

Applause

Volume 7 Number 1

Charleston County School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC

September 2005

Applause 2005-2006



Ready to Roll



Applause Staff

Co-Editors

Cait Brennan and Rachel Maguire

Associate Editor

Devin Graves and Omi Naderi

Faculty Advisor

Dr. John Cusatis

Reporters

David DuTremble, Liz Gildea, Kimberly Jenkins, Sara Marie Johnson, Kathleen Smith, Sharon Stovezky, David Whitley, and Alice Wise

Applause is a student produced publication of the School of the Arts. We can be contacted at soa_applause@yahoo.com or 843-529-4990.



Letters From the Editors

Welcome back students and faculty to what I imagine will be another incredible year at SOA! I know you are all very interested in the new *Applause* staff. Well let me tell you, I couldn't be more pleased. They are all intelligent, enthusiastic, and raring to go on another chapter of the *Applause*. I have great expectations for all the issues ahead, and I'm sure you can say the same. Since I know all of you have suffered from some severe *Applause* withdrawals over the summer, the journalism staff has made sure to make this paper a most memorable, inspired, and interesting issue. Now, I won't hold you up any longer, so get to readin'!

Always,

Cait L. Brennan

Dear Fellow SOA Students,



This year has come very quickly and it's amazing how it's already flying by. Our staff this year consists of six seniors, all of whom have already had journalism experience except **David DuTremble** who is taking to the fast-paced journalism lifestyle very easily. Also on our staff this year we have six underclassmen who are eager to write articles.

We have a few additions to the paper, like a new editorial column called David vs. David and a permanent movie reviewer. **Devin Graves** got so excited about the reviews last year that he went and got a job at the theatre to bring you the latest movie news. Along with our new additions to the paper, we had a new, temporary addition to our staff. Sharon Stovezky is an exchange student from Israel who will be writing a column to you every issue about her experiences.

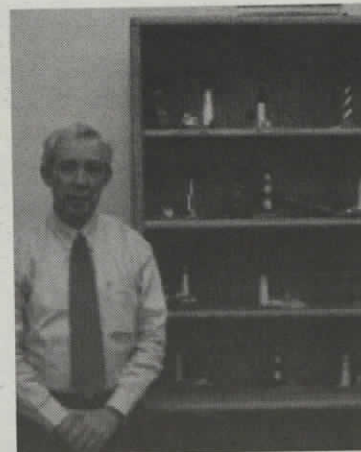
I hope this year goes well for everyone, especially the seniors!

BEST OF LUCK TO THE CLASS OF 2006!

Rachel M. Maguire

The 3D's

by Rachel Maguire and Kathleen Smith



Name- Mr. Ace Roy Davis

Hobbies- running, reading, collecting lighthouses

Favorite food- Mexican

Favorite author- Robert Ludlum

Most recent movie seen- *War of the Worlds*

Dream Car- Mercedes 2 door sports car

Favorite sport- baseball

Favorite band- The Bee Gees

Favorite actress- Sandra Bullock

Favorite color- blue and red

Dream job- college professor

Favorite College Team- Clemson

Mr. Davis: "Throughout the summer I spent a lot of time with my grandkids who live right down the road from me, painted the outside of my house, which took most of my summer, and we are currently planning a trip to France next summer."

Name- Mr. John Dawson

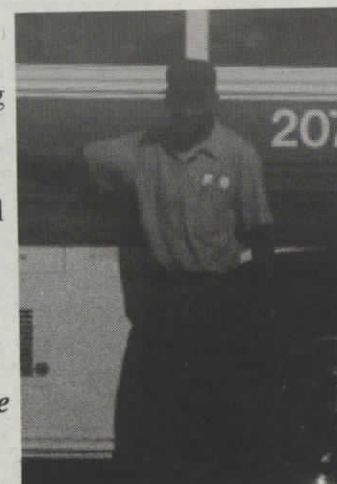
Hobbies- working with the church, football

Favorite food- all Southern foods

Favorite book- The Bible

Favorite movie- *The Passion of the Christ*

Dream Car- Chrysler Pacifica



Favorite Sport- football

Favorite type of music- gospel

Favorite actress- Sydney Portier

Favorite color- blue

Dream job- Right here at SOA

Favorite college team- University of South Carolina

Mr. Dawson: "I worked all summer here at school, until the last weekend when my wife and I went on our church convention to Columbia."

Name- Mrs. Darlene

Hobbies- cooking, reading, shopping

Favorite food- Italian food

Favorite author- Stephen King

Favorite movie- *Back Draft*

Dream Car- Cadillac

Favorite sport- football

Favorite singer- Tim McGraw

Favorite actress/actor- Charlize Theron, Josh Hartnett

Favorite color- pink and blue

Dream job- own a restaurant

Favorite College Team- University of South Carolina



Mrs. Darlene: "All summer I took care of my son. I went shopping a few times and planned our Christmas vacation to Disney World."

David vs. David



American dystopia?

by David DuTremble

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." -Bill of Rights, Amendment 1

"Anti-war protesters are advocating a policy that would weaken the United States" - George W. Bush

"The art of leadership. . . consists in consolidating the attention of the people against a single adversary and taking care that nothing will split up that attention. . . The leader of genius must have the ability to make different opponents appear as if they belong to one category." - Adolf Hitler

Some may remember Bush's statement from the July 1998 issue of *Governing Magazine* "You don't get everything you want. A dictatorship would be a lot easier," as well as on July 26, 2001 "A dictatorship would be a heck of a lot easier, there's no question about it." To recapitulate, I make mention of a statement from January 15, 2004: "It's not a dictatorship in Washington, but I tried to make it one in that instance."

So, now that we all know that Bush aspires to a totalitarianistic despotism, we must also know what is entailed by this term. As defined by Wikipedia, totalitarian systems do not tolerate activities that do not further the goals of the state. Note Bush's criticism of anti-war protesters. These systems maintain power by use of secret police, propaganda, state-controlled media, and regulation of free criticism.

In late August, a Utah TV station refused to air a television commercial featuring anti-war icon Cindy Sheehan just days before Bush came to Salt Lake City. Bush also said that "anti-war protesters" are "weakening the United States." The Patriot Act gives the government the power to access medical and tax records, information on books bought and borrowed without probable cause, and the power to conduct secret searches of your property without your knowledge. Thus far, we have an example of intolerance and attempted regulation of dissent, we have secret police-like activities protected and promoted by the government, and an example of media control. So, the only thing left is propaganda, which many citizens unconsciously provide (yellow ribbons on cars, anyone?). Most of our news-media is highly conservative (CNN, Fox, CBS, etc.), and we can find more propaganda there. Can anyone recall the repeated images of a captured and disheveled Saddam Hussein and the numbing desensitization caused by the over-airing of the video clips of the planes crashing into the Twin Towers?

And, regarding Hitler's above quote, can anyone see a parallel between that and our regime's "War on Terror"? "The art of leadership . . . consists in consolidating the attention of the people against a single adversary and taking care that nothing will split up that attention. . ." We lumped Al Qaeda together with the Taliban and Afghanistan, and once we forgot

about them, suddenly Saddam and his Ba'ath Party followers became harborers of international terrorist rings and harbingers of invasion and death via Weapons of Mass Destruction.

But we're still fighting the terrorists, aren't we? Beware of our slowly-evolving fascism that masquerades as democracy and uses the "War on Terror" to rally support for dictatorship.

What dystopia?

by David Whitley



To rebut your opening statements, Bush is right; ruling a dictatorship wouldn't take nearly as much effort on his part, and the opposition would simply be murdered in their sleep by your alleged legions of "secret police." However, we still live in what is obviously a democracy, due to the fact that the "secret police" have not abducted your family, and President Bush has at no point given any sign of taking action to change our system of government. I do not count the Patriot Act of 2001, as this and other laws like it are a massive step forward for our legal system; they drastically reduce the number of criminals discharged on technicalities. Either way, it makes no difference. When President Bush made these statements, he was employing what we humans tend to call "humor." Adolf Hitler and other dictators show a curious lack of this humor.

Secondly, Cindy Sheehan is no icon. Yes, I acknowledge that she lost a son in Iraq, but making him out to be a martyr is a bit of a stretch. He and every other one of the casualties in Iraq knew what they were getting into before they signed up. They joined willingly, as the draft was stopped with the end of 'Nam. Nobody held these soldiers at gunpoint and forced them to choose between military service overseas and the death of their firstborn male child, despite what you and others may think. Furthermore, if this were a dictatorship, Bush's control of the media would have completely ignored Cindy Sheehan and nobody would know who she is or what she stands for.

On your comment about Bush-protesters weakening the United States, I agree. We are weakened by focusing on how he can't pronounce "nuclear" instead of the fact that 80% of New Orleans is underwater, with the bedraggled survivors being left homeless and without food, wading through shoulder-high water and clutching what few belongings they were able to salvage. Also, the *New York Times*, the paper that originally posted that comment, has confessed that President Bush never actually said that. About the yellow ribbons, that all is the eventual result of a song about a man returning home from prison by Tony Orlando & Dawn. It's amazing how this song has endured long enough to make it into our debate.

In response to the allegation that most of the news-media is conservative, I say, "Excuse me?" By "most" you must mean the Fox News channel and *The Rush Limbaugh Show*. Need I remind everyone that there are

"We are weakened by focusing on how [Bush] can't pronounce "nuclear" instead of the fact that 80% of New Orleans is underwater..."

Continued on pg. 11--see "What Dystopia"?

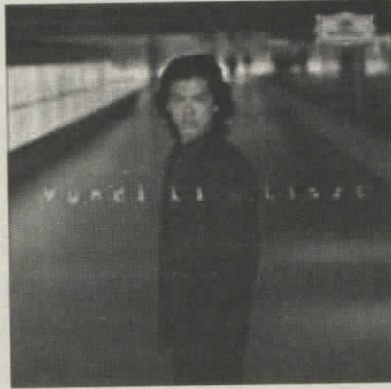
Reviews

Yundi Li: Liszt

by David DuTremble



Franz Liszt's (1811 - 1886) music has become the bane of aspiring concert pianists everywhere. The Hungarian moniker has taken on a life of its



own that overshadows the man who bore it. Liszt's music demands virtuosity, drama, and a penchant for the saccharine (a hand-span of at least a 10th doesn't hurt, either). It has become the mark by which virtuosos are measured, usually regulated to the ranks of seasoned masters such as Horowitz, Rubinstein, and Richter.

Yundi Li, born in the People's Republic of China in 1982, is one in a string of young Asian concert pianists to emerge in recent years (for those of you keeping track, 13 of the 35 competitors at the 2005 Van

Cliburn Competition were Asian). At 23 (20 at date of recording), Li is one of the youngest pianists to record such demanding repertoire.

Yundi Li Liszt consists of the Great B-minor Sonata, La Campanella from the Transcendental Etudes, Liebeslied ("Widmung"), Liebesträume no. 3, Tarantella (Années de pèlerinage, vol. 2), and "Rigoletto" de Verdi: Paraphrase de Concert.

Anyone who has heard the B-minor sonata knows that it is a trying work, both for performer and listener. It is an epic, sprawling, 30-minute pianistic ramble. It evolves slowly, with few unifying passages, but plenty of opportunity for showmanship. In keeping with the Asian piano school, Li's playing is impeccably, technically perfect, but it lacks the emotional quality that sets excellent pianists apart from the great. This playing would please the toughest panel of technical sticklers, but is so dry that almost anyone else will lose interest in the piece.

La Campanella is the best piece on the CD. It relies on such velocity that its Allegretto makes it impossible for the piece to drag, and is, by nature, a very tense piece. Li's sparkling repeated notes on top of his split-second grace notes propel the piece, especially through the diminution that its theme-and-variation style takes on as the piece progresses. The brilliant cadenza at the end is a ridiculously satisfying release.

The Liebeslied is sufficiently schmaltzy, and asides from the Liebesträume, probably the most accessible to those unfamiliar with Liszt's music. It, along with Un Sospiro (it is a disappointment this CD lacks this, of all Liszt pieces), are probably among the prettiest (and sappiest) of Liszt's music.

Liebesträume no. 3 is probably one of Liszt's best-known, but lesser, works. Li's lack of emotion in his playing makes this selection highly ineffective. The middle section is also the fastest this reviewer has ever heard it played.

Tarantella is a dance that originated in the south of Italy in 6/8 time. This piece was written as part of Liszt's tone sketches for piano titled *Années de pèlerinage* (Years of Pilgrimage), and were composed during 3 years of his

Continued on pg. 5

Mariah Carey, back in the spotlight

by Kimberly Jenkins



The Emancipation of Mimi by Mariah Carey has been a great rebirth for this experienced artist. After a four-year slump, Carey has brought back the ear-catching club hits and beautiful love songs that

we have come to love and appreciate. Carey is great to listen to on a lazy afternoon or when your spirit needs a lift. The catchy rhythms will keep you hooked for hours and waiting for more. Produced by Island Records, this is one of her best records yet. The single, "It's Like That," is an upbeat song great for dancing and having a good time.

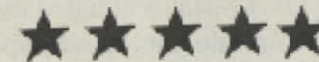
The hit single, "We Belong Together", is a beautiful and tender love ballad about a love lost. This record is great and is an example of why we have come to adore Mariah Carey.



David Bowie:

The maverick of rock 'n' roll

by Liz Gildea



David Bowie, the maverick of rock 'n' roll, has always produced albums rich with innovative instrumentals and psychedelic lyrics that are (to quote another legend) "guaranteed to blow your

mind anytime." From his first hit single, "Space Oddity," to the riveting synths of *Low*, he presents a spine-tingling, almost familiar experience with every album.

Hunky Dory (1971) is one of his more



famous works, leading with the ever-popular song "Changes" ("Turn and face the strain/Ch ch changes..!") This 11-track jewel of Bowiedom combines keyboard, guitar, brass and strings for a dramatic yet simple auditory experience. Though Bowie is known for his hard-to-decipher lyrics, this album apparently focuses on youth and growth: "Kooks," a charming lullaby, "Oh! You Pretty Things!" which addressed the young directly, and (what I consider to be this album's crowning glory) "Life on Mars," which tells the tale of a

girl who as Bowie explained in an interview "finds herself disappointed by reality." (Who can't relate to that one?) With lyrics that hit home and tunes you'll be humming for life, *Hunky Dory* is an invigorating piece of classic rock history and a must-have for any David Bowie collection.

"...tunes you'll be humming for life..."

Reviews

Continued from pg. 3

Yundi Li: Liszt

...life spent traveling through Europe. This piece goes from extreme virtuosity to extreme sincerity, and Li manages to pull it off because of the few moments of sheer emotionalism in the piece.

The "Rigoletto" de Verdi: Paraphrase de Concert is one of a series of opera transcriptions done by Liszt to show off the performer's virtuosity. Li excels at it, although, in my opinion, Reminisces de Don Juan de Mozart would have been more satisfying.

In conclusion, this CD is great for technical sticklers, but to anyone who wants to feel the music as they listen to it, it leaves room to grow. Perhaps as Li ages, maturity will add life experience to the technical perfection already present in his playing.

Bocci's: the Italian Bistro

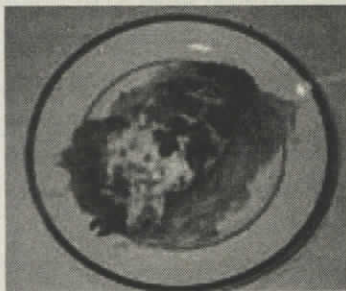
by Sara Marie Johnson



On a corner at 128 Church Street in downtown Charleston there is an Italian Bistro named Bocci's, which provides a delightful experience. From the stucco walls with decorated murals to the great service, Bocci's is an all around pleasant place to be. The surroundings aren't the only thing unique, so is the food. When I walked into Bocci's, I had no clue what tastes were awaiting me. I had

been there several times before with my mother. We tried to adventure out into their menu every time to try something different. We were seated by a very sweet lady who greeted us and went through all the specials. She was very polite and gave us plenty of time to order. We ordered freshly baked herb bread with olive oil when our drinks arrived. For my salad I ordered the Caprese. That comes with vine ripe tomatoes layered with fresh mozzarella, pesto, and balsamic dressing. There was a little too much pesto on top of the mozzarella so next time I know to order less or none on the salad. My mom ordered the house salad, which includes a

"...a delightful experience..."
wedge of lettuce with diced tomatoes, cucumbers, onion and Bocci's vinaigrette. Both salads are awesome if you like original things. We ordered a starter, calamari, which also came with a homemade marinara and lemon. The calamari was very crispy and fresh. It was a great choice for a starter. For my entrée I had the chicken parmesan. It was a delicious chicken breast with a lightly fried bread crumb outside, topped with tomato basil sauce, mozzarella, and parmesan over thin angel hair pasta. The tomato basil sauce was a bit too heavy for my taste and I'll consider the light marinara next time.



My mom shared the entrée with me. The portions are a great size for the prices too. Two people could easily share the chicken parmesan.

To top the dinner off I finished with a cappuccino that had brown sugar on the edge of the glass and a rock candy stick to stir and sweeten it. It was *manifico* and I will visit the authentic environment and have some excellent food many more times.

The Brothers Grimm

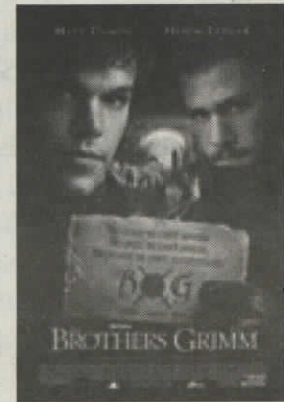
by Devin Graves



Ah! Welcome to a new year of "Devin complains about movie stuff." Strangely enough, I was able to procure a job over the summer at the Palmetto Grande in Mt. Pleasant, and seeing as I can now see movies for free, my complaints about the price will cease. For those who are curious, however, the current price is eight dollars for an Adult non-matinee. But I digress. To the movie!

I went to see the recently released *Brothers Grimm* starring Matt Damon and Heath Ledger. The story revolves around a pair of con-artist, "curse-breaker" brothers, who stumble upon a genuine magical problem. The down-to-earth, business savvy Will Grimm (Matt Damon) refuses to believe anything but rational explanations, while his imaginative brother, Jacob (Heath Ledger), is obsessed with fairy tales and the metaphysical. This difference in character leads to a creative story; indeed, one that is quite fun to watch.

When I decided to go to this particular movie, for some reason or another, I expected something much darker. Maybe it was the Grimm name itself, or maybe it was the shadowy posters adorning the halls of the movie theater. Either way, I was expecting a *Van Helsing* style movie, and while the opening scene did little to dispel this idea, it was not a correct assumption at all. Therefore, I spent the first 20-30 minutes confused about what I was watching. After this, however, I realized that "Oh... This is supposed to be a fantasy/fairy tale movie!", switched mind frames, and was on my merry way. So, if you know what to expect, this movie is very entertaining.



The Mermaid Chair

by Kimberly Jenkins



The Mermaid Chair by Sue Monk Kidd is a tale of the life of Jessie, who moves to a monastery on Egret Island to escape the antics of her husband, Hugh. When she gets there, the monastery houses a beautiful chair decorated with mermaid carvings. Legend has it that the chair is dedicated to a saint who was a mermaid before her conversion. Even though Jessie loves Hugh, she finds herself drawn to a monk named Brother Thomas, who is about to take his final vows. While she lives with a group of island women and the beautiful marshlands, she tries hard to deny her love of the freedom she has. *The Mermaid Chair*, her follow up to *Secret Life of Bees*, is a beautiful second novel. Its smooth style and flow is easy to read and hard to put down. Sue Monk Kidd showcases an outstanding writing style, and I can't wait for her next novel.



Welcome to America

An interview with the SOA foreign exchange students

by Kathleen Smith



Sharon Stovezky

11th Grade, Dance major

Where are you from?

Israel

How did you hear about School of the Arts?

I heard about it from my friend's host family, and from my friend. I was placed in Anderson, SC at first but I didn't like it there. Then I talked to my friend Kissuf who studies here and her host family found a family for me in Charleston.

What are your hobbies?

I really love to dance, hang out with friends, talk on the phone, animals, and traveling.

What was a regular school day in Israel like for you?

A regular school day in Israel I would have 7-8 lessons a day, which lasted 45 minutes each. I



would have lunch at home and not in school.

What is your favorite food?

I really love Italian food.

What is your best subject?

Biology

What was the biggest adjustment you had to make coming to America?

The biggest adjustment I had to make was leaving my own family and friends in Israel. When I came here my host family was practically strange to me, and I didn't know anybody in school, except Kissuf. So it was a new beginning, which was scary at first. Then I found out my host family is great, and I met very nice people at school.



Kissuf Levi

11th Grade, Vocal
Major

Where are you from?

Israel

How did you hear about School of the Arts?

When I first contacted my hosting family when I was in Israel, they told me about the School of

the Arts, and I loved the idea of it.

What are your hobbies?

My hobbies are anything that connects with music and art.

What is your favorite food?

Any Italian food.

What was the biggest adjustment you had to make coming to America?

The differences between Israeli schools and American schools as well as the Israeli and American people.

Max Donoso- Santibanez

10th Grade, Strings
Major

Where are you from?

I'm from Antofagasta,
Chile, South America.

How did you hear about School of the Arts?

How I got to SOA is a total mystery. My exchange company chose it for me and I'm glad I'm at such a great school.

What is your best subject?

My favorite class is music. I thought I was good till I came here.

What are your hobbies?

Playing guitar, I have composed some songs and I also like playing the violin.

What was a regular

school day like for you?

I would wake up at 7:00 and walk to school. I would have class and in between a 15-minute break. I would go home at 1:10 and come back at 3:00.

What is your favorite food?

I like almost everything except boiled vegetables.

What was the biggest adjustment you had to make coming to America?

Everything is very different here. Probably the most different thing here is rain. I live in the



driest desert, and it rains once every two years. Another very different thing is that we wear school uniforms in Chile. It is also very tough being away from my friends and family.

Max Schieff

11th Grade, Band Major

Where are you from?

Germany, I lived in a little village called Velen. It is in the northwest corner near the border of the Netherlands. The region is known as the Muenster



region and is known for picturesque countryside and quaint villages.

How did you hear about School of the Arts?

I knew that I wanted to come as an exchange student to the USA since I was in the 8th grade. I just got really lucky when I was paired with the Marcell family and therefore with SOA.

What are your hobbies?

My hobbies are playing the drums, going surfing (I do this since I am here), hanging out with friends, watching movies, and I want to learn about the different sports in the USA (including Paintball).

"Everything is very different here..."

What was a regular school day like for you?

A regular school day in Germany started at 7:45.

Normally, we take six classes each day, sometimes ten classes. Each class lasts 45 minutes with two fifteen minute breaks a day. At my school the students stay in the same classroom and the teachers rotate through until 11th grade. Usually I arrived home at 1:45 and ate lunch at home.

What is your favorite food?

My favorite food is a hamburger.

What is the biggest adjustment you had to make when you came to America?

The biggest adjustment I had to make in coming to America was leaving my friends and family back in Germany.

School/Senior News

New babies for a new year

by Omi Naderi

On June 28, 2005, arrived the cute and infantile **Britni Dale Johnsen**. Then, in time for the second day of school, the 7 pound, 4 ounce **Giovanni Matthew Cusatis** was welcomed to Mother Earth on August 23, 2005.

Says **Mr. Johnsen**, "It's the greatest feeling to go nine months, not having any idea of what she looked like. It's an amazing feeling to know it's your daughter, that the little thing will be listening to you, and you're going to be teaching her everything she knows." Says **Dr. Cusatis**, "Everything is different."

It was the first child for **Dr. Cusatis** and his wife **Anna**, as well as for **Mr. Johnsen** and his wife **Beverly**. Both families decided to go "old school"



and not predetermine the gender of their baby, which added to the excitement.

When asked to reflect on a significant moment of fatherhood, **Mr. Johnsen** spoke of his daughter's first laugh: "The first time she actually laughed was—exhilarating. She was just sitting and making faces when it just came out. It was the most wonderful sound I've ever heard. Now, I've heard many different songs that I love, but this was beyond that. It keeps playing over and over in my head. **Dr. Cusatis** described the birth of his child as "magical."

Both babies are conveniently named: "Britni" abolishes all the unnecessary letters from the traditional spelling of her name, while at the same time avoiding any reference to Britney Spears. "Giovanni" (pronounced JOH-von-E) is the Italian version of his daddy's name, John—no further comment necessary.

Speaking of Giovanni, he is said to already have 30 books in his nursery (soon his dad will be encouraging him to annotate and write journal entries on Drcusatis.com). Furthermore, he has a small CD collection, which undoubtedly must feature at least one Bob Dylan album.

Luckily, these great men have chill babies that like to take it easy in their cribs. **Mr. Johnsen** reports that **Britni** "isn't really a tough baby. Overall, it hasn't been as tough as most stories I've heard. She's still trying to distinguish from day and night, though." Little **Giovanni** is what **Dr. Cusatis** calls, "the coolest baby. He doesn't fuss over anything." Sounds a lot like his father...

SOA wishes these new dads the best of luck for their fatherhood in the many years to come. And in case you're wondering, plans for the wedding of **Giovanni Matthew Cusatis** and **Britni Dale Johnsen** have already been discussed.

And the results are in ...

by Rachel Maguire

This past Friday it was an all out brawl among seniors as far as campaigning goes. Everyone was trying to decide for whom they would cast their final votes would be for. It was a tough decision I might add. For treasurer it was **Tierra Rouse** vs. **Leigh Dekle**, for secretary, **Hilari Ross** and **Taylor McLeod**.

Adam Gentile and **Nicole Darden** duked it out for vice-president, and last but not least, for president, it was quite a handful of nominees; **Acecily Alexander**, **Omi Naderi**, **Grace Davis**, and **Reba Bowens**. The results were as follows:

PRESIDENT: Omi Naderi
VICE-PRESIDENT: Adam Gentile
SECRETARY: Hilari Ross
TREASURER: Leigh Dekle

A message from Omi, your homie

The senior elections are now over, and the walls of SOA are bare of curious campaign posters, but our senior year has just begun. Already, the senior council has begun to make progress as we plan the foundations that will make this year a success. But before I go on any further, I would like to thank everyone who supported me throughout my campaign for your vote -- I will do my best this year to give back to you for what you have done for me. And for those who voted for my opponents, I say to you that I need your support this year to accom-

plish our great goals. As president, I can only encourage change, but the real power lies with you, the senior class. Becoming seniors has already begun to unite us; let us increase our unity to become stronger in order to make our dreams a reality.

And to **Acecily**, **Reba**, and **Grace**, I want to let you know that I have so much respect for each of you, and I hope the entire senior class realizes that you are truly among the best of us.

I will be writing a column here each issue to update the Class of 2006 on the activities of the senior council, along with any news of new privileges or events. The last time I wrote about senior issues in the *Applause*, it was in a now infamous article in which I quoted **El Presidente Yaeger** saying that seniors could no longer cut in lines (turned out to be a big misunderstanding, and I now relish my senior cut privileges). How times change!

Representatives from each major will soon meet with the senior council officers, and we will begin forming committees to address senior issues such as privileges, the senior wall and t-shirt, fundraisers, and events. If you are interested in participating on a committee, please talk to a member of the senior council or your major representative.

One of our goals is to be the first senior class to have a first-quarter "Grub on the Green," a festive picnic held in the courtyard exclusively for us. Seniors have always been able to hold this event each quarter, but no class in SOA history has been able to get their act together to have more than just a couple of picnics -- yet. But if we start planning and work together, we will.

There are so many seniors who are extremely enthusiastic and motivated to work hard for our good. That's what separates us from the classes of the past. By the time we graduate it will be unnecessary to say, "We're the best." Honestly, I've probably never been a part of so many passionate people committed to cause. Strong with us, the Force is, yes! I ask all of you to contribute in some way this year, from serving on a committee and helping out with events and fundraisers, to sharing your ideas, requests, or concerns with the senior council. The way that things are going, I can assure everyone that it won't be long until the real fun begins.

Thanks for reading this month's message. Be sure to check out the October issue, in which I will list all of our new privileges!

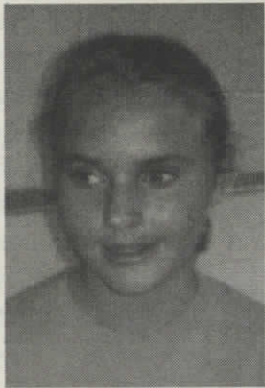
Peace in the Mid-East,
 Omi Naderi



SOA News

A word from Ms. Miller: Seventh Grader Has A Busy Summer

Brianna Murray, a seventh grade student at SOA, had a busy summer. In June, as a finalist in the National Braille Challenge, she flew to California to compete in the finals. This required a full day of rigorous testing. Brianna won third place! She also got to meet some of her favorite TV stars, such as Alexis Bledel from Gilmore Girls. She made lots of new friends and plans to try out for the Braille Challenge again this year.



In July Brianna attended the Roll-A-Thon. This was an event run by the Disabilities Resource Center. People in wheelchairs went over the new bridge and all the way to the Citadel Mall. Brianna helped to man a station welcoming the participants at the mall. She also answered questions from interested people.

Brianna also attended the weeklong Independent Living Conference in Washington, DC. She marched to the capitol and held a rally, and she got to meet with politicians. She was the youngest participant to attend.

Brianna's Account

This summer I went to Los Angeles, California to compete in the National Braille Challenge of 2005. All of the 59 contestants took a twenty-minute ride to the Braille institute. I was so scared. I ate a small breakfast due to nervousness and kept looking over a book of Braille. Finally it was time for me to start taking the four tests that made up the Braille challenge. I started out with reading competition. I had to read and answer questions from several passages varying in difficulty in one hour. Then we got a break just long enough to walk to the next room for the test. The next test was proof reading. We read a sentence and corrected it on a separate sheet of paper. We had to complete 50 sentences. Then we got a lunch break. It was such a relief to be halfway done. Then lunch break was over and I went into a new room for speed and accuracy. We listened to a tape and tried to do Braille as fast as the tape while still being accurate. That was the hardest for me but I did okay. Then I went into the last room. It was time to spell. Once I finished that, the long competition was over. Now I had to wait for the awards ceremony that night. Before I knew it, it was here. We had a really fancy dinner and then the time came to hear how I had done. To my amazement two stars from The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants were there, along with Alexis Bledel from Gilmore Girls and America Ferrera from several Disney movies. Finally they got to my age category. I was so shocked I had won third place. This was the best summer of my life and I hope to go to Los Angeles and compete again next summer.

-Brianna Murray

Applause welcomes exchange student to staff

My name is **Sharon Stovezky**, and I'm a foreign exchange student from Israel. I'm new to the School of the Arts and my first day here was August 31st. This is my first visit to the United States and I'm having a great time!

I come from a small town in the north part of Israel called Zichron Ya'akov. It's a historic town that was established in 1882 and it is very

beautiful. There are 4 people in my family: my mother, Anat, my father, Josef, my 14-year-old sister, Yael, and me. I love my family very much and they are very excited about my stay in Charleston.


In Israel I go to a big public high school. The school is not located inside my town but in a town near by. It's a big school because all the kids from the towns in my area go there. I really love my school in Israel and it's a lot of fun. It is very different from this school. While in SOA we have 4 periods a day, each one of 90 minutes, in Israel we have 7 or 8 periods a day, each one of 45 minutes. Also in Israel we don't have lunch at school and we eat when we get home. The biggest change, of course, was getting used to speaking a different language. In Israel we speak Hebrew, and at first it was difficult for me to get used to speaking English at all times.

Although there are differences between my school in Israel and SOA, I like both of them very much. I'm having a great time here. My major is Dance, and so the best thing about SOA for me is being able to dance every day during school. I think that each and every student can understand how great it is to be able to do what you love the most during school time. I've been dancing since I was 6 years old but I never got the opportunity to dance in school. Now I can do that, and it's a great experience for me.

Besides school, I really like visiting other places in Charleston and America because it's my first time here. When I got to the U.S. two weeks ago, I was very excited. I landed in Chicago with nine Israeli exchange students. We had an orientation in Chicago for a few days with my exchange program "NACEL OPEN DOOR." That way I got to visit Chicago and I had so much fun. Also we met kids from all around the world during the orientation. I met kids from Brazil, Germany, France, Columbia, Mexico and more. We had a tour in Chicago and we all stayed together in one hotel. It was an amazing experience.

After the orientation every one of the students got on a flight to the place where his host family lives. My two friends from Israel and I were placed in South Carolina. I was placed first in Anderson, SC, but because I had a few problems, I moved here. I only got to Charleston on August 30 and it's beautiful. I visited downtown and I enjoyed it very much. I was very happy to come here because I will be staying with the Zimmermans, my host family, who are absolutely wonderful. Also I have a friend from Israel in this school, **Kissuf Levy**.

I will be staying in the United States and in SOA until January and I'm sure I'll have a lot of fun. I hope to meet a lot of people, visit places and have fun. I hope to meet and talk to you all.



**The
Preschool
Academy
INC.**

<p>Karen M. Johnston Owner/Director</p>	<p>1002 Wappoo Road Charleston, SC 29407 (803)763-3488</p>
--	--

World News

Hurricane Katrina: Big Easy hit hard: SOA pitches in

by Liz Gildea

When I was little, my family always celebrated Christmas Eve with a fake tree, stockings hung by a glowing fire, milk and cookies for Santa, and a reading of *Cajun Night Before Christmas*. Having moved here from New Orleans in 1992, we felt very much connected to its legendary culture. So much of my family's past is rooted in that bustling city where jazz and Mardi Gras rose to fame.

But as S.O.A. calmly entered its second week of school, the Gulf Coast was pierced by violent tragedy. On Monday, August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made its second landfall, in Louisiana. The eyewall (the most turbulent, destructive region) of the Category 4 storm passed right over New Orleans. Then, early in the morning of August 30th, disaster struck again. Hurricane floodwaters breached the Lake Pontchartrain levee system



in three places, causing a city that is 80% below sea level to become an ocean brimming with sewage, debris, disease, and corpses.

Those who didn't evacuate the city have taken refuge wherever they can, crowding hungry, thirsty, and exhausted into various public buildings. Those who

didn't make it out of their homes are stranded in attics and on rooftops, some crying for help, some refusing help. Refugees are flowing in all directions (dozens of them my own extended family), relieved to be alive as the death toll mounts.

As residents of the Gulf Coast face their own mortality, the threads of the outside world are quietly unraveling. Aside from the economic and political struggles that have arisen, people everywhere are pushing boundaries in an effort to help. Literally: Our own **Mr. Brehm** (who has family ties to the area) rented a truck, filled it with food, water, gasoline and generators, and drove three states west to deliver the supplies to Gulfport and Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

Though Mr. Brehm's relatives are safe and as sound as post-traumatically possible, **Ms. Tisdale's** clan lost a member. "My cousin's husband's aunt drowned in her home," she said gravely. "In a perfect world, our government would have sent aid on day one, preventing the nightmare these refugees are living." She continued, stating incredulously, "We can spend 40 billion invading a foreign country but can hardly drop a bottle of water in New Orleans."

Eighth grader **Tori Bachan** doesn't personally know any Katrina victims, but that didn't stop her from reaching out: "If something like that happened to us," she says, "I would want people to help me and my friends and family." Tori and her dad have collaborated on a fundraising project that is easy for any S.O.A. student to participate in. T-shirts bearing the



words "School of the Arts Katrina Relief Efforts" are going on sale at only \$5 apiece, with two of each five going to the American Red Cross.

Seventh grade teacher **Mr. Kreft** and **Ms. Lawson** of the eighth grade team also organized a clothes drive for the American Red Cross shelter at the National Guard Amory not far from S.O.A. "Our cafeteria was FULL of clothing," Ms. Lawson wrote in an e-mail, "all 25 or so tables, stacked about 6 garments deep. All of this without a written notice,

without a call-out to parents, without an e-mail or anything else." Middle school students helped about thirty evacuees find clothes for themselves and their family members. "I met one remarkable person named Elisha," said Ms. Lawson. "His family was okay, and they are staying with his sister in Awendaw. When he saw the magnitude of clothes in the cafeteria and the kids running around helping people, he burst into tears. I gave him a hug, and with that, he broke down and cried like a baby in my arms....I didn't think he could stop. But he did. An hour later, he was leaving with three huge bags of clothes and a beaming, smiling face."

In this time of crisis, emotions are clearly on the line. So many people who were going about the mundane business of life now find their world twisting and churning. **Araba Appiagyei-Dankah**, a former S.O.A. student and current Academic Magnet sophomore, wrote in a chilling weblog entry: "I used to live in New Orleans. Mardi Gras, beignets at Cafe Du Monde, the horses....I lived there. It was the place that welcomed me and my family after we moved from Ghana to here. How...? How...? There are dead bodies floating in the streets!!! People's homes are just so many planks of wood lying on the ground!!! How can this be happening?..."

It's a question we've all been asking lately. But no matter how and why, no matter what could have been done in preparation or what the government didn't do, the Gulf Coast is locked in desperation.

Hurricane me: A first hand account

by Alice Wise

Imagine powerlines across the street, trees uprooted, roofs blown off their houses, and bayou mud caked over the road. This was the case for many Gulf Coast residents that got hit by Hurricane Katrina, including me. As I drove down the streets of Biloxi, Mississippi, I found homes completely obliterated and looters from the rubble, robbing everything from K-Mart to the Dollar General. But amongst all the insanity, there were Army National Guards and Navy men working around the clock while electricians rewire telephone poles non-stop. Water, food, generators, and clothes were distributed and sold between stores, relieving the few of their worries.

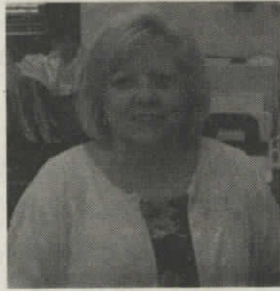
Others sat in their homes waiting on help for four days without food or water. Many have been evacuated from the area, including the sick in New Orleans. But no matter how many they relieve to the outside world, the sick seem to die more quickly than they can relieve. Around noon time, I visited the Biloxi-Ocean Springs bridge. The reality of the bridge that I rode on for nearly nine years reduced to nothing was unreal. Even though the experience was a horrific site, I still managed to learn one thing, life on the Gulf Coast is not for me.



School News: New Staff

Ms. Moore: new secretary

by Sara Marie Johnson

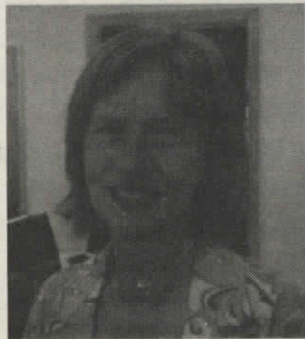


Ms. Moore has been a secretary and book keeper for twenty nine years. A friend told her of the opening for a secretary at School of the Arts. She already loves the school and plans on staying here for a long time. She has two children, one grandchild, and a black lab named Luke that she is very proud of. Ms. Moore, who attended Charleston Southern University for two years and majored in business, grew up in Charleston and has only moved away once to Spartanburg, South Carolina to work. She lives in North Charleston currently and says she will never move away from her home again. Ms. Moore also worked at Buist Academy for a year and a half as their book keeper. She loves the ocean and spending lots of time at the beach.

Ms. Moore is looking forward to all of our wonderful and exciting school events. "I hope to bring a pleasant and positive attitude, so teachers and students will feel free to come to me," she told me during our interview. Welcome to School of the Arts, Ms. Moore!

Mrs. Wade: new computer teacher

by Sara Marie Johnson



You may know Mrs. Wade as School of the Arts book keeper and secretary from past years. She is the new ninth through twelfth grade computer tech teacher, and this is her first teaching position. Mrs. Wade was born in North Charleston and is married with two children. Her hobby is reading, and she finds it very interesting starting a new career at fifty-two years old. Mrs. Wade got her bachelors degree from College of Charleston. She has always wanted to teach since she was a little child and plans on sticking to it for awhile. Mrs. Wade had some wonderful teachers

who influenced her through out her life. She is enjoying teaching at School of the Arts and loves the different personalities of the students. Mrs. Wade wants to help our students understand that life is about choices, and if we arm ourselves with as much information as we can, we will be better prepared to make wise choices. She wants to thank her family and friends at School of the Arts because she couldn't have made this transition without their support.

Mrs. Glass: new resource teacher

by David Whitley

Julie Glass is a new sixth grade resource teacher. As this is her first year at School of the Arts, I was interested in what she thought of our school. Glass's opinion holds value not only as a teacher, but as a mother. She has two daughters that are currently enrolled at School of the Arts: one in the eighth grade and one in sixth.

Although it's her first year teaching at SOA, this is far from being her first time as an educator. Glass has taught at several other schools, among them Garrett High



School and Charleston Progressive. Out of curiosity, I asked her how SOA stacked up against those schools.

"There's no comparison," she said. [SOA] is so unique."

When asked what she taught there, she replied she had been teaching resource for quite a long time now, and therefore is quite experienced in aiding students with organizational or study habit problems. She also heads the SOA Destination Imagination team, which placed 17th in the world in 2005. Glass admits that she's had an interesting first two weeks of school, although she has yet to see Lake SOA. Here's hoping she has a good time during her first year at SOA.

Ms. Carr: new guidance counselor

by Sara Marie Johnson



The new guidance counselor, Ms. Carr, is a "Golden Girl," a loving, laid back person, who has great advice for the students at School of the Arts. Ms. Carr graduated from Elon College in Elon, North Carolina. She also attended University of North Carolina in Charlotte to get her Masters in Psychology. She moved to Charleston

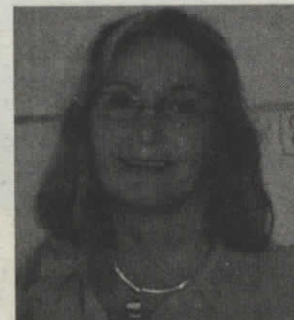
with her fiancé to enjoy the beach more and be in an awesome city. This isn't the first time Ms. Carr has worked in the public school system. While getting her masters, she had a year long internship at West Charlotte High School in Charlotte, North Carolina. She also works at M.U.S.C's Institute of Psychiatrics as a therapist's assistant.

Ms. Carr is planning on reaching out to the students at School of the Arts to help make our transition from middle school to high school smoother and easier. She also wants the students to know all of their options. She is confident that if one sets realistic goals and believes in them he can succeed.

Dr. Holden-Musser: new science teacher

by Kimberly Jenkins

Dr. Mary Ellen Holden-Musser is proud to be a new teacher at School of the Arts. She is a native of Charleston, SC, and is married with three sweet children: Grace, 12; Caroline, 10; and Graham, 8. She received her Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of California at Berkeley.



Her hobbies include hiking and camping out west. She teaches 9th through 12th grade physical science (Honors and CP) and physics tech. She loves working with middle and high-school aged children. She cares a lot about her students and wants them to succeed. Her definition of a good teacher is someone who sets high standards, has empathy, and is willing to roll with the punches. She has had many interesting experiences with animals because she studies mammals. She also thinks that "SOA students are an excellent group of kids --- it's been a great first two weeks!"

Miscellaneous

What Dystopia? *Continued from pg. 4*

channels called MSNBC, ABC, PBS, CBS, NBC, and even *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, who takes at least one opportunity per show to shout to the audience that he's a liberal and proud of it.

Has anyone forgotten Dan Rather's "scathing exposé" of Bush's corruption, which turned out to be forged documents written on a home word processor?

A study taken by Yale during George W. Bush's presidency shows that when the editorials are subtracted, Fox News is the most centrist in it's views, with over 50% of the remainder on the left side of the political spectrum.

In addition, you mentioned "numbing desensitization caused by the over-airing of the video clips of the planes crashing into the Twin Towers." ...And yet nobody complains about "repressive military propaganda caused by the over-airing of day-long M*A*S*H marathons... If you want to see desensitization and over-airing, you should take a quick jog down to your local Barnes & Noble. There you may gaze upon the veritable hordes of books full of "Bush'isms," including daily calendars. This is also proof that we still live in a democracy. I seriously doubt that in North Korea, you could purchase books of "Kim Jong'isms."

Please note, dear readers, that at no point am I facetious or sarcastic during my rebuttal, as we conservatives do not have time for such trivialities, what with the alien invasion we're orchestrating under the command of the Cigarette-Smoking Man.

Dear Sara,

How do I overcome procrastination?

-Anonymous

Dear Reader,

Many people suffer from procrastination. Whether students are procrastinating to do homework or a teacher grading papers, everyone has procrastinated. The definition of procrastination is the avoidance of doing a task which needs to be accomplished. This can lead to feelings of guilt, inadequacy, depression and self doubt among students. I agree with this definition because procrastination is not just waiting to write a paper but something that can put you into a deep depression. Many people say you have "symptoms" of procrastination when you avoid taking risks or trying something new, stay at home or in the same job for a long time, get sick when faced with an unpleasant job or homework assignment, avoid decisions, or having such a busy social calendar that you can't get the most important work done. You should stop and see if you have some of these symptoms, Reader. If you do then you suffer from a normal case of procrastination. Many people find it makes you feel better and more pleasant when it's just making your life stressful.

You can overcome procrastination by identifying your goals and deciding which one's are really the most important. Set yourself some priorities, make a schedule, and stick to it. The best thing is to think positive and try to focus on your success, not your failures. Also, try to make your environment suite you. You work better in the surroundings you favor the most. If you don't like studying inside your house and feel like you can't focus with all the distraction, try it outside in a quiet spot in your yard or in a book store. If you like music, then play some music that might stimulate your mind. I suffer from the time I start, but once I start I always end up finishing. Hopefully you have considered some of this advice and try to overcome procrastination. Remember, it's not a disease.



Horoscopes

Aries (March 21-April 20): You were born to make a contribution to humanity. Use your imaginative power to create lasting results.

Taurus (April 21-May 21): You are a witness to the simple, physical beauty of the world around you. Don't complicate things with self-doubt.

Gemini (May 22-June 22): You are a thinker. Take as many opportunities as you can to communicate your opinions to others.

Cancer (June 23-July 23): You have always felt that a sense of belonging is important, but remember that you can't hang on forever.

Leo (July 24-August 23): You are kind, loyal, and a little bit vain. Make sure to let your individuality shine through it all.

Virgo (August 24-September 23): You have a newfound aversion to chaos, but don't let this downplay your usual charisma.

Libra (September 24-October 23): You are a good analyst of emotionally complex situations, though you often view them too idealistically.

Scorpio (October 24-November 22): You are a realist in all respects. Try not to overanalyze others' situations; learn to accept what may not be best.

Sagittarius (November 23-December 22): Though you need freedom of movement, you are drawn to limits and containment. It's time to escape.

Capricorn (December 23-January 19): Your social consciousness, though handy at times, often blinds you to the inspiration that will set you apart from the rest.

Aquarius (January 20-February 19): You thrive in the company of others but are bound by self-imposed limitations. Don't underestimate the power of the individual.

Pisces (February 20-March 20): Your sarcasm becomes you.

School Calendar

September 2005

21-Sep-05 Interim Reports Distributed

22-Sep-05 HS Band Concert-7pm in Kerr's Band Room

27-Sep-05 Academic Open House for Middle School - 6-7:30pm

29-Sep-05 Academic Open House for High School - 6-7:30pm

Tri-M Induction Ceremony 7:30 pm in Black Box

October 2005

01-Oct-05 MS&HS Orchestra- All State Auditions in Berkeley County

03-Oct-05 Rising 6th grade Applications become available

04-Oct-05 MS Band Family Night- 6pm in SOA cafeteria Marine Science

Field Trip-Charleston Maritime Center 9 am- 1 pm (Colquitt)

05-Oct-05 HS Theatre Tour Show - 7pm, Black Box (Wed.-Fri., Oct 5-7)

06-Oct-05 HS Vocal Fall Concert - Westminster Presbyterian Church - 7 pm

11-Oct-05 MS & HS Theatre Arts Fall Conservatory - 7 pm in Black Box

15-Oct-05 SCTA One Act Competition - Columbia, SC

17-Oct-05 8th Grade Theatre Improv - 4 pm in Black Box

19-Oct-05 Teachers enter grades (Wed.-Thu. October 19 & 20)

20-Oct-05 HS Music Majors - Senior Thesis Juries (during class time)

22-Oct-05 Jump, Jive, & Wail at Charleston Visitor's Center

24-Oct-05 Teacher Workday

25-Oct-05 Art Smart Open

House - (Tues. - Fri., October 25 - 28)

27-Oct-05 Begin accepting 6th

Grade applications Art Smart

Parent Show - 7pm in Black Box,

Report Cards distributed

28-Oct-05 8th Grade Field Trip -

Dock Street Theater 9:00 am -

1:30 pm

29-Oct-05 HS Theatre Haunted

House - 5:30 - 8:30 pm in Black

Box

M. Brennan Architects, Inc.



Malcolm J. Brennan
President

113 Wappoo Creek Drive, Suite 4

Charleston, SC 29412

Ph. 843-406-7813 Fax 843-406-7814

Web address: www.mbreannanarchitects.com

Question of the Month



I went to San Francisco!
Olivia Soto
7th Grade Theatre



I went diving and snorkeling in the Bahamas and didn't want to come back.
Mr. Pezzeca
French Teacher



I had a blast at Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure.
Kati Ahern
11th Grade Vocal



I had fun paint balling with my dad!
Zach Donaldson
6th Grade Vocal

How did you spend your summer vacation?



I was grounded and went to Lake Philly.
Melanie Ropp
10th Grade Theatre



I lay on the beach in Mexico.
Collins Rice
8th Grade Creative Writing



I said good-bye to three of my closest friends from the Class of 2005.
Acecily Alexander
12th Grade Creative Writing



I shopped at the Underground in Atlanta GA.
Nichollette Singleton
9th Grade Dance