

Applause

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 5

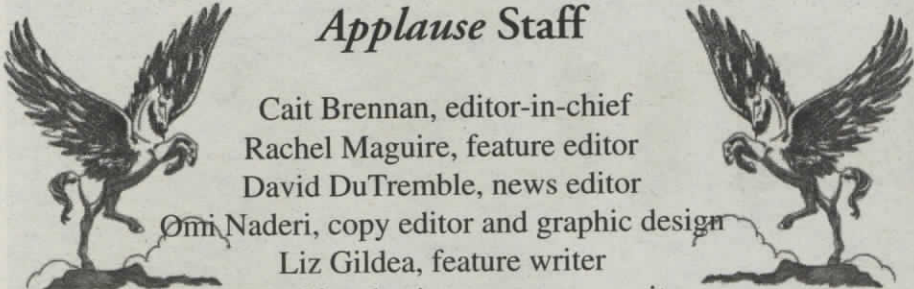
CHARLESTON COUNTY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS, NORTH CHARLESTON, SC

JANUARY 2006



BIG RIVER

Editors' Page



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



The excitement of *Big River* has taken SOA by storm! In the days before opening night, it was not strange to see kids bustling about wearing hoop skirts, playing banjos, and pretending to raft down the Mississippi River. With all this craziness going on, the *Applause* staff had to dig a little deeper into the minds of the cast and crew behind SOA's brand new production. We took hold of an opportunity to find out just how the stars of *Big River* function under pressure, learn their lines, and get into character. With all the confidence in the production emitting from

the actors, the crew, and the school these past few weeks, I have no doubt that *Big River* will leave us speechless!

Best Wishes,
 Cait Brennan

P.S.- You might also notice a few fun fact boxes scattered about this month's paper. While you're reading up on *Big River*, take a look at some of SOA's quick facts. This information is a sure way to impress all your friends!

The history of Huck

by David Whitely

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn was originally published by Mark Twain in 1884, and was immediately banned from many public libraries. The first to ban the book was the Concord Public Library in 1885, who stated that the book was "trash suitable only for the slums."



The truth in regard to this matter, however, is that the patrons of the Concord Public Library were exactly the rich sort of people that the novel criticizes. The most cited reason for people disliking and/or calling for the ban of the book now is the frequent use of the "N" word.

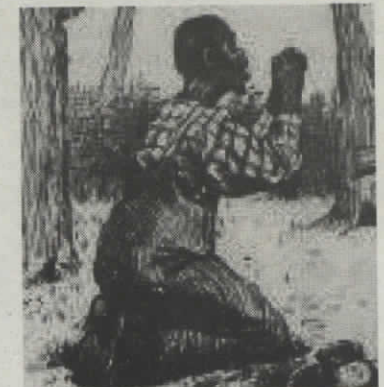
Overall, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* has become the most censored and banned book in the world. However, Huck Finn has slipped down a few spots as demands for the book's ban have decreased slightly. According to

<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/bannedbooksweek/bbwlinks/100mostfrequently.htm>, *Huckleberry Finn* is

the fifth most banned book in the past decade, right behind such titles as *The Chocolate War* by Robert Cormier, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou, and the *Scary Stories* series by Alvin Schwartz.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn was first adapted for the screen in 1931 by Paramount, and then again in 1939 by MGM. The most famous adaptation of the novel, it starred Mickey Rooney as Huck and Rex Ingram as the runaway slave, Jim. Possibly the most recognizable

version is the 1993 adaptation starring Elijah Wood as Huck. The book also became a stage play, which is the basis for *Big River*, coming later this month. In closing, Ralph Ellison had this to say about the novel: "Huckleberry Finn knew, as did Mark Twain, that Jim was not only a slave but a human being [and] a symbol of humanity . . . and in freeing Jim, Huck makes a bid to free himself of the conventionalized evil taken for civilization by the town"



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School News

Next on NHS news

by Nicole Adams



So, last month the society raised money to buy Christmas presents for a child in DSS. The child this year was a 17-year old girl who played the violin and wanted some stuff to decorate her room. With the money we raised (courtesy of SOA's very own student body), we bought some violin strings, a music stand, rosin, a bed set with comforter and sheets, and some jewelry. The money was definitely put to good use and its all thanks to you, SOA!

Breakfast sales are going well and will continue each and every morning! Thanks to breakfast sales, NHS was able to

donate a \$50 gift certificate to Brentwood Middle School as a prize for the winner of the science fair. How cool is that?

In February, the Society will be selling carnations for Valentine's Day. The carnations are similar to the candy cane grams. You just buy some flowers and send them along with your sweet note to your special someone. Listen to the announcements

and look for posters for more information.

Another fundraiser coming up in February is Pennies for Patients. This fundraiser is done through the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to help patients with leukemia, Hodgkin and non-Hodgkin lymphoma, and myeloma. It's very simple -- all you have to do is put your loose change in the provided buckets! Could it be any easier than that? Be on the lookout for those buckets in classrooms starting in February.

Keep reading NHS news and we'll keep you posted on the latest happenings in the Society!



2D's and an R

by Rachel Maguire and Kathleen Smith

Since he is quite the actor, we figured why not throw Mr. Davis into the roll of his choice in our production of Big River? We know Mr. Davis loves to read and is familiar with the story of Huckleberry Finn. We asked, "Mr. Davis, if you could play an role in Big River, who would you be and why?"

If I had the chance to be in this play, I would be the star, Huck Finn. I chose this character because he is carefree, adventurous, and never afraid to take a chance. On the other hand, he is sensitive to Jim and very humorous. I related myself to Huck when I read the book a long time ago.

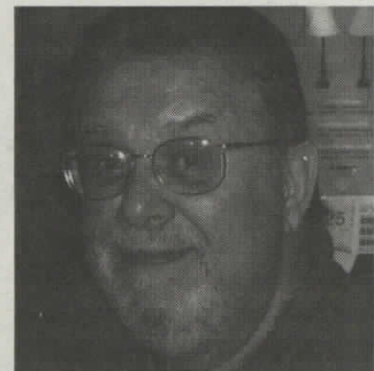
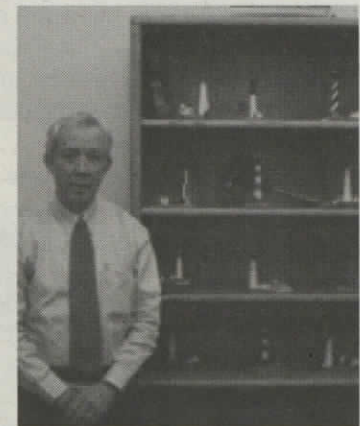


Since Huck and Jim are just a floatin' down the Mississippi River relying on their own handy skills, we figured we'd ask SOA's handy man Mr. Dawson what he would use to survive in that situation.

To keep myself safe I would hang on to my lifeline, my GOD. I know that he will supply me with all I need.

Big River takes place in the Deep South where there's always time for a home-cooked Southern meal. We know Mr. Randy is an Italian food fanatic, but we wondered, could this Italian stallion ever have a craving for a southern meal?

I love a crispy piece of fried chicken, sides of seasoned collards, red rice, corn bread, and sweet tea to top it all off.



Quick Dance Facts!

- Dance students study the following training programs: The American Dance Festival, the American Ballet Theatre Summer Intensive Program, the Alvin Ailey Summer Intensive Program, the Pacific Northwest Ballet School, and the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet.

-Students dance with the Charleston Ballet Theatre, the Robert Ivey Ballet, and other local dance studios.

-A former dance student is dancing with the Boston Ballet.



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Features

The big man behind *Big River*: Mr. Locklair

By Sara Marie Johnson

Why did you choose *Big River* to perform this year?

I chose *Big River* because the educational values and entertainment values together make it a perfect selection.

Where did you find the music and the play of *Big River*?

Big River is a Rogers and Hammerstein Broadway production.

Has it been challenging building the set at your home?

Yes, it has been challenging because of the weather and transportation.

What do some of the sets include?

It's a representational set. The idea was from the actual book of *Huckleberry Finn*. Some set pieces are large pages from the book and the platforms are covered with the text.

Are you satisfied with the cast and crew, and what did you look for when you cast them for the main rolls?

It is a fantastic cast. I think people will be surprised when they see how well they work together and how much they resemble the characters.

Since you worked on both, do you think *Peter Pan* or *Big River* is harder to pull together and perform?

They are about on the same level, but the music is more difficult in *Big River*. The technical elements (flying etc.) in *Peter Pan* were more difficult.

Why did you include the three narrators, Ink, Quill, and Parchment?

We wanted to create as many parts as possible for as many actors as possible. We didn't have one person that could carry the character of Mark Twain.

Who's your favorite character from *Big River* and why?

I really like the role of Pap (played by Jonothon Bunson) because he's just so much fun to play, and he's funny.

What do you think you'll be most nervous about on opening day?

The fact that I know that this show can be fantastic -- I know it'll be great, but I want it to be fantastic.



The big man's sidekick: spotlight on Lauren Shaw, assistant director

by Rachel Maguire

What does your job entail from beginning to end?

At first I did small things, like typing the script and the schedules as well as attending rehearsals, but now I do anything Mr. Locklair needs me to, from helping with the set and organizing props to ironing out the kinks that come along with a major production.

How did you get involved in *Big River*?

I went to Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary School (where Mrs. Myers was formerly principal) and was active in performances there. So, I was interested in being involved, but I didn't necessarily want to be part of the cast. I asked Mr. Locklair if I could help with anything, and now I use my late-ins and all of my spare time to help with the show.

What are your expectations as far as the outcome of the performance?

The show is a lot of hard work, but I'm really excited to see the final product. I expect it to be very successful. Based on the latest rehearsal with many of the characters in costume, it seemed to be coming together well. Now that people see how everything is supposed to happen, there is a greater appreciation for all of the hard work put into it.

Does this job reflect any aspects of your career goals in the future?

Yes, I am actually interested in arts management as a career. I would like to major in arts management at the College of Charleston. I like this job; however, I am much more interested in the advertising and public relations side of production.

What is your favorite part about this job in particular?

I get to see what it takes to put everything together behind the scenes as well as the final show. Although I don't get to see the final outcome of the show, the dress rehearsal will be great to watch. Another benefit of being involved is that I get to miss a lot of school, especially the week of the show. And, one more side thing, the week of the show I get to wear a headset thingy. I'm excited about that because I'll be giving cues for the lighting and orchestras.



The choreographer of *Big River*:

Mrs. Slowinski

by Sara Johnson

How did you become involved with *Big River*?

I love working with students (not just dancers). SOA has wonderful, talented students so I volunteered.

What kind of research did you do to choreograph all of the dances?

I have a very strong background in dance history, so it wasn't necessary to do a lot of the research. I read the novel, the script, and listened to the music.

How long did it take you to choreograph *Big River*?

A few weeks.

How many dances in the show have you choreographed?

Seven.

What is your favorite number in *Big River*?

I couldn't say; the songs are beautiful. The funny songs and dances make you hysterical, but the serious songs and dances give you goose bumps.

Have you done any major choreography projects like this before?

Oklahoma, *Peter Pan*, and I did a few in college.



The music master: Mr. Eakes

by Kathleen Smith

Fresh from directing our vocalists at Carnegie Hall Mr. Eakes is pitching into help with *Big River*.

How are you helping out for *Big River*?

I have been coaching the soloists and preparing the townspeople for the full cast numbers. I also played the piano for rehearsals and helped Mr. Kerr conduct the pit orchestra.

Have you ever been in a musical?

Yes. In high school I performed in *Camelot*. I have directed the music for *Grease*, *The Wizard*



of Oz, and *The Pajama Game*. I also played in the pit orchestra for a production of *Cinderella*.

What is your favorite song in *Big River*?

It's difficult for me to select one song. I like the lyrics and message of "Worlds Apart." Musically, it's a tie between "Leaving's Not the Only Way to Go" and "You Ought to Be Here With Me." Although, as a chorus teacher, I also enjoy the full cast numbers like "Waitin' for the Light to Shine."

If you could be any character in *Big River* who would you be?

I would like to be the King or the Duke; I think it would be fun to perform such silly roles.

What have you enjoyed most about *Big River*?

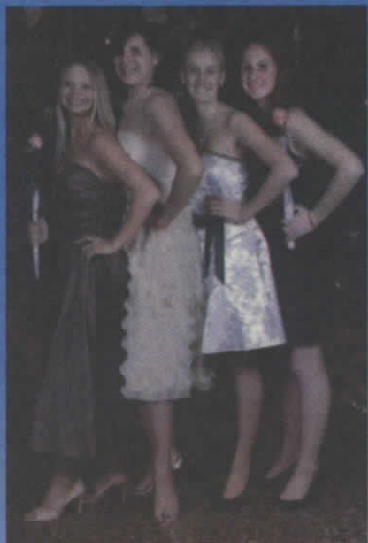
I have enjoyed working with students from all of SOA's majors. I appreciate all of the after-school hours students have rehearsed for the show.



*December 11,
2005*



*Winter
Formal*

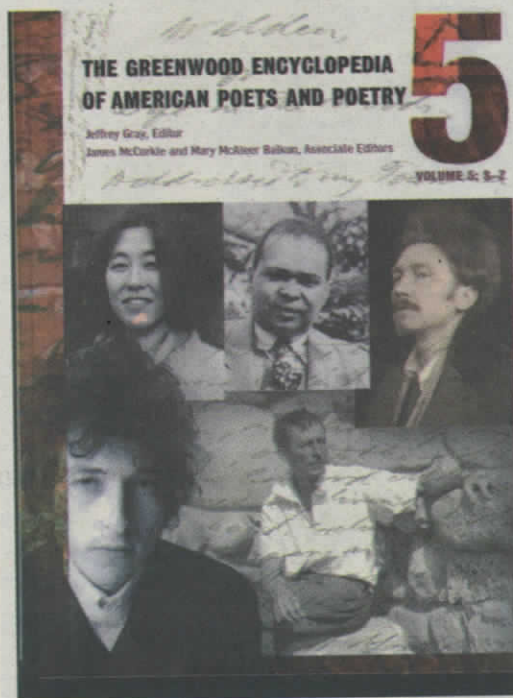


School News

SOA English Instructor named editor of *Encyclopedia of American Literature*

by David Whitley

One of the many perks of attending SOA is that the members of our arts faculty have remained active in the fields in which they are educating our artists. **Mr. George Younts** (Theatre) is currently in The Village Playhouse's production of John Guare's *The House of Blue Leaves*; **Mr. Charleton Singleton** (Band) is part of the rock band, Plain Jane, who will be performing at our prom, and who also play all over the area. **Mr. Joe Clark** (Piano), who leads his own big band, has been a mainstay on the Charleston music circuit. And **Ms. Mary Ann Henry** (Creative Writing) is currently writing a history of Folly Beach.



The five-volume *Greenwood Encyclopedia of American Poets and Poetry* is one of several books to feature Dr. John Cusatis's work in 2006.

The hands on experience SOA instructors bring to the classroom is not limited to the arts faculty. This month, AP English instructor **Dr. John Cusatis** published three articles in the *Greenwood Encyclopedia of American Poets and Poetry*, the most comprehensive poetry reference ever assembled. One of Dr. Cusatis's articles was on (surprise) Bob Dylan, who appears on the cover of the volume. In January Dr. Matthew Bruccoli, professor, scholar and publisher at the University of South Carolina, appointed Dr. Cusatis Advisory Editor of *The Student's Companion to American Literary Characters* and another forthcoming book, *The Encyclopedia of American Literature*.

Dr. Cusatis has also written articles on Joyce Carol Oates, Stephen Crane, Robinson Jeffers, Truman Capote, John Updike, Philip Roth, John Guare, Donn Pearce (*Cool Hand Luke*), Flannery O'Connor, Frank Norris (no relation to Chuck) and others, which will appear in a variety of books to be published in 2006-07. In addition to his academic writing, Cusa-

tis recently penned a song for the award-winning independent film, *Beautiful Kid*, produced by Frank McCourt (*Angela's Ashes*, *Teacher Man*) and Colum McCann (*Dancer*). He is currently working on a book on counterculture author Richard Brautigan.

"I try to expose students to great writers who have not been given the recognition that they are due," Dr. Cusatis said. "I was glad to see Bob Dylan and Robinson Jeffers on the cover of the most current and comprehensive reference book available to students of poetry. They are two of the most honest and significant voices of the twentieth century, so naturally, they have been ignored."

Theatre Quick Facts!

- Theatre majors present more than 50 performances a year; from short improvisations to full-length plays.
- Students consistently place in the Archibald Rutledge playwriting competition.
- Students shone in the SC Theatre Association High School One-Act Play Competition, receiving the Best Technical award.
- Students participate in Charleston Stage, Footlight Players, The Village Playhouse, Pure Theatre, Flowertown Players, Art Forms and Theatre Concepts, and other theatre productions.

It was October 1965. The Pope was coming to New York, and Artie Shaughnessy's life was about to change forever...

The House of Blue Leaves

By John Guare Featuring SOA's Mr. George Younts and Blake Alford Directed by Keeley Enright

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Quick Fact

SOA has maintained a 94% passing rate on the AP Literature exam over the past five years.

String Orchestra Quick Facts!

- Three orchestra students were selected for the National High School Honors Orchestra.
- Many orchestra students were selected for the Lowcountry, Senior, and Junior Region Orchestra as well as the All-State Orchestra.
- 32 orchestra students received "Superior" or "Excellent" ratings at the Solo and Ensemble Festival.
- Students perform at Masterworks concert each spring with the vocal majors, featuring works such as Schubert's *Mass in G* and Mozart's *Requiem* and *Regina Coeli*.

Features

Do you know Huckleberry?

By Sara Marie Johnson

1. What is the time period of *Huckleberry Finn*?
2. Where in Missouri does Huck live?
3. Why did Jim run away from Miss Watson?
4. Where are Huck and Jim trying to float the raft to?
5. Who does Jim think laid the stars in the sky?
6. What does Sherburn do to Boggs?
7. Where does Huck hide the Wilkes's money?
8. What does Tom think Huck is at first?
9. What do Huck and Tom use for light while they are trying to dig Jim out?
10. What is Jim at the end of the book?

Answer Key
 1. 1840's Pre-civil War time 2. River Town 3. she wants to sale him to New Orleans 4. Cairo, then down the Ohio River to free soil 5. The Moon 6. Kills him 7. In a coffin 8. A Ghost 9. A pile of Fox Fire 10. A Free Man!

The Men's Guide to Women

by David Whitely and Harry Harrison

It is the middle of January, one of everyone's least favorite months, and for once relations with your girlfriend have remained warm and relatively tranquil when compared to the past few months. You spent New Year's Eve together and watched the ball drop and counted down along with all of the idiots who thought it would be a great idea to stand outside in Times Square in nothing but jeans and a hoody from Old Navy in the middle of the night with snow falling. In addition, you share another thing with the majority of the post-Christmas population: dissatisfaction. Speaking of hoodies from Old Navy, that's what she got you after all your hard work reading our column in order to learn what the perfect gift for her is. Ordinarily, you despise people that return gifts because it's a cheap way to get what they want materialistically and ignore the spirit behind the gifts of Christmastime -- and the fact that some people tried their hardest to get them something they'd like when giving gifts is not mandatory.

You appreciate that she cares about you enough to actually have spent money on you, since, according to her, when you argued last year, she has her pick of all the guys from here to Columbia. The problem is, it's a humiliating shade of light purple that makes you look like Barney with a pigment deficiency; it's two sizes too small, and you're beginning to suspect that the little boy who stitched it left the needle inside. You could try to return it, but you don't have the receipt, and there's always the chance that she will be in the same place returning the socks her grandparents gave her. Instead, don't return the hoody. Go to the mall under the pretext of returning some other gift. While there, stop by the Old Navy and purchase a hoody that's the right size, and change the light purple to a light blue that looks similar, but still retains a shred of self-respect.

Despite the romantic associations with gifts, the truth is that she picked it out and only saw it once before she wrapped it up and gave it to you. So as long as you purchase one that is the same style and similar color, the chance that she will ever notice is very slim. If she ever begins to voice any suspicions, simply remind her that you appreciate it ever so much. Make a point to wear it at social occasions where she might be present. Finally, dispose of the original gift in any way that will not leave anything behind. Burning is a good solution, since throwing it away is just asking for trouble when it comes time to take out the trash, and giving it to a smaller relative could pose problems if your girlfriend comes to know your family better. After that, relax, kick back and enjoy your life. Refuse to give in to your routine and spend all day watching the spelling bee on ESPN2; be a rebel.

BINGO NIGHT!

School of the Arts
 Friday, February 10
 5:30-8:00 PM

presented by the Junior Class Council

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 \$8 for 24 cards (3 cards per game, 8 games)

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See Ms. Tisdale for more details,
 or call 529-4990

SOA quick facts!

- Our Average SAT score is 1103, which is 75 points above the national average, placing us among the top 5 schools in the state.
- We have received an "Excellent" State Report Card rating every year and thus have been a Palmetto Gold Award recipient for four years.
- 47% of students made perfect scores on the South Carolina end-of-course exam.

Best Wishes



Acecily Alexander and Shadana Moses



LaDana Creacy Sanders

We are so proud of you and we wish you the best on your performance. May Yahweh Bless You Always! From Your Loving Family



Congratulations girls! We are very proud of you. You are such a blessing.

*Love,
Mommy, Daddy, your sisters, and nephews*



Braden Joyce-Schleimer

Your engery and style light up the stage, Braden! Congratulations on another great performance - long live The Duke!

*Love from your most enthusiastic fans,
Mom and Dad*

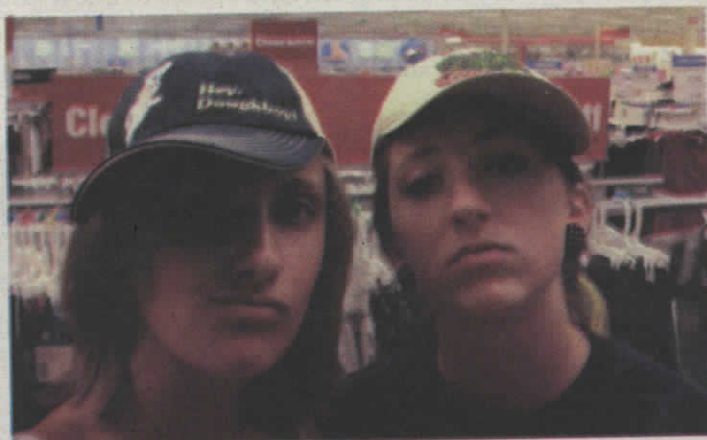
*Best Wishes
Big River Cast!!*



Patsy Helzer

We are all very proud of you. Remember, have fun and enjoy yourself!

*We love you,
Mom, Dad, Nikki, and Valerie*



Heather Jones and Jessie McGinty

*Play a note Jessie
Break a leg Heather
Best Wishes to all the
Big River Cast!*



Daniel Vincent

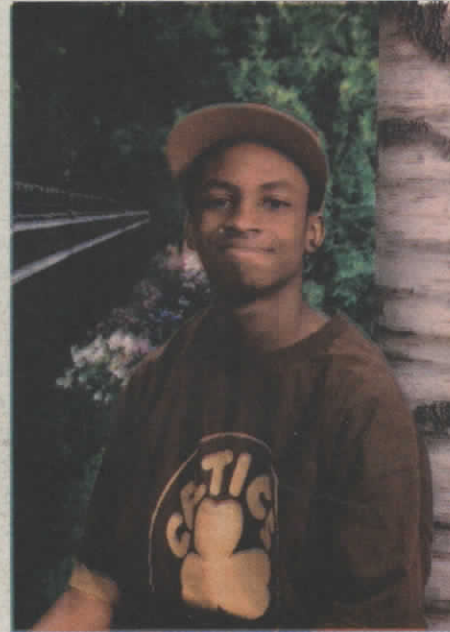
Merlin joins Keith and Linda Vincent in wishing Daniel Vincent good luck and good pickin'during Big River.

Best Wishes

**T.J. Robinson**

Best wishes to the cast of Big River and Timothy James Robinson (our musician in the 'pit')

*Love,
Mom, Dad, and Tahlia*

**Matthew Bostick**

We've come a long way baby. Much blessings to you my son. By faith I believe that you will succeed. Live everyday to the fullest. Be good to family and friends. Remember where charity begins. Follow peace with all men. From my heart to yours.

*Love always,
Your Mother*

**Robert Townsend**

We are very proud of you. May God continue to Bless you with your talent. Keep up the good work! HATS OFF to a great performance!

Love, Mom, Dad, and sister

**Jonothon Brunson**

Your talents, quick wit and passion for life is far more than I could have ever dreamed for in a son. I AM SO PROUD OF YOU! Knowing who you really are and how you hold up your standards in life, I see you accomplishing much more than you can comprehend. I am excited about your new journey. Your family and I wish you the very best in all your success. We will always be there for you Jonothon, and you will always be the "STAR" in our eyes.

*We love you,
Mama & family*

**Kathleen Smith**

To my Glamour Queen Kathleen, Break a leg!

Love, Mom, Reggie, Cole, and your Edisto admirers



Arts Page

Art Major Overviews: What is past and what is yet to come

by Sara Johnson and Liz Gildea

Creative Writing

The Creative Writing Program has already won numerous accolades for this academic year. Fourteen students won awards for the PTA Reflections competition, including both poetry and fiction. And 63 middle and high-school Creative Writing students will have poems published in the 2006 *Celebration of Young Poets in North Carolina and South Carolina*. In addition, students will compete on a national level through the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards in the spring, and senior-level students are busy completing their novels and poetry collections for publication. Performance in front of audiences is a big part of the program with literary readings twice a year. Students will present their work during the upcoming Spring 2006 Literary Readings, to take place in the Black Box theater at the School of the Arts as well as various venues in downtown Charleston.

Dance

The SOA Dance Department has had a very eventful year. So far in the 2005-2006 school year, they have given an outreach performance in which they traveled to several elementary and middle schools to share an educational and diverse performance; the sixth and seventh graders performed excerpts from the *Nutcracker Ballet*; and the eighth graders danced pieces from the Dictionary project, which includes vocabulary words for the SAT's. In addition, the seniors choreographed pieces that were inspired by social and political issues; all proceeds were donated to a cancer camp for children. Upcoming events include the South Carolina Dancing Festival at Winthrop University. High-school students will take classes in all dance styles and levels. In March, there will be another performance of the senior theses, a middle school performance highlighting the dances of the '60s, and a high-school performance featuring faculty and guest choreography.

Vocal

The High School Vocal Program has been busy performing in many places this year, and there are still more scheduled for the spring. There were two concerts in the waning months of 2005, the latter of which took place at the Sottile Theatre accompanied by the SOA Orchestra. In addition, there was a carol concert performance for St. Andrew's 300th Anniversary Celebration. In the fresh New Year, the vocal majors performed at St. Bartholomew's Cathedral in New York City, and also performed Morten Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna* in New York's famed Carnegie Hall. While in the city, they also attended several Broadway shows and a choral concert in Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall, and visited the United Nations, Little Italy, and Chinatown. Scheduled for February, eleven students will be selected through audition to perform in the American Choral Director's Southern Division Honor Choir in Charleston, West Virginia. March will see twelve more student selections by audition, this time to perform in the Organization of American Kodaly Educators National Concert Choir in Charlotte, North Carolina. Closing the year will be the third annual Masterworks Concert with the SOA orchestra, entitled "Mostly Mozart" in recognition of Mozart's 250th birthday.

SOA Quick Fact

-The Destination Imagination team placed 17th at World Competition

Creative Writing Quick Facts

-Received five National Scholastic Writing Awards, including American Voices Award and four Silver Awards. Students received 57 Scholastic Regional Awards.
-Received The American Library of Poetry and the American Literacy Council's Student Poetry Contest Editors Choice Award, 47 Creative Communication Poetry Contest awards, and 7 Gibbes Museum of Art Poets and Painters awards.
-All seniors are guided throughout the year by professional writers and publish their seniors' theses.

What's goin on?

Piano

Students in Piano have been hard at work expanding their knowledge of tunes. The high school students, aided by Robert Widlowski and Jack Dressler, performed their songs for the Junior Ring Ceremony. The next performance will take place in February, when thirteen students will be performing at the Music Educator's State Convention at the Performing Arts Center on the Honors Recital. The students have been chosen based on their performance at the Solo & Ensemble Festival last April. In addition, several students will participate in the Achievement Day sponsored by the Charleston Music Teachers Association in February, participate in the district Auditions sponsored by the CMTA in March, and many will perform in the Solo & Ensemble Festival held at Lander University in April. There will also be a spring recital in May for the middle school piano majors and one for the high school piano majors. Finally, two students, Jessie McGinty and Bugs Utsey are playing piano in the pit orchestra for *Big River*.

Theatre

The Theatre department has also led a very eventful year, starting with the annual Haunted House, which is an event where Theatre majors grades 9-12 transform the Black Box theatre into a screaming house of horror. The haunted house was followed by Smackdown, also an annual event, in which the theatre majors put on various scenes demonstrating stage combat techniques. The SOA theatre department has also participated in the annual South Carolina Theatre Association competition. For this they performed the famous play, *Murder on the Orient Express* and won "Best Technical Award." Many theatre majors have also performed in community theatres, such as the Village Playhouse and the Dock Street Theatre.

Band

The two main events that the band itself is taking part in are Concert Festival and a competition they were invited to by the SC Band Director's Association, which takes place in Atlanta, Georgia. The Concert Festival will be held here in Charleston, and the SOA band will be ranked among other local bands. This year, they are hoping to enter with a Masterworks symphony by John Barnes Chance. Jump, Jive, and Wail is also a large event for the whole band. The jazz band performs for an open community show, and the money raised goes towards the band program. This year, the band maxed out its total number of guests and monetary income. For the winter concert with the High School Vocal, the orchestra performed a piece by Hayden along with holiday tunes. This year, they hope to have as many band members in the All State Bands as before.

Strings

In Fall 2005, five students participated in the South Carolina Cello Choir at USC in September, and 27 students were selected to participate in the Lowcountry Region Orchestra held in November in Florence, SC. The Orchestra Boosters also held the annual Oyster Roast at Bowens Island on November 20, with notable success, and one student was asked to participate in the Chamber Music Workshop at USC in December. Upcoming events of interest include the CCSD's Spectrum of the Arts at the Gaillard Auditorium, the 3rd annual Masterworks Concert held in conjunction with the SOA vocals, entitled "Mostly Mozart" in honor of Mozart's 250th birthday. In addition, the High School Strings Orchestra has been invited to travel to Philadelphia and Washington, DC to represent South Carolina in the Festival of the States and the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, honoring Franklin's 300th birthday.

*Good luck Big River cast
and crew!*

Big River Cast

Big River Cast!

Director: Michael Locklair
 Assistant Director: Lauren Shaw
 Stage Manager: Tawana Tolbert
 Choreographer: Cecilia Slowinski
 Vocal Director: Kevin Eakes
 Orchestra Director: Basil Kerr
 Make-Up Artist: Laura Tisdale
 Costume Design: Marie Nichols
 Lighting/ Technical: Michael Kay

Principals:

Ink/ Narrator 1 - Elizabeth Baston
 Quill/ Narrator 2 - Diedre Buck
 Parchment/ Narrator 3 - Matthew Bostick
 Huck - Corey Webb
 Jim - Cordell Mosteller
 Widow Douglas - Hope Sims
 Miss Watson - Kathleen Smith
 Pap/ Sheriff Bell- Jonothan Brunson
 Judge Thatcher - Terrence Freeman
 Preacher - Dalonzo Gibson
 Tom Sawyer - Frank Sherry
 Jo/ Silas Phelps - Preston Hogue
 Dick - Robert Townsend
 Simon - Brett Sims
 Duke - Braden Joyce-Schleimer
 King - Elliott Matticks
 Andi - Ally Bing
 Lafe - Tara Wolfe
 Jessie - Jessica Funk
 Young Fool - Maggie Jo Saylor
 Alice - LaDana Sanders
 Alice's Daughter - Lea Wilson
 Mary Jane Wilkes - Heather Jones
 Joanna Wilkes - Lindsay Gallagher
 Susan Wilkes - Amber Caparas
 Rebecca Wilkes - Chelsea Cumming
 Harvey Wilkes/ Slave Trader/ Doctor - Nathan Matticks
 Sally Phelps/ Slave Trader - Mary Stone

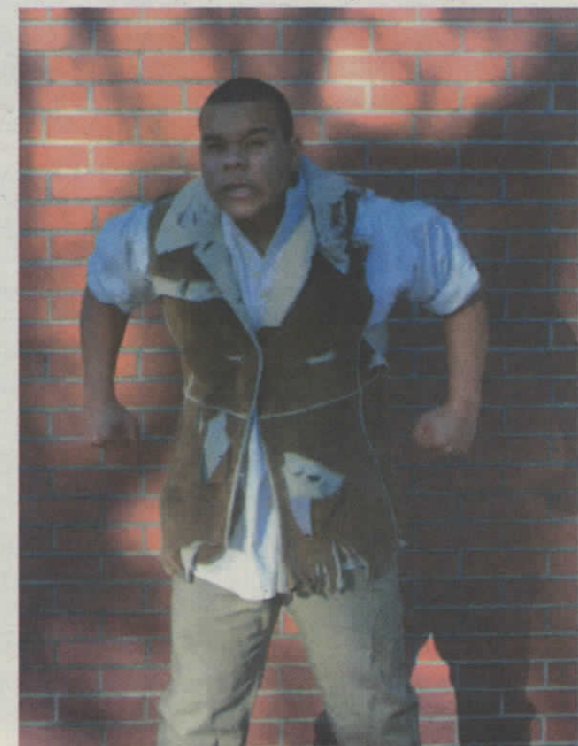
Young Girls: Taylor Cheney, Katie Lear, Katey Berry, Mikayla Carr, Lauren Hester, Clary Nigels, Pheraby Britt, Sarah Aytes, Larissa Clark, Staci Dunleavy **Crossing Chorus:** Soloist - Naudia Harrison, Vincent Hamilton, Demetrye Malloy, Jerrell Lewis, Bryan Rouse, Terrance Freeman, Robert Townsend, Danielle Hamilton, Jessica Lee, Ashlee Elliot, Ashli Bernell, Latasha Coltrane, Acecily Alexander, Nulani Bennett, Jasmine Murray, Jasmine Smalls **Townsppeople:** Nicole Adams, Jasmine Smalls, Clara Macmillan, Lauren Stanger, Acecily Alexander, Caitlyn Hiott, Lydia Kimmerlin, Kathleen Newton, Maggie Mallard, Alisa Myers, Kristin deHerder, Lindsay Venable, Addson Grafton, Robert Townsend, Angela Bedell, Anna Dunlany, Alex Phillips, Nicole Darden, Carolyn Teague Brown, Zan Isgett, Latasha Coltrane, Patsy Helzer, Dalonzo Gibson, Ashli Bernell, Ashlee Elliot,



Vincent Hamilton, Demetrye Malloy, Jerrell Lewis, Jessica Lee, Bryan Rouse, Terrence Freeman, Danielle Hamilton, Whitney Patterson, **Principal Dancers/ Townsppeople/ Chorus:** Kelsey Tucker, Jordan Grissom,



Christina Kelley, Rachel Maguire, Cameron Funderburk, Jill Biggerstaff, Zimone Mincey, Shadana Moses, Reba Bowens, Shauntavia Horlbeck, Alexis BRIGHTHARP
Orchestra: Woodwinds: Kelly Machado, Ricky Quinones
Trumpets: Daniel Vincent, Thomas O'Grady
Trombone: Timothy Robinson **Guitar:** Trevor Murray, Daniel Vincent, Adam Warden **Percussion:** Eric Black, Charles Aiken, Rodney Liles **Fiddles:** Taylor Raffield, Sytske Hillenius **Bass:** Mary Reed, Robert Widlowski **Piano:** Directed By: Mrs. Laura Benson, Bugs Utsey, Jessie McGinty



Features

An interview with *Big River's* leading lad, Corey Webb

by Omi Naderi



Is Huckleberry Finn your first lead role?

It's my biggest undertaking as an actor, but I was also Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls* my sophomore year in Burlington, Vermont; that was a big deal for me too.

How has playing Huck affected you?

From what I've noticed, when I play a character with an accent, it'll slip up in my everyday speech for a month or two after the production.

But, how has this role affected you on a deeper level?

Well, I can relate to Huck in a lot of ways because he's kind of a vagabond who goes wherever the wind feels like blowing him that day. In the last four

years, I've kind of felt the same way. There's a song in the show called "Muddy Water" that states we have no idea where life is taking us; just embrace it, climb on up, and take it for a ride. I've sort of adopted that as my mantra.

How closely does Big River follow the story line of The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn?

Well, I've been reading the book lately, but I haven't had a chance to get through the whole thing yet (I'll have it read by opening night). I'm pretty sure the play follows pretty closely to the story with the necessary cuts. However, I've heard that in the book, there is no kissing scene between Mary Jane (Heather Jones) and Huckleberry and also that he is significantly younger than her. I guess I dig older women. *What are the major challenges you face playing Huck? Is it the most difficult role you've ever had?*

To be honest, the most difficult thing was getting people to believe in the show. It seems like a big undertaking, and it is, but I had to believe in the show. I wanted others to know it could most definitely be done, so I kept pushing and pushing, giving the show everything I had to offer. I think the cast finally understood (and I thank those that helped me) because we just recently got to a point where I believe everyone said, "Oh, hey, this is good; this can work."

Also, I know that a lot of the leading characters were vocal majors with little to some to no theatrical experience; in the beginning, they were the ones who looked (to me) unsure and sometimes discouraged. But with their willingness and a few pushes in the right direction, they pulled it off. Theatre is a skill that can be learned, just like anything else and they came along beautifully. Not to mention that with those voices, I sound fantastic.

Have you ever been on a raft?

No, have you?

Do you think Huck played a banjo?

If he didn't, he should've. The banjo is great; I highly recommend it, especially for chronically depressed people.

How would feel if you had a name like Huckleberry?

I think it's a wonderful name that raises many questions such as: What is a huckleberry? Can you squeeze it into hucklejuice? Was his mom a hippie? And how exactly does a berry huckle?

Do you think that Huck grew a beard when he was seventeen like you had on the back of last month's Applause?

That's 25 years after the events of *Big River*.

What would Huck Finn's major be?

I don't think he would've gotten into SOA.

Do you think Mark Twain is smiling down upon the cast of Big River?

I sure hope so, but probably not. If I was an author who had my book turned into a musical that won a Tony

in '87 and then had some high school cut it all up and call it a performance, I'm not sure if I'd be smiling...I'd be hopping for joy because Corey Webb is the lead! Hooray!

Let's be serious. Would Huck have enjoyed reading the Applause?

I imagine he wouldn't have gotten very far since he wasn't very good at reading. But if he was, I imagine he would've liked this issue a lot because it's specifically about him and his adventures. Also, because whoever that actor is that plays him is so good looking. Gosh, who is that good-looking guy? I guess I'll go see the show to find out..



An interview with Mary Jane Wilkes

by Kathleen Smith

Get ready to meet Miss **Heather Jones**, who plays Mary Jane Wilkes, Huck's love interest in the play. *How does your character fit into the plot?*

Well, every show needs a clever, witty, independent, charming, gentle, kind, loving dream girl. That's Mary Jane basically.

Have you been in any other plays before?

I have been in several musicals before, but I mostly had chorus roles. I was in *Big River* in 8th grade, and heck if it isn't more fun the second time around. *What character in Big River do you relate most to?*

Definitely the Royal Nonesuch.



Who is your favorite character in Big River?

I like Pap because he wonderfully embodies the frustrated, lower class American man fed up with the inadequacy of his local government. Huck and Jim are pretty awesome too.

What is your favorite song in Big River?

They're all so good. "You ought a be here with me" and "Leaving's not the only way to go" are best though. Once you hear them you will know why.

Features

An interview with Cordell Mosteller

by Omi Naderi

Is this your first lead role, and has it been the most challenging?

This is my first lead role, and I find it not a very challenging one, but remembering when to say certain lines and queue lines is kind of hard for me at times.

Have you considered acting in more musicals after *Big River*, or even possibly as a career?

Not acting, unless I take acting classes or something because I am not the best actor in the world. I used to want to take up musical theater in college, but there's always that possibility that I won't get cast for a show and end up homeless in New York or something like that, so I'll just stick to performing music.

Racism and slavery is a big issue in the *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. What has been your experience playing the role of a slave? How would you have felt if you were in Jim's position, running away to freedom?

I think Jim has it rather easy because he has a good master, and even though he thinks he is going to be sold, he isn't. He has a really good friend, Huck, who is always watching after him and helping along the way. I don't know how I would react if I had to run away to my freedom; I probably would just remember my purpose to be free and let that be my inspiration.

How does it feel to play Huck's elder when you are younger than the actor, Corey Webb, in real-life?

It's kind of weird, but at the same time it's okay because in the play he is learning more about me while I am learning more about him, and in the long run we are both helping each other.

Please do tell us what your relationship with your co-stars is like off the set.

Well, Corey and I have gotten to know each other and become a lot closer, and usually Heather (Mary Jane) Corey, and myself go to Heather's house and run lines and songs and just have a good time. We have learned so much about each other, and we have a very tight-knit relationship, I could say.

What major would Jim be in if he went to SOA?

I think Jim would be a good creative writer because his stories are very deep and meaningful, and he would be one of those very influential writers who helps change people's lives.

Have you ever been on a raft? If you and Corey were stuck on a raft on a big river for at least a month, what would your adventures be like?

I have never been on a raft. I think our adventure would be fun because we'd probably be making up songs and joking with each other the whole time. It wouldn't be a bad thing. It would be like a great party, a month long party. We'd probably forget we were supposed to find a way off of the raft instead of joking around.

A chat with Widow Douglas

by David DuTremble

Senior vocal major **Hope Sims** was interviewed by **David DuTremble** in order to discover her preparation strategies.

How does your character fit into the plot?

My sister, Miss Watson (played by **Kathleen Smith**) and I take Huck in to 'civilize' him after his father's disappearance.

What have you done to prepare for the role?

Kathleen and I have practiced our song with Mr. Eakes for many hours. We have also met outside of school to learn our lines.

Do you think being a vocal major gives you an advantage?



Definitely. It makes it a lot easier to learn the music.

What's your favorite part of *Big River*?

My favorite part of *Big River* is when the boys and Huck sing *The Boys*, because the dance is funny.

Who is your favorite character?

The Duke, because his character is funny and he has an amazing voice.



Tom Sawyer reveals all

by David Whitley

With *Big River* fast approaching, and the newspaper deadline approaching even faster, ace interviewer David Whitley was approached for his services in interviewing Frank Shary, the student who is to masquerade as Tom Sawyer in the upcoming production.

DW: What prompted you to audition for *Big River*?

FS: Mr. Eakes asked everybody to, so I did.

DW: I couldn't help but overhear that you're going to be playing *Tom Sawyer*. What do you think about his character?

FS: He's sorta got his head up in the clouds. He doesn't really relate to the real world. Kind of a daydreamer, y'know?

DW: And people have been saying that you're a great choice to play him. Do you see any of the character in yourself?

FS: No. Well, it's sorta fun to stick fingers with knives and make blood-oaths.

DW: Kind of a strange interaction for - correct me if I'm wrong, but *Big River* is a musical - right?

FS: Yes.

DW: I don't know how much it's been changed from the book, but I don't remember any singing in the book.

FS: Yeah, I don't think many people do that in real life.

DW: Do you feel that all this is worth it?

FS: Yes, because it's fun to enrich my mind and learn new things.

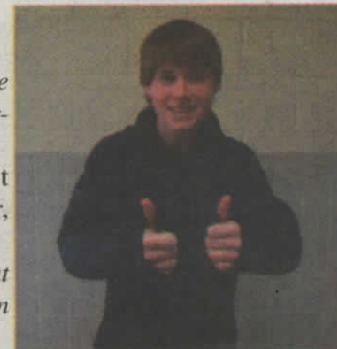
DW: You're worried about who's going to read this, aren't you?

FS: Absolutely. I don't think Mr. Locklair would appreciate me complaining about how we have to stay after school until six every night.

DW: I think we've just about used up the interview length, so I'll only ask one more question: Are you in any way nervous about getting up in front of a crowd?

FS: Oh yeah. As soon as I get on stage, I'm probably gonna turn red, stumble over my lines, and mess up.

Here's hoping, for his sake and for the sake of the entire production, that he does not.



A talk with Ms. Watson

by David Whitley

With *Big River* fast approaching, rising journalist **David Whitley** sat down in the cafeteria with **Kathleen Smith**, the vocal major assigned the role of Miss Watson in the play. First off, I heard that you're playing Miss Watson in *Big River*, is this correct?

Yes, it is.

The first question - well, second question - I have to ask is, "What do you feel about the character of Miss Watson?"

I love playing Miss Watson. It's a lot of fun to play someone totally different than me. She's a very stern, very religious old woman, and I'm just excited about having gray hair for the play.

And how much time after school do you have to devote to this role?

When I first got the part, there weren't that many rehearsals, maybe once a week. But now, since the play's getting closer, we have to stay after school 'till six, and we usually have Saturday rehearsals as well.

Since the play's going to be in the North Charleston Performing Arts Center, you'll be up in front of a whole lot of people. Are you nervous about this?

I have absolutely no stage fright because I've never been afraid of going in front of crowds.

All in all, *Big River* sounds like a pretty big commitment. If given the choice would you audition again, knowing what you know now?

Yeah, I would totally, because it's the first school play I've been in, and I think it's given me a lot of confidence in my major.



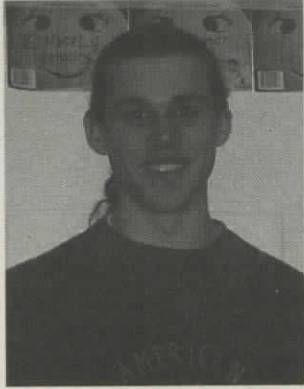
Editorial

Two Wars, Two Deserts, A Singular Issue

David DuTremble

"Drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge will not end America's dependence on Persian Gulf or other oil imports. Geologists estimate that only a few months' supply of oil lies beneath the refuge and that it will take ten years of exploration and development before any reaches the market. Even then, production from the refuge would not affect prices of gasoline at the pumps."

<http://www.savearcticrefuge.org/sections/energy.html>



Although the most recent controversy surrounding drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge has died down, this is surely not the last time this issue will rear its greedy head. After it was attached to the Defense Spending bill by Alaska republican Ted Stevens, it was immediately apparent that the state of our wilderness is about as meaningless to the government as American lives.

At this point in time, it is difficult to deny the War in Iraq having to do with anything other than oil, although according to the Energy Information Administration, only 12 percent of

our oil imports come from the Persian Gulf. According to CNN.com, 2,117 American service people have been killed in Iraq, with 16,115 wounded, disfigured and maimed. If the ANWR were opened to drilling, 1.5 million acres of the 19 million total acres would become a toxic wasteland; in Prudhoe Bay, 30 miles away from the Arctic Refuge, over 400 spills occur yearly, of oil and other toxic substances.

The Arctic Coastal Plain is home to 1,800 polar bears, 130,000 caribou, 135 species of migratory birds, 600 musk oxen, 7,800 bowhead whales and various other marine mammals, all of which are endangered species. Although not as tangible to most people as human death tolls, the loss of any one of these species would have as much impact environmentally, along with being just as pointlessly atrocious.

According to a United Nations report, 80 percent of the Arctic and 40 percent of the Arctic ecosystem will be affected by industrialization by 2050 if growth continues at its current rate. The US Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration estimates that when the ANWR is at peak production, gas prices would only be affected by one penny per gallon. Accordingly, Arctic production would make up only 0.8 percent of the world's oil production and 3 percent of US oil consumption.

Concerning Alaska, we must decide which is more important - a few months' oil supply, or one of the last unspoiled treasures of American wilderness. When a species becomes extinct, it is gone forever. Who wants to have to explain to their children what polar bears were? Not only does our government stubbornly keep us in a situation where Americans are killed daily, trivializing the lives of its troops, it trivializes natural heritage for ours and future generations over an insignificant amount of oil.

SOA Quick Facts!

-75% of AP students recieved scores of 3,4,or 5. This percentage is the highest among Charleston County schools for schools with more than 15% of AP students.

- 100% of our high school seniors are accepted to colleges and universities. Students earned \$2.7 million in scholarships last year.

All Quiet on the George Bush Front

By David Whitley



Yes, I agree that it's a stupid idea to attach drilling for oil to the Defense Spending Bill, since exploratory drilling has anywhere between nothing and absolutely nothing to do with the defense of our nation. Sure, you could boil it and dump it on the heads of our enemies, but that's just a waste when you consider that it could all be used to fill up three Hummers. You know it's a bad idea to buy a car when it gets gallons to the mile.

However -- and this is supposed to be one of those ominous *howevers* that tends to hang above silence in courtrooms just before the defense attorney contradicts a witness's statement -- since Ted Stevens is a senator, a position that requires a vote of the state's population and therefore implies the agreement of the majority of the state, and an Alaskan himself, doesn't that make him more qualified to accurately judge the state of affairs in Alaska than a vocal major from South Carolina?

I don't see where the complaints are coming from, since the people in support of the bill are -- surprise! -- the people of Alaska, the very people that this will affect. Certainly, the concern regarding the local and migratory fauna (which stated that 7,800 bowhead whales reside on the Arctic Coastal Plain despite the

fact that they have no legs) is valid, but the oil pipeline that has existed in Alaska since the Nixon administration has caused no problems or threats to the migratory habits of the birds and caribou. Several studies were conducted by the government at the time that support my claim. In addition, regarding the statistics previously cited, statistics reveal that the Alaskan oil line will transport 1 million barrels a day once it is fully operational, which is 5% of our current oil consumption as stated by freerepublic.com. It was stated by Mr. DuTremble that "12% of our oil imports come from the Persian Gulf." Notice that the five percent change means that the proposed pipeline will provide nearly half the oil we are currently obtaining from Iraq.

The solution to this problem is not to deny access to the oil under Alaska, which I agree will not obliterate our dependence upon oil from the Persian Gulf, but to find an alternative energy source. Today, studies into alternative energy sources are practically at a standstill due to lack of funding and, in general, interest. The new hybrid cars are a step forward, but gasoline is not the only use for oil. Many homes in the United States are heated by oil, and many states with less water sources for hydroelectric power obtain their electricity through the burning of coal, which is just as -- if not far more -- harmful to the environment than an oil pipeline in Alaska.

There have been no new orders for the construction of nuclear power plants ever since 1974. Despite the fact that everyone holds an inbred fear of nuclear power because of the incident at Chernobyl, the actual chance of a well-maintained nuclear power plant having a meltdown is surprisingly low. Unfortunately, everyone today receives their information regarding nuclear power from *The Simpsons*, which is by no means a credible source of information. The leading researcher of which is France -- would enable us to power electric trains, electric streetcars, buses, and possibly even electric cars, the only complaint against which has been that they cost more to recharge than to fill a car with gasoline.

However, these complaints were made back when gasoline still cost less than one dollar per gallon, instead of the \$2.29 it costs now. Statistically speaking, producing electric cars would actually be cheaper than gasoline-fueled ones today. Right now, conversion to electric power may be our best option. And if you don't like the idea of electric cars because all the ones proposed look hideous, nobody's gonna know if you get your Jag converted to electric power.

DAVID
VS
DAVID

Miscellaneous

Real newspaper headlines

- "Psychics predict world didn't end yesterday"
- "Two convicts evade noose, jury hung"
- "Squad helps dog bite victim"
- "Lawmen from Mexico barbecue guests"
- "Enraged cow injures farmer with ax"
- "Two Soviet ships collide - one dies"
- "Deaf mute gets new hearing in killing"
- "Something went wrong in jet crash, experts say"

Horoscopes

by The Great and Powerful Oz

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb 19): Don't make any New Year's resolutions unless you know you can keep them. No one wants to end up with a long list of failures.

Pisces (Feb. 20-Mar. 20): School may be back in session, but don't let yourself get stressed. If you stay on top of things, you won't have to burn or "lose" your report card when the time comes.

Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 20): Are you feeling guilty that you forgot or couldn't afford to give gifts, now that you've had a pile of them dumped in your lap? Just give everyone a squeeze and a kiss, and you'll feel much better.

Taurus (Apr. 21-May 21): You're nuts.

Gemini (May 22-June 21): It's time to break out of your routine! Stop basing all your actions and decisions on fortune cookies and think of something to do on your own!

Cancer (June 22-July 22): 6.022x10²³. This number holds the key to life, the universe, and everything.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 21): You need to show more patriotism. Paint your face red, white, and blue for a whole week to show your dedication.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sept. 23): Go to jail. Go straight to jail. Do not pass Go. Do not collect 200 dollars.

Libra (Sept. 24-Oct. 23): You are the eventual-ity of an anomaly, which despite my sincerest efforts I have been unable to eliminate from what is otherwise a harmony of mathematical precision.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22): Your Xbox Live: Halo 2 girlfriend is really a hairy mid-30's guy. I've got two words for you: GO OUTSIDE.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 22): Your New Year's resolution is to lose ten pounds. An easy way to achieve this is to become an organ donor. Who needs two kidneys anyway?

Capricorn (Dec. 23-Jan. 20): It's 2006! Oh my God, there's only 95 more years until War begins! Stockpile nonperishables in your pantry!



Stay fit with Mr. Brehm!

February 2006

06-Feb-06	MON	School Improvement Council meeting @4:00pm
07-Feb-06	TUE	Teachers enter grades (Tue.-Wed. February 7& 8)
10-Feb-06	FRI	Bingo Night- 5:30 - 7:30 pm in Cafeteria (Jr. Council Fundraiser for Prom (Colquitt))
14-Feb-06	TUE	8th Grade Field Trip Dock Street Theater - 9:00 am - 1:30 pm
15-Feb-06	WED	Interim reports distributed 6th & 7th grade Theater Majors to Dock Street Theatre 10:15 am - 2:30pm (Wood)
17-Feb-06	FRI	CW Students to Gibbes Art Museum 8:30 am - 1:30 pm (8th - 11th grades) Henry
22-Feb-06	WED	HS Vocals ACDA Southern Division - Honors Choir - Charleston, WV
23-Feb-06	THU	HS Dance Majors to Winthrop University - SC Dance Association Festival (February 23 - 26) Anderson
24-Feb-06	FRI	HS & MS Orchestra All-State Weekend at Converse College (February 24- 26)

Crazy for Carnegie

by Kathleen Smith

I suppose everyone has heard the joke, "How do you get to Carnegie Hall?" The punch line is so true: Practice! Practice! Practice! The vocal majors at SOA have been working toward this experience for what seems like forever. As a vocal major myself, I know that our trip to New York City was something Mr. Eakes, the vocal parents and students were planning for a long time.

What could be better than traveling to the "Big Apple" with 50 of your classmates for the chance to perform at Carnegie Hall? For a musician, this is a dream come true.

And for most of the vocal majors, this was a trip for which we have been longing.

For some vocalists, the trip brought a first plane flight, a first visit to a big city, and a first subway ride. In addition to attending rehearsals, Mr. Eakes had tons of fun

activities planned for us. On our first night, we ate at a yummy Italian restaurant in Little Italy. On Thursday we enjoyed a tour of lower Manhattan and saw City Hall and the financial district. After our long tour, Mr. Eakes let everyone split up into groups to shop around Chinatown and Soho. Needless to say, this was my favorite part of the trip. Shopping in NYC is the ultimate shopping experience. After shopping, we got ready for various Broadway shows. After the show, I enjoyed a slice of New York-style pizza. The rest of our days there were filled with shopping, rehearsals, tours, a night cruise around Manhattan, a concert at Lincoln Center and more shopping.

I know singing at Carnegie Hall was a chance of a lifetime and I will never forget it. I'm so lucky to have great vocal friends and an amazing vocal teacher. And I send a dozen thank you's to the chaperones. A shout out to Miss Sylvia for her great dancing on the boat that last night.



Time Square

Piano Quick Facts!

- 35 students attended the Solo and Ensemble Festival, receiving many "Superior" ratings. As a result of their performances, 15 students were selected to perform at the Honors Recital at the Music Educators National Conference State Convention.
- Several students competed in District Auditions at Charleston Southern University, receiving "superior" ratings and qualifying to participate in statewide auditions.
- Piano majors participated in Achievement Day sponsored by the Charleston Music Teachers Association. Three students performed at the Honors Recital.

Question of the Month



"Picture the crowd naked."
-Nathan Matticks
(Harvey Wilkes/ Slave Trader/ Doctor)
12th Grade, Vocal Major



"I'm never really over stage fright, but when it comes to showtime I know that I have a mission, and I have to complete it."
-Cordell Mosteller
(Jim)
11th Grade, Vocal Major



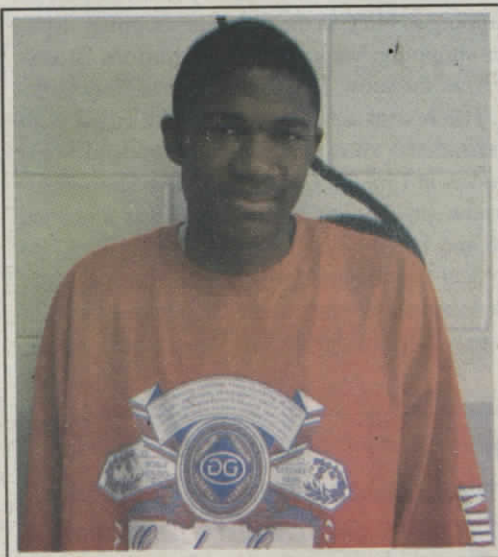
"I just tell myself that you will do well and have the mindset that I will prove someone who doubts me wrong."
-Lindsay Venable (Young Girl)
9th Grade, Major



"All I worry about is the first moment. After that it's smooth sailing."
-Corey Webb (Huck)
12th Grade, Theatre Major

How do these Big River cast members overcome stage fright?

"I just know that everyone else is nervous along with me and some people are nervous for me; it comforts me."
-Lauren Hester (Young Girl)
9th Grade, Major



"I look over the audience and pick something to focus my attention on and hope I remember my lines."
-Dalonzo Gibson (Preacher)
12th Grade, Band Major



"When the adrenaline kicks in, you use it to your advantage. Go big or go home."
-Mary Stone (Sally Phelps/ Slave Trader)
12th Grade, Theatre Major



"I wear my lucky underwear that helps me become more confident."
-Heather Jones (Mary Jane Wilkes)
11th Grade, Vocal Major