

# Applause

Volume 6 Number 1

Charleston County School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC

September 2004



*What are you waiting for?*

## Applause Staff

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Applause is a student produced publication of the School of the Arts.  
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## 2004-2005 Applause Staff



Dr. Cusatis, Casey O'Neill, Noelle Williams, Lane Elsey and Ben Forney



Top row: Devin Graves, Brandi Dirkes, Omi Naderi, Stephen Carlock,  
Jonathan Squires. Bottom row: Rachel Maguire, Kathleen Smith, Hilari  
Ross, Cait Brennan, Latoya Smith.

Cover photo of Drew Corriveau by Hilari Ross

## Greetings from the New Editors

Well, we're back in school again. The summer is winding down and the winter winds will soon begin to blow. Our minds and bodies will soon succumb to the mundane routine of the academic schedule and the days living the carefree life are at an end. Our lives are three months shorter since we left in May, and the world is one summer closer to the apocalypse.

However, before you get too crestfallen, there is some good news:

I just saved a bunch of money on my car insurance by switching to Geico.

If this news isn't good enough for you, then you'll be happy to know that the journalism department here at SOA is functioning more efficiently than it ever has. This year there are two sections of journalism, one for the returning staff members and one for the batch of new recruits. We will continue to deliver the news and reviews that impact your lives every month. In this September issue, we divulge information on new

teachers, have a private chat with Mrs. Myers, and introduce a bunch of new features from the new batch of writers.

Casey and I are the new co-editors, and Noelle and Lane are our indispensable associate editors. We have some big shoes to fill after the loss of last year's legendary editor, Mr. Emory Frazier. Emory is now a journalism student at USC, where he received a full scholarship, thanks largely to his role as editor of *Applause*.

We hope you'll enjoy the paper this year and keep us updated on any newsworthy material that may otherwise fall between the cracks. Welcome back to SOA for the 2004-2005 school year.

Welcome back kids! It's the start of another year and you know what that means... more Sam and Casey restaurant reviews. Too bad Dr. Cusatis told some other kids they could do it, and now we have to take turns. While I know you will miss your monthly Sam and Casey fix, it's not the end of the world, and we are happy to share the spotlight with the new reviewers.

We have a great new staff this year, and we are all working hard to make this year's paper the best ever. Despite working with some major technical obstacles we have managed to produce a September issue. We are all very excited about this first issue and hope you enjoy it as much as we enjoyed creating it.

Ben, my co-editor, is now writing in the "Ink" section of the *Post and Courier*, so be sure to catch all of his articles. We also have some changes in the content of the paper. One of the new staff members has come up with the excellent idea to ask Mr. Davis, Ms. Darlene, and Mr. Dawson a question every issue. We have also added an advice column and classified opportunities of interest to SOA students. Thank you to Mrs. Myers for taking the time for an interview with two of our new staff members. I'd also like to congratulate the winners of the senior class elections and give my best wishes to the class of 2005. Enjoy this issue, and remember here at *Applause* we promise to deliver hot fresh news and features to you every issue without fail.



## News & Features

### Middle schoolers recall their first day

by Cait Brennan

#### Colleen Brennan

##### Visual Arts, sixth grade

*What was your first impression of School of the Arts?*

A: I thought the library would be bigger, but I really liked it.

*Did anything unusual happen the first day of school?*

A: The almighty seventh graders called me a "little person" all day long.

*How is middle school different from elementary school?*

A: There is no playground equipment, and the classes are harder.

*What is your favorite part of major?*

A: We have more options in what we draw and how we draw it.

*How was your first day overall?*

A: It was fine; however, I was really clumsy, but that's just me.



Colleen Brennan

#### Free Kopsac

##### Theatre, sixth grade

*What was your first impression of School of the Arts?*

A: I thought it was interesting because of all the new people.

*Did anything unusual happen the first day of school?*

A: I tripped at least 3 times.

*How is middle school different from elementary school?*

A: There are many more classes to take care of.

*What is your favorite part of your major?*

A: I like everything about my major.

*How was your first day overall?*

A: A little overwhelming, but fun.



Free Kopsac

### New kids on the block

Middle School Guidance Director, Mrs. Miller, held the annual "New Kids on the Block" party for over 40 new seventh and eighth graders. Students were treated to pizza and drinks. After feasting on Papa John's pizza, students partici-



Saray Smalls, Charlotte Jenkins, Samantha Watson, Mrs. Miller, Christina Jones, Kevin Snodgrass

pated in ice-breaker activities and discussions on what it is like to be new at a school. Mrs. Miller encourages students to seek help from guidance if they are experiencing problems adjusting to the new school. Students were also provided with gifts of school supplies, candy, and a "Special New Student" sticker.

When asked what they liked about SOA, the middle schoolers responded:

"The snack machines and not having to wear uniforms," Samantha Watson said.

"It doesn't matter what the color of your skin is, you will be respected," Saray Smalls added.

"The teachers. I love them!" exclaimed Christina Jones.

### Seniors elect 2004-05 leaders

by Lane Elsey

On Friday, August 20th, the most important voting day of the year finally occurred...the election of SOA's Senior Class Representatives. The nominations were held a week before the elec-



Posse encourages active voter participation.

tion, and the senior class had to choose between Yaeger Deas and Shannon Gaetke for President, Shawn Jordan and Paul Saylor for vice president, Sam Danna and Jason Basile for treasurer, and Evelyn

Palomo, Sharnisha Brown, and Liz Eckbreth for secretary. Throughout the week, candidates did some clever campaigning to help convince the seniors who was right for the job. Shawn and Sam used candy to sway the seniors, while others like Shannon and Jason put up posters all over campus. Yaeger even had her own "unofficial election committee" that got everyone's attention.



Shannon Gaetke

Although all the speeches were splendid (we even got a poem from Sharnisha), it was time for the seniors to pick their representatives.

In the end Yaeger was elected president; Shawn, vice president; Sam, treasurer; and Evelyn, secretary. Good luck to our new Senior Class Representatives. Make this a great year for the Class of 2005.



Yaeger Deas

## Reviews

### Restaurant Review

#### The passion of the gyro: The true story of Olympik Restaurant and Bakery

by Omi Naderi and Jonathan Squires



I am still reminiscing about how I delicately devoured deliciously, delectable dishes during dinner the night before. I savored each morsel chewing ever so slowly, so that I might best enjoy the wonders of this bounty which will certainly enhance your life—

should you eat it. I challenge you to embark on a journey of personal discovery to this house of Greek and Mediterranean culinary consumption: Olympik Restaurant and Bakery!

Of course, this is a totally biased review, since I am the son of the owner, Ali Naderi. If I say anything negative, I face the possibility of being thrown out onto the streets where I will have to prepare my meals by searching in the garbage for tidbits of food. For a second thought on this matter, which you can be sure to trust, Jonathan Squires is here to provide an opinion:

Being one of the best friends of the restaurant's owner's son, I will try my best not to have a biased opinion on this matter. I have also savored the sweet-smelling succulent selections served at this joyous place. The fact that Omi brought me a steaming bowl of pastitsio (a Greek variation of lasagna), which I extremely enjoyed, has not influenced me at all...

I have always been especially fond of Gyro meat and it's hidden flavor. It's the most famous mystery meat on the planet—it even outdoes Spam. People just don't realize it. The blending of beef and lamb make such a beautiful combination. This is why the Olympik sandwich, strips of Gyro and grilled chicken topped with feta cheese, served on pita bread, is my favorite dish and one of the best meals the restaurant has to offer. Omi is quite fond of several of the dishes, especially since he has sampled everything on the menu during the three years his father has owned the restaurant:

Indeed, Jonathan, the Gyro meat brings joy. My personal preference is a specialty item known as the Dosa, a large, fresh, crispy wrap filled with whatever your ravenous stomach hungers for from a list of many appetizing items. I guarantee you won't find it being served anywhere else in Charleston. Another noteworthy meal is Olympik's tender and zesty char-grilled kabobs, made of either salmon, chicken, or beef. My hunger has been rekindled at the mere thought of these delicacies! I must let Jonathan continue on because I cannot bear the pain of describing the menu any further:

Truly speaking, the menu is filled with tantalizing dishes to appease even the most critical of tastebuds. It even features a section with low-carb meals. The restaurant serves several varieties of salads, which I have to say feature perhaps the best house salad dressing, Greek vinaigrette. Possibly the best dessert is the baklava, a flaky pastry with walnuts layered with warm honey. For those yearning for a selection of after dinner delights that will cause you to salivate, visit their array of desserts, a product of Ali Naderi's 30-year experience as a pastry chef. Cakes can be specially ordered, even for those of you searching for an exquisite wedding cake...not that any of you

students will be tying the knot anytime soon. Now that you have heard a "non-biased" opinion on the matter, Omi would like to share a few final words with you:

I hope Jonathan has enlightened your views on this beloved establishment. Make sure you fulfill the challenge and enter the realm of Olympik Restaurant & Bakery at 1922 Savannah Highway in the very near future. Enter with complete confidence between 11 AM to 9 PM, Monday through Saturday. But don't take my word for it—take Jonathan's.

### Web Review: a site for visual artists

by Stephen Carlock

A place that offers nearly everything a developing artist needs? The idea is not as farfetched as it seems; this web site - [www.conceptart.org](http://www.conceptart.org) - fits the bill nicely.

I stumbled upon this little piece of the web while running a search for art tutorials and decided to give it a shot. Immediately, I spotted many unique and attractive attributes, including a several thousand member forum, links on the main-page to classifieds and sponsors, and an extremely large, inspiring gallery for members to display their works.

Easily navigable, the forums were a bustling community of incredibly talented artists. Offering options, including a "works in progress" section for critiques of your work, a "Daily Sketchbook Group" (DSG) for practicing different media with provided daily prompts, and areas to research education and employment opportunities, these forums seem to be the center point of the site.

The site includes workshops, gatherings held periodically where everyone ranging from professionals to amateurs goes to discuss techniques, new hot scenes in the art world, perform demonstrations, and much more. Talk about interactive; it redefines the word. This option, along with the gigantic member gallery - where each member is allotted space to display their own work according to participation in the site - make the site one of a kind.

I could end this article by saying it was a wonderful place, but that would be a harsh understatement. It would suffice to say that after I looked at all of the wonderful things this site had to offer, I became a regular member and bookmarked the URL, as I'm sure you too will do. If I rated this on a number scale, I would give it a 9 out of 10.



### Visual arts wish list 2004-2005

The Visual Arts Department would greatly appreciate donations of the following items: paint brushes, paint rollers & refills, paint pens, odorless paint thinner, pumice soap, liquid hand soap, greased lightning spray cleanser, baby wipes containers(w/lids), painter's wipes, watercolor paper, stretched canvas, rolls of canvas, 1"x 2" wood strips (canvas stretchers), 4" x 8" sheets luan, micron pens, newsprint, cardstock, fabric, thread, patterns, Fiskars sewing scissors, fabric trims(lace, ribbon, etc.), elastic, velcro, computer paper, art magazines, art books, fashion design/ interior design books, costume/ set design books, electric pencil sharpeners, drawing pencils(3H-4B), prismacolor pencils, black & white mat board, foam core, sharpie pens, specialty papers, and Artist & Craftsman gift certificates. Thank you for your support. Please bring items to Mrs. Nichols.

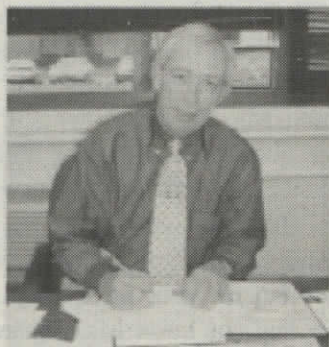
## Answers and Advice

### Ask the 3 D's

by Kathleen Smith

Do you have a question about discipline, lunch, or our facility? Ask one of the 3 D's!

#### Ask Mr. Davis



*The late lot was more than just an empty field, it was our field where we could chat with friends and enjoy the beautiful scenery that surrounded us. Everyone has been wondering, so we asked, what happened to the late lot?*

Mr Davis says: "There is no security or adult supervisors in the lot, like we offer at the bus loop for students. Numerous cars have been broken into, and the school cannot be liable for the things stolen. There have been reports of residents saying inappropriate comments to students. We just want to keep everyone safe, driving to school is a privilege not a right."

#### Ask Ms. Darlene

*Nothing sounds better to me than eating a greasy pizza, and gulping down an ice cold Pepsi. It's my fuel to get me through the day. But now at the beginning of the 2004-2005 school year those greasy pizzas are hard to find in the cafeteria. Everywhere I look, the food is labeled "no sugar," "low carb," and "fat free," so we asked Ms. Darlene, "What's with all the low carb food?"*

Ms. Darlene says: "A health craze is spreading throughout our schools, and we have been told that we cannot fry any of our foods anymore; we can only bake them. Because of all the influential diets that have been coming out, we must now offer baked chips, low carb cookies, and light lemonade which is low in sugar. High



schools all over the state are switching to these healthier foods."

#### Ask Mr. Dawson

*As I walk through the halls of the Berry Building, I don't hear birds chirping or children laughing, I hear the loud hand dryers echoing from the bathrooms. Only Mr. Dawson will know the answer to this question, "Why did we switch to the loud hand dryers?"*

Well we switched to them because the paper towels were making a mess. Sometimes kids would wet them and throw them on the ceiling. The administration said that putting these dryers in would be the best thing, But I don't like them. As a matter of fact, they sound like a vacuum.

#### Dear Brandi and Stephen

Anonymous writes:

*Recently one of my teachers raised the question, "who is the most important person in your life?" My girlfriend was the first person to come to mind. Immediately afterwards, I doubted my decision, feeling that I should've put my parents first. Am I wrong to think of my girlfriend as more important?*

Dear Anonymous,



We are all in the stage of life where we are learning to juggle all the people we know. Whether it be two different "groups" of friends, church friends with school friends, or our boyfriend/girlfriend with our family. If we each spent all of our time with only one other person, eventually our lives would become quite dull. Somehow each day we are able to deal with the 'Time crunch of life' and spend time with the people who mean a lot to us. Family is a given set of people who we spend time with and will always love. Even on those bad days when we fight with

our mothers because we think our curfew is too early, deep down we will always have room in our hearts for them. Boyfriends / girlfriends may come and go, though on that rare occasion the "high school sweet hearts" relationship last all our lives, it is not a repetitive occurrence. The typical couple live life from day to day, unaware of the fact that the next day might be their last day as a couple. While living that day to day life, our "other half" is our every other thought, and it is no wonder why immediately you said she was the most important person in your life. Since she is your girlfriend, she is the most important person in your life right now, but your parents will always be there for you and they will always be truly the most important people. Therefore it is okay to put your girlfriend first, as long as you keep in mind the everyday favorite, important people. I hope this helps you realize your answer was not wrong; it was just that she was the first person that came to mind.

-Brandi

Dear Anonymous,

I can relate to your situation, as I've found myself in a similar spot more than once. To start, don't allow yourself to feel bad over this. There is no reason I can think of to let something like this have such an effect on you. It's just guilt, and with the right attitude you'll see that it's ill-placed.

Just because your girlfriend was the most important person you could immediately think of doesn't mean that you love your parents any less or are a bad person. It is most likely because you were thinking about her before or at the time that caused this. If you had been, for some reason, thinking of your parents at the time they would have probably taken the spot.

Maybe looking at it from a different perspective will help you out. Say you gave your parents this question. Do you honestly think that their spouse (your mother or father) wouldn't pop into their head first, even before their parents? More than likely that would be the case, because it's where most of their affections are aimed, and rightfully so. Of course, you may think this is different, as your parents have been married for a lot longer than you have known your girlfriend, but it really isn't. Affection, no matter how long-lasting (or not) is a very strong thing.

Sure, you love your parents, but it's very possible that you love your girlfriend more. Those two loves are very different, so they actually can't be compared. Don't ever let anyone make you feel bad for admitting this, as it's very natural. Also, remember that the most important person in your life right now might not be the most important later on.

All of the aforementioned isn't to say that we should take out parents for granted. No, that would be a terrible injustice to them. But at the same time we should not beat ourselves up or feel like we've betrayed them because of something like this. Enjoy your girlfriend; acknowledge her importance in your life. Heck, even write her name down next time if you want. Nobody can tell you who is the most important person, and if you think about it she may very well be that person to you. I'm sure that your parents would understand if they knew you did this; they were kids once, you know.

Thanks for writing in, and good luck with your problem.

Stephen

If you have a question for one of the 3 D's or a problem for Brandi and Stephen please contact us at [soa\\_applause@yahoo.com](mailto:soa_applause@yahoo.com).

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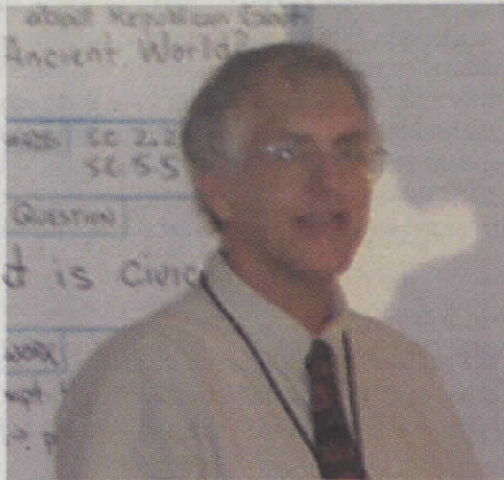
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## New Teachers

### Mr. Brehm

by Noelle Williams



If you're wondering who the new guy is in trailer fourteen, it's Mr. Brehm, the newest addition to the high school social studies department. After working as an intelligence analyst and an operations manager, Mr. Brehm had decided to come to SOA claiming that "SOA had the best students." He teaches Economics, US Government, and AP European History using a variety of teaching techniques

that include the Socratic method and peer partners/group activities.

### Ms. Gremion

by Noelle Williams

Ms. Gremion, the new middle school French teacher, is very excited to be here at SOA for the new school year. She is half French and Half Swiss and lived in Southeast Lyon before coming to teach in the U.S. Ms. Gremion has a twenty-four-year-old son named Romain. Her interests include traveling abroad, and she has been to several different countries, including India, Great Britain, and many other European nations.



### Ms. Matthews

by Lane Elsey

Looking for a job teaching French, Ms. Matthews found SOA, but also got the added bonus of teaching our students the English language. In the past she's also taught biology, Spanish, and religion; she has also been a telephone operator and a motel manager. If she wasn't teaching right now Ms. Matthews would be doing volunteer work or in customer service. In her spare time Ms. Matthews enjoys reading on the

beach, traveling, and spending time with her family. Her worst experience was teaching at Cross High School and we don't want that to change to "teaching at SOA" so be nice to Ms. Matthews and make her feel right at home!



### Ms. Caparas

by Lane Elsey

Ms. Caparas is SOA's new marine science, human growth and development, and physics teacher. She earned her B.A. in biology and M.Ed. in math and science at the University of Charleston. Ms. Caparas moved on to be a personal fitness trainer and a teacher at Wando High School. Outside of school she enjoys horseback riding and camping, so if you're lucky you might see her on your next camping trip! Now that you know Ms. Caparas, be sure to say "hi" and give her a real SOA welcome.



### Ms. Bronk

by Lane Elsey

Our new English teacher, Ms. Bronk, likes to keep herself busy. Aside from teaching at SOA, she works as a part time writing consultant at the Citadel, a swim coach, a lifeguard, and a freelance journalist. You might recognize Ms. Bronk because she was Ms. Marshall's intern two years ago, which was what drew her to SOA. Before SOA entered her life she attended both Ashland University and University of West Florida. She worked as a radio anchor at CNN, FOX, ABC, and NBC and taught at Berkeley High School. One of Ms. Bronk's worst experiences teaching

was when a parent forbid his child from reading Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* without even reading the novel first! Ms. Bronk's words of wisdom from Einstein are "Imagination is more important than Knowledge." We know she'll bring some of both to SOA.



### Ms. Henry

by Lane Elsey

SOA's new creative writing teacher, Ms. Henry, has a B.A. in sociology and psychology from West Virginia State College and a M.Ed. in curriculum and instruction from Ohio State. Don't let these big titles fool you though. If she wasn't a teacher and writer, Ms. Henry would want to be a cowgirl or a back-up singer in a rock and roll band. Outside of school she enjoys playing fetch on the beach with her two labs (Bently and Stella), and is a passionate gardener. Before SOA Ms. Henry was a director and producer of film and video as well as an independent filmmaker. She has taught sensitivity training to a city police force and was a 'mini-skirted gas pump attendant.' Ms. Henry came to SOA because of the talent and desire of our students and the faculty's great reputation. We hope to show her that all of these attributes of SOA are true.



## New Teachers

### Mr. Kreft

By Jonathan Squires

Mr. Kreft, another newcomer to our school, attended Michigan State University majoring in English and history. Here at SOA, he teaches seventh grade English/Writing and eighth grade social studies.

We asked our Michigan State grad what his profession would be if he were not in the field of education. Mr. Kreft comedically replied, "I would be a famous magician... like



David Copperfield."

Wondering why someone would ever want to come teach at The School of the Arts we just had to ask. Mr. Kreft responded, "Great students, great faculty, new computers, and a new opportunity to teach a different subject." Being new to the school we were curious of his method of teaching. The new English/Writing teacher said in response, "I like to give students an active voice in their learning, and I strive to connect each lesson to the world beyond the classroom." Welcome to the Charleston County School of the Arts, Mr. Kreft.

### Mr. Locklair

By Lane Elsey

Mr. Locklair is here and back in action, but this time he's the new Fine Arts Coordinator. For this role Mr. Locklair teaches an Arts Management course, organizes and schedules events for all the Art areas, and works with the Curriculum Coordinator (Mr. Smyth) to make sure the academics and fine arts of SOA work together. While he was away, Mr. Locklair was working with the Charleston County Gifted and Talented program, but he is glad to be back in the creative atmosphere of SOA. "It inspires me to challenge myself as an instructor, learn new methods of teaching and witness the miracles that only this type of school can make happen," he says. And all of us at SOA are pleased that he is back.

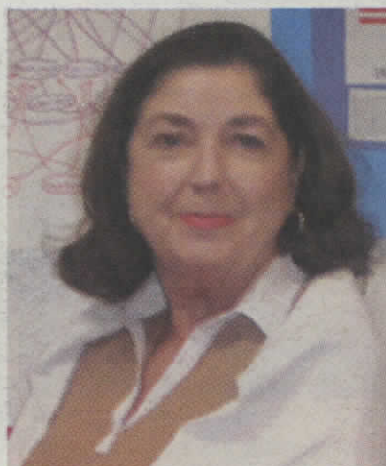
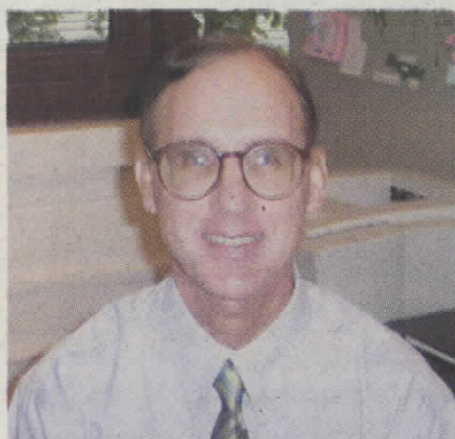


### Mr. Smyth

By Lane Elsey

We've got one more Smyth to add to our family. The new Mr. Smyth is our Curriculum Coordinator. His responsibility is to make sure everything on the academic side of SOA runs smoothly. "I would like to see SOA become the premiere school in the Southeast, rivaling all of the best New England schools." His outlook for this year is very bright and his expectations are high,

so you better start paying attention in all of your academic classes!



### Ms. Chandler

By Noelle Williams

Ms. Chandler is a new addition to the high school English department. She graduated with a masters degree from the University of Georgia, majoring in English, Gifted Education, and Educational Leadership. Ms. Chandler is going to teach Business Communications 3, Honors English 1, and CP English 2. She uses a variety of teaching methods ranging from the Socratic method to the use of interactive learning activities. Prior to coming to SOA, she has taught K-12 gifted and talented students. Other jobs she has had include working as a 3M sales representative, a teacher at the Academic Magnet, and a CCSD coordinator of SAIL (students active interdisciplinary learning). Ms. Chandler is currently a reading/writing doctoral student at Nova Southeastern. In her free time, she enjoys fishing and crabbing on her dock.

### Mrs. McCrae

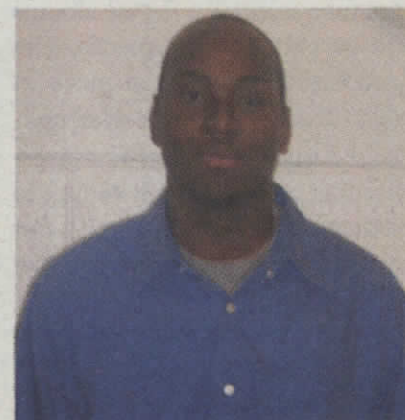
By Cait Brennan

Perhaps you have noticed Carin McCrae, our new receptionist. Ms. McCrae attended the College of Charleston and The Citadel. Before coming to School of the Arts, she was a management analyst, deputy director resource manager, and a budget analyst. She says she likes working here because of the wonderful "spirit de corps," the teamwork, and the commitment to excellence in everything we do. She says each day is a new challenge and she is never bored. If Ms. McCrae was forced to change one thing about her job, she would grow an extra pair of arms and eyes to cover all the bases. Some of her most prominent hobbies are flying, camping, fishing, and writing. Well we hope such a wonderful, fascinating woman will be working here for years to come.



### Mr. Reese

by Lane Elsey



Our new Global Studies II teacher is a real Carolina man, having attended both USC and The Citadel. Mr. Reese tries to "incorporate as many different elements into a lesson as possible." "We all learn differently," he says, "and it is important to teach using various methods." In his free time he enjoys outdoor activities such as canoeing, hiking, swimming, and softball. Optimistically, Mr. Reese believes that no teaching experience is a bad experience. Let's hope that by the end of the year he still believes that!

## Reviews

### Movie Review: *The Village*

by Devin Graves

Recently, I went to see M. Night Shyamalan's newest thriller, *The Village*. His other works include *The Sixth Sense*, *Unbreakable*, and *Signs*. True to his fashion, the story features several tense, "What's gonna happen next?" moments and some very unexpected plot twists.

The story, set in 1897, focuses on a tight knot of villagers living in a clearing. Their village is surrounded by a forest that is home of a species of mystical "creatures."

The people in the village all fear the creatures, but they live in moderate harmony because of an understood pact between them; if the villagers don't cross into the woods, then the creatures won't bother the villagers. Residents of the village include a brave young man Lucius (Joaquin Phoenix), blind tomboy Ivy (Bryce Dallas Howard), and a town elder who is Ivy's father (William Hurt).

The conflict of the story focuses on Lucius wanting to leave the village so he can gather medical supplies for the people. However, many strange events occur to keep the village elders from allowing him to go. The movie certainly does keep you on your toes, as most of the events that keep Lucius in the village occur in a startling manner. However, the events weren't exactly scary, so it's difficult to classify the movie as "horror", which was one of the reasons I wanted to see it.

When the movie began, the acting job was anything but spectacular. I found it difficult to believe the characters' situation. However, as the story progressed, it seemed like the acting got better. I found it easier and easier to truly believe the characters and the story. However, the fairly poor acting at the beginning takes away from the value of the movie as a whole.

In conclusion, the movie was worth the outrageous \$7.50 I spent to see it. It was startling enough, and the story was believable after the first half hour or so. On the other hand, I don't believe that it truly lived up to the hype that was given to it. It's a good movie to see once, but it won't win any awards.

### Album Review: *Dream Theater's Metropolis Part 2: Scenes From A Memory*

by Omi Naderi

During the summer, I made a good decision. I used my hard-earned legal tender to buy a spectacular album that was worth every penny of its \$18.95 price tag, plus tax. I am a strong believer that a compact disk is overpriced if it has a sticker on it instructing you to pay \$18.95—except for a select few divine albums that deserve to be called masterpieces. The recording I purchased is one such piece of musical heaven: Dream Theater's *Metropolis Part 2: Scenes From a Memory*. For inspiration as I write this article, I am listening to the celestial sounds of *Metropolis Part 2*. For those of you unfamiliar with their work, the music is comparable to a rich, chocolate cake. So delicious! So satisfying!

But unlike a chocolate cake, *Metropolis Part 2* won't cause any bodily harm...unless listened to at unusually loud volume levels. The album, released in 1999, is the sequel to a song titled "Metropolis Part 1: The Miracle and the Sleeper" in an earlier Dream Theater album, *Images and Words* (which



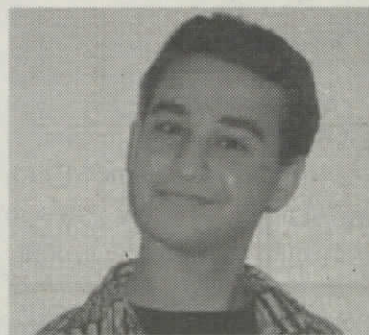
is also excellent and should be acquired by all means). However, it's not necessary to hear the prequel to *Metropolis Part 2* in order to enjoy it.

*Metropolis Part 2* is a concept album extraordinarily original and experimental as it is composed into the form of an entire play, complete with two "acts" separated into "scenes" which serve as each individual song. Like a play, the album's lyrics (included with the CD) are composed into the form of a script with a cast of characters, although only the band's gifted vocalist, James LaBrie, sings them.

The storyline of the play revolves around the mystery of a fictitious 1928 murder of a young woman who has reincarnated into a modern day man, haunted by dreams of his murder in a previous lifetime. The album begins with the voice of a hypnotherapist who leads the young man back into his past life, where he embarks on a quest through his memory (hence the title, *Scenes From A Memory*) to discover the truth of the murder that had never been solved. Unlike the standard composition of a music CD, the songs in this album flow right into one another with no pauses in between. The songs play together more like a suite than a collection of separate pieces, supporting the unified theme of the album. The effect is fantastical.

Dream Theater is a progressive rock band, a marvelous quintet composed of a guitarist, bassist, drummer, and keyboardist. In case you aren't familiar with the term "progressive" when used with rock, it essentially describes a style of music built on a rock foundation, but with unconventional features incorporated into it that break the boundaries of straightforward rock music. Some of these interesting and original musical qualities include jazz styles, slightly operatic singing, and nonstandard rock instruments such as the keyboard, which adds a new dimension to their sound. Dream Theater's music is very experimental, ranging everywhere between aggressive metal and soft, melodic rock. In fact, Dream Theater is the most successful and well-known "prog" rock band in existence. This is no surprise as each musician in the band is a virtuoso at his instrument. This is especially true in the case of the guitarist, John Petrucci, who is widely recognized as a guitar god and even offers his sagely advice through several instructional materials available to aspiring guitarists everywhere (such as myself) who seek knowledge in the ways of shredding away at the axe. Fellow musicians, who are plentiful here at SOA, will especially appreciate the complex musical compositions that go into each of their songs.

For those seeking an alternative to the vast multitude of modern music garbage being played over the radio waves, the answers to your hopes of higher quality material may just be answered within the tracks of *Metropolis Part 2: Scenes From A Memory*. If you buy the album and fall in love with it as I joyfully have, then you may want to check out the live DVD: *Metropolis 2000, Scenes From New York*. The music is so superb that it's a bitter shame that Dream Theater isn't played on the radio or given the attention on MTV that so many bands with inferior musicianship receive. But together, we can escape the confines of popular culture and pop Dream Theater into a CD player near you!



## The Honor Code Committee Needs You.

Committee meets every Tuesday in the band room  
after school.

*Help shape SOA's Future.*



## Miscellany

## Around the Town

by Brandi Dirkes and Rachel Maguire

**September 1 - 18, 2004:** Ain't Misbehavin'

For More Information Call: 1-843-577-7183

**September 1 - October 27, 2004:** Jazz on the Harbor, 5:00pm - 9:00pm

Location: Zinc Bar and Bistro

**September 11 - October 23, 2004:** Candlelight Tours of Historic Charleston, For More Information Call: 1-800-968-8175**September 18, 2004:** Fishing Tournament, 6:00am - 4:00pm, Location: Folly Beach Pier, For More Information Call: 1-843-588-FISH**September 18, 2004:** Jump Little Children, 10:00pm, Location: Music Farm, Admission: \$15.00 (\$3.00 Under 21 Surcharge)**September 19, 2004:** Jim Brickman, 7:00pm, Location: North Charleston Performing Arts Center, For More Information Call: 1-843-202-2787**September 23 - October 3, 2004:** MOJA Arts Festival, For More Information Call: 1-843-724-7305**September 24, 2004:** Sister Hazel w/ Michael Tolcher, 10:00pm, Location: Music Farm, Admission: \$16.00 (\$3.00 Under 21 Surcharge)**September 24 - 26, 2004:** Davis Cup, Location: Family Circle Tennis Center**September 24, 25 & October 22, 23, 2004:** Moonlight Mixers, Location: Folly Beach Pier, 7:00pm - 11:00pm, For More Information Call: 1-843-795-4FUN

## Classified Opportunities

by Latoya Smith

**Greater Charleston Choral Society**

Singers wanted. The ability to read music is not a requirement, all voices are needed. The new season starts Sept. 9 and meets every Mon., 7-9pm. Felix Davis Community Center, Park Circle. Donna, 821-6926

**Charleston Festival Orchestra**

Experienced high school and adult player are invited to come to practice. Every Thurs. 7-9pm. First Baptist Church, 4217 Rivers Ave, N. Charleston. George Fink, 556-1090

**Metropolitan Civic Orchestra**

Open call for musicians, violinists, cellists, violists, wind, and brass. Meets every Mon., 7-9pm. The Citidal Band Room. Call Dawn Durst @ 883-3172 for more info.

**ReDux Studios**A new nonprofit working gallery and studio created to encourage and promote emerging and under represents visual artists by providing 24 hour access to professional studio facilities, financial, and technical assistance, innovative educational programs, public lectures, and exhibitions. ReDux is looking for motivated artists to participate in its cooperative studio and gallery. A subsidized rent of \$100 a month, gives artists studio access and exposure through gallery exhibitions. visit [www.reduxstudios.org](http://www.reduxstudios.org) for more info.**Charleston Youth Company**

Do you like to sing, dance, act or simply create? The Charleston Youth Company is a nonprofit organization for the tricounty area, dedicated to providing an outlet for talented middle and high school students. The main auditions are over, but some may qualify upon audition. For fall and spring semesters, contact Chuck Long at 693-6664.

## NHS is back and better than ever

By Ben Forney



Ben Forney, Lindsay Funderburk, Jenna McSwain, Shannon Gaetke, Evelyn Palomo, and Ashton Coons

The National Honor Society is up and running once again, coming off of an amazing 2003-2004 school year. This year promises to be even better, with the election of several outstanding officers. President is Jenna McSwain, Vice-president in charge of tutoring is Ashton Coons, Vice-president in charge of community service is Lindsay Funderburk, Secretary is Shannon Gaetke, Treasurer is Evelyn Palomo, and Historian is me, Ben Forney.

We have many plans in the works for this year to get everybody involved in community service. We want to encourage anybody who's interested to

come out and join us at any of our events outside of school. Coming up on September 18th is the NHS Beach Sweep, which always promises to be a good time. The Friends of the Library will be on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday during the 10th, 11th, and 12th of September. As always, NHS tutoring will be available after school Monday through Thursday in Mr. Murray's room. Drop by anytime or ask anyone in NHS for more info about these upcoming events. With your help, we can make this the best year ever for the National Honor Society here at SOA.

## September 2004

- 13-Sep-04 MS Band After School Practice 3:30-5:00 in room 220
- 14-Sep-04 MS Band Boosters Spaghetti Dinner/ Concert- 6:00 in SOA Cafe
- 16-Sep-04 HS Strings Booster Meeting- 7:00 pm in Room 216
- 20-Sep-04 MSBand after School Practice 3:30- 5:00 in room 220
- 21-Sep-04 Artsmart Tour Guide training 7th grade during 2nd block in BB
- HS and MS Theatre Fall Conservatory- 7:00- 8:30 pm in BB
- HS Band Fall Concert- 7:00 pm- Location TBA
- Artsmart Tour Guide training 7th grade during 2nd block in BB
- 22-Sep-04 Artsmart Tour Guide training 7th grade during 2nd block in BB
- 23-Sep-04 MS theatre 6th grade Parents' Night- 5:00 pm in BB
- Artsmart Tour Guide training 7th grade during 2nd block in BB
- 24-Sep-04 HS Art/Costume Field Trip to Charleston Museum 10:00 am- 3:00 pm
- 27-Sep-04 Mozart's Requiem Mass Performance on SCERN's Carolina Concerts -8:00 pm 89.3 FM
- MS Band After School Practice 3:30- 5:00 pm in room 220
- 7th grade to Barrier Island (Tentative) September 27-29
- 28-Sep-04 HS Vocal Fall Concert- Saint Matthew's Lutheran - 7:00 pm
- 30-Sep-04 HS Strings Tri-M Ceremony - 7:00 pm at Circular Congregation Church
- HS Marine Science Field Trip to Charleston Maritime Center 9:00 am-1:30 pm- Colquitt
- 1-Oct-04 Applications available for rising 6th grade
- MS Dance Majors to Sottille Theatre- 8:30- 12:00 pm

(Calendar continued on page 11)

## Featured Educator

### A life devoted to the arts

by Latoya Smith



Mrs. Myers with tennis star Venus Williams, who recently donated \$10,000 to SOA

"We're on. Let me tell you about how it all began...."

Three score and eight years ago, the world was oblivious to how a newborn, Rose Maree Myers, would change its educational future forever. Mrs. Myers grew up in a small town in South Carolina among a family which placed a strong emphasis on education. And, due to her height, acquired "a hook-shot no one could guard." However

upon graduation and acceptance to Winthrop University, it wasn't an NBA ring nor a "Teacher of the Year" award she sought. Mrs. Myers found her way to the stage, satisfying her passion for theatre. From Winthrop she made her mark in the Barter Theatre in Addington, Virginia, traveling and touring from state to state. As a result of her talent, she was asked to complete the fall tour also. It was during this time that Mrs. Myers' heart began to speak to her mind and she came to an alarming realization. She found that she was "tired of living out of a suitcase" and waking up every morning in a different state. She sought a different audience, one less transient.

Leaving the theater, she made a move to the classroom. Upon her first "performance," she was at home. Her newfound audience, the students, went "encore" and she felt good! From that point on she knew exactly what she had to do. By now you've come to the conclusion that Mrs. Myers became a schoolteacher, but what you may not know is that this was during a time when Charleston County had no art programs. Mrs. Myers' love for the arts and love of education carried the same weight. So the idea of combining the arts into the grade school education curriculum proved her genius; and her plan to carry out the task, bold and daring. While many thought the idea preposterous, Mrs. Myers boarded this ship as captain and guided it into the waters. In 1984, the ship arrived at Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary School where Mrs. Myers accomplished a dream. That school became a national model and made her the consultant, traveling across the U.S. as a keynote speaker or conduct the workshops. Mrs. Myers was content where she was helping students who did not learn well out of a book. But to put it her words, "There's always a time when you go on to something else," and that something else was the start of a school similar to Ashley River, but for middle and high school students.

So once again Mrs. Myers set sail with no crew and no men manning the deck, and arrived at 1600 Saranac Sreet, where she founded the incomparable School of the Arts. As soon as her feet reached the soil, the agile and energetic Mrs. Myers went running. As the years swept gracefully by, grade levels and buildings were added, and her audience of artisans increased. After nine years, four graduating classes, and a host of faculty members who "know how to teach," a Supreme Being was still guiding her life. Since challenge inevitably sparks new life and "like the world, education evolves," Mrs. Myers discovered a new goal—a brand new School of the Arts for 2008.

This school will house not only its young geniuses but it will be equipped with a theatre—a "for real" theatre, and all majors will be as they should. While 2008 isn't right around the corner, she wants everyone to know that as we presently roam the campus, we have and will have opportunities and memories that can never be duplicated. Right now "the outside may look like a sow's ear, but what goes on inside is pure silk," she says. Ultimately what Mrs. Myers wants us to know is that this year puts forty candles on her educating cake, and while she plans to see the new school through "all things must come to an end." However, she says, for SOA students the future is just beginning.

Our school is not like others: it is filled with smiles. Whether we become doctors, lawyers, or educators, it warms Mrs. Myers' heart to know that the arts has and will continue to enhance our lives and to embark into the world not only as good citizens but with love and the tools to make the world a better place. "Pass it on," she says with her signature wink.

### Mrs. Myers' Oriental Odyssey

by Omi Naderi

During my fascinating interview with Mrs. Myers, I made an interesting discovery. In 1988, the Kennedy Center named her as one of the top nineteen arts administrators in the country. She was even photographed with Ronald Reagan upon receiving this honor. As part of this award, she was provided with three weeks in China as a cultural exchange. As she puts it, the journey was, "a phenomenal trip in education." As she recounts her stay in China, some of her experiences surprise me as I listen, enthralled.

"You can't truly know a country until you're in that country to hear the sounds, to smell the odors, and to actually look into the eyes of the people," she says, drawing from what she learned during her voyage. "And it was quite a wonderful experience. We traveled to many cities throughout China. I will tell you, I didn't care for the food—at all. A snake was one of the main ingredients in one of the soups in Xi'an when we were there.

And then another time was fetal ferret, and that's before it's born. The ferret was—cooked!" She goes on to tell me of a mysterious doughy substance that was served as food, but since she and her partners never knew what was hidden inside of this dish, she cautiously avoided consuming it. What to do?

"I lived on a jar of peanut butter and peanuts. I took a jar of peanut butter with me!" exclaims Mrs. Myers chuckling.

It just so happens that peanut butter has endured as part of Mrs. Myers' daily lunch to this day (along with a refreshing Coca-Cola Classic and some Ritz crackers, but that's beside the point).

"Doesn't sound like Chinese food from a Chinese restaurant." I remark with a smile on my face, surprised.

"No—far from it. And you've always heard about Chinese laundry, and I thought, 'they'll be so clean.' Oh! Dust and dirt everywhere! They didn't dust furniture. All of the government buildings were just covered with dust...Now this was in 1988, and this was before the uprising in Tiananmen Square. So, I don't know what it may be today. But we weren't turned loose to roam, I can tell you—we were escorted every place we went."

I hope you have enjoyed reading our principal's account of her adventures in the East. From what I have heard from her, this is only one of the many extraordinary features of Mrs. Myers' fruitful life. Perhaps you may want to visit a foreign country yourself someday to truly learn about and experience the culture of the people who live there. But remember: Bring a jar of peanut butter with you in case you don't favor the local cuisine!

### These are a few of Mrs. Myers' favorite things

by Omi Naderi

*These are excerpts from my interview with Mrs. Myers that I found especially interesting. I think you will too. Enjoy.*

#### Her most notable experience...

"My most notable experience was being able to put a school together and seeing it succeed, as the Ashley River school did, and having two such successes...I have to say that's the most notable in my career. In my personal life, it is being able to have a warm, happy, loving family and being married 47 years."

#### Her favorite leisure activities...

What entertains her? "I'm a workaholic," she responds when asked, "I never did learn to play very well." Besides her constant devotion to upholding the School of the Arts, she enjoys a good book and vigorous exercise.

"I love to read, and I am very physical. I love physical exercise. I am limited to a great degree to just walking a lot now, which I get to do a lot of anyway. I love the yard. I love growing plants. I love to garden."



Mrs. Myers hard at work

## Featured Educator

However, Mrs. Myers' most guilty pleasure lies in a particular SOA activity.

"My favorite thing to do is to move about the buildings and the campus. And, um, peek in doors..."

"I see you doing that sometimes."

"Yes you do, don't you!" she laughs with mirth, "Just to be sure everything seems to be going well. Sometimes I will just sit down if I have time and see what's happening. And that's something I need to do fairly often. But the good thing about what we have here, especially in my position, is that I know for the most part that this faculty is doing its job the way it ought to be done."

### Her favorite reading...

"I like to read all those books over there." She gestures towards a dauntingly large stack of educational manuals near her desk. "That's the way you stay with where the present thinking is, and that's how you then know what you might feel is worthy of latching onto, referring to or using, or what you discard. So I do that. But when I pick up a book to read just for pleasure, it is pure pleasure! It doesn't require a whole lot of brainpower. I went through all of that."

"Do you read these educational manuals more than the pleasure books?"

"Oh, yes, the time is the absolute in the situation here. To stay present in education, which I feel is my responsibility to do, takes a good bit of the time I have. And my 16 year old grandson lives with my husband and me, so I have a pretty busy life. But I seldom leave here before 6:30 in the evening."

### Her favorite food...

I think it's always interesting to hear what someone's favorite food is, especially when it's something unusual. Such was the case with Mrs. Myers.

"Peanut butter! I love peanut butter. I live on peanut butter. Now, I do drink Coca-Cola along with it, you see, which is really bad!"

"I've always wondered, do you eat lunch in the cafeteria?"

"No, I just have lunch at my desk, and that's peanut butter, and Coca-Cola. And some Ritz crackers!"

I suddenly make a random inquiry. "Do you like S'mores?"

"What are S'mores? I don't know." She looks puzzled.

"Gram crackers with marshmallows melted between them," I say, hoping it's a good definition.

"Oh! We just didn't call them that. Oh yes! I think we just called them 'gram crackers with marshmallows in between.' We had to make our own. One of the things we really liked was to take a Ritz cracker, spread it with peanut butter, and put a marshmallow and top and put it in the oven and let it melt over it. We didn't have a name for that either, but we knew that was something we liked and we made those. But I'll remember s'mores."

### How she would describe herself...

"I'm very determined. I have a great deal of tenacity. I prefer *tenacious* rather than *stubborn*. Sometimes my dad let me know I was stubborn," she says with a giggle, "but I think tenacity is more it, now that I've become an adult. I think I'm almost there. I think a risk taker certainly says who I am, but I believe it's always been pretty much a calculated risk that I would take. Work doesn't bother me. So, I guess workaholic is appropriate, but for me it's very satisfying."

"I think I'm an active person; I seldom sit still. I can't sit still. I like to move. I've always been able to move and move well. I like to run, and I still do some. Not as I once did, but still do."

"I'm 68 years old; I'll be 69 in November. I think everyone pretty much knows how old I am. And frankly, I have no problems with that. Because I don't feel my age, and I am egotistical enough to think I don't look it!" she says facetiously while laughing.

## If Mrs. Myers was a student at SOA...

by Omi Naderi

*I ask Mrs. Myers a crazy question out of sheer curiosity:*

"If you woke up tomorrow morning, and found that you had become a schoolgirl blessed with talents in every art area, which major would you audition into... if being the fabulously talented young girl version of the Principal of SOA, you'd be guaranteed acceptance."

After laughing for a while, she replies, "All of that is taking a great risk to even presume such! Well, Theater would be one. And Piano, I've had 5 years of piano, so I have a music background. But believe it or not, I have always wanted to be able to sing, but I don't have a very good voice."

"But suppose you would have that talent, because it comes in the package," I explain.

"So if I had that talent, it would be Theater or Vocal," she answers in a dramatic voice after chortling. "And I taught Visual Arts, but you see, I would want that too!"

"It could be your exploratory," I suggest.

"Well, it's hard to choose. Because, as far as I see, it all goes together. In Theater, you have to be able to develop your scenes, and that requires Visual Arts talent. And you also need to be able to communicate well and express the character, but if you're doing a musical, then of course there's a musical side that goes with it. I want the whole kit-and-caboodle!"

"Yes, all the arts tie into each other. Just like the arts tie in with academics."

"If we could just get the world to see that. And you notice how well all of us get along here? Can you imagine how much better the world would be if we could all understand all we need to do is to just be well educated and enjoy the arts, be very talented, or at least enjoy other's talents? And then forget about all these wars?"

"That would be more than great," I reply, "that would be excellent." I was struck by the simplicity of her plan for world peace, which I can only hope will someday happen. Her vision of the Arts being combined with public education has already benefited all that dwell in this school in so many ways.

For those of you who are talented actors or gifted vocalists, if you come to school one morning and walk past a new girl who bears a peculiarly strong resemblance to the principal of SOA, there's a good chance that she'll be in your major. You should make friends with her.

## Horoscopes

by The SOA Astrologer

**Virgo, Aug 23-Nov 21:** There are many bumps on the road less traveled so make sure you check your shocks beforehand.

**Sagittarius, Nov 22-Dec 21:** Do not fear what is ahead because that which is behind you is far worse.

**Capricorn, Dec 22-Jan 19:** Do not doubt an action that you've performed because there is someone who doubted you beforehand.

**Aquarius, Jan 20-Feb 18:** You may have overcome something stressful recently, wasn't it fun?

**Pisces, Feb 19-Mar 20:** You should dabble in the art of fondue for it brings some fun, too!

**Aries, Mar 21-Apr 19:** You may think that this week has been a bit hard on you, look on the brighter side though... many people aren't having a bad week.

**Taurus, Apr 20-May 20:** Being the sign of the bull, go outside and ram your head into something, it may enlighten you.

**Gemini, May 21 - Jun 20:** Aspire not only to seeing what others cannot see, but to be what others aspire to be in their stead while they're busy looking.

**Cancer, Jun 21-Jul 22:** Your smile brings joy and happiness, yet around some it may cause uneasiness. Use it sparingly.

**Leo, Jul 23-Aug 22:** As you enter the realm of darkness and despair bring a companion with you so you won't suffer alone.

## Riddle of the Month

"What is greater than God, more evil than the devil, poor people have, rich people need, and if you eat it, you die?" (answer in October *Applause*)

## Calendar

(continued from page 9)

2-Oct-04	HS and MS Strings- Regional and All-State Auditions- 8:00 am at West Ashley High School
4-Oct-04	MS Band- After School Practice 3:30- 5:00 pm Room 220 FA Bldg.
7-Oct-04	HS Theatre- Comedy of Errors Preview - 7:00 pm in the Black Box
8-Oct-04	HS Strings Longbay Symphony Oct 8& 9 End of 1st grading period
11-Oct-04	Teacher Workday- No Students
12-Oct-04	Art Smart Open House- Oct 12-15
13-Oct-04	PSAT
14-Oct-04	Art Smart Parent Performance- 7:00pm in Blackbox

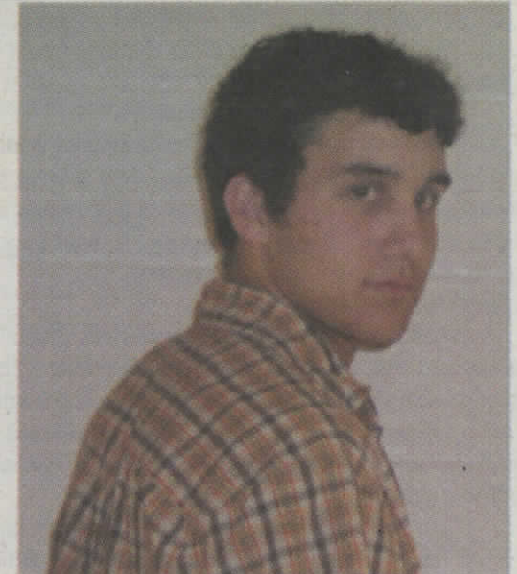
Question of the Month



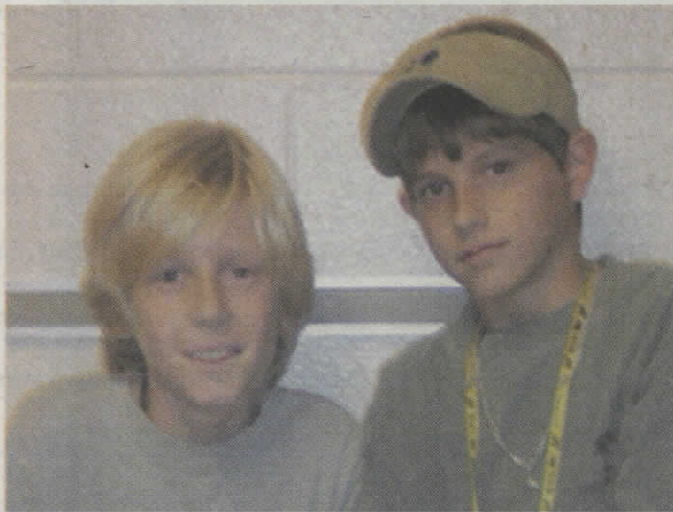
"I miss not having to do any homework."  
**Tiffany Houston**  
6th grade



"I miss not having a schedule so that kids of all ages can come over when ever they want."  
**Mrs. Awkerman**  
Computer Instructor



"I miss riding horses on the beach."  
**Shawn Jordan**  
12th grade

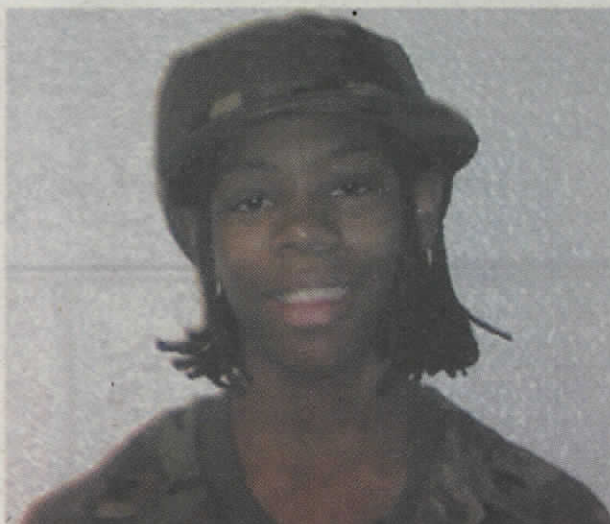


"We miss surfing and checking out all the hot chicks in the Caribbean."  
**Miles Merritt and Duncan Pfaehler**  
7th grade

What do you miss most about summer?



"I miss sleeping until 3:00 in the afternoon."  
**David DuTremble**  
11th grade



"I miss playing video games all day long."  
**Kenish Magwood**  
8th grade



"I miss riding in the car with my friends and having no worries."  
**Amber Caparas**  
9th grade



"I miss crabbing with my sister-in-law at Cherry Point."  
**Ashley Hunter**  
10th grade