds like a challenge to make the song have the right rhythm and beat, but as far as I know, there aren't any flutes in the jazz band.

What are two things that you like about band? Why?

I like the fact that we go on trips a lot, and I like the way we sound when all of the different instrumental parts come together to make one song.

What are two things you dislike about band? Why?

I don't like practicing the same songs in band for, half the school year, and our uniforms look weird.

Do you ever get bored playing music in band?

Only when we're playing music that we've practiced for a long time. Sometimes it gets boring practicing the same songs over and over again.

How many hours a day do you practice? Do you find that it significantly improves your playing?

When I get the chance to practice, I usually do it for, at the very least, forty-five minutes. Practicing does help me.

Would you consider band to be one of the hardest majors at SOA? Why or why not?

Yes, because you have to know what you're doing, otherwise you'll be left behind. Also, nobody plays a musical instrument for band in the early years of their lives so you have to work harder than some other majors.

What is it like being in a competition?

It's very nerve-wracking because you want to get a good rating, yet at the same time, all the practice kicks in and it is exciting.

Do you feel a lot of pressure when you're performing? Why or why not?

Yes I do because I want to do my best while performing, plus if you mess up, you stick out, and it doesn't sound good at all.

Do you ever have to perform on your own? If so, do you find that you are more uneasy about performing alone than as a group?

Yes, I get nervous when I try out for all-county band or something. If I get a solo, or if I have a music test. I do find that I am more nervous about performing by myself because there's no one there to back me up.

Overall do you find band to be a rewarding major? Why?

Yes I do because when I do my personal best, I feel good and confident. Also, the music you play is a reward for those long weeks of practice.

The rewards of hard work

Noelle Williams sat down with Serena Doose(12), a seventh grade band major to discuss her major.

Describe a typical day in band.

We come in, get settled and play a warm-up tune called, "#7." After that, Mr. Singleton tells us any important information we need to know, and then we get started on playing our music for the day.

What types of music do you play?

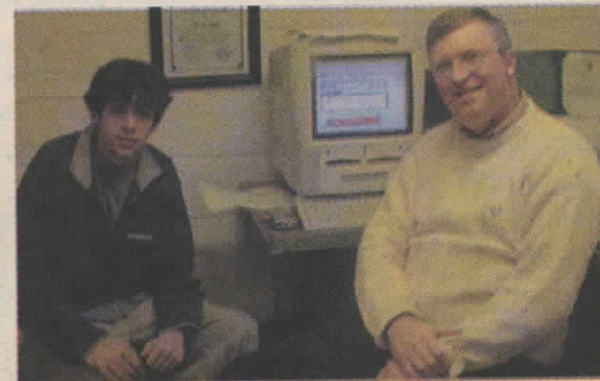
In band, we play marches, exercises, and band arrangements.



Behind the scenes with Mr. Kerr

by Ben Forney

High School band teacher Mr. Kerr is without a doubt one of the finest band instructors in the nation. Since he was a child, music has influenced his life like basketball influenced Michael Jordan. As one of six siblings in his household, music was an integral part of their lives. He recalls his grandmother, a magnificent concert pianist, playing often, and his mother and father both singing when he was young, even though his father "couldn't carry a tune in a bucket." While in college, he was a member of the Miami Philharmonic



Featured Art Area

Orchestra as a French horn player. He aspired to be a performer, but two events led him down the path of music instruction instead. First, the Miami Philharmonic went bankrupt. Second, while student teaching a group of little children in Miami, a young boy attached himself to Mr. Kerr's leg and would not let go. After the class ended, Mr. Kerr asked the teacher why the boy bonded with him so quickly. The teacher replied that Mr. Kerr was the first male role model the boy had had in his life. This motivated him to become a teacher once he realized that, "as a performer, the audience enjoys the performance, they have a good feeling about it, it lasts for a couple of days... as a teacher, you can make an impact on somebody for the rest of their lives."



He enjoys teaching at SOA because he is able to do more with the band than at other high schools, and he likes the challenge of staying ahead of the advanced musicians in his classes. He especially enjoys teaching AP Music Theory because he gets to see kids that aren't just band majors. In his six years as high school band director, the program has grown tremendously to become one of the most respected high school bands in the country. The jazz ensemble also has evolved into one of the best in the area. Despite the numerous trophies and awards the band has received over the years, Mr. Kerr remains down-to-earth and modest. "The proudest moments I've enjoyed are when students who have accomplished something come up and thank me."

His own musical tastes are very eclectic, spanning from Sir George Solti, former conductor of the Chicago Symphony, to jazz legends like Oscar Peterson, Louis Armstrong, and Duke Ellington, to modern artists like Sting and The Dave Matthews Band. "If it's good, well performed, and it's well put together, then I respect it regardless of the genre," says Kerr.

He is pursuing a doctorate degree which has been a very difficult process but should be completed this coming May. Because of this added work, he has been unable to play his horn, which he misses a great deal.

Mr. Kerr can be found on most days hard at work in his airplane hangar size room, perfecting the already impressive High School band.

Anything but a "Plane Jane"

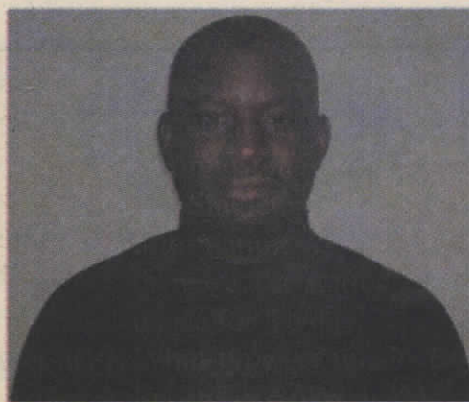
Noelle Williams interviews Mr. Singleton about his feelings, activities, and teaching in the field of band.

How long have you worked here?

I have been working at SOA for one year and four months.

What is it like teaching band?

I enjoy it. As middle school band director I help these students learn the basics of their instrument and music. Sometimes it is hard to take when they are playing something new, but the finished product is usually very enjoyable.



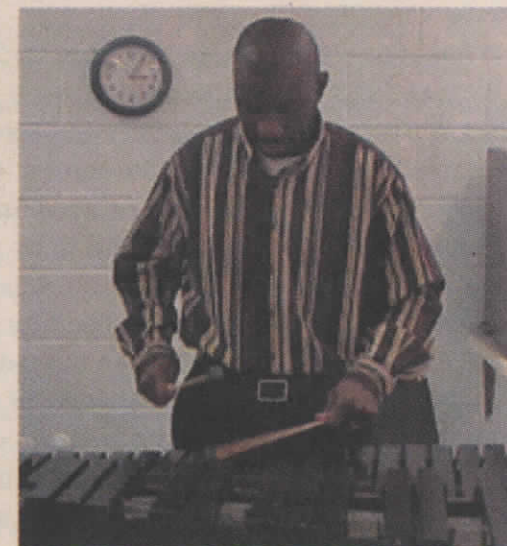
When did you find an interest in music?

Three years old! I started taking lessons at the age. By the time I went to high school, I had already had or was currently taking lessons on the piano, organ, violin, and cello. I became really serious about music around my junior year of high school.

What types of music do you like to listen to? Why?

I listen to a wide variety of sical, country....but it has to be funky! I can find funk in almost any type of music. It's just something that I love hearing. If I had to narrow it down even further, I'd choose to listen to any music from the 70's. The music was real back then. Computers weren't as involved as they are now. Most bands were bands that had very good musicians that didn't rely on fancy keyboards or tricks to enhance their music. Everyone knew how to play and/or sing. We didn't have to worry about people that would lip sync. The music was just real.

music: pop, r&b, gospel, clas-



Do you ever get bored teaching? Why or why not?

That's tough. Sometimes a class can have a bad day and it makes the time go really slow. I don't get bored, but it is harder to hold the interest of the entire class when it is just not working for them that day.

What is the name of your band?

I am a member of Plane Jane.

Who else is in he band?

Scott Sain - vocals and rhythm guitar

Chuck Davis - vocals

Chris Williams - vocals, keyboard, alto, tenor, and soprano saxophones

Stephen Spaulding - vocals, conga, and trombone

Trey Smith - vocals and drums

Keith Bradshaw - vocals and lead guitar

Jimmy Mack - bass guitar

Charlton Singleton - vocals, keyboard, and trumpet

Special members: Quiana Parlor - vocals (Quiana is now on tour with Clay Aiken as a background vocalist) Matt Jordan - vocals and acoustic guitar (Matt plays with a local band called Tricknee)

How did your band first begin?

The band started out as an acoustic duo somewhere around 1995 or 1996. Scott and David Dunning played cover songs together on the nights that they had off from their other bands. Jeff Bateman later joined them. David would sing and play drums (while standing) as Scott and Jeff switched off, on guitar. As the gigs began to grow so did a following. Eventually, the guys from Scott's band (The Pondering) would join them along with other guys on and off from other bands to form Plane Jane. Plane Jane is a party band that plays cover songs. Sometimes there may be six of us at a gig. Most of the time it is seven or eight. One time we had twelve! There have been many people that have come through the band since the mid 90's.

How long have you been playing together?

(continued on page 8)

Featured Art Area

(continued from page 7)

I have been playing with them for four years, but the band has been in existence for about eight or nine years.

What types of music do you play?

We play almost any style or music genre. A typical show will include rock, rap, r&b, country, reggae, pop, heavy metal, and I know that I'm missing something, but we do it...oh yeah, beach. We are a party band, so we have to be versatile with our music.

What types of events do you play for?

We play for anyone or event that wants us. We have played wedding parties, business parties, fraternity and sorority parties, bars and nightclubs, bar mitzvahs, and other private parties. We have played for functions sponsored by the City of Charleston and Greenville as well.

Would you consider your band to be pretty good?

Yes. We all understand what we do, what we need to do, and we do it well. I have been involved with this band for four years and we have rehearsed twice! If there is a new song on the radio that we need to learn or something that we should learn, someone takes the ball and runs with it. Someone learns the words and or music and we learn it on the spot or play around with it at a show until we have it down. It is a great situation to be in. The best part about it is that we are all really good friends.

Have you ever won any types of awards?

Plane Jane is usually voted as the best party band in the city in the City Paper poll. That is usually the only award that we get. I have received a number of awards. The majority of them were when I was in college at South Carolina State University. I think that my most treasured award was winning the Best Soloist Award at the Count Basie/Hampton University Jazz Festival in 1993. It just means a lot to me when some of the greatest jazz musicians in the world judge you in a contest and award you with the top prize. It felt really good.

Is it hard keeping up with a band of your own while teaching?

Well, Plane Jane is not really MY band. I play with them, but Scott handles all of the business. I use to have my own jazz quartet, but it wasn't hard to maintain that band

and teach. That situation was a lot different than what Plane Jane is.

Do you do any other musical activities?

1. I am the organist at St. Patrick, Our Lady of Mercy, and Christ the Divine Teacher(the Citadel) Catholic Churches.
2. I teach Jazz Trumpet at the College of Charleston.
3. I write horn arrangements for artists looking to add horn parts to recordings.
4. I arrange music for high school and college marching bands.
5. I lecture on the history of Jazz music.

What does music represent for you?

It is a huge part of my life. I have been involved with some sort of musical activity since the age of three. It is hard for me to imagine doing something else. I'd have to say that music is my way of expressing myself. I love playing, talking about, debating, composing, arranging, listening to....it can go on and on, but all of it is about music.

Does the band program her at SOA mean something special to you?

Why or why not?

It is very special. I am dealing with very talented students on a daily basis. That makes them special students. I want them to understand the way that I look at music and think about it. I can't force them to like some of the music that I like, but I can expose them to it and help them understand it so that they can form their own opinion.

Why did you decide to teach band at SOA?

My wife and Mr. Kerr forced me to take it! Well, not exactly, but they were very influential. They both thought that I would like the atmosphere and they were right. The ultimate decision was made because I figured that I could teach during the week and play on the weekends as opposed to every night. My family loved that part.

Do you consider it a pleasure to teach young talented students who are all interested in music?

Yes, it is not hard to motivate them.

What is your definition of music?

I can't narrow it down to one thing. It is an expression, a sound, a motivator, a calming tool, a mood setter....the list goes on.

Do you consider music to be an important part of SOA?

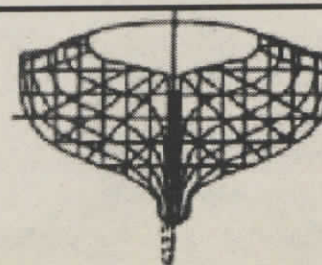
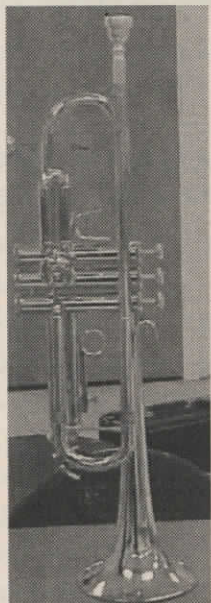
Yes. All of the arts can relate to one another. Music can be and has been used in all of the art disciplines. WE have musical in the Theater Program and some Creative Writers and Visual Artists use music to create their work. It is very important. On the day that I came to SOA and met with Mrs. Myers, I walked through the arts building and saw a student painting a beautiful picture while listening to Van Halen on 96 Wave. We all use each other in some way, shape, or form at this school.

What do you hope to achieve working here at SOA?

I would like to build the program to be nationally known. Mr. Kerr and Mr. Ritcher for that matter can stake their claim with building the high school program to that level. I don't see a reason why we should not be that way on our level.

Are you proud, not only to be a band teacher but also a member of a band? Why?

Yes. I am proud of my students and what they accomplish as well as how they relate to music now. As far as the band is concerned, that is unbelievable. People actually pay me to get on a stage and act crazy! I don't even call it a job.



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Features

Overcoming Obstacles for Success

Lane Elsey interviewed Felicia Simmons on her participation and determination to the sport of gymnastics.

How long have you been doing gymnastics?

I have been doing gymnastics off and on for eight years.

Why did you decide to start taking gymnastic lessons?

The 1992 Olympics were on TV and I started flipping around on the couch so my mom decided to put me in some classes before I broke my neck!

How many hours do you practice a week?

I practice 30 hours a week before and after school and also on weekends.

How early do you have to get up to practice before school?

I have to wake up at 5:05 to get to practice on time!

What is your favorite thing to do?

I like to do floor, because I always place in competitions and it is a lot of fun.

What exactly do you do in floor routines?

A certain amount of tumbling and dance steps are required in a floor routine and it is choreographed to music.

What is the worst thing to do in gymnastics for you?

Beam, it terrifies me to be on a four inch wide and four feet high beam trying to do difficult moves while the judges are watching you.

What was your most recent competition?

It was the Orlando, Florida Sand Dollar Invitationals at the Wide World of Sports Complex.

Did you win anything?

I won first on the floor competition in the senior age division and fourth overall against the best of the best in Florida.

What is the hardest thing about being a gymnast?

It is getting over mental obstacles. There are many scary things that your body has to do, but isn't supposed to do.

Has being a dancer at SOA helped improve your skills?

It has helped tremendously. I am much more graceful than a lot of the others I compete against and my tumbling has improved. Also, since I'm a dancer a lot of people ask me to choreograph their floor routines.

What was your most embarrassing moment at a competition?

I was in Tennessee and while doing my floor routine I got the biggest wedgie and was not allowed to pick it, so for the entire routine everyone could see my butt!

Do you have a special diet?

I've got a very strict diet consisting of Burger King, steak, and guacamole chips!



What is your favorite gymnastics move?

A double back flip because you have to jump so high and it is amazing to see.

What is your main goal right now?

To make regional, which means I have to be in the top thirteen in South Carolina.

Have you met anyone famous through gymnastics?

Dominique Dawes (team member of the 1996 Olympics)

Their Eyes Were Watching God

by Sara Houser

One of the premiere writers of the Harlem Renaissance, Zora Neale Hurston never sought to focus on the racial injustice of her time. Frankly, she wouldn't give it the time of day. Instead she focused her work on the society African-Americans lived in and helped those who once looked down upon it to embrace its folklore. *Their Eyes Were Watching God* depicts a culture that should've been knocked down by its stigmatizing economic hardships but instead flourished in spite of it all.

The story follows Janie on her journey from a curious young girl to a mature woman. Upon reading, one immediately empathizes with the idealistic tendencies of Janie as an adolescent. Sexual discovery and the desire to see the world fuel Janie's ambition to escape her surroundings and toleration of the means to do so. With men literally lining up to marry her, Janie finds herself looking past love and into a getaway. Once she's out the door, Janie's marriage is nowhere near as picture perfect as she planned and so she seeks a new life once more. It won't be her last.



Their Eyes Were Watching God chronicles the

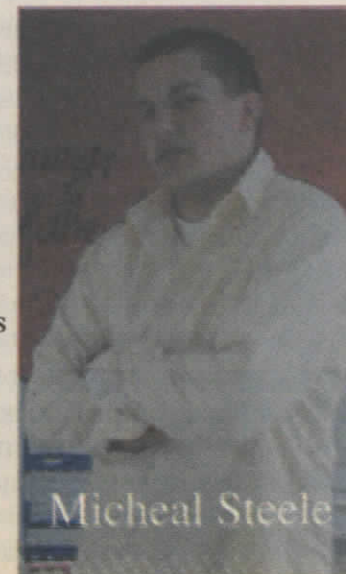
life of a role-model for many women in the 1920s as well as today. Hurston's story is one of self-discovery and reverence with a close look at African-American culture. Though initially the dialect is hard to follow, as the story unravels, the reader becomes completely captivated by the reality conveyed by Hurston.



Mya Laurie

SOA's Hottest Students

(polled out of 100 girls and 100 boys)



Micheal Steele

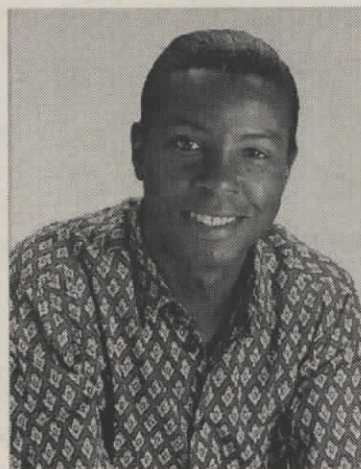
Features

Capturing the color of the Lowcountry

by Casey O'Neill

The second of seven children, artist Jonathan Green was born in 1955 in Gardens Corner, South Carolina. Raised in the black "Gullah" culture of the coastal Southeast, grew up speaking the region's dialect. The multicultural uniqueness of Green's paintings, prints, and constructions are extracted from his recollections of life among grandparents who raised him and other proud descendents of the rural African American community in South Carolina where he grew up. Together these works recount the vibrant lives of his extended family and neighbors. Like many young people, Green had no specific career plans after completing school. He did not feel college was a possibility. Green liked to draw, but was sure he could not support himself as an artist. Green joined the military in order to obtain an education and to have the opportunity to travel.

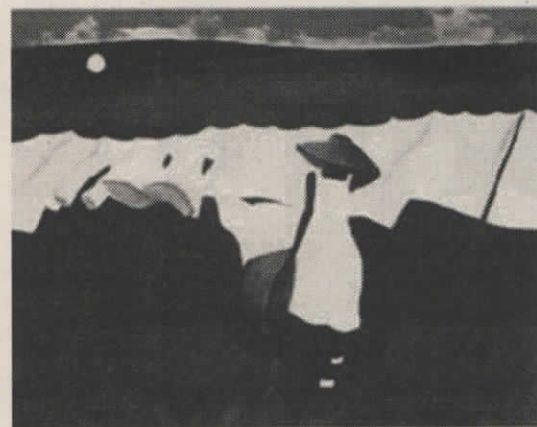
The military recruiter had told him he would be able to attend illustration school while in service. However, despite his artistic ability, Green was assigned the job of cook and sent off to North Dakota. He soon discovered a technical college nearby in Minnesota where he was able to study illustration. His teachers encouraged him to visit Chicago's art museums and to consider a career in art. After completing military service, he attended the Art Institute of Chicago and earned a bachelor's degree in 1982.



Jonathan Green

While enrolled in school, he worked part-time as a security guard at the museum. Learning about great art, he first imitated others and then found his own direction, painting the world of his youth. Green's work has since progressed and integrated essential elements of American culture comparable to that of other master artists such as Edward Hopper and Jacob Lawrence.

The University of South Carolina awarded Green an honorary doctorate degree in fine art in 1996 for his documentation of the southern culture. His work is the subject of a book entitled *Gullah Images: The Art of Jonathan Green* (University of South Carolina Press, 1996). His work has also been included in such renowned national art publications as *American Visions*, and Green has illustrated numerous books and articles on topics ranging from fine arts to children's literature. Green's works, noted for their masterful use of color and amazing portrayal of the human figure, bring to mind the low country atmosphere and gentle daily rhythms of his home. Green's art is grounded in his real life



experiences and displays respect for his heritage. His strong compositional skills reflect his mastery of modernist techniques. Love for the human figure and the placement of his subjects in harmony with their environment are among many of his strengths as an artist. Jonathan Green's work is included in the permanent collections of the Greenville County Museum of Art (Greenville, South Carolina), the Morris Museum of Art (Augusta, Georgia), and The Norton Gallery Museum (West Palm Beach, Florida), among others. His work will also be in the Gibbes Art Museum during Spoleto.

The Discovery of the World Inside the Moone

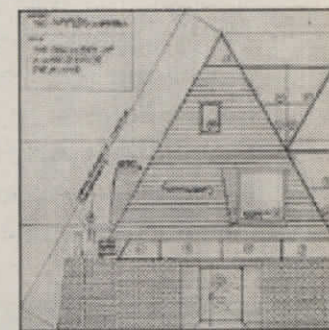
by Sarah Haynes


The Apples in Stereo manage to keep alive the happy tradition of Beatlesque hippy freakout music. Their newest album, *The Discovery of the World Inside the Moone*, is full of odd sounds and popish lyrics that could be played on the radio if they weren't so good. Their music is accessible and lively, making *The Apples in Stereo* a success.

The songs are infectious and simple, as *The Apples* imply to the listener in a roundabout way to become happy. Headed by Robert Schneider, the band is reminiscent of *The Beach Boys* or *The Beatles*, especially since they have a song entitled "Submarine Dream." Their catchy upbeat songs are enhanced with psychedelic overtones. This group does not pay tribute to the bands they may appear to imitate. Instead they have taken what they have learned from older bands and changed things around a bit to make it their own. Opening up with "Go," it immediately becomes obvious that this is happy music.

The upbeat album continues with "The Rainbow," as the song reminds everyone that "people come and go just like the rainbow." The nonsensical lyrics are carefree and are not offensive to parents that may be in the car with you. The saddest track is "What Happened Then," where Schneider suddenly sounds like Billy Corgan, except much happier. The pop picks up again with "I can't believe," with "She comes and she leaves in the evening, she comes and she leaves at midnight, she comes and she leaves when I'm dreaming, she comes and she lives a strange life, Come on baby something's in the air, when I wake up you've already gone off somewhere, I cant believe what she said to me." The blissful music continues with "The Bird that You Can't See," with the lines "Let me tell you about the end and the beginning, its like a bird that you cant see but you can hear the pretty music in the trees, its like the word that you can't say but you can sing the pretty music anyway, now I know there are some things that you need to discover, turn off your mind and do yourself a favor."

Sweetly simple and always joyous, *The Apples in Stereo* invoke a feeling that anything could happen in their songs. *The Discovery of the World Inside the Moone* is sure to please everyone, including your parents. I give them an 8 out of 10.



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Miscellany

Got an Itchin for Jestine's Kitchen?

by Sam Danna and Casey O'Neill

If you are looking for some good African-American cooking then you must visit Jestine's Kitchen on Meeting St. in Downtown Charleston. When we arrived we were puzzled by having to wait outside for a table because of the low temperature, but we then realized that because of the size of the restaurant there was not enough room for people to wait inside.



Once we were seated we looked over the menu carefully and debated over which dishes we should order. The menu took Quenby back to her days on the farm with her dear old Granny. To start us off we ordered corn fritters and a crab cake. The corn fritters had a crispy exterior and were filled with delicious corn kernels and all that jazz. They were the bee's knees and reminded us of our days picking corn in the fields. The crab cake was also a delight to behold with all its crabby goodness and its lack of breading. The charming thing about this restaurant is that their "Carolina Table Wine", or sweet tea, is brought to the diners with out even inquiring whether or not they want any. As connoisseurs of sweet tea we have declared this tea as one of our favorites; as a side note, we devoured at least two gallons each. Thank God for free refills and public restrooms. We then proceeded to order our entrees.

Sam ordered grilled cheese with tomato and fried okra. Casey ordered the "blue plate special" which was fried flounder with mashed potatoes and black-eyed peas. Quenby finally decided on fried chicken with green beans and macaroni and cheese. This soul food lifted our spirits and made us want to sing "Oh Happy Day." The tomatoes on Sam's grilled cheese were so red that they reminded her of summertime when living is easy. Casey's flounder was fried to perfection and covered in a spicy tomato relish that set her world on fire. Quenby's fried chicken consisted of three honking pieces that she could hardly fit her mouth around. Oh, but the fun didn't stop there because soon after inhaling our delicious soul food our waiter brought us a piece of complementary coca-cola cake due to our jolly dispositions, but who couldn't be jolly after masticating such a meal. Although this dish may sound odd its combination tantalized our taste buds and warmed our bellies. So if you got an itchin for good down home cookin, go to Jestine's Kitchen and stop your lookin. Amen!

Horoscopes



by the SOA Astrologer

Aquarius (Jan. 20th-Feb.18th)- Nobody likes to be restrained, next time you see a dog on a leash, set him free.

Pisces (Feb.19th-March 20th)- Put a little Windex on that dirty language.

Aries (March 21st-April 19th)- Mints not only freshen your unbearable breath, but also your soul.

Taurus (April 20th-May 20th)- Put an ending to, "The Song That Never Ends".

Gemini (May 21st-June 21st)- Relight an old love flame that burned out.

Cancer (June 22nd-July 22nd)- Stay away from hot tubs on the 20th and the 22nd of this month.

Leo (July 23rd-Aug. 22nd)- Remember that tiny fish can not survive in Gatorade bottles.

Virgo (Aug. 23rd-Oct. 23rd)- Win a date with Ben Forney or Lane Elsey!

Sagittarius (Nov. 22nd-Dec. 21st)-Embrace the concept of onions on the 19th of this month.

Libra (Sept. 23rd-Oct. 23rd)- If someone with a ponytail approaches you on the 17th of this month, run far and fast.

Scorpio (Oct. 24th-Nov. 21st)- Some people dance to the beat of a different drummer, you just need to sit down.

Capricorn (Dec. 22nd-Jan. 19th)- Only Mary Poppins can fly with an umbrella, trust me, you're not any more magical.



Top Love Songs (according to the *Applause* staff)

When A Man Loves A Woman-Percy Sledge
Can You Feel The Love Tonight-Elton John
Something In the Way She Moves-The Beatles
Unchained Melody-The Everly Brothers
Unforgettable-Nat King Cole & Natalie Cole
I Just Called To Say I love You-Stevie Wonder

In Your Eyes-Peter Gabriel
At Last-Etta James
Wonderful Tonight-Eric Clapton
I Want You To Want Me-Cheap Trick
Your Song-Elton John
Crazy Love-Van Morrison



Top Break-Up Songs (according to the *Applause* staff)

Idiot Wind-Bob Dylan
Meant For Me-Jewel
Cold Cold Heart-Hank Williams
Don't Speak-No Doubt
This Sorta Fairytale-Tori Amos
On Bended Knee-Boyz II Men
Love Has No Pride-Bonnie Raitt

Unbreak My Heart-Toni Braxton
Wicked Games-Chris Isaak
Crazy-Patsy Cline
Every Breath You Take-The Police
Tainted Love-Soft Cell
Yesterday-The Beatles

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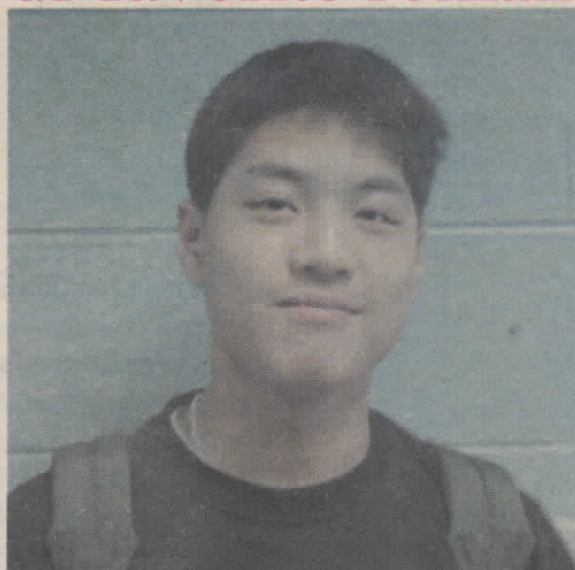
Read every *Applause* on line at:
ccsoa.com

Question of the month

What is your favorite romantic movie?



"Where the Heart Is"
LaNice Ravanel, 12th grade



"Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon"
Matt Kwan, 7th grade



"Forrest Gump"
Dr. Ball, Science teacher



"Mary Poppins"
Landon Washington, 7th grade



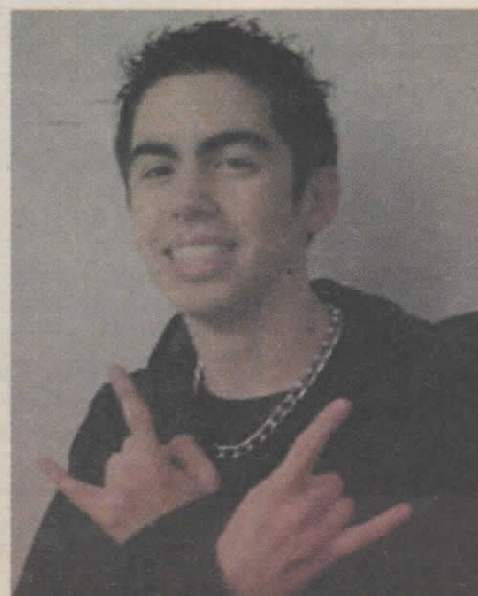
"Pretty Women"
Alex Danna, 7th grade



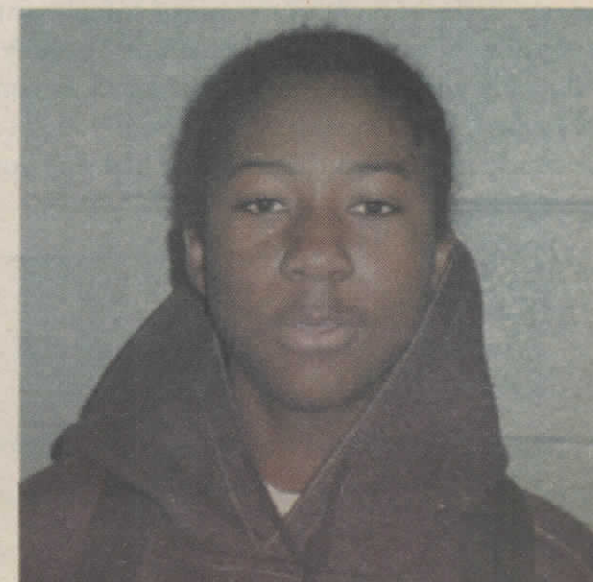
"Castle in the Sky"
James Heston, 11th grade



"Ghost"
Mary Reed, 10th grade



"Silence of the Lambs"
Trevor Murray, 10th grade



"A Streetcar Named Desire"
McKenzie Vanderhorst, 7th grade