

Applause

Vol. 8 No. 5

School of the Arts

February 2007



Celebrating African-American artists

Letter from the Editor



I would like to wish everyone a Happy Valentine's Day! *Applause* covers the holiday with the Question of the Month, which reveals the romantic crushes of several SOA students and faculty. Similarly, **Amber Caparas** recommends a fun romantic comedy in her movie review.

The enormous contribution of African-American artists to literature, music and film is emphasized throughout the February issue of *Applause*, with respect to Black History Month. Celebrating these men and women, whose works are both classic and recent, reinforces the importance of multiculturalism in America's rich artistic tradition. At School of the Arts, legacies of important black artists are especially important to acknowledge and preserve.

In the centerfold, **Blake Engel** examines the history of Black History Month, and **Victoria Doose** surveys students on their favorite African American artists of several different media. Monumental works by Ralph Ellison and Jimi Hendrix are reviewed by guest writer **Frank Shary** and **David Whitley**, respectively. **Kristin de Herder's** fashion column profiles an influential black designer, and the cover artwork also reflects the spirit of the month.

I am excited to introduce a new section of our newspaper, Middle School News, written almost entirely by our middle school interns: **Chelsea Adent**, **Desie Ashe-Bradford**, **Mary Lee Carter**, **Paige Lamprecht**, **Eric Payne** and **Gabrielle Wolfe**. The commitment of these individuals has helped *Applause* to widen its scope of coverage, which we hope will be appreciated by the sixth, seventh and eighth grade students.

In addition to Valentine's Day and Black History Month, the observance of Chinese New Year by many of SOA's Chinese students is profiled, and in an interesting "President's Day Challenge" on page 11, we found out just how little SOA students know about money.

Please enjoy this issue of *Applause*; it was a pleasure for the staff to put together and is an even greater pleasure to read.

Sincerely,

Cover art by Syreitta Grey, junior.



Applause

the official student newspaper of
Charleston County School of the Arts



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School Calendar

February 19: President's Day- no school

February 21: Interim report cards go out

March 8: American Red Cross Blood Drive at the bus loop

March 17: Quest Competition at Trident Tech

March 23: End of 3rd grading period

March 26: Teacher workday- no school

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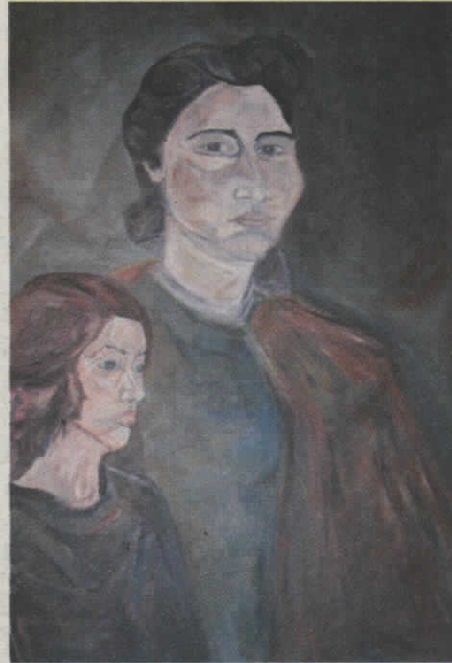
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Visual Arts samples: Scholastic Art Award winners



Swimming with Loggerheads by Weston DeWolf. Mixed media.



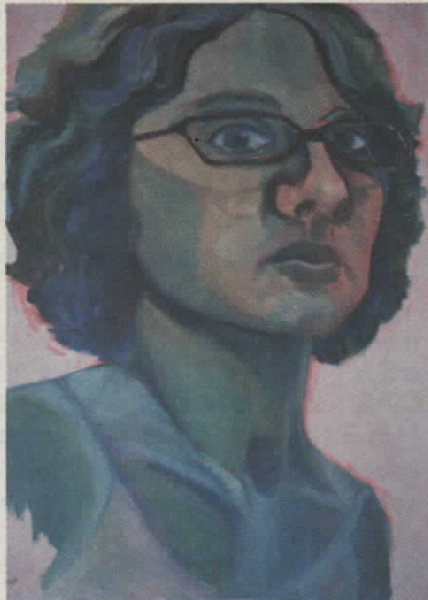
German Immigrants by Brooke Warden. Painting.



Beautiful But Bored by Robbi Amick. Painting.



Self Portrait by Colleen Brennan. Drawing.



Self Portrait #2 by Lenna Walker. Painting.



Thorny Devils by Angelica Halvarsson. Printmaking.



Big River Costume by Min Bu. Apparel design.



Self Portrait by Anastasia Timina. Printmaking.



Portrait of Min by Zachariah Collins. Drawing.



Medieval Elegance by Kendall Jones. Apparel design.



Take-off on Picasso's Self Portrait by Joey Dixon. Ceramics & glass.



Carlos by Hannah McClesky. Drawing.

National Honor Society Update

By Victoria Doose



The National Honor Society's biggest February event is the selling and distribution of carnations to help SOA celebrate Valentine's Day. Sales began on January 29 in the cafeteria and in front of the snack machines and ended February 13. The flowers and their Valentine messages are to be distributed during first period on the holiday itself.

Also going on this month is the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society fundraiser known as Pennies for Patients. This collection of spare change, which began January 22, ends in February. NHS thanks everyone for the donations (as, most certainly, does the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society).

Happy Valentine's Day, everyone!

Students celebrate Chinese New Year

By Blake Engel

The Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival or Lunar New Year, is one of the most important days of the year for Chinese around the world. A fifteen-day holiday commemorating the beginning of the new year, the Chinese New Year is a time for family to come together for celebration. This year (the Year of the Pig, in the Chinese Zodiac) the events begin February 18 and continue until March 5.

Several students at SOA observe the celebration, including senior **Ying Fang** and juniors **Ally Bing** and **Min Bu**.

Ying said that this is the first time in a few years that she has celebrated Chinese New Year. "It's important in my life because I'm a Buddhist," she said. "And it brings my family together." In China, she recalled, a group of people would carry around a gargantuan statue of the Buddha so that families could pray to it.

For Ally, the New Year is a much more casual occasion. "We go out to a Chinese restaurant for dinner," she noted.

S.A.D.D. to host annual blood drive

By Blake Engel

On Thursday, March 8, The American Red Cross, in conjunction with Students Against Destructive Decisions, will be holding a blood drive in the bus loop in their RV known as "The Bloodmobile." Eight people can give blood at once. Experienced medical supervisors will be on hand to draw blood from 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Food and drinks will be provided.

"A lot of people don't understand why blood is so desperately needed," says guidance counselor **Ms. Kim Carr**. "When a loved one is involved, it could be nice you had a supply [of blood] readily available."

This year, the goal for collected blood is 40 pints. Last year the goal was 35 pints and volunteers ended up donating 41 pints.

If you are serious about giving blood,

In addition, her grandmother will give her small packets, known as red packets or *lai si* (in Cantonese) or *hong bao* (in Mandarin), filled with money.

Each day of the celebration is marked by its own unique events and superstitions. For instance, on the second day, everyone makes certain to feed dogs well because it is believed that it is their birthday. On the fifth day, fireworks are set off to welcome the God of Treasure. Before the holiday actually begins, the family must clean their house in a ceremony that cleanses their house of any evil spirits.

Min celebrates in a similar way to Ying. Every year her family gathers to enjoy the Lunar New Year. Usually her family will play holiday music. Just like Ally and Ying, she receives red packets and she also gets some candy, which is distributed among the children. "It's a happy occasion," she said.

Of course, the big staples of the New Year are food and family. Fireworks and prayer round out the holiday festivities.

then sign up as soon as possible because there are only so many medical staff members to take your donation. Two weeks before the drive, sign-up sheets will be distributed through the social studies department. Sign-up requires that you choose a time to give blood.

Once accepted, you need to make certain you abide by certain requirements. The minimum age is 17 and you must weigh at least 110 pounds. You must also be in good health.

"It's such an easy way to save a life," says English teacher **Dr. John Cusatis**. He's lost count of the amount of blood he has given over the years, but he estimates it is "somewhere beyond five gallons."

Anyone who wants to volunteer should talk to Ms. Carr.

Sophomores ace the PLAN test

By Blake Engel

The PLAN, described by the official ACT website as a program which "helps 10th graders build a solid foundation for future academic and career success and provides information needed to address school districts' high-priority issues," acts as a pre-ACT test to prepare students for the real thing. The ACT is similar to the SAT, although the ACT tends to focus more on linguistics while the SAT focuses on mathematics.

The results of the PLAN test are in and sophomores **Serena Doose**, **Preston Hogue**, **Darbie Keck**, **Kati Lear** and **Joshua Norris** have scored a 99% on the English portion and sophomores **Mikayla Carr**, **Taylor Cheney**, **Serena Doose**, **Preston Hogue**, **Darbie Keck**, **Maggie Mallard**, **Morgan Roach**, and **Ariel Todd** achieved a 99% on the Reading portion. Seventeen honor students

scored over 94% in English and twenty students managed 94% in Reading.

"They're extremely great results," says English teacher **Ms. Anna Bronk** who, along with **Ms. Jean Olson** and **Ms. April Cobun**, helped prepare her students for the PLAN.

Nevertheless, the PLAN tests students on math and science, as well as English and reading.

Students who complete the PLAN receive a report card that, through a career interest system called the "World of Work" map, shows what professions a student could pursue, according to their score on the test.

"Kids who don't do well should take the ACT because they will get a greater score," explains Ms. Bronk. The PLAN test takes place every year in October.

Poetry Out Loud held at SOA

By Victoria Doose

On the afternoon of January 23, the Black Box rang with the sweet, and sometimes heated, sounds of poetic recitation as SOA's high school Poetry Out Loud competition commenced. The approximately two hour long competition featured twenty-five students from the 9th-12th grades, advanced to this stage after satisfactorily performing in class competitions hosted by almost all of the high school English teachers.



Rachael will compete in the Poetry Out Loud regional competition on February 17.

Ashli Burnell (5th place).

Some students stumbled during the school competition, some sped through their performances, obviously eager to get it over with, and yet others glided smoothly through their selected poems with the poise and pacing of professionals. In fact, most of those selected as winners have had previous experience with public speaking or performance.

"I did Summer Stage at Dock Street...and I also do Quest every year for public speaking," said Carolyn, who recited two poems including "Chicago" by Carl Sandburg. "That helped me a lot—just learning how to project and present yourself to an

audience."

Competitors were judged based on their pacing, projection, vocal expression, and accuracy by three judges from outside SOA: Lucille Keller, a theater teacher at Academic Magnet High School; Paul Allen, a teacher, poet and songwriter at College of Charleston; and Mary Beth Clark, a teacher, director, and writer with Charleston Stage.

Based on the judges' scores, tallied after the competition, five students were selected as winners. But of these five, only the first place winner, Rachael Lee—who recited "The Prelude by T.S. Eliot and "The Mending Wall" by Robert Frost—will advance to the Charleston regional competition on February 17 and perform against representatives from ten to twelve other schools in the region. The winner of this regional competition will then go on to the South Carolina state competition, and the winner there will represent the state in the national competition. The national Poetry Out Loud winner will receive \$20,000 in scholarship money, and the 11 other finalists will earn substantial scholarships as well.

However, according to **Mrs. Miles**, the coordinator of Poetry Out Loud at SOA, there is much more to be gained from this content.

"The most positive thing about this was the exposure to poetry the kids had. [...] What the school gained was this explosion of poetry being read," she said. "That, to me, was the biggest benefit."

A night in review...

WINTER FORMAL 1/27



Introducing the middle school interns

Applause is proud to introduce our six new middle school interns.

Eric Payne, Theatre major



Hobbies: collecting comics, reading comics, making movies

Favorite movies:

The Lord of the Rings, *Scamper the Penguin*

Favorite comic: "Garfield" by Jim Davis

Aspiration: to see monkeys fly

Chelsea Adent, Band major



Favorite book: *Twilight* by Stephanie Meyer

Favorite movies: *Titanic* and *The Notebook*

Dream job: pediatrician

Hobbies: reading, boating, traveling, shopping, listening to music, playing the flute

Desie Ashe-Bradford,

Piano major



Favorite movie:

Love and Basketball

Dream job: singer/dancer

Interests/hobbies:

singing, dancing, playing piano, listening to music, basketball, tennis, having fun

Dream date: Jamie Foxx

Paige Lamprecht,

Strings major



Dream job: writer or pediatrician

Favorite movie:

The Princess Bride

Favorite Book:

The Truth About

Forever by Sarah Dessen

Hobbies: photography, writing, reading and drawing

Mary Lee Carter,

Piano major



Hobbies: photography, skating, volleyball, mooching money

Favorite recent movie: *Talladega Nights*

Stupidest thing I've ever done: accidentally kicked my shoes onto the roof of a three-story beach house

Gabrielle Wolfe,

Visual Arts major



Interests: drawing, writing, photography, playing *Zelda Twilight Princess*

Favorite bands: Counting Crows, The Fray, Snow Patrol

Favorite movie: *Little Miss Sunshine*

Aspiration: pass Algebra

Charleston police blotter: Crimes of the month

By Mary Lee Carter

The Blotter is taken from City of Charleston police department reports, the Moultrie News, and the City Paper. We've added a little commentary and a little humor, too. Remember, I don't know whether or not anyone is guilty. This is not a court of law.

Favorite Of the Month: A man was driving on Shadow Moss Parkway near Levin Court late around the middle of January when his truck ran into a nearly invisible wall of plastic food wrap. The plastic wrap was stretched across the roadway in multiple layers from one "Speed Bump" sign to the other. Instead of breaking, the wrap slid up onto the hood of the truck, snapping the antenna. The antenna then broke the truck's windshield, causing \$500 in damage. Wow, who was setting booby traps in that neighborhood, Scooby Doo?

Blotter Favorite Shoplifted Item: Mrs. Lee Country Pudding. In early October, employees at a downtown grocery store caught a man stuffing the product in his pants. Mmm...pudding pants.

Blotter Favorite Misspellings Of the Month: "boistrious," "lound," "alcoholic," and "uncoperative." Looks like somebody lyed about their skoolin on their job applicashun to the po-leese deparment.

Students act in local play

By Gabrielle Wolfe

Sixth grade dance major **Joel Chapman** and seventh grade theatre major **Kedrick Palsey** recently starred in August Wilson's *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, a play portraying African Americans' struggle in 1911. The play was performed during the first two weeks of February in the Burke High School Auditorium. Joel and Kedrick alternate playing the part of Reuben Mercer, a boy who lives next door to the boarding house where the story takes place. Both Joel and Kedrick were very excited about their roles. "It's fun because I like stages," Kedrick says. This is his first production with the Art and Forms Theatre Concepts Inc. and Joel's third. Joel's word of advice to any and all aspiring actors: "Just do your best!"

Opinions:

Earlier Release for SOA

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Alternatives to 100 minute majors

By Chelsea Adent

Many people think that we should cut our day shorter by skipping major. Another idea is that instead of cutting out major completely, you can have the choice whether you want to have your major every day or either on just A days or just B days. Then on the day you don't have your major, you can use that time as your break period. It might not always fall on the last period of the day, but you'll still have the break. This way, everyone will still have their major one way or another and you get the time off. Another idea is that you can take a certain amount of classes on either day, including your major, and work your way up to having an earlier release. Maybe you could take a certain amount of classes so that you could complete that whole class by the time second semester started. Then during the second semester, you can get out earlier. This way, we can keep what's special about our school: the chance to have your major for 100 minutes every day. If we totally cut that out, we wouldn't be SOA. Instead, if you really want a shorter day, work harder. Work to be able to get out earlier.

Majors make SOA unique

By Paige Lamprecht

Some people think that the school should cut major short so the students can leave school at 3:00 instead of 3:30. SOA gets out of school half an hour later than some other schools because we have longer classes. But, if we cut major what's there to set our school apart from any other school that offers arts as an elective? Every person that's at SOA is here because they have talent—talent that not everyone in Charleston County has. We have major as a required class to help the students develop their skill in their art area as they advance through the different levels. Also, without arts SOA wouldn't have the same spark we've all learned to love since our first day here.

Dear Desie

By Desie Ashe-Bradford

Dear Desie,

This girl is supposed to be my "best friend," but the other day I heard that she was saying bad things about me. I don't know if it's true but I feel like if I confront her, she might be shocked that I would even believe that it might be true. I heard this two days ago and haven't talked to her yet. So should I confront her, or just let it pass by?

Sincerely,

Ttly Confuzzled

Dear Ttly Confuzzled,

You should definitely confront her about it, but don't think of it as such a big deal. If she feels offended, tell her that you had to be sure. Then explain to her that you would never say anything about her, so you wanted to check and see if she felt the same way. Now, if she did say bad things about you, then you need to let it be clear to her that you could not be friends with someone who's talking behind your back. I'm not saying that she's not a real friend. Girls do make mistakes and should be forgiven for some of them, but not all the time. It's up to you to decide whether or not she should be forgiven, but definitely confront her.

Need help boys, girls or friendship? Write Desie and look for advice in next month's issue of Applause!

Boys pioneer SOA basketball team

By Liz Gildea

Though SOA has had a few sports teams here and there, this year's sixth grade boys' basketball team is the first of its kind at our school. The ten sixth graders pictured here finished their season on February 8 (before which their record was 4-5), and they will be competing in a post-season tournament at the end of the month.

The entire Trident Basketball League has 148 teams, but the SOA team only plays the five other teams in its conference. The other schools



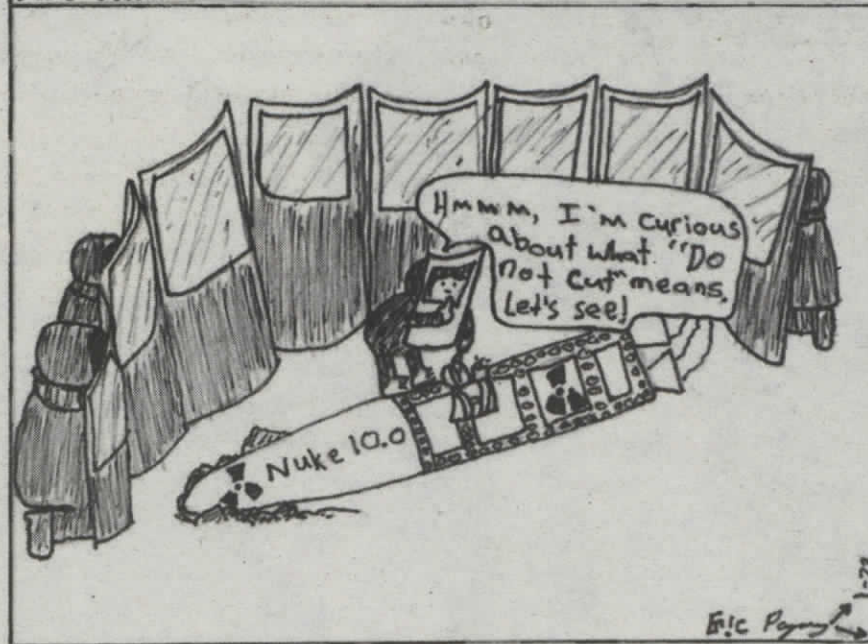
Members of the basketball team: Front row (left to right): Ryan Bing, Matthew Furlong, Brent Hubbard, Cameron Lloyd Back row: Cullen Baldwin, Joseph Riggs, William Brightharp, Alex Berlinsky. Not pictured: Harrison Carr, Henry Camp

represented include Charleston Catholic, Cathedral Academy, Blessed Sacrament, Northwood Academy and First Baptist.

Coaches Jamie Lloyd and Bruce Berlinsky, who each have a son on the team, were excited to have the opportunity to start a sports team at SOA. "The best part of coaching," said Mr. Lloyd, "is getting to know the players and sharing our love of basketball with them. ...I think that we both are planning to return next year and coach again."

Featured comic by Eric Payne

Few's views



Middle school "seniors"

By Desie Ashe-Bradford

We all know that being a senior is mad fun whether you've already hit that mark or not yet. We also know that there are usually five times that you could become a senior: 5th grade, 8th grade, 12th grade, senior year of college, and over 55. But if you're not actually the oldest at the school, is it still any fun?

8th grader **Bailey Gaskin**, thinking about all that's happened so far this year, commented: "Well it's not as cool because the real seniors still feel as if they have so much authority over you. I feel superior in the lunchroom and the 8th grade hallway because of the looks I get from some of the 6th and 7th graders. When it comes to the 12th graders though, it's different because they have the most student authority no matter what age other students are."

Tate Hansen feels as if he is a normal senior because, just like a normal senior one, of his main sadnesses is that "[he] doesn't feel that so many people should leave and [he] doesn't like that at all."

On the other hand though 8th graders like **Greer Chambers** and **Dallas Robinson** love it. "This is the first year we actually get to sit where ever we want at lunch, we get to have a lot longer at recess, and we also get to go to Washington, D.C. this year and have our own prom," Greer expresses, always looking on the bright side of things.



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Black History Month at SOA: A c

The history of Black History Month

By Blake Engel

Every year during the month of February, we celebrate Black History Month – four weeks devoted to the commemoration and celebration of African-Americans and the role they have played in American history and culture.

Black History Month has existed since 1976, the date of the United States Bicentennial. That year, “Negro History Week” formally became “Black History Month.”

Negro History Week was an even older celebration, created by Dr. Carter G. Woodson who founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History as well as the Associated Publishers, the *Journal of Negro History*, and the *Negro History Bulletin*. Born in 1875, just ten years after the abolishment of slavery, Woodson became a noted advocate for education. After teaching English in the Philippines, he returned to the U.S. and became the second African-American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard in 1912.

Woodson created Negro History Week during the week of February 12, 1926, specifically because it coincided with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, individuals noted for their altruistic perspectives and deeds towards the black community.

Until 1976, the second week in February was known as a week of tribute to African-Americans and their place in society and history. Since then, it has become a month-long event dedicated to the recognition of blacks in America.

Great Britain also celebrates Black History Month, observing it in October because it is known as a month of tolerance and reconciliation in Africa.



Untitled by senior Nicole Williams. Acrylic.

Celebration of influential artists

Student survey: Contemporary and classic black works

Article and photos by Victoria Doose

In honor of Black History Month, a survey was taken in which students listed 1) their favorite book by an African American author, 2) their favorite African American recording artist and/or CD, and 3) their favorite movie featuring an African American actor.



Jeffrey Cabiad – Junior

- 1) *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston
- 2) *The Diary of Alicia Keys*, Alicia Keys
- 3) *Rush Hour*

Jessica Murray – 8th grade

- 1) *Darkness Before Dawn* by Sharon Draper
- 2) Chris Brown
- 3) *Stomp the Yard*



Lydia Kemmerlin –
Sophomore

- 1) *Monster* by Walter Dean Meyers
- 2) Ludacris

Michelle Alvanos – 8th grade

- 1) *Darkness Before Dawn* by Sharon Draper
- 2) Ludacris
- 3) *Blade II*

Harrison Ball – 8th grade

- 1) *Tears of a Tiger* by Sharon Draper
- 2) Dr. Dre
- 3) *Blade*



Raven Gadsden – Sophomore

- 1) *If You Come Softly* by Jacqueline Woodson
- 2) *Once Again*, John Legend
- 3) Anything with Tyler Perry

Makeala Horlback – 8th grade

- 1) *The Skin I'm In* by Sharon G. Flick
- 2) Chris Brown
- 3) *The Color Purple*



Jamill Fields – Sophomore

- 1) *Scorpions* by Walter Dean Meyers
- 2) *Destiny Fulfilled*, *Destiny's Child*
- 3) *Soul Plane* or *White Chicks*

Gabrielle Dawkins – Freshman

- 1) *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* by August Wilson
- 2) *Unplugged*, Alicia Keys
- 3) *The Pursuit of Happyness*

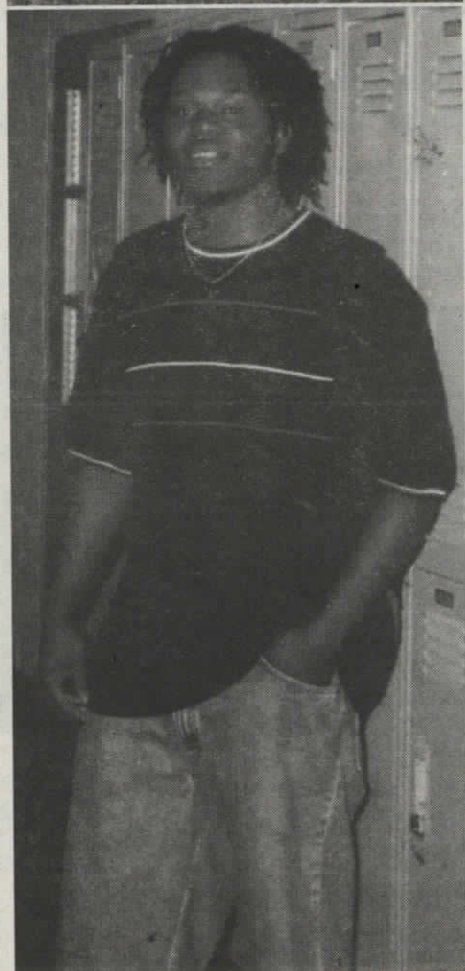


Virginia Pfaehler – Junior

- 1) The poetry of Marcus Amaker
- 2) A-Kon
- 3) *Big Momma's House 2*

Where were they then?: Mr. Barrett Reese

By Amber Caparas



Amber Caparas: *Where were you born?*

Mr. Barrett Reese: I was born in a small town called Central. If you have ever been to a Clemson game then you know Central.

AC: *What was your childhood like?*

BR: For the most part I was always with my neighborhood friends. We had a bike gang. BB guns, slingshots, we thought we were hell on wheels!

AC: *What did you want to do when you were a kid?*

BR: From ages seven to ten, I wanted to be a ninja. From ten to fifteen, I wanted to dunk a basketball. Needless to say, I have not yet lived up to my childhood ambitions.

AC: *What advice do you have for us middle/high-schoolers?*

BR: Everyone has a story to tell, from the homeless guy on the corner to the old lady in Publix. Listen and you will be amazed!

AC: *What college(s) did you go to and what were your majors?*

BR: The University of South Carolina—Major: History and Education, and The Citadel (grad. School)—Major: Secondary education/ school leadership

AC: *What kind of music do you enjoy?*

BR: I listen to a lot of different stuff: the Beastie Boys, Led Zeppelin, OutKast, and Dave Mathews Band mostly.

AC: *Any embarrassing style errors back in the day?*

BR: Looking back, I think most everyone is embarrassed by themselves during the 80's.

AC: *What happened after college?*

BR: After college? I have yet to see that day.

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

BR: The Class of 2007 was my first official class. I love those kids! They

asked such great questions: "So, was Jesus born after World War II?" "Chips are made out of potatoes?" How do I like teaching? Most days I find myself getting laughed at, or laughing at some one. That's not a bad thing to get paid to do.

AC: *Any regrets?*

BR: I don't know that I have any true regrets. I think that you have to take life one day at a time, and work to change the things you can and laugh at those you cannot.

AC: *What are you most proud of?*

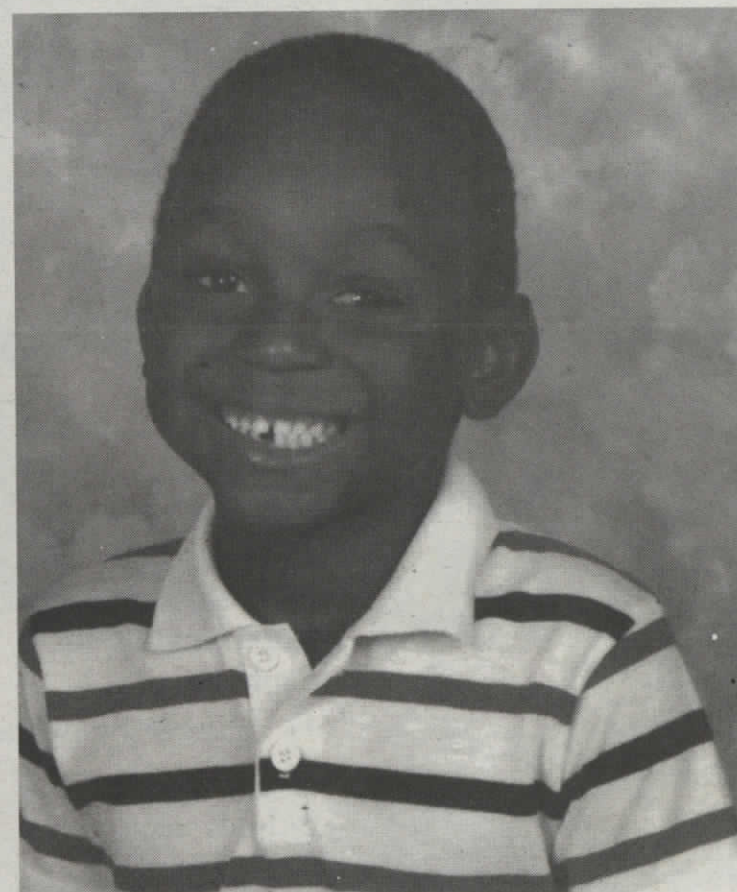
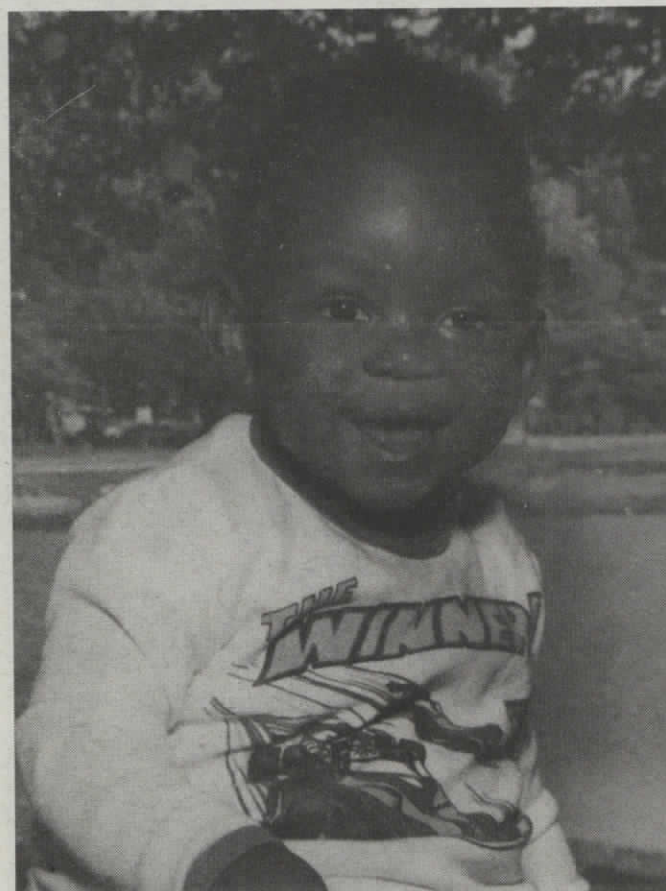
BR: I am truly proud that some of my students choose to talk to me when they're having problems. It's a compliment.

AC: *What is your life like outside of school?*

BR: College football, film, good friends!

AC: *What are your future goals?*

BR: To see as much of the world as possible.



President's Day Challenge: Who's on the Money?

By Amber Caparas

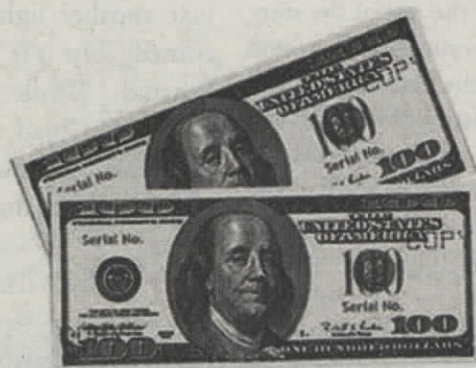
Before you read on, I challenge you to stop and try to name whose portraits are on the penny, nickel, dime, quarter, one dollar, five dollar, ten dollar, twenty dollar, fifty dollar, and one-hundred dollar pieces of United States currency. Can you?

This was the same question that I asked 25 high school girls and 25 high school boys at random during first and second lunch on January 24, 2007. The results were a little unsettling.

The boy's guesses were correct 68% of the time, while the girls were correct only 51.6% of the time. Why is there such a difference between the boys' knowledge of money and the girls'? **Christian Williams**, a ninth grade girl, said "We girls are spending money so fast that we don't have time to look and see who's on it." Maybe that's why I had some girls guessing that Bill Clinton was on the dime, that Isaac Newton was on the ten-dollar

bill, and that Jamie F. Kennedy (say who?) was on the one-hundred-dollar bill. One girl even guessed that M.C. Hammer was on the quarter. I really hope she was joking.

The girls weren't all incompetent. **Katlyn McMillan**, an 11th grade theater major, was the only one out of all fifty students surveyed to get every question right. This girl knew precisely who was on every denomination. She even knew that Thomas Jefferson was on the two-dollar bill. Seriously, who knows that?



Katlyn sped through the names of presidents and forefathers like she was saying her ABC's. When I asked how she knew her money so well, she accredited her genius to her father, who, her friends will attest, quizzes her every now and then to see if she knows who is on which denomination.

For all who are wondering, Abraham Lincoln is on the penny and the five dollar, Thomas Jefferson is on the nickel, Franklin

Roosevelt is on the dime, George Washington is on the quarter and the one dollar bill, Alexander Hamilton is on the ten dollar bill, Andrew Jackson is on the twenty dollar bill, U.S. Grant is on the fifty dollar bill, and Benjamin Franklin is on the one-hundred dollar bill.

Especially with President's Day drawing near, I challenge all of you to get to know our presidents and forefathers a little better. I challenge the girls to unfold the ten-dollar bill they use to pay for those dangly gold earrings at Claire's, and the boys to study that twenty-dollar bill before buying those new Nikes at Dick's Sporting Goods. Remember, our presidents and forefathers worked hard and sacrificed much to create a country wealthy enough to have a Claire's and a Dick's. The least we can do as Americans is know their names.



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Invisible Man: Not a Book to Miss *Catch and Release* is fun, thoughtful

By guest writer Frank Shary

By Amber Caparas

Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* – Random House, \$16.29

Don't let the title fool you: this book is not science fiction. Rather, Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* is a brilliant commentary on the racial and social difficulties found by an educated young black man in the late 1940's. The main character, the narrator of the novel, is never named. This central character explains his invisibility at the very beginning of the novel, stating, "I am an invisible man. No, I am not a spook like those who haunted Edgar Allen Poe; nor am I one of your Hollywood-movie ectoplasms. I am a man of substance, of flesh and bone, fiber and liquids – and I might even be said to possess a mind. I am invisible, understand, simply because people refuse to see me."

From there, the story goes on to describe the experiences of this invisible man that have led to his present state. His story begins with his entrance into a university, where he learns such skills as mathematics and grammar. But, after a trip to a black bar called the Golden Day while chauffeuring a wealthy white benefactor of the school, it is made clear that, while he is considered educated, his actual knowledge is limited. As a result of this inappropriate side trip, he is expelled from the university and travels to

New York City to get a job. It is here in New York City that the rest of the story takes place. This storyline based around a black man facing the hardships of segregation is characteristic of Ellison, as can be seen through his other works such as "A Party Down at the Square" and "King of the Bingo Game."

In *Invisible Man*, Ellison shows how a person's sense of self can be molded and shaped in as many ways as a person desires. This central theme becomes especially important when the main character forgets his identity after he is caught up in an explosion at the paint factory where he is employed. The author's writing style is very interesting; he uses long streams of logical reasoning to simulate the thought processes that the human mind goes through when reaching a conclusion. This style, in addition to making the book more appealing, helps to enhance the theme.

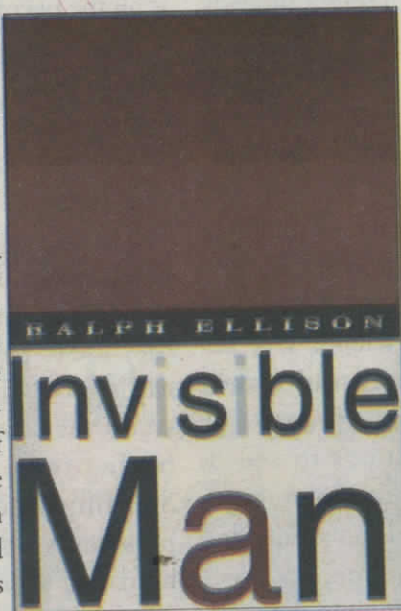
At the time of publication, the novel received no major acclaim. But by the 1980s it was being heralded as a classic, a rank which the book truly deserves. In *Invisible Man*, Ellison has created a timeless novel that even now, nearly 60 years later, retains its relevance to the social difficulties of African Americans today.

Catch and Release might be just another light-headed romantic comedy, but it is far from being light hearted. While it is quite obvious where the "road ends" so to say, the path there is clouded with many intriguing twists and turns.

The film opens with the funeral of Grady Douglass, a catch and release (pun intended) fisherman who died in a tragic boating accident just days before his wedding, leaving his fiancé, Gray Wheeler (Jennifer Garner) mourning on what should have been the happiest day of her life. Grady's death forces Gray to move in with guy pals, Sam (Kevin Smith), a gluttonous comic genius, Dennis (Sam Jaeger), an uninteresting good-guy, and Fitz (Timothy Olyphant), a sleaze ball with seemingly no remorse at all in regards to Grady's death. As soon as Gray moves in with the guys, she

is sent down a path of self-discovery, unexpected love, and heartbreak as she discovers that Grady was not the man she thought he was.

To be honest, I was aroused with disapproval within the first few moments of the opening scene. I knew that the director, Susannah Grant, was going to set off a sexual romance between Gray and Fitz (as was so blatantly revealed by the film's previews), but I just didn't see how she was going to morally justify it so soon after Grady's funeral. However, as the events unfolded, so did my conceptions of immorality. I can't say whether *Catch and Release* was ethical or not, but it so beautifully portrayed life's bittersweet realities, that in the end, I didn't really care.



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How to... Fix the Education System

By David Whitley



One problem with our public schools is the fact that students don't really have an incentive to pay attention in class and be dedicated to learning. They have no problem sending text messages on their cellular phones because they set it to silent. Taking the phones away won't work because you can buy cheap ones for ten dollars at Piggly Wiggly with a set number of minutes. Students caught using their cell phone or otherwise disrupting class should be forced to stand in front of the class and sing "Bananaphone." Some kids may do this on purpose for the first day or so, but the song loses its humor after you hear it the first time and the students will grow to hate it. Not only will the students not want to embarrass themselves, but they will know that the class will hate them for forcing them to listen "Bananaphone" karaoke yet again. There will be no further class disruptions after that.

We should let kids know what level class they are actually enrolled in instead of just calling everything honors like some schools do. I'm not going to say which, but one of them rhymes with "Dames Highland Rye." Children should not be lied to for the sake of their self esteem. The adult world won't lie to you because telling you that you owe \$25,000 in credit card debt would damage your self-esteem. Kids need to be adequately prepared for the world that they will be entering and telling a child that they are in honors when they really shouldn't be there is a great way to get a lot of dumb kids with honors credits on their transcripts. Kids won't drop out of high school if they aren't placed in classes that create expectations beyond their actual abilities. When classes become too hard (i.e. when they are finally placed in a *real* honors class) they get stressed and drop out.

Jimi Hendrix's classic album *Are You Experienced* shaped rock and battled racism

By David Whitley

As February is Black History Month, I feel that the time has come to pay tribute to not only a legendary African-American recording artist, but a man who is commonly known as the first rock guitar god, Jimi Hendrix. I find it a little bit shameful that this was my first time listening to Hendrix's collection of classic rock standbys.

A good way to measure the greatness of an individual album in hindsight is to measure how well the songs all fit together as well as how many of the songs on the album became representative of the artist. Generally, debut albums have very few; *Are You Experienced* has five: "Purple Haze," "Hey Joe," "The Wind Cries Mary," "Fire," and "Foxy Lady."

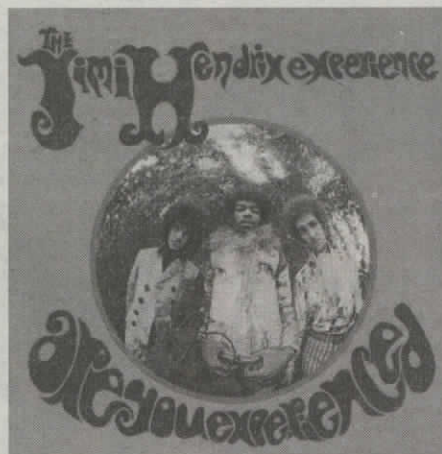
The first major hit from this album, "Purple Haze," is often recognized as Hendrix's signature song. The lyrics are often misinterpreted as a reference to hallucinogens, but Hendrix himself stated that the song is about love and "Whatever it is, that girl put a spell on me," is the key line in it. The song is innovative for the time period because the guitar plays Bb octaves while the bass plays E octaves; such dissonance was unusual in popular music of the sixties. The composer of "One-winged Angel," one of the most recognized video game compositions, admits to modeling the beginning after the opening riffs of "Purple Haze."

"Hey Joe" is a cover of a song by Billy Roberts - although the copyright is heavily disputed - that has overshadowed the popularity of the original; many people even think the song was originally written by Hendrix himself. It is a slower, bluesy song that tells the story of a man who shoots his wife because he finds her cheating.

"The Wind Cries Mary" is a good example of a well-executed blues rock song, combining bluesy lyrics with heavy bass and drumming that often accompany rock songs, with the guitar playing a fusion of the two styles. It is commonly

believed to be a reference to the slang term "Mary Jane" for marijuana, but an alternative theory exists that Hendrix wrote the song after his girlfriend - whose middle name was Mary - stormed out of his house after an argument.

"Fire" is a fast-paced song using fire as a metaphor for sexuality and uses a lot of fire related wordplay. The bass parallels the guitar's notes and adds a heavy sound to the riffs. Near the end of the song, the backup singers echo his lines, which was popular at the time; this



contrasts the lyrics, which center around begging a woman to sleep with him even though she has another man. "Foxy Lady" is often spelled "Foxy Lady" because of the popularization of the adjective "foxy" during the sixties, but the back cover of the album spells it with an "e." "Foxy" is an English word meaning rank or foul-smelling, which hints at a subtle wordplay throughout the entire song. It opens with one of the first heavily distorted guitar noises that ushered in a new era in rock music and contributes to the psychedelic sound of the song. As far as the lyrics go, "Foxy Lady" is a song praising an attractive woman and pleading for her attention. The ending of the song is ominous, however, with such lines as, "Here I come, baby. Comin' to get you."

Some people feel that Jimi Hendrix's music is dated and can't understand why he is considered the greatest guitarist of all time, but I feel that he deserves a place in history not only because he was a musical pioneer whose efforts enabled the genres of hard rock and heavy metal to exist, but because he was a pioneer in race relations who was hated by groups of both blacks and whites for being a black musician heading a band comprised of white men.

On the Roster: Local concerts

February

- 14 **Galactic @**
The Music Farm
- 15 **Guster @** The Plex
- 19 **Dark Star**
Orchestra @
The Music Farm
- 23 **Umphrey's McGee**
@ The Music Farm

March

- 2 **Harry Connick, Jr.**
@ The North
Charleston
Performing Arts
Center
- 3 **Sparklehorse @**
The Music Farm
- 3 **The Roots @** The
House of Blues in
Myrtle Beach
- 7 **Brian McKnight @**
The Gaillard
Auditorium
- 10 **New Orleans Jazz**
Orchestra @ The
Gaillard
Auditorium
- 15 **Nickelback @** The
North Charleston
Coliseum
- 16 **The Temptations**
and The Four Tops
@ The North
Charleston
Performing Arts
Center

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Horoscopes
By the SOA Astrologer

♈ Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Imagine if Fortune 500 companies had God's marketing department. The Church of Exxon-Mobil of Latter-Day Oil Refineries would compete with the faith of Pfizanity for control in the west while the spiritual philosophy of Wal-Martism would hold influence in the east. Instead of miracles, we will get coupons and for priests we will have cashiers.

♉ Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): That Atkins diet is too restrictive for you - buy a deep-frier and go crazy for the weekend.

♈ Aries (March 21-April 19): Within the next three days you will receive a subpoena. You have been warned.

♉ Taurus (April 20-May 20): If you're in the middle of a parade, don't begin marching to the beat of a different drummer, because weekend drivers have a curious disdain for individualism.

♊ Gemini (May 21-June 21): Hippies were a pothole in the evolutionary path. They learned the hard way that the National Guard is not a government in-joke.

♋ Cancer (June 22-July 22): Garret Morgan, Otis Boykin, Granville T. Woods, C. J. Walker, Lonnie Johnson - all African-American inventors whom no one has bothered to teach you about.

♌ Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Relationships these days are too risky; get a prenup before you go steady.

♍ Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22): If you're planning on establishing a dictatorship in the Middle-East, I would recommend allying yourself with the United States.

♎ Libra (Sep. 23-Oct. 22): You can dance if you want to, but I wouldn't recommend it.

♏ Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21): In the spirit of the brotherhood of Black History month, get your family together and watch reruns of *The Jeffersons* and *Fat Albert and the Junkyard Gang*.

♐ Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you shave Mr. Reese's head, he will give you a coupon for free ice cream.

♑ Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Astrology is a sham. Get your advice from Barbara Walters. Bunch of freeloaders...

Questions or comments for the SOA Astrologer? E-mail Applause at soaapplause@yahoo.com.

Stylewatch: Designer profile
By Kristin de Herder

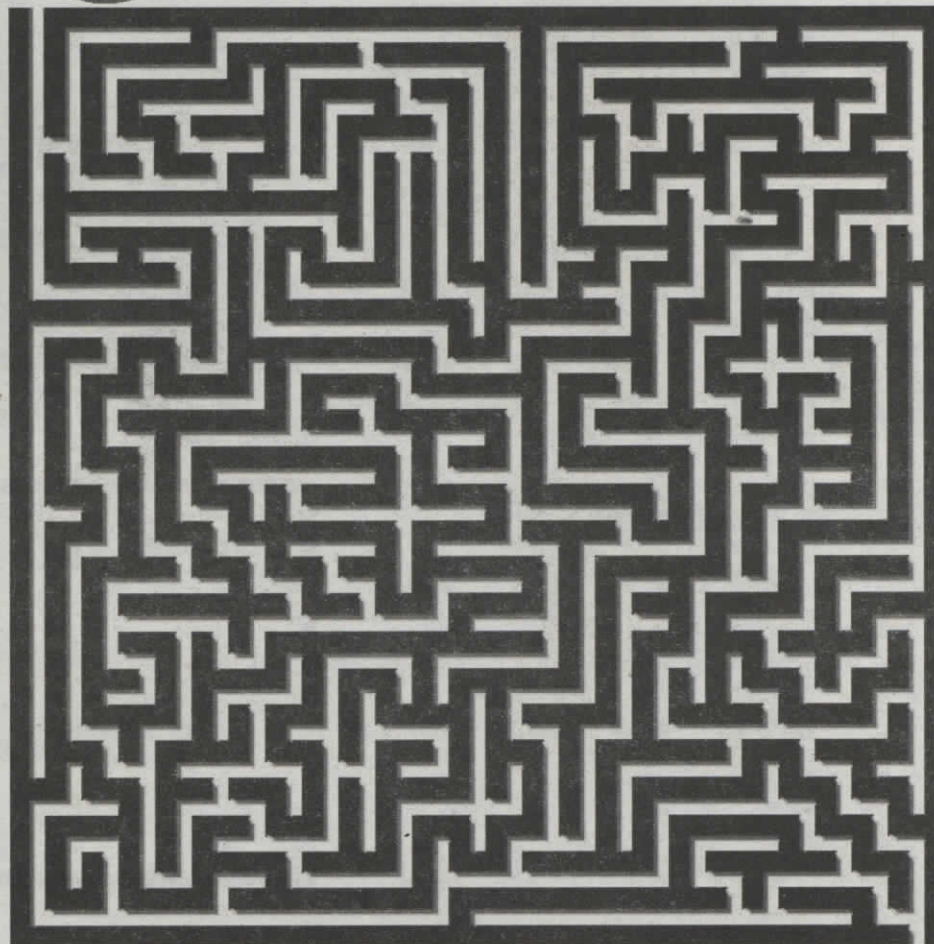
In light of Black History Month, I thought that I would discuss the African American designer behind the label Lafayette 148 New York, Edward Wilkerson. Just to give you a bit of back-story on him, before he became the design director at Lafayette, he worked for such big labels as Anne Klein, Donna Karan, and Calvin Klein. His designs have been described as being modern, elegant, and versatile; I agree. Lafayette's website best described his designs in saying that, "with each new collection, he applies his unique vision to create an irresistible fashion evolution for today's modern women." Obviously the fashion industry agrees, having honored him at the Dallas Fashion Awards and the D.I.V.A Fashion Awards, the fashion industry's most prestigious design awards.

His newest designs were featured in a trunk show at Gwynn's in Mt. Pleasant, from February 9 to 10, but if you missed the trunk show, his designs can be found on their website, www.lafayette148.com. I warn you now; his clothes are, as all designer clothes are, expensive. So, if you are not ready to cough up \$500 for a blouse, then use the website as a guide. Look at the clothes and see if you can find similar, but less expensive, version of the ensemble. With a little research you can get a designer look at a cheaper price, so why not give it a try?

Mr. Reese lost his Birkenstocks!



Help him find them!



Here they are!



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"Jessica Simpson." -Joseph Kilgallen, 6th Grade



"Beyonce Knowles." -Kedrick Pasley, 7th Grade



"Stephen Lynch." -Haleigh Barber, 8th Grade



"John Lennon." -Christina Slaton, freshman

Who is your dream Valentine's Day date?



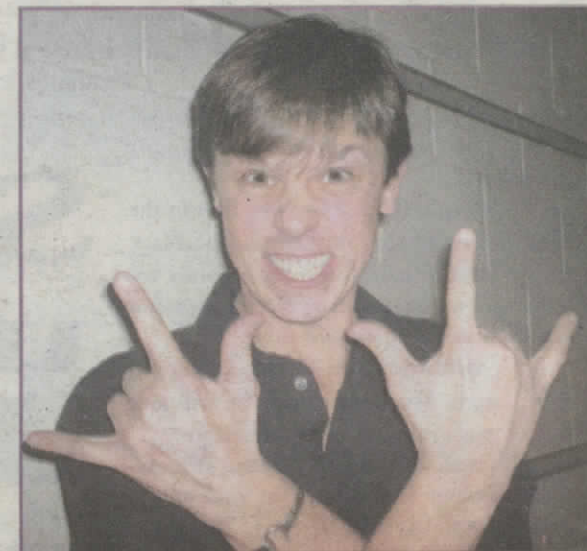
"James Franco or Dane Cook." -Taylor Denett, sophomore



"Audrey Hepburn." -Harry Harrison, junior



"Colin Farrell." -Laila Roudsari, senior



"Julia Stiles." -Mr. Kirk Lindgren, biology teacher

