



Applause



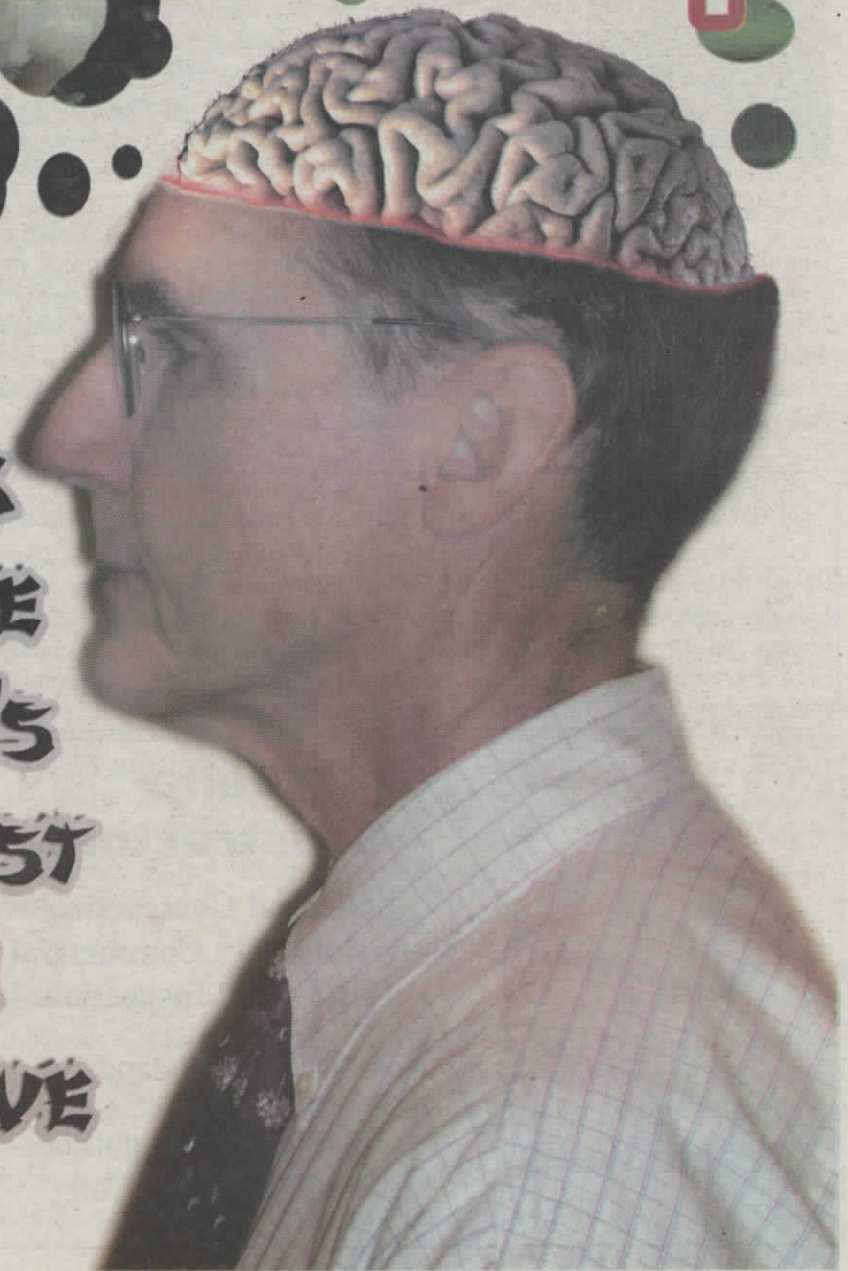
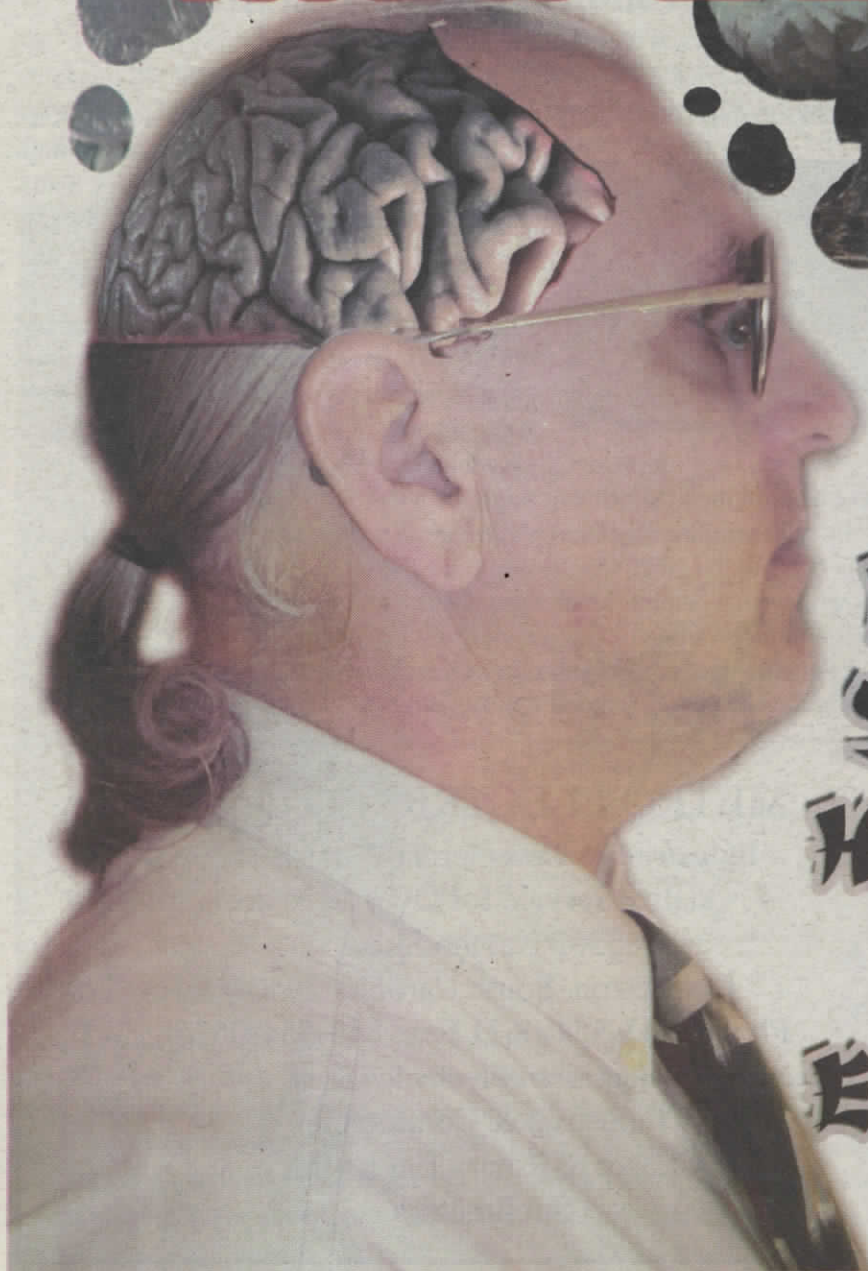
Volume 7 Number 3

Charleston County School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC

November 2005



WHAT DO YOU THINK?



A
LOOK
INSIDE
SOA'S
HOTTEST
NEW
ELECTIVE

Editors' Page

Applause Staff



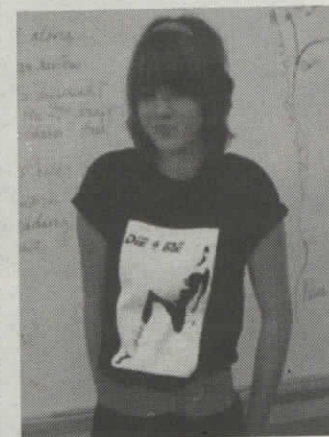
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Applause is a student produced publication of the School of the Arts.
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SOA visual artist has an eye for fashion

By Sara Marie Johnson

A new hip clothing line has been designed by Kendall Jones called Die 4 Me Clothing. Kendall and her friend, Mark Kruger came up with the idea earlier this year. They wanted to print "Die 4 Me" logos and other designs made by themselves on to T-shirts. This clothing line just started in late September 2005. Kendall has always been interested in fashion. She loves to doodle all over papers, and her favorite designer is Valentino. She does not consider this to be a future career but as a long lasting hobby. She is interested in Interior Design and majors in Visual Arts. Right now there is only one printed design on T-shirts, but Kendall expects to release four new designs before the end of the year. The current printed T-shirts are of a girl by herself with bandaged legs and the "Die 4 Me" logo. Kendall and Mark get their help from a locally owned print shop, where they can run the printing press themselves. Hopefully we will be seeing more of this new clothing line. Keep up the creative ideas!



Editor's Note



A new look for a new issue! As I hope you have all noticed, this November issue of the *Applause* has been through a little makeover. The cover, for one, designed by Omi Naderi, is one of the many new eye-catching aspects of this issue. The main feature this month is about Mr. Smyth's psychology class and the surveys they created in order to discover the opinions of SOA students on particular issues. Mr. Brehm, the other psychology teacher, plans on having his students create another version of surveys, which,

I'm sure, will be just as interesting as the first.

I have some sad news to report as well, one of the *Applause* staff writers has returned home to the Gulf. However, to our great happiness, Alice Wise is still going to write articles for us. We also have three new guest reviewers this issue, Lou Marcell, Jenna Jones, and Katie Isaacson. These newcomers will aid you in discovering what's good and what's not.

2005 is coming to an end, and we only have one more issue this year, so make sure you keep a sharp eye out for the December Issue of the *Applause*!

Keepin' it short and simple: NHS news

by Nicole Adams

Thanks to everyone who showed up on Saturday, October 22, for the Race



for the Cure! The turn-out from the community was awesome! It was a beautiful Saturday morning on Daniel Island, which made the race much better. Thanks again to the supporters of SOA and Race for the Cure.

The NHS tutoring program has picked up this year, and the society is thrilled to see what an impact the program is having on SOA. Keep in mind that exams are quickly approaching, and NHS tutoring is the perfect way

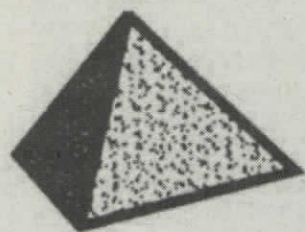
to receive help on those topics that might be a tad bit fuzzy.

In case you are unaware, all the money raised by the National Honor Society is put into the NHS scholarship fund. The scholarships go to seniors and students who wish to attend summer programs, so support NHS! You could be the next person to receive one of our wonderful scholarships.

Look for upcoming fundraiser information and the results of the NHS yard sale in the December issue of the *Applause*.

Purchase a pumpkin and help St. Jude Children's Hospital

Applause is selling paper pumpkins for \$1.00 to raise money for St. Jude Children's Hospital. The pumpkins will be hung on the wall outside *The Applause* Staff room. St. Jude has come to the assistance of sick children displaced by Hurricane Katrina. On December 2nd, Dr. Cusatis will visit Memphis to perform music for the children, and on December 3rd he will run the St. Jude Memphis Marathon. He has promised to raise \$1000 through patrons. Please come by and purchase a pumpkin!

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School News

Is that a chill in the air?

by Kim Jenkins

I recently sat down with Ms. Tisdale to talk about the upcoming Winter Formal. This year's Winter Formal is being held on December 11th in the ballroom at The Francis Marion Hotel on King and Calhoun Street. This is centrally located across from Marion Square. The fun and festivities begin at 7:00 PM and end at 10:00 PM. The attire is formal. Boys should wear a suit and tie or tuxedo. Ladies, mid- or full-length gowns. There will be food and beverages to enjoy while dancing the night away. "It'll be very festive with the Christmas lights on Marion Square," stated Ms. Tisdale. The buzz has started regarding who's going with whom. "It is tradition that the girls ask the guys, but everyone is welcome," Ms. Tisdale said.

Tickets are \$20 each and will be sold from December 5th until December 9th during first and second lunch. There will be no tickets sold after December 9th, and no tickets will be sold at the door. Get your tickets while you have a chance!

Ladies, if you want two free tickets to winter formal, you can sign up on the "Invitation Sensation" roster in Ms. Tisdale's room from November 17 to December 2 during first or second lunch. You will be videotaped asking your date to the dance. The winner will be determined by the creativity of your invitation. So girls, better start planning on how you're going to outdo each other (but no clothing may be removed, nor may drugs or alcohol be used in the process!)

Winter Formal tickets go on sale for \$20 from December 5th to the 9th. No tickets will be sold after the 9th.



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On October 26th, four seniors set off on a voyage to capture some of Charleston's beautiful parks on film. With help from Mr. Smyth, the academic coordinator, Joia Tucker, Matthew Bostick, Justin Schram, and Acecily Alexander took a day off of school to visit each of these parks, even taking a boat ride to Fort Sumter. Each senior took a video camera to capture different shots. This video is being created by Video Production 2 students only for the National Park Service's website. "Mr. Allen, the Director of the National Park Service asked us to make a video to show the different parks we have in Charleston like Fort Moultrie and Fort Sumter," Joia Tucker said. "It was a lot of fun, but a lot of hard work," she recalls. Mrs. Awkerman, who is the Video Production 2 teacher states that primarily the students work on major projects for a customer. "Sometimes the customer may be another art teacher, but this project is from a customer outside of school who sought us out." Look out for upcoming news on videos by Video Production 2 students.

A teen with a dream

by Kathleen Smith

It's hard to imagine giving up your entire summer vacation to travel to India and teach English. Imagine waking up every morning at 8:00 while your friends back in America are still asleep. Imagine sweating and suffering all day long in 100 degree weather and not even getting paid for it. Surprisingly, this is how Vasanth Kuppaswamy, a sophomore at Academic Magnet High School, who came to speak to the 7th and 8th grade plus Mr. Smyth's psychology class about a month ago, has chosen to spend his summers since sixth grade.

This summer will be Vasanth's fifth trip to Maganurpatti, a town in Southern India where his father grew up. Maganurpatti is located in the bottom part of Tamil Nadu, and its native language is Tamil, which Vasanth speaks fluently. The summer before he began 7th grade, Vasanth sparked the idea of teaching English at the school his father attended. "When I went to the principal to tell him my idea, he basically said the students were stupid and they wouldn't be able to learn," Vasanth recalls of his first meeting with the principal of the school. Vasanth doesn't seem to get homesick when he is away in India, and that the time just flies by. Vasanth's grandparents and uncles still live in Maganurpatti and care for Vasanth when he is there.



In the past year, Vasanth has become well known in the Charleston area with help from our academic coordinator, Mr. Smyth. Vasanth speaks at various schools regularly about his experiences in India. Even our very own seventh and eighth graders have been helping out tremendously. Six weeks ago, Mr. Smyth and Vasanth submitted an application for a grant from the Association of Fundraising Professionals in Washington D.C. Amazingly, Mr. Smyth received a call soon afterwards announcing that they were giving Vasanth \$10,000 to help his two schools in southern India. Also, the North Charleston Rotary Club, in collaboration with International Rotary, has decided to send one water purification system to Vasanth's village in India. Mr. Smyth admires his hard work very much. "Vasanth is the most visionary...student I have ever met. He is the most visionary, passionate, and dedicated student I have ever met. He wants to completely transform the Indian school system and make it a modern educational system that really serves students," he said. This summer Vasanth hopes to bring more teenagers with him on his trip to India.

To refresh your minds, Vasanth is just a regular sixteen year old. He plays soccer for AMHS and likes to play pool with his friends every Saturday. His favorite food is pizza and he loves all kinds of music. He is on the road to becoming a doctor, but he may change his mind and open his own school in India. Vasanth is an inspiration to us all and reminds us of the potential within all teenagers to achieve great things.

"Vasanth is the most visionary...student I have ever met."

-Mr. Bill Smyth

And...action!

by Kathleen Smith

School

News

RB Morris: The poet within the songwriter

by Cait Brennan

"Who is your favorite band?" he asked. For a moment, we were all quiet, trying to think of the most impressive band name we could think of. Well, maybe not everyone, but I was. "The Beatles, Simon and Garfunkle, the Rolling Stones!" we shouted. I suppose when RB Morris, poet, songwriter, and the father of our very own **Frances Morris**, visited our AP Literature class earlier this month he was a little taken aback by our somewhat classic tastes. As he glanced around the room at all the posters that ornamented Dr. Cusatis's walls, he said, "a lot of these men are my inspirations - Bob Dylan, The Beatles, and Kerouac," Morris trailed off. He struck up again telling the class about his older brother, a poet who introduced him to the Beat poets like Gary Snyder and Allen Ginsberg. He noticed a link between most of the poets his brother admired; they all wrote about themselves. This became a "trend of voice," as he put it. And once this voice became trendy, it became problematic. "Fame is problematic. I guess I'm lucky that I've never had to deal with all that."

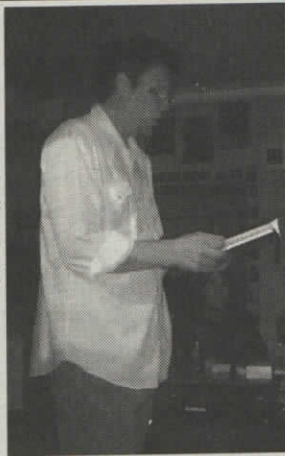
After his brother exposed him to all different kinds of poets, Morris became more and more interested in songwriting, which he considers another form of poetry. He talked about the first time he heard Bob Dylan as a freshmen in high school. He described his voice as "rough, something you wouldn't hear on the radio. At first I was a little put off by it, but immediately I knew he was up to something." Dylan appealed to Morris so much because he was not only "streetwise," but his music also had a kind of philosophical feel underneath the "fast thought patterns." Morris believes he gravitated towards songwriting because the only poetry taught in school was from centuries ago, written in an almost different language. Bob Dylan helped him come to the conclusion that there was a definite link between poetry and folk music. His teachers, however, did not agree with this concept; they insisted that writing

poetry and writing lyrics were completely separate from one another. Morris came to the realization that "poetry and songwriting has been an ancient tradition. Homer spoke his poetry and told stories along with using an instrument." Hundreds of other cultures throughout history have passed on stories and traditions through song. "Poetic voice is a hard thing to pin down. It's up to you to figure out exactly what it means to you."

After Morris spoke about poetry in general, he read from his book, *Litorral Zone*. The book contained many of what he called, "travel journals." When Morris was younger, he always carried a notebook with him because "anything anyone said or did gave [him] an idea for a song." The sea was a major part of Morris's life. It "gave moments, reveries about where I came from, and where I was that particular time in my life." His entire family thought he was nuts for carrying around a notebook and writing all the time, but he considered writing a great discipline and an

amazing way to reflect upon himself and to bring memories back into focus.

Not only did this talented visitor bring his book of poetry, but also his guitar. Morris has always thought that driving is one of the best times to write songs, especially when there isn't a radio, like in his old truck. Morris got the idea for the first song that he played because of the superstition that a penny that is heads-up is good luck. He started off thinking of just one line, and then added a little love story, and there was a song, and a lovely, rustic song it was. As our applause was drowned out by the afternoon announcements, we sat in awe. We were all very inspired with Morris's obvious talent and love for music, writing, and the combination of the two.



Where are they now? Hamadi Brown

First graduating class of SOA

By Sara Marie Johnson

What college did you attend and what degree did you receive?

I attended the College of Charleston and graduated with a bachelor of science in Special Education. I am certified to teach students with emotional disabilities and learning disabilities (ED/LD)

Are you attending grad school, and if so, where?

I am attending graduate school at The Citadel for a Master's in school counseling.

Are you working anywhere now?

I am teaching an LD Self-Contained class at James Island Charter High School. I teach African American Studies and Social Studies.

What is your dream job?

There are so many things I want to do right now that I am just thankful to have a job at all!

Did SOA inspire you to be where you are today?

At the beginning, SOA inspired me to become a physical therapist; however, by the end, I wanted to help society exercise the mind instead of the body. I guess I have to say yes.

Have you used your major in any way out of high school?

All the time! It takes so much creativity to put grades in the gradebook and write lesson plans that I constantly entertain myself. OK René Miles! I write all the time! It is the only way I can keep my sanity.

What was your favorite part of going to SOA?

The freedom and exposure to the world around you. So many of us grow up clueless of our capabilities and try to make up for it when it is too late.

Do you miss SOA?

Not really because every generation makes an impact and my class has surely made their mark. I have so many memories that I think of SOA daily.

How did you feel to be in the first graduating class of SOA?

To me, it didn't really seem like a big deal because we'd been through so much trying to make it possible for the school to go as far as it did. It wasn't until I walked off the stage at graduation that I realized I had started a legacy.

How was college different from School of the Arts?

College was like SOA to me because you were still in an environment where teachers catered to your needs, yet if you made the wrong choices too many times, you were on your own (in a good way that is)!

What were some of the classes you took/take in college?

Building Participation in the Arts, Theater, History of South Carolina, Sociology, and a dump full of education courses.

Continued to pg.15

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School News

2 D'sandan R

by Kathleen Smith and Rachel Maguire

This year, instead of asking questions that pertain to the school, we thought we'd get a little up close and personal with our very own VP. Since this is the month of

Thanksgiving, we were wondering what Mr. Davis is truly thankful for.



Mr. Davis

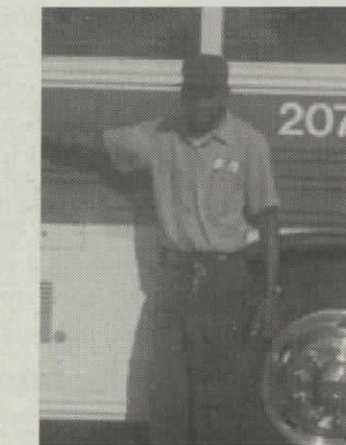
"I'm very thankful for my family, which is very large. I'm thankful for my religion and my strong faith. I'm thankful for my country and being able to do what I want to do within reason. I'm very grateful to be at SOA and given a chance to work again after I retired. I enjoy good health, since I run a lot. I enjoy my friends; I have two very close friends that I have known for fifty-five years. We still talk almost everyday and e-mail each other. Basically, I'm thankful for three main things: my family, my church, and living in the good ol' USA."

For Thanksgiving, we figured that since Mr. Dawson is such a hard worker, he would be here at school keeping the grounds clean. However, we decided to ask him, "How will you celebrate Thanksgiving?"

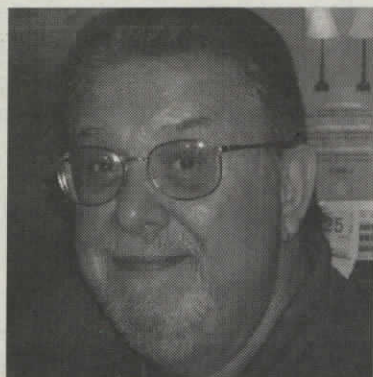
"I generally just spend Thanksgiving with my wife. Every once in a while my sister-in-law comes down to celebrate with us. Our table is set with a turkey of course, collard greens, stuffing, and sweet potato pie. After we get everything cleaned up, it's time for football! You all know from my bio that football is my favorite sport, so on the best game day of the year, how could I pass it up?"

SURPRISE! We have a substitute for Mrs. Darlene! As we ventured into the cafeteria we expected to see Mrs. Darlene's smiling face, but we got a rude awakening. Mrs. Darlene has been temporarily replaced. Don't get us wrong, Mr. Randy is quite dandy, but Mrs. Darlene will surely be missed. Our question for our newbie was, "Do you follow a traditional thanksgiving dinner, or do you spice it up?"

"It's a pleasure meeting you girls, and I'm more than happy to participate in the 3Ds, even though my name doesn't start with a D. I do follow a traditional meal on Thanksgiving Day with my close family (those that are in the area). At this meal we have a turkey and all of the usual table dressings like sweet potatoes and stuffing. Aside from this meal, all of my family comes in town usually Thursday or Friday night, and because of my Italian heritage, we do Thanksgiving Italian style: Antipasta, bread, lasagna, salad, and spaghetti. It's kind of nice getting to have TWO big meals."



Mr. Dawson



Mr. Randy

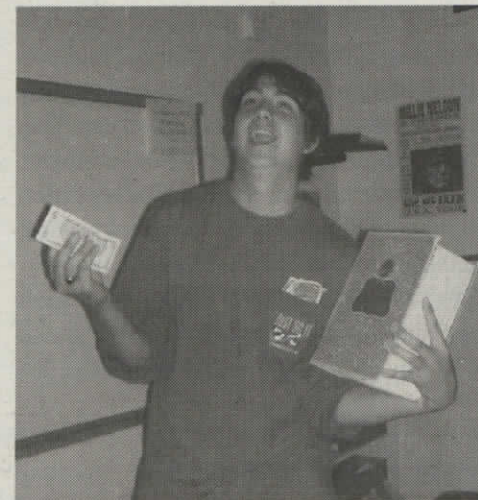
Name: Randy Olsen
Hobby: Playing guitar in my band
Favorite Food: anything Italian
Favorite Magazine:
Food and Wine
Favorite Color: blue

How does school weigh in?

by Rachel Maguire

High school is a time to develop responsibilities, so many high school students begin to get jobs. Jobs can be a source of a social life, a way to put some money in your pocket, and discount opportunities. However, sometimes just the mention of the word "job" can send a shiver down your spine. It is nice to have that money in your pocket every other week when pay day comes around, but the jobs that you get in high school involve late night hours or tedious tasks. Mostly teenagers get jobs at retail stores, restaurants, and grocery stores. These late hours leave little time for homework, any chores that need to be done, or most importantly, a social life. I've learned from experience that a retail job is very tedious work, you fold and fold clothes all night long, only for it to be messed up as soon as a customer comes in looking for the size at the bottom of the pile. At restaurants, you can only wait for customers because to clean would be completely pointless. The most frustrating thing about a job that we all know about is how you rarely seem to get out on time. For those of us who like to make plans and rely on set times, this can be extremely frustrating. The downsides to jobs are enough to make you want to throw in the towel.

The good can sometimes outweigh the bad; however, the whole money aspect is a great incentive. Discounts are another incentive; it's nice to be able to buy something and get it for half of the price. The best parts though are the friends you make, because there are so many other high school students whose parents made them get a job. Here at SOA there are lots of students with jobs: **Kathleen Smith** works at the Ruby Seahorse and The Old Post Office, both restaurants on Edisto Island; **Meredith Jones** and **Allison Smith** work at Confederate Coffee and Creamery, a deli-type restaurant; **Brandi Dirkes** works at Palmetto Moon, a fanatics store in the mall; **Andrew Smith** works at Jack's Cosmic Dogs, a small hot dog shop on 17; **Hilari Ross** works at Moe's in Mt. Pleasant; **Daris Sullivan** and **Louis Marcell** work at Outback Steakhouse in West Ashley; **Rindy Ross** works at her father's chiropractic office; **Omi Naderi** works for his father at Olympik Restaurant and Bakery; and I also work with my father at Eck, an electrical supply company. The last three of these are probably the best you can have. They give you flexible schedules to allow time for school, the pay isn't half bad, and you still have to get work done. A word to the wise: if you can, work for one of your parents or a family friend to ensure an enjoyable job and a schedule that won't consume your entire day.



Workin' man Brent Sagan balances earning money and good grades

A tidbit on Mr. Randy

Last Movie Seen-
Are We There Yet?
Dream Car- BMW Convertible
Favorite Sport- College Football
Favorite Band-
Allman Brothers

Favorite Actress / Actor - Sandra Bullock and Nicholas Cage
Dream Job - Executive Chef in the Virgin Islands
Favorite College Team -
University of South Carolina

Features

Ms. Touihri's year in France

by Liz Gildea

Last year, the pep and color that is the 8th grade hall experienced a slight transformation. There were two new staff members – **Mr. Johnsen**, replacing **Ms. Brown** for the science position, and **Mme. Gremion** filling **Ms. Touihri's** French slot. Ms. Touihri, however, is back in action at SOA, having spent last school year in Ville Fontaine, France, a city of 25,000 about fifteen miles east of Lyon (the third largest city in France).

Through the Fulbright Teacher Exchange program, Ms. Touihri had the opportunity to trade positions with someone teaching in a similar situation. She taught English to middle school students at a public school called College des Allinges. Other than travel expenses and adjusting to a different lifestyle, this trip didn't seem to present Ms. Touihri with many new undertakings. In fact, she spoke of having less responsibility at College des Allinges than here:

"There's no car duty, you don't have to eat lunch with the students, you don't need to stay after school...basically, teachers teach their classes and they don't have any other responsibilities." She said it was nice to be able to leave when classes were over, especially since their school days last until 5:00 – although they have almost two hours for lunch! The students also have a mid week break, midday breaks, permission to leave if they don't have class, and access to cappuccino machines. Crazy, isn't it? But I bet you'd never guess that they have

co-ed bathrooms! "It was horrible" said Ms. Touihri. "They didn't even have doors." I grimaced. Here, it would surely be nothing but a teacher/staff nightmare.

The faculty at College des Allinges apparently had other worries, though. "There were three big teacher's strikes," Ms. Touihri said. "I could not strike, but at my school they were very followed - about 85% of the teachers didn't come to school." There were strikes at the student level as well, thought not at this particular school.

If they were to strike, maybe it would be a protest of the school food, which isn't any better than American cafeteria food. "There was actually only one time that I ate in the school cafeteria, and I couldn't eat the meat - I didn't know if it was lamb, or horse, or hamburger or what," said Ms. Touihri, with a sickened look on her face. "But food is a lot better in restaurants. Even at McDonalds, they have healthier choices than we do in the United States. Food is always fresher, and it's not all fried and greasy. People eat less on the go, too."

Though the French schools sound comparable to ours, there are certainly contrasts in the two cultures. I asked Ms. Touihri if she experienced any discrimination for being American. After a long pause, she said, "There were some adults who made comments. The doctor who was seeing my son was talking about 'American decadence' - how we are so over the top. But I felt that young people were very interested in our culture and our country. They actually have the idea that we see movie stars just walking around on the street. They were asking, like, 'Have you met J.Lo?' 'Have you seen Brad Pitt in your town?'" I laughed at this.

"But I think that's one of the advantages of going on the exchange," said Ms. Touihri, and people having a real American in front of them...to prove that not everyone's the same, and to explain things more in-depth than what they see on TV. Young people were very interested in knowing what it's really like."



The men's guide to women

by David Whitley and Harry Harrison

So, your girlfriend's convinced she's a whale, figuratively speaking of course. There aren't any mischievous hypnotists running amok; let's not be silly. You met a year ago, and things have been going pretty well so far. She's smart, she's funny, she's cute as a button (although we're not entirely sure what's so cute about buttons. However, for the sake of tradition, the simile stands.) The only problem is that she's sure that she's fat. This wouldn't be a problem if it were true, since calm acceptance is always preferable to delusion, but she only weighs ninety pounds! You're a strong guy; you could bench press her if you wanted to! It wasn't so bad at first, when she started refusing to eat red meats and only bought one percent milk, but now she's gotten the idea to go and get a gym membership; and what's more, she wants you to go along with her!

In short, you hate gyms. The machines are complex, the memberships are expensive, and the personal trainers, who are named Hans and Franz are here to "PUMP *clap* ...you up!" They have always been intimidating.

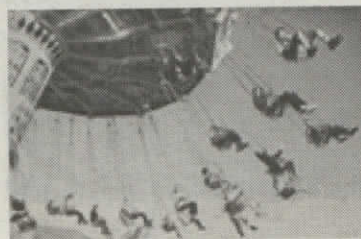
This is a very delicate subject, as anything involving her weight or appearance is bound to be, so you must tread lightly. However, we have some good news for you. DDR (Dance Dance Revolution) with Mario is inbound for Gamecube this holiday season! We personally know several people who have lost roughly ten pounds each from casually playing DDR. It's much less expensive than any gym membership, and can be done in the comfort and safety of your own homes. For you PS2 and Xbox owners, versions of DDR have been available for both systems for a long time, and we are shocked and appalled by your lack of ingenuity for not coming up with the idea yourself and resorting to seeking advice from your school newspaper.

The fair: not just a carnie fest

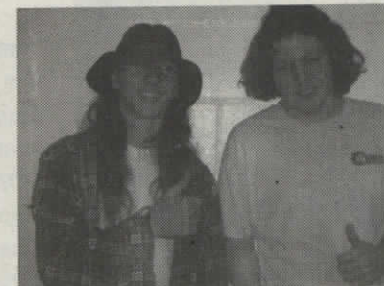
by Cait Brennan

Ah, the Coastal Carolina Fair was a time of obnoxious carnies, grimy rides, and lots and lots of fried dough. Although all these things sound a little grotesque, the fair still presented a very enticing and exhilarating atmosphere. The rides with all their blinking lights and screaming victims sucked you into a very different world. In fact, you'd get so distracted, you'd almost forget about how upset you were about the outrageous prices...but not quite. Such rides as The Drop, The Freak Out, Spin Out, Bonsai, and the good ol' Zipper were, in my opinion, the best the fair had to offer. My favorite, The Drop, gave you a wonderful feeling of

having all your organs sucked from your body as you fell 100 or so feet. But let's not forget the nutritional aspect of the fair; candy apples, funnel cakes, turkey legs, fried Oreos, and cotton candy were some of the most popular of the bountiful smorgasbord. And while many people came simply for the food, others would come to win large stuffed dogs from popping balloons or to



enjoy the sideshows. Tiny Tina, the smallest woman in the world, and the snake woman, who strangely resembled one of the women checking everyone's hand stamps on the ferris wheel, were both big crowd pleasers. And still, some attended the fair festivities to simply support the Exchange Club of Charleston, which donated the profits to local charitable organizations like Crisis Ministries. From Darkness to Light, Hospice of Charleston Inc., and many more. The fair has become a fantastic community event allowing The Exchange Club to donate over 5.5 million dollars to different charities around the Lowcountry. So don't fret about the money you spent or the fattening sweets you ate; after all, it was for a good cause.



School News

Motivational speakers inbound for seventh graders by David Whitley

Recently, this reporter was notified of a program in the seventh grade to educate the students about worldwide and local events and to show them ways in which they can help. "Last year, for example, our first speaker was **Vasanth Kuppuswamy**, a ninth grader at Academic Magnet who volunteers each summer to teach school in a rural village in India," **Mr. Kreft** explains. "He inspired our students to raise several hundred dollars to renovate the dilapidated Indian school, and then the community including other schools, raised thousands of dollars. The students saw that they could really make a difference in the world."

Naturally, one must be curious about when and how this program started. "It's not really a program," Mr. Kreft answers. "Mr. Smyth arranged for Vasanth to speak to the students. After that, the kids took the ball and ran with it. The kids really started this program because they wanted to hear other people's stories, and as we heard from a few of these people, other students started coming forward saying, 'Hey, I know someone interesting!'"

Other speakers that have addressed the seventh graders include Nick Riccio, an eighteen-year-old War On Terror vet who was wounded in Iraq and awarded a purple heart, Michael Dennis, who spoke about his upcoming bicycle trek across the continental United States in order to raise money for Habitat for Humanity, and Jim Augustine, who talked about the environment and green building.

So far, the effectiveness of this program is quite visible, even surprising. "An announcement was made at 3:00 on a Tuesday for everyone to bring in clean clothes to help Katrina victims, and less than sixteen hours later, mountains of clothes covered every table in our cafeteria," Mr. Kreft stated. If this continues, who knows what good deeds may be done by inspired students in the years to come? I, for one, look forward to it.

The tenth day of Tishrey

by Sharon Stovezky



On October 13th you could see most Jewish people going to Synagogue for services. This was because of Yom Kippur, the Jewish holiday of the Day of Atonement. It falls on the tenth day of the Hebrew month of Tishrey. Yom Kippur is commemorated with a 25-hour fast and intensive prayer and is considered the holiest day of the Jewish year.

Yom Kippur begins at nightfall and continues until the next nightfall. Its central theme is atonement and reconciliation. Eating, drinking, washing, cosmetics, wearing leather shoes, and conjugal relations are prohibited. Yom Kippur is considered the most holy of Jewish holidays and its observance is held even among the majority of secular Jews (Jews

who don't practice Judaism for the most part), who may not strictly observe other holidays. Many secular Jews will fast and attend Synagogue on Yom Kippur, and attendance on Yom Kippur can be double, triple, or even more. On the eve of Yom Kippur there is a commandment to eat a large and festive meal before the fast.

According to the Talmud (one of the holiest Jewish texts), God opens three books on the first day of the year; one for the thoroughly wicked, another for the thoroughly pious, and the third for the large intermediate class. The fate of the thoroughly wicked and the thoroughly pious is determined on the spot; the destiny of the intermediate class is suspended until Yom Kippur, when the fate of every body is sealed. Therefore, on Yom Kippur Jewish people ask God for forgiveness for all the sins they have committed during the year. Jewish people pray that they will be pure of bad deeds and be written in the Book of Life. After Yom Kippur each person is determined whether to be written or not in the Book of Life - meaning he is judged for life or death.

Yom Kippur might differ between different congregation and people. Orthodox Jews will follow the rules carefully and will do exactly as it said. Conservative and reform Jews will decide what is important for them to keep. Each person interpretes the fast differently.

All in all, on Yom Kippur all Jewish people take time to think about their past year. They think about the bad and good times, and try to think about ways in which they can improve themselves and become a better people in the new year. And that is the real essence of Yom Kippur.

Reporter returns home to Gulf Coast

by Alice Wise

As most of you've probably read, I have returned home. Being back here, though, is not all its cracked up to be...

Meeting friends, greeting teachers, and making up work has been my first week. From day one, I was immediately gawked at for my return, but later on greeted with hugs, gleeful yells, and even some birthday presents. For a first day, that was pretty great, but the second day went horribly wrong.

Some of my teachers weren't there on the first day, so when they came the second day of my arrival, they said their "hello"s and immediately began to tell me of all the make-up work that I needed to do before my semester term ended with them. Quite frankly, its more work than I ever imagined would be here waiting for me, so its practically overwhelming to just try to start on the stack of paper that needs to be done.

These things made me really appreciate the time that I got to spend with the staff and students of SOA. I think that is really special and will leave a scar of remembrance on me until the day I croak. Lastly, I just wanted to say one last time that I shall miss you all and hope that I might see you again one day!!

Sincerely,
Alice



Karen M. Johnston
Owner/Director

1002 Wappoo Road
Charleston, SC 29407
(803)763-3488

What do you think?

SOA's new elective, psychology, was in such high demand from high school students that the class had to be split in two, one taught by Mr. Brehm and the other by Mr. Smyth (featured on the front cover, respectively). Usually, Mr. Brehm can be seen teaching seniors (and some juniors) economics, and Mr. Smyth is SOA's curriculum coordinator.

In order to find out a bit more about the students at SOA, Mr. Smyth assigned his psychology class a little project. His students paired up and created a number of statements to unveil students' opinions on the issues they face, like stereotypes, friendships, and healthy eating habits at school. Mr. Smyth taught his students how to word the questions they wanted to ask their surveyors to avoid bias. The students were polled using the Likert scale, a set of five attitude statements: strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, and strongly agree. After the pairs figured out their statements and subject matter, they sent the surveys out into the crazy world of SOA. Some pairs gave their surveys to seniors only, while others used subjects from the entire high school. When the results were complete, every student wrote a page or two about exactly what they learned about SOA students based on the collected data. We have here some samples of the class' surveys, so you can make your own conclusions about your fellow students and compare them to yourself.

Choosing a college

by Cait Brennan

Omi Naderi, Nicole Darden, and Sarah Myers created a survey in order to find a general consensus of plans that seniors have for college. The statements they used for their survey were selected in order to get the most complete view of the senior class' school preferences. All the statements put forth are ideas and concepts that every high school senior thinks about before deciding upon a college. The majority of people disagreed with the statement that the college they choose is strongly based on the family's financial need. When asked if any one is planning on attending an Ivy League school, the majority either disagreed or strongly disagreed. Many of our students felt that they would most likely be living in a dorm during their college years. The majority of students said that the location of the school is not a main criteria in choosing a college. Very few students plan on attending a private school.

Mr. Smyth investigates the mysteries of the brain in psychology class.

| | Strongly Agree | Agree | Undecided | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|--|----------------|-------|-----------|----------|-------------------|
| Your college choice is based on your family's financial situation. | 4 | 9 | 4 | 18 | 12 |
| You are planning on going to an in-state school. | 5 | 17 | 7 | 8 | 10 |
| You are planning on attending a four year college. | 11 | 13 | 2 | 16 | 5 |
| You are planning on attending a private school. | 5 | 9 | 5 | 14 | 16 |
| You are planning on living in a dorm. | 7 | 13 | 5 | 12 | 10 |
| The location of the school is a main criteria in your decision making process. | 4 | 9 | 8 | 17 | 9 |
| You will attend an Ivy League school. | 4 | 11 | 7 | 12 | 12 |
| You are basing your college choice on where your friends are attending. | 3 | 10 | 14 | 13 | 7 |

Friends 4 life

By Sara Marie Johnson

Meredith Eads and **Addie Brown** conducted a survey on who people chose to be friends with at School of the Arts. The survey is random and unbiased. There are eight different statements to which students respond with "strongly agree," "agree," "neutral," "disagree," or "strongly disagree." The subject of the statements varies from gender to race to major. They surveyed fifty random people from the senior class. Meredith and Addie wanted to find out if friends at the School of the Arts generally hang out with other SOA students or mostly with friends from other schools. The majority answered with scattered responses.



I thought the results of three statements were very interesting. Statement two says, "Most of your friends are in your art area." I disagreed with this strongly, like many other students. Meredith and Addie found this odd because several close groups of friends belonged to the same art area. I most strongly agreed with statement four:

"You have more friends at School of the Arts than at any other school." I strongly agree with this statement because most of my friends have gone to SOA, currently attend, or are dating someone from SOA.

Statement eight says "Your friends are of a different race than you." I have to only "agree" to this one. While I have to admit most of my friends are the same race as me, there are a variety of races in our school. The results were mainly in the "neutral" column, so Meredith and Addie may have been right when they said, "We felt that perhaps people lied to make themselves sound more well rounded and look like a better person."

| | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Undecided | Agree | Strongly Agree |
|--|-------------------|----------|-----------|-------|----------------|
| Your friends at SOA are some of the first people you met. | 3 | 8 | 6 | 19 | 13 |
| Most of your friends are in your art area. | 8 | 22 | 9 | 9 | 6 |
| Most of your friends have the same classes as you. | 1 | 10 | 9 | 21 | 7 |
| You have more friends at SOA than any other school. | 5 | 7 | 4 | 14 | 21 |
| You generally hang out with a close-knit group of friends. | 2 | 8 | 6 | 19 | 14 |
| Most of your friends are in high school and have been your friends for four or more years. | 2 | 4 | 9 | 20 | 13 |
| Your friends are mostly the same gender as you. | 7 | 13 | 7 | 16 | 6 |
| Your friends are a different race than you. | 4 | 12 | 20 | 11 | 2 |

Is there an SOA stereotype?

by Rachel Maguire

Cait Brennan and **Jessica Atkinson** conducted a survey to find out what the SOA stereotype was and if there was one at all. The two girls asked a random group of seniors in SOA to complete their survey and came to find that the "free loving, tree hugging" stereotype was not altogether true. They addressed issues such as gay marriage, marijuana, how conservative you think you are, environmental rights, religion, your career choice in relation to your major, and abortion. Some of these topics are very controversial, but they found that when it came to whether or not marijuana should be legal, almost the same number of people agreed as disagreed. The majority had issues with the concept



of abortion being wrong, but, like many of the other statements, the results were very close. About 30 students said that religion was not important to them. Looking at the survey as a whole, it is vaguely apparent that a stereotype does exist at SOA, at least among the seniors.

| | Strongly Agree | Agree | Undecided | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
|--|----------------|-------|-----------|----------|-------------------|
| You consider yourself to be conservative. | 14 | 12 | 8 | 16 | 4 |
| Environmental rights are important to you. | 12 | 11 | 11 | 13 | 7 |
| Gay marriage should be legal. | 13 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 14 |
| Religion is important to you. | 8 | 6 | 10 | 17 | 13 |
| Your major will become your career. | 5 | 9 | 12 | 19 | 13 |
| Pot should be legal. | 8 | 16 | 6 | 14 | 11 |
| Abortion is wrong. | 8 | 12 | 13 | 13 | 8 |

Reviews

Nirvana at Nirlep Indian Restaurant

by Omi Naderi

Dear Journal,

I am once again delicately devouring deliciously delectable dishes, this time during the lunch buffet at Nirlep Indian Restaurant. From 11:30 AM to 3:00 PM, every single day, Nirlep's owner (and father, since Nirlep is named after his youngest son) Dilawar Banga and the staff offer a succulent selection of authentic Indian flavors for their customers to help themselves to. And I am taking advantage of the bounty with every bite I take from every dish they make.

Amidst the Hindustani-tinged décor and the eastern sounds of ragas overhead, I sip my Mango Lassi, a sweet concoction of homemade yogurt blended with milk and the nectar of fresh mangos. It is a refreshing change from the usual soft-drink beverage choices offered at most restaurants, although these are available as well. Even so, I must note that the following is a true statement in reference to goodness: Mango Lassi > Coca Cola Classic > Pepsi. From the buffet, I've collected some incredible treasures with foreign names, which are steaming on my plate next to the nearby saucer of Tamarind sauce: vegetable Pakoras and Samosas, Aloo Tikki, Pappadams, saffron and cardamom seasoned rice, Nan, Channa Masala, Aloo Sag, chicken and lamb curry, and a piece of Tandoori chicken. The red Tandoori meat—exquisitely marinated with sour cream, ginger, lemon juice and other spices—beckons me to commence its consumption first. As it approaches my lips, the aroma hints at the impending taste. An explosion of flavor! Hari Krishna! Excuse me, for I must postpone my writings because the food so good that I cannot continue relating the sensations in words. Mmm...

I have been satiated. Though I have had Indian food many times in the past, Nirlep's rendition stood out as particularly excellent. What took place in my mouth, here at this table, was indeed an adventure, a culinary journey through India. I have concluded that those who have hitherto lived their lives without having eaten Indian food haven't really utilized their taste buds to their full abilities. But I have. I knew this to be true around the time I ate the stunning Samosas, which are thin pockets of crispy, deep-fried dough stuffed with potatoes, green peas and spices. Similar to the Samosa, the vegetable Pakora was an equally godlike dish, made from fresh cut spinach, onions, and cauliflower covered with batter and deep-fried. These and practically every other dish was made significantly more delicious by simply garnishing it with a little of the dark, sweet, yet slightly sour Tamarind sauce. This holds especially true for the Nan—unleavened, flat, round bread baked in a clay oven with a soft texture—as it could be easily be dipped into the Tamarind sauce to take on a whole new sugary taste. The Pappadam was a type of crispy and peppery wafer that had a crunch I found fairly addictive; it was almost like an Indian tortilla chip. Other highlights included the chicken and lamb curry, which were incredibly moist and moderately spiced. Perhaps I could label the Aloo Sag a surprise favorite, since this creamy potato and spinach dish didn't at first appeal to me, but after several bites, I quickly thought otherwise.

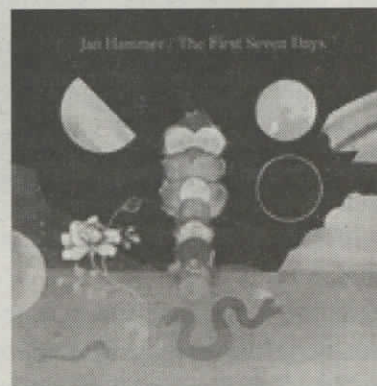
And now it is time for an unusual Indian dessert. I consider ordering another Mango Lassi (Midway through my meal I had one of the helpful waiters give me a second glass of this stuff because it was too wonderful to stop drinking), but I resist the urge and decide to sample something new. Though I wish I could eat some of each of the "Meetha" on the menu—like mango ice cream, kheer (rice pudding), and mango custard, among others—my nearly completely full stomach only allows me to devour some Gulab Jamun. These warm milkball dumplings in honey syrup are purely delicious, and now I can officially say I've just finished eating the best lunch I've probably had since 2004 became 2005. I can only hope to return to Nirlep someday during the dinner hours, 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM, and try something new from the menu, which has a host of dishes not served with the buffet. What new discoveries lie ahead in the Indian house at 908 Savannah Highway, Charleston SC 29407 (843-763-9923)?

"An explosion of
flavor!"

The First Seven Days: An unarguable classic

by Liz Gildea

You don't have to be a Creationist to enjoy *The First Seven Days*, a 1975 innovation by renowned composer Jan Hammer (pronounced YAHN HAH-mer). Back when little else besides monophonic synthesizers existed, Hammer managed to create a diverse synthetic interpretation of the world's first week of being. In 2001 the album was digitally restored and redistributed in CD form.



The First Seven Days, an entirely instrumental piece, opens with an eerie combination of melodies that intertwine easily despite their seeming incoherence. The beat begins, and suddenly you feel as if you are lying on an unstoppable conveyor belt. The second track brings this eager calm to somewhat of a frenzy as visions of orbs shattering darkness into color ascend, illuminating track two, "Light/Sun."

Oceans, continents and plants appear in tracks three and four, urged into place by gentle piano sounds. The strings in "The Animals" strengthen and tighten pleasingly, like the first muscular movement. Finally, with "Sixth Day - The People," the climax is reached. From underneath the sighing strings that tell of our eternal unhappiness emerges the hopeful sound of a heartbeat, after which the music becomes warmer, reassuring. A feeling of fellowship and possibility carries throughout "The Seventh Day," and the album comes to a loose ending, as if to say there is more to come.

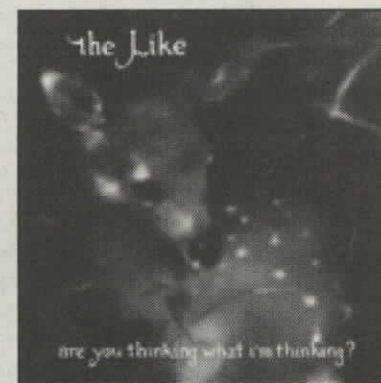
Ambient and soothing, *The First Seven Days* is well worth fifteen bucks. Play it while you're doing homework or when you're in the car alone. It may not be widely known, at least not among our generation, but it is unarguably a classic and a jewel of its time.

I like The Like

by Jenna Jones, guest reviewer

On Saturday, October 12th, the L.A. based, Indie rock band, The Like opened up for Kings of Leon at the Music Farm. The Like was singing songs from their debut album, *Are You Thinking What I'm Thinking?* This trio of girls just in their twenties definitely put on a great 45 minute show. They walked on stage with short baby doll dresses and knee high boots and immediately caught the attention of the male audience. Besides cathy songs and Z Berg's amazing vocals, they also were extremely beautiful. I hate them. So if you get the chance to catch them live, check them out.

Their CD was released early September and consists of drums played by Tennessee Thomas, bass guitar by Charlotte From, and guitar and lead vocals of Z Berg. This all girl group puts you in the mood where you just want sit in your room and do absolutely nothing other than think about that significant other, or lack there of. So this CD would be one to attract the ladies. My personal favorite songs are "June Gloom," "Waiting," and "We are Lost." The vocals and rhythm throughout remind me of early LA-based Rilo Kiley. Each song is a little different, but in each, Z Berg's voice will make you wish your voice could come even close in comparison. So check this CD out! It is definitely a band you'll want to look out for because their popularity is growing. And for the guys, if you don't care so much for the music, they are a really hot chick band, and I know you love that.



Reviews

The Legend of Zorro: Too family friendly

by Devin Graves

I went to see the new action adventure *The Legend of Zorro*, starring Antonio Banderas and Catherine Zeta-Jones. Taking place in 1850 California, the story revolves around the masked hero Zorro, alias Don Alejandro de la Vega (Banderas), once again doing his best to save the country. The problem is that he promised his wife, Elena (Zeta-Jones), that he would stop his dangerous ways for the sake of his son and his family. Adding to this stress is the fact that California will be entering the Union soon, and the people need his help less than ever. The new bad-guy of the story, a French noble named Armand, enters the scene in this troubled time. With a plan to split the United States apart using a newly developed weapon of destruction, Armand gives Zorro more troubles to add to his already stressed family life.

I've been hearing that this is a really good family film. After seeing it, I would have to agree. It doesn't have much violence, and when it does, it's quite mild. Language is fine, and the story is easily followed by anyone over the age of eight, even if the accents can be difficult to understand at first. However, it is this family-friendliness that keeps the movie from being really great. It becomes difficult to believe the fight scenes when Zorro, supposedly depressed and at the edge of desperation, doesn't kill one person when he is ambushed into a sword fight by a group of ne'r-do-wells. The knockouts by punching and kicking number more than any boxing movie, and it just gets more and more obvious how hard the directors and producers tried to make this a family movie. So, basically, this movie is great for groups of younger audiences, but older people can easily see through the charade, and become uninterested whenever the story turns to fighting. Thankfully, this doesn't make the movie bad by any means, and I recommend it to anyone who is in the mood to see a movie for the story, more than the action.



Going After Cacciato: A captivating brilliance

by Lou Marcell, guest reviewer

"It was a bad time." These are the first five words in Tim O'Brien's Vietnam masterpiece, *Going After Cacciato*. Through the dense jungle, big cities, underground tunnels, and lonely roads, O'Brien's novel takes the reader on a thought-provoking journey into the psyche of a squad of Vietnam soldiers. Being a Vietnam veteran himself, Tim O'Brien knew perfectly well how to correctly and proportionally level out the amount of violence, emotion, and humor in the story, resulting in a fictionalized but moving portrait of the Vietnam War.

The story starts out by looking back on the deaths of former soldiers in the newly introduced grunt squad. Trying not to go astray with the story line, O'Brien makes the flashbacks blunt and vivid - just long enough to convey the tone and mood of the story, but not long enough to bore the reader with details. After the flashbacks, the storyline comes in almost immediately, as the troops realize their fellow soldier, Cacciato, has abandoned them for his aspirations of reaching Paris. The rest of the story follows the six soldiers on their journey from the battlefields of Vietnam to Paris, which starts to seem more like a dream than an actuality. They journey from city to city, looking for Cacciato while enjoying the pleasures outside of war. Bordering desertion, they use their mission to go after him as their means of justification.

Throughout the novel, O'Brien depicts the harshness and personal effects of war, the nostalgia of war, the bravery and cowardice of soldiers, and the attitudes of soldiers for their mission. One factor that helped determine the mood of the story was the actions made by the main characters. The characters in *Going After Cacciato* weren't exactly heroes, just normal people taken away from their normal lives and placed into Vietnam to fight a war of unclear motive. The novel emphasized how every soldier in Vietnam was placed in horrific situations, and had a chance to prove himself by placing his life in danger for the sake of the mission, but not everyone did. It constantly compared the differences of a soldier's duty and a soldier's courage. You see flashbacks of earlier events, battles, and

deaths of past soldiers - most of these through the eyes of Private First Class Paul Berlin, who could be considered the main character.

This novel has a certain brilliance that captivates the reader. *Going After Cacciato* intrigues, interests, and teaches the reader about the Vietnam War in a different way than a history book or documentary would. The fact that it is a fictionalized account allows O'Brien to exaggerate and create certain events in order to help portray the emotion that the average soldier felt. The imagery is beyond great; it's as if you can actually hear, see, smell, and feel the environment shared by the soldiers in Vietnam. But when looking back at the novel, if there's one idea that Tim O'Brien would want the reader to take home after reading his book, it's what that first sentence states; "that it [truly] was a bad time."

All for a pair of shoes

by Katie Isaacson, guest reviewer

Lions, tigers, and bears aren't the only thing you have to worry about in Oz anymore. In Gregory Maguire's book *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West*, the traditional story of The Wizard of Oz is uprooted and thrown out the window - or, should I say, thrown out of the hot air balloon?

The story follows the life of Elphaba, who, from her birth is rejected, teased, and tormented because of her sinister green skin. Elphaba, more widely known throughout Oz as the Wicked Witch of the West, grows up unwanted in her home, and then goes to a boarding school in Shiz (a city in Oz) where she is forced to room with Galinda, the pretty young girl who will later become Glinda the Good Witch. In Shiz, Elphaba becomes aware of the social unrest stemming from the dictatorship of the Wizard and becomes very involved in acting against the government. The story follows Elphaba through a period of espionage, a dangerous romantic affair, a long journey for forgiveness, and a final confrontation involving herself, a chubby girl in a blue gingham dress, and a pail of rainwater.

You may think you know this story, but Maguire's take on the Wicked Witch's life will give the reader a whole new perspective on the tale. And even though you know how the book ends, you certainly don't know the dark beginnings of Elphaba, or where the flying monkeys came from. Maguire takes away the sparkle and the splendor of Oz by putting the reader in the other person's shoes, even if they aren't the ruby red ones you expect. Although he mainly writes children's books, Maguire questions the origins of evil in *Wicked* (based on L. Frank Baum's book *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, more than the movie) and also in his book *Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister*, which explores and questions the feelings and motivations of Cinderella's seemingly horrid stepsister.

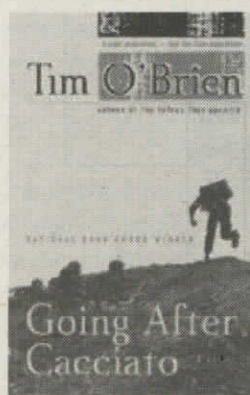
The vague openness and stark truths of *Wicked* cause the reader to question what he knows about the original story of Oz, the source of Elphaba's wickedness, and also how society is viewed in every age. Maguire brings these truths to the surface through Elphaba's character, an entrancing yet enraging one that causes the reader to develop a love-hate relationship with the Witch, whose only desire is to gain the forgiveness she is denied.

Many aspects of Maguire's story are ambiguous or open-ended, leaving the reader confused at times and forced to re-read passages for additional information. However, the undefined endings give room for interpretation. Even at the end of the book, Maguire lets the reader choose to decide what happens:

"And there the wicked old Witch stayed for a good long time."

"And did she ever come out?"

"Not yet."



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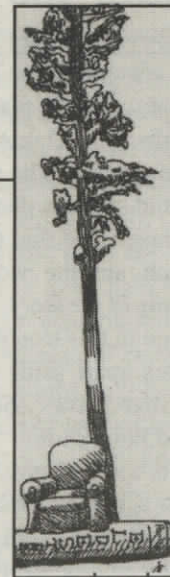
Student Artwork



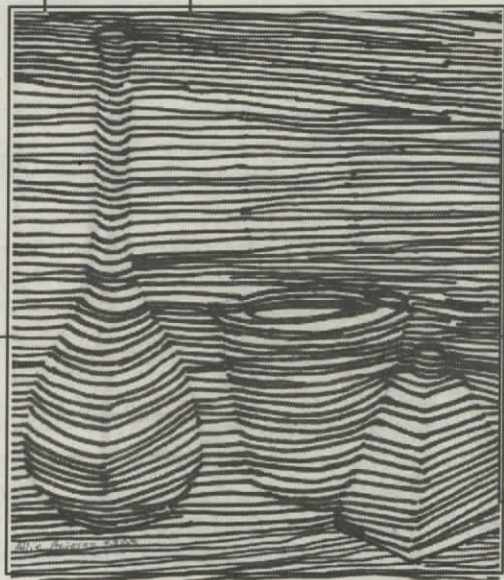
Brittany Wetzel



Kaitlyn Battistelli



Chris Sim



Allie Acierno

8th Grade Artwork



James Visham



Brandon Ellis



Christian Hannan



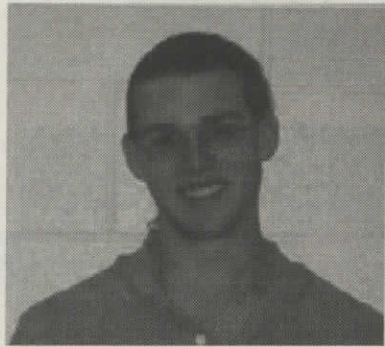
Chuck Smith

Editorials

Marginal Dictatorship

by David DuTremble

"Essentially the election is a method of marginalizing the population. A huge propaganda campaign is mounted to get people to focus on these personalized quadrennial extravaganzas and to think, "That's politics." But it isn't. It's only a small part of politics." - Noam Chomsky



Elections are the staple of a democratic civilization. But, according to many, including SOA's own Mr. Brehm, voting is the "lowest form of political participation." We are even presented this fact by our own news-media. *The New York Times* printed that "Mr. Gore topped Mr. Bush by more than 500,000 popular votes but lost the electoral tally 271 to 267 in a tooth-and-claw fight that ended in the Supreme Court." So, in retrospect, why then does anyone bother to vote for president when it is so clear that no one in Washington is listening?

Simply, voting edifies the populous. It gives them a false belief that they have control over their world. Karl Marx said that "religion is the opiate of the masses." In America, that opiate is the illusion of making a difference. But it is almost frightening how little voters actually know about political processes. To borrow a statistic from Gallup (also cited by Mr. Chomsky), "From a multiple-choice list, 6 percent of Bush voters and 13 percent of Kerry voters picked the candidates' "agendas/ideas/platforms/goals."

Beyond the Anybody-But-Bush philosophy adopted by many uninformed Kerry voters (ironically, look how the Right is scrambling to blame Anybody-But-Bush for recent events after scathing the Left for doing the same in the election), people fail to realize one significant fact: both candidates were largely supported by big money. Bush had his oil cronies and Kerry had his wife's ketchup kingdom. So which is the lesser of two evils?

With all the façades stripped away, we are basically left with the same person, albeit one a little more "progressive" and one a little more conservative. People can relate to these basic orientation barometers, and this is what the political system thrives off of. But what the people idealize and ultimately vote for is not what the people are given. That power is taken away immediately by the Electoral College, which, many people fail to realize, we can actually control.

Our most basic right, besides the freedom of speech, is the ability to vote. However, we fail to utilize that power effectively. We meander out of our homes in a CNN-induced stupor, stagger to the polls in a trance, eyes glazed, and vote for the candidate we think is going to work for us. The president is a figurehead (albeit at current we have something functioning more as a dictatorship) with very little power. The real power comes from much closer to home.

The issues that matter to most people are decided in the context of the local election. We have people running for office that have our same viewpoints, and these are the people for whom we need to vote. These are the people directly in control of the laws that get passed, that ultimately decide on everything that matters. And we have the right, after we get them into their respective offices, to communicate with them (whether or not they actually receive or respond to our input is a different topic, however).

The problem we have at current is an abuse of misinformation exercised by the masses, namely thinking that the president is directly in control of the government (current regime not in mind). If we want to change what's happening in Washington, we have to start on the local level. And to do that, we must be informed. Activism starts at the bottom. If there is to be a paradigm shift, we have to get over our quadrennial apathy towards politics and become active in making our views heard.

"There you go again"

by David Whitley

"There you go again." -Ronald Reagan

I am not even going to touch on the accusations of "dictatorship" that you have included for the third time. Beating a dead horse will not make it get up and keep running. Chomsky does have a point; voting is only a small part of politics, but that doesn't mean it's not important. If voting was the entirety of politics, then we wouldn't be voting for anything; we'd just be voting for the sake of voting. If voting were all there was to politics, then there wouldn't be any people in California continually threatening to write their congressman about various trivial issues, because, obviously, nobody in Washington is going to care.

I think that you are confused as to what the Electoral College is and what purpose it serves. You can complain all you want about the Bush-Gore election, (recounts of the popular votes actually showed that George W. Bush's victory over Al Gore was perfectly legitimate.) but the Electoral College also put John F. Kennedy in the White House. In the 1960 election, Nixon won the popular vote by 58,181 votes, according to figures from the Wall Street Journal. "Camelot was made possible by the Electoral College," says historian Albert Southwick. "The same is true of George W. Bush's Presidency. Both were legitimate."

The Electoral College was created to ensure that well-informed electors - whom the state citizens would vote for - from each state would cast legitimate votes for the president. You may say that today such measures aren't necessary. If that were true, then why has it been deemed necessary to threaten the lives of thousands of teenagers by encouraging them to "vote or die?" Honestly, if people don't understand what they're voting for, then they shouldn't vote. Anyway, the Electoral College serves a different purpose altogether in our day and age. It ensures that the small states have an equal say in government, since each state has nearly the same number of electoral votes. If this were not so, then candidates would only have the incentive to sway the votes in California, Texas, and Illinois. The Electoral College actually ensures that voters from all states in the nation are able to have their fair say.

Yes, I acknowledge that Kerry and Bush are very similar people, since both were incredibly rich sons of incredibly rich fathers, who in turn had incredibly rich fathers, and so on and so forth. Bush, Kerry, and Gore were all members of the secret fraternity "Skull and Bones," which was purposely created to give the sons of rich fathers with rich fathers with rich fathers an advantage over other students. Also, the "Anybody-but-Bush" theory doesn't hold water, because if that were true, then we would be answering to President Sharpton and yielding to his inane allegations that the people at Keebler are all racists because they don't have a black elf.

If you want to talk about hypocrisy regarding the Bush campaign, I won't stop you from doing so, since I freely admit that there is no such thing as a perfect presidency. But first, please explain the democratic views of Harriet Myers. I find it an interesting coincidence that whenever a democratic candidate appoints a woman to a position of power it's called "empowering women" and "breaking through the glass ceiling." However, as soon as Bush does exactly the same thing, their views shift and immediately they dismiss it as "cronyism."

In response to your comments regarding Bush's "oil cronies," you're absolutely right. With your divine intuition, you have exposed an evil Conservative plot for world domination led by Jed, Jethro, and Granny. We've always known they were up to no good.

As a final word, your closing statement doesn't even make sense. "The problem that we have at current is an abuse of misinformation exercised by the masses." Logically speaking, it is grammatically impossible for someone to exercise an abuse. You is speaking very well English.



David Vs. David

School News



Grub on the
Green on
Halloween!



Miscellaneous

Horoscopes

Scorpio (October 24-November 22): Beware of tall, longhaired men with coffee.

Sagittarius (November 23-December 22): By a unanimous vote, your favorite color has now been changed to "burnt sienna."

Capricorn (December 23-January 20): Look out behind you!!!! Ha, made you look! Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha....

Aquarius (January 21-February 19): Siht rehpicod ot derehtob yllautca uoy?

Pisces (February 20-March 20): You'll meet a vampire this month. You should eat lots and lots of raw garlic in preparation.

Aries (March 21-April 20): Have a happy, happy day in La La Land...but watch out for the flying pink elephants.

Taurus (April 21-May 21): You need an outlet for your villainous tendencies. Ask your English teacher to let you in on the conspiracy.

Gemini (May 22-June 21): You will find true love in a Starbucks pumpkin spice latté (never mind the grossly high price and the scary orange color).

Cancer (June 22-July 22): I see vicious crabs in your future - be sure to wear shoes when you go to the beach.

Leo (July 23-August 21): Study this paper's cover photo carefully, and you will find hidden insight into the meaning of life.

Virgo (August 22-September 23): Your teen-pop CDs from 1999 are getting lonely. Break 'em out and start dancing. (Be sure your blinds are closed, though...)

Libra (September 24-October 23): Someone has left you a present in an alternate universe. To retrieve it, stand by the snack machines and you will hear their voices guide you...

A message from your homie

Grub on the Green was a huge success. Thanks to everyone in the Senior Council whose dedicated service made it possible. And thanks to the entire senior class for participating—you all made it memorable. We have proved that the Class of '06 can do what is most important: work as a team. Having laid the groundwork for many more accomplishments to come, the possibilities for future fun events are only as endless as our imagination and willingness to make them happen (providing that the administration will approve...but you get what I'm saying).

Props to the hardcore Halloween costume contest judges, **Mrs. Caldwell, Ms. Emory, Dr. Cusatis, and Mr. Brehm**, for their refined taste and hilarious selections. A special thanks goes out to our secretary **Hilari Ross**, who originally came up with the idea to have this contest. It was the highlight of the picnic.

I'd also like to acknowledge all the underclassmen who cooperated with the policy of buying a Halloween ticket. Perhaps you felt resentful that you were

required to pay a dollar to wear a costume, but it turns out you've actually helped benefit yourself. How? The total profit from this fundraiser and Grub on the Green, totaling over \$130.00, goes towards our senior gift to SOA. We're trying to add more money to this fund throughout the year to buy park equipment for the front of the school, a.k.a. "the courtyard," such as tables, benches, etc. for the school to enjoy. In particular, this will make eating lunch in the courtyard—our privilege exclusively—more convenient for us seniors. And when we're gone, our legacy will benefit future senior classes until SOA moves to its new location.

So, what's the Senior Council up to now? Aside from brainstorming ideas for the design of the—that's right—senior wall, we are working to launch a service project. After we have been given so much, we feel it is more than appropriate to give back to the community. Once again, if you have any ideas, please share them with your major representative so the senior council can take them into consideration. That's this month's update. Prepare to read of more progress in the December issue!

Peace in the Mid-East,

Omi

Daniel Vincent: the story of a cross-country champion

by Omi Naderi

Daniel Vincent: a god among SOA athletes (SOA athletes?), Champion of French Horn players, passed out at the end of the largest State Championship Race, the 4-A division. Although he is genetically modified, he is still human. But the he got up, like a phoenix rising from its ashes, and held his head up high. For he had finished 25th in a race with South Carolina's best athletes, and his Wando team placed 9th.

Now that cross country season (Aug.-Nov.) is over and track season (Jan.-May) will not begin for a couple months, will our hero rest? No, he will not! He ties his shoes to prepare for the Foot Locker South Regional.

"I could have gone to Nationals if I took two minutes off my time," he lamented. This modest fellow is hard on himself, but maybe this characteristic isn't such a bad thing. His motivation

has lead him to rank academically third in his class and first in the Wando team. (How beautiful it is that the best member of the Wando team is an SOAite!)

At his rate of success, soon he make Mercury unemployed as the messenger of the gods. But first there is one test of his ability that has yet a to be a passed: Daniel Vincent vs. **Dr. Cusatis**. Can he defeat the veteran track warrior? In an exclusive interview, Dr. Cusatis has admitted, "He could definitely beat me in a three mile race, but maybe I could take him in 26.2.



And the Senior Costume Contest Winners are...

King: **Dalia Dalili**

Queen: **Justin Schram**

Spookiest: **Taylor Raffield** and **Lainey Harrison**

Most Creative: **Ben Aton** and **The Breakfast Club**

Funniest: **Zak Fasola** and **Chelsea Richardson**

Most Confusing: **George Bates** and **Lauren Shaw**

Honorable Mention: **Nicole Adams, Clary Nigels,**

Leigh Dekle, Kathleen Smith, Cameron

Funderburk, and Hilari Ross.

Dear Sara

By Sara Marie Johnson

Dear Sara,

I'm having trouble with juggling school, friends, my job, and my boyfriend. How can I make good grades, but have fun at the same time?

Dear Reader,

I really want to tell you to have fun all the time and take risks, but in the real world you have to come to this conclusion: school is the most important thing in your life. It defines your future and is a source of your knowledge. You have to spend time on homework and study for every test in order to make good grades - even if it means spending less time with your boyfriend. He will understand if you have to write a paper or study for a big unit test in chemistry. I also want you to care about having fun. No one can just go to school, go home, do their homework all night, and then go to bed. Their schedule should revolve around school but allow time for other things.

Reader, I suggest you sit down once a week and fill in your calendar. List everything you have to do. Include dates on which you want to study for tests and quizzes. All of us at SOA have a block schedule; use that to your advantage, since you'll always have an extra day to finish things. I'm not saying you should procrastinate, but everyone needs a break. After making your calendar for school-related responsibilities, mark the dates you have to work, the time you want to spend with your boyfriend and your friends, and add in any extra chores or time for yourself. After you get organized you can see how you can excel in school and still be yourself.

"Where are they now" continued from pg. 4

If you could go back in time, would you have done something differently in high school?

Play sports... run track especially.

Do you have any advice to give to the students of SOA?

Take advantage of the times you have in high school and the chance at free public education, because once you graduate the real world will succumb your being and everything else will cost you and/or your parents Mo Money... Mo Money... Mo Money!!!!

Question of the Month

What did you enjoy most about the fair?



"Leaving."
Ms. Fitzgerald
High School Strings Teacher



"The elephant ears!"
Brittany Hamm
8th grade Dance



"The big swings...I go all the time!"
Jasmine Smalls
9th grade Theatre



"Tiny Tina and the snake with the woman's head."
Matt Lenman
6th grade Dance



"Being on top of the ferris wheel with a girl."
Michael Bailey
10th grade Vocal



"My face being smushed on the Gravitron."
Kurt Negent
7th grade Theatre



"Petting the cows!"
Clary Nigels, Nicole Adams, and Nicole Darden
12th grade Strings



"The hot carnies!"
Alexis Robles and Laila Roudsari
11th grade Strings