

Applause

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Charleston County School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC

January 2005



"You Can Dance If You Want To"



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



Dear Readers,

I hope that you had a wonderful holiday break and a happy new year. We have lots of great features this month, including a look into the lives of two middle school piano majors and an in depth look at the many dance groups our students are involved in. We hope you enjoy this issue so much that you can't put it down. Don't forget to take a look at the word search on page

11 and have fun making this paper into a hat! Keep warm during the cold days ahead and have a good new year.

Casey O'Neill

Cover photo of dancer Lane Elsey by Jonathan Squires
Quote by: Men Without Hats, "Safety Dance"

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New Year, New Me...Not Really.

by Cait Brennan

10,9,8,7,6,5,4,3,2,1! HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Ah, the New Year, a time to refurbish, restart, and rearrange, right? Perhaps that is the Webster's Dictionary way of putting it. However, for most, this holiday is all about racking your brain until a New Year's Resolution pops out from behind the curtain. I've found that the most popular resolutions are about giving up chocolate cold turkey or just becoming a better person overall-you know, something innovative like that. I started off the New Year right by attending First Night in our very own Downtown Charleston. While I meandered the jam-packed streets I people-watched until my heart was content. While doing so, I could not help but notice the zeal to find the perfect resolution hung heavily in the air, amongst other things, like the loud "chit chattering" of the crowd, the occasional "toot-toot" of a long, red horn, and the ever popular "snap, crackle, pop!" of brilliant fireworks. As I passed one particular group of oddly dressed folk, I overheard their conversation. Quite frankly, their discussion was as odd as their clothing. "Well, my resolution is to become the first emperor of the moon. Beat that Jackson!" I whizzed past the group in high hopes of avoiding the obviously rough 'n' tough competitors. Continuing my little walk, I began thinking of little instances like that that occurred throughout the wee hours of the night. I scrunched up my face in concentration and I began to feel a wonderful epiphany take over! Then, it hit me...the whole nit-picky business of finding a New Year's Resolution is completely ridiculous! I mean, no matter how much we hope and pray and click our heels together, we will never truly get a whole new fresh start, especially not overnight, it's preposterous. After the fireworks, the yelling, the screaming, and a few unmentionables, we all return to our old conflicts, our old way of life, which is perfectly fine and dandy. Raise your hand if the New Year's Resolution you made in 2003 held strong until the end of 2004. Can you even remember the goal you set for yourself? Come on people, why give another reason for your blood pressure to rise over something as minuscule as searching for a New Year's goal you will most likely forget. I think the most we can do is decide to dive back into our old routine knowing that we had a great New Year's. So, there you go. And, Jackson, if you're reading, it's gonna be pretty tough to beat being emperor of the moon, but good luck with that, buddy.



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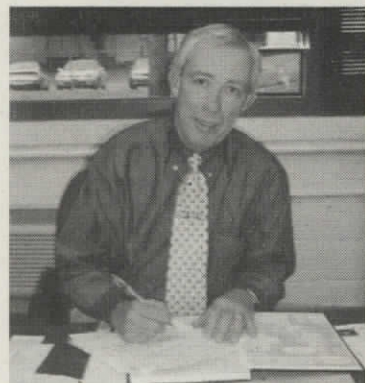


News and Features

The 3D's

by Kathleen Smith and Rachel Maguire

Since the new year has just arrived, we figure it's time to make a fresh start. So if any SOA students are wondering what they can do to make our school a better environment, we asked **Mr. Davis**, "If you could improve things at SOA, what would they be?"



Mr. Davis

As far as discipline is concerned, 99.5% of our students are well behaved but the other .5% needs to understand that they are at school to get an education and our job is to turn the students into very productive individuals. Also students need to learn to be tolerant, sensitive, respectful, and honest to their peers and adults. Students need to be more careful and aware of their surroundings when throwing the football and frisbee at lunch. We have a lot of litterbugs

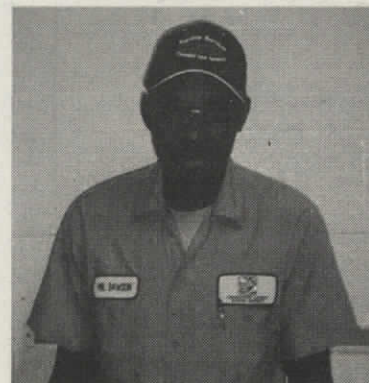
here at school, mostly high school drivers who throw trash in the parking lots. We have placed trash cans all over the school's campus, so there is no reason why trash should be on the ground. Middle school students are writing and drawing graffiti all over the bathroom walls, and the school is having to paint over the walls all the time.

Since we have just reached the year 2005, we figured the cafeteria staff would whip up some new dishes for you to devour. **Rachel and Kathleen** are on **Ms. Darlene's** tail again asking her, "Are there going to be any new food items added to the cafeteria's menu in the new year?"

Yes, we are adding new food items to our cafeteria, such as pizza sticks that will be served for breakfast. The pizza sticks give the students bread and protein for their day at school. Also we will be trying to serve cheese quesadillas in our a la carte room (where the pizza and chicken are sold) for .75 cents. We hope the students will come by and try our new food ideas.

All day we see you rushing about, busy like a bee. It is evident that you play a big part in our school's maintenance department. Hot on the trail, Kathleen and Rachel track down **Mr. Dawson** to find out how he keeps himself busy all morning. So we ask: "What is a typical morning like for you?"

I get up at about 5:30 and I get here around 6:00. Opening all the doors takes me about thirty minutes, and I make sure everything is up and running. Afterwards, I get a cup of coffee with Mr. Davis and we talk for a little while. He's a God sent man, I want to call him a preacher, but he doesn't have that collar around his neck.



Mr. Dawson

SOA's school report card: "Straight A's"

by Noelle Williams

SOA has achieved an absolute rating of excellent on its school report card. For the year 2004, SOA had 98.1 percent of students pass the HSAP and 100 percent of students successfully complete the exit exam. The graduation rate for this year is 98.9, higher than the 87.1 percent that high schools like ours are expected to have. According to the school report card, SOA is making adequate yearly progress and the improvement rating has upgraded from good to excellent. Some of the recent improvements that may have caused this change are increased instructional time in English Language Arts at the middle school level to 500 minutes per week, creating a more inviting atmosphere in the media center, and continuing the development and refinement of the fine arts programs. The amount of teachers with advanced degrees has also increased, as well as continuing contract teachers, and the number of parents attending conferences. Overall, SOA met all nine objectives for progress towards the 2010 SC performance goal which states that SC student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally.

A world of holidays

by Noelle Williams

Ms. Tisdale's annual holiday party has taken a new twist. Instead of having a simple Christmas feast, Ms. Tisdale decided to have a cultural celebration of the holiday. All of her U. S. history students did a personal investigation of their cultural background by asking their parents and grandparents about their heritage prior to the party. They collected recipes and general information about the food eaten during winter holidays. Afterwards, each student prepared a dish and brought it to class for the celebration. There was a large variety of food and different types of food for each class. The types of dishes ranged from sauerkraut, a German recipe, to meringues which are Spanish cookies.



From left: Forrest Magraw, Lindsey Gallagher, Maggie Hendricks, Nicole Darden, Hope Sims, and Chelsea Richardson

*Roses are Red,
Violets are Blue,
Carnations are Cheap,
So Buy One or Two!*

The National Honor Society is selling carnations beginning on January 26th during lunch. Buy them for your special friend, and your Valentine's Day will be full of excitement.

Features

Excercise 101: 2005

by Stephen Carlock

With the new year comes resolutions, and often, one or more of these will center around you health. In an effort to get you jump-started on the road to a healthier body, here are some beginner work out tips.

Diet: The Key to Success

Don't believe any of the fad diets you see floating around out there, balancing your meals to attain preferred caloric intake (2-3000 per day) is not enough, you have to eat the proper foods to do so. This means consuming protein, fiber, and yes, carbohydrates. Many of the recent diet crazes tell you not to consume carbs, but this is a horrible mistake. Carbohydrates are the fuel for your body, what gets you through the day and gives you the energy to keep moving. If you cut off carbs, you cut off this natural fuel, and your body will begin to consume proteins from your muscles to compensate. The best advice I can give is to consult a doctor or trustworthy friend who knows what they are talking about before setting up your diet.

Start Small:

The most important idea to keep in mind when you first start exercising, with weights, or otherwise, do not try to be 'all you can be'--this is not the time to show off to your friends, or to the people exercising around you (if you are in this environment). As with all things, it takes practice, and experience, to be able to push yourself to a safe 'edge.' When running, build yourself up to a long period of time; when lifting weights, stick with 60-70% of your maximum weight for a while. Learn, through these easy movements, what your body can and cannot take. It might seem like a waste of time, but it's the safest route.

Here is a small workout, to get those couch potatoes started on the track to fitness. This is viable for male and female athletes alike. When planning workouts, you must pay attention to days, and to their content. Allow at least 48 hours between exercise routines to promote muscle growth/healing. Work 4-5 days per week, with cardio thrown in the mix.

Beginner's workout: (Cardio, 10 minute warm up, and 15+ minute workout afterword, each day)

| Day: | Body part: |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| Sunday | Chest, Shoulders |
| Monday | Legs |
| Tuesday | REST |
| Wednesday | Back, Biceps, triceps |
| Thursday | Abdominals |
| Friday | REST |
| Saturday | REST |

Body Part (Exercises):

Chest: Bench-press (3 sets of 10-15 reps), push-ups (3 sets of 10-25, or as many as you can)

Back: Pulldown--with 'lat' machine (3 sets of 10-15 reps), dumbbell rows (3 sets of 10-12 reps)

Legs: Lunges (3 sets of 10-25)*, Dumbbells calf-raises (3 sets of 10-15)*, bicycle (also cardio)

Shoulders: Dumbbell press (3 sets of 10-15), Barbell press (3 sets of 10-15)

Biceps/Triceps: Barbell Curl (4 sets of 10-12), Dumbbell Curls (3 sets of 10-12), Overhead dumbbell extensions (3 sets of 10-15), tricep pressdowns.

Abdominals: Sit-ups (4 sets of 12-25, or however many you can muster), Crunches (sets of 10-25, or however many you can do.) Be careful when performing these movements; keep your head straight, and back as well.

**For More information on this subject you can consult many sites online (make sure they are credible), or, if you would like, my e-mail is DarkaneProphetX@aol.com--I always accept e-mails.

Looking for love?



Do you enjoy Spanish omelettes consisting of potatoes, onions, eggs, salt, and olive oil? Do you dream of a guy who can appreciate the stupidity and recklessness of Homer Simpson? Well then **Diego** is the man for you, and he's looking for love. If your best features are your eyes and you're sensitive enough to be able to use them to cry with Diego, then you could be that special someone. Interested? Well then give him a call at: 813-6549.

Lindsay Funderburk is wishing for a tall, dark, handsome...and intellectual man as her Valentine's date. She enjoys long walks on the beach and jammin' to Bob Marley. So if you think you could be her match, give her a call at 442-6531.



The Dancing Dendrologist

by Lane Elsey

Few know that dancer Lane Elsey is also an esteemed dendrologist. Learn about trees from Lane.



The scientific name of the live oak tree is Quercus Virginiana. To spot one look for a large tree, it grows up to 40-80 feet tall and it will be one of the only trees that keeps its leaves in the winter. It's also known as the southern shade tree, so if you're looking for some shade on those sunny days, look for a live oak.

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Student Poetry Acrostics

In an acrostic the first letter of each line forms a word or phrase. Thank you to Ms. Henry's students for submitting these poems.

Sundance

by Raven Gadsden

Somewhere away from here, we can dance
Under unending sunshine and clear skies
Noticing only each other
Denying the chance to return to
A reality where we could be apart of a
Negative, judgmental world
Centered only on themselves. I'd rather dance for
Eternity with you.



Great Passion

by Shanequa West

Pleasure explodes in my soul
And my heart which is
So full of love and excitement
Savors a tender new love and,
I have learned when you are full
Of great happiness,
Never question the wonderful things in life.



Untitled

Aubrey Isaacson

Attachment to your desires, and
Call out for help. These
Continuous regrets still haunting.
Expand those words,
Plummeting into this dream...
Tedious Work, but they still
Inherit this
Never-ending-song-
Grateful for the mistakes they've made.



Novels

by Sam Whitley

New Ideas and
Original
Views are
Each on
Leaves of paper
Stuck in a book.



Running to Forget

by Amber Krasae

Running to forget
Endangers the healing process; so naturally
Finding
Lost feeling would
Equalize the scales of life so that we may
Come
To understand the path that we must take. So keep your
Internal feelings in a journal far away from
Venturing
Eyes



Untitled

by Catie Donnelly

For a time you will wade,
Amongst your own despair.
Letting your arms and legs flail about.
Leaving
Insanity altogether
Never will you embrace earth again, for you are
Gone without a trace.



Ellipses

by Katie Vinson

Ends are always
Like sugar covered tears
Leaking down the moons face, like
Idioms for the wise, while the
Poor minded pen maxims,
Shall they eat cake, with no bread?
Erupting without passion is lonely,
So go collect the morning paper from the dewy steps.



Untitled

Francisco Figueroa

Because we share the same mother the
Love I have for you I have for no other.
Over and over we'll fight, but
Over and over we laugh about it. Only till the
Day when our blood stops flowing will our brotherly love end.



Contemplate This: Thoughts on 2005

by Omi Naderi

What will come into our lives with the new year of 2005 AD? What will be the state of the world as the clock approaches midnight during the final moments of December 31, 2005? So much will happen on a personal and global level throughout the year. Between the time we awoke on January 1, 2004 and partied late at night on New Year's Eve, the world underwent uncountable acts of violence and kindness, the birth and death of millions of humans and animals, and the occurrence of events that will shape the future in dramatic and trivial ways—all while the sun peacefully appeared and disappeared in the horizon on 366 occasions, the only constant in the leap year. And as we peer into vastness of unrecorded time that is 2005, we can expect the same to happen, but in a different, unknown format. For along with the expected is the unexpected, which is a source of anticipation for all. Questions arise in our minds as we ponder that which is uncertain.

How will you change throughout the year? How much wisdom will you gain? What will you learn? All who survived 2004 can testify to having changed to some degree, for no human can withstand the effects of a year and remain the same. Of all the many who will pass from this world in 2005, will one of them be someone you love? Will it be you? Survival is not a guarantee, even for the young; it is a privilege to live another year. What new people will you meet, and will any among them become your friend? How many relationships will end, and how many will begin? But most of all, we can gladly await the many good times of joy and

(continued page 10)

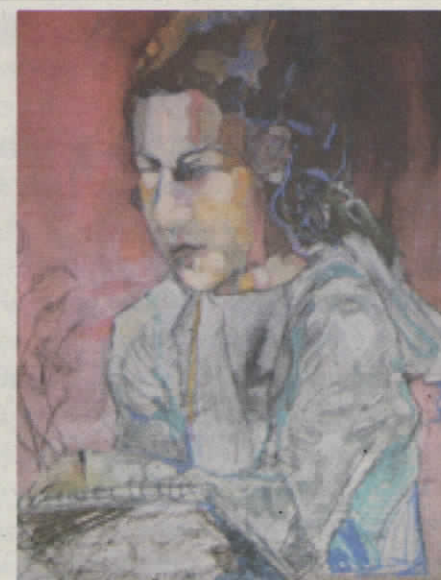
Student Art



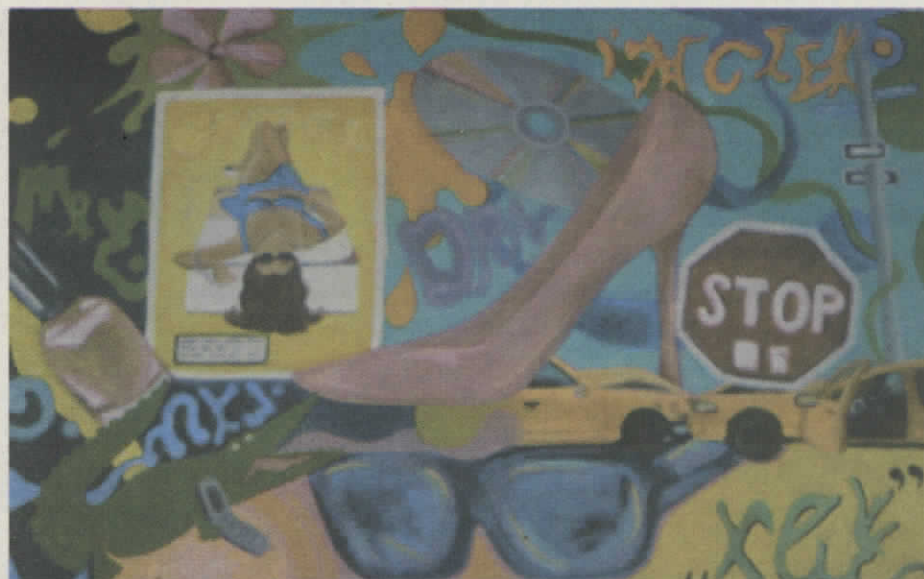
Trey Williams
12th grade



Alex Corsaro
9th grade



Sarah Haynes
12th grade



Meredith Eads
11th Grade



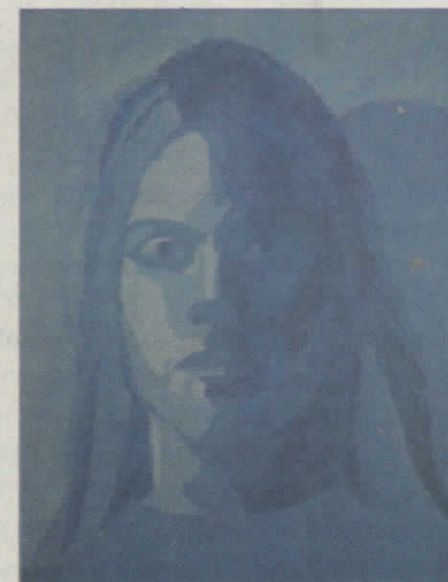
Johnny Knight
11th grade



Grace Davis
11th grade



Addie Brown
11th Grade



Eliza Morrison
9th grade

SOA News

To the next level....

by Kathleen Smith



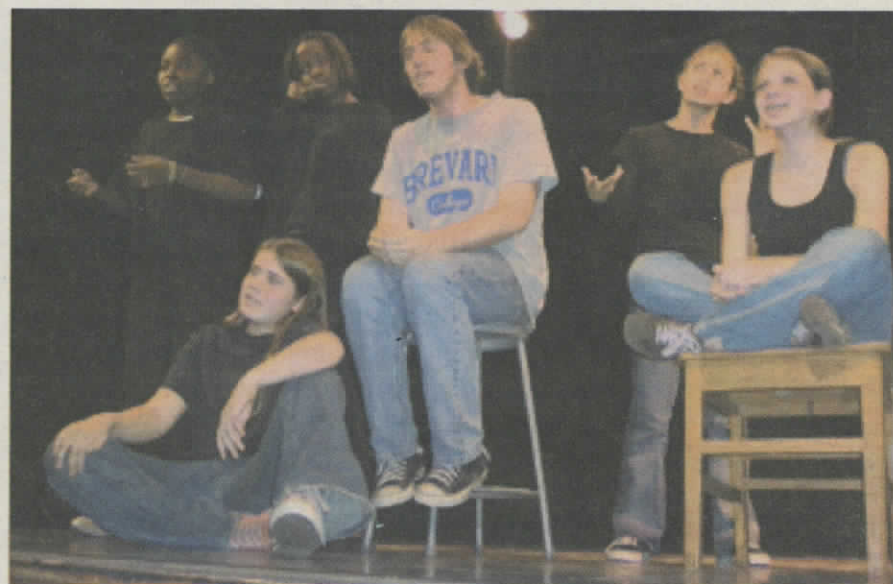
If you have been strolling through the Berry building recently you probably have seen the 2005 senior wall that is in progress. After deliberating, the senior class decided to focus on retro video games, such as Pac Man, Super Mario Bros., and Donkey Kong. Sorry you video game nerds, but you won't be seeing any Halo or Zelda on this wall. "These are the video games of our time, that we would rush home to everyday after school to play when we were younger," senior **Shannon Gaetke** said. The slogan of this wall, "To the next level," represents that the seniors will be moving on to the next stage of their life. The senior class hopes to be finished with the wall by early February and would be very grateful for help from any of the seniors. From the looks of this special wall, graduates of 2005 will not be forgotten and we will be missing the seniors as they move on to the next level.



The last convocation of 2004

by LaToya Smith

Another convocation. Another gathering of great minds. Another showcase of raw and fine talent. The pictures below show **Lane Elsey**, **Lindsay Funderburk**, **Michael Robinson**, **Rachel Patrick**, and **Jocelyn Roper** interpreting "Fidelity" through their original movements. Just below that is **Jessie McGynty** tickling the ivory keys for her peers. The theatre majors: **Maggie Jo Saylor**, **Diedre Buck**, **Tiera Miller**, **Jake Hennesey**, **Ally Bing**, and **Gabby Teranova** all show how improv is supposed to be done. Thanks to all of our performers for another great convocation!



Photos by LaToya Smith



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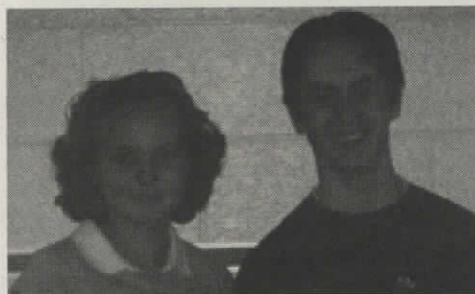


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Features

Dear Brandi and Stephen . . .



Anonymous writes: I have a problem concerning my future; I'm really good at certain subjects in school that, if I followed them to college, could possibly render me a high-paying job. However, I really don't enjoy these subjects. Should I follow what I am good at, or some other profession that I would really love?

Dear Anonymous,

This is a very common concern in college-bound people, and a good one to have. Where you go in college could ultimately decide for you the style of living you will have for the rest of your life. In a world that relies more heavily on the economy now than ever before, it is imperative that you find a financially stable career. For many, this will mean sacrificing their short-term happiness for a more comfortable life 'after the fact.' You really have to weigh the possibilities heavily; on one hand you have the option of setting up a near-guaranteed prosperous future for yourself, and on the other you ultimately have your happiness.

First off, do you really think that taking on one of these high-paying careers that you do not currently enjoy will kill your chances of happiness completely? Keep in mind that what you are fond of often changes, and that you could possibly grow to love a career that you might not like right now. The best thing to do right now would be to get online and research the career possibilities that you have on your mind; find out what you have to go through to reach a degree in any one of them, and what the job actually entails. Often, when I look up a career, I find that what I thought was demanded of the people in the particular field is completely wrong.

If, by college, you have still not made your decision, you can give yourself a few more years to make a choice by going to a technical school. Technical schools are cheaper than normal colleges, and you can get your pre-requisite classes out of the way while you work towards a final decision--one downside to this is that not all classes from tech schools will transfer to a full 4-year college, so you have to make sure that they do before you take them.

The best information about a career can often come from someone who has been through school and engaged themselves in the particular field--ask someone you know to explain the schooling they went through, where they went, what they do now, how they like their jobs, etc. Any questions that you have they will probably be able to answer.

Good luck with all of this; trust the methods, they have helped me narrow down my own choices. Hopefully I'll see you around in the future.

Stephen

Dear Anonymous,

I understand what you are going through. The career choice may be one of the hardest decisions of your life. This life changing plan not only affects you, but also affects your parents. Every parent wants the best for their children, therefore it's a given they will first wish that you would enter a career that will deliver a large amount of money. It's sad but true that wealth takes you farther in the world than happiness. Well, since we don't live in a "perfect world" and you want the career path that won't lead you to the largest bank account, why not study both? You could major in your passion and minor in the higher paying job. That way you will be a more rounded student and just maybe you'll discover that you may have a hidden talent and passion for the high paying job. Well I guess in the end what I'm trying to say is, don't

be so closeminded: you may change your mind about what you want to do in the future. You're still young and your choice might change so in the mean time, study a few careers and always keep in mind a high paying job to fall back on if your "fun" job doesn't follow through. GOOD LUCK!

The Wonderful World of Dance

by Lane Elsey

Our SOA dance students not only practice at school, most are a part of a professional dance company outside of school also. The four major dance companies in Charleston are Robert Ivey Ballet, Just Dance, Charleston Ballet Theater, and Broadway Babies.



Harrison Ball

Robert Ivey Ballet is Charleston's International Touring Company, who's traveled to Denmark, Sweden, Russia, Spain, Columbia, and I've had the pleasure of performing as part of the company in China. "Being a part of the company," as **Lindsay Funderburk** stated, "prepares students who want to pursue dance as a career." They offer ballet, pointe, jazz, and modern classes that are provided to the students every day. They produce children's ballets like *Peter and the Wolf*, *The Velveteen Rabbit*, and *On Cat Mountain* for the young at heart and also have two performances a year to show off the work they do in class.

Just Dance is one of our leading hip hop and jazz companies. "I enjoy dancing at Just Dance because there are no restrictions on what type of dancing we can do there," say **Ashley Clark**, and she makes a good point. There is basically every type of dance class you can take offered to the students. They participate in many competitions and have one overall performance a year. Their routines include exciting pieces performed to popular music from singers such as Britney Spears, Christina Agularia, and Ciarra. These types of dances have inspired **Michael Star (Robinson)** to become a backup dancer after graduation. "My plans are to move to L.A. where I will start off my career dancing with Janet Jackson!" which is a great place to start.



Lindsay Funderburk



Stephanie Hardy and Haleigh Barber

Charleston Ballet Theater is one of our major classical ballet companies. Performing full length ballets such as the *Nutcracker* and *Don Quixote*, it's a huge inspiration to upcoming dancers like our SOA dance majors. **Harrison Ball** told me, "I take ten classes a week at the studio, eight of them are ballet classes and two jazz classes." Which can be a great influence for any student to be around professional dancer so often.

The dance group Broadway Babies is one of the only groups focusing on performing Broadway plays. They perform at private parties and have recently performed a Christmas show at Town Center. The group has even gone to New York to see the Tony's and performed with members of the *Fiddler on the Roof* cast. **Stephanie Hardy** says the best thing about participating in Broadway Babies is that "It's fun! We get to sing, dance, and act." When asked how the money is, **Haleigh Barber** replied, "That's my parents job." If you are interested in seeing what these dance majors can do, many of them have upcoming performances, so clear your schedule and write down these dates!

Robert Ivey Ballet: *The Velveteen Rabbit* - February 19
Charleston Ballet Theater: *Don Quixote* - February 12

Featured Art: Piano

"I want to play like that!" 7th grader, Annie Patterson



by Brandi Dirkes

When did you begin playing the piano?

I began playing piano at the age of 6, because I saw someone playing the piano and I immediately turned to my mom and said, "I want to play like that!"

Do you have any other musical talents?

No, however, I did try playing the cello and the flute.

What do you like the most about being a piano major at SOA?

I like being a piano major at SOA because you can play piano and get help each day instead of playing once a week at an outside lesson.

Have you won any awards through piano since you've been at SOA?

Yes, two superiors at Solo Ensemble held at Lander University.

How many hours a week do you study and practice on the piano?

In 7th grade we are instructed to play at least 280 minutes each week.

Are you required to memorize every piece you recite? Which piece was the most difficult for you?

I only have to memorize recital pieces and competition pieces. The most challenging piece of music was a duet I played in 6th grade.

If you had the choice, would you rather play a solo or a duet?

I would rather play a solo mainly because if you forget a part you can simply skip to another section you recall.

When you perform do you ever get stage fright? What is your most embarrassing stage fright story?

Yes, I do get stage fright at times! My worst one was the year when I was performing a duet and my partner messed up and I tried to help correct it. We actually had to stop and restart.

What are some of your other hobbies?

My hobbies are horseback riding and taking hip hop classes at Trudy's.

What is your favorite class in school?

English! I like to read and use the computer.

Are you a part of a musical family, and if so, what do your relatives play?

The people in my family that play a musical instrument include Grandmother, who plays piano and taught lessons, and my father who plays the trumpet.

What kind of music do you enjoy listening to, and what is your favorite type to play?

I like listening to Usher, Beyonce, and Outcast, but I like to play songs by Dennis Alexander.

Do you plan to use your piano skills in the future?

I'd like to continue with piano in the future; however, I am not sure it will be a career.

Which musician inspired you the most?

The music that inspired me the most was a duet called, "Arkansas Traveler," which was fun to play.

The Applause Staff wishes you a very happy 2005!

The Prince of Cello: Jonathon Heyward

by LaToya Smith

The School of the Arts is filled with many bright spirits and I

was privileged to encounter one of the brightest. Jonathon Heyward, a cool, calm, collected, and curly-haired lad readily shared, with me, a little about himself. One of the things he told me was "I have a lot of confidence in myself," and that confidence is evident through his bright smile and relaxing conversation.



Born in Augusta, GA and

raised in Manhattan, NY, Jonathon enrolled into SOA a year ago as a sixth grader. He has been playing the cello for three years and describes this instrumental selection as odd. He said, "I was going to play the violin, but my teacher told me I would be better at cello. We didn't have any cello players, so I was like, okay I'll give it a try. I probably won't like it anyway. So I did it and I actually felt comfortable with it and I said let me try it and I stuck with it for a long time." While he can play the cello, violin, and piano (a little bit), his parents are not musically inclined at all. Because his younger brother, Anthony, has started taking up the viola, Joanthon often messes around with it until his brother has to pry it out of his hands. As first chair of the middle school strings orchestra, Yo-Yo Ma is Jonathon's greatest influence. But when he isn't listening to Yo-Yo Ma his head is bobbing to the thick and intricate rhythms of R&B and Hip Hop.

For Jonathon, the best part of attending SOA is playing his cello. "Actually, I think that's like the best part. Because you get to relax and it's enjoyable... and of course lunch and recess," he said with a grin. He also said that the teachers here are very helpful when there is reciprocity. According to Jonathon, "They just don't sit down and relax and tell you you have to do it. They'll help you. You just have to help them." He explained that it makes him feel good to play after commenting on the christmas concert he added that when playing, "I like having fun."

Outside of school, this twelve year old cellist is busy playing everyday of the week, whether he is taking private lessons, at school, practicing, or gigging.

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Features

Jenny Parnow: Class of 2003

by Devin Graves

Former SOA theatre major Jenny Parnow is a sophomore Newberry College where she is the editor of her school newspaper.

What are you majoring in?

I'm double majoring in Theatre (with a focus in directing) and Communications (with a focus in Public Relations) and minoring in Art.

How do you manage your time effectively with two majors?

Umm...I don't sleep much! Both majors require a significant amount of work, and I take an average of

about 21 credit hours a semester. I learned very quickly how to manage work and play; I do a lot of studying, but I also set aside time to have fun. After all, college years are supposed to be the best ones of your life!

How did your experiences at SOA prepare you for these majors?

Wow- SOA was the best possible start to my future educational career. SOA taught me how to think for myself, and not expect the answers to be placed directly on my doorstep. I didn't realize what a high level of learning SOA gave me until I moved on to college. Most of my friends had no idea how to write a paper in MLA format-the simple things that I learned in high school helped put me far above the average college student.

How does college life compare to what you imagined and/or were told?

I thought that college life would give me more freedom than it does. I was under the impression that college students didn't have to actually GO to class, as long as they completed papers and exams. However, there are rules that are even stricter than SOA. For example, at Newberry, if you miss only a few classes, you automatically fail. You can't do whatever you want in the dorms, either. I'm a Resident Advisor, so I enforce the rules on my hall. I write people up for drinking in the halls, being too loud, etc.; I pretty much play "Mommy" to the freshmen on my hall. I also didn't think that you had to do your homework. The professors actually take that stuff up! And I have spelling tests in my journalism classes! I'm not sure where I got my information from, but I was very wrong about college life!

What made you decide to take up journalism and become an editor for the school?

I'm not really sure how that happened. I knew the editing programs, and my professors thought that I had impressive writing skills. I guess that those papers that I wrote at 5:00am impressed someone. Who knows?

What is the most challenging aspect of being an editor for the paper?

Definitely keeping up with the key to the editing bay. I keep losing that thing! It's also difficult getting the paper started again after two years of not having one. I'm changing the entire layout, and people are expecting big things. I don't really have the time that I need to commit to the paper, so I end up working on it in the middle of the night.

What have been the highlights of your theatre experiences at Newberry?

Everything about our theatre has been wonderful! I just finished my last showing of The Rocky Horror Show at the Opera House. We have a beautiful Opera House that we get to perform on for some of our shows. I get to do tech work for the traveling Broadway shows that come through, checking sound equipment, setting lights, etc. I'm directing a show next semester; I can't wait for that!

What are your plans for life after you graduate?

After I graduate from Newberry, I plan on attending graduate school. I want to go into Public Relations and be a children's theatre director on the side. I also enjoy film; I worked in NY as a cinematographer at a camp, making all of

the promo videos and teaching film. I've also directed several children's theatre productions since I've graduated, and it's been a lot of fun. I enjoy working with children, and I would really like to work that into my career somehow.

What advice would you have for SOA Theatre majors?

Take your senior thesis seriously!! I mean it! It's the best experience that you could ever ask for! Listen to Mr. Wood-he knows what he's talking about. It's a tough world out there, but you have to do what you love to do. If you're not 110% completely happy with theatre, then don't continue with it. No matter how hard you fight it, theatre will consume your life. You are all very talented, and deserve great lives. Make sure that it's one you want. And learn to love yourselves! If you're not confident in yourself, you cannot be confident onstage.

Do you like living in Newberry?

I love the small town and the great opportunities that it provides. It's nice to always run into someone you know at Wal-mart!

Thoughts (continued from page 5)

merriment that will certainly accompany 2005.

Aside from our personal lives, we may contemplate what important events will happen nationally and internationally. How many natural disasters, such as the recent Tsunami and the hurricanes that razed Florida last year, will plague mankind? And will any strike where you live? As with every year, many famous, important people will die. But who will not be able to celebrate the next New Year's Day with us? Will the war in Iraq improve, even resolve—or will the fighting further into a disaster worse than it is presently? We there be another terrorist attack? On the brighter side, we can look forward to all the new songs, movies, games and books that will come out in 2005. Technology will have progressed to new boundaries by the year's end, and humankind will have made fresh discoveries. Who knows? Maybe we will have finally encountered aliens (if we haven't already)...

And at the end of it all, the earth will have returned to the same position in space as it was when 2005 started, and all that we contemplate now will have come to pass in the form of our memories.



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Miscellaneous

National Treasure

by Devin Graves

If there's one thing this country has plenty of, it's action movies.



Whether they're good or bad, old or new, violent or not, action/adventure flicks pretty much dominate the \$10 billion movie industry. The new movie, National Treasure, is one of the slew of action movies released this season.

Following the treasure-hunter, Benjamin Franklin Gates (Nicholas Cage), the movie comes across as an Indiana-Jones-y mix of puzzles and places. Pursued by ex-assistant Ian (Sean Bean) and an FBI agent (Harvey Keitel), Gates travels around eastern USA in search of clues about a fabulous, thousand-year treasure. He uses the Declaration of Independence as a guide in his quest. Along for the ride are curator of the Library of Congress (Diane Kruger) and techie sidekick (Hunter Gomez).

As the movie opens, the story is explained in a flashback showing the origins of an amazing conglomeration of artifacts. As expected from any treasure hunter movie, it's full of strange clues and hidden meanings. The truth is that this idea has been done before; however, the movie does introduce an interesting twist to the genre. Instead of creating a fictional place and storyline, the writers of this picture based the story around factual history. The amount of random historical data about our country in this movie is nothing short of astounding. While I don't consider myself an expert in history, I highly doubt that the Declaration of Independence has a hidden treasure map on the back. However, I did get my hands on a \$100 bill after the movie and looked at the clock's hands in the picture of Independence Hall on the back of the bill. The time shown on the clock was 2:22, a fact used in the plot of the movie. If this was true, I have no reason to doubt the validity of the other patriotic facts stated in the film. I thought that this was a wonderful addition to the normal action/adventure aspects of the story.

In the end, the fact remains that the genre that this movie falls into has been done before, but this movie adds a new twist, which I greatly appreciate. The acting was fine; nothing extraordinary, but it did a good job of getting me into the story, which is what really shines in this movie. National Treasure is a breath of fresh air into a genre that has been used time and again. Since I went to a matinee showing, it was definitely worth the fairly reasonable \$6 I paid to get in, and I would have been willing to pay the pricey \$7.50 I usually pay.

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How to make this paper into a hat

Fold the paper (or the 1/2 sheet of newspaper) in half

Fold down each side to make triangles

Fold one bottom flap up

Flip the hat over and fold the other bottom flap up

add a bit of scotch tape if you like

Horoscopes

by The SOA Astrologer

Capricorn- Temptations will be hitting you left and right this month, try to dodge 'em.

Aquarius- Don't get caught up in any Revolutions in countries ending with -stan.

Pisces- Walking in a straight line is completely over-rated.

Aries- A large carnivorous rabbit will come after you...in your dreams.

Taurus- You know everyone loves you, but please, just hush.

Gemini- You will confront your evil twin on a foggy night on a stone bridge. Be sure to wear goggles because he/she will definitely try to throw dirt in your eyes.

Cancer- The only way to escape a trap is to simply scan the room for a bright red EXIT sign.

Leo- Devise an elaborate plan to escape to Canada, just in case.

Virgo- Be sure to feed your pets or they will rebel.

Libra- The next time you ask for a glass of ice water, ask for a lemon too.

Scorpio- I know you have been worrying about whether or not your dancing is still drawing a crowd...No worries, keep dropping it like its hot.

Sagittarius- When you run into a purple eyed dog on a late night walk, my advice is...RUN!

Question of the Month



"My new years resolution is to not be late for school."
Jessica Wood
10th grade Dance



"My resolution is to try to prevent Allison from getting into 10 wrecks per month." "Mine is to get Dalia to eat a fast food hamburger."
Dalia Dalili and Allison Smith
11th grade Visual Arts



"My resolution is to stop spending so much money."
Diana Sabb
9th grade Vocal



"I have to stop eating Candy!!!!"
Nick Bates
8th grade Visual Arts

What's your New Year's Resolution?



"My resolution is to not crack my knuckles."
Harrison Ball
6th grade Dance



"I really need to stop procrastinating and get on top of things."
Chris Nguyen
7th grade Visual Arts



"I have to stop using vulgar language and obscene gestures!"
Tiffany Bonapart
12th grade Theater



"My goal is to go to Yoga every night."
Ms. Slowinski
Middle School Dance Teacher