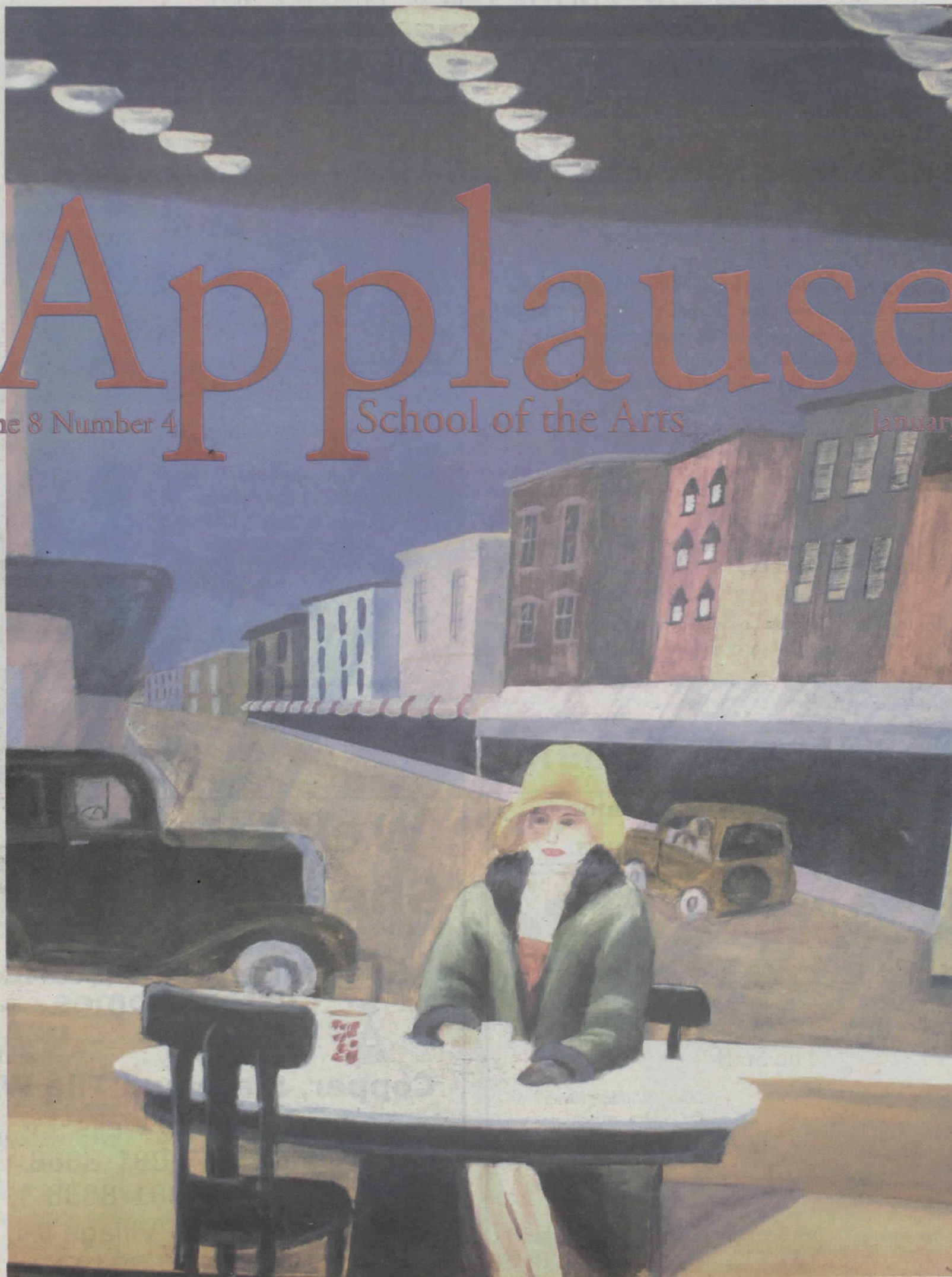


Applause

Volume 8 Number 4

School of the Arts

January 2007



Letter from the Editor



With each issue of *Applause*, I am increasingly excited and proud of the product that the staff puts out. We have continued to more thoroughly recognize the achievements of SOA students. For example, several band majors are featured for their role in an upcoming documentary, and many of the contestants in the Poetry Out Loud school competition are profiled, as well as students working on senior thesis.

I would also like to extend a "thank you" to all of our advertisers, many of whom are new this issue, for their generous support.

The feedback from students and teachers has been positive, and I urge everyone at SOA to write, e-mail, or approach any staff member regarding any comments that our paper provokes.

Sincerely,

Readers Respond

Applause Staff,

I just had to write to tell you how excellent the third edition of *Applause* is. It is the best yet: so polished, so professional, and the color pictures are great! Congratulations!

Well done!

Rose Maree Myers
SOA School Principal

Cover Art: "Untitled" by senior
Laura Matthews. Oil on canvas.



Applause

the official student newspaper of
Charleston County School of the Arts



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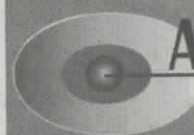
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School Calendar

January 24: Report Cards distributed
January 26: HS Convocation in Band Room during first block
January 27: HS Winter Formal at Charleston Riverview
Marriott
January 29 + 30: 7th Grade Improv in Black Box at 4:00 PM
February 10: MS Theatre's "Tunnel of Love" in Black Box at
6:00 PM
February 19: Presidents Day- No school

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SOA Swing Club

By Kristin de Herder

The Swing Club is the newest club on campus, offering a swinging good time for all those who wish to join. They meet in **Ms. Cecilia Slowinski's** room every Tuesday that falls on a B- day, from 3:30- 4:30 pm. The club plans to introduce a new swing dance combination at the beginning of each meeting, then followed by plenty of time to dance. **Maggie Jo Saylor and Andrew Kay** are two of SOA's swing enthusiasts.



Kristin de Herder

This club is welcome to all high school students that enjoy swing dancing, or are willing to learn how (since previous training in swing dancing is not required). According to one of the presidents of the club, **Riley Lovingood**, the club is for those who "enjoyed Jump, Jive, and Wail, but didn't learn anything about 'this is how you do it'." We are just trying to get everyone to have fun and enjoy to dance."

Band Majors filmed in documentary

By Ashley Sagan

Seven SOA students recently performed in the documentary *Song of Pumpkin Brown*, based on the jazz band of the Jenkins Orphanage, an orphanage for African American children. Filmed in December, the story focuses on a new orphan, Pumpkin, who learns how to fit in with others and begins to play the trumpet. The story chronicles Pumpkin's development and dedication to music.

Local film writer and producer Brad Jayne created the documentary. Needing expert musicians, he contacted **Mr. Basil Kerr**, seeking six male African American instrumentalists. **Zach**

Taylor, Demetrius Doctor, Gabriel Middlebrook, Jamill Fields, Rashad Simmons, and Michael Ancrum were chosen to perform in the documenta-



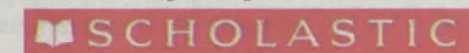
Ashley Sagan

rary. Rashad and Gabriel also earned acting parts. The rest of the boys were filmed playing in the jazz band that was needed for a few scenes. The band consisted of Michael, alto sax; Jamill, baritone sax; Zach, trombone; Demetrius, piano; Gabriel, tenor sax; and Rashad, drums. Strings major Kimberly Jenkins was also featured as a vocalist during the film.

"This is an experience we will never forget," Michael Ancrum says.

Scholastic Praises SOA's Finest Poets

Ms. Anna Bronk, an English teacher here at SOA, used a new and successful teaching technique with her students this year. She had her 10th and 11th grade English students take part in an online poetry project in conjunction with Scholastic. The students were able to participate in three online



poetry writing workshops with famous writers including U.S. Children's Poet Laureate Jack Prelutsky, accomplished children's author Karla Kuskin, and the author of the I Spy series, Jean Marzollo. The students also submitted their own work to possibly get published online at www.scholastic.com. Many of the students were recognized and got their work selected by Scholastic officials. They are now "published poets" on the student writing section of the national website.

Check in upcoming issues for SOA's results in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards!

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Student work: Visual Art

"Untitled"
by senior
Laura
Matthews.
Oil
on Canvas.



Look in the February edition of *Applause* for a full page of student artwork!

National Honor Society Update

By Victoria Doose



Though traditionally held in February, we at the National Honor Society have decided to start Pennies for Patients early this year. For those unfamiliar with this fundraiser, Pennies for Patients raises money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Buckets will be placed in every classroom, into which donations of any spare change or bills can be placed. It starts January 22 and will go on for approximately four weeks.

Also coming up – not this month, but next month – NHS will begin selling carnations in honor of Valentine's Day. So go ahead and set some of your money aside if you plan to purchase one for a sweetheart or a friend.

If you need help with your studies, don't forget that we offer tutoring every Tuesday and Thursday after school in Ms. Cobun's room.

Winter Formal is approaching

By Victoria Doose

Taking place at the Charleston Riverview Marriott Hotel on Saturday January 27, from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., this year's Winter Formal promises to offer a refreshing break from the monotony of winter.

Rather than choosing either a DJ or band, **Ms. Lisa Colquitt** and the Student Council she heads have decided to include both. The DJ, provided by Image Entertainment, will actually play songs preselected by students and will also be bringing a few equipment surprises. In addition, SOA musical representatives will play live every thirty or forty minutes for the Winter Formal attendees, alternating with the DJ. The bands performing from SOA are: Daniel, Joe, and D.; Tru Story; JPI; and Photogenic.

Some may be disappointed to

find out that there will not be any heavy hors d'oeuvres as there were in 2005, but may be delighted to find instead that desserts will be provided to take care of snacking urges. Assorted chocolates and brownies, as well as Charleston cheese straws for any who lack a major sweet tooth, are among these food items.

Tickets can be purchased from January 16 to Jan 26 during both first and second lunch – they will not be sold at the door. In an effort to aid the Lowcountry Food Bank during the winter holiday season, canned food items are being included in the admission price. On January 16 and 17, tickets will cost either \$15 and 5 cans of food or just \$20, and after that, the price will go up to either \$20 and 5 cans of food or just \$25. January 26 is the last day to buy tickets.



The Charleston Riverview Marriott Hotel is located at 35 Lockwood Drive, Downtown.

Bill Hunter
proudly
supports the
Applause staff.

SOA prepares for "Poetry Out Loud"

By Liz Gildea

The next big event in the high school is Poetry Out Loud, a national poetry recitation contest that only recently has been adopted in our area. Unlike other literary contests wherein students enter their own compositions, Poetry Out Loud participants must choose a well-known poem from the official contest anthology and give an apt and engaging oral interpretation in front of a panel of judges.

Ms. Rene Miles, head of the Creative Writing department, spurred our school's participation in Poetry Out Loud after receiving a memo about the contest from the South Carolina Arts Commission. Ms. Miles said the reaction from teachers was amazing – all but one of the English teachers, as well as both Theatre teachers and both Creative Writing teachers, required their students to participate in at least the individual classroom contests.

Students have shown enthusiasm, too. "Poetry frees your mind," said **Wilfred Rivers**, one of thirty students chosen by the teachers to progress to the school-wide contest on January 23 (at 3:45 in the Black Box).

Deanna Kerley, a freshman and a creative writer, will also be competing on the 23rd. "Literary readings have definitely helped," said Deanna, referring to the public recitations every creative writing major is required to do starting in 6th grade.

Sophomore **Preston Hogue**, another competitor, also cited his major as a source of preparation for the contest. "I approach it like any other monologue or anything else I do in theatre," he said, "so I'm used to it." One of Preston's poems is a Shakespeare sonnet – and as any theater major (or friend of one) knows, there is no shortage of Shakespeare in their curriculum.

Brett Simms, a junior, has chosen to perform "Bilingual/Bilingüe" by Rhina P. Espaillat – a poem concerning, and infused with, the Spanish language. "I spoke a *little* Spanish," Brett said. "But... it takes some time [to master it in the

poem]. It makes it unique, though."

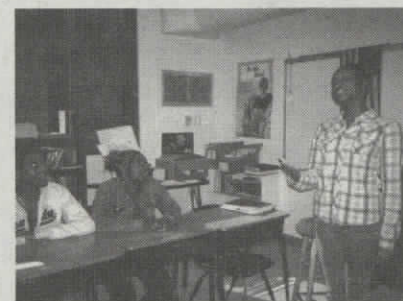
PoetryOutLoud.org reminds hopefuls that entering isn't as simple as memorization and regurgitation: students must be able, without any props, to convey the subtleties of their poems through vocal inflection, pace, volume, facial expressions, gestures and overall presence onstage. They stress that "Poetry recitation is about the poem, not the performance."

Kids who have **Ms. Anna Bronk** for Honors English II or CP English III delved into the delicate art of constructive criticism as they went through the rehearsal process together. By letting the students drive

the critique, Ms. Bronk said, the class was able to share varied impressions of both the poetry and the oral portrayals. "I'm listening for different things than they are," she said. "Some kids will take an approach to it in a way I hadn't thought of."

Even for students who don't have a penchant for performing, the very process of internalizing a poem's meaning and feeling helps to develop a certain literary sensibility; and the recitation itself encourages students to build their public speaking skills. And, with such a high involvement from the English department, Ms. Miles said, the contest has exposed nearly every high schooler to "an amount of poetry they wouldn't get in any other way."

With three levels of competition – school-, region- and state-wide – before finalists reach the national recitation in April, those who ascend to the top will have several months to refine their performance. In this case, practice will pay off, literally: there is a \$200 prize for the state winner, plus a \$500 stipend for the student's school and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. to compete in the National Finals; and at the national level, a total of \$50,000 in scholarships and stipends will be awarded, including a \$20,000 scholarship for the Poetry Out Loud National Champion.



Seniors Cherelle Pinckney and Courtney Burgess listen to a poem performed by senior Ashli Burnell, who was chosen for the school competition.

Liz Gildea

Where are they now?: Daniel Vincent

By Ashley Sagan

Daniel Vincent—a graduate of SOA's class of 2006, who excelled in both academics and long distance running—attends Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah where he studies Computer and Electrical Engineering.

Ashley Sagan: What do you miss most about home?

Daniel Vincent: I miss the warm weather and all of my friends, but I have a lot of family out here, so it balances out pretty well.

AS: What do you miss most about SOA?

DV: I miss the people the most, both students and teachers. Everyone was so close together. Now I'm at a school with almost 30,000 other students. It's quite a change.

AS: Are you still engaged in your band pursuits?

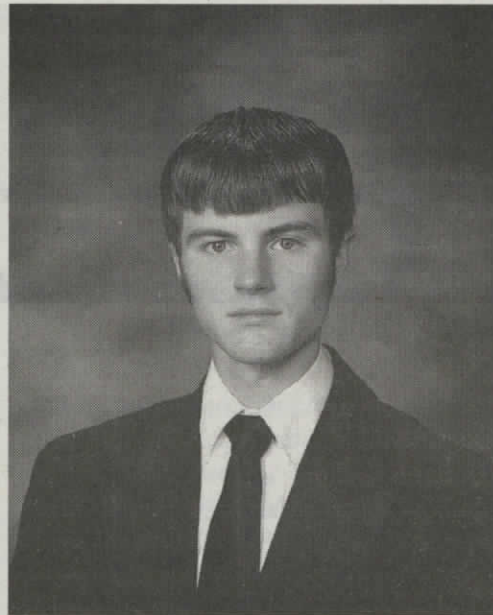
DV: I didn't take any band classes last semester, but this semester I'm playing in the University Band, the only non-audition band ensemble on campus. I've been practicing a little here and there for the past few months, though, so I'm still in decent shape.

AS: How has attending SOA benefited you?

DV: SOA taught me how to be dedicated and work hard at many different disciplines simultaneously. A lot of my friends here at BYU have complained to me about how hard college is kicking their butts because they had it too easy in high school. In a nutshell, it kept me aiming for high standards.

AS: Why did you choose BYU?

DV: the overwhelming factor in choosing my school was money. The only two schools I was accepted to were Duke University and BYU. I was going to wind up paying about \$17,000 out of my pocket for Duke versus the \$4,000 I would have to pay to go to BYU even though it is much further away, so that made it pretty easy. Another large factor was the fact that I am a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the



church which endorses my school, so I was better guaranteed of being around others who share my values. Finally, I came here to run. BYU's track and cross country teams consistently place in the top 10 nationally, plus I really like the coach, Ed Eyeston.

AS: How has your experience been for you so far?

DV: Overall it's been fun. I had a strong workload last semester. So I didn't have as much social time as I would have liked, but I got three really hard classes out of the way, so this semester will be a lot easier. I get to take classes like snowboarding here that I never even dreamed of taking back home, plus they give you P.E. credit for playing a sport here, so I think I'm getting a pretty good deal.

AS: What will you do next?

DV: After winter semester I'm going to take two years off to serve a mission for my church, during which time my life will be entirely devoted to spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. There's no vacation, no time off to train, and I have to pay my own way, but the hard work will certainly be worth it. When I come back I'll resume my studies (and hopefully my training). I'll just have to see where it goes from there.

AS: Any long-term goals?

DV: Right now I'm trying to decide if I want to stick with engineering. I'm taking a beginning accounting class this semester to see if I might be interested in switching over. My dad is a certified public accountant and I have always been interested in what he does, so I'm going to check it out to see if it might be for me as well. As for a job, that's too far down the road to be worrying about right now. I just need a general direction at the moment.

Where where they then?: Mr. Orvin

By Amber Caparas

Amber Caparas: Where were you born and where did you grow up?

Mr. Heath Orvin: April 23 1953—local boy—Charleston S.C.! Raised in Mt. Pleasant—when country wasn't cool.

AC: What was your childhood like in general?

HO: Had a boat & motor before I had a bicycle—always outside. Mom was a teacher. I loved *Andy Griffin*, *3 Stooges*, *Munsters*, and *Gilligan's Island*. We had the first dock on Shem Creek.

AC: What would you say impacted you the most as a child?

HO: My parents gave my sister and me a nice life-style—we had a lot of freedom as children, but we learned the meaning of the word "RESPECT" at an early age.

AC: Do you remember what you wanted to do when you were growing up?

HO: 1st a Doctor—O.K.! Then I started surfing and my whole professional outlook

changed. The travel bug for that "perfect wave" bit me in the 8th grade.

AC: What was the most important thing you took with you from your middle/high school years?

HO: Porter-Gaud was an all boy's school in the 60's and early 70's. All my teachers were hard-core ex. military. They instilled in me to always do my best and to enjoy life!

AC: What college(s) did you attend and what were your majors?

HO: USC. Gamecock—class of 75! History major with the ability and opportunity to teach—planned to move straight to Maui after high school, but my Dad said hold on there!

AC: Did you participate in any of the decade appropriate activities (Woodstock, flower power, disco clubbing, exercise with Richard Simmons, etc.)?

HO: My parents wouldn't let me go to Woodstock—too young! I was more of

a long-haired surfer in the 70's. Hated disco—Yuk—Richard Simmons is weird. I followed the originals—Stones and Allman Brothers.

AC: What happened after college?

HO: Graduated May 11—moved to Maui, HI, on May 15th. At that time Hawaii was un-crowded—I had always wanted to surf "Big Waves." It was a humbling experience. The Islands & South Pacific are a surfer's Mecca.

AC: When and why did you begin teaching and how do you like it?

HO: 1976—St Joseph's in HI. I love young people—their enthusiasm, views of life—I like the camaraderie and interaction—it's such a kick. I guess it's my calling, for it's not a job—seems natural to me.

AC: Any regrets?

HO: Maybe I should have stayed longer in

Tahiti & Fiji. Wish I had met Ms. Beth Lasley sooner!

AC: What are you most proud of in your life?

HO: My two children—Allison, who is quite an accomplished rider, and my son, Chase, who makes every day an adventure. Also, my wife, Beth—she's beautiful, funny—so special!

AC: What would you say have been your life's passions?

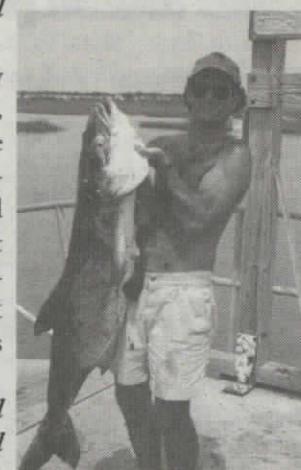
HO: Surfing, fishing, and hunting. But first and foremost, trying to be the best father, husband, and teacher I can be. As they tell me—I've got a lot of potential!

AC: What are your future plans/goals?

HO: With a new baby, I'll be teaching for a while. These are the happiest days of my life. God has blessed me with a great wife and with great children. Teaching keeps me young. My goal is to make a difference along the way. I believe in Karma—each day is a gift—I'm enjoying the "ride."



"I was more of a long-haired surfer in the 70's," says Mr. Orvin.



Mr. Orvin is an avid fisherman in his free time.

Senior Thesis over Dance, piano, string

Research and creativity involved in choreography

By Blake Engel

At the beginning of senior year, a dance student has two choices – take a class in technique, or take on the senior thesis. To be a part of the latter, they must first gain faculty approval. “Senior thesis is a summary of all their dance training at SOA,” says high school dance instructor **Mr. Leonard Anderson**. “It requires independent work and self-reliance.”

Since the beginning of the school year, students have been working every B-day on their thesis. From the start, they practiced with improvisation and short choreographic studies. The performance at the convocation earlier in the year was the end result of these studies. Next, they began choreographing dances using each other as the subjects. On February 22, they will perform this portion of the senior thesis.

Jenna Tuttle choreographs themed piece

By Blake Engel

Lindsay Fischer, Carolyn Newsome, and Gabby Barons will be performing in **Jenna Tuttle's** as-of-yet untitled dance piece later this year. The piece was choreographed by Jenna for her senior thesis, which requires that each student choreograph a piece of her own.

Senior thesis also requires her to be a part of three other performances. As of January, she knows that she will be working with senior choreographers **Emma Chilcote** and **Christina Kelley**.

“We learn not to be afraid to explore movement,” she says of her efforts to create her senior thesis. According to Jenna, the process of choreography is all about “inventing

Finally, they will work in and out of class on their final choreographic product, which will be performed in April.

“Senior thesis is the first step in becoming an artist instead of an art student,” Mr. Anderson says.

Along with their practice, the dance majors must research different styles, types, and techniques of choreography. Furthermore, they must keep a journal that documents their progress and, more importantly, their process. The purpose of this journal, says Mr. Anderson, is so he can “see what they’re working on.”

“The [senior thesis] process always needs to change and develop as our school changes,” he says. Though a strenuous task that requires astounding dedication, in April, we will see how this year’s seniors have mastered it.

new moments” and “creating your own style.”

Jenna says that her piece focuses on mental disorders, specifically Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, Turrettes Syndrome, and schizophrenia. Each disorder involves a unique movement on stage, such as the dancer displaying O.C.D. having to do certain motions, like hitting the ground in uncontrollable patterns common to those with O.C.D.

Jenna, along with the rest of the senior dance majors, will be performing their pieces at an informal recital in the Black Box in February.

Long piano recitals require preparation, stamina

By Blake Engel

If the piano majors intend to continue in music, they must be able to survive gargantuan recitals, says piano teacher **Ms. Debra Benson**. “They have to learn to build up their endurance,” she says. “If they continue to study music on college, they will have to do similar performances as part of their degree.”

“They have been used to preparing to perform one or two pieces at one performance,” she says. With this thesis, every obligation is increased. The piano senior thesis requires the student to perform for 25-30 minutes of selected work. They can participate in an ensemble with strings or woodwinds or they can perform a

Cherelle Pinckney performs a variety of pieces

By Blake Engel

Cherelle Pinckney, SOA senior piano major, is a big fan of Ludwig van Beethoven. Just as he was going deaf, he composed a sonata, and for her thesis, Cherelle has chosen to perform the complete piece as well as two other pieces.

Back in December, Cherelle performed at the Billy Joel/Elton John concert, where she played “Piano Man,” with **Mr. Brett Johnson** doing the vocals. “I had to look twice to make sure it wasn’t Billy Joel at the piano,” said English teacher **Dr. John Cusatis**, who accompanied Cherelle and Mr. Johnson on the harmonica.

So it’s no surprise that Cherelle has chosen “Piano Man” as her second piece. Dr. Cusatis is trying

jazz ballad if they were involved in jazz piano. Some students choose to create an original composition.

Such a large performance requires preparation of equal scale. Planning begins before senior year, usually in the spring of the students’ junior year. The solo classical music must be completely memorized and the piano majors must practice with their ensemble. To achieve this, the students set goals and must accomplish them by a certain date.

If everything goes well and deadlines are kept, then the students will be properly prepared and ready for their performances. The performances will be held in late April or May.

to convince her to play the harmonica herself for her thesis performance, but for now she plans to stick just to the ivories.

For her third and final selection, Cherelle has decided on Brahms’s Intermzzo 118 #2.

She has been preparing her thesis since last year. So far, she has learned parts of the Beethoven, completed the Brahms, and completed the Billy Joel. Starting in the new year, she plans to start practicing with senior **Elliot Matticks**, who will take over the vocals on “Piano Man.”

“I’m really excited about getting a chance to showcase a good bit of my work,” she said. Cherelle will be performing each of these three pieces on May 18.

Seniors prepare solo, chamber

by Blake Engel

From Mozart to Mendelssohn violin concerti, the work required for the strings senior thesis is “intense,” says strings teacher Mrs. Fitzgerald.

The thesis is not mandatory, but anyone who attempts it will be receiving plenty of preparation for future auditions. Rehearsing for their senior thesis gives the students “experience in handling performance anxiety and nerves.” “This is a good way to prepare seniors for college music auditions,” she says.

Students must prepare and perform one concerto, which involves work for a solo instrument and an orchestra, and one chamber piece, which involves a small ensemble such as a string quartet. As with most of the senior theses, the students prepare mainly at home and on a daily basis. When they near their final recital, the strings majors will begin practicing with



Jenna takes inspiration for her pieces from mental disorders.

Blake Engel



Cherelle enjoys playing both classical and contemporary pieces.

Blake Engel



Laila Roudsan, a cellist, uses time in school to work on her Thesis

Lucy Hunter

views, part two: s, vocal, visual arts

er and orchestra pieces

Vocalists prepare demanding recital, requires stamina

By Blake Engel

the orchestra or with their small ensembles.

Past strings theses include violin, clarinet, horn and flute concerti from such composers as

"Not everyone has the discipline, stamina, or desire to work that hard," says **Mr. Robin Rogers**, high school vocal teacher, of the vocal senior thesis. "It's beyond the class duties."

This is the first year that the thesis will be an option for vocal majors. Last year, two seniors did a vocal project that involved their memorizing one song. But this thesis requires the student to memorize five solos, specifically one aria from an opera, a French or German art song, an Italian art song, a contemporary song, and a song of their own choosing.

The student and the teacher work together to determine which songs the student will be singing for his or her recital. More importantly, Mr. Rogers notes, this thesis helps prepare the students for college auditions. By strengthening their technique, memorization skills, and their performance skills, they become better prepared for the college scholarship audition process.

Frankie Lee, a senior vocal major, has already auditioned once, singing a Handel aria and a German art song. **Angela Bedell** and **Maggie Hendricks** are

working on their own auditions, as are seniors **Lindsay Hollabaugh**, **Hilary Robertson**, **Elliot Maddicks**, and **Ledana Sanders**.

When asked if the senior thesis is important to the students, Mr. Roger responds, "Truly. They gain confidence in singing in front of people." If this aids them in getting into college, he says, then the seniors can "sing their way through school."

The vocal senior majors practice for a minimum of five hours a week while meeting with a mentor. To even be allowed to participate, the students must sign a contract that reads, "Applicants must be committed to practicing...or they will be dropped from the senior thesis project."

Mr. Rogers describes this year as a "learning and building year" for senior thesis. Therefore, they have only recently begun in full the thesis process. The rest of the year has been taken up by other concerts and auditions. If they remain on schedule, as they no doubt will, then they will be performing their recital from May 4-6.

Thesis requires portfolio that captures student voice

By Blake Engel and David Whitley

Each year, the senior visual arts majors have a grand task set before them. This project involves months of preparation, sketching, and most importantly inspiration. The visual artists must create a cohesive body of work due in early May.

"There is a lot of great work being created by the seniors right now," said visual arts teacher **Ms. Jaycie Rappold**. "My favorite thing to see is when they find their voice and start creating work that is personal and meaningful."

The senior thesis requires that each student create a twelve-piece body of work. First, they decide on a theme to bring the pieces together. "It takes a lot of time, thought, research and development of ideas in order to create a body of work," notes Mrs. Rappold. As seniors work on their

thesis, they research, work in their sketchbook, or, when they are prepared to begin, create one of the twelve pieces. The project will span the entire year and makes up the majority of their arts curriculum.

Practice is one of the most important ideas behind the entire process. "They work as an artist would," she says. "Artists work in series and it is important the students start practicing that now."

Of this year's seniors, she says, "This class is a hard working, motivated group of individuals. I have known many of them since they were in the fourth grade when they were taking classes from me because they were trying to get into SOA. I love this senior class and will miss them dearly."

When asked about current projects, she remarks, "I invite anyone in the school to come see the work for themselves." The senior work will be shown at the end of the year at 10 Storehouse Row.

Thesis Sample:



Nick Bates. Four plate wood cut.

Every year, seniors send their portfolios to be graded for credit in AP Studio Art.



Lucy Hunter

Lucy Robles practices a violin piece for her Senior Thesis.

such, Beethoven, and even Billy Joel.

"I enjoy the concerto concert every year," says Mrs. Fitzgerald. "And I think the students do also." At the orchestra concert on May 21, small chamber ensembles will perform. Concerto concerts will be performed on May 8. The location for this performance has yet to be decided upon.

Watch the upcoming strings performance at Convocation on January 26 in the Band room!

How to... Win an argument every time

By David Whitley



All is going well with your friend in the cafeteria one fine day, when all of the sudden your friend broaches one of the four forbidden topics in a relationship. These are generally applied to dating relationships, but these four topics can tend to make even simple friendships tense and uncomfortable. All of the sudden, your casual conversation has become... *an*

ARGUMENT.

Arguments are commonly misconstrued as being antisocial and promoting violence, when in fact they relieve tension that would otherwise build up and express itself as violent behavior. Of course, arguments are also misconstrued as "problems to be solved." That's a false statement if I've ever heard one. Everybody knows it's all about who wins. People will try to tell you that there are no winners in an argument, but that's because the arguments they cite are unfinished and will manifest themselves later in antisocial outbursts. The following is a guide to help you definitively win an argument and prevent social aftershocks.

1. DO NOT SET OUT TO WIN.

State that your opinion differs from theirs and weakly summarize it in a non-argument tone.

2. Admit that they are right at all times.

Repeat it as often as necessary, but state that you are confused about their exact viewpoint.

3. Ask leading questions.

Ask them to elaborate on any and all points of their philosophy. Take note of any possible contradictions. Point out these contradictions in the form of questions rather than direct statements. Through their own clarifications they will have ended up proving themselves wrong and you will merely come off as curious and inquisitive. Reassure them that you think they are right if they become suspicious midway through the process.

Erasure is more than a matter of black and white

By guest writer Maggie Jo Saylor

Percival Everett, *Erasure*, Hyperion, \$10.99.

Almost as offensive as the timeless issues of racism in America are the patronizing stereotypes that emerge from trying too hard to be politically correct. In Percival Everett's *Erasure*, novelist Thelonious "Monk" Ellison becomes fed up with the population's praise of books like *We Lives in Da Ghetto*, a crude account of what is supposedly the true essence of being an African American in the United States. Much like the author of *Erasure*, Percival Everett, who majored in philosophy and biochemistry at the University of Miami and currently teaches English at the University of Southern California, Monk is an articulate, critically acclaimed wordsmith, well-educated English professor. The character states about his own writing "I was a victim of racism by virtue of my failing to acknowledge racial difference and by failing to have my art be defined as an exercise in racial self-expression." He felt insulted and disgusted upon seeing a book he wrote about Greek and Persian history shelved in the "African American Studies" section of the bookstore simply because he, the

author, is black.

As Monk struggles to support his aging mother and himself on a meager salary, his outrage peaks and he sits down to write the bitter parody "My Pafology," a ridiculous account of a young black man leading the life of a thief, rapist, drug-dealer and murderer. He publishes "My Pafology," (included in *Erasure*) and to his utmost disgust it becomes an instant success and a best-seller, including a nomination for an award that Monk is on the committee to judge.

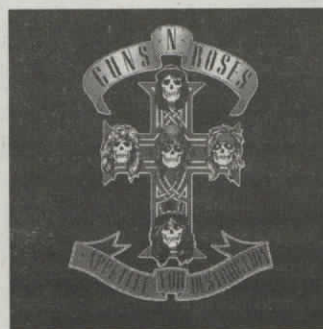
Everett conveys the frustration of the educated African American male who is always expected to have lived exactly like the character in "My Pafology." He uses dark humor and satire to entertain his readers while having them ponder their own accidental or intentional racism. In a casual yet intellectual voice, Monk recalls times where he "had to prove [he] was black enough." The novel, especially the section containing "My Pafology," is hilarious and thought-provoking, and should be read by people of all races as a way to disprove stereotypes and racists.

Appetite for Destruction is the rock anthem of the 80's

By David Whitley

Guns N' Roses, *Appetite for Destruction*, Geffen Records, \$9.99.

Although Guns N' Roses may not be old enough to be considered classic rock like Pink Floyd or the Beatles, *Appetite for Destruction*, their debut album, certainly deserves a place in musical history. Guns N' Roses are widely regarded as one of the great American rock bands that everyone followed and bought every album, like the Stones in their heyday. *Appetite for Destruction* has drawn fire from people that believe the inherent artistry of their songs is compromised by their efforts to be shocking by including swear words throughout. Despite these infrequent



and mild criticisms, I feel that it is safe to say that there is not a person over 16 that hasn't - at some point - turned on the radio and heard "Sweet Child O' Mine" being played, and "Welcome to the Jungle" has become the entrance and theme song to many professional sports teams like the Cincinnati Bengals and the New York Jets.

Originally released in 1987 by Geffen records, *Appetite* contains many of Guns N' Roses most well-known hits, such as "Sweet Child O' Mine," which was written for lead singer Axl Rose's then girlfriend Erin Everly and is a rock ballad with drawn out vocals and a slow

yet memorable guitar solo. The rest of the songs are considerably faster-paced. "Welcome to the Jungle" was based on Axl's first impressions of Los Angeles and describes the flagrant vice of the big city. "Paradise City" is a fast-paced song about urban life with a memorable chorus and vocals delivered at a speed close to rapping. *Appetite* is widely considered to be a classic hard rock album as well as the birth of a subgenre called "sleaze rock." Rave reviews aside, this album is not for children or those who can't take some mild swearing mixed in their rock and roll and the edgy sound bytes in the middle of "Rocket Queen." If you aren't familiar with this famous album I would highly recommend it to any hard rock aficionado.

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Don't miss *The Children of Men*

By Amber Caparas

As the sounds of playgrounds faded into an eerie silence, total despair replaced all hope. Women had mysteriously gone sterile and the human race was on the brink of extinction. After 18 years without children, a woman conceives.

Set in London, 2027, *The Children of Men* opens with a sequence of typical cinematic scenes that are thrilling and relatively satisfying. The film's protagonists, Theo (Clive Owen) and Ju-



Theo, played by Clive Owen, protects the world's only woman capable of childbirth.

lian (Julianne Moore), reunite after years of separation from their past life together to protect Kee (Clare-Hope Ashitey), the woman with child.

Initially, I assumed that *The Children of Men* was going to be just another action-packed, "overcome the obstacles and save the world" kind of movie. Then, about halfway through the plot, it seemed as if the director, Alfonso Cuarón, got up one morning and decided to turn the second half of the movie into a film noir.

Unfortunately, this resulted in quite a few drawn out, overdramatic, awkwardly artsy scenes. Many of the film's key moments felt like mere tear

jerking tactics trying to squeeze out as much emotion from the audience as they could before the credits rolled. And yet, once the credits did roll and the theater lights came on, I found more to praise than criticize.

The images were powerful—gruesome and gut wrenching, but made beautiful by the political and spiritual messages they conveyed. I even murmured a few melancholy "wows" as

commercially played on London's public plasma screens; as a woman held her own severed arm after a civilian bombing; and as blood splattered unexpectedly on the camera lens during a heart-pounding battle scene.

Despite my disappointments and my considerable frustration with the film's resolution (or lack thereof), I would recommend that all see *The Children of Men* before it leaves theaters. This movie provokes questions that must be asked, even if they can't be answered: questions about life, legacy, and the tragic consequences of our global decisions. *Rated R.*

Restaurant Review: Doe's Pita is delicious, close to school

By Lucy Hunter

If you are looking for a quick bite or are wanting to try out more adventurous cuisine, consider Doe's Pita for your next after-school destination. Offering freshly baked pita with which store-bought brands cannot compete, the menu at Doe's includes a variety of pita-pockets ranging from classic, such as turkey burger, to Syrian-Lebanese, such as a lamb and beef combo known as "baked kibbi." Side dishes packed in half-pint containers serve a variety of dishes, such as tabouli and stuffed grape leaves. Shy away from the avocado salad, however, because it tends to have too many radishes. Pita, pita-chips, and a selection of bakery items are also sold to-go. Food can be taken out or enjoyed in the small dining area. Unique and affordable (around \$8 per person), Doe's Pita is a definite crowd-pleaser.

Locations:

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334 E Bay St # F
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(843) 577-3179

Open: 8AM-8PM M-F, 8AM-5PM
Sa, 11AM-5PM Su



On the Roster:

Local (and not so local) concerts

January

- 26 John Hiatt/Lyle Lovett @ North Charleston Performing Arts Center
- 25 Incubus with @ the House of Blues in Myrtle Beach
- 26 The Lemonheads @ The Music Farm
- 27 Army of Anyone/Hurt @ the House of Blues in Myrtle Beach

February

- 3 Chingy @ the House of Blues in Myrtle Beach
- 8 John Mayer @ the Colonial Center in Columbia



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Horoscopes

By the SOA Astrologer

♈ Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Dick Clark wishes you a Happy New Year from inside his cryogenic life-support chamber.

♉ Aquarius (Jan. 20-February 18): Some people mock vegetarians for their diet and I agree that it is odd that they don't eat dead animal carcasses like the rest of us. But let's just let them live in their own world for now.

♊ Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): If a tree falls in the woods does it make a sound? Well, any sound it could make would most likely be blotted out by the roaring scream of chainsaws and swinging axes. So we'll probably never know.

♈ Aries (March 21-April 19): if you see a really bright star in the sky, make a wish. If possible, wish that it's not a near-earth asteroid just a few moments from impact.

♉ Taurus (April 20-May 20): A good way to get attention is to pay someone to attack you.

♊ Gemini (May 21-June 21): If you are getting your advice from this horoscope, then perhaps you should get some international news from *The Star* and *Teen Vogue*.

♋ Cancer (June 22-July 22): In a recent effort to canonize the late soul singer James Brown, the Reverend Al Sharpton flew to meet with the Pope at the Vatican. Upon hearing Sharpton's request, the Pope reportedly replied, "I'm more of a Marvin Gaye kind of guy." This has been your horoscope news break.

♌ Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): You don't need to be afraid of chickens because they could never pursue world domination. To rule with an iron wing would certainly hamper their means of transportation.

♍ Virgo (August 23-September 22): Be thankful that the world isn't flat, because then pancakes would kind of lose their magic.

♎ Libra (Sep. 23-Oct. 22): Don't bother playing with your goldfish, because it's already had a traumatic life at the fair. You don't need to make it worse.

♏ Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21): If you want to go places in life, you must get a job. To get a job, you must resign yourself to being in one place for the majority of your day. This is the grim irony of the 9-to-5.

♐ Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In case you're wondering, the world's peculiar fascination with Chuck Norris can be traced back to around 27 A.D. when, according to the scripture Jesus said to his disciple John, "You know, my father is a big fan of Chuck Norris."

January Stylewatch: Gold and Silver

By Kristin de Herder



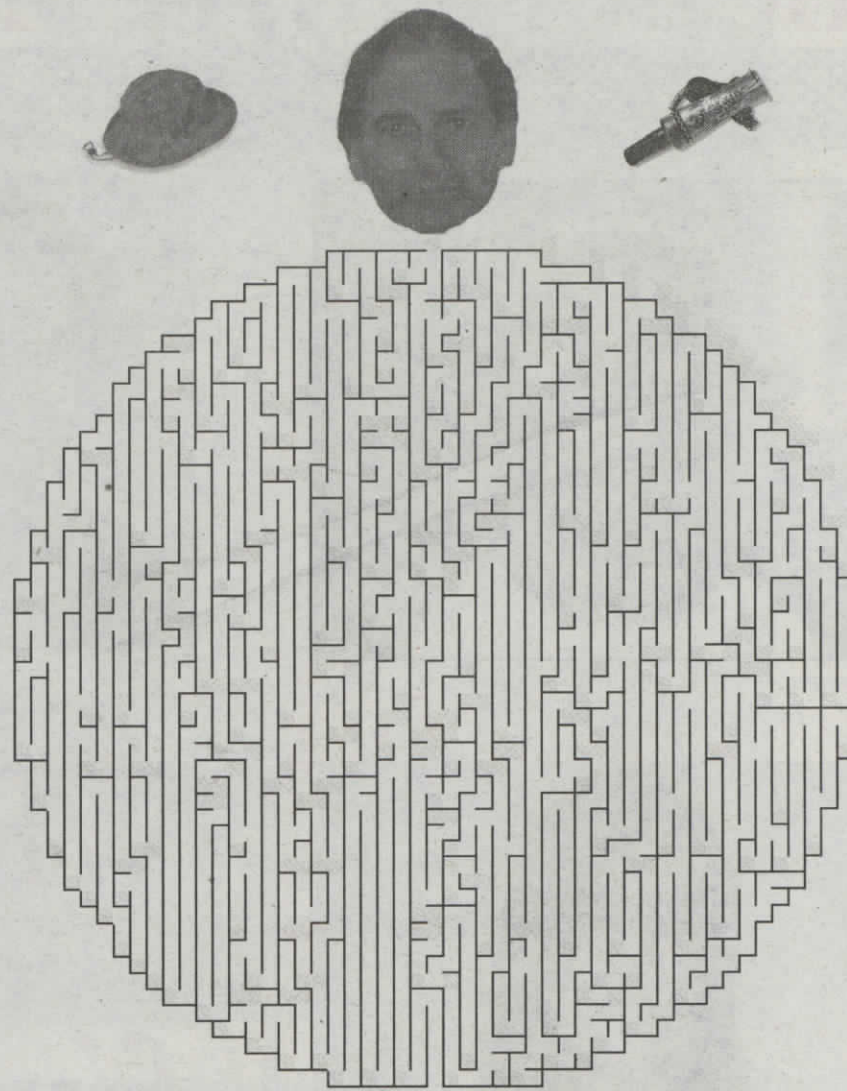
It's no surprise that silver and gold are making a comeback. After all, who doesn't love something that shines and sparkles? By adding silver or gold, you create an eye catching outfit that lights up the room. Of course, when I say silver or gold, I'm not just referring to jewelry. You can find metallic shoes, purses, and belts (just to name a few) almost anywhere. Another great way to incorporate these colors is silver or gold beaded accents on a cute top and silver or gold buttons on a jacket. Although I made the point that there is more to silver and gold than jewelry, in no way am I discrediting jewelry. In fact, sometimes all an outfit needs is a shimmering accessory to really pull the outfit together. In both traditional and bold styles, silver and gold are versatile colors and can be easily incorporated into your wardrobe, so why don't you give it a try?



Senior Ashley Hunter shines in silvery earrings.

Kristin de Herder

Help Mr. Orvin find a duck for his dinner!



QUACK!



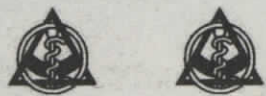
QUACK!

Test your logic with these challenging Sudoku

7			3	5	4
	4		8	1	9
9	6	1	2	7	3
	4	3		8	
8					7
	5		4	1	
4	8	5	1	9	6
1	9	2	4		
5	6	4			1

		6		5		1
7	9			6		
		5	2		7	6
	6				4	3
		4	6	2	1	8
8	2					6
2	3			9	6	
			1		9	4
4			7		5	

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"Sgraffito, which is a decoration produced on pottery" - Tre Raynor, 6th Grade



"Djibouti, an area of Islamic territory in North Africa" - Cierah Sargent, 7th Grade



"Biodegradable, meaning capable of being decomposed by natural agents." - Arthur Philips, 8th Grade



"Spelunking, another word for caving." - Katie Drennan, freshman

What is
your
favorite
word?



"Jugglery, which is the art or practice of a juggler." - Monique Collins, sophomore



"Jabroni: A wrestler who throws a match in order to make his opponent look good." - Tristan Richardson, junior



"Shish kebab, which is a skewer filled with seasoned meat and vegetables." - Thomas McCarthy, senior



"Scherzando, a music tempo." - Ms. Susan Johnson, Strings teacher