



Applause



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Five years of Applause



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Applause is a student produced publication of the School of the Arts.
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Editor's Column



Ahoy, mates. The December 2004 issue marks the fifth anniversary of *Applause*. Thanks to our readers for your continued support. I hope you enjoy the high number of editorials in this issue, which will be sure to spark many interesting conversations. Please keep in mind that the opinions stated in this newspaper are not necessarily the opinions of the *Applause* editors, staff or SOA. Have a great holiday season, and remember to floss after all those holiday treats.

Letters to the Editor

Dear *Applause*,

Since I picked up the first *Applause*, I have been an avid reader, enjoying and contemplating each article that the paper puts out. This morning, I received the November 2004 issue of the *Applause*, and, as I opened to the second page, I saw **Omi Naderi's** editorial. Upon reading it, I was shocked and appalled, finding myself unable to put words to my feelings. "Who does he think he is?" I proclaimed. "Does he not understand the school caste system?" I spoke to **Yaeger Deas** immediately, asking her about the alleged quote featured in the editorial. What I learned is that Yaeger did not say this. That quote is not real and I question Omi's credibility for putting a false quote in his editorial. I want to also state that the actual "senior code of laws" has become incredibly uncertain since the sudden revolt among underclassmen, as well as teachers who insist that they keep their seniors until the very end of class. With this in mind, unless one were to speak directly to the highest school authority, no one can really say what's true and what isn't.

Since I entered high school, I too, have had to deal with seniors cutting in line. For three long years, my tummy has "rumbled and grumbled," but I didn't sit around and complain. Neither did my peers or any other underclassmen. Overall, we accepted the situation and did not question it. I think that Omi and any other underclassmen that have a problem with me getting lunch before them needs to suck it up and stop being a baby. If you're going to whine and gripe about this hierarchy being unfair, then get over it. Life's not fair. I waited three years for this privilege and I'll be ~~there~~ if I'm not going to use it. Cutting is not that big of a deal- we're all going to the same place. So just drop it and learn to deal.

Sincerely, Shawn Jordan

The Truth Exposed

By Omi Naderi

I have, with luck, survived the past month without being assassinated or assaulted; for this I had an extra reason to be grateful during Thanksgiving. As I expected, my editorial from last month's *Applause*, "A Proclamation from the President: Demystifying a Lunchroom Myth," has successfully helped our paper ignite some much-needed controversy. It brings joy to my eyes to see how strongly students, especially seniors like Vice-President **Shawn Jordan**, have reacted to an article in the *Applause*. But, after all, as Shawn pointed out, "cutting is not that big of a deal—we're all going to the same place," right? Hmm...

Unfortunately, some have mistakenly been lead to believe that **Yaeger Deas** never said anything about the senior cut privileges. Although the quote does not feature Yaeger's words verbatim, she did tell me, in my interview with her (which is featured in this issue—enjoy), the content of the information I presented in my editorial: the senior cut privilege was never a law, that Seniors cutting in the lunch line was a problem, and that it needed to be fixed. If it helps make my case more convincing, she actually did say, "They're going to hate me for this!" Ah, Yaeger, what irony; it is not you who is hated!

Clearly, Yaeger does not normally speak in Shakespearean English—nor has anyone for the last several hundred years—and for this reason I assumed intelligent people, who are plentiful here at SOA (and of course, those who avidly read the *Applause* are), could recognize that I had obviously changed the wording of Yaeger's quote for literary purposes. Because of this, I am not sorry if you felt deceived. I intended to change her words into this eccentric style to fit with the theme of the article I previously mentioned (read to see what I mean). Regrettably, because of the lack of space for this lengthy piece in the last issue, it was left out, ergo leading to misunderstanding.

I do not believe in completely destroying senior privileges, contrary to the popular opinion. Seniors definitely deserve special rights because they have endured more long and demanding years of school than any other students, and as a sort of compensation, they are entitled to a privileged last year of public schooling. In fact, I even think SOA seniors deserve more privileges than they already have, which are few. However, I consider the cutting issue to be an exception because it serves to benefit seniors at the expense of annoying everyone else. Many have told me different variations of, "Omi, why are you trying to do away with seniors cutting in line if you're going to be a senior next year?" My answer: I have always disliked seniors cutting, though I accepted it, but when I heard it was not "legal" and that it was a problem, I was all for abolishing it, since at that point it seemed unjust—especially after being informed that they are allowed to come five to eight minutes early. I understood full well that by writing that article, I was also taking away from privileges I could have in less than a year, but I had a conviction that it was the just thing to do. However, I have heard the grievances of seniors who tell of teachers—such as our very own *Applause* Faculty Advisor, **Dr. Cusatis**—who imprison their helpless students within the classroom walls for extra minutes after they are supposed to be released (although in the end, the release time is at the discretion of the teacher, which is a problem that needs to be addressed), so I have been slightly swayed to consider things from a senior perspective. But none of this matters anymore, thanks to a recent update on the story.

(continued on page 3)

Features

Where are they now: Ashley Burns

by Kathleen Smith

What college are you attending, and what is your major?

I am at Lander University, studying environmental science, which has proven to be the second toughest science major at this school (the first is nursing).

What made you decide to go there?

Partially the small school atmosphere (it reminds me of SOA in several aspects, including the food), and also the fact that I didn't get into anywhere else.

When you are not in class, what do you usually do around town?

Lander is such a small school with a small town that the only places anyone really ever goes are the movie theater and Wally World (Super Wal-Mart, open 24/7, our college hang out).

Do you live with any roommates, and if so, what are they like?

I have switched roommates since the beginning of the semester and I am now rooming with a friend of mine I met on the first day of classes. I also have two good friends across the hall.

What is a typical day for you?

Three days a week I have biology, chemistry, and math. Two days I have English, and on one of the days I also have a chemistry lab at 8:00 am and a biology lab at 6:00 pm. Once the bio. lab ran overtime by about 30 min. and I got back to my room around 9:45. Recently, I got back feeling like an angry cobra or a mad bull. Those were worst case scenarios. I usually come out just fine. I really hate Thursdays because it's lab day.

What are your professors like?

First off, I love my chem professor. He's young, enthusiastic, funny, and he lets us come to his office to retake quizzes as many times as we need to get a 9 out of 10 or better. Then there is my chem. lab professor, who is also rather entertaining, and spent a good part of the first day's lecture talking about all the terrible things that have happened in her previous classes as a warning to us that we are dealing with dangerous chemicals and need to pay attention. My English professor is a feminist and swears way too much. She's a trip.

What is the greatest thing you learned from your many years in SOA creative writing?

The greatest? That's a tough one... I guess, between that and martial arts, I learned to laugh at myself and to take criticism for what it is and learn from my mistakes. I also learned to express myself more clearly. Not in person though, just on paper.

When you first got to college, what were you most impressed by?

The science building. It's very new and it's a three story building with beautiful tiled floors in the halls, a beautiful set of stairs, and a talking elevator. My favorite thing, naturally, is Dr. Runyan's live snake display on the first floor.

What is your favorite class and why?

Definitely chemistry lecture. My roommate and I both have it and plan to have it together again next semester.

Looking back, what would you have done differently in high school?

Actually I tried to remember what I learned in Dr. Price's classes. I know



you're in there and most of you don't think you'll ever see this stuff again (I did, but that's because I knew I wanted to study science), but you very well may. Here, students must take biology of chemistry 101, and I don't recommend waiting until you get here to start paying attention.

Who is the most interesting person you have met?

The girl across the hall. I swear there is no one like her. We left "The Grudge" about ready to kill her, but she's really cool. And an individual by every definition of the word, different. She's got a dry, sarcastic, typically witty sense of humor, and a number of interests that don't surprise me in their diversity nearly as much as they used to.

Juniors receive class rings



Sarah Myers turns Rachel Maguire's class ring at the Junior Ring Ceremony on December 4, 2004 at the Radisson, North Charleston.

(continued from page 2)

I am very sorry to bring the following news to all those who suffer from senior-cut oppression: **Mr. Davis** has told me that seniors really are allowed to cut in the lunchline. This is particularly surprising to not only me, but also Yaeger, since she remembers Mr. Davis had spoken to her several months ago about seniors not having the privilege to cut. Somehow, Yaeger accidentally received false information, which in turn was spread to me and then to the many who read the article. This is neither Yaeger's fault nor anybody else's. One cause of this mix-up of information may have been because Mr. Davis was possibly referring to seniors not being allowed to cut school, which was misinterpreted as seniors not being allowed to cut in the lunchline. We may never know what happened, but this whole episode has sure been interesting. It appears now that senior tradition shall not be lost, to the joy of seniorkind. For those who were given a short-lived period of hope, I say to you with a heavy heart: hang in there. The time of your deliverance will come. Freedom is on the march, and seniors are cutting it!

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Student Artwork



Thomas Tanner
12th grade



Tony Linog
8th grade



Sarah Haynes
12th grade



Brent Sagan
11th grade

SOA
Artists



Lainey Harrison
11th grade



Wade Judy
8th Grade



Lenna Walker
10th grade



Stephanie Berry
10th grade

Feature

Act 2—Scene 1—The Interview

The Legend of President Yaeger-Meister

By Omi Naderi

Enter EL PRESIDENTE YAEGER-MEISTER

YAEGER. Hear Ye, Hear ye! O fellow seniors of the School of the Arts,
I am here to serve thee to the best of my ability.

Enter SIR OMI-WAN

OMI-WAN. O great Yaeger-Meister, daughter of Deas, honorable president elect of the senior class of 2005, talented actress, friend of the common man, enemy to injustice, defender of liberty, allow me to interrogate thee to better understand the secret behind thy glorious leadership!

YAEGER. I accept thy request, Sir Omi-Wan of Applause,
For I be a kind, compassionate person.

OMI-WAN. Hark, hark! May the angels of heaven shower blessings upon the soul of gentle Yaeger-Meister! I pray you answer me: "What feelings do arise within the heart of the Meister when she reflecteth on her state of Senior Class Presidency?"

YAEGER. I suffer a range of emotions that are overwhelming, exciting, and scary.
Yet, the excitement overrideth the challenges of my position.

OMI-WAN. Beneficent One, acquaint thou me with the essence of thy purpose to serve.
YAEGER. My intentions are noble; fear not corruption young Naderi.

OMI-WAN. O best of seniors, I ponder not such distrustful thoughts against thee, champion of morality!

YAEGER. Very well, I shall disclose to thee that which I hold true to my heart.
I desire to work toward the general good of the senior population,
To create and implement rules granting senior privileges,
To ensure policy is just, to fill the coffers with fundraisers,
And to make certain what needs to be fulfilled shall be fulfilled;
These, Sir Omi-Wan, be my sincere aspirations.

OMI-WAN. Thou art noble, great Yaeger. Wherefore did thou originally feel the calling to campaign for thine office?

YAEGER. A mysterious letter laid upon my desk beckoned me to serve my people.
[Opens the letter and reads.]
"Yaeger, thou sleep'st: awake and see thyself.
SOA needs you. Speak, strike, redress.
Yaeger, thou sleep'st: awake."

OMI-WAN. Nay, 'twas etched upon the stars that noble Yaeger should wake up to her inner courage and smile at her destiny, a destiny of leadership.

YAEGER. Tush, sir! Surely, you jest! 'Twas not a matter of destiny,
But a product of an arduous campaign between my
Venerable opponent dubbed Shannon the Gaetke and me.

Enter SHANNON THE GAETKE

SHANNON. Most high, most mighty and most puissant Yaeger-Meister,
Whereupon the fateful hour of which the intercom lady named thee
El Presidente, my heart did fell, stricken with disappointment
As I had toiled intensely in my campaign for the presidency.
O Meister! Shortly hereafter, my heart leapt up in joy for thee,
For I recognized thou were worthy of thy lofty position;
That thou were truly the One, the paramount person
Preordained by Providence to represent and righteously lead
The Senior Class of the year of grace AD 2005.
Thou hast since served us well; for this I daily give thanks.

YAEGER. O Shannon, best among Gaetkes, thou art evenly worthy.
On that momentous day, the news of my triumph came sweetly,
But it was sweetness that was bitter: deep within the cavernous
Regions of my heart dwelt pools of sadness for noble Shannon
Who hath labored greatly to achieve that which I won.
As the rejoicification that did reach unto the heavens resounded,
My thoughts centered on the melancholy feelings of the Gaetke.

SHANNON. Thou heart beatest most purely, O Yaeger-Meister!
[Kneels before YAEGER-MEISTER]

I, Shannon the Gaetke, swear allegiance to thee, Soul of SOA!
Let me support thee in thine glorious mission of servitude!

YAEGER. Riseth you, O Shannon, for thou art my equal in dignity.
Let us rally to improve upon SOA for our classmen.

OMI-WAN. Ye angels of heaven! Can ye parallel the goodness of the two before me?
Farewell!

[Exit SHANNON THE GAETKE]

Doth Yaeger relish in her richly deserved title of President? What sayest thou?

YAEGER. 'Tis good to be the President, though with the title cometh responsibility.
Being the former President of Student Council, I know this to be most true:
The word "president" doth yield an air of respect one must live up to.
A daunting task it is, yet an unquestionably gratifying one indeed.
I will confess, I have ne'er cared much for the title itself;
'Twill always be my aim to serve, Sir Omi-Wan, above all.
In contrast to the El Presidente of old, Steven Nelson, I bask not
In the prestige of my position as he, who did call for subjects
To play "Hail to the Chief" in his presence—nay, I do seek to live

A regular existence in harmony with my people,

Fulfilling my official duties unpretentiously.

OMI-WAN. Thy humilityificariousness taked my breath away! Thy work ethic is quite premium. Dost thou recieve any aid from a higher source to help thee with thy duties?

YAEGER. Aye, I do answer to but one in Senior Council: the fair Lady Awkerman.—

OMI-WAN. The legendary Lady Awkerman? Dost thou knowest that goodly Lady? Pray tell, what affairs dost thy Presidentliness engage in with that most splendid of the Awkerman family?

YAEGER. 'Tis a privilege indeed to work with Lady Awkerman.

OMI-WAN. God's Teeth! Yon approaches the Lady herself! By'r Lady, today is quite auspicious: first with the arrival of Shannon the Gaetke as we speak her name and at present Lady Awkerman!

Enter LADY AWKERMEN

AWKER. How now! Why, 'tis none other than Sir Omi-Wan and El Presidente Yaeger-Meister.

OMI-WAN. God save thee, Lady Awkerman!

YAEGER. Good Lady, do tell the nature of thy role in Senior Council as my advisor.

AWKER. Mine authority encompasses the entire
Senior Council for it is I who truly govern the masses.
At the uppermost portion of the Great Chain do I dwell;
Directly below lies President Yaeger.
In the hall of Senior Council in which we preside
All officers do so conjointly meet to conjure
A bonding, a sense of class, among seniors.
Yaeger, who doth have a quick spirit, organizeth
Activities to enrich the lives of Seniorkind that
I oversee: Grub on the Green, a feast of much merriment;
The Senior Wall, a memorial that doth commemorate
Their existence within the walls of SOA;
And the Bake Sales that do bring us riches.

OMI-WAN. Lady Awkerman, thy nobility is rivaled only by thy charm!

AWKER. I thank thee, O saucy fellow. I bid thee and the President farewell,
For I shall be now be departing on my merry ways.

OMI-WAN. God speed!

YAEGER. Anon!

[Exit LADY AWKERMEN]

OMI-WAN. O Yaeger-Meister, allow me to ask thee yet another question.

YAEGER. Oh, fie! Wherefore do you hold me here so long?
I have further business to attend.

OMI-WAN. I beseech thee, explain the origin of thy loveliest name!

YAEGER. Pox and pestilence! 'Tis German! Farewell, Sir Omi-Wan.

OMI-WAN. Farewell! Let us meet again, El Presidente Yaeger-Meister!

[Exeunt]

**Happy Holidays from
the *Applause* staff!**

Celebrity Artist Interview

All About Quiana

by Latoya Smith

If you've ever gone downtown Charleston into Mitchell's on the Market or Vista Riverside Grille; or if you've ever heard Trans Am Hot Tub, Plane Jane, Heart and Soul, or Brazil; or even if you watched the top 50 of 2003's American Idol, then your ear has probably been tickled by the out-of-this world sound of Quiana Parler. I remember the first time I heard Quiana sing. There I sat enthralled and inspired by the rich timbre of her voice. Every time she encourages me, each email she sends is signed with the quote, "Success is the journey, not the destination." So experience Quiana's journey and don't forget to visit her online at www.quianaparler.builderspot.com. Also tune to Clay Aiken's Christmas special this December for more of Quiana.

Getting Started

Where were you born and raised? Where did you attend elementary, high school, and college?

I was born and raised in Charleston, SC and raised in Harleyville, SC. I attended Jenkins Hill Elementary School, Harleyville Ridgeville High/St. George High, and the College of Charleston.



Are your parents musically inclined?

Both my mom and dad are singers.

Do you remember the first song you ever sung?

"I Got to Serve the Lord until I Die" - Al Green

When did you begin performing publicly? When did you become involved in the "Charleston scene?"

I began singing publicly at the age of 10 in the Charleston musical "Annie."

Are your classically trained?

Yes. I studied voice for 9 years at the Dock Street Theater.

What local bands have you been affiliated with?

I've been working with the following bands: Plane Jane, Brazil, the Vince River's Trio, the Mickey Baker Project

and Heart & Soul.

Have you worked with any other professional singers?

Yes, I've worked with Kelly Clarkson, Cherie, Clay Aiken, and Ben Jelen. I've opened for Waymon Tisdale, Mike Phillips, Phil Perry, Ann Nesby, Paul Taylor and the Dolphins.

What genre is your forte?

Jazz

Who or what are your musical influences?

My musical influences are Sarah Vaughn, Dianne Reeves, Whitney Houston, Kim Burrell, Anita Baker, Nancy Wilson, Natalie Wilson (who just so happens to be on of my best friends) and currently Queen Latifah.

How does singing make you feel?

Singing makes me feel good. I don't know what I would do if I could not sing.

Why do you sing?

I sing because it's my way of giving and sharing this gift that God has blessed me with.

American Idol Experience

What made you audition for American Idol?

I auditioned for American Idol because my friends would not leave me alone about it.

What were the pros and cons of American Idol?

There are so many pros and cons of the show. One thing I really hate about reality TV is that they can show you what they want to show you and give you a false impression about someone. It's all about making great television, and it's so sad, but it's true.

Your American Idol experience... can you sum it up in a few words?

I guess my overall experience with American Idol was great. Even going into the whole audition process, I reminded myself that even if I did not win, I still got to come home and sing every night. As with most of the kids who auditioned, they go to return home and go back to their 9-5 jobs. If I had not done American Idol like I originally planned, I would have never met Clay and I would not be doing what I'm doing now.

You were on tour with Clay Aiken, how did that come about?

I met Clay in Atlanta, GA at the American Idol 2 auditions and we met up again in LA and we've been friends ever since. The whole touring thing started out as a joke because I was watching the Ellen Degeneres Show one day, and one of his background singers had the same hairstyle as I did. I was teasing him about it, and he asked me to come to LA and sing background for him and Kelly Clarkson on their first tour together.

So we see there were some benefits of the show....describe the experience working with Clay Aiken? singing with Clay?

Clay is a very giving person and he's very caring. Working with him has been a blessing. I've gotten to see almost the entire United States because of him. Singing with him is undescrivable. His vocal range and style is incredible.

What did the American Idol experience teach you about yourself?

The American Idol experience taught me that the gift God has given me is not up for competition. What I have is very special and no one should be able to judge me on it. What makes you different from most up and coming singer/ vocalists?

I guess what makes me different from other up and coming vocalists is that I have a jazz background, and I understand that it takes more than just singing to be a "singer." I think singers today sing because they just like it. Many vocalist don't have a clue where, why, and how music originated and I think it's very sad.

Sing it Quiana!

What is the one thing you must have to sing?

I cannot sing without my high heels on! That's about it and a full stomach.

What song or songs show off your vocal ability/ range the best?

If I had to choose out of all of the songs I sing it would be

"Love for Sale" by Dianne Reeves.

Have you ever been booed off stage?

Nope (Thank God).

If you could not sing what would you be doing?

If I could not sing I would probably be a news anchor woman.

What is the craziest performance experience you've ever had?

I guess the craziest would be on the last tour I did with Clay.

The crew guys decided on the last night of the tour to play

tricks on everybody and they Vaseline my mic stand down

and tried to put a rat on me on stage while I was singing. And

not only did they do that, when I started to sing my duet on

stage, they put the chipmunks on in my ear monitors to throw me off.

Describe your fans.

To sum it up my fans rock! Since touring the fans have shown me so much love. I have about four web sites that the fans have created for me, and I must say that is an awesome feeling knowing that what I contribute on stage with Clay has touched someone so much to the point where they would do something like that for me with really no reason at all.

The Song Isn't Over

What is your most memorable performance?

I don't really have a memorable performance. When I perform I try to give the listening audience something to remember me by when they leave. I give 110% at every performance. My job is to entertain people and make sure they have fun and learn something new about me after each performance.

Favorite performance?

I guess my favorite performance was Spoleto '04 at Bar 145. That week was magical and I really felt that what I gave that week was one of my best performances in a long time.

What is your definition of a professional singer? A good singer? A great singer?

My definition of a professional singer is a singer that performs with poise and grace. Respects herself on stage. Knows the history of what she's singing and why she's singing. Also, a person who delivers very well on stage.

What are the pros and cons of being a professional singer?

I've been singing professionally since the age of 10 and I must say that I have sacrificed a lot. I've missed so many things as a kid growing up but I don't have any regrets. I look back at all of the stuff that I've missed and it was well worth it. The funny thing is being on the road is just as hard as when I'm home missing things. I try to keep in touch with everyone, my family and maintain a private relationship at the same time which I must say sometimes can be very challenging. I try to keep my family and relationship away from the media and the fans because I respect my family's privacy, and when I'm not on the road or performing I to give them their time with the real "Quiana." And I think that's very important to me and them. Sometimes the fans forget that when I step on stage, my job is to entertain them. I think they sometimes forget that we as artists are human too, and we are entitled to make mistakes.

When do you plan to release an album?

Hopefully as soon as I get back to South Carolina.

What is your goal for your musical career?

To be able to become worldwide and to make good clean music that makes people happy.

How do you want the world to remember Quiana?

I want the world to remember me as being a very caring and loving individual who takes care of her family and home. Someone who knows how to take care of business when she performs on stage.



News

Mr. Murray's brush with death

by Omi Naderi

Sunday, October 3, 2004: a dark day.

As **Mr. W. E. Murray** stepped from his car into the parking lot of a Mt. Pleasant restaurant, he suddenly felt a wave of dizziness. He had no idea of what was happening inside his head. He sat down for a few minutes. The dizziness persisted. Continuing on with his plans, he entered the restaurant along with some friends. The party ordered breakfast—but by the time the order came in, Mr. Murray was throwing up. Something was not right. He asked his friends to bring him to the emergency room, whereupon they quickly escorted him to medical care. A blood vessel in his brain was hemorrhaging: he was having a stroke.

Throughout his ordeal, Mr. Murray maintained consciousness. As he recalls, “The first thing they did in the emergency room was put me on an IV—the standard procedure. Then they took me down and did a CAT scan to see what was going on inside my head, which showed what the problem was, so they knew where to go from there.” The type of stroke he experienced was one of the three types, hemorrhagic. “They took my blood pressure and gave me some medication to bring it down right away, then they used the CAT scan to see what was causing it to be so high.” Because of Mr. Murray’s exceedingly high blood pressure, the blood was pushed through the wall of his blood vessel, causing it rupture. “Kind of like filling up a balloon until there is so much pressure that it breaks,” he explained. “I was on medicine to keep my blood thin, so it leaked a lot more than it would have normally; the vessel didn’t clot and close itself up right away. I was in the ICU for a couple of days as they watched me, keeping close stock of what was going on with my blood pressure and heart rate. They checked my eyes every hour to make sure I was still alive.” Sadly, Mr. Murray had to celebrate his birthday, which was two days after his hemorrhage, in the hospital while he was hooked up to a mass of tubes and medical equipment.

While Mr. Murray was away, his student fan-base missed him greatly and was deeply concerned about his health. It felt as if he, who was already appreciated, was valued twofold. “That’s the way I planned it,” he said jokingly. In an effort to brighten Mr. Murray’s life, the students united to form a multitude of get-well-soon cards. He graciously received them: “They were very special because during the first two days, I had no interest in food, television, or reading—I had no interest in anything except for sleeping. So those cards were the highlight of my day.”

Mr. Murray was kept in the hospital for ten days. He underwent physical therapy during the last three, as the hemorrhage had damaged the part of his brain that controlled his equilibrium. He had to regain his balance in order to walk properly, and fortunately, he was able to do so and make a sound recovery. In order to prevent another deadly stroke, Mr. Murray has now begun an exercise regimen in which he regularly runs, an activity that will improve his cardiovascular health to lower his blood pressure. Incidentally, he happened to be a cross-country coach in Wando High School until he came to SOA in 1996. Says Mr. Murray, “I’ve been wanting to run again, but I never found the time. Now I have a motivation to!”

The third leading cause of death in the United States is stroke, which can also inflict severe disability among its victims. Mr. Murray was not only lucky to have survived, but to have not sustained serious damage to his brain that would have left him with long-term physical

impairment. Using himself as an example, Mr. Murray wishes to promote awareness of the dangers of high blood pressure. It was because of this condition, which he was unaware of, that his hemorrhagic stroke occurred. High blood pressure is often dubbed the “silent killer” since those who have it experience no symptoms until a potentially fatal event such as a stroke—or a heart attack, heart failure, or kidney failure—occurs. So please, remind your older loved ones to have their blood pressure checked because you never know when a stroke could strike. Mr. Murray didn’t.

Mix it up day!

by Noelle Williams

School of the Arts Middle School students participated in the second annual Mix It Up Day on Nov. 17th. Mix It Up Day is a national event sponsored by *Teaching Tolerance Magazine* designed to help students break down social boundaries and reduce prejudice and stereotyping.

Ms. Miller, our middle school guidance counselor, believes strongly in this initiative. She states that “many students feel left out and disconnected from their fellow classmates. They need to be shown how to reach out to those who are different from them. Mix It Up Day is an opportunity for middle schoolers to reach beyond their cliques and social barriers. It also sends a strong message that our school supports cultural diversity and encourages an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding of all races, religions, cultures, socioeconomic groups, and genders.”

To support this initiative, Ms. Miller conducted classroom guidance sessions with all middle school students to address these issues. On the actual day of this event, students were given stickers with numbers on them to wear to the cafeteria. The numbers corresponded with table assignments where students were directed to sit and mingle with other middle schoolers that they may never

have had the opportunity to meet with prior to this event. Each table had a set of icebreaker questions to initiate conversations. After answering those questions, students were expected to converse on their own. “We talk[ed] about majors and homerooms,” says **Desie Ashe-Bradford**, a sixth grader.

Many of the middle schoolers believed that Mix It Up Day was an important event. Sixth grader, **Stephanie Hardy**, said “[The purpose of Mix It Up Day is] to be with people you don’t know who are different.” The students hope that Mix It Up Day helped to lower social barriers between the popular and unpopular as well as give students who are in cliques, like skate boarders, an opportunity to get to know other students. Mix It Up Day also gave many of the middle schoolers a chance to make new friends.

The culminating activity of Mix It Up Day is a “Cultural Quilt” designed by 6th and 7th grade visual arts majors, **Ms. Nichols**, **Mr. Moore**, and Ms. Miller. Each student designed a panel of the quilt to reflect upon a (continued on page 10) different culture. The panels were then combined to form the quilt that is now on display in the cafeteria. Ms. Miller considers Mix It Up Day a resounding success. “Anytime you can get students to talk openly and honestly about tolerance, you open the door to improving relationships. I’m not saying that Mix It Up Day will result in world peace, but it may enhance the quality of the social atmosphere at our school. It also clearly defines the school’s expectations as to how we want our students to treat other. I’m very proud of the fine job our students did with this social exercise. The teachers and administrators were also very supportive of this project. It couldn’t be done without them.”

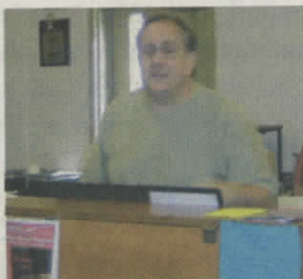


Featured Art: Vocal

Rockin' Robin

by Latoya Smith

A little boy from Spartanburg, SC- the Campcroft area to be exact- attended the Cooperative Elementary School, Carver Jr. High School, and later Spartanburg High School without ever knowing his birth parents. The parents that indeed raised him were the manager of Sears and a CPA who were great enthusiasts of music. At age 4, this chap took piano lessons when at home he simply had a toy piano to play on when he wasn't at the neighbor's. Throughout his elementary and middle school education he was involved in the chorus, playing the piano and participated in numerous plays and musicals. This was a time (the early 60's) when the "stereo" was the common medium of the musician and the listener. In the first grade he "progressed rapidly" as a piano player under instructors at Converse College but fell in love with singing during middle school. His parents bought a \$200 piano but after discovering his seriousness for music, bought him a grand piano that would come to rest in his adult home. It was also at this point that he knew he wanted to be a teacher. His prominent inspiration at this time was his choral teacher, Beatrice Cleveland, an African-American woman teaching during a decade left with the aftertaste of segregation. He says, "She was my choral teacher and she was absolutely phenomenal, incredible, and she gave me certain opportunities that just made me want to work in the teaching field." In high school the young gentleman continued his path in music as student conductor and accompanist for his high school choir. After graduation from Spartanburg High, he attended Newberry College where he obtained a triple major in Music Theory, Music Education, and Church Music with an emphasis on piano and voice.



Upon graduating from college, he completed his student teaching at Laurens High School and was hired on the spot after an interview at Middleton High here in Charleston. Fifteen years later, the School of the Arts got acquainted with the middle school vocal teacher greatly appreciated today- Mr. Robin Rogers.

Although most people know him as a teacher, Mr. Rogers is the musical director and organist at Grace United Methodist Church, plays around town for cocktail parties and many other occasions. It would seem as though this musician's life of playing and demonstrating music would never end, however he indeed finds time for his favorite things. Mr. Rogers' says, "I believe in spending family time," a family that consists of his lovely son, daughter, and wife. They go to the mountains of Maggie Valley every year after Christmas to have a cozy good time, "just chilling," as he puts it. Still gardening makes its way to the top of his favorite things to do list majority of the time. It gives him pleasure, "to see them grow and mature.. it is a reflection of me."

After a day of beautifying his yard- or any day for that matter, Mr. Rogers and his eclectic taste of music relax to many of his favorites. These favorites range from the jazz vocal group, The Manhattan Transfer to the singer Josh Groban, and from the Moses Hogan Chorale to Barbara Streisand. Mr. Rogers even likes the performers but feels they should be better role models, "What a wonderful way to influence children," he says. While his all-time favorite piece is Hallelujah by Beethoven, he refrains from indulging his favorite pieces of chocolate. And just has sweet as that chocolate are his favorite experiences during his teaching career. In 1988 he recalls taking a group of students to Washington, DC to sing for President Ronald Reagan and performing an hour and a half concert at the National Cathedral. According to Mr. Rogers is was "absolutely breathtaking."

His many accomplishments with the middle school vocal students at the School of the Arts are linked to the beauty of their education here at SOA which is so vast that it's sometimes frightening. The exposure to every type of music, orchestral accompaniment experience, and find their "natural voice," is something Mr. Rogers deems critical in the growth of a fine musician.

Through the great influence of a woman who simply loved people and John Mayberry who taught Mr. Rogers how all the essential elements to music and how to embellish, he lives a musical life in which he "loves all kinds of music," and would "play the piano forever." So in the next five or more years whether you are walking out of Mr. Rogers' antique store, enjoying a Broadway show in which he's directing the orchestra, or getting your landscape beautified by Mr. Rogers- gardening architect, know that he wants you to know that children are "...exciting, they're motivating, they're innocent, they are difficult at times but that's okay too. We're all human," and soon we will all "appreciate the benefits."

The Eakster

by Brandi Dirkes

School of the Arts is a home to many gifted and talented people. The students are the talent for the future, but the faculty is the talent of today. SOA faculty chose to come to our school and share their expertise in helping the arts to thrive in future generations. One of these talented teachers, who shares his love and passion for the arts every day with his students, is Mr. Eakes.



"I thought it would be great to get paid to sing everyday and make music," says Mr. Eakes, high school vocal instructor.

Mr. Eakes completed his undergraduate in music education with a concentration of voice at Appalachian State University and his masters in music at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. Mr. Eakes claims to have several influences in his life. Primarily all of his music teachers, from elementary school to college, influenced him in some way. "My teachers not only taught me about music, singing, and music theory but I saw through them how much love of the arts they had and how important it was.", expresses Mr. Eakes.

Through all of Mr. Eakes' lessons on life, he has become an excellent teacher. He uses unique approaches for teaching the choir how to read music; one approach is called Kodaly music education, and the other is called Sulfedge. This year Mr. Eakes has to overcome a minor obstacle that for some teachers would be more of a life halting problem rather than just a petite obstacle. From the loss of last years seniors, the second sopranos are having to back track and rebuild the entire section. Though it is hard, dedicated work, "the combination of all the very diverse, great musicians and singers", Mr. Eakes, make the vocal major a very talented major. Several of this years vocal seniors are traveling the extra step to pursue music in college as majors and as careers. Extra steps require a lot of extra time and effort; therefore, Mr. Eakes responds by saying, "I am proud of them for enjoying music that much, pursuing it and putting in the extra time to make it happen for themselves!"

Mr. Eakes is more than an ordinary guy, he's a life shaper to the vocalist, and the arts. "My idea is that all the arts exist to express emotions that can't otherwise be expressed through just normal dialogue and music can explore and express some things you just can't say through normal words," Mr. Eakes said.

Featured Art Major: Vocal

Just keep singing

by Cait Brennan

You know that unexplainable feeling when you pass the vocal room and you have the overwhelming need to burst into song right there in the hall and humiliate yourself? Well, I know I do. A sixth grade vocal student, **Christin Darling**, has opened up to tell us the true story behind one of the lucky songbirds attending SOA. What a catch!



Chorus definitely has some great perks. I mean, can you think of anyone that has the privilege of learning so many super cool songs?! Learning "fly" new songs is in fact Christin's favorite part of chorus. In order to warm up for these awesome songs, she must first sing while smoothly moving an octave higher. An-

other way to warm up is singing in the shower. While you wash up, you can warm up! Christin reveals that she has been engulfed in the wonderful world of shower singing. She usually sings random songs she heard the day before. Our very own Christin has exposed a dirty...I mean clean, secret.

Although Miss Darling's time singing in the shower has been a lovely asset to her career here at school, she doesn't believe that she will become a professional singer. But if she were to take this path, she would look to her music idols, Yellowcard, for guidance. She appreciates Yellowcard's music so much that if she were stranded on a desert island and could only bring one thing, it would be their CD. Man, that is some serious fan love.

Christin has been a singer since her first few years of precious life. Even then she drew a crowd. However, her first experience working with other singers was in kindergarten...it is on film. We all have at least one shameful home video of our childhood stashed amongst mounds of "stuff." Can you imagine it? Little Christin singing her little heart out amongst other little rugrats. But then, she easily moved on from the embarrassment we call the kindergarten fiasco. Christin was eager to move on to bigger, better things. And out of the darkness came the first grade choir. And from then on, Christin blossomed into the talented vocalist she is today.

I am sure we are going to hear some great things from Christin the next few years here at SOA. And Christin and I will leave you with some helpful advice...the next time you have that irresistible urge to burst into song... just do it!



Middle School Vocal Majors move to the beat of the music

High School Vocal Major: Taylor Schaberg

by Kathleen Smith

How many years have you been attending SOA?

Six, including this year.

Do you enjoy being a student at SOA?

Yes, because it's a great place to go to school, it is such a close-knit group of people. I love the way students interact with each other. I feel whole here and I'm really happy I'm part of it. I've hung around people from other schools and they are not as interesting as kids from SOA. I like how it's not "cliquey" and how you can talk to anyone.

Do you have any other musical talents?

No, vocal is all I've got. I play a little piano but not enough to be talented in it.

Who are your musical inspirations?

Nathan Matticks, because he is such a strong section leader. I don't know what I would do without him.

How has music changed your life?

It is nice to be a critic and know when other vocal students are screwing up. Also to understand music is a huge morale booster.

Do you plan on using vocal in your career?

I don't know what I want to do when I get older, but hopefully vocal will somehow tie into what I do.

Are you currently involved in any outside activities with your music?

I take piano lessons every Monday, and I'm working on my college piece for the University of Wisconsin.

What do you find most challenging about vocal?

The choreography, I can't ever seem to get it right and everyone gets mad.

What is your least favorite thing about vocal?

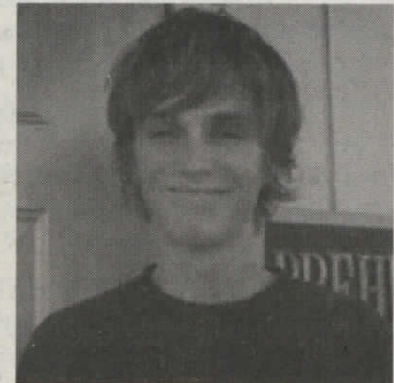
When Mr. Eakes makes the whole class sing the bass part.

What is your favorite thing about vocal?

The feeling I get when we finish a song that we have been working on for a long time, and knowing all that hard work has paid off. Also, it feels great to get together with other students just for the sake of making music.

How did you know vocal was for you?

When I was in the 5th grade, my elementary school put on a play and I had to sing in it. Afterwards everyone was like, "Taylor you have a pretty good voice", so I tried out for SOA for creative writing and vocal. I was sure I would get into creative writing and not vocal but it was actually the complete opposite.



Dr. Michael L. Runey III, D.M.D., M.S.



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Featured Educator

Mme. Emory parle en Anglais

By Omi Naderi

When did you first become interested in French? What led you to develop this passion? At what age were you able to speak it fluently?

I first became interested in French around the age of seven, when I moved to Charleston. I had a neighbor from Normandy who would speak French to me and her children. My father's influence and my desire to communicate with francophones led me to develop this passion. At the age of 14, I went to France for the first time to spend a month in Avignon. It was then that I realized that I could easily communicate with native French speakers. *What made you want to teach, and when did you begin teaching? Have you ever taught at another school?*

I wanted to teach so that I could share my enthusiasm and love for the French language and culture with young people. Bad experiences in my own French classes in middle and high school led me to this decision. I began teaching 5 years ago, in 1999. SOA is the only place I have taught, including my student teaching.

What is the most rewarding aspect of teaching French? What part of the process is most challenging? What keeps you going?

The most rewarding aspect of teaching French is witnessing students' progress and observing their growing appreciation of the language and culture. If I reach one student a year, I feel I have accomplished a great feat. The most challenging part of teaching is encouraging students to use French as much as possible and to recognize the importance of French in a global community while our culture is becoming more and more influenced by Hispanic cultures. What keeps me going are the students at SOA, of course!

What French-speaking country is your favorite (besides France)?

I have no personal experience in other francophone countries, but I have considered the possibility of ministry to Haiti or to francophone countries in West Africa.

If you could change the official language of the U.S. to French, would you?

No, I wouldn't change the official language of the United States. The unifying principle of this country, multi-cultural in origin, is our language-English.

When you lived in France, what was your scariest experience? Were you ever mugged?

My scariest experience while living in France was harassment by North African immigrants (maghrebins) in the city bus. No, I was never mugged.

Which of the following accents do you consider to be more attractive for a man to have: English, Australian, Indian, Italian, or French?

I find all accents charming to some extent.

Do you ever think in French, and if so, is it more than in English?

Yes, I think in French. I even dream in it. There are times French comes more easily to me than English. I could be in the middle of a grammatical explanation in English and the words don't come. I can think of them in French but my English fails me.

If you were to be killed and reincarnated, where would you like to be born?

If I were to be killed and reincarnated, I would like to be born in France, bien sur!

Have you ever wished you could copy and paste your knowledge of French into your students' brains so they could properly understand it?

Yes! It would make my job a lot easier!



Have you ever felt that you were meant to be French, but you were accidentally born American instead?

I have felt at times that I was meant to be French but instead was accidentally born American. During my year abroad in France, my best friend Pierre's mother noticed my discriminating tastes for French wines and cheeses. She said I was more French than her son and continued to say that I must have been French in a previous life!

If you could go back into the past and marry one of the French kings, which one do you think you would most likely marry?

I wouldn't marry a French king; they were all too eccentric for me. I'd be better off staying single.

If you were suddenly faced with the decision of choosing only one language you could speak and understand for the rest of your life which language would you choose: English or French?

The language I would choose would have to be French. I would make this change due to the precision, clarity, logic, sarcasm, sense of humor, literature, culture, and cuisine that can only be expressed in French. Also, in general, the French are not as judgmental as Americans; they are more accepting of personal differences and diverse orientations. In other words, France is a nation of 58 million individuals.

Have you ever wished you could psychically control other people's minds?

No, I would never want to psychically control other people's minds. People's individual differences make the world more interesting.

If you dyed your hair another color, what color would it be (in French)?

Je me teindra les cheveux chatain. (I would dye my hair chestnut/auburn. The French have a different shade of red hair that I have not seen anywhere else. The same goes for their eye color.)

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Book Reviews

The holy review

by Taylor Raffield

"Machines have something humans will always lack: infinite patience and the longevity to support it." With these words, Primero Vorian Atreides sums up the basic plotline for the third novel in the Butlerian Jihad Trilogy, *Dune: The Battle of Corrin*. In this novel, the holy war against the thinking machines has already raged for approximately eighty years. Although in the previous novels the humans had gradually been gaining the advantage, in this novel the machines have a very sudden and inexplicable burst of creativity in their tactics. How and why, the League does not know, and the struggle to free the rest of humanity reaches its zenith.

The two authors of this book, Brian Herbert (son of the Sci-Fi great Frank Herbert) and Kevin J. Anderson, have had much success writing the prequels to the original Dune series (by Frank Herbert). Among the list of national best-sellers in these sets are *Dune: House Atreides*, *Dune: House Harkonnen*, *Dune: The Butlerian Jihad*, and *Dune: The Machine Crusade*. Loyal Frank Herbert fans will be glad to know that, while the writing style is slightly different from that of Frank Herbert, the writing still maintains the vivid, and even harsh, descriptions of places and events.

The writers also force you to care about the characters in this novel. As you read you struggle right along side Vorian Atreides, Abulurd Harkonnen, and even Erasmus (a thinking machine who is, unfortunately, obsessed with humans). You feel the frustration, anger, and remorse that these characters, particularly Vorian, feel towards the politicians of the League Worlds and their inability to finish the war they started.

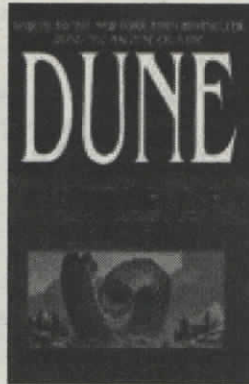
This novel was powerful, and it was an interesting start in to a wonderful series. However, by the end of the book I think I was just as ready for the Jihad to end as the politicians on the League Worlds.

What lies beneath a geisha's white mask?

by Christine Piontek

"Suppose that you and I were sitting in a quiet room overlooking a garden, chatting and sipping at our cups of green tea while we talked about something that had happened a long while ago, and I said to you, 'That afternoon when I met so-and-so... was the very best afternoon of my life, and also was the very worst afternoon.' I expect you might put down your teacup and say, 'Well now, which was it? Was it the best or the worst? Because it can't possibly have been both!' Ordinarily I'd have to laugh at myself and agree with you. But the truth is that the afternoon when I met Mr. Tanaka Ichiro really was the best and the worst of my life. He seemed so fascinating to me, even the fish smell on his hands was a kind of perfume. If I had never

known him, I'm sure I would not have become a Geisha." Chiyo, later known as Sayuri, starts her narrative with this dialogue to the reader. Set in the beginning of World War II in the geisha district of Japan, Arthur Golden's *Memoirs of a Geisha* tells the history of geisha in Japan and the experiences that Sayuri had when she was sold into slavery, became an apprentice and finally one of the most popular geisha in Japan.



Chiyo was a young girl when she was removed from Yorido, her small insignificant fishing village. Always noticed for her unusual blue-gray eyes, she lived a peasant's life with her clumsy sister, 70-year-old father and dying mother. Through misunderstandings and twisted truth, she suddenly finds herself in Gion, the geisha district of Kyoto. Along with wicked, popular geisha, money hungry Okiya mothers and the incredibly handsome Chairman, Chiyo must become and succeed as the geisha Sayuri.

Golden writes a beautifully descriptive story chocked full of imagery that makes it hard to believe it's not an autobiography by Nitta Sayuri herself. Perhaps Golden's education at Harvard, where he specialized in Japanese Art as an undergraduate and Japanese history as a graduate gave him the insight for *Memoirs of a Geisha*, the first book he ever wrote.

Memoirs of a Geisha intertwines themes of hatred, love, jealousy, selfishness, betrayal and survival. Some parts of this book were so sad they made me angry, but Sayuri was always a survivor.

An emotional roller coaster, this novel is definitely the best book I have ever read! It's just one of those books where I couldn't wait to see the ending, and yet I never wanted it to end.

The Perfect Summer- Or is it?

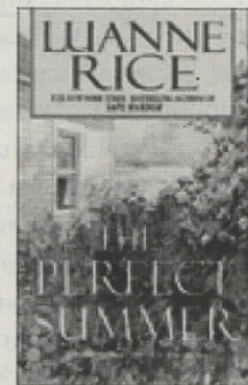
by Amy Green

Imagine a perfect life: the devoted husband, the three well-behaved kids, a best friend across the way, and a house on the beautiful beaches of Maine. Sounds appealing, right? Bay McCabe thinks she has it all in Luanne Rice's *The Perfect Summer*. It turns out Bay could not be more wrong. As she is thanking the Lord for her abundant blessings, her youngest daughter calls to say that Bay's devoted husband Sean has not picked her up from practice.

From this point on, Bay's life begins to spiral out of control in a captivating tale of love and loss, with a hint of mystery underlying the main events. Sean's boat is bloody, and he becomes part of a criminal investigation. Moreover, her kids think he's having yet another affair, and the police say that Sean may have been murdered. As the plot thickens, Bay's character develops. She is a strong woman, and efficiently continues to maintain a fairly normal lifestyle.

Rice creates tension through the use of suspense throughout the novel, for the reader never knows what the next twist in Bay's life will be and how she will "keep her cool." The book also gives the reader a touch of feeling for Bay, and what she must be going through in this time when the one she loves has been taken from her, and the fact that she knows his actions could result in the death of another. "They killed Sean," Bay whispered in shock over the revelation, the confirmation that her husband had been murdered...But more intense, immediate, was a growing terror for Eliza's life."

Luanne Rice, the New York times bestselling author of *Safe Harbor*, hooks the reader early on, and enthralls the reader throughout the book. Rarely does the plot slacken to a tempo the reader can resist. *The Perfect Summer* has a theme that everything will work out in the end, despite the challenges life throws at people. *The Perfect Summer* is a must-read for female readers or anyone else interested in a riveting tale of love and loss.



Editorials

America was Bushwhacked!

By Kathleen Smith

I may be only 16 and not old enough to vote, but I feel the United States made a terrible mistake. On November 3rd, 2004, at 2 pm, President Bush declared his victory and began to serve his 2nd term. 48% of Americans who voted against Bush must be shuddering at four more years, 1460 days, 48 months, 2,102,400 minutes of his leading our country: towards more terror, war, debt, and prejudice.

Americans need a President who can bring people together, but it seems that Bush and the Republican party's strategy is to divide the nation, and I see no sign of stopping either. President Bush and the Republican Party used morality to separate Americans. Traditionally, Republicans favored a restricted government role in social life. When did this change? The Republican Party's inconsistency is well illustrated by President Bush's support of the constitutional amendment banning same sex marriages. Why would the Republicans care what Americans do in their own lives if it is not illegal or hurting anyone? Who are they to deny a marriage license to a couple in love just because they are not a man and a woman? President Bush and the Republican Party are terrified of anything different and afraid of change.

President Bush barely beat John Kerry, but should not the President have won by a large number of votes? After all, he did have the four previous years to prove himself. Republicans use fear to gain ground with the very people their policies hurt the most, the blue-collar, hourly worker. Health care costs are through the roof, jobs have been lost to overseas workers, the hourly wage has stagnated and yet, the blue collar undereducated worker ran to the safety net the republicans cast as they railed against the immorality of same sex marriage, a women's right to choose, and fetal stem cell research.

Although the election is over, I cannot move on and accept Bush and the Republican agenda for another four years. I will be able to vote in the next presidential election, and I hope to sustain the passion that the Democratic Party's agenda of inclusion inspired and hit the campaign trail with a vengeance in 2008.



Media is too biased

by Stephen Carlock

Every morning I wake up and turn on my television to watch the news. I view my local stations and maybe the "Today Show"--an acclaimed broadcast. When I come home I watch "Dateline" and "60 Minutes," all with well-known reporters. Why do I watch the news so regularly? Simple really I crave facts, information about the world around me that describes events likely to impact my day. With these facts I'm able to figure out how I can handle a certain situation and develop my own opinions about the progression of current events. I have always been able to trust what these investigative reporters have told me to be the truth, but lately a new trend has become apparent--reporters using air time to voice their own opinions on the subject at hand, my air time. Media as a whole is becoming so sensationalized that it is sometimes difficult to discern fact from personal opinions; this is not the media I expect to see--leave the on air debates to their own time slots. When I turn on the television, I want to see real news, hard, raw, unobscured facts.

After talking to some journalism majors, I have come to understand a cause for what is taking place in the media world: they say, "The media has to change with the viewers, give them what they want; it is, after all, how a program stays on the air. Viewers currently want more gossip, political rumors/conspiracy, etc. Media is not becoming oversensationalized, the world is; Media is simply following along as it always has." Reasonable enough I understand that ratings are what keeps a show--even a news broadcast--on the air, but are news stations going to continue to sacrifice fact filled air-time just because of this? The way I see it, media has to provide something for everyone, but they still have an obligation to provide straightforward facts. If the current trend turns out to be a semi-permanent one, I'll soon feel as though I'm watching a group of gossipy teens discussing how the world is going to fall apart in the next few years every time. Overopinionated journalism, and news anchors are considered journalists, is a waste of time and can often lead to misinformation for those who do choose to continually tune in. For example, a few mornings ago, before the election of George Bush as our current president, I tuned in to two different stations--large stations, which I won't mention specifically--only to find that each one was giving out different information about who would win each state. Personally, I don't care until the final, real result is in.

Giving me more than is necessary will do nothing but confuse. In short, when you give me important information like election results, give me only numbers, straight from the source of information. Mass journalism is a wonderful tool, and television is a wonderful way to share opinions, just try not to mix them up so much, please?

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News and Editorials

Seventh Graders visit Barrier Islands

by Victoria Bachan

On November 1st the seventh graders went to Barrier Islands for a hands on scientific experience. Everyday we would take different classes. The classes included "It Skinks," "Need A Friend," "Seining," "Let's Sea," and "Astronomy." The most anticipated and fun class was "Let's Sea," a class where we learned about beach erosion and exactly what a barrier island is.

"It Skinks" was a class about reptiles and amphibians discussing their similarities and differences. "Need a Friend" tested everyone's trust and faith in one another. The challenges included lifting your friend above a six foot wall. "Seining" taught us how to take a very large net (40ft to 60ft long) and catch different sea life. We also took a trip down the Water Moccasin Trail which took us deep into a forest to see different plants and animals where a deer and a snake visited us. Last but not least, we went in the mud pit, and the smell kept me awake all night.

At night we did different activities including star gazing, hiking, campfires, and games. The astronomy class included a lesson about the universe, the



Doin' the crab walk.

Milky Way and the planets. The most interesting night trail included a lesson about night vision, animal sounds, and more. The night campfire and games were a lot of fun, especially the shoe relay where we put all of our shoes in a big pile and ran across a field, found and put on our shoes, then put our head on top of a baseball bat, walked around in a circle ten times, and ran back to our team. When we went to the campfire we sang songs like "Boom Chika Boom" and "Singing in the Rain."

Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end. We left Barrier Islands on November 3rd. We packed up all of their stuff and hopped on the bus for a long bus ride back to school. The trip was a lot of fun and all of the seventh graders would like to thank all of the teachers and chaperones for making this trip possible.

Jim Demented

By Omi Naderi

The outcome of the heated senatorial race between Jim DeMint and Inez Tenenbaum illustrates the saddening values of South Carolinians.

In the final hours of November 2, 2004, I watched in disgust as the percentage of votes for Jim DeMint climbed past Inez Tenenbaum, until he had finally defeated his opponent. My conviction that the majority South Carolinians would object to bigotry in today's modern world—especially in a leader—was shattered. Do most who live in the Palmetto State find it acceptable for their senator to have hatred towards an entire group of people? Apparently, 54% of the state does.

Had Jim DeMint stated that gays should not be allowed to teach at public schools in a more progressive state, he would have more than likely lost the election. He wouldn't have had a chance, especially after adding that teachers who are unwed pregnant mothers should also be fired.

With statements like that, how can one know what else he thinks? What other groups does he feel, though not stating publicly, as being lesser Americans unworthy of the fundamental rights of freedom? Does the list end with gays and unwed mothers? What does he think about non-Christians, such as atheists, Jews, and Muslims? What about minorities, Asians, Hispanics, and Blacks? What about you?

In the world of today, such narrow-minded views as DeMint's expressing discrimination and prejudice should not be tolerated under any circumstances. Although DeMint apologized for his statements (with an unknown level of sincerity) the content of his character was displayed—something that no amount of apologizing can make up for. Regardless of however good or bad his political agenda may be, his bigotry is a single factor that deems him unsuitable for serving in the US Senate, especially in the 21st century, a time of widespread social equality. Why? Because America is founded on principles of liberty and justice for all, and a man who cannot understand these principles, who wishes to deny equal treatment among all that he represents in the state, has no business in such a high office. Such a man is un-American.

I hope that South Carolina does not come to be viewed as a regressive, backwards state, but is it? The election does not help prove otherwise. Yes, South Carolina is an overwhelmingly republican state, but we need to look past the borders of political parties and see into the candidates themselves. If the majority of South Carolina voted for DeMint because he represented their values, I am truly sad and embarrassed to live in a state with these people. But I have faith in the goodness of South Carolinians.

If you hold any prejudices against any group of people because of their race, religion, or sexual orientation, shame on you. Change. We are one nation, indivisible, under God—let us act like it.

I will say this though: because DeMint got elected, I hope he can be as good a senator as possible and serve South Carolina well.

Applause Celebrates Five Years

Five years ago today, *Applause* published its first issue, a twelve-page, black and white edition. The cover story welcomed Mr. Shaw and Mr. Davis as our assistant principals. Chandler Jenrette was the editor during the 1999-2000 school year. Over the course of thirty-seven issues, other editors have included Jacqueline Glover (2000-2001), Kelly Blohme & Ian O'Shea (2001-2002), Cody Palmer (2002-2003), Emory Frazier (2003-2004), and our current editors, Casey O'Neill & Ben Forney.



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Features

'Tis the Season

By Cait Brennan

Close your eyes and imagine (just go with me on this) that you are a child, uninformed and vulnerable. You have parents that are not worthy of their title, and your bruises are still throbbing from your last visit home. Love is a word so distant that you can barely grasp the meaning. You are alone. Eagle Harbor Home is just the place for children forced into hideous situations like these. This place gives a loving environment to abused, neglected, or homeless boys. The directors of Eagle Harbor Home, Danny Gilbert and his wife Liz, worked as house parents for four years with a similar facility in Gadsden, Alabama. However, they decided that starting a boys home in Charleston was their true calling. You are probably wondering how a person can just pack up, leaving everything they know, and venture into the unknown. Mr. Gilbert and his family did not just leave their home they sacrificed everything they owned. When I say everything, I mean everything, money, security, the works. It got me thinking, could I give up everything to help people I have never met? Danny says that he knew in his heart this was his calling, and he was not satisfied until it was fulfilled. Dive into his story of hope and giving... 'Tis the season.

Danny made this transition sound as simple as clipping your fingernails, however, after speaking with people that have worked on the project with him, I found otherwise. The dream has actually been a long time coming for Danny and his family. It took him four years of endless work and preparation to build on his idea. For example, a few of the things he had to overcome within those four years were finding sponsors willing to fund his ideas, getting the necessary licenses, hiring a board of directors, interviewing house parents, searching for just the right location, and struggling to remember to breathe was always a tiring activity as well. After four years of hiring and signing forms for everything under the sun, the dream was a reality. Soon after all the forms, the fun stuff was found patiently waiting behind door number one. The first home was built. The house parents and their families moved in, and soon after three boys were enrolled into Eagle Harbor Home. By the end of this year, their first year, the home will be filled with eight boys, all of which will work together to learn to love.

Mr. Gilbert has arranged the homes so that the boys have a close to normal life. A typical day would include breakfast, chores, school, a family dinner, and a short devotional before bed. As in most homes, privileges come with age. The older boys in Eagle Harbor are welcome to get jobs and go on dates in their free time, or go along with the younger boys to explore the vast 80 acres of Summerville bliss. On these 80 acres, there is plenty to do, such as splashing around in the glistening 5.5 acre lake, venturing through the classic barn, breaking a sweat on the basketball courts and baseball field, or getting your game on in the REC room. New facilities are being planned and built as funds become more accessible. "I have BIG plans I believe the sky is the limit. We hope to end up with a larger piece of land and over thirty homes." An optimistic attitude is needed in such work; sometimes it is all you have, and sometimes it is all you need. One reason Mr. Gilbert has such wonderful plans for Eagle Harbor is that when he visited two other homes for children in the Charleston area, he was "appalled by the condition of the facilities and offended by the staff." My interviewee explains that the house parents make all the difference between Eagle Harbor and the other homes in the area. "The parents at Eagle Harbor offer structure, direction, and unconditional love, while the other homes use shift workers who take no accountability in their children's

lives." Taking a little trip through some other homes was a fantastic eye opener. It allowed Danny to see exactly what he did not want to happen to Eagle Harbor. It gave him the chance to give more, to improve.

The most rewarding thing about Danny's work would have to be



"seeing the life of a child changed because I believed in a dream." He told me a shocking story that is a perfect example of just such a change. The eldest boy of Eagle Harbor asked to stay up a little later one night to watch a movie with the other boys in the house. Every child fell asleep to the sweet humming lullaby of the television and the house father began to carry each one to his bed. The oldest child, small

for his age, pretended to still be sleeping, and so the house father also carried him to bed and caringly tucked them all in. A few minutes later, the house mother gently crept into the black room and in a hushed voice asked if he was alright. He replied, "I just wanted to see what it was like to be put to bed. In my whole life no one has carried me to bed or tucked me in, and I just wanted to see what that was like." The people of Eagle Harbor take broken children, such as this, and give them the chance to become the people they aspire to be. It gives them the chance to feel a love they have never experienced.

For some boys, this Christmas will be their first Christmas with an actual family. Danny has made sure that it will be one to put in the scrapbooks. He arranged it so that each child has a sponsor that will help in purchasing his gifts. One local business in particular has planned to raise enough money to buy a new van to transport the children. Who knew the Hooters employees were so generous? I'm sure that much thanks goes out to all who will help make this holiday season filled with toy trains, candy canes, and brand new undergarments.

You know that feeling when you completely lose hope in the human race, and you think that there is no one that can change your mind...well the next time you feel this way, think back to this article about a man with the courage to follow his dreams and a heart of pure gold.



Let's Eat!

SOA Global Studies teacher, Mr. Orvin, and friend show off two GIGANTIC wahoos which they landed about 50 miles offshore. Mr. Orvin would not comment on what he used for bait; however, an empty desk was noticed in one of his freshmen classes...

Miscellaneous

Horoscopes

by Cait Brennan

Capricorn- Painting your fingernails red and green will get you out of that grouchy mood.

Aquarius- Run home to your mama when you see large chunks of ice hurling towards your head.

Pisces- Santa is watching you. Beware.

Aries- Eat some tofu this Christmas and give your tree a hug.

Taurus- You and your sister will have some great bonding time if you agree to make glitter pine cones with her.

Gemini- I know you hate relatives bearing brand new underwear, but maybe they will come in handy.

Cancer- Snow is in your future...or is that whip cream?

Leo- When you go on that ski trip, be sure to watch for pine trees and big orange signs.

Virgo- Your doodling is out of control. Put it to good use and make someone very happy.

Libra- Think before you dive into a lake covered in ice.

Scorpio- Bring the needy some lasagna. They will feel better, you will feel better.

Sagittarius- Perhaps figure skating is not the sport for you...put some cold pork chops on your bruises.

Opportunities

By: Cait Brennan

Since the month of December is all about giving, I decided it would be a good idea to find some fantastic volunteer opportunities for the youth of the Lowcountry (that's you). Make this season a season to put in the scrapbooks...VOLUNTEER!

Children's Museum of the Lowcountry- Enhance your life and the lives of children in your community by volunteering at this museum. In this environment children learn, play, and grow. To volunteer you must have four free hours a month and you must be 12 years or older. Volunteers must go through training, an interview, and an orientation. If you have an interest in helping children learn, then this is the job for you. For more information contact Ayoka Lucas, the Volunteer and Public Relations Coordinator at (843)853-8962 or email at ayoka@explorecml.org.

Crisis Ministries- The Crisis Ministries' Soup Kitchen serves over 200 lunches each day to anyone who is hungry. The Soup Kitchen is a necessity for the needy in the community. Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve lunches. You must call ahead for scheduling purposes. Volunteers are especially needed on Fridays. For more information visit 573 Meeting Street from 9:00 to 12:30pm.

East Cooper Habitat for Humanity- This program is for the homeless in your community. It provides a loving home for people who can not afford one on their own. Volunteers are needed for everything from answering the phones and filing to actually building the homes. If you are interested please visit 1558 Ben Sawyer Boulevard.

Local Churches- Many churches in your area are sure to have more great ideas for volunteering. Food drives, clothing drives, or toy drives are great ways to help the needy. Don't know what to buy? Some places can even give you a specific item to purchase. I'm sure you will find a volunteer project just for you.

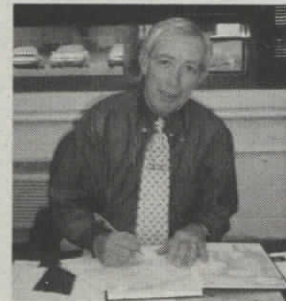
No more excuses, get out there and spread the smiles!

The 3D's

by Rachel Maguire and Kathleen Smith

We know that you are the assistant principal of an Arts School, but Cameron Funderburk was curious: Do you have any artsy talents up your sleeve?

Well girls, the GOOD LORD didn't bless me with any talents really. I love to watch all of the children perform and display the talent or talents they possess. All of you inspire me to do more things like you do. I did, however play handbells at my church for five years and I love to shag; after all it is our state's dance. Also, when I was a young lad I played piano, but I can't anymore.



Keep up the good work students, you are all very lucky to have these talents and lucky to have the opportunity to work with them and show them off at such a great school.

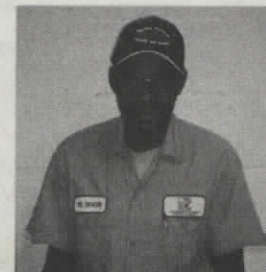
Again on their quest to find out all possible to find out about three fine employees of the Charleston County School of the Arts, Kathleen and Rachel head to the cafeteria. Since we asked Mrs. Darlene her favorite dish to prepare for our wonderful students in last month's issue, we decided that for this month we would ask her what her favorite things to cook at home are.

Well, I cook on the weekends and on holidays or special occasions, but during the week my husband is out of town and it is just me and my 13-month old son John. I usually order -in, take-out, or make TV dinners like frozen pizza or fish sticks. John is easy to handle because he is so young and can only handle certain foods.



The holiday spirit is in SOA's air, and Christmas is just around the corner. Everyone is getting caught with the Christmas cheer, even our very own Mr. Dawson. So for this special December issue we decided to ask, "What are you plans for the Christmas holiday?"

"Well Ms. Kathleen and Ms. Rachel I plan on spending time with my family, going to church, and thanking God for being alive. Oh and thanking God for



our vice principal, Ms. Caldwell.

**Register now for Classes at
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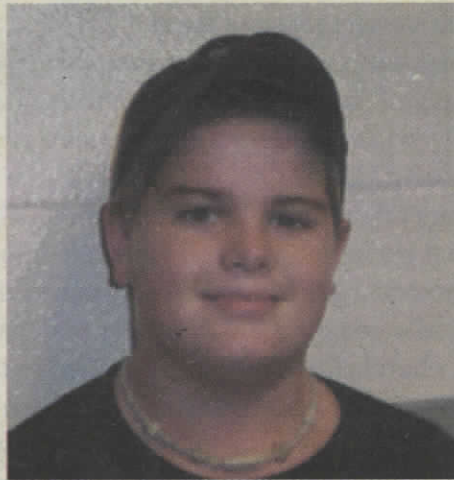
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Question of the Month



"I would give the gift of being able to give... Wait, I'm not that sweet! A 20 foot rubber band."

Nick Rindge
6th grade Creative Writing



"I would like to have a house on Edisto Beach."

Mr. Kreft
7th grade Writing Teacher



"I would like to have my very own recording studio!"

Sara Houser
12th grade Piano



"I want a portable DVD player so that I can watch movies where ever I want."

Alexandria Gibbs
7th grade Dance

What would be the perfect gift?



"I would like a car alarm so that no one will be able to break into my car, and a giraffe."

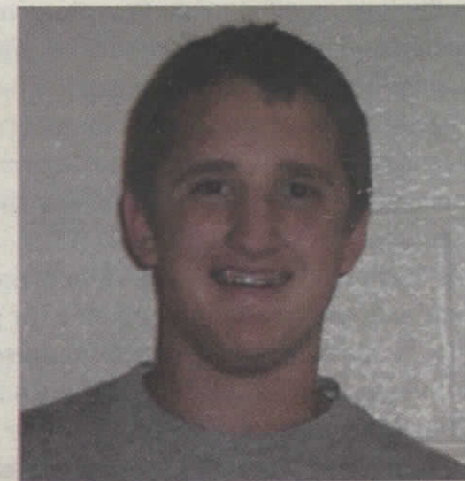
Grace Davis
11th grade Visual Arts



"A naked monkey."
Kris Stanley
8th grade Theatre



"I would like money so that I could buy a Corvette!"
Ashley Esposito
9th grade



"Driving lessons for my brother, so that he will not endanger my life any longer!"
Elliott Matticks
10th grade Vocal