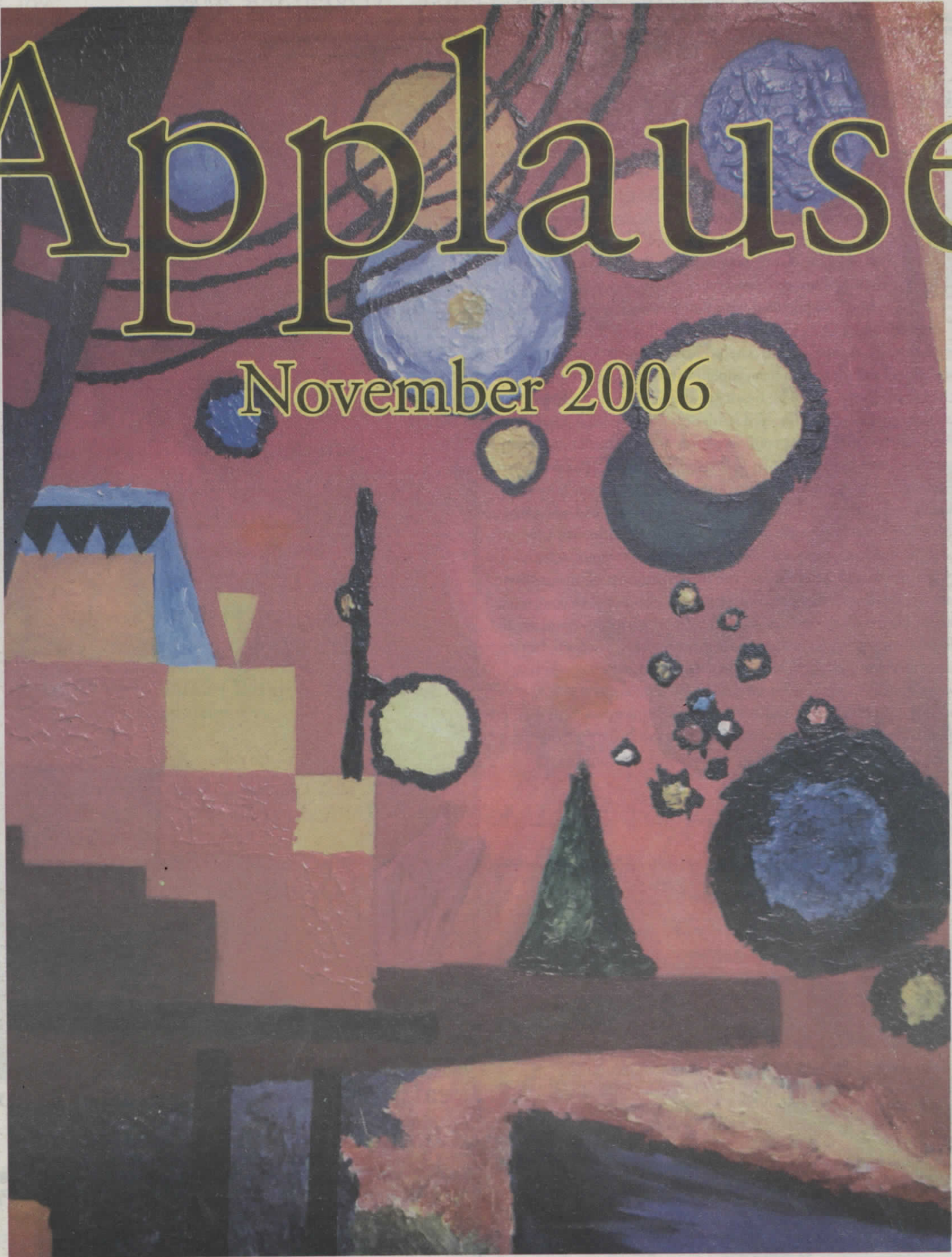


Applause

November 2006



Letter from the Editor



Julie Mhlaba

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself as both a new student and the *Applause* editor. As long as I can remember, I have felt the inexplicable desire to work on a newspaper. At age 12, I joined the newspaper at my middle school; it was my introduction to the world of journalism. Ever since, it has been a love-hate relationship, as most "newspaper people" find it to be, filled with major stress and minor accomplishment. I am thrilled to work on the *Applause* staff, and hope that I can apply what experience has taught me to help create a stellar publication.

The beauty of a student-run newspaper is that its reporters are deeply involved in the stories they cover. The beauty of the School of the Arts is the breadth of the interests of its multifaceted student body. *Applause* is a unique blend of these qualities, in that our staff members are constantly achieving excellence outside of the pressroom. In this issue, **Amber Caparas** is profiled for her acting skills, and **David Whitley** is interviewed on becoming a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist. The successes of SOA students extend far beyond the *Applause* staff, so in the coming months our mission is to incorporate as many of these achievements as possible into our articles. A school newspaper should be a vehicle for the expression of the student body. Thus, we are dedicated to representing what is of interest to our peers; whether it be movie reviews, concert listings, student profiles or opinion columns. We publish signed letters, and accept articles from contributing authors. Pictures and samples of student artwork will run, when contributed. Whether the feedback is positive or negative, we enthusiastically accept comments on our content, layout and coverage of school news. Our goal is to publish an outstanding newspaper, and, more importantly, to write what you want to read. We ask for your help in doing so in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Applause

the official student newspaper of
Charleston County School of the Arts

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School Calendar

November

23- 26 Thanksgiving Break

December

- 4 HS Theater Smackdown in the Black Box, 4:00 PM
- 5 Interim report cards go home
- 6 HS Jazz Piano Billy Joel Concert at Park Circle, 7:00 PM
- 11 Junior ring ceremony at the Citadel, 7:00 PM
- 12 HS Band, HS Orchestra & HS Vocal Winter Concert at Gailliard Auditorium
- 14 Freshman Theater Show in the Block Building, 4:00 PM
- MS Dance in Ms. Slowinski's room, 7:00 PM
- MS Orchestra and MS Vocal Winter Concert at Grace Episcopal Church, 7:00 PM
- 15 HS Dance Competition in the Black Box, 7:00 PM
- 21- 1/3 Winter Break

Featured cover art: "Master Copy" by Rachael Epstein. Oil on canvas.

Have ideas or comments that you want to see in *Applause*?

e-mail us at
 SOA_Applause@yahoo.com

WASP performances receive statewide recognition

By Kristin de Herder and Blake Engle

On October 6-8, the cast of *WASP*, Steve Martin's satire of the 1950's nuclear family, won second place at the Secondary School Festival at South



Amber Caparas, Gabriella Terranova, Jackson Holder and Duncan Pfahler act as a nuclear family around the dinner table.

Pointe High School in Rock Hill, SC. Under the direction of Megan Link, the cast, consisting of Jackson Holder, Duncan Pfahler, Victoria

Drew, Gabriella Terranova, Amber Caparas, and Katherine Chaeney Long, received the highest score that any SOA theatre production has ever received from this competition.

An additional award, the All Star Acting Award, was given to Amber Caparas and Gabriella Terranova for their outstanding performances. They performed at the SCTA (South Carolina Theatre Association) Festival on November 10 with first place winners from Lexington High School. "If the first place team cannot go to SETC (South Eastern Theatre Conference) in March, we will go to represent South Carolina," said Mrs. Link.



Jackson Holder gives Duncan Pfahler some fatherly advice onstage

Other performances at the competition included Neil Simon's *Plaza Suite*, performed by Lexington High, which won 1st place, and John Pielmeier's *Agnes of God*. This is exciting news for this dedicated cast and the theatre department they are representing. Good work, guys!

November Student Work: Visual Art

Right: Lenna Walker's "Self Portrait."
Oil on canvas.



Fall Carnival is successful in its first year

By Victoria Doose

October 28th saw the fulfillment of the first SOA Fall Carnival, and the beginnings of what is hoped will become a school tradition. Devised and carried out by the Student Council, the carnival was held as a fundraiser for the upcoming Winter Formal, one of the major undertakings of the Council every school year. The event took place on the field of the SOA campus and included several different events, the most popular ones being Pie a Teacher (in which Ms. Olsen, Mrs. Rickson, and Ms. Colquitt participated) and the jump castle. Also included was a costume contest, games of flag football, face painting, marshmallow mouth-stuffing contests, and a cookie eating contest.



Raven Gadson throws a pie at Ms. Rickson.

Though there was room for improvement as far as the variety of events was concerned, the carnival's first year

was deemed a success, profit and participation-wise.

"If we hadn't included the middle schoolers, we would've run into some problems," says Ms. Colquitt, the teacher advisor of Student Council. "Next year we're thinking of including karaoke to appeal more to the high schoolers, and a cake walk to add more competition like with flag football."

With each year, the school carnival promises to develop more and improve, so students who missed it this time are encouraged to come out next year and partake in the merriment.



Samantha Watson volunteers to paint faces.

Grub on the Green at SOA

Photos by Kristin de Herder

Seniors gathered on SOA's front lawn to eat pizza and relax with friends on October 31.



Above: Lindsey Hollabaugh stands in front of empty pizza boxes. Above right: Courtney Burgess, Nicole Williams, Cherelle Pinckney and Ashli Burnell hang out on the lawn. Right: Casie Fennell and Ashli Burnell pose with their pizza.



November's National Honor Society Update Visual Arts majors win County Park contest

By Victoria Doose

By Amber Caparas



www.nhs.us

In an incredible failure of common sense last month, the names of the new 2006-2007 Society officers were not included in the October NHS update. In order to make up for it, they appear now this month and are as follows: **Katie Isaacson** (President), **Julia Sisson** (VP in charge of Community Service), **Lenna Walker** (VP in charge of Tutoring), **Fang Ying** (Treasurer), **Brittnee Curlett** and **Victoria Doose** (Co-Secretaries), and **Amber Caparas**

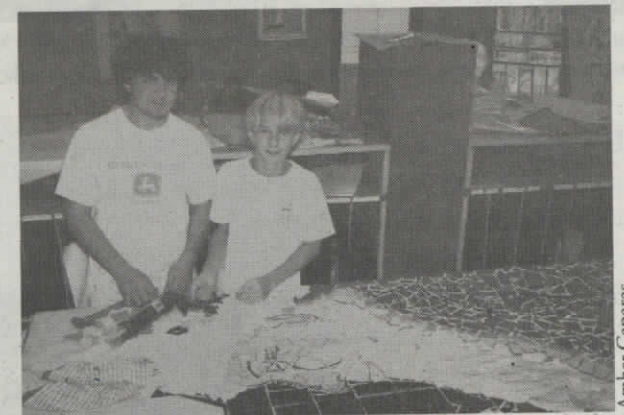
(Historian).

On November 11, the National Honor Society held a car wash fundraiser at the Wendy's on Johnnie Dodds Boulevard. Turnout was lower than expected, but we have high hopes for the next one. We also held a sweep of our very own SOA campus on November 16 – because we all know that no matter how hard we try to keep it clean, trash still ends up scattered across the grounds. In addition, NHS has teamed up with the Student Council and Junior Council to hold a food drive. Donations of nonperishable food items can be placed in bins scattered across the school.

Don't forget that we still offer tutoring every Tuesday and Thursday after school and sell breakfast in the mornings in the Fine Arts Building. Support our scholarship fund with your purchases!

Five of SOA's 8th Grade Visual Arts students won 1st place for their giant tile mosaic of Santa Clause in James Island County Park's Festival of Lights "Poster Contest." These five talented and dedicated visual artists, **Joey Dixon**, **Drew Corriveau**, **Pete Page**, **Sarah White**, and **Collen Brennan**, drew inspiration for their eight by four foot mosaic mural from Norman Rockwell's Santa illustrations. The final result was a unique, bold, and festive piece of art which serves as a delightful reminder that Christmas is just around the corner. The 1st place prize consisted of a trophy and \$300.00 for the Visual Arts program.

You can see the giant Santa mosaic beside the path in the Enchanted Forest during the James Island County Park Festival of Lights from November 10th – January 1st.



Joey Dixon and Drew Corriveau work on mosaic in class

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Two SOA Students Eligible for Prestigious Scholarship

By Victoria Doose

Recently, SOA Seniors **Katie Isaacson** and **David Whitley** were selected as Semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program, a nationwide competition for scholarship money that is based on students' PSAT scores and high school academic records. They are among only 16,000 Semifinalists to be chosen out of the approximately 1.4 million students who entered and, if they become winning Finalists, are eligible for up to \$2500 in NMSC scholarships, as well as scholarships offered by a variety of private companies. Here, they give us their thoughts on their futures and the competition.

What was your initial reaction when you learned that you had become a Semifinalist in this competition?

KI: I didn't know what it was at first, but when it was explained to me, I was pretty excited. My parents were pretty proud, and so was I.

DW: It's like finding for-

it'll be a long time before I'm able to use it to my advantage. Chicks don't particularly dig scholars.

How did you prepare for the PSAT?

KI: I went to bed on time and had a nutritious breakfast that morning. Besides that, nothing. I don't really study for tests like that — it's about what you know already, not how much you can cram in the week before. Mainly, I didn't stress.

DW: I read *Up Your Score*, the coolest SAT preparation book ever written, and I practiced quick thinking skills. Getting a bunch of pencils ready and making sure my calculator had batteries helped a lot too.

What college are you planning on attending?

KI: Right now, Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia. I'm applying for the

Honors College.

DW: I'm not dead-set right now, but so far Furman's my top choice.

What are your career aspirations/life goals?

KI: After college, I'm going to go to the Seminary to become a Lutheran pastor. My "life goals" are to help and love lots of

people and be happy.

DW: I want to become a well-known author, and I'm thinking about taking up law practice because everyone knows it's too hard to write for a living.

Would winning this scholarship change your college choice in any way? What kind of opportunities might this open up for you?

KI: Well, money would be taken care of for college, which would be fantastic. I wouldn't change my college choice, though. But if I get a free ride, I'd be able to get a good car, so there's an opportunity. Plus, no student loans later!

DW: It would certainly help get me into college; my parents say that if I don't have enough scholarships I'll end up going to the no-name school in Oklahoma that's offered me a free ride.

Are you optimistic about the outcome of the competition?

KI: Sure! My chances are pretty good, and I suppose I'm qualified. I hope I get it, but I'm sure I'll survive if I don't.

DW: It would certainly be nice to win, but as a general rule I don't count on anything. That just sets you up for disappointments.



Senior David Whitley demonstrates his academic prowess.



Senior Katie Isaacson

Photos by Victoria Doose

R. Bryan Whitley, AIA, Architect

R. Bryan Whitley, AIA

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Check out Monday Night Blues with Rene Miles

By David Whitley

Looking for a creative and interesting way to spend your Monday nights? Most people turn to watching football at home, but Creative Writing teacher **Rene Miles** has a better solution. Monday Night Blues is held every week at the East Bay Coffee House. It is a local event celebrating poetry within the community and every week a featured author reads a selection of his or her work. These are local poets who read for thirty or forty minutes. Admission is free.

The featured writers begin speaking at 8 PM. Afterwards, an open mic segment begins at 9 PM. Any person in attendance who considers him/herself an undiscovered poet is free to come up to the microphone and read. This is a great way to get your poetry heard not only by fellow audience members but by the local featured poet. Aside from poetry, prose is occasionally read. "It is rare," said Ms. Miles, "but it happens."



Ms. Miles

Katelyn Johnson

The readings are always interesting for poetry aficionados and often entertaining even to those who do not usually spend time enjoying poetry. Light refreshments such as snack foods and coffee are available also.

SOA looks forward to new campus

\$53 million project includes will provide state-of-the-art buildings for students

By Blake Engel

For quite some time, SOA has had to make due with these twenty-three mobile classrooms and two main buildings. While it may be less than visually pleasing, SOA also suffers from maintenance problems such as plumbing and drainage. The sight of Mr. Dawson making his way to some poor classroom has become commonplace and toilets entirely disconnected from the walls or a sudden drip from the ceiling are easily accepted as everyday events.

Teachers make Mrs. Myers and Mrs. Caldwell aware of any difficulties they may be having in their room, but no major repairs can be done that will require anything less than an entire overhaul of the school's facilities.

Luckily, this is exactly what SOA is about to begin.

December 1st marks the official groundbreaking on the construction of the new school. With a projected move-in date of August 2009, the completion of the new school will mark the culmination of four years of work on the part of the SOA administration and faculty, along with the financial support of the Charleston County School Board, who will be providing the \$53 million necessary to finance the project.

Joining our new campus will be the Academic Magnet High School, whose current campus resides at the old Navy base. They will have their own set of buildings dedicated just to their school.

During the past several months, many changes have been made to accommodate

the abundant construction materials necessary for the building of the new school, which are currently sitting on the front lawn of the old school. But the encumbrance will be worth it.

Over a two year period, the faculty and administration have worked with architects to design a school that will handle the facility

“Fully-equipped arts studios will be just some of the major new features, but the crowning achievement will no doubt be the amphitheater.”

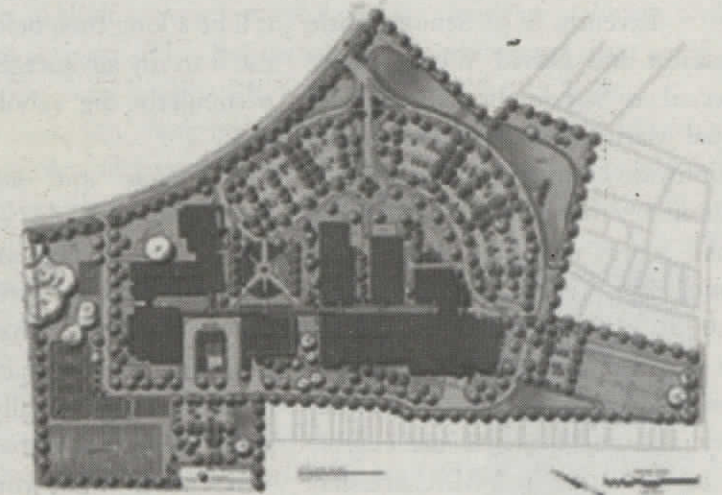
needs of each art major. According to Mrs. Myers, the ideas have been very good from the beginning. Teachers have submitted their own ideas, and coupled with the plans developed by the architects, the result will be state-of-the-art facilities dedicated to arts and academics, hence the official name of the new school, The School of Arts and Academics.

The purpose behind the creation of the new school is to have a place that will properly address the arts programs at SOA. Each arts teacher has lent his or her expertise to the planning of the new buildings. Fully-equipped arts studios will be just some of the major new features, but the crowning achievement will no doubt be the amphitheater, a gorgeous, two-story building, connected by walkway to the main school.

The company in charge of construction, Heery Inc., is working with the Charleston County School District on a program known as Building Success for

Children, formed with the intention of designing new campuses for several schools. The program was granted \$175 million dollars, thanks to local voters, and this money was allocated appropriately according to an assessment of the needs of each school.

There will be seven new buildings that will be used only by students and faculty of SOA: the High School Academic Wing, the Middle School Academic Wing, the Administrative and Guidance Office Areas, the Media Center, the Fine Arts Studios, and the Performing Arts Center/Theater, which will serve as a place to showcase the school's talents. The seventh building will be a new cafeteria, which will also be the only building officially shared by both



Aerial view of the projected construction.

Images courtesy of Thomas & Denzinger, Architects

SOA and the Academic Magnet.

When the new buildings are ready to be occupied, we will transition from the School of the Arts to the School of Arts and Academics. Following this, the Berry Building will be used by another CCSD school and the rest of the buildings will be cleared.

Among the many who are anxiously anticipating the completion of the School of Arts and Academics, Mrs. Myers states that, personally, she will “enjoy and appreciate each and every square inch of this new facility”.

She adds, “While it will be nice to have the convenience the new facility will offer, it has been you students, your parents and this excellent faculty who have made and will make this school the best.”



SCHOOL OF THE ARTS



ACADEMIC MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL

Graphic illustration of the building designs.

Want to learn more? Parents are invited to attend a meeting on December 7 in the SOA cafeteria at 7:00 PM that will discuss the building plans.

“Where are they now?": LaToya Smith

Singer studies in New York City, credits her experiences at SOA toward her success

By Victoria Doose

VD: *What college are you attending, and what made you choose it? What is your major(s)?*

LS: I am attending two colleges within the same university and am a 5 year BA/BFA (double degree) student. At Eugene Lang College, I am working on attaining a B.A. in Liberal Arts (with concentration on Urban Studies); and at the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music (yes, that is the entire name of the school), I will be receiving my BFA in Jazz Vocal.

VD: *What were your first impressions of college life?*

LS: To be honest, college didn't impress me at first. College seemed to me at first very dry...systematic...stale...but that was only because I was letting college make an impression on me. But I am LaToya Smith! So I had to realize that it was up to me to define my college experience from start to finish. Like most things I do in life, I don't let external things – or people, for that matter – make impressions on me (unless I want them to of course).

VD: *How did SOA prepare you for where you are now?*

LS: Tremendously. Everything prepares you for everything; nothing prepares you for nothing. I can't begin to name all the ways SOA has prepared me for New York life and college. It introduced me to facing the depth of academic and life experiences. My

time being on the band stand and being the vocalist of the SOA jazz band taught me early on how much of a musician I was and how much more of a musician I could be. In that class, I learned from the other musicians, the directors, and even the audience. I learned how to be respectful and give respect as a vocalist. I learned how to read lead sheets for different instrumentalists, and even how to make each genre and each style of music my own.

Everyone at SOA - from everyone in the cafeteria, to the senior parking lot - everyone I have ever come into contact with has prepared me for where I am now. And I thank everyone for every kind word, criticism, or random comment.

VD: *Besides school, what are you doing nowadays?*

LS: There is no 'besides school.' I am taking 19 credits this semester and at-

tending two very challenging colleges. I am really focusing on my academics. I hated English in school, but I love writing music. Reading and Writing are the most effective ways to master learning. These two things make you more articulate and much more

fluid in your thought process. The Jazz school, by the way, is amazing. Some of my classmates play with P. Diddy, which is great.

I do go to Connecticut almost every weekend to see the beautiful landscape, rest, medi-

tate, and be surrounded by love from my cousins. And oh yeah...I'm growing dreads now.

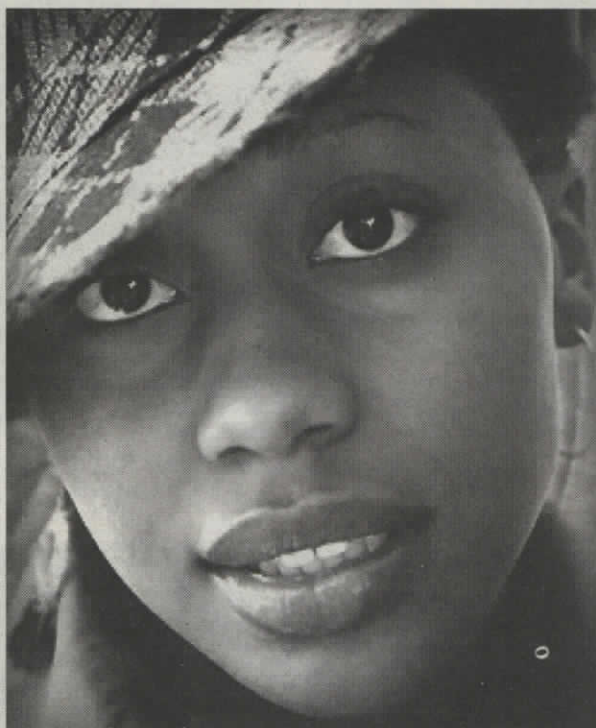
VD: *What are your future plans?*

LS: I don't plan, so I have no future plans. To be honest, I don't know exactly why I am here. I didn't know exactly why I came to SOA. I did not go there in the hopes of being a singer; I simply knew that I needed to be challenged. All I know is that

the future is going to be exciting. I am going to make exciting mistakes and enjoy exciting successes. I don't know what my future holds, but I am holding on for the ride.

VD: *Any advice for SOA students, or parting words?*

LS: Live life for yourself. Carry a clear mind, wisdom, knowledge, love, your heart, your passion...a cream soda and some "knick knacks"...and never ever be afraid of the success, because success is definitely the journey. I don't have any parting words because my spirit is still out and about. However I will say to be ready at all times, be wise, be yourself (even if it means you are different), "master the minimum," love hard, live happily and completely, respect your elders, learn how to cook, clean, and take care of yourself, be independent, never be afraid to cry (as long as you know you are growing), and know where you came from. Don't waste time dreaming and talking about things. Simply live.



Courtesy: LaToya Smith

*Know any noteworthy alumni?
Contact an Applause staff member in room B5*

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Jump Jive and Wail a retro-themed hit

By Ashley Sagan

If you didn't attend Jump Jive and Wail on October 20, you missed out on a night full of extraordinary music and fabulous dancing. Walking into the bus shed downtown, the first thing I noticed was the SOA jazz band playing and everyone dressed up in his or her most astounding formal wear. I wasn't surprised at how many people showed up because after all, this is a huge event for the jazz band. I saw students, teachers, as well as people that came to just enjoy this thrilling event.

The music this year was remarkable. The jazz band played from a list of about forty different songs. "Fowl Play" was one of those songs, which happen to be their most popular, and which includes solos by **Cody Nelson** and **Thomas O'Grady**. Vocalists **Cordell Moesteller**, **Heather Jones**, **Bryan Rouse**, and **Grace Dawson Beatty** performed a few of the jazz band's songs. **Thomas O'Grady** played a solo in the piece "In the Mood." A very upbeat song that got almost everyone up and dancing

was
"What
is Hip"
with
solos by
**Cody
Nelson,
John
Keota,
Zach Thames,** and **Daniel Harper**. Another highlight was "Come Fly With Me" with a solo by **Cody Nelson**.

This year more people were dancing and enjoying the music than sitting down and chatting. People did all kinds of different dances, from the tango to a contra dance, from the electric slide to break dancing. Sticky Fingers catered Jump Jive and Wail, and if I must say so myself, it was pretty good. They served barbeque, cole slaw, baked beans, and wings. It's been a tradition that every year the jazz band dresses up during the last set. The seniors wear a crazy costume while the juniors, sophomores, and freshman wear crazy accessories such as goofy hats and sunglasses.

A month of spooky f

Haunted House and Jump, Jive and W

Photos by Ashley Sagan and Cecilia Slowinski, contributing photographer



Above: Leia Wilson, Maggie Jo Saylor, Ally Bing, Hugo Hanham-Gross play doctor at the Haunted House



Above: Dylan, Edward, Brittany Greene and H'Rosalyn Niehra



Above: Steven Moskos and Austin Jur relax during a break



Above: Darby Keck and Ian Gwinnup dance and sing together
Above right: Katlyn McMillin holds spooky props for her h
Above far right: Some band members dressed up in costume
Left: The jazz band tears it up

"The music
was remark-
able."

in and jazz music: at SOA

Haunted House was a scary success

By Amber Caparas

Every year, the high school theater majors at SOA spend one weekend sometime around Halloween turning the Black Box into a spooky and often silly Haunted House for all to enjoy. Having the total freedom to pillage through rooms and rooms of props and costumes, designing a set, and then creating a one and a half minute scene of whatever is certainly a dream for any sane/ insane theater student, but it is no walk in the park.

The process for this year's Haunted House began on Friday, October 20th, when the high school theater crew met in the Black Box from 4:00pm-6:00 pm to put up drop cloths (these are the large sheets and curtains that were used to divide the Black Box into ten sections) and then tear through the theater rooms claiming any props and costumes that one needed for their scene. All of the costumes and props were first come first serve, so there was a good bit of bargaining and physical contact involved as everything was distributed. Once the dust settled, the cast of each scene loaded all of the props into their rooms and called it a night.

The entire high school theatre crew met back in the Black Box the next morning, Saturday, October 21st from 9:00am-9:00pm! The day was spent designing sets, writing/ improving scenes, directing (the Juniors are in charge of that), and rehearsing of course. Thankfully, the conductors of the whole Haunted House shebang, **Mr. Younts** and **Mrs. Link**, allowed a generous amount of time for lunch and dinner breaks. The dinner break ended around 5:00 and the students were allowed 30 minutes to polish up their scenes before the first group of people ventured through.

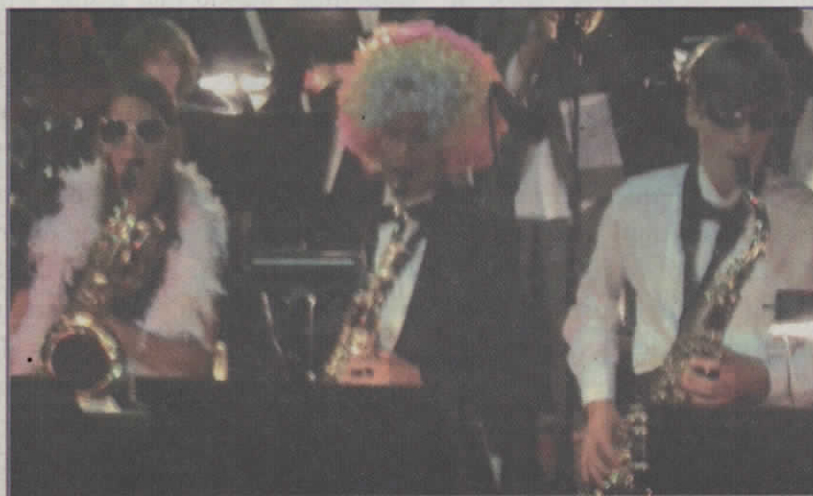
Over the next three and a half hours, people were led in groups through the Haunted House, each group following the same path. In the "waiting room," a scene set in Hell served as a delightful entertainment for each group as they waited to be led through the Black Box. When the waiting was over, a tour guide directed each group down a dark path and into ten different rooms, each with a distinctively unique scene. The material in the scenes varied from chefs serving head soup, to pirates obsessed with dead ladies, to murdered news reporters, to sleep over scares, to crows killing dysfunctional farmer families, to a ventriloquist murdering children at a birthday party, to taking revenge on cheating boyfriends with voodoo, to the demented cinderella story, to graveyard daters, to guts flying around an operation room. Haunted House is certainly a wonderful peek into the terror and dark humor that exists in the minds of some of SOA's most inventive students.



Above: Josh Braunreuther and Arthur Brown



Above: Zach Wolff and Ashli Burrell perform their skit at the Haunted House



doctor



kit
p, Jive and Wail

Smyth's psychology class surveys SOA students on racism

By Liz Gildea

When Bill Smyth saw the results of the surveys created by his two Psychology classes, the first thing he noted was the apparent honesty of SOA students when it comes to racial issues. As someone who has always strived toward open discourse on touchy subjects, Mr. Smyth was delighted.

The surveys were part of a unit on racial conflict centered on John Howard Griffin's 1959 book *Black Like Me*, one of the most unique and compelling pieces of twentieth century journalistic literature. In the book, Griffin – who was white – details his experience as a self-created black man, a state he attained through an intensive regimen of pigment-stimulating pills and heat lamps. His travels through the South showed him, in a horrifying and deeply personal way, how easily people let their attitudes toward others be swayed by skin color alone; even the residual “whiteness” of his manner and dress didn't keep prejudice away from him.

Mr. Smyth's classes did not exactly delve into the individual cognitive processes of appearance-based discrimination; rather, they gathered a set of statistics that represents the outward attitudes of their peers. Each student was responsible for contributing and assessing the results of one question. The two questionnaires, given to all high school English classes (one on an A-day, the other on a B-day), have produced a fairly remarkable picture of the varying mindsets of SOA students. Please note that, while each survey was created and administered separately, the similarity of the questions allows that they be discussed as a whole.

To the question, “How often do you and your friends make racist jokes or remarks?” the majority of the student body answered “sometimes” or “seldom.” However, twenty-seven percent of black males said they “fre-

quently” make racial jokes, as well as fourteen percent of white males. Particularly interesting was that comparable percentages of females – twenty-one percent of white girls and seventeen percent of black girls – answered “never.”

One might dismiss those results as typical, perhaps evidence of the insensitivity of teenage boys relative to girls. Or, one might be dismayed by any significant percentage of kids reporting that they make racist jokes. As to whether these jokes and comments are directed at making certain people feel racially inferior, we can look to the results of another question.

“Has anyone ever made you feel ashamed of your race?” asked the B-4 questionnaire. Very few people (6 out of 230) answered “frequently,” and only one-eighth of respondents reported that they were “sometimes” the subject of racial intolerance. A full twenty-five percent said they were “hardly ever” subject to racial abuse, and a whopping fifty percent said “never.” Forrest Putnam, who contributed this question, noted in his assessment that “roughly the same percentages of white people reported being racially abused as black people in all categories. Furthermore, the only group that had large num-

bers of people that reported being ‘frequently’ or ‘sometimes’ racially abused [was] white people.” While Forrest suspected this to be due to some (white) kids taking a less-than-serious attitude toward the survey, one might wonder whether it is differing conceptions of prejudice that lead to such a white claim of having experienced it.

On the subject of interracial dating, SOA students showed a definite trend. Over seventy percent said they were “very comfortable” with interracial couples (about half of those were white females), and only four percent of students said they were “not comfortable at all.” As for whether they themselves would ever date someone of a different race, fifty-nine percent of those questioned answered that they would.

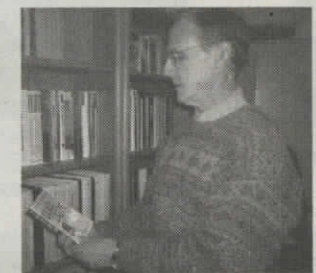
One question asked students whether they have ever tried to do something locally that would reduce prejudice. Though over half of students said they “never” had, 63 said they had tried “a few times,” 14 said “several times,” and 15 said they had tried “many times” to reduce prejudice. It would be interesting to know what in particular kids have done to reduce prejudice in the community.

While the numbers alone provide insight, some students wrote

“I'm a product of the [interracial] couple.” Another respondent, a white female, said she would “definitely” date someone of a different race, but she added, “I don't think my parents would approve of it.” One student responded that people can “definitely” overcome prejudices, but she expressed pessimism about the actuality of this: “...people choose not to,” she said.

Profile in tolerance: Bill Smyth

By Liz Gildea

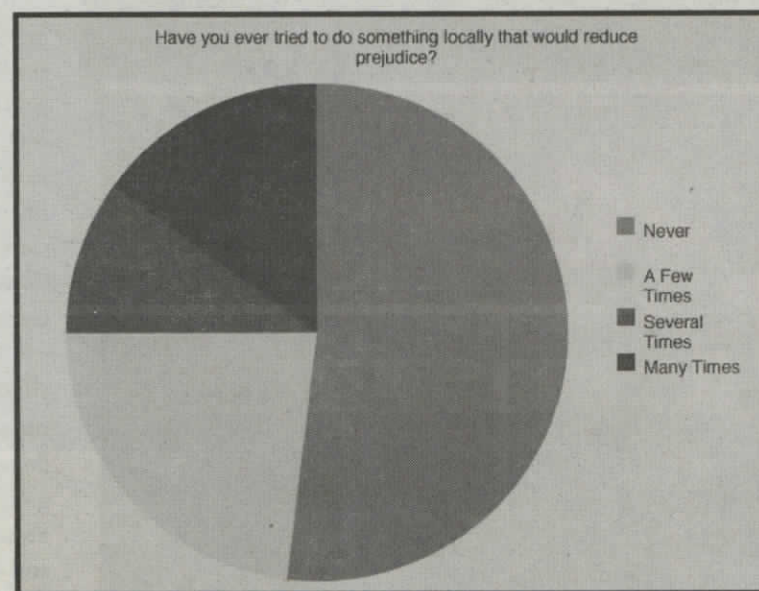


Mr. Smyth looks at a copy of John Howard Griffin's *Black Like Me*.

Mr. Smyth himself is a peculiar study in cultural awareness. As a white child

growing up in South Carolina, he would ride his bike to the black communities (one of these include a three-day trip upstate) for the sheer purpose of pushing himself to the limit of his own cultural upbringing. Today, he continues to travel the nation and globe in pursuit of tangible experiences with other worlds and their peoples. For instance, he has been to the site of the 1963 bombing in Birmingham that killed four young girls of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

While Mr. Smyth enjoys reading about such historical crossroads – times and places wherein ages-old social customs are thrown in to upheaval – for him there is nothing quite like an actual visit to a landmark. “You start to think, ‘Wow, this isn't a book’... you're actually there. [continued on page 11]



Bill Smyth [continued from page 10]

By Liz Gildea

There's just nothing like it."

Since he couldn't exactly take his Psychology classes on all the field trips he himself has taken, Mr. Smyth designed a thorough social study including a DVD about *Briggs v. Elliott*, one of a series of Supreme Court cases in the fifties that led to the declaration of "separate but equal" educational policy as unconstitutional; a 1960 *Post and Courier* article about the Kress sit-in, as well as a phone call with sit-in participant Minerva King; photographs depicting the events of the Civil Rights movement; and much more. But he didn't stop there – near the beginning of the year, he emulated John Howard Griffin by dyeing his hand black at home, just to see the transformation with his own eyes.

This July, Mr. Smyth will be traveling to India with Academic

Magnet junior Vasanth Kuppaswamy, with whom he embarked two years ago on a fundraising project for an impoverished Indian elementary school. One item on their schedule is a meeting with the president of India – something Mr. Smyth himself can still hardly believe.

Though he doesn't plan on duplicating the *Black Like Me* experiment anytime soon, Mr. Smyth is more willing than most to enter someone else's reality, raising questions that lie outside his comfort zone and discussing the uncertainties with others – as he did with his Psychology students.

"I want to show them this kind of stuff that's so radically jolting," he said. "I like to sort of push to the edge like that."

Opinion: How to Kill a Conversation

By David Whitley

Since this is not a step-by-step procedure and is based solely on the context of the conversation, the various ways will be listed by subject of discussion. This is in no way a complete guide, but should help to alleviate some of the most annoying conversations you'll find.

1.) Government Conspiracies

Nothing ticks me off worse than two conspiracy theorists chatting it up about how our corrupt government deserved the attacks on the twin towers. Memorize this interjection: "My aunt/uncle/(relative they don't know about) was in the twin towers on 9/11." Another common topic is how the shadow government is really running things and censoring any insurrection. Put a stop to this before it gets to far by pointing out the chief flaw in their logic – that they are standing their complaining about what should be key secrets and have not been taken out by snipers.

2.) *The Da Vinci Code*

It's hard to believe that there are some people with nothing better to do than argue back and forth about *The Da Vinci Code* all day, but they can be found. They debate back and forth over the possibility that Jesus was married like the book says, and these arguments may lead to broken friendships or violence. Cut them off with one simple fact: it's shelved under

fiction. Could Frankenstein really reanimate a corpse with electricity?

3.) Yo Momma Jokes

Although less common now than they were in the mid-nineties, Yo Momma jokes still never fail to pollute the surrounding atmosphere and annoy passers by. These consist of various insults stemming from such starters as "Yo momma's so fat," or "Yo momma's so ugly." These can be defeated or at least temporarily disrupted by making intentional non-jokes, incredibly nerdy jokes, or shaggy dog stories (incredibly morbid tales filled with pathos that seem to drag on forever and then just stop without a conclusion.)

Here are a few examples:

"Yo momma's so fat, a week ago the doctor told her that she only had two months to live if she didn't change her dietary habits."

"Yo momma's so hairy she lives on the forest moon of Endor."

"Yo momma's so stupid she tried to make perfume by reacting chlo-

rine with ammonia."

"Yo momma's so poor that your whole family had to go without food for several years of your childhood. Your brothers and sisters looked closer to skeletons than human beings at times and had to rummage through trash cans for meager scraps of edible material. It got cold in the winter times and you were too poor to afford proper heating so you huddled together for warmth in the middle of the living room. Sometimes one of your siblings would go out into the snow and never return."



Victoria Doose



Applause staff members demonstrate the delivery of a "yo momma" joke.

David Whitley

The *Applause* staff would like to congratulate the following students who won awards at the 2006 Coastal Carolina Fair. Their artwork was on exhibit at the Art & Photography pavillion on the Ladson Fairgrounds for the duration of the fair.

1st place Merit Award: Laura Matthews

1st place: Kaitlyn Battistelli, Hannah McCleskey and Lenna Walker

2nd place: Constance Belton, Min Bu and Weston DeWolff

Bill Hunter proudly supports the *Applause* staff

The Departed is Scorsese's latest shocker

By Amber Caparas

Warning: *The Departed* is about as R-rated as a movie can get. That being said, it is this year's must see movie for all audiences over 17 years of age, especially if you plan to watch the 2007 Academy Awards.

The Departed is certainly among the most shocking films that Martin Scorsese has ever directed. Most critics, myself included, are grateful for the uncompromised integrity of the film's outrageous content.

Based on the Hong Kong gangster movie *Infernal Affairs*, *The Departed* dangerously exposes how Boston's underground Irish mob culture interacts with the police and government officials at many levels. The film's three central characters, Billy Costigan (Leonardo DiCaprio), Frank Costello (Jack Nicholson), and Colin Sullivan (Matt Damon), are each fully developed and brilliantly vulnerable to destruction. Frank Costello, a mysterious, crazed, and crime thirsty mob boss, appears to be impenetrable due to the roots of protection he has worked deep into the core of the police force. Colin Sullivan was taken under Frank Costello's wing as a young boy, and grows up to be Costello's most accomplished mole-cop. Billy Costigan is denied a job as detective due to his haunting past and questionable record but is given a chance to prove whether or not he is "detective material" when he is assigned a deep undercover mission to bust Frank Costello's latest crime deal. Murder and paranoia bring all three of these characters to a disastrous head, and a series of tumultuous twists and turns brings the film to a breathtaking bang of an ending.

A tragic tale full of deceit, trickery, and corruption, *The Departed* is sure to keep you in shock long after you walk out of the theater.

My Chemical Romance churns out Broadway-style rock

By Kristin de Herder

Under the influence of such genius as Queen, Pink Floyd, The Beatles, David Bowie, and the Smashing Pumpkins, My Chemical Romance have created their latest concept album, *The Black Parade*, a cross between a rock album and a Broadway musical, experimenting with a unique sound, while still remaining true to the rock roots of the band.

Through the use of additional instruments, such as an acoustic piano, a B3 organ, synthesizers, a Wurlitzer, as well as Liza Minnelli's voice, each song has a distinct sound that flows well with the powerfully descriptive lyrics.

According to the band's lead singer, Gerard Way, My Chemical Romance "wanted to make a record that was an entire experience," and they succeed in doing so.

Though the central plot of this album revolves around "the patient,"

[Continued on page 13]



RottenTomatoes.com

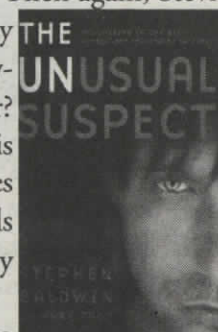
Steven Baldwin: Reformed bad-boy

By Amber Caparas

In his newly released autobiography, *The Unusual Suspect*, actor Steven Baldwin explains that as he began seeking the truth about God and Jesus, he was "disappointed and a little disillusioned" to find that the "really fun, hardcore, exciting, adrenaline-pumping, Christian cool stuff" that he was craving barely existed. Never being one to just sit around and complain, Stevie B took it upon himself to write an exhilarating, attention grabbing, and almost paroxysmal account of his fast forward conversion from a pot smoking Playboy Mansion party man to a humble servant of Jesus Christ.

Just a few years ago, most people would have scoffed at the idea that Stevie B, the youngest and arguably the wildest of the "Baldwin brothers," would be releasing an autobiography in which he claims that the free will he thought he had outside of God was "a lie from Satan." Then again, Stevie B has never conformed to peoples expectations. It certainly came as no surprise to come across chapters like "Growing up Baldwin, or The Brady Bunch on Crack," "Prayer? What...Are You a Wuss?" and "Hold the Cheese" in his first published memoir, a memoir that brilliantly exposes the meaninglessness that he found in celebrity, and tells of his life's journey with the sort of honesty and integrity that God himself would applaud.

Steven Baldwin has accomplished quite a feat: to have not only transformed into a devout man of God despite all of Hollywood's persecutions, but to have also beautifully articulated his transformation over 281 action packed, humor rich, and spiritually scandalous pages.



B + H Publishing Group

Steely Dan's Aja is a classic crowd-pleaser

By David Whitley

If you take a group of twenty people who went to college through the late seventies, there will be at least three who owned or often listened to Steely Dan's masterful album, *Aja*. Steely Dan's unique sound is sure to intrigue any listener. The first track on the album, "Black Cow," establishes their definitive style right from the get-go, a slow-tempo funky jam with melodic background synthesizers, earthy tenor sax, and a contemplative electric piano solo. Throughout "Black Cow" and "Deacon Blues," misleadingly pleasant vocals add irony to caustic, bitter lyrics. The title track, "Aja," is an ambitious piece in which a typical pop song is expanded into an eight minute epic with excellent drumming and a rhapsodic tenor sax solo. The vocal harmonies present in all tracks never fail to please the ear, either. The final track, "Josie," showcases Steely Dan's versatility with a threatening opening riff that changes into an upbeat tune with lyrics about violence and misdemeanor. All in all, *Aja* is sure to please fans of alternative rock or anyone on the lookout for good music that doesn't sound like every other song on current pop radio stations.



MCA Records

As always, Carolina Fair delivered fried food and fun

By David Whitley

A few weeks ago, my friends and I drove down to pay a visit to what has become a traditional October event, the Coastal Carolina Fair. The selection of rides continues to improve with each passing year. The new ride, the Magnum, was an exceptional twist on the classic Tilt-a-Whirl formula, introducing a third dimension to the spinning that allowed the riders to do 360 degree forward rolls or merely invert themselves if they didn't rock hard enough. However, the painted background for the ride, which was based upon *Magnum P.I.* and featured the main character's face, was so ambiguous that one of my friends assumed it was a painting about the life and times of Ron Jeremy.

The old standbys: The Gravitron and the Pharaoh's Fury stuck people to walls and swung them back and forth respectively just as well as ever. This year was my first time riding the Ring of Fire, a vertical loop that sent passengers all the way around again and again. I'm not

The Black Parade is a success [continued from page 13]

By Kristin de Herder

a young man dying of cancer, the lyrics relate to both life and death. Underneath this moving story lies a certain degree of truth to which many can relate. A perfect example of this is the song "Teenagers," using a catchy tune to contrast the darker lyrics of high school angst.

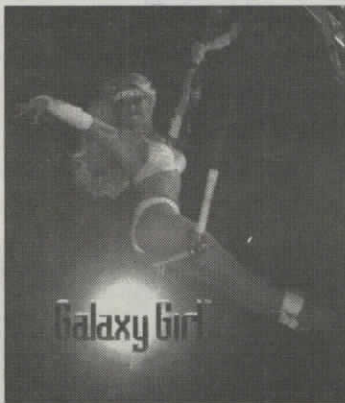
The toe-tapping, second song on the album, "Dead," the patient wonders if he has lived his life to the fullest. Song seven, "House of Wolves," is true to the rock on their previous album, *Three Cheers for Sweet Revenge*, as the patient

sure if this has been standard procedure for years, but the operator (who looked suspiciously like comedian Ron White) thought it would be funny to stop the car upside-down for a full minute so I could strain my arm muscles so that my head would not hit the saliva and barf-dust coated ceiling. Disappointingly, the Crazy Mouse was broken down yet again. Conversely, it was reassuring to see that the children's rides were safened up after one of the roller-coasters went off the rails several years ago.

The foods, especially the fried dough, showed no signs of getting healthier any time soon. Some may protest in the era of war on partially-hydrogenated oils, but I for one feel that it is not a fair unless the healthiest item on the menu is a caramel-coated apple with nuts. The world is changing, but the Fair seems to be one staple that will always be around, and neither I nor many others would have it any other way.

becomes a callous human being with no care for morals. As the album progresses, the patient comes to terms with the fact that his time has come to pass and that he is "not afraid to keep on living," as shown in the powerful rock ballad, song 13, "Famous Last Words."

The Black Parade has been hailed the "best mid-Seventies record of 2006" by Rolling Stone magazine. While it does contain a Parental Advisory for language, this is one CD (that's right, the entire CD) that is worth every penny paid.



Galaxy Girl was one of several performers at this year's fair.

Coastalcarolinair.org

Food review: 39 Rue de Jean

By Lucy Hunter

39 Rue de Jean puts a unique twist on French bistro fare by pairing a classic menu with a sushi bar. This sleek restaurant is the brainchild of Chef Fred Neville, a Culinary Institute of America graduate who wanted to pay homage to French cooking while attracting customers with Japanese food, a modern culinary trend.

Neville succeeds in his goal: the baguette is always fresh, the sauces are rich, the steak frite is tender and the seafood is excellent. Well-trained waiters help you pick the perfect wine for each course from the extensive wine list, whose selections are almost exclusively from France. There are "plats du jour" for every day of the week, and on Sunday patrons can enjoy the outstanding Provençal bouillabaisse. Steamed mussels are offered in six preparations, the most popular being "moules pistou" (mussels steamed in a garlic, basil and extra virgin olive oil sauce). From the sushi bar, the eel and avocado roll offers an interesting appetizer or, when paired with a spicy tuna roll or a soba noodle salad, a Japanese meal.

The décor and ambience are Parisian, with an outdoor terrace and a full bar that remains busy until 2 A.M. The crowd is among the youngest and hippest in Charleston for a restaurant of Rue de Jean's caliber and price (around \$30 per person). A popular hot spot for impressing a date, Rue de Jean is lively and packed every night of the week.

As the name suggests, 39 Rue de Jean is located at 39 Jean Street, downtown. On Thursdays through Sundays, the restaurant can be full by reservation up to four hours in advance, so call early.



The bar at 39 Rue de Jean.

www.39ruejean.com

On the roster:

local (and not so local)

concerts

By Kristin de Herder

November

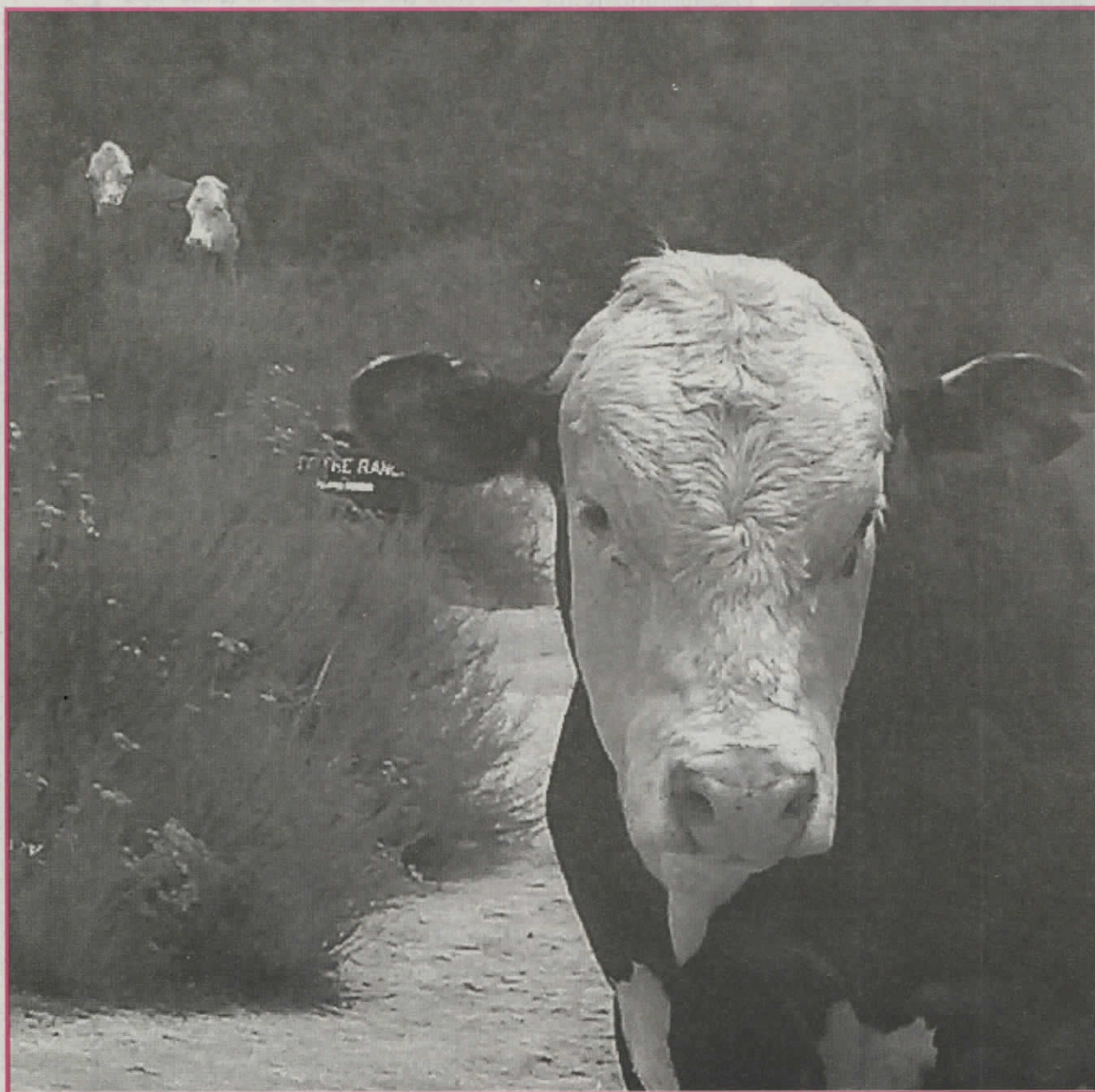
26 Deftones/Deadsy @ the House of Blues in Myrtle Beach

December

- 7 Cosmic Charlie @ The Pour House
- 10 Amy Grant @ the Colonial Center in Columbia
- 10 Staind @ the House of Blues in Myrtle Beach
- 13 Rasputina @ The Village Tavern in Mount Pleasant
- 29 Cowboy Mouth @ the Windjammer in Isle of Palms
- 29 Cheetah Girls @ the North Charleston Coliseum
- 30 Blueground Undergrass @ The Pour House in James Island
- 31 Shinedown/Not Yet Rated @ the House of Blues in Myrtle Beach
- 31 Perpetual Groove @ The Music Farm in Charleston

Jill Hunter

Cow Photographer



www.jillhunter.net

Word Find: Look for these election-related words!

By David Whitley

REDSTATE - BLUESTATE - VOTING - POLLS - BALLOT - RE-COUNT - MAYOR - GOVERNOR - DEMOCRAT - REPUBLICAN

V E N O Y I D O U R V R T L R O
 I R O D O E S T B T L E N A O
 O V E T E I E D E R B P E U E
 T E R T R M T R A T U C T V L
 E I E N N O R B G E B D E I T
 A T T A O S N C P O L L A S I L
 O B A A A B U R R V I N E B T
 B S T T L T S E A O C T R C P
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 L S U Y A G E N N P L G D C S L
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 A L C S R T O R U T S Y B O B I
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 N D B E G L N V C B V D Y T S R

Fashion Trend: Cardigans

By Kristin de Herder

With the winter weather blowing in, many of us Southern Belles are finding ourselves left out in the cold.



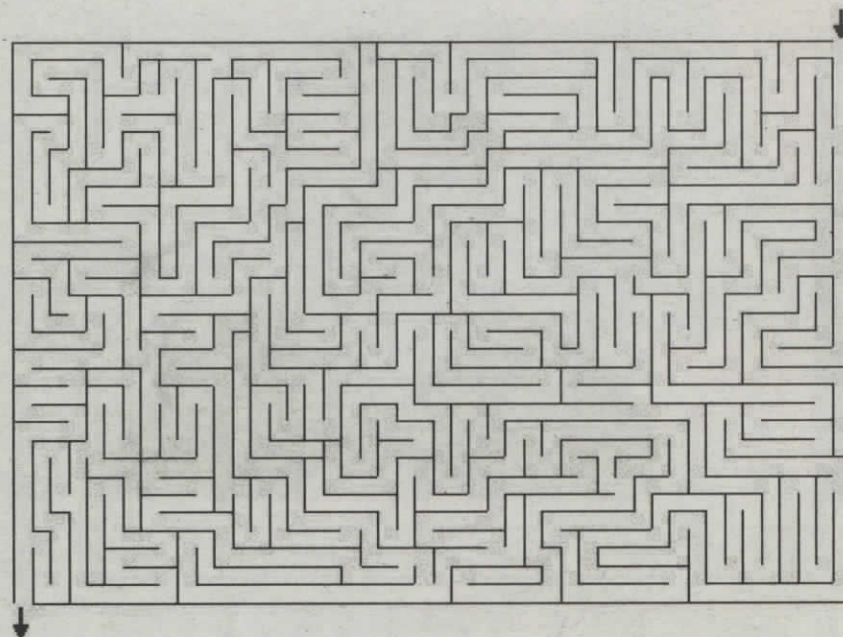
Kristin de Herder

Ms. Wade models a cardigan.

While a sweater would seem like the logical answer to this dilemma, even they can become a problem, making a toasty classroom feel like a sauna. This brings me to the trend: cardigans, a button-up sweater that allows for plenty of breathing room. Named after James Thomas Brudenell, 7th Earl of Cardigan in the 1850s, the cardigan sweater is a classic piece in fall fashion. Today, fashion designers are renovating this classic piece with prints, belts, ties, beading, knit patterns, sleeve styles, and that is only the tip of the iceberg. With intricate beading designs, giving a flare of elegance, or with a thick waist belt, giving a more tailored look, or worn plain, cardigans are a perfect for match for fall.

Test your logic with Applause's monthly maze!

By David Whitley



Horoscopes

By the SOA Astrologer

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21):

There's no such thing as good or bad. It's just the difference between what you are willing to do and what you won't do.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 5):

Every moment of your life is the sum of every act you have previously committed. So, if you want to know your fate, start adding.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18):

Go swimming at the beach and make sure to cherish every broken bottle and deflated tire you find.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – Mar. 20):

Put your shirt on backwards, your pants inside-out, leave your hair a mess and don't brush your teeth. Then let the laughter of your peers and colleagues empower you.

Aries (Mar. 21 – Apr. 19):

Take a trip to Antarctica and set it up as a totalitarian government.

Taurus (Apr. 20 – May 20):

If two paths diverge in the woods, turn back and stop talking like Robert Frost.

Gemini (May 21 – June 21):

Miming is the universal art of communication. Start taking some classes.

Cancer (June 22 – July 22):

Take up stalking Carlos Palomo for fun and profit.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22):

If you feel you're on a mission from God, go join the Blues Brothers.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sep. 22):

At the mall, turn up your music as loud as possible. I'm sure complete strangers enjoy your taste in music.

Libra (Sep. 23 – Oct. 22):

Look in your freezer: If you find tuna, that means good luck. If you find salmon, that means brush your teeth.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21):

If you're blond, dye your hair brown; if you're a brunette, shave your head. If you're a redhead, gel your hair with Crisco



Photos by Blake Engel

"After Hurricane Hugo, my in-law's house's chimney had cracked. They were using a wood-burning stove to heat the house and it ended up burning down the house."
-Mrs. Alvanos, Math Teacher



"At my grandparent's house one year, I tripped in the kitchen and had turkey land in my hair."
-Samantha Morley, 6th Grade



"My family went camping at Grandfather Mountain in North Carolina and it snowed overnight. We were living in tents, so we basically slept in the snow. In the morning, we found that something had gotten to the turkey."
-Sarah Aytes, 11th Grade

Question of the Month: What is your most disastrous Thanksgiving memory?



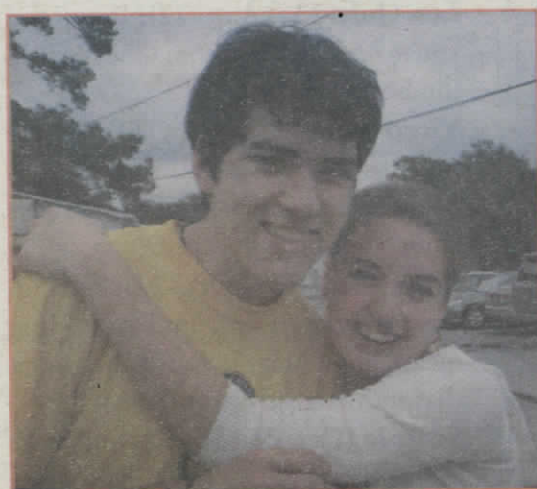
"My mom had just mopped the floor, and when I walked across it, I slipped and my face slammed right into the pumpkin pie on the counter."
-Page Lamprecht, 8th Grade



© Pat's Web Graphics



"The time when someone at the table told a funny joke and milk shot out of my nose and hit my grandmother on the forehead."
-Jonathan Warren, 9th Grade



"Due to my mother's inept cooking, the turkey exploded in the oven."
-Alex Moskos, 10th Grade [pictured with Alex]



"My mom had just finished baking macaroni and cheese and our poodle, Looie, jumped up on the counter and ate every bit of it."
-Frankie Lee, 12th grade



"At my grandparents' house, my grandpa's dog, the 'Jack Russel Terrorist' jumped onto the table and ate the entire turkey."
-Rachel O'Reed, 7th Grade