

# Applause

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 6 CHARLESTON COUNTY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS, NORTH CHARLESTON, SC FEBRUARY 2006



***THE BEST IN THE  
WORLD***

## Editors' Page

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Applause is a student produced publication of the School of the Arts.  
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Cover Design by Omi Naderi featuring Mr. Kerr

## Editor's Note

Dear Readers of the *Applause*,

The positive response to the *Big River* issue was absolutely unbelievable. We even received a request for a subscription from a North Carolinian who attended the show. Our circulation continues to expand! The *Applause* staff and I applaud the performance of *Big River*, and were glad to have contributed even a little to such an incredible event. Since it was difficult to recognize

everyone involved in *Big River* in our last issue, we have included some reflections from some of those involved. I would also like to acknowledge the various holidays celebrated during this month of: Happy Valentines Day, Happy Groundhogs day, and word up for Black History Month.

*Big River:*  
**Mankind at its Best**  
 by Omi Naderi

*Big River* was an example of mankind at its very best: people working together peacefully to create something beautiful and uplifting, not for money, not for personal gain, but for the pure sake of art. And what a fine work of art *Big River* was. Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Edward Albee said in a recent speech at USC that the defining characteristic of mankind - what truly separates us from animals - is our capacity to create art. It follows that during those four showings of *Big River*, on Thursday and Friday, January 26-27, 2006, not to mention the months of rehearsals, everyone involved in the production was functioning on the highest level of humanity. And since everyone fortunate enough to have been in the audience was appreciating the splendor, we were all engaged in the supreme human activity.

It is easy for many of us at the School of the Arts to forget how fortunate we are to attend this school. Coming here has become such a regular part of our lives. It is easy for us to overlook how every single student you see in this school is exceptionally talented, and that for each one of us, many, many hopeful others failed. But events like *Big River* remind us of this, bringing us back to the heart of SOA, and in the process, we all become united in our artistic identity more than ever before. I will even say that these musicals are what keep our school going in the long run.

Now that *Big River* is over and is fading into memory, my wish for all of us is that we never forget that it was a masterpiece, a marvel of mankind, and that we all possess the power to achieve greatness through our talent. To everyone involved in *Big River*, you are the heroes of SOA.

## Mr. Kerr 1, World 0

by David DuTremble

Last year, SOA's own **Mr. Kerr** led his students and his school to victory. The College Board has rated his AP Music Theory class number one in the world based on students passing the exam in a medium size school. I am proud to say that I was a part of that class.

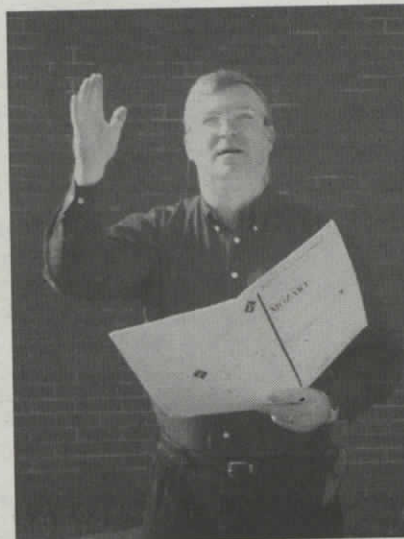
From Alberti bass to ear training to whole tone scales, Mr. Kerr exhaustively covered the equivalent of a Theory 101 class. For the first semester, we relearned basic theory, dissected the ins and outs of harmony, and questioned what makes music work. Finally, at the end of the first semester, we began to look over the test and discuss what would be on it. When second semester rolled around, we had reviewed our basics and had begun delving deep into what sometimes felt like the theory of music theory.

When asked why he thought our particular class was so successful, Mr. Kerr responded with his usual mischievous laugh, "We have smart kids and I don't get in the way. The success is in the fact that most have an understanding of how music works, and I just put terminology to it." He went on to say that through their majors, most of the students in the class had prior rudimentary theory knowledge. *Applause's* **Omi Naderi** offered a different thought: "It's because I didn't take the class. I would have brought the score down."

"The challenge of AP Theory is that there's no prerequisite, unlike calculus, where you have Pre-cal, or English, where you have three years of English before the AP class. The test is a secret, because there's nothing like it."

Mr. Kerr has said that the class wouldn't have been able to get its "amazing" pass rate for the unheard-of 24 students in one AP class without the help of **Ms. Fitzgerald** and the students helping their peers.

Knowing he taught the number one theory class in the world "has been the most overwhelming thought. I'm used to having nationally recognized bands, but this is international recognition. You have a hard time grasping that." He also commented that victory was even sweeter because "we didn't have to do any politicking, anything but what we were supposed to do. This was based entirely on cold fact. Getting this award is the highest recognition you



can achieve."

Mr. Kerr says that he will be teaching AP Theory every other year, even though he hates theory. However, he contributes his hatred of theory to his success as a theory teacher. "Most of these kids are going to major in music in college and will have to take theory. My job is to spare them the torture so that theory will be easy."

Thanks, Mr. Kerr, for making theory easy. I'm sure I will appreciate it even more next year when I'm drowsing through my college theory lectures.

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## School News

## Bonjour SOA !

by Kathleen Smith

**P**repare to meet the new French Teacher, Mrs. Kovatcheva.

*Where are you originally from?*

I am originally from Bulgaria.

*What languages do you speak?*

Language has been a passion since early childhood. Some I learned at school, while others I learned on my own through extensive reading and writing. I am a professional translator in Bulgarian, French, Russian, and English. Latin based Rumanian and Italian are languages that have interested me for years.

*Where did you attend college and what was your major?*

I hold both a BA and a MA in French language and literature from "St. Cyril and Methodius" University of Veliko Tirmovo, Bulgaria and a BS from Medical Institute of Sliven, Bulgaria. I also earned a degree in Arts Management with minor in Art History at the College of Charleston.

*When did you decide you wanted to become a teacher?*

I was in teaching specialization in Kiev, Ukraine and twice in France.

*What is your favorite city in France and why?*

I traveled a lot in many countries in Europe. I love La Riviere, Cannes - the city of the cinema festival, Grasse - the champion of perfumes, and Nimes with its Roman vestiges. Hendaye, situated in the Pays Basques, is one of my favorite places as well. The gothic cathedral of Beauvais, only two hours from Paris, captured my attention. Who does not love Paris? I need to go back again to explore this symbol of French culture and civilization.

*What has your experience here been like so far?*

I am interested in art and art history. I read a lot and I listen to many different kinds of music. Being a teacher at the School of the Arts is a great opportunity to teach a foreign language with close relation with the field of the arts.

*Where else have you lived?*

I live in Charleston with my family. For eight years I had the chance to live in the North as well in the South, United States. Living in Boston was an unforgettable experience for me.



## Mrs. Myers, Taylor Raffield honored



**T**he South Carolina Music Educators Association, a division of the Music Educators National Conference, has bestowed two awards upon the Charleston County School of the Arts. Rose Maree Myers, principal, has been named Honor Administrator for her contribution to music education in the state, and Taylor Raffield, a senior strings major, has received the SCMEA Memorial Scholarship.

**Ms. Myers** has made significant contributions to music education in our community and throughout the state. She began the Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary School, which has won numerous awards both statewide and nationally. She was the obvious choice to pioneer the School of the Arts, which opened as a middle school in 1995. Since its conception, the school has grown to a middle and high school and music programs have progressed from the basic band, chorus, piano, and string orchestra into two wind ensembles, a jazz band, three vocal ensembles, a full symphony orchestra, classical and jazz piano classes, Advanced Placement Music Theory and music technology classes, where students write music and create their own CDs. Ms. Myers has fought for the arts programs in the Charleston County School District and in the state legislature. The School of the Arts continues to produce students who excel artistically and academically.

Taylor Raffield has been the concert master of the School of the Arts High School Orchestra for two years. He has been involved with chamber ensembles, the Charleston Youth Symphony, musical theatre, and contra dance bands. Taylor plans on majoring in Physics at Clemson University, where he will continue to play the violin in the orchestra. Taylor will be performing the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto with the SOA Symphony on May 10 for his senior thesis performance.

The awards will be presented at the SCMEA Conference's awards luncheon at the North Charleston Convention Center on Friday, February 10, 2006. For further information, call 529-4990.



## SOA Calendar

**22-Feb-06** HS Vocals ACDA Southern Division - Honors Choir - Charleston, WV (Feb 22-26) - 8th grade Vocal majors performing for Retired Teachers Association at Cherokee United Methodist Church - 11:15am - 1:30pm

**23-Feb-06** HS Dance Majors to Winthrop University - SC Dance Association Festival (Feb 23-26) 7th Grade Visual Arts to Gibbes Art Museum and Aquarium

**24-Feb-06** HS & MS Orchestra All-State Weekend at Converse College (Feb 24-26) MS Region Band Clinic at Cario and Wando

**27-Feb-06** Piano Jazz Festival

**28-Feb-06** Parent Night

**1-Mar-06** HS Theatre SETC - Orlando, FL (Mar 1-4)

**9-Mar-06** HS Dance Senior Thesis - 4:30 SOA Campus

**14-Mar-06** 8th Grade Pi Day Celebration 2:00-3:15pm in Cafeteria

**17-Mar-06** St. Patrick's Day

: ( It's really over

Big River cast and crew reflect

by Rachel Maguire



**T**o many SOA students, *Big River* seemed like an excuse to get out of class and miss a whole week of school. Little did we know what a huge success would come of three months of afterschool and in-school rehearsals with **Mr. Locklair** always saying, "I'm smiling, I'm laughing." What a wonderful experience this was for everyone involved.

Ms. Sylvia Edwards who was in charge of ticket sales recalls, "Since I was in the lobby prior to the performances, I was able to speak with a lot of the workers for the Performing Arts Center. They were truly amazed by the production. They made comments about how

this was as good if not better than some of the professional performances that take place there." Also, behind the scenes was SOA student **Michael Kay**, lighting designer, head tech worker, and stage manager for *Big River*. He reflects, "*Big River* gave me a chance to think on my feet, learn from professionals, and work in a professional environment. I enjoyed the experience of learning from these highly creative and experienced men. I thank [all of them] for trusting me, helping me, and allowing me to use such expensive equipment." It was quite a new experience for him and such a great responsibility.



Not everyone was with the performers from the get-go: **Ms. Linda Cline**, joined the cast and crew the week of the show to help Ms. Nichols backstage. Ms. Cline agrees, "This was a very professional production."

Aside from all of the crew having something to say, **Braden Joyce-Schleimer** not only contributed "Three months of his life," also his acting skills as the Duke: "You know, the one who sang 'The Royal Nonesuch', and had that crazy purple suit on half the time." Braden attributes his amazing "deaf and dumb" face to the long rehearsals. In a sappy, "gag-yourself-with-a-spoon" myspace blog he thinks back on the show, "I feel like there's a piece of me missing," and "...in the course of two days it swells, withers, and disappears." His only regret is, "the fact that we were only able to have four performances...I would definitely repeat it."

To add to these comments, Mr. Locklair received a letter from Mr. Julian Wiles, the founder and producing artistic director of Charleston Stage. In his letter he praises such an amazing production, "I don't know when I've enjoyed a night in the theatre more in recent years." Coming from an outsider with his reputation, this is quite a compliment. He continued, "In all, this wasn't a school or a student production in any sense. It was in every way professional."

To sum it all up, I think it's safe to say, hats off to such an incredible group of students and faculty members for a job well done!



## School News

## Where have you been, Ben?

by Rachel Maguire

*I caught up with Ben Pooser, a graduate of the class of 2004, and asked him about life after SOA.*

**What do you attend school now and what is your major?**

"I am a student at College of Charleston with a major in political science."

**What is the most important thing you took with you from School of the Arts?**

"I learned not to be afraid to try new things and take part in new and unfamiliar experiences."

**What are your career goals?**

"Well right now I am working for the Highway Patrol, so I've already begun my career, but I plan to finish all of my training for the Highway Patrol. In six years I hope to go to the NSA, I'm pretty sure it stands for National Securities Administration, anyway, it is Federal Law Enforcement."

**What teacher do you miss most, and why?**

"Mr. Sam Wood, a.k.a. Tinkerbell, I have some awesome pictures of him in a Tinkerbell costume. I guess you could say I miss him because at the drop of a hat he would tell you that you are full of bull\*\*\*\*."

**When you were in high school did you see yourself where you are now?**

"Actually, no. Haha, Most of the time when I pictured myself in a police car I was in the back seat. I also saw myself as a full time college student majoring in law, but I decided that was too much work. Instead, I go to night school and work at the dispatch, which actually is considered a derogatory term."

**Had you always planned on going to College of Charleston?**

"I don't know. I applied to USC School of Law (Carolina, that is), Clemson, Furman, Citadel, Trident, C of C, and just for the heck of it, Harvard, just to see. I got into all of them except Harvard. Surprise, surprise."

**Have you kept in touch with any of your friends from School of the Arts?**

"The only time I really see my friends from school is at parties. I have a new group of college friends now. Actually, I had a run-in with a former SOA student a few weeks ago while I was on duty..." (Sorry, I was told I couldn't say who it is... strict police business) "I was in the patrol car and a motorcycle flew by and nearly took the paint right off of my car. We clocked him at 127 in a 60. He didn't realize that he was in pursuit until about ten minutes later when I pulled up close enough and bumped his back tire with my bumper. We thought he was resisting arrest, but he finally pulled over. It was so intense, we cuffed him and threw him down on the hood of the police car and the other officer had his gun

drawn, but it wasn't until I took off his helmet that I realized who it was, it just blew my mind. I ended up letting him off pretty easy, but told him that if I caught him again, his <butt> was mine."

**What is one phrase that you now live by that you could bestow upon all SOA students?**

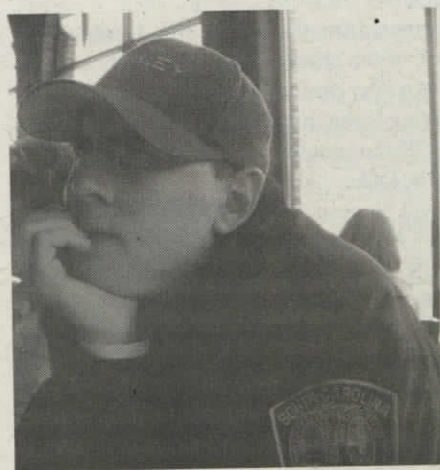
"Never let your successes go to your head and never let your failures go to your heart."

**Do you have any advice for seniors who are working on their senior theses right now?**

"Don't procrastinate \*&#!@^+!!! Don't be a big slacker, just get it done!"

**What do you miss most about the theatre department at SOA?**

"I miss the comradery and being able to goof off sometimes, but get serious when I needed to."



Pondering Pooser

**Last, but not least... Are you still active in any theatre programs?**

"Well, I pretty much act up everyday, but I do plays still at Dock Street Theatre. My most recent show was *Taming of the Shrew*."



Patrolling Pooser

## NHS News

by Nicole Adams

Unfortunately, January was somewhat lacking in NHS happenings so there is little news for me to report. I know you are all very disappointed, but I promise next months article will prove to be much more interesting! I would like to say that breakfast sales are still going strong but without your help we wouldn't be able to provide such a wonderful service so THANK YOU! All of the money raised from breakfast sales and other fundraisers such as carnation sales is combined and the society uses the money to give back in one way or another. The past year we provided summer camp scholarships for SOA students as well as scholarships for graduating seniors to use for college. So be on the lookout for more information because who knows, you could be the next person to receive a scholarship from the National Honor Society!

A little heads up: we will be putting on another yard sale sometime in March. The date is not set in stone yet so listen up if you are interested (which all of you should be). Donations will be collected and as always, are greatly appreciated so be on the lookout for the donation box! Check back in the March article of the Applause to hear more exciting NHS News!

"?!"

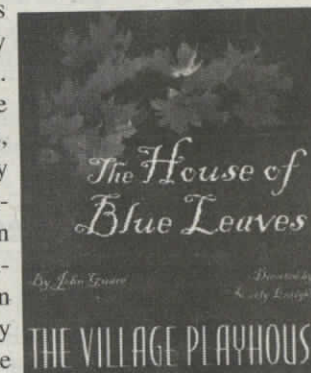
Reflections on *The House of Blue Leaves*

by Cait Brennan

"Haha" and "?!" are exactly what comes to mind after reading John Guare's play, *The House of Blue Leaves*. I do not think there is anything normal about this story, which is exactly why many of you SOAians would absolutely love it. *The House of Blue Leaves* is a story about a middle class zookeeper/ optimistic songwriter named Artie Shaughnessy and his experience the day that the Pope came to New York. His love interest, Bunny Flingus is...oh, what is the word...uh, colorful. There is also his insane wife, Bananas, and his eccentric son, Ronnie. These characters were lively on paper, but reading their lines in no way compared to actually seeing the play and these vivacious characters up on stage at the Village Playhouse on Sunday afternoon, February 5th. The House of Blue Leaves starred our very own Mr. Younts and Blake Alford, so Dr. Cusatis figured that by assigning his AP literature class the task of attending the play, he could kill two birds with one stone by supporting the school and giving his students a better understanding of the vital themes buried deep beneath the lunacy. If you have never had the opportunity to visit the Village Playhouse, it is a cozy little place, barely visible to the naked eye. On that sunny Sunday afternoon, after I spent a few hours roaming the parking lot trying to find the playhouse, I finally spotted it, and to my great relief parked, purchased my ticket, and entered the theatre in the nick of time.

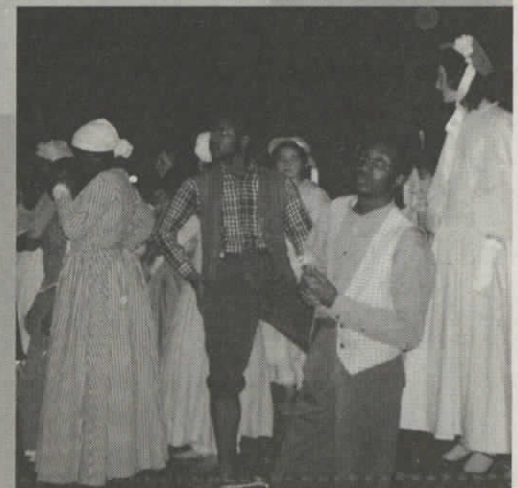
I had no idea I was in store for such a fantastic and hilarious show. Throughout the play I was sucked in and out of reality because at times I actually thought that Mr. Younts really was Artie Shaughnessy and that we had all been transported back to October 4, 1965 to see the Pope drive by in the Big Apple. Yup, Artie, Bunny, and I were all going to sit on the New York City curb and sing Artie's pathetic songs and watch as the Pope spurted miracles from his fingertips. But don't worry, I eventually popped back into reality, whether I wanted to or not.

Every single character was perfectly chosen, as if they were born to play the part. The set was minimalist, not too overwhelming and not too squished. And having studied the play, I was pleased to see that nothing was left out of John Guare's original script for *The House of Blue Leaves*. His theme of the absurdity of people's obsession with fame and a few other motifs were much easier to spot on stage than on paper (thanks). And I know all of you have been religiously studying *People* to find out whether Angelina and Brad's baby is a girl or boy, so don't try to tell me you can't relate. After much reflection and debate, I decided to give the play a big two thumbs up. It included all the things that a great play should include: humor, peculiarity, meaning, and the faculty and staff of SOA. What's not to love?



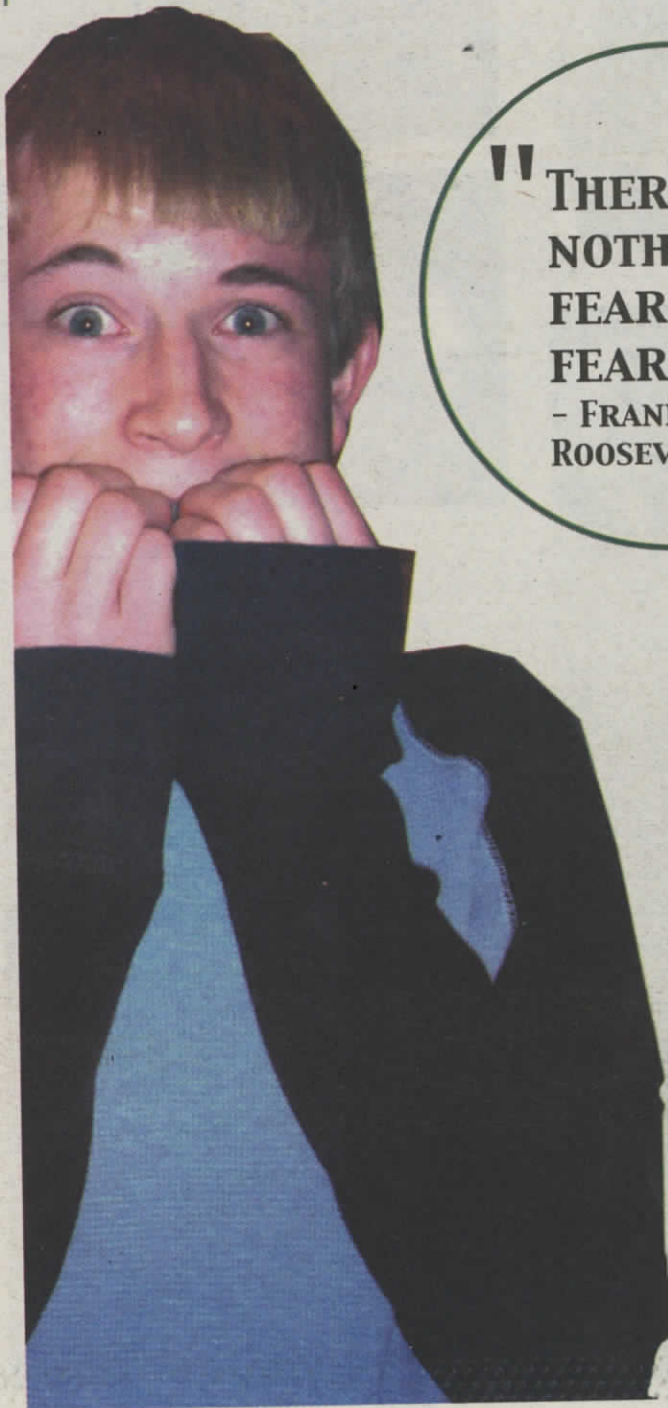


# Big River



## Features

# What gives you goose-bumps?



**"THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR BUT FEAR ITSELF."  
- FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT**



## Don't be scared!

by Cait Brennan

**F**ear: that undeniable adrenaline rush that kicks in when Samara rips through the fuzzy TV screen, that gut wrenching fist that begins twisting just before you get your lip pierced, that awful, wretched feeling that forces a shiver down your spine and demands you think of nothing but the thing scaring you. And since everyone is afraid of something, I'm sure all of you have experienced fear at least a few times in your life, and if you haven't then you should be afraid of what is wrong with you.

The most interesting aspect of fear, although it sounds elementary, is the fact that everyone is afraid of different things. What causes one person to be afraid of birds and another person to fear bubbles? Are certain fears implanted in our DNA or do they just develop over time? Well friends, this is what I am here to explore. I have taken a stroll around school to dig up some true horror stories from my peers.

**SURGEON EDITOR'S WARNING:** *If you have a history of heart conditions, are pregnant, think you may be pregnant, are nursing, or think you may be nursing, you should cease reading this article immediately and turn to the question of the month on page 12.*

**Allison Smith** reluctantly revealed a truly horrifying ordeal she experienced a few years ago. She said it all started one dark night at her house out in the boonies. **Cameron Funderburk, Meredith Jones,** and Allison were all settling in to watch a movie when they saw headlights creeping up the pitch black driveway. Allison had terror in her eyes, but being the sport that she is, she took a deep breath and continued her story for the sake of the *Applause*. "We thought it was my parents coming home from a date, so we weren't too worried. But, they didn't come in for a good while so we went to spy on them, expecting to see my parents smooching on the porch." She took another long sigh. "They weren't there." Allison and her friends immediately started panicking, expecting the worst. The girls huddled on the couch as they waited for death...or something worse. "Just as we started calming down, a loud crack was heard right outside my house...and then, the electricity went out!" Allison's eyes were about the size of grapefruits. This is when the friends started to really freak out. They all ran into the bathroom and huddled together as Allison's dogs barked and carried on as if in attack mode. "Meredith and Cameron broke down into tears, but I kept my head about things." Allison realized that the doors were unlocked and her cell phone was in the living room, but since she considered herself the protector of the group, she ran out into the darkness, snatched the cell phone and raced back to her sobbing companions. "We armed ourselves with razors, fingernail files, and shaving cream in case we needed to protect ourselves from whatever was beyond the bathroom door." The girls called Allison's parents and the police sobbing, begging them to come to the house. Both of the defenders arrived at the same time and reviewed the area. They explained that the electrical box blew up, "but the lights that came down the driveway were never explained." Allison's hands were shaking. "Everything ended up just fine, but we all still wake up some nights crying just thinking about the night we thought we were going to die..."

## Features

# Celebrating Black History Month

## SOA artist's reflections



### Acecily Alexander

*12th grade Creative Writing major*

As an African-American writer, there are many people who have influenced me. Maya Angelou and Oprah Winfrey are two of my main inspirations. They both overcame adversity to become highly successful. Angelou's work pushed me to continue writing as a child. Winfrey's lifestyle and contributions to society encouraged me to major in Communication in college.

Being an African-American artist has had a major impact on my life. Before SOA, I attended an all black school. My creative writing skills got me accepted into School of the Arts, and I'll be forever grateful.

When I was younger, Black History Month was all about research papers and dressing up as my favorite African-American. Now I realize African-Americans have always been a part of history, and I shouldn't just recognize them in February. (I will thank the History Department: Orvin, Tizzy, and Brehm for that!) In the past three years, I've celebrated Black History Month in a more humorous manner. Some of my close friends including **Meredith Jones, Jenna Jones, Cameron Funderburk, and Kathleen Smith** celebrate together. They carry my books, lunch, and tell me how much they appreciate me. This year the girls are going to give presentations on their favorite African-American. It may seem a little silly, but to them every month should be Black History Month, also known as, "365 BLACK!!!!"

### Oleta Johnson

*9th grade Dance Major*

As an African-American in dance, discussing its history is sometimes complex for me. In traditional African heritage dance is a way of life. It was never actually accepted as anything artistic or mainstream until one woman, Catherine Dunham, brought African-American dancing and dancers to the dance world.

Although African-Americans are more prominent in modern dance, there are African-American ballet companies. It's sad, but today most classical ballet companies are all caucasian and there is little chance for an African-American to be a part of them. I'm okay with it for now because maybe my generation can change that. I will not worry about Black dancers, but dancers who happen to be Black.



### Jasmine Murray

*10th grade Vocal major*

As an African-American artist, I will always have a reason to sing. It doesn't always have to be of situations that are contemporary. I could sing because I am grateful for what my ancestors have gone through to get me to this point. I could be mourning because of the sight of us bringing one another down as a race. My father calls this the crab pot system. Our race is like a pot full of boiling crabs pulling one another down, trying desperately to get out.



My background brings the soul in my voice into existence. Without knowing my history, there is no telling of what my future holds. Artists ranging from Ray Charles to Jay-Z have influenced me in my art area. Within each generation of African-American artists, each has caused me to be diverse in the making of my music.

In the month of February, I notice that this is the point in the year where I tend to work the hardest without noticing. I celebrate Black History Month by working harder to maintain what my ancestors fought for.

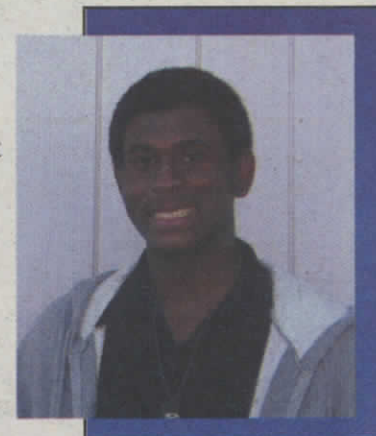
### TJ Robinson

*12th grade Band major*

My name is **T.J. Robinson** and I'm a senior band major. My experiences as an African-American artist have been an overall positive experience for me so far. I have learned so much over the years from other musicians in terms of wisdom, and also from my fellow peers. I'm absolutely sure that the knowledge I've gained will only continue to grow and be useful to me in future experiences.

Some African-Americans that have been an influence in my musical outlook have been Fred Wesley, J.J. Johnson, Wynton Marsalis, Wycleffe Gordon, Miles Davis, Duke Ellington, and Mr. Singleton, just to name a few. Other African-Americans that have influenced me in general have been Martin Luther King Jr., my parents, and basically all other Blacks who have made a positive mark in history. Being an African-American artist has affected my life the only way it can- it's who I am!!

Being a Black male musician, I approach each day ready to fight the stereotype that America has tried to convey through the media. I don't just celebrate Black History Month, I celebrate black history every day because the Black culture has contributed so much to this society, and deserves more recognition than it gets. The Black culture is rich in history and this makes me proud of my African-American heritage.



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## Features

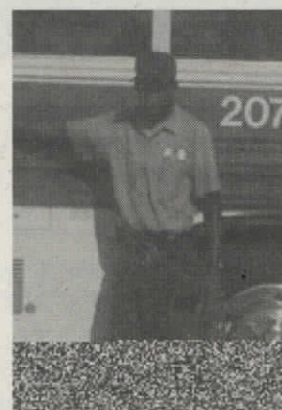
## 2D's and an R

by Kathleen Smith and Rachel Maguire

**Mr. Davis**

Even though Mr. Davis is the big man on campus there are still things that he fears. We figured we wouldn't ruin his rep now, so we took a trip back to find out what the scariest thing that has happened to Mr. Davis as a child.

*I'll never forget when I was four years old my parents didn't have a car yet so we rode the city bus. One night there was a severe lightening storm where the lightening was so crisp that the whole sky lit up like it was daylight. We had to walk a few blocks from the bus stop to our house, and I was terrified that I would get struck by lightening. Now, I stay inside when it storms like that.*

**Mr. Dawson**

We were wondering what kind of sticky situation could SOA's head janitorial administrator, Mr. Dawson, possibly be afraid of? We asked him if there is anything in particular to be afraid of in his life and how he overcomes this fear.

*The only thing that really frightens me is the thought of going to hell and not to heaven. I know that hell is worse than living here, on earth. To overcome this fear I just remind myself what a good life I lead, and I keep my trust in God.*

**Mr. Randy**

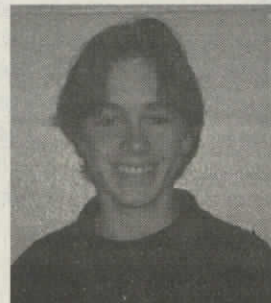
While on the topic of scary things, we figured why not take a gander into Mr. Randy's personal food preferences and ask him what food is he most fearful of?

*Definitely sushi. I've tried it before and I did not like it. I'd much prefer all of my food to be cooked before I eat it.*

## 8th grader soon to be famous...

by Kathleen Smith

Look out Hollywood, Addison is coming to town! SOA's very own theater major, **Addison Dent**, an 8th grader, was selected to compete in the AMTC (American Model Talent Convention) hosted in Charleston, S.C from January 10th till the 17th. The convention was filled with competitors from all across the United States and as far as Scotland. Addison succeeded tremendously, placing first in Cold read and Sitcom and second place in T.V commercial. Addison placed third in Photo and was an overall finalist in Male Acting and Teen Commercial category. Addison received a whoppin' 16 call backs and has already signed with Weissman Brunson Management in NY and LA. Last but certainly not least, Addison has been invited to study in Scotland over the summer at The Academy of Theater Arts. So SOA, everyone get to know Addison Dent so when he becomes a BIG STAR you can say, "I knew him..."

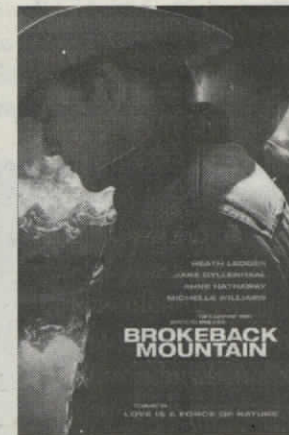


## An American love story

by Kathleen Smith

Have you ever seen that special movie that you can't stop thinking about for days, the one film that as you walk out of the theater into the sunny parking lot you are sure you will never forget? Well SOA friends, this fantastic film did just that to me and my best friend, **Cameron Funderburk**. Basically the story line goes like this: Two cowboys meet in the summer of 1963 hired as shepherders a top Brokeback Mountain (hence the name). Rapidly the two cowboys friendship grows and quickly turns into intimacy. As the summer comes to an end, the two men are forced to leave the mountain and return to their straight lives. Four years pass and the two cowboys form families; however, they often think about each other. Jack Twist, Jake Gyllenhaal's character sends a letter to Ennis Del Mar, Heath Ledger's character, that the two men should get together once again on the Mountain. This one rendezvous turns into years of visits to the mountain resulting in. ....(Well I don't want to spoil the ending).

This movie is an American love story that is wonderfully portrayed with two men. The two cowboys love each other, simple as that, but feel they can't be together because of society's opinion of homosexuals. Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal are not only gorgeous but also perfect for the part they each play. You don't have to be a liberal to see this movie for all it's worth. Just go into the theater with an open mind. The movie confirmed my belief that you only have one great love in your life, so once you find that certain someone just go with it.. Just as long as your in love and happy, because that's all that matters...right?

Just a Stitch About *Big River*

by Mrs. Nichols

S.O.A.'s Costume I & II students worked diligently both in class and after school, Aug. - Jan., to build over 125 costumes for our recent "Big River" production. All of the 85 cast members had multiple pieces comprising each costume. Since the musical was set during the 1850s, students had to research the type of clothing & undergarments worn during the time period. Next they sketched costume ideas and chose color schemes for particular characters. Cast members were measured and stock items were deconstructed, then redesigned and embellished. Several garments, such as Miss Watson's gown (with hoop skirt) and the King's harlequin print vest and trousers were "made from scratch" using historic reproduction patterns. Modern patterns were altered for some of the "Crossings" and "Little Girl" costumes.



Students learned various hand sewing skills such as hemming and sewing on buttons or hooks. They also learned how to use a sewing machine to straight stitch, zigzag, gather and set in a zipper. Students began by constructing pantaloons and then progressed to skirts, vests, blouses, dresses, and trousers. They learned how to take in or let out garments (sometimes adding gussets) to fit a particular character. They also learned how to add ruffles, lace, braid, etc. to embellish garments. In some cases, costumes had to be distressed by ripping and spray painting. Students accessorized the costumes by adding bonnets (straw hats w/ ribbon and flowers added), hats, headwraps, capes, shawls, aprons, jewelry, and gloves.

This project was the most ambitious the Costume Dept. has ever attempted, and the results were outstanding! I'm very proud of the work that the students accomplished, and I really enjoyed working with them! Collaborating with students from a variety of majors was a rewarding experience for all.

Currently, the Costume students are busy learning to use hand embroidery to embellish items such as jeans or a pillow. Next, they will be constructing a skirt or pants with a zipper. By year's end, they will design and construct a prom dress either "from scratch" or by deconstructing and reconfiguring existing garments. Advanced students will design and construct a contemporary outfit or a period costume with accessories.

**Winter Formal DVD's on sale now!**

\$10 each

See Ms. Tisdale for more information



## Editorials

## Pumpkin Papers, Terrorists, and Wire Taps

by David DuTremble

*"The president personally and directly authorized new operations, like the NSA's domestic surveillance program, that almost certainly would never have been approved under normal circumstances and that raised serious legal or political questions. Because of the fevered climate created throughout the government by the president and his senior advisers, Bush*

*sent signals*

*of what he wanted done, without explicit presidential orders ... the most ambitious got the message." - James Risen, State of War*

*"Where Congress has so regulated, the President can act in contravention of statute only if his authority is exclusive, that is, not subject to the check of statutory regulation. The DOJ letter pointedly does not make that extraordinary claim. The Supreme Court has never upheld warrantless wiretapping within the United States." - letter to Congress\*\*, Beth Nolan, et al*



With 9/11 behind us and our future security in mind, the President, in hindsight, believes that listening to certain telephone conversations and reading of certain people's e-mails could have thwarted

said atrocity. With best interests in mind, as always, he has recently been pushing the domestic spying proposition. This would give the federal government the right to wiretap any citizen whenever the government believes that anti-American, pro-terrorist activities are being spoken of. But what ever happened to the Constitution?

According to the Fourth Amendment, without a warrant and probable cause, we are granted the right to our own privacy and security. This domestic spying controversy would, then, clearly be a violation of these rights. However, according to Bush, this would only be used to spy on America's "enemies", although who gets to define who qualifies as an enemy? According to Daniel Clark\*, anyone who opposes the war is an anti-American, communist crackpot (so much for free speech, too...). This calls to mind the Red Scare of McCarthy-era America.

Former CIA General Counsel Jeffrey Smith, in a 14-page letter to the House Select Committee on Intelligence, wrote "It is not credible that the 2001 authorization to use force provides authority for the president to ignore the requirements of FISA ... it would be a dramatic expansion of presidential authority affecting the rights of our fellow citizens that undermines the checks and balances of our system, which lie at the very heart of the Constitution."

It is interesting, then, to note that the National Security Agency (NSA) has been listening in on citizen's conversations since 2001. A declassified document\*\*\*, the "Transition 2001" report, warned the president that "American communication and targeted adversary communication will coexist." This declassified document informed the president, pre-9/11, that there were already phone taps being placed in America without the victim's knowledge. According to Slate Magazine, "Two years before Sept. 11, members of the House intelligence committee asked the NSA's general counsel for the internal legal guidelines that governed eavesdropping on the conversations of U.S. citizens."\*\*\*\*

So much for protecting our peace of mind and security post-9/11. Hide your pumpkins and be careful what you say on the phone. The modern HUAC might just be coming your way.

\* <http://shinbone.home.att.net/enelist.htm>

\*\* <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/18650#fnr14>

\*\*\* <http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchive/NSAEBB/NSAEBB24/nsa25.pdf>

\*\*\*\* <http://www.slate.com/id/2132810/>

## Lions, Tigers, and Anti-Americans - Oh My!

by David Whitley

Sure, the government is spying our phone conversations, e-mails, text messages, and Myspace pages around the clock in an attempt to root out anti-Americans, but Mr. DuTremble obviously isn't too concerned about that, as evidenced by the fact that he e-mailed his article to *Applause* from his home computer. Me, I'm absolutely, like, terrified! The government knows that I voted for Ruben Studdard!

Seriously, do you know all the mind-rotting garbage that people send through e-mails? The government doesn't care about you and your friends' plans to go see *Brokeback Mountain* and try to pick up some cute guys there, despite the fact that no self-respecting heterosexual males will go see it. Of course, when you think of "The Government" you think of some big-shot CIA official who looks like Agent Smith laughing maniacally as he reads your mail and listens to your phone calls.

This isn't an accurate depiction; the government workers assigned to this will be stenographer rejects who make poor wages by reading the same inane drivel day after day after day. Any individual names or identities would be lost in this mob of netspeak and garbage. As evidence, I submit this e-mail that I, [imsuperhim@gmail.com](mailto:imsuperhim@gmail.com), recieved from a blithering idiot:

"h3y, h0wz it going, lolz? Ju5t the 0ther day, I was pWning some n00bs on Halo, & just sniped an L33T in hi5 f@ce, ñ I wuz all up wit it like, "M@N THAT'S TEH CRAZLIES!!!11" anyW@yS, wUt's ^ wit choo?"

So far, you may be thinking that I am in support of the NSA's domestic surveillance program. In truth, I am not. Novelist Ayn Rand criticized the HUAC hearings as "a dubious undertaking" and "futile," and I happen to express the same sentiments about the domestic surveillance program. This is just another scare incited by an uncertain political atmosphere. The HUAC hearings failed to catch anyone with definitive proof, and this effort will result in nothing but a shameless debacle that's wasting far too many taxpayer dollars and manpower of the Federal Government that could be put to more useful purposes. I'll be paying taxes by the next election, and so I'll be only too glad to see this effort flop. If money

I've earned will be going to other people, I want to see some good come out of it rather than watching the political equivalent of large bills swirling round and round in the toilet bowl.

However, I also criticize people who object based on the protection of their privacy. You can hide behind the Fourth Amendment all you want, but it still doesn't change the fact that the only people who fear the government reading and listening to their communications are adulterers, criminals, and idiots. For example, if Jimmy tells Sally he loves her over the phone in Detroit, would Agent Johnson in Washington care... at all? No, because Agent Johnson's eight hour days on a government salary have forced him to read and listen to 295,734,134 names and voices, based on a [www.cia.gov](http://www.cia.gov) population estimate for July 2005, which is assuredly lower than the current value. "The Man" is not going to pay attention to individual names, as assuredly as a person who reads the phone book won't remember individual pairs of names and numbers. The decision to tap phones and read the e-mails of American citizens is a stupid move, and one that will bring little if any good at all, but I also find the motives of much of the opposition to be questionable.

*E-mail David or David to ask questions, leave comments, or to simply create turmoil.*

*David DuTremble: [ddutrem06@hotmail.com](mailto:ddutrem06@hotmail.com)*

*David Whitley: [imsuperhim@gmail.com](mailto:imsuperhim@gmail.com)*



## Miscellaneous

## February Horoscopes

by The Great and Powerful Oz

**Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb 19):** Though Mick Jagger may have stolen your heart when he (or, rather, his pelvis) led the Super Bowl XL Halftime Show, keep in mind he's sixty-four and completely unavailable to you.

**Pisces (Feb. 20-Mar. 20):** If you'd like to do something productive for SOA, put in a word to our supervisors about making coffee available to the student body. (Please? Somebody back me up here...)

**Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 20):** Listening to other people's problems can be an effective way of dealing with your own. And no, the Desperate Housewives cast does not count as "other people."

**Taurus (Apr. 21-May 21):** Count the stripes on Mr. Davis's lighthouse collection, repeat the mantra "viva la vie boheme" that number of times, and the SOA poltergeist will appear and pledge to you his service.

**Gemini (May 22-June 21):** Don't answer your cell phone next month.

**Cancer (June 22-July 22):** Are you tired of reading our "made-up" horoscopes? Looking for genuine, astrologically-based factual information? Well, today's your lucky day! The configuration of Orion in conjunction with the orbital progression of Uranus suggests that you are a moron.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 21):** if u type lyk this wen u IM/email/blog (wiv lol's 'n' all) u r shamefully +ing to the demise of da eng. language & u kno, i rly dun appreciate it

**Virgo (Aug. 22-Sept. 23):** This month, you need to face your fears. Take a dollar bill (and quarters just in case), and sally forth to the snack machines. You never know - they might accept your money AND give you something in return!

**Libra (Sept. 24-Oct. 23):** An unexpected run-in with your lifelong idol is just around the corner. Be careful, though - English teachers often traipse about wearing clever disguises.

**Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22):** For every ten steps you take, make sure to glance behind you.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 22):** In three days, you will be haunted by a nightmare involving Chuck Norris, Mr. T and Vin Diesel. Perhaps it's time to stop reading those online "facts."

**Capricorn (Dec. 23-Jan. 20):** It is time to honor Black History Month. Watch "The Boondocks" on Sundays at 11 PM - black history in the making.

## Visual Arts having a great year

by David Whitley

The school year is halfway over, but the Visual Arts majors are already receiving numerous awards for their endeavors. **Lainey Harrison** received second place in the Charleston Fine Arts Gallery Association competition. There were also several students who won the 2005 Reflections contest, including **Laura Matthews** (11th grade), **Skylar Spies** (9th grade), **Anastasia Timina** (9th Grade), and **Nick Bates** (9th grade). The seniors are busy at work on their portfolios. The eleventh grade is working on an abstract painting; their large-scale portraits are on display in the visual arts room. In addition, the ninth graders are being introduced to oil painting.

## The Men's Guide To Women

by David Whitley and Harry Harrison

Valentine's Day will be here any day now (for the sake of this article's relevance, you will be celebrating it on the 30th. Deal with it.) and each passing hour is like another tick of a time bomb for you. Tradition demands that you get your girlfriend a card and chocolates at the very least, but recently you found out online that chocolate is an aphrodisiac. Ergo, Valentine's Day is merely a thinly veiled attempt to get a girl to put out. You're sweating bullets wondering whether your girlfriend has read the same article and is waiting to see what you do. In addition, half of the Valentine's Day cards are a little more than suggestive, and many of the rest are either too impersonal or sound like something a six-year-old would give his mother.

To make matters worse, your girlfriend's always dropping hints about how her old boyfriend was such a romantic. She's getting misty-eyed and talking about how he had flowers delivered to school last year in class, never mind the fact that Charleston County Schools put a ban on outside deliveries two years ago. So, either she was going out with **Mr. Davis** or she's just teasing you in order to put you under enough pressure to release some hidden gift-giving genius. Judging by the fact that you've read this far in our column, we're pretty sure that it hasn't worked.

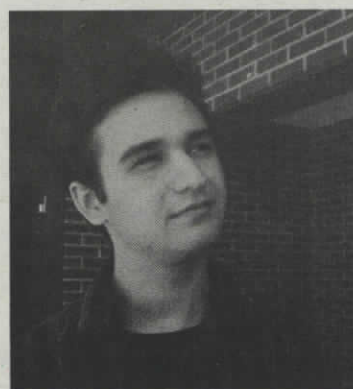
Here's our solution to your Valentine's Day woes, carefully prepared by two topnotch experts. Giving her chocolate is the safest course of action. It's highly unlikely that she's read that article, and even though she may have seen the Charlie and the Chocolate Factory remake that says so, there are so many people that do the same thing that she can't think less of you. Just make sure you go for some of the fancier, more expensive stuff. Just because it has chocolate in the ingredients doesn't qualify it, so you can put those Hershey bars back in your cabinet.

Second, the solution to the card problem is easier than you'd think. If there are no cards at the Hallmark store in the mall to suit your tastes, then make your own. It's a lot more personal this way, and you can customize it to say exactly what you want. Just get a copy of Microsoft Publisher, or make one on the school computers, which already have Publisher installed on them, you good-for-nothing cheapskate. It's also a good idea to put your own little fake company trademark on the back, as long as it's something she'll think is cute. Despite the fact that you want to be cool, "Contra Inc." isn't gonna cut it, and we're pretty sure she won't know who Eric Koston is either.

As for the rest, such as how to present them to her, it's all up to you. Despite the fact that we're both geniuses and better looking than you, we don't have the time on our hands to guide you like a toddler through every little thing. Just remember that the chocolates must be something nice, like those ones with the French names, and the card must be something personal and unique, something that she won't have seen before. Believe in us, and believe in yourself, and we're sure you'll be fine.



## A message from your homie



**B**ig River is over, college applications are out, and the senior class is springing to action. As I am writing this we, the glorious class of '06, are having a bake sale. Our goal: to raise \$800 to contribute to our prom. Let it be known that this shall be the beginning of more fundraisers to come, as we need to raise enough dough to pay for a senior gift as well. Next issue I'll reveal how much plunder we took from the pockets of innocent SOA students.

And best of all, the senior wall is taking off. Yes, I know you have all been wondering when the walls outside the bathrooms near the cafeteria will be graced with our beautiful designs, but wonder no more—now is the time to act. Once our visual artist task force gets a nice sketch of the design on the wall, anyone who would like to paint is welcome to do so. So I say to you, "Ask not what your senior wall can paint for you. Ask what you can paint for your senior wall." Wow, that was corny.

We've crossed the halfway mark of our last year here, and now we are left to enjoy the easier, second and final semester here at SOA. The first half was not as event-filled as I, and I am sure you, would have liked, but this last stretch must—and it definitely will—be more exciting. The senior council and I are dedicated to making this so, though without your support and willingness to volunteer we will never reach our full potential. That means helping paint the senior wall, baking goods for the bake sale, and most importantly, giving the senior council your suggestions. I cannot stress this enough: if you want something you are not getting, simply complaining is unproductive and does not achieve anything. There are many in this class who give us suggestions, and I want to thank all of you because you are a great asset to us all. Our job is to represent your needs, so the more of them we know the more we can help.

Alright, enough of my preaching. Until next month's *Applause*, try not to get too crippled by senioritis.

Peace in the Mid-East,  
Omi Naderi

QOM

# What is your biggest fear?



*"Roaches, ugh!!"  
Jordan Grissom  
10th grade dance*



*"Being alone, it's the only thing I'm scared of."  
Jamie Amick  
7th grade creative writing*



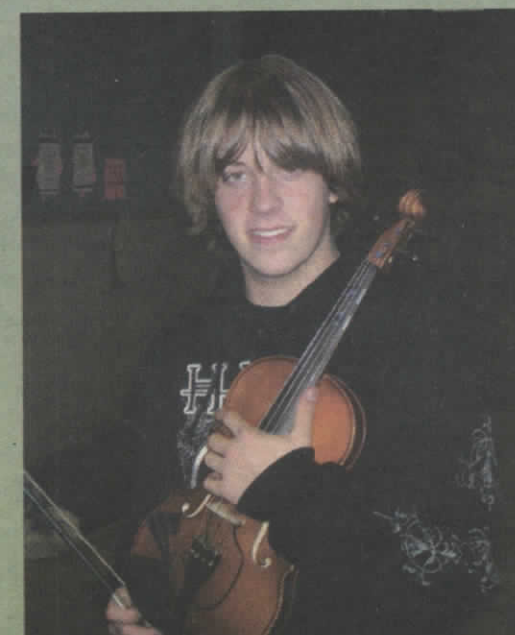
*"Getting fired."  
Mrs. Marks  
Guidance counselor*



*"Performing in front of a group of people."  
Davis Carmichael  
6th grade piano*



*"Clowns, I hate them!"  
Chris Stanley  
9th grade theatre*



*"To lose my arms, so I won't be able to play music."  
Christian Carroll  
8th grade strings*



*"My momma and the psychopaths at the Greyhound."  
Garian Wilkinson  
12th grade band*