

Applause

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March 2006

applause_junkie06

"I <3 Applause."

applause_junkie06's latest blog entry [subscribe to this blog]

I think I might be addicted to the *Applause*. [view more]



View more pics

applause_junkie06's Blurbs

About me:

My username says it all. Ink runs in my veins...*Applause* ink. I wish it were not a monthly paper, but a weekly...no, a daily. When I'm not reading the *Applause* I hang out on this website to send messages and write comments to my heroes: the *Applause* staff! I really enjoy this month's issue b/c it's all about online blogging sites, etc. I mean, hey, you've got the *Applause* and the internet together...what more could you ask for?!?!?

BTW, if you guys ever need an advisor let me know.

Who I'd like to meet:

The *Applause* staff in person. Oh em gee that would be so cool!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

applause_junkie06's Staff Space

applause_junkie06 has 8 friends

Applause Theme
Kerr and Company

+add+
+view+

Contacting applause_junkie06

- Send Message
- Forward Flowers
- Increase Popularity
- Track Down
- Say Hello Instantly
- Send Virus

applause_junkie06's details

| | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| Status: | Loyal to <i>Applause</i> |
| Here for: | Meeting <i>Applause</i> readers |
| Hometown: | Anywhere I can find <i>Applause</i> |
| Body type: | Lean from reading |
| Ethnicity: | None |
| Zodiac Sign: | Depends on my horoscope |
| Children: | Next son will be named Omi |
| Education: | Some high school |
| Occupation: | Burn |

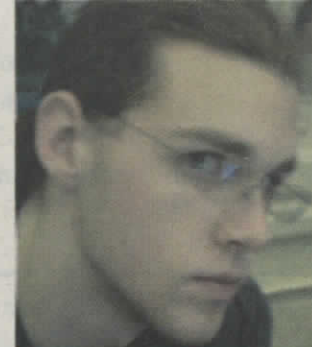
CaitTheEditorWoman



uncle imo



/radical_D/



Reactionary



K\$\$\$



*The*Great*&*Powerful* *Liz*



Rochelle, Rochelle



heyyyyyyy



Editors' Page

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Editor's Note

As you can probably tell, this month's issue of the *Applause* is based on the thriving online blogging site we all know and love as Myspace. The staff and I have gone Myspace-crazy, desperately conducting interviews with users in hopes of finding out exactly why there has been such an explosion of Myspace devotion in recent months. Not only have we searched the depths of Myspace, but also other popular blogging sites floating around SOA, like Deviantart.com and 1up.com. But, enough about that,



I know you are all looking forward to spring break next month just as much as I am, so we have decided to devote an entire issue to everything "spring." Can you think of a more perfect way to say goodbye to winter than to immerse yourself in a spring issue of the *Applause*? I didn't think so. - Cait Brennan

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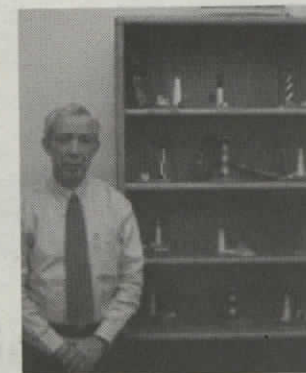
2 D's and an R

by Kathleen Smith and Rachel Maguire

Mr. Davis

We are sure everyone has noticed the new parking situation, considering it's kind of hard to miss. On the first day of the new route, even I (Kathleen) took a wrong turn and ended up in the car rider line. After being directed by Ms. Lawson on where to go, I finally arrived safely at school. We are confident that Mr. Davis has a reason for changing the route to school so we asked, "What is the reason for the change in parking?"

There will be a number of homes being built around the school. 396 homes, I believe. Because of all the construction taking place, East Enterprise cannot be used. Also, they will be replacing existing water and sewage lines.



Mr. Dawson

Mr. Dawson has a choice to make, concerning building a new picnic table at school. Now, we are all aware that Mr. Dawson is familiar with this line of work and trust that he will make the best decision on where to purchase the lumber. So will it be Lowes or Home Depot? Dum...dum...dum...dum!!!

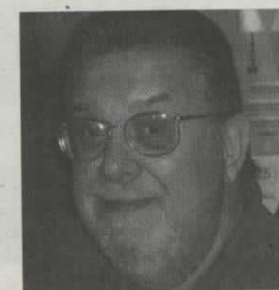
I always shop at Lowes. I believe their prices are cheaper than Home Depot's. I buy things for my home and for school at Lowes.



Mr. Randy

As the weather heats up, Mr. Randy is on fire and ready to tell us just what type of food he'd prefer: hot or cold. Would it be a cold antipasta or a hot meatball sub? We ventured into SOA's cafeteria to see what this sleek chef would like on his dinner table.

Well my wife and I love sandwiches, I'm just a big sandwich eater. Now of course she would love a full-course meal, but since I'm cooking all day I'd much rather have a nice sandwich topped with some cold cut meat. Mmmm, mmm!



Read all about it:

NHS News

by Nicole Adams

So last month was a little crazy with carnation sales and all but now that February is over, we can kind of relax. Carnation sales surpassed previous years by far! We sold 400 flowers which is going to be a hard record to beat for next year. Apologies to those of you who didn't receive your carnations, but hey, people make mistakes (yes, even National Honor Society members)! Pennies for Patients went well so thank you for graciously donating your spare change. We all know it was hard to donate those pennies that probably just sit at the bottom of your wallet year round.

The NHS scholarship fund continues to grow as we do more and more fundraising. To help contribute to the scholarship fund we will be having some car washes in the spring. Be on the lookout for more information about these upcoming car washes. As far as the scholarships are concerned, be listening for additional information. I will be sure to let you know more info on the scholarships such as what they can be used for, who is eligible, requirements, due dates, etc. Breakfast sales are going well so we will continue to provide delicious treats in the morning before first period. Keep on buying! The more money we make, the more money we can give so support the NHS if you want some awesome scholarships!

That's pretty much all I have for this time so you'll just have to wait until the April issue of *Applause* to hear more NHS News!

Where Are They Now?

A talk with Josh Pape, class of 2001

by Rachel Maguire

I caught up with Josh Pape, SOA's former band hottie, just to ask him how everything is going. After some light conversation and a steamy cup of coffee, we got down to business. P.S.-This is exactly what Josh had to say except I took out all of the "likes" every other word.

What year did you graduate from SOA? What school do you attend now and what is your major?

I graduated from SOA in 2001, was it 2001? Yeah, I think 2001. I'm in my fifth year at College of Charleston with a double major in Psychology and Sociology and a minor in Womens' Studies.

What made you choose your major?

I went to College of Charleston originally with a major in music, but soon figured out I couldn't do anything with a music major so I changed. The psych department has really good professors who all went to good schools.

(Josh was originally a psych major after his first change of plans, but he took an Intro to Sociology class and was terribly intrigued. He had almost completed his psych major, but decided what the heck, it always looks good when you say you had two majors.)

Do you have any particular plans for your studies?

I'd really like to work with labor unions and study how workers organize around rights and benefits. Possibly later on I'll go to grad school to get either a masters or a Ph.D. on a broad topic like social inequalities or the Marxist theory.

I noticed there was paint all over Josh's hands. I didn't think it was a statement so I asked if he had any visual art talents.

I was just priming a wall in my backyard for some graffiti artists that are coming to paint. I haven't done it in a while, but I was doing stencils and screen printing on t-shirts, just for fun.

Your major at school was band; do you still do anything along those lines?

Well, I play in an unestablished band." (Josh is quite versatile, he plays guitar, clarinet, saxophone, drums, bass guitar, and he's even dabbled with an organ.) "I also play the bucket drums and I'm working on starting a bucket drum marching band.

While on the topic of music, I asked what kind of music Josh liked. Originally it was off the record, but it was so funny that I was given permission to throw it in.

I'm into anything really noisy that sounds like a bunch of trash. I rarely listen to anything on the radio except 93.3, you know, the rap station. My personal opinion: white people radio [is awful].

When you were in high school, (if you can remember back that far) did you see yourself where you are now?

Not really, I didn't even want to apply to college, but Mr. Kerr and my parents were pushy, more so my parents. I was unsure of what I wanted to do. I had this utopian dream to live in a commune on a tropical island. (I chuckled, but was quickly reassured with a, "No, seriously!")

What do you miss most about our school?

I really miss playing music everyday. That was all I really ever had to do 'cause it was my major. I definitely feel grown up now because I always have something to do. I miss just being able to not care about anything.

Do you still hang out with SOA people, or have you made new friends?

I'm still friends with Brian Batten; he was a theatre major and is now my roommate. I'm also good friends with Kimberly Anderson, a former creative writing major. (At the moment, this was all Josh could come up with, but he promises he has more than two friends.) One of my close friends, Eric, is from Charlottesville, VA, he didn't go to SOA. He actually graduated from Johnson and Wales last week.



Who was your favorite teacher back in high school and why?

Ms. Marshall. I just remember one year when I was always getting in trouble. I had her class right before lunch, and I was being the hyperactive kid that I was. One day, I had to serve a lunch detention for her and she asked me why I didn't like her or her class, something like that. Actually, it was her class I was most fond of, maybe that's why I acted up. I guess I liked her because she was patient with me. I liked **Ms. Rickson** too, for the same reason."

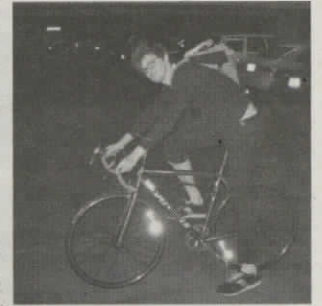
If you could say one thing to the Class of 2006 what would it be?

(Boy if you could have only seen my notes, you would have thought I had just asked Josh the million dollar question. So after about three rough drafts, this was the final consensus.)

Don't feel pressured to go to college because you have a bunch of older people telling you to; it's just as noble to get a job and not focus on secondary education as much as it is to focus on what you'd like to do with your life and what makes you happy.

(Josh wanted to add that his life goal is to live in the most environmentally sustainable life possible.

By the way, I'm not supposed to print this article because Josh is on strike. He claims it is not fair that the guys need an advice column, but the girls don't. What is that all about?)



The SOA family welcomes a new member

by Liz Gildea

On February 20th, **Mrs. Castle** gave birth to a 9 lb 4 oz baby boy! I explored her excitement as a new parent.

Where did the name "Logan Walker" come from?

Both names are family names. Logan was the name of my husband's paternal great-grandfather, and Walker was my husband's grandmother's maiden name. We also selected Walker because it begins with the letter "W," which was my grandfather's first initial.

What went through your mind when you first saw and held him?

I had to have a C-section, so I first saw him when I was on the operating table. When I first held him later that night I was amazed that he had been inside of me for nine months. It was a surreal experience.

Childbirth! - what was it like?

Scary, painful, wonderful.

How many rolls of film have you used up so far?

Well, we have a digital camera and can get about 300 pictures on the disk. We have already taken 103 pictures.

What are the foremost things you want to teach Logan in the next eighteen years?

I want to teach him to be a good person - to be considerate of others and the world around him. I also hope to instill in him the same love of learning that my husband and I share.

Are you worried about influences Logan might draw from our present consumerized, digitalized, terrorized, generally godless, disintegrating, over-exploited world teeming with elitists, bigots, cynics, radicals, corrupt politicians, media-propagated vulgarity, and illimitable violence - just to name a few of the basics?

At this point, I am just worried about whether or not he'll sleep more than three hours at a stretch and poop all over his new outfits. I can't worry about the other stuff.

What aspects of daily life have changed most drastically from before your pregnancy?

Before, my day consisted of waking up, teaching, spending time with my husband and friends, and pampering myself. Now my day consists of feeding Logan, feeding myself, sleeping, and changing diapers. That is truly all I have time to do!

School News

LOST IN CYBER SPACE

by Kathllen Smith

I am a Myspace-aholic. Yes, it's the sad, pathetic truth. But it didn't used to be this way. I actually had a life until recent graduate, Lindsay Funderburk introduced me to online blogging. I thought it was amazing how I could develop my own page with thoughts, opinions, and even pictures. I was stunned by the endless possibilities that awaited on the "SPACE!" Now, every snap of my camera is a possible Myspace picture for the world to see. At parties or even just hanging out with my friends, I will occasionally shout, "MYSPACE PICTURE," and my friends and I will group together for a quick snap shot. My sick compulsion happens everyday after school when I rush to the PC to check my Myspace. Oh...the best feeling is logging on and being greeted with new friend requests, new comments, new messages and new picture comments. All you Myspace friends like me know that special feeling and wish for it everyday. Myspace gives me the chance to make new friends and even reconnect with the old.

For example, my graduation present from my parents is a back-packing trip through Europe. My friend Caroline and I will be spending a few days in Germany, staying with my Mom's best friend. Her neighbor's son is the same age as me and will be traveling with us, even taking us snowboarding (by the way, he's a professional snowboarder...and really cute!). We have been communicating through Myspace by sending private messages, talking about the trip and learning a lot about each other.

However Myspace can be dangerous. Don't ever post your phone number, address, or where you go to school. You never can be sure what creepy pedophiles are looking at your page. I encourage everyone to make a Myspace page - it's tons of fun and a great thing to do when you're bored at home.



Trevor Murray, 12th grade Band Major

Psh...why does anyone have a Myspace? To brag about how many "friends" they OWN, of course! Then there's also that little ego boost when you get home from school and have like 50 friend requests. Forget those illegal drugs...this is a free, legal high! But really, I decided to give in to Myspace because I wanted to get some feedback on my music. CDs are a pain and take too much effort to distribute...plus, you have to have a certain amount of music to release an album. I wanted a cheap and easy way to get my music out there and find out what people think of it. With Myspace, I can add a song as I finish it and receive comments on what I have posted. Of course, it has now turned into so much more than just a way to distribute music - I can post ridiculous photos of myself in a grass skirt, complain about how much my life sucks, share Richard Brautigan with the world, and use the Myspace messaging service as a primitive instant messaging program (I'll admit...I DO get a little thrill every time "New Messages" pops up). And, like everyone else, I use Myspace as a way to be nosy and spy on my "friends," and "friends" of my "friends." You know...read all their comments...learn about all the drama in their life...look at the ridiculous pictures they took of themselves in the mirror and tell them how...Oh em gee...gorgousssss...lolz...they are (I swear I don't leave comments like that). But really - Myspace is extremely good for networking people and is another way for you to express yourself to the world. Check mine out at "<http://www.myspace.com/trevormurray>".

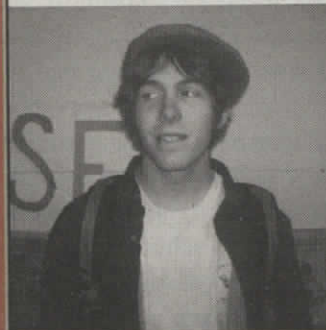
WARNING:

Beware of The Dark Side of Myspace

by Rachel Maguire

Ever wonder what goes on in Myspace when you're not on? Well, lately it has been a very controversial subject. There are instances where cops log onto Myspace to find parties, and even colleges get on to see what their students are doing. Not too long ago, two cadets were kicked out of The Citadel because their Myspace featured pictures of them drinking on campus. Worse yet, when you go to apply for a job your possible future employer can look at your Myspace by just typing in your name. Also, the adult population of Myspace is growing rapidly; it's amazing how such recent technology appeals to all ages, whether it be for leisure or for business. Next time you sign into Myspace, you might want to edit out anything that you wouldn't really want your parents, your boss, or even the cops to know - you just never know who might look at your Myspace.

Corey Webb, 12th grade Theater Major



I once asked a friend of mine how he was doing one day a while back, and he told me to go read his online blog. I thought to myself 'Why couldn't he just tell me how he was doing? Do I really need to go on the internet to find out?' Of course I never did and I was against Myspace for a long time. But then I heard about this Myspace Music deal. Now, as an amateur recording artist (and also like any other musician), exposure is a huge temptation and a must for any sort of success; I most definitely wanted a taste. I created a Myspace Music account, put up a few of my songs, and people started listening. I loved it. The best part: because I have a Myspace Music, I don't feel obligated to put up loads of ridiculous personal information along with my life-story and jargon, like what my pet peeves are. I can see how Myspace is dangerous (especially when I know people giving it up for Lent) and I feel pretty lucky not to have to deal with all of that other stuff. You have to wonder though, where did the mystery go in actually getting to know someone?

But at the same time I respect it because it's those crazy individuals who make me feel good about having my songs listened to. You can hear them at "www.myspace.com/coreywebbmusic".



Maggie Hendricks, 11th grade vocal major

I decided to get a Myspace at first because Nicky Bickerstaff had one and I think she is really cool. I wanted to look at hers but I couldn't unless I had one too.... So I got one! I've kept it for a while though because I live out in Ravenel and it's the only way to keep in touch with my friends because no one will come to my house! Mainly I use my Myspace for meeting 40 year old men. I met my current boyfriend,



Jeremy, on Myspace. We are getting married this summer! Not really, but seriously I use it for friends. It's a lot easier to send friends comments than to call them. Also a lot of my older friends from elementary school whom I never get to see can keep in touch with me because of my Myspace.

Lindsay Hollabaugh, 11th grade Vocal Major

I think about everyone at our school has a Myspace by now, the young and the old, but it's just so very addicting.

(continued on page 5)

School News



Lost in Cyberspace

(continued from page 4)

I use Myspace to talk to my friends and leave little, quirky comments, which are usually inside jokes. It also gives me the chance to "express" myself. It also lets me interact and search for other students and alumni from our school just by a click of my mouse. I usually try and post up events that are taking place at SOA, because I'm the moderator for the SOA Myspace group - which brings me to say that my favorite thing about it all are the groups, of which our school has so many, like the "Class of '07" (and "Class of '06") and of course the official "I Love Corey Webb/Huck Finn and Want to Have His Babies" Fan Club. What can I say? Myspace is basically school online (just so much more fun).



Sam Whitley, 9th Grade

My favorite forum site is Fictionpress.com. It has an easy-to-use posting system for short stories you have written and want to get feedback on. Other users will comment on your stories with useful critique to help you improve your technique. Not only that, but you can also post poetry as well. It's also a lot safer than Myspace, since the focus is on the stories and poetry you write instead of your personal information. A photograph of yourself and

your real name are not necessary, allowing anyone who considers themselves shy to get their message out to the world. Fictionpress is a useful way to receive feedback on your work without having personal bias factored in.

Lydia Kemmerlin, 9th Grade

Myspace is an addiction. You start one out thinking you won't think much of it, but in a week or so you'll see yourself checking it two or three times a day. It's the perfect way to express yourself when it comes to decorating your page. It's also an easy way to get to know people you wouldn't normally approach in person. After you post a comment on somebody else's page, you find yourself checking yours as often as possible to see if they posted one back to you. To many people, it's just a way for you to carelessly post your personal information on the internet, but it's really just a way to have fun and see what other people think of you.

1up.com: Gives Gaming Fans an Extra Life

David Whitley

After staying up late at night button-mashing on your vintage Nintendo, you check your time and realize that you've beaten *Metrod* in less than an hour. You turn to look for someone to congratulate you, but you remember that you're an only child and that your parents don't even care enough about what you're playing that they don't even know what a PS2 is. As far as they know, *Grand Theft Auto* is merely a legal charge, *Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion* is a lost set of books of the Bible, and *Sepiroth* is the lead singer of some new-fangled Emo band. Nobody in your family cares about how you're able to get perfect ranks on every single song in *DDR: Ultramix*.

This is where the computer you have collecting dust in the corner comes in handy. Just log on to 1up.com, the online forum and blog site for video game aficionados. 1up.com features a system for you to compile a list of all of the video games in your personal collection and gives you a fair blue-book value for their worth, so you can brag to your friends that you have over one-thousand dollars invested in electronic entertainment, and it features support and advice from game reviewers from *Electronic Gaming Monthly*, *PSM*, *Nintendo Power*, *Computer Gaming World*, and many other reputable magazines. A chat feature allows you to speak, not only with other gamers, but even with the reviewers and editors of these publications. With the best help and a user-friendly chat and messaging service, 1up.com offers an experience that is truly a must for those who enjoy gaming.

DeviantART vs Myspace

by David Whitley

DeviantART, a thriving community for young artists, poets, and writers, has often been overlooked when it comes to internet blog and community sites. Generally, the first thing that comes to mind when people mention the subject is Myspace. DeviantART has probably been neglected because to become a successful, popular member of the community, takes talent. Unlike Myspace, where friendships are based on personal acquaintances and matching personalities, deviantART focuses equally on the artwork itself as the artist. Despite the fact that it is standing in the shadow of Myspace, a good number of SOA students have deviantART accounts, which are useful for showcasing talents both known and hidden.

DeviantART, in my opinion, is easier to use than Myspace, although backgrounds are not modifiable and users are unable to set music to play when their pages are viewed. Instead of sending a friend request for mutual approval, you can place a watch on another user, which notifies you of new artistic submissions and journal ("blog") entries by that user. DeviantART also hosts its own messaging service as well as a plethora of chatrooms for every conceivable purpose aside from cybering, which is frowned upon by the artistic community.

I know that many of you reading this article have noticed the word "deviant" in the title, and have inherently assumed that this site is solely populated by emo kids that sit around in the dark and listen to Linkin Park while they cry and cut themselves. Although there are plenty of these blemishes on society on every forum and blog site, deviantART has no more of them than the rest of the internet. Plenty of normal, good-looking people are members of this community, not the least of which being me. The word "deviant" merely connotes that the art on this site isn't the traditional style of Poe and Monet. There is plenty of fan art, much of it inferior, but a surprising majority of the art is entirely original, and a large number of artists have made enough to support themselves by selling prints of their artwork over the website.

Overall, deviantART encourages strong community spirit and overall artistic, social, and intellectual growth. It's easy to use and membership is absolutely free.

Features

UAE vs. port security

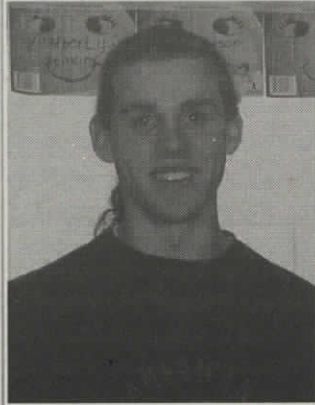
by David DuTremble

Well, by now I am assuming that everyone is well aware of the proposed sale of six of our ports to a company in the United Arab Emirates. Some of you may be scratching your chins, wondering why suddenly Bush is ready to give up something of ours to our "terrorist enemies." He has gone so far as to threaten to veto anything against this deal, using the V-word for the first time in five years. Some of you may also be scratching your chins at my lack of bias towards this matter. But what is more dangerous in this situation - our stereotyped anti-Arab paranoia, or our current lack of port security?

The company in question, Dubai Ports World (DPW), is taking over a British firm called Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, which controls US seaports in New York, New Jersey, Baltimore, New Orleans, Miami and Philadelphia. This 6.8-billion dollar merger raises many fears, doubts and questions.

Dubai, the headquarters of DPW, has been called a "logistic nerve center for al-Qaeda." (Baltimore Sun, Feb. 23, 2006). Is the opposition to this deal our post-9/11 anti-Arab hysteria? Keep in mind that the United Arab Emirates are one of America's few allies in the Middle East.

To sweeten the deal, DPW agreed "to avert a political showdown by submitting to a second, and broader, US review of potential security risks in an accord to take over many operations at six American ports." The company "asked for a 45-day investigation of plans to run shipping terminals." (Boston Globe, Feb. 27, 2006) This hardly sounds like a terrorist conspiracy to me.



Carl Pope, president of the Sierra Club, said "...based on what I

heard from former Senator Gary Hart at lunch yesterday, I believe that everyone is getting worked up about the wrong risks. Hart, the co-chair of the U.S. Commission on National Security, said that his commission found that even before 9-11 the failure to inspect shipping containers was the biggest point of vulnerability in U.S. transportation networks."

Only one of the aforementioned ports is equipped with a radiation detector. Only 4-5% of the containers that arrive are subjected to search. And, via the New York Times, "there is virtually no standard for how containers are sealed, or for certifying the identities of thousands of drivers who enter and leave the ports to pick them up..." (New York Times, Feb. 24, 2006). Also, according to the Baltimore Sun, "there is no requirement for employee identification cards at ports, which means every person working at a port could be compromised, including the 11,000 trucking companies and countless private security firms. Some ports require background checks, but the process is 'haphazard.'"

The terrorist attacks of September 11th were perpetrated with airliners. Retired Admiral James Loy, former Homeland Security official, says "port security has fallen into the 'oh, by the way' category." Loy also said that "had al-Qaeda attacked four ports, the response would have been the reverse" (Baltimore Sun, Feb. 23, 2006).

So, just as baffled by the ups and downs of this merger as I was when I started this article, I again submit the question for review: which is more dangerous, a former British company in Dubai, or our own inadequate port security at home?

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

David DuTremble: ddtrel@lsu.edu

David Whitley: imsuperhim@gmail.com

Prejudice vs. logic

by David Whitley

American dock workers have been rallying in New York in a protest against the sale of our ports on the eastern seaboard, thereby foolishly establishing a very profitable target for any of these alleged UAE terrorists. The most intelligent statement that reporters were able to garner from Joe Graffo, the apparent leader of the protest, was "I wouldn't want to leave anything in the hands of any country that hates America." (Yahoo! News)

This quote interests me, primarily because there is one country that is primarily responsible for the slaughter of Americans and the destruction of American property, and that country is... (drum roll, please) America. Yes, America's prisons are overflowing with dangerous American radicals in connection with bombings, serial-killings, and robbery, which can also be properly considered politically-motivated crimes because all of the victims are American. Sounds like hate crimes to me.

For their "so-called" evidence, the dock workers submitted the fact that two of the aggressors in the 9/11 attacks hailed from the United Arab Emirates. Yes, this is a great way to judge an entire country - take two people who happen to be citizens at random and judge the remainder of the population based on their actions. Following this chain of logic, both Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera are American citizens, so therefore the entire population of the United States is composed of blonde

female pop stars. But, Dick Cheney and Rush Limbaugh are both citizens as well, so we must also all be overweight, silver-haired, and balding. Third, we have Abraham Lincoln and Rick James who are both dead. Judging the rest of America by pairs of two, I have determined that we are all female pop stars with both blond and silver hair, but are going bald, are overweight, and also dead. We all know that this cannot be true. If you need me to explain why, then I'll be more than happy to direct you to a nice place where people will take good care of you and make sure that you do no harm to yourself or others; all you have to do is sign these forms I have here...

Returning to the dock workers' arguments, they also cited the differences in having it controlled by the United Arab Emirates instead of Britain, which formerly controlled the U.S. ports. They said that while Britain is a trustworthy nation, the UAE is unpredictable and very likely to be affiliated with terrorists. To them,

I say, "You try getting stuck in a roundabout for three hours, then come back and talk to me about which country is crazy." The largest difference I can see is that less money will be flowing from the United States to Britain and going to the United Arab Emirates instead, which can only help our relations with the Middle East, seeing as how one of their complaints about us is that we sit and grow fat while they starve to death and we refuse to help.

Hopefully, all of the controversy will make people recognize the fact that seaport security is just as important as airport security. A nuclear weapon could just as easily be hidden inside one of the engines of one of the imported cars we receive by ship as a man could carry a box cutter onto an airplane. In recent years, seaport security hasn't made any major headlines, despite the fact that airport security received full in-depth coverage from all the networks. We have shown a shocking neglect of our seaports, and many of them are poorly regulated and have been able to get away with sub-par quality work because we have not monitored them efficiently.

A quality control committee needs to be established for our seaports, and arriving containers need to be inspected more thoroughly if we are to eliminate any chance of further terrorist attack.

I know that this hasn't been much of a "vs." this time, but I'm not going to compromise my views solely for the sake of belonging to one political denomination. I feel how I feel, and usually most of it tends to be on the conservative side, but I don't like to feel like I'm nailed to a single ideology. I only say what I feel, and I think that the truth is more important than strict adherence to a doctrine.



DAVID
VS.
DAVID

Miscellaneous

Horoscopes

Pisces (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20) If you know what The Bog of Eternal Stench is, the cosmos are aligned in your favor. If you don't, you'll have a good month anyway - just don't eat any peach offered to you by a jewelry-obsessed, emotionally insecure dwarf named Hoggle.

Aries (Mar. 21 - Apr. 20) It's time you did something good for humanity. Please attend the SOA Creative Writing Spring Literary Reading on April 20th. (Ask a creative writer for details, or refer to the sign on the far wall of Mr. Reese's classroom.)

Taurus (Apr. 21 - May 21) Are you in search of new friends? Make a Myspace!

Gemini (May 22 - June 21) Next time you go to the snack machine, it will eat your money. The next person in line, however, will successfully attain a delicious snack.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22) Are you unsure of where your heart truly lies? Have you checked behind the couch?

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 21) If the name "Lindsey Graham" doesn't ring a bell, and if "Lindsay Lohan" does, you'd better reevaluate your daily reading material.

Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 23) Bored? Why not plan an SOA "Field Day?" I don't know about you, but I'm convinced that "trailer jumping" and "cello toss" would make fine sports.

Libra (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23) Every time you put a piece of paper in the trash can instead of the nearest recycling bin, a voracious little fairy takes another bite out of your cold, black soul. (Take the hint, Earth-killer.)

Scorpio (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) If you knew that "ough" can be pronounced eight different ways in the English language, you're either my idea of awesome, or you're spending too much time reading the "Offbeat Oddities" in your planner.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22) Good things come to those who wait on others. Go get me some coffee and a raspberry scone.

Capricorn (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20) Goodness, you have a lot of good stuff coming your way this month! The position of Saturn in relation to Orion says that tonight you will - oh, sorry. I hate to cut this short, but *Will and Grace* comes on in three minutes....

Aquarius (Jan. 21 - Feb. 9) You were born under a lucky star. Unfortunately, your star gambled its wealth away and is now smoldering in a far corner of the universe.

Ringling Bros. Barnum and Bailey: The lamest show on earth

by Kathleen Smith



Remember when you were a kid and going to the circus was like going to another planet. The funnel cakes, bright lights, and smiling faces surrounded you while the smell of horse manure lingered in the air. Ahhhhhh... those were the days. Once I heard the news that the one and only Ringling Bros. Barnum and Bailey Circus was coming to the North Charleston Coliseum my heart started racing. Was I finally going to be able to experience the thrill of the circus again? After calming my self down a bit, I phoned my friends **Allison Smith** and **Cameron Funderburk**. They were as ecstatic as me, but seriously, who doesn't love the circus? We planned to go on Thursday night at 7:30 PM. The days seemed to go by so slow 'till it finally reached Thursday. We were probably the only teenagers in the whole coliseum and more excited than most three-year-olds. Our hopes were high and our hearts were beating fast - we were ready to see trapeze artists, poodles dancing, tigers doing tricks in a ring of fire, and motorcycles in cages. Sadly the circus wasn't any of that. Actually, there were poodles, but they hardly danced; they had frilly dresses and rode scooters (which was actually quite entertaining). But the poodles were probably the most interesting act in the circus. I'm not even kidding; I never saw any lions, tigers, or motorcycles. Basically the circus was a disappointment. After eating a whole lot of fried foods and gulping down two sodas, we left in frustration, upset the circus didn't live up to what it used to be when we were younger. I thought the only explanation for this bizarre night was that the circus was so amazing a few years ago because I was a few years younger. To sum up my whole circus experience, it was a fun night spent with my two favorite girls, eating fatty foods, watching clowns trying to be funny, and witnessing poodles running around in fancy outfits.

The Men's Guide for Women

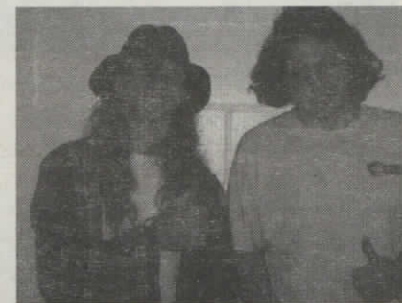
by Harry Harrison and David Whitley

First off, NO, you do not need to switch to bifocals; YES, the title reads "The Men's Guide FOR Women;" NO, we do not intend to throw ourselves in with those hairy feminists that aren't content with the state of affairs today and refuse to wear deodorant, so stop harassing us and allow us to explain!

As you are no doubt well aware, the main concern of this issue is blog sites and related issues. What many of you do not know, however, is that a girl lost her life when she was attacked by a stalker over Myspace; e-mailed her a venomous snake, and when that failed, he lured her into an Xbox Live Halo match and sniped her head. Her family may never recover from this tragedy, and so, we at the Men's Guide feel that those of you who utilize Myspace frequently should be protected from this fate, and so we present you with:

How to Disarm a Psychopath

It is nearly midnight. You have been unable to sleep and have entered the kitchen with the purpose of obtaining some wholesome midnight snack like that commercial for Total. You hear a noise; in a panic, you flip on the light switch. You are not alone; in fact, you are now face to face with what the experts have dubbed... a psychopath! He is brandishing a knife, which he obviously intends to use on you, judging by his inexplicable grin and incessant giggling despite the fact that nothing's funny. If there were a cat clock on the



wall behind you, we'd understand, because those things are just a laugh riot, but this is creepy. The following dialogue is crucial, and has been thoroughly researched. Certain situations may call for minor adjustments, but do your best to stick to the formula.

YOU: So, you're a psychopath, right?

PSYCHOPATH: Yes, indeedy.

YOU: Then why are you holding a knife? That's a bit too cliché and to-the-point for a man of your impressive - although incomprehensible - intellect. I think you should use a banana, because it's what I'd least expect.

PSYCHOPATH: But that makes no sense, and it's entirely non-lethal.

YOU: What do you care? You're crazy!

However, unbeknownst to your unfortunate assailant, you have been expertly trained in disarming potential attackers armed with bananas. Step One: grab banana. Step Two: peel. Step Three: eat.

Your attacker is now disarmed, and therefore harmless. Enjoy the rest of your life.

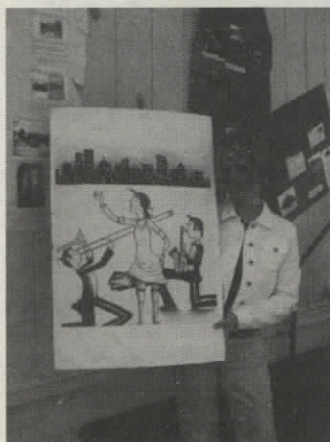
Time Travel at SOA

As part of the North Charleston Arts Festival 2006, Charleston County School of the Arts will present "The Liberty Hill Harlem Swing Club", featuring the School of the Arts Jazz Band, Sunday, May 7th at 3.00 PM at the North Charleston Performing Arts Center.

This performance is based on our research of the club that existed in Liberty Hill, North Charleston, during the 1940's.

Many jazz legends, such as the Duke Ellington and Count Basie Orchestras, Dizzy Gillespie, Louis Armstrong, and Lena Horne played at the club. The musicians from the Jenkins Orphanage Jazz Band, William "Cat" Anderson, Jabbo Smith, and Count Basie's lead guitarist Freddy Greene have all been known to play at the club from time to time.

The U.S. History students gathered this information through oral interviews with older Liberty Hill residents, including Lonnie Hamilton III and Councilman Sam Hart. Through this performance, the students hope to bring community awareness to this very significant story and to the impact Charleston has had on the American Jazz Movement.



Q O M

What is your favorite thing about Myspace?



"Pictures of hot topless men."
Lenna Walker and Constance Belton
11th grade visual arts



"You can learn more about your friends and other people."
Louisa Balloel
7th grade visual arts



"I like to read what other people have under their blogs...people write some funny little things."
Ms. Jan Elliott
Attendance clerk



"The hot pictures of Olivia Williams."
Mandy Stone
12th grade vocal



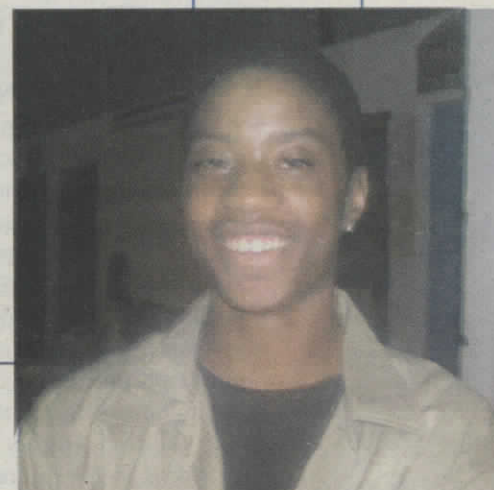
"I like it because you can get more out on the internet than you can in person."
Jessica Stocker
8th grade theatre



"That I'm not on it."
Reba Bowens
12th grade dance



"The smiley faces."
Virginia Pfaehler
10th grade creative writing



"All the drama."
Daniel Davis
11th grade strings