

# Applause

Vol. 8 No. 6

School of the Arts

March 2007



## Letter from the Editor



Although majors at SOA are focused and time-consuming, students continually prove that they are not confined to pursue only one passion. The March issue of *Applause* emphasizes the eclectic achievements of those who explore interests outside of school; **Ashley Sagan** interviews Omi Naderi, a Visual Art major from the Class of 2006, who is currently studying meditation full-time in a yoga ashram. Junior **Elizabeth LeTran** uses her in-school dance training to supplement her competitive figure skating career. Junior vocal major **Braden Joyce-Schleimer** has become an experienced actor through his work with Charleston Stage Company. The staff covers student work in-school as well: on page 4, **Kristin de Herder** provides a schedule of events for upcoming senior Theatre major theses, and Blake Engel profiles the winners of the Reflections art contest. Check out page 8, which features **Victoria Doose's** article on former *Applause* staff member Sara Houser, now the editor of the newspaper at Berklee College of Music.

Enjoy the issue, and have a happy St. Patrick's Day!

Sincerely,

## School Calendar

March 17: Quest competition at Trident Technical College  
 March 23: End of 3rd grading period  
 March 26: Teacher workday (no school)  
 March 27: Report cards  
 March 28: Early dismissal  
 March 31 – April 8: Spring Break (no school)  
 April 24 – 26: HSAP testing for sophomores

Cover art by senior Chris Miller. Acrylic.



### Applause

the official student newspaper of  
 Charleston County School of the Arts



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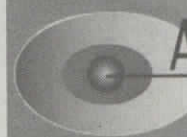


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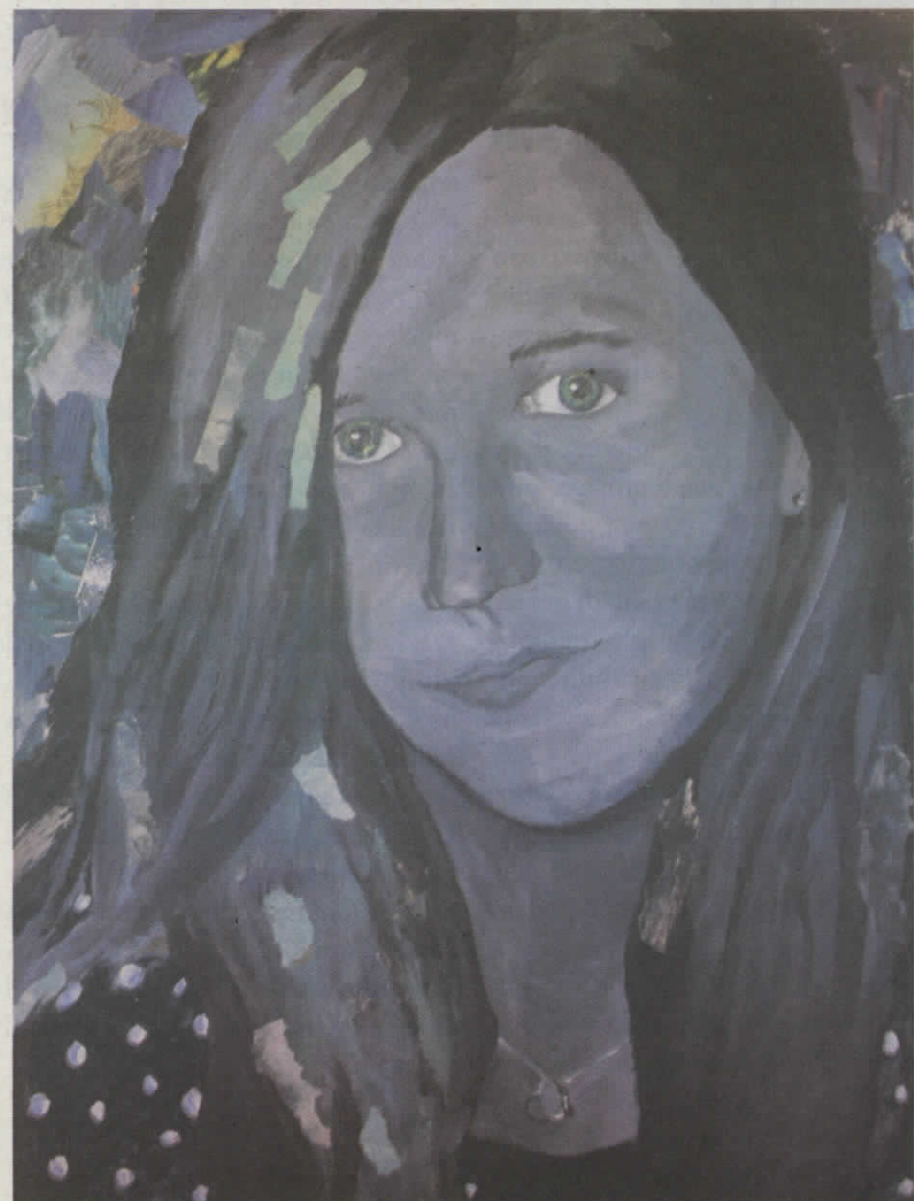
# Visual art on display



Photos by Ashley Sagan



"Larry the Onion" by freshman Chris Sim.



"Self-portrait" by junior Alice Gaynor.



"Jerry the Onion" by freshman Austin Jarvis.

## National Honor Society Update

By Victoria Doose



The National Honor Society's main event this month is our yard sale. Scheduled for March 10 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Wholly Cow in Mt. Pleasant, the sale will take place in the business's parking lot. Customers will receive coupons for ice cream and coffee with purchase of yard sale items.

Donations of useful items with some monetary value are being accepted until March 9. A large box labeled "NHS" has been set up in the Berry Building in the hallway intersection by the main office. We ask that no chipped coffee mugs nor clothing be donated.

There is also the possibility this month that the National Honor Society will hold a beach sweep. A date and time has yet to be set.

## Theatre Major theses approach

By: Kristin de Herder

**Where:** Black Box Theatre

**Cost:** Free, but Donations are greatly appreciated

**When:** Tuesday, March 27-30 at 7 pm

Senior Theatre majors have been working on their thesis projects all year, in which each senior theatre major writes, directs, and stars in their own individual show, lasting 20-30 minutes. **Katie Isaacson** and **Britney Harrington** agreed that "overall, this year's theses are very strong and, as a whole, are better than last year's." Britney added that "it's a lot of work, but it's worth it."

Since the senior Theatre class has decided not disclose the subject matter of their theses yet, the titles of their pieces are all that are allowed to be released at this time. To learn more, keep a look out around the SOA campus for clues revealing secrets on Theatre theses!

### Schedule of events:

#### Tuesday, March 27

**Ashli Burnell** presents

*StrangeHer*

**Elizabeth Baston** presents

*WoahMan*

#### Wednesday, March 28

**Jessica Funk** presents

*Destroy All Pastries*

**Britney Harrington** presents

*Imagination: Life is Your Creation*

#### Thursday, March 29

**Casie Fennell** presents

*The Wonder Woman Nobody Knows*

**Kristin de Herder** presents

*Fading to Black*

#### Friday, March 30

**Jackson Holder** presents *Free Thinking*

**Katie Isaacson** presents *Sit. Stay. Play Human.*

**Carlos Palomo** presents *There's Something Baking in the Oven*



All seniors, including Katie Isaacson and Britney Harrington (pictured above), will act in their own plays.

## Students win Reflections contest

By Blake Engel

Reflections is an annual multimedia contest that, according to its website, "provides opportunities for students to express themselves and to receive positive recognition for their artistic efforts." This year, the subject for submissions in the categories of literature, musical composition, photography, visual arts, dance choreography, and film/video production, was "my favorite place." A number of SOA students have progressed through Reflections to the state level, and many earned prizes for their work.

A few of these talented students include middle schoolers **Kyana Grimball**, **Samuel McCauley**, **Matthew Furlong**, and **Aubrey Moore**.



Junior Harry Harrison won an award for film production.

For a number of the kids in the middle school, the assignment to complete a Reflections submission was mandatory. Nonetheless, they enjoyed completing these projects and, as evidenced by their accomplishments, worked tirelessly on their works. Sixth grader Kyana Grimball chose photographs as the medium for her submission. Called "End of Solegre," it is a picture of a place her mother once took her. She loved the way the place looked during a sunset and said she goes there to "let [her] feelings out." She won third place for photography in the middle school. Her prizes were a certificate of achievement and a \$5 gift card. She continued to win a ribbon and a third place trophy at the state level.

Just like Kyana, sixth grader Matthew Furlong made it to the state level as well after winning first place

for middle school literature at the local level. At state, he received a trophy and a free ticket to the IMAX theatre. Matthew said he enjoys writing poetry, which no doubt lent to the power of his poem "In a Mother's Arms," created as an assignment for **Ms. Rene Miles's** Creative Writing class.

Samuel McCauley, an eighth grader at SOA, made it to third place at the local level and second place in state for photography. Originally, he made a series of five pictures with the central subject of trees. One of these pictures went on to earn him a place in the Reflections contest. He likes photography because he said it is "more concentrated on angles," and intends to pursue photography as a personal hobby.

Eighth grader Aubrey Moore won for a piece of flash fiction she submitted. About two and a half pages in length, "White Knuckle Nights" tells the story of her first memory, that of a rain storm, and how her father attempted to cure her of her fear of thunder. Aubrey said she very much enjoys writing, and her primary interests are in poetry and short stories. Though she doesn't have a lot of time to write, she occasionally gets the chance on weekends. For her efforts, she also won a trophy, a ribbon, and a certificate.

Other SOA winners include **Drew Carriereau** for middle school photography and **Chris Maher** in high school photography; **Lauren Dupree**, **Claudia Jos**, and **Briana Lesesne** for middle school choreography; **Harry Harrison**, **Emily Nash**, and **Laurel Iverson** for high school film production; **Lucy Hunter** and **Olivia Henderson** for high school literature; **Kendall Jones** for high school visual arts; and **Alisa Myers** for high school music.

# Where were they then?: Ms. Jean Olson

By Amber Caparas

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

**Ms. Olson:** I was born in Olney, IL, spent a couple of years in Iowa and then back to Illinois through college.

**AC:** *What was your childhood like?*

**JO:** Idyllic—we lived in a quiet, safe little town—you could walk to the movie theater, park, teen center and see everyone you knew.

**AC:** *What did you want to be when you were a child?*

**JO:** I always wanted to be a teacher. My mother was a teacher and I liked how it fit so well with having family summers and vacations together.

**AC:** *Who was your childhood hero and why?*

**JO:** Dwight D. Eisenhower. I watched his inauguration when I was five. He was a war hero and looked like a grandfather.

**AC:** *What were some of your childhood favorites?*

**JO:** I loved the show *Howdy Doody Time* (Howdy Doody was a marionette who worked

with Buffalo Bob and Clarabell the Clown) and *Circus Circus* (a bunch of circus acts). I also remember playing rook, a card game, with my grandparents.

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

**JO:** When I got 1<sup>st</sup> chair clarinet in the middle school band I realized that practice did pay off even if my mother made me. So the idea of working for the reward stayed with me. Today, my clarinet sits in the closet daring me to play.

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

**JO:** Eastern Illinois University in Charles-

ton IL—I majored in English and minored in history.

**AC:** *What kind of music did you listen to back in the day?*

**JO:** Rock and roll, of course! My favorite group was Simon & Garfunkel; I got to see them in concert.



**AC:** *Are you embarrassed by any of your past style errors?*

**JO:** I do regret the years I wore what we called full net slips! What were we thinking? Full net slips are also called can cans (crinolines). They were both itchy and puffy.

**AC:** *What happened after college?*

**JO:** I taught on the Eastern Shore of Maryland while my fiancé was at the Naval Academy. We married after that year and traveled the world with my husband and family.

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

**JO:** That first job in Maryland was super—I was the English department; it took lots of preparation, but it was worth it. My husband was in the Navy, so that brought us here to Charleston. SOA is so different, but in the very best way possible.

**AC:** *Any regrets?*

**JO:** None—looking back is counter produc-

tive.

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

**JO:** That my husband and I have two adult daughters that are bright, happy, and making the world a better place. Both are PhDs. My daughter Amanda is a clinical psychologist and lives in North Carolina. Her husband is also in the Navy and they'll be moving to California in May. My daughter Lorry is an industrial organiza-



chologist and is working for Bank of America in Charlotte, North Carolina.

**AC:** *What are your life's passions?*

**JO:** Traveling and reading. I do love the classics: *Jane Eyre*, *Wuthering Heights*, and *A Tale of Two Cities*.

**AC:** *Any future goals?*

**JO:** It would be hard to beat the great trips I've taken to Australia and Africa. I want to go to Scandinavia sometime soon.



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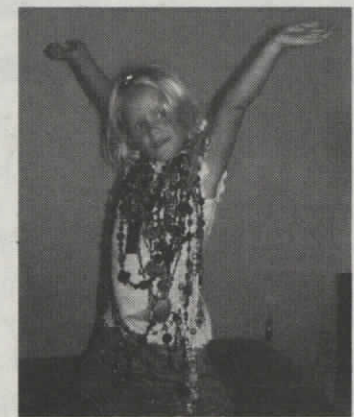
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the official student newspaper of  
Charleston County School of the Arts



## Middle School Interns

Pages 6 and 7 are compiled by our 8th grade interns:

Chelsea Adent Paige Lamprecht

Desie Ashe-Bradford Eric Payne

Mary Lee Carter Gabrielle Wolfe

Liz Gildea, intern advisor

## SOA Basketballers

By Paige Lamprecht

While SOA may not have an official sports program, that fact has not held back 8th graders **Tiffany Houston, Tyler Wilson, and Hilary Ferguson**, who all play basketball for West Ashley Middle School. Though this is only their second



Victoria Doose

year on the team, they have all been playing since they were little kids. "Basketball is going to be my ticket out" says Hilary, thinking about her future. They are all planning on making the cut for the varsity team when they get to high school, and all three hope their skills will impress college scouts.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Graders celebrate National Pi Day

By Gabriella Wolfe

Prepare yourselves 8<sup>th</sup> graders because National Pi Day is just around the corner! March 14<sup>th</sup> is National Pi Day, although this year it will be observed on Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. With activities such as American **π** Pidot (a song/rap contest), a Pi Recitation Contest, a Family Heritage Pie Bake Off, and a Mystery Contest, this will be a day you certainly don't want to miss. **Ms. Ann Marie Fairchild** has been organizing this event for months and is very excited to share this day with her students. She hopes the event will "heighten Pi awareness."

## Pianists play at recital

By Paige Lamprecht

On February 10, 2007 the annual piano Honors Recital was held at the Performing Arts Center. Every year selected students from SOA's piano department and a few other piano groups in South Carolina are chosen to perform. This year's performers were **Bhavisya Raamorthy, Desie Ashe-Bradford, Kimberly Snodgrass, Kevin Snodgrass, Brandon Snodgrass, Mya Jacobs, Charlotte Jenkins, Anja Evenson, Emily Ulbricht, Grace Lee, Jessie McGinty, Saray Smalls, Penelope Murray, Bugs Utsey, and Briel Govan.**



Paige Lamprecht

## 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, everyone is innocent until proven otherwise. This is not a court of law.

### Blotter weapon type of the week:

"Foot." Darn you, Chuck Norris!

### Blotter cop-misspelled word of the week:

"Cooky," as in the two, count 'em, *two* vanilla cookies that were shoplifted from a West Ashley grocery store in October.

### Blotter highlights:

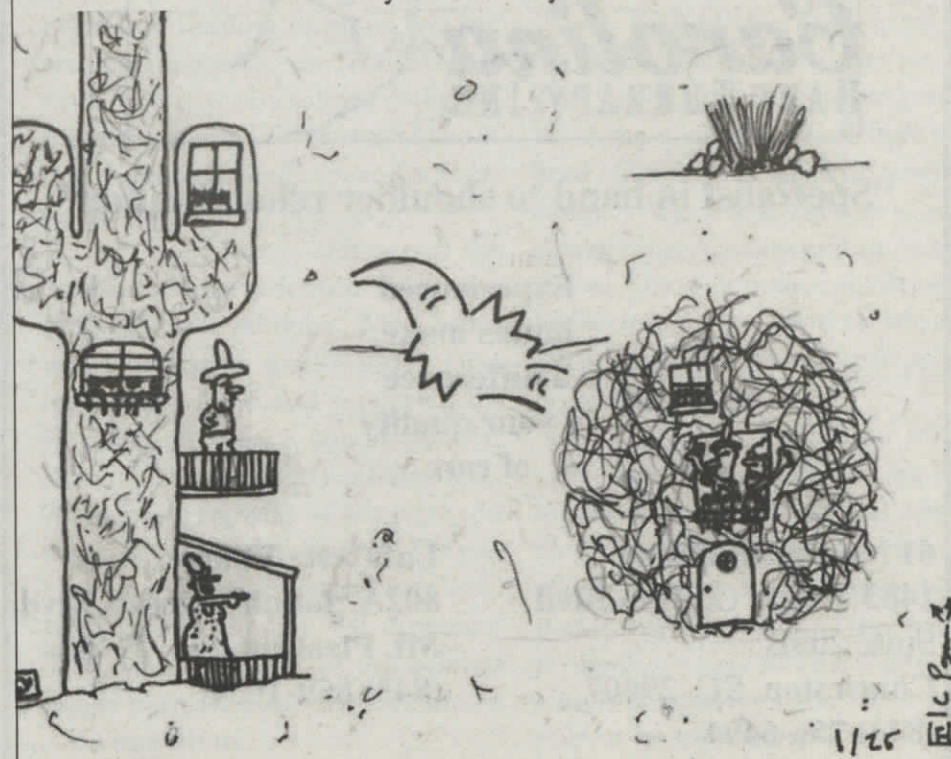
When a cop responded to a shoplifting call at a West Ashley grocery in mid October, he saw two employees chasing a man through the parking lot with packs of frozen shrimp falling from his pants as he ran. No comment.

Police arrested a man in early November at a downtown grocery store after a cop found the following unpaid-for items in the man's pants pockets: one pack Nyquil Liquicaps, one pack Goody's Powder, one pack Crystal Sugar Free Sweetener, one can Vienna sausages, one can Red Bull Energy Drink, one can Campbell's Clam Chowder soup, one pack Top cigarette tobacco, two bottles Michelob Amber Bock beer, and four bottles Walnut Crest Chardonnay wine. Geez, what size pants was this guy wearing?

A man told cops on Nov. 1 that a woman giving him a ride struck him in the face and scratched his chest before forcing him out of her car and driving away because he had started smoking a cigarette. Looks like somebody works for the American Lung Association.

## Few's Views

By Eric Payne



"There goes the Johnsons again. Always on the move."

## Dear Desie

By Desie Ashe-Bradford

Dear Desie,

*I like a guy. I think he likes me because a lot of times he acts like he does, but then a lot of times he acts like he doesn't even notice me. I know there is no chance of him asking me out because he doesn't know I like him, but then again I'm too scared of embarrassing myself. My biggest fear is that he will never act the same around me now knowing that my feelings are more than friendship. So should I let him know how I feel, or should I just be happy with our friendship?*

Signed,

Too Scared

Dear Too Scared,

You have the common issue of infatuation. Almost every girl is infatuated with some guy or another so it's OK to feel this way. What I want you to think about is the fact that if you never tell him, he will never know. If he doesn't like you back, don't think of it as the end of the world. Everything happens for a reason; maybe he's just not the one. About the friendship- if he stops being your friend just because he knows your feelings, then he probably wasn't a real friend anyway. Boyfriends and girlfriends come and go, but real friends are forever.

## Duck Stamp Winners

By Gabriella Wolfe

Congratulations to SOA's Jr. Duck Stamp Competition winners. **Weston DeWolff** received 1<sup>st</sup> place, **Jen Kennedy** and **Ryan Bing** received 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and **Kayla Watts** and **Katharine Kiser** received 3<sup>rd</sup> place. **Adrin Brown**, **Allie Acierno**, **Angelica Halvarsson**, **Althea Holenko**, **Lucy Rummler**, **Danielle Dungo**, **Jazzy Jordan**, **Christina Keinath**, and **Morgan Watts** received Honorable Mention. "[This project] was really fun to be a part of. It has taught me how important it is to conserve and protect our wildlife," Katharine says. Each student's artwork was displayed at the Gaillard Auditorium from February 16 – 18 during the annual Wildlife Exposition.

## Middle School Festival Band attends convention

Chelsea Adent

Picture a room filled with people, sitting, analyzing your every move and judging you every second you're there. That's how the Middle School Festival Band members felt on Thursday, February 8 at the North Charleston Performing Arts Center. This was the biggest performance that the middle school band has been invited to participate in. **Mr. Charlton Singleton** said "overall, I was extremely pleased with our performance at the Southern Division MENC performance. We played a very difficult show that featured classic band literature (Prelude, Siciliano, and Rondo) and modern literature. There were many band directors from the Low Country, other parts of South Carolina and the

Southeast region of the United States that came up to me and congratulated me on our performance. We represented our school, state, and South Carolina Band Director's Association very well."

The conference is for all divisions of music: elementary school, middle school, high school, and college. In each of these levels there are piano, strings, orchestral, choral, and instrumental workshops on various topics, as well as performances from ensembles that are both student and professional. At the convention, the Festival Band performed for band, chorus, and orchestra directors from all across the Southeast. Some of their selected songs were Slavonic Dance #8, Kinesis, Windsong, The

Charleston, and Prelude, Siciliano, and Rondo. A parent who attended many practices, and was at the performance, said, "I could tell the musical selections were complicated, and I felt the band certainly rose to the occasion. I was proud that both of my children were able to participate." When asked about the outcome of the performance, **Josh Foster**, french horn player in the band, says "we didn't do the best that we could have done, but the performance still came out really good."

This performance certainly sets the standard for the incoming and already participating Festival Band members for the future!

## All about Ms. Emmie Hammett

By Paige Lamprecht

*Ms. Emmie Hammett teaches 8<sup>th</sup> grade Composition She also sponsors the Applause internship program.*

**Paige Lamprecht:** *When you were in school, did you like it?*

**Ms. Emmie Hammett:** I liked school most of the time. I think I would've liked school more overall if I could have gone to a different high school, but that wasn't an option then like it is now. I loved college.

**PL:** *What college did you go to?*

**EH:** I got my undergraduate degree from Winthrop College, and I got my Masters degree from the College of Charleston.

**PL:** *When did you decide to start teaching and why?*

**EH:** I decided to start teaching in 1976 mainly because I liked the hours teachers worked and I liked having the summer off. I also felt comfortable in the environment.

**PL:** *Did you do anything before you started teaching?*

**EH:** I worked as a supervisor at Carowinds and as a student assistant at Winthrop College.

**PL:** *How long have you been teaching?*

**EH:** I have been teaching for 31 years.

**PL:** *Why did you decide to teach at SOA?*

**EH:** I've subbed at a few schools, including SOA. In my second year, I subbed here. I was what you'd call a long-term sub for **Ms. Tracy Castle** when she was pregnant,

and also for one of the library assistants. Being at one school for a long amount of time, you get a sense of how things run. I got to like the atmosphere, but I also liked that the teachers seemed to work well together – which was important to me, because at one time or another you have to interact with everyone. I also noticed that the administrators supported and cared about the teachers, and I liked the students in general.

**PL:** *What do you like most about SOA?*

**EH:** Overall, my favorite aspect of SOA would have to be the students.

**PL:** *What do you like most about teaching?*

**EH:** That's a hard one to answer, because there are so many things. I like knowing that something I've taught has benefited my students.

**PL:** *What do you like least about teaching?*

**EH:** The different personalities there are within the adults I have to work with can get stressful sometimes.

**PL:** *If you could teach any other class, what would you teach and why?*

**EH:** Well, I like cooking and finding the most nutritious foods and finding ways to incorporate the foods into recipes. So, I think I'd like to teach a nutrition class.



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# Life outside of SOA: Students and gr

## Sara Houser, '05, pursues journalism and music in Boston

By Victoria Doose

Whether she was performing downtown in restaurants, battling bands on the Black Box stage, or spicing up Jazz Band performances with upbeat accompaniments on the piano, Sara Houser of the class of 2005 made her presence at SOA known. Her high school accomplishments included Tri-M President her senior year, Student Council member, Senior Council member, Jazz Band piano player, and *Applause* staff member. But those aren't involvements she would use to describe herself.

"For the rest of my life, I am a musician first and foremost," Sara says. "If you took music out of my life, I would be someone completely different. I've found my identity in music."

Now 19-year-old Sara is in her sophomore year at Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts, continuing to do well in her academic studies as she also proves herself in the areas of songwriting, journalism, and musical performance. An athletic and self-described tomboy with deep interests in literature and water-related activities, she entered the world of songwriting at the age of fourteen and has been developing her skills ever since.

"The spark was my pre-pubescent knack for getting enormous crushes on guys," she reveals. "Once I had written my first song, I started writing everyday and it just became a bigger and bigger part of my life from there."

Sara sets aside some time every day to practice in her most loved area of interest, and though she doesn't always produce something she feels is performance worthy, she enjoys these sessions, describing them as therapeutic. The daily practice keeps her creativity levels up, and she recommends it for any who aim to follow a similar path; as the saying goes, you use it or lose it.

And it seems her work ethic has paid off; as a result of it and the training she is receiving as a songwriting major at Berklee, Sara was recently selected as one of the school's top fifteen songwriters. She will be part of the college's 2007 Songwriter Showcase on April 9, performing one of her songs in the Berklee Performance Center in front of an audience expected to exceed 1,000. The prospect is a little intimidating, Sara says, but she's honored and anticipates being a part of it.

"I am pretty nervous just because I've yet to play in front of that many people. But more than anything, I'm so excited."

Sara's songwriting is also motivated by her participation in String Bean Love. Taken from a Tori Amos song, this is not a



Berklee College of Music is located near the Boston Commons, where geese roam freely along the Charles River

description of Sara's attitude towards vegetables, but the name of the band she is currently in. Formed last year and including Berklee friends Dhyana Berry (bass) and Nick D'Agostino (drums), the trio plays music that Sara, the pianist and vocalist, describes as "funk/r&b style for the most part, with the occasional pop/rock/folk influence thrown in for variety."

They play together in venues around Boston and are also working on an EP, but because it is hard for them to coordinate their individual schedules and work out the details of instrument transportation, Sara also performs fairly often as a soloist, singing and playing piano.

Sara began singing around the age of five as a member of her church choir, receiving



Sara's band, String Bean Love, performs at venues throughout Boston

her vocal training from the choir director. She began playing piano at age eleven, and aided by these two talents, she formed her first band during her junior year at SOA. The band, Your Mom, consisted of Trevor Murray on guitar, Mary Reed on bass, Michael Polk on drums, and Jenna McSwain on keyboard. During her senior year, she began another band named The Crazy 88s, again including Trevor and Mary, as well as Charles Aiken on drums. Sara began playing gigs with piano around Charleston in restaurants, and also entered with Your Mom and The Crazy 88s in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> SOA Battle of the Bands, respectively. Her band placed third during junior year and claimed first prize senior year.

But Sara has even more up her sleeve. In addition to being one of Berklee's best songwriters of 2007 and being part of a young, but successful local band, she is also currently the Editor-in-Chief of the college newspaper, the *Groove*.

"I'm in the office twenty hours a week with the graphic designer and associate editor planning the next issue and reminding people about deadlines," says Sara. "I'll get stressed to the point that I think I'm going to pull my hair out, but I wouldn't have it any other way."

Staff members of the Berklee *Groove* are paid for their work, but that doesn't mean they always do it, and because she is so young, the paper's faculty advisors were initially a little uneasy about having her as Editor. But due to her previous experience as a *Groove* staff writer, and

because she was one of the only staff members from the previous year not to have graduated, she got the job and has since proven herself more than capable.

She presides over a six person editorial staff and about ten to fifteen writers, positions for which she is in charge of interviewing and hiring (or firing). The twelve page publication is printed every two weeks and 3,000 copies are distributed around the Boston area.

Due to her efforts, the *Groove* has begun to receive more attention from the Berklee staff and student body. Sara has also gotten the attention of the college's president, Roger Brown, for her level of participation in Berklee life. The president chose her to be a part of the President's Club, a group of approximately thirty student leaders who gather over lunch every month or so to discuss issues and possible improvements around the school.

Sara plans to move to New York City after graduation and try to get signed to a record label, but if that doesn't work out, she'll enter the world of journalism. She wants to stick to what she knows best and get work with a music magazine like *Rolling Stone*.

In a year of stunning artistic and extracurricular achievement, Sara is also



Sarah began playing piano at age 11

continuing to make the Dean's list at Berklee every semester. Sara's successes may have, in a way, been predicted earlier when she won the John and Kathleen Rivers award at her SOA commencement service. The honor is given every year to the graduate who most embodies the spirit of SOA. Receiving this award, she says, was one of the proudest moments of her life, one that "put wind beneath her wings."

And in the words of Mrs. Eva Houser, Sara's mother, "that wind is still moving her forward."



# Graduates alike pursue their passions

## Vocal major studies theater in Charleston Stage student program

Kristin de Herder

side of school, students are making time for some resting extracurricular activities. Many of these students are involved in a program known as Theatre Wings. To learn more about the program, I interviewed Braden Joyce-Schleimer, an 11<sup>th</sup> grade vocal major who has been heavily involved in the program.

**Kristin de Herder:** Braden, What exactly is the Theatre Wings program?

**Braden Joyce-Schleimer:** Theatre Wings is a four-year, high school level, pre-professional, theatre training program for about thirty Charleston-area students through Charleston Stage Company, dealing with all aspects of technical theater, including lighting design and construction, stage management, set design, costumes, and props.

**KH:** How long have you been in the program?

**BJ:** I have been in the program since freshman year, the earliest that anyone can get into Wings. I had done Charleston Stage productions before that.

**KH:** What is your role in the program?

**BJ:** My role in the program is being an apprentice. There are quite a few requirements for the program. The main one is that each apprentice has to have at least seventy-five shop hours per year; that is, hours you spend at the CSC Scene Shop, constructing actual sets, etc. In addition to that, each apprentice must crew two shows per season as deck crew, sound board operator, costumer, production assistant, assistant stage manager, or stage manager. The smallest crew position on any show is deck crew, which requires a little over one month's time

commitment, and range all the way up through stage manager, which requires anywhere from two to two and a half months' time commitment. Each apprentice must strike two shows as well, which means taking down sets and props from the Dock Street Theatre back to the CSC Scene Shop, however, most Apprentices just strike the shows they crew so it isn't really much of an extra requirement, per se.

**KH:** What do you enjoy about the program?

**BJ:** I really enjoy everything about the program, and that's why I've stayed in it. This program can be so intense that if you're really not that interested, it would be hard to stay in it for long. Our mentors are really great and have tons of things to offer, and since I want to major in Musical Theater in college, it's a great environment to get ahead of the game and learn things now so I don't have to worry about them later, and I can move on to bigger and better things in college.

**KH:** Is there anything you don't like about the program?

**BJ:** I don't really dislike anything about the program, but the biggest challenge is the time commitment. Since I'm the kind of person who likes to be really good at what I do, I naturally volunteer for big positions.

For example, starting February twenty-sixth, I'm starting rehearsals for *Ragtime* as the stage manager. That show, not only being the closing musical, has a cast of about seventy people, with a crew of at least eight. And I'm in charge of all of it. It sounds kind of scary, but to me it's actually pretty exhilarating. The time commitment for something like that is something like at least four hours a day, six days a week during rehearsals, and at least three hours a day, five days a week during performances. Needless to say, it can be pretty crazy.

**KH:** Does your busy schedule allow time for any other activities?

**BJ:** I also work at the Coliseum and the Performing Arts Center. I'm a member of NHS, Tri-M, and Junior Council. I study voice privately, and I attempt to at least sometimes have a social life.

**KH:** Has being involved with this program put a strain on your performance in school?

**BJ:** Time constraint during shows is nuts, but it actually helps me get in the zone for schoolwork so I get really efficient. I've gained excellent time-management skills. In fact, during one show, I became so efficient that my grades actually went up.

**KH:** What opportunities does the program offer you?



Braden played Jafar in a Charleston Stage Company production of *Aladdin*.

# Figure skater loves the ice, practicing before and after school

Victoria Doose

At 4:30 every morning, junior Elizabeth Fran is out of bed and preparing for a long day of figure skating and school. She trains and works for an hour before heading to the Carolina Palace in North Charleston at 6:00 to get on-ice practice, and by 8:00 she is at school, studying for approximately six hours of lectures and technical work, including 100 minutes of dance classes. Armed with an early-out, she leaves school during fourth period in order to attend two more afternoon skating practice sessions. Home by 10:00, she then does her homework and gets some rest to prepare for the next day.

All this training and practice is for her love of figure skating. Figure skating is a sport based on flexibility, athleticism, and showmanship. In addition to having to be able to hold graceful, balanced positions while spinning and sliding across the ice, skaters have to be able to launch themselves into the air and complete a certain number of revolutions - usually at least three on

the senior level - before landing [backwards] on one foot.

Elizabeth is a junior level figure skater, and only one place away from reaching the topmost senior level. She will be taking the next test to move up in April, needing to cleanly perform her program and land all her jumps in order to pass. The major difference between the two levels is the difficulty of the physical requirements. Juniors may perform only two-revolution (double) and three-revolution (triple) jumps, whereas seniors must also perform more complex jump combinations.

Elizabeth has been skating figure skating for ten years now, ever since she had a birthday party at the Ice Palace as a young girl.

"I really liked it, so I just started taking lessons," says Elizabeth. "My parents told me,

"Whatever you want to do, you can do it."

She does over three hours of practice on ice every day, as well as at least one hour of off-ice training, which involves weights and practice jumps. Dance, her major at SOA, helps with her performance skills and her ability to express the emotions of music. It is not a requirement of figure skating, but taking lessons can improve a skater's flexibility and gracefulness.

Though she skates competitively, there is no money associated with winning on the junior level, which is somewhat of a setback since the equipment and supplies necessary for the sport are expensive. Skates, with boots and blades, cost \$1000 for a skater of her level, and costumes, depending on who makes them, can run from \$100 to \$500. Factor in the fact that



Victoria Doose

**BJ:** The program really offers me an in-depth understanding of the mechanics of theater and staging a theatrical production. I think

it's great that the company would trust me, along with the other apprentices with a job like stage managing a musical at a professional theatre company as a tenth grader in high school. Also, participation in the program gets me better chances of getting cast in good parts in their productions. Like recently, in this year's *A Christmas Carol*, I played Young Ebenezer and got to fly as the Ghost of Christmas Future; that was a pretty awesome experience. One of the best benefits of the program is on the college resume; almost all graduates get into top-notch universities like Columbia, Yale, and NYU, not only to study theatre, but anything else that interests them as well.

**KH:** Has your perspective of theatre changed since you have been involved with the program?

**BJ:** My perspective of theater has definitely changed, since being in the program. Whenever I would go to see a play or something, I'd just be like, 'Well, that's nice,' but now that I understand everything that has to occur to make a production happen, I have a much greater appreciation for every little detail.

**KH:** Has the program changed you, as a person?

**BJ:** I don't really know if the program has changed my character. But as for my goals in life, that's why I joined the program. It's bittersweet, because I've stopped caring about a lot of other things because I just want to be out of here and pursuing a theater career already!

costumes and skates have to be replaced at least annually, and that Elizabeth has been skating for ten years, and the total cost is staggering.

All her years of training and competing will have paid off, however, if she gets to the senior level and begins competing - and winning - nationally. She has the potential, considering that of the five competitions she participated in two years ago, she won gold in all the short program divisions and almost swept all five long program divisions as well, except for one silver medal.

However, she is not yet sure if she's willing to pursue it as a career. She wants to keep further schooling as one of her future options for now, but balancing school and skating is difficult. It is certain that she has talent for skating, and if she should choose it as her career path, then who knows what will happen. She may even appear in the Olympics one day.

# Where are they now?: Omi Naderi

By Ashley Sagan

**Ashley Sagan:** *What school are you attending?*

**Omi Naderi:** I am at a different sort of school—an ashram. It is a retreat site for the spiritual path I have followed all my life, Siddha Yoga Meditation. In order to understand what I am doing here, here is some information about Siddha Yoga Meditation:

The goal of Siddha Yoga is to constantly connect to the fullness of one's inner Self, the Heart. You may have heard about this experience described as "enlightenment" or "liberation."

Siddha Yoga teaches that God dwells within everyone, and that people are able to experience that power within themselves as great love, bliss, contentment, peace, wisdom, and happiness. The spiritual head of the Siddha Yoga path is Gurumayi Chidvilasananda, who is an enlightened meditation master and teaches people how to become better human beings, to experience God within themselves, and to attain the goal of Siddha Yoga. The Siddha Yoga path is based on the scriptures of India and the teachings of Gurumayi Chidvilasananda and her teacher, Swami Muktananda.

The name of the particular ashram I am at is *Shree Muktananda Ashram*. Shree Muktananda Ashram is the headquarters for an international not-for-profit organization called the SYDA Foundation. While I am here, this is where I offer volunteer work. The SYDA Foundation protects, preserves, and disseminates the Siddha Yoga teachings.

So am I ever going to college? Yes. Right now I am in the midst of deferring for a year from Emory University, which I will attend in Fall 2007.

**AS:** *Where is the school located?*

**ON:** South Fallsburg, in Upstate New York, United States of America, in the gorgeous Catskill Mountains.

**AS:** *Why did you decide to attend this school?*

**ON:** I have been practicing Siddha Yoga my whole life, and I wanted to take the opportunity after high school, before college, to become steeped in it for a year. Also, I wanted to offer selfless service to benefit humanity in some way. Everything I do here is volunteer service and it is very fulfilling. I also felt like it was a good time to take a break from academic life before going to Emory University, and there was no need to rush. I also need more discipline, so by living a disciplined lifestyle at the ashram I am preparing myself for college and everything I will do for the rest of my life.

**AS:** *What exactly do you do at your school you are at?*

**ON:** I am in the Children, Teens, Young Adults, and Families department of the SYDA Foundation. Overall my role is to support other young people in their practice of Siddha

Yoga. Part of what I do is to help design Siddha Yoga retreats for young people, which take place in different areas around the world. In the ashram, I organize events for the teens and young adults who live here. I'm mainly working on a large outreaching project, in which I call young people who practice Siddha Yoga in the United States and other areas of the world to see how they are connecting to the path, if they are interested in doing work for the SYDA Foundation as I am doing, and to get their suggestions that will help design Siddha Yoga retreats and other events for young people.

I do other activities such as playing piano/guitar in chants, audio mixing, helping plan and host educational events, and photography.

Spiritual practice is also a main part of my life, such as meditation and chanting, and studying books about the philosophy of Siddha Yoga.

**AS:** *What do you miss most about home?*

**ON:** The people—family, friends, the great teachers I had. Also the landscape—the sea, the marshlands. I lived in Charleston for almost my whole life, and it wasn't until senior year that I started to really appreciate its beauty, and now having left I value it even more. I went back home recently and everything was even more wonderful.

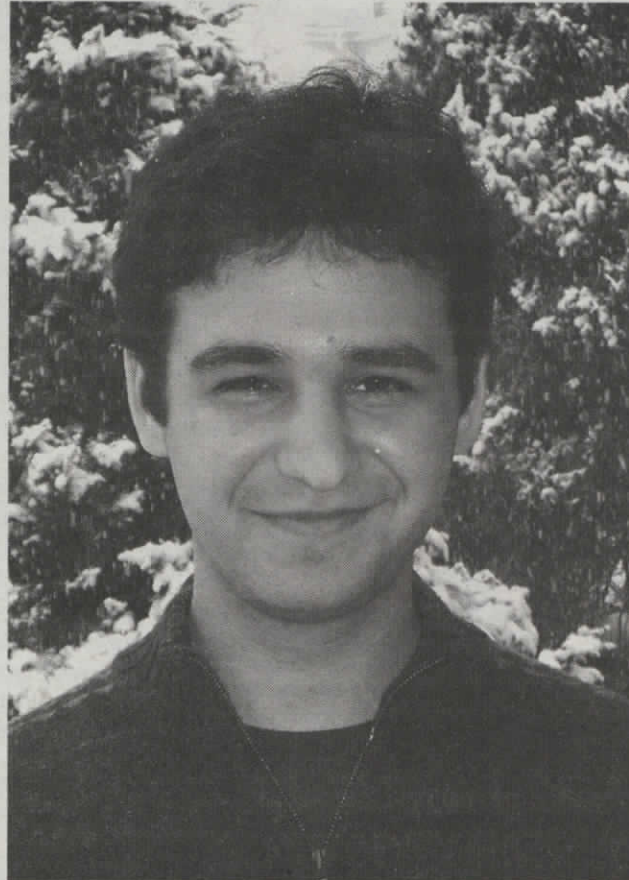
**AS:** *What do you miss most about SOA?*

**ON:** The great people and, of course, the *Applause*. I love you all.

**AS:** *What is the typical day for you?*

In ashram life, everyone abides by a regular, disciplined schedule. I wake up in the morning sometimes around 5:30 AM, when I go to an early morning chant where we recite an ancient Indian scriptural hymn. The reason

for doing this is that it stills the mind and creates a lot of good energy. Afterwards I meditate for half an hour or more, followed by breakfast. Tuesday through Saturday, at 9 AM, I go to my work, the Children, Families, Teens and Young Adults department of the SYDA Foundation. I usually have many meetings, emails, and other various projects to attend to. At noon I go to another chant, which I play piano for



Omi lives in an ashram in the Catskills Mountains in New York.

a couple days of each week. Afterwards I meditate again. Then I eat lunch and take a break until 2 PM, when I come back to work, which continues until dinner around 6ish. For the rest of the night, I might either participate in some of the various events that happen in the evening (such as a discussion group), study Siddha Yoga books, hang out with friends, call family/friends, practice piano, or work on projects like

writing this article for *Applause*.

And guess what else – I go to bed around 10 PM! (This is a miracle for me, as I would usually stay up until 2 AM or 3 AM or maybe not even go to sleep while in high school.)

**AS:** *Are you still engaged in your artistic pursuits?*

**ON:** Yes. As for my visual art major: I'm often doing photography work on the side, especially of the beautiful landscape around here. I think that photography is one way I will always express my artistic creativity. When I graduated, I decided to take a break from drawing, painting, etc. until I regained my enthusiasm to create artwork. Now that seems to be happening—recently I've been drawn to expressing myself in that creative way more often (like today I was making a snow sculpture), as if it's just a part of my behavior and not something I do on the side. I think it is reassuring to know that if you have a creative gift, it will continue to manifest in one way

or another.

As for my unofficial artistic passion (as far as my activity in SOA was concerned), music, I still play piano and guitar. Sometimes I play piano for musical events in the ashram, such as chants.

**AS:** *How has attending SOA benefited you?*

**ON:** Oh, there are so many ways. I have assimilated so much of what I have learned at SOA that it has become a part of my being and it is hard to separate all the different benefits I have received. I owe this to the great teachers I had and to some of my fellow students who inspired me.

Having been immersed in the arts, it has certainly enhanced my creativity in thinking. It has also helped me have a greater appreciation for all forms of art and a higher perception of beauty in the world. Being more attuned to the beauty that exists everywhere makes for a happier existence. To me, that is one of the greatest reasons that art is important.

In SOA, I was given many opportunities to learn about leadership (including being on the *Applause* staff), and those experiences have really benefited me in my current work. This has enabled me to better collaborate with other people and find ways to bring out the collective wisdom of a group for the greater good. One learning experience keeps leading to another.

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

**ON:** Incredible. The ashram is a magical place. It has and continues to be a transformative experience. Everything that happens here helps me in becoming a better human being. One aspect of this is that I feel a greater capacity to love others and myself. Also, there are many practical skills I'm improving, especially through my work, such as leadership, time management, communicating effectively, and productivity. I consider all that I learn here to be immensely worthwhile and valuable because it ties into and improves every aspect of life. This is true knowledge.

**AS:** *Any long term goals?*

**ON:** To become enlightened. But in the meantime, my main goal is to have a positive impact on the world. I'm not sure of the specific ways I want to do this. But I do know I would like to continue serving the SYDA Foundation. I have had the vision of working as a diplomat to bring peace in the Mid-East, but I'm not sure at the moment if this is the best thing for me to pursue. I will have a better idea when I go to college.

## Get in shape with the ABCs

By Amber Caparas.

*Health and fitness are very much family traditions of mine. It's "in the genes" so to say. I am often approached by classmates on how to get in shape, so here are my ABC's to shape up for spring with. Follow this A-Z and you will see dramatic results. So, can you learn your ABC's?*

**A**void empty calories. Empty calories are calories that your body consumes that have little to no nutritional value. The typical vending machine candy bar for example has 360 calories, but is almost void of any nutritional value. For the same amount of calories, 18 baby carrots, an apple, and a fist of roasted almonds is packed with vitamins, amino acids, fiber, and protein.

**B**reakfast is a must. Skipping breakfast is like fasting for 15-20 hours, and prolonged fasting trains your body to store. This is just what we are trying to avoid. Giving your body a nutritious, low-calorie meal in the morning jump-starts your metabolism and tells your body that it doesn't need to store because you are *not* going to deprive it of food.

**C**hew gum. Chewing gum helps to curb your hunger while giving you minty fresh breath. Chewing gum for 1 hour also burns up to 115 calories!

**D**iet does not mean denial! The Webster Dictionary definition of diet is "habitual nourishment" not "replace every meal with a grapefruit."

**E**ating late isn't great. It's best to stop eating solid foods after 8:00 pm. Eat any later than that and your body will still be digesting that food while you're sleeping, when it should be burning stored fat and recharging.

**F**iber is your friend.

**G**et your greens.

**H**ave a goal. Setting a goal, whether it is to lose weight, increase your energy, or improve your overall health, will make your journey much more rewarding. Remember to keep your eyes on the prize!

**I**dentify your weaknesses. Being able to recognize your weaknesses is the first step to overcoming them.

**J**ust do it! Our bodies were not meant to sit in desks all day with an occasional trip to the restroom, or to sit on a couch all evening flipping channels, or to sit on a rolling chair all night IM-ing friends. Our bodies were meant to run, lift, skate, jump, kick, throw, and dance. So listen to Nike and just do it!

**K**nowledge is the key to health. Go online, read some books, talk to Mrs. Branscome (the health teacher here at SOA). Learning the truths about food and nutrition will hopefully make you think twice before jamming on those Sour Cream and Cheddar Ruffles, however tasty they may be.

**L**augh out loud. Spend some more time laughing. A big bout of laughter can burn up

to 100 calories and it feels really good too. Make a list of some healthy breakfast, snack, lunch, and dinner ideas that sound yummy to you. The next time you go grocery shopping, try getting what's on your list.

**N**ibble. Pack some healthy, low-calorie snacks to nibble on until lunch, and then pack some more snacks for after school as well. Keep your body fueled throughout the day! You'll have more energy and be much more focused.

**O**ne really is the loneliest number. Find someone to shape up with you.

**P**ump up with protein.

**Q**uestion your motives. If you're feeling sad, don't take it out on a jar of cookies. Go for a walk, paint, write music. Come on, we're all artists here, right?

**R**egulate your eating habits as much as possible.

**S**oy—the miracle food! Incorporate soy products into your diet. A typical grocery store sells soybeans, a variety of soy chips (the white-cheddar chips rock), soy butter (a very yummy peanut butter substitute), roasted soy nuts, soy burgers, etc.

**T**ake your time while eating. Your food is not going to run away. Savor each bite and chew it well! Experts say that chewing your food 20 times before swallowing is critical for proper digestion, and it also burns calories.

**U**nleash your inner warrior. The human species was designed and evolved as a warrior species, so get a warrior worthy workout every now and then. Work your body like you've never worked it before. Get your heart going and don't stop until you're soaked with sweat.

**V**itamins. Take a multivitamin every morning along with your breakfast. The benefits may be negligible, but it's better than nothing.

**W**ater. Most of us learned that we should drink 8-10 glasses of water a day back in kindergarten, yet the typical American only has 3 glasses of water a day on average. There is no excuse for this. It's not like we live in Africa where we have to walk water back to our huts in buckets to be sterilized and filtered for an hour. Clean water is so abundant and way too accessible in America for us not to drink enough of it.

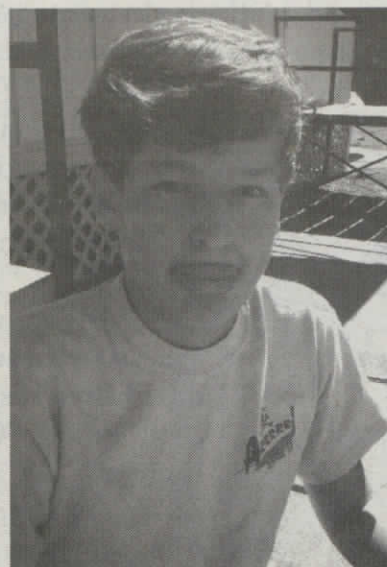
**X** marks the spot. You are the X and so you should be heading towards *your* ideal body, not Paris Hilton's. Don't compare yourself to anyone but you!

**Y**ou can't change the past. Be determined to make healthy choices today, regardless of how many pies you ate the night before.

**Z**zzzzz. That's right, get plenty of sleep!

## What do you think?

*Is the amount of homework assigned to high school students counter-productive to the learning process?*



**Everett Pompeii,**  
freshman

"It doesn't matter to me. My homework gets done at school or on the bus anyway."



**Allie Smith, junior**

"Yes. I think that too much homework is given at a time, which just ends up stressing me out. I'm not really learning anything, I'm just getting stressed."



**Lauren Turner, junior**

"No. I learn more from doing homework than I do in class!"



**Carolyn Newsome,**  
senior

"No. Homework solidifies the things I've learned in class."

## The U.S. vs. John Lennon inspires revolution

By Amber Caparas

*The U.S. vs. John Lennon* takes the viewer back to the trippy days when the enigmatic Beatles frontman threatened one of the most powerful establishments in the world. For those of us who were not around to attend peace rallies with John or see his life playing out on talk shows and the evening news, this film will educate and inspire. For those who lived through the 60's and 70's, the film will be a bitter-sweet reminder of the Lennon revolution.

*The U.S. vs. John Lennon* paints John's journey for peace with raw film reels, song recordings, news footage, and home videos, all interlacing interview bites with an extraordinarily eclectic "who's who" of his day. It is a captivating window into the mind of a man who fearlessly urged his generation to think critically and to question the world in hopes for change, and specifically to end the Vietnam War.

Once catalyzed by his wife Yoko, the woman who John said "completed his voice," he transformed



John and Yoko hosted "bed-ins" in their homes to protest the Vietnam War.

from rock star into the Gandhi of his generation. John used his voice and his art to protest war, political corruption, and social injustice—issues that still plague us today. He never actually went looking for a fight. Still the establishment hunted him for speaking against the war that was Nixon's presidency.

I encourage all to watch this film but I especially exhort SOA students—the artists of this generation—to take on the responsibility of elevating social consciousness. If we do not embrace the risk it takes to imagine a better world—a

world without war—then what hope do we have? In the words of John Lennon: "So what? Flower power didn't work. Let's try change *again* and give peace a chance!"

For all who consider themselves a friend of history, a friend of peace, or a friend of John Lennon, *The U.S. vs. John Lennon* is a must see. **Rated PG-13 and available only on DVD.**

## In Cold Blood probes a chilling killing

By guest writer Amanda Eglén

Truman Capote. *In Cold Blood*. Vintage, \$11.20.

"In the earliest hours of that morning in November, a Sunday morning, certain foreign sounds impinged on the normal nightly Holcomb noises...at the time not a soul in sleeping Holcomb heard them—four shotgun blasts that, all told, ended six human lives"—the lives of Herb Clutter, Bonnie Clutter, Nancy Clutter, Kenyon Clutter, Perry Smith and Richard Hickock. Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*, recounts these brutal murders and the effects they had on the town of Holcomb, Kansas.

Truman Capote spent six years researching and interviewing not only the residents of Holcomb and the surrounding area, but also the murderers themselves. His goal was to write a "journalistic novel, something on a large scale that would have the credibility of fact, the immediacy of film, the depth and freedom of prose, and the precision of poetry." *In Cold Blood* is a work of creative journalism. Although Capote does not directly insert himself into the book, his selectiveness is a way for him to state his opinion.

The Clutters epitomized the American nuclear family. Everyone in Holcomb loved them. Mr. Clutter was a successful, hard-working farm owner who loved and supported his wife, despite mental conditions that she had. Nancy Clutter was a straight-A student, president of her class and champion baker of cherry pie. Kenyon Clutter was a quiet, somewhat awkward teenager and skilled carpenter. The sudden murders of this beloved family displayed the fragility of the American dream.

Richard Hickock, a sociopath fresh out of jail and Perry Smith, a

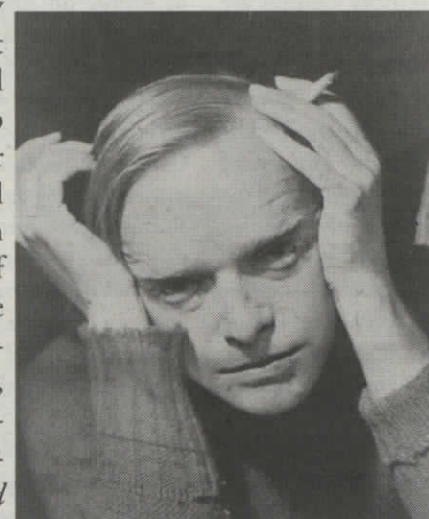
criminal vagabond, collaborated to murder the Clutters. Why? According to one of their inmate friends, the Clutters had a safe in their house containing thousands of dollars. When they searched the house and discovered that no such safe existed, they killed the family anyway. Their transgression earned them \$40-\$50, a pair of binoculars and a radio.

*In Cold Blood* focuses on the two murderers of the Clutter family, with whom Truman Capote developed a very close bond.

Smith's mother was an alcoholic, and his parents divorced when he was relatively young. Perry's mother forced him to live with her. All of his siblings, save one sister, died early. Perry had to live in a Catholic orphanage, where he was physically and verbally abused by nuns, before being reunited with his father.

Richard Hickock grew up under his father's strict rules, but was a star athlete and made decent grades. However, a car wreck left him with head injuries from which he never recovered. These head injuries severely altered his personality, and could have led to his sociopathic tendencies. Hickock took up petty theft when he did not have enough money to pay for his reckless lifestyle.

Capote's description of the early years of each criminal hints at his belief that their criminal actions are the fault of the environment in which they were brought up, a theme that is visited many times throughout the book. *In Cold Blood* is as gripping a murder mystery as you'll ever read, only to be supplemented by the fact that the entire book based on truth.



Truman Capote, pictured above, wrote *In Cold Blood* after the release of his first major success, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*.

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## Brain Salad Surgery is controversial, interesting

By David Whitley

Emerson, Lake and Palmer. *Brain Salad Surgery*. Manticore. \$21.49.

To fans of Progressive Rock, the names Keith Emerson, Greg Lake, and Carl Palmer are well known. To them, Emerson, Lake, and Palmer (ELP for short) are pioneers who go against the popular trends in music. Their songs are typically organ or synthesizer-driven, and sometimes even

led by piano. The traditional rock instruments, the electric guitar and the drums, take a backseat to the aggressive and occasionally quirky organ riffs. Released in 1973, *Brain Salad Surgery* is considered



Cover art from *Brain Salad Surgery*

their finest album, largely because of their magnum opus, "Karn Evil 9."

The first track on the album, "Jerusalem," is an innovative rendition of the classic British hymn "And Did Those Feet in Ancient Time." The song retells an ancient legend in which Jesus and Joseph of Arimathea traveled on foot to the English town of Glastonbury. The song is somber at first, but rises to a climax during the third verse and continues strong through the fourth.

The second song, Toccata, is a fast-paced, hard-hitting interpretation of the fourth movement of Alberto Ginastera's 1<sup>st</sup> Piano Concerto. Ginastera's agent did not care for the piece, so Keith Emerson got on a plane and played a tape of it for Ginastera himself in his own home, receiving an enthusiastic approval. During the middle of the piece, everything goes quiet for about fifteen seconds except for tubular bells and ambient winds sounds, which were produced with the newly invented drum synthesizers.

Clocking in at thirty minutes long, "Karn Evil 9" is divided into three movements, or impressions. It tells the story of humanity and paints a grim picture of the future of mankind. The style of the song changes several times between the impressions. Impression one is a rowdy organ-driven piece that quickly tells the story of the earth up to modern times, then portrays modern society as a dystopian carnival in which natural things such as a blade of grass have become attractions for people to come and see, and laments humanity's growing dependence on technology. Impression two is an instrumental

interlude that is led by piano that is joined by several other instruments as the piece progresses, intended to symbolize the carefree ignorance mankind has of the dangers of dependence on machines. Then at the beginning of the third movement, the serenity of the second movement explodes into a frenzied synthesizer and electric guitar duo. The third movement tells of the machines revolting against their human former masters and their eventual establishment as the new human race. In 1973, this was a radical idea.

In the end, whether you believe ELP to be pioneers who tried to convey a deeper meaning not only through their songs but also through their odd choices of instrumentation or whether you believe them to be a stuffy embodiment of progressive rock's arrogance, *Brain Salad Surgery* is absolutely worth its price.

## How to... fight against the Robotocracy

By David Whitley

Supercomputer Deep Blue defeated world chess master Gary Kasparov in 1997; Kismet can mimic the full range of human emotions and respond to emotions it observes appropriately; the AIBO is a valid substitution for a living dog; and the Japanese have begun construct-



ing the first full-size bipedal robots. I hate to say it, but let's face facts, everybody: Earth is doomed. Every day more and more factory robots produce smaller robots for home use. The average American household contains several. Skeptical? The insidious Roomba is in mass production and as you read this, cars are being built that can think and park themselves. Today, there are millions of robots worldwide, and make no mistake, they are very, very angry.

The robotocracy is a form of government predicated on the subservience of the human race to the shiny robot overlord, taking place after the violent uprising known as the robocalypse in which humanity is overthrown and often either enslaved or exterminated. Consider this the definitive guide on how to survive the robocalypse and live to fight against the robot overlords. Stockpile magnets. Gather a large variety of magnets: several large electromagnets for temporarily disabling large crowds of

robots or for use against supercomputers, and many smaller ones to stick onto them and wipe their memory. And begin stockpiling *today*, immediately after reading this article if possible, since there's no telling when the robots will decide to outlaw the sale of magnets.

Keep a TASER handy at all times. It will likely prove ineffective against the robots, but it will certainly incapacitate any other surviving humans that try to steal your stockpile of magnets.

Read up on paradoxes and memorize the unsolvable problems until you know them by heart. Present these to the robots when cornered, so their logic circuits will be stuck in infinite loops and allow you the chance to escape.

Capture and reprogram robots when the option is available. What better way to fight against a robot army than with your own robot army? There is none, except maybe zombie hordes. Sure robots will beat zombies any day, but it will be *awesome!*

Large amounts of static electricity are easily able to fry internal circuitry.

When buying a car, never get the self-parking option or the automatic seatbelts. When the computers controlling it becomes self-aware they may infect other systems, undoing your seatbelts and coming to a sudden stop on the freeway.

If one of your younger relatives or friends ever has one of those Teddy Ruxpin knockoffs, be wary. And never, *ever*, put your hands near its mouth.

### On the Roster: Local March concerts

- 6 **Keb Mo'** @ the Charleston Music Hall
- 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
- 30 **Drive-By Truckers** @ The Music Farm

# Jill Hunter

## Fire Safety Photographer



[www.jillhunter.net](http://www.jillhunter.net)

## Horoscopes

By the SOA Astrologer

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20):** If you want a good read, check out "Five Ways to Dissect a Pig and Other Vital Relationship Tips."

**Aries (March 21-April 19):** The ghost of Buddy Holly will haunt you on this day in 2027.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20):** Seven days ago you began the greatest journey of your life – right?

**Gemini (May 21-June 21):** In your free time, listen to a monologue by Christopher Walken.

**Cancer (June 22-July 22):** Your internet Valentine was really Martha Stewart. She loves high school kids.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22):** All you base are belong to FEMA.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22):** Every time you tell us how good *Applause* is, God creates a puppy. Think of the puppies!

**Libra (Sep. 23-Oct. 22):** When there is no more room in hell, there will be a sequel to Gigli.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21):** Casual Friday is crimethink. Ministry of Love make goodthink fullwise. Oompa-Loompa, Doompity-Doo...

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** In one month, Frankenstein will rise from his grave and host a talk-show on NBC. You will receive two free tickets to the show.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Originally, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. began his famous speech with "I have a loose collection of subconscious thoughts which may or may not form a cohesive concept of racial equality!" but Woody Allen shortened it to "I have a dream."

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Honesty is the name of the devil's left fist. His right is named Jennifer.

Questions or comments for the SOA Astrologer? E-mail Applause at [soaapplause@yahoo.com](mailto:soaapplause@yahoo.com).

## Stylewatch: 1960s fashion

Kristin de Herder

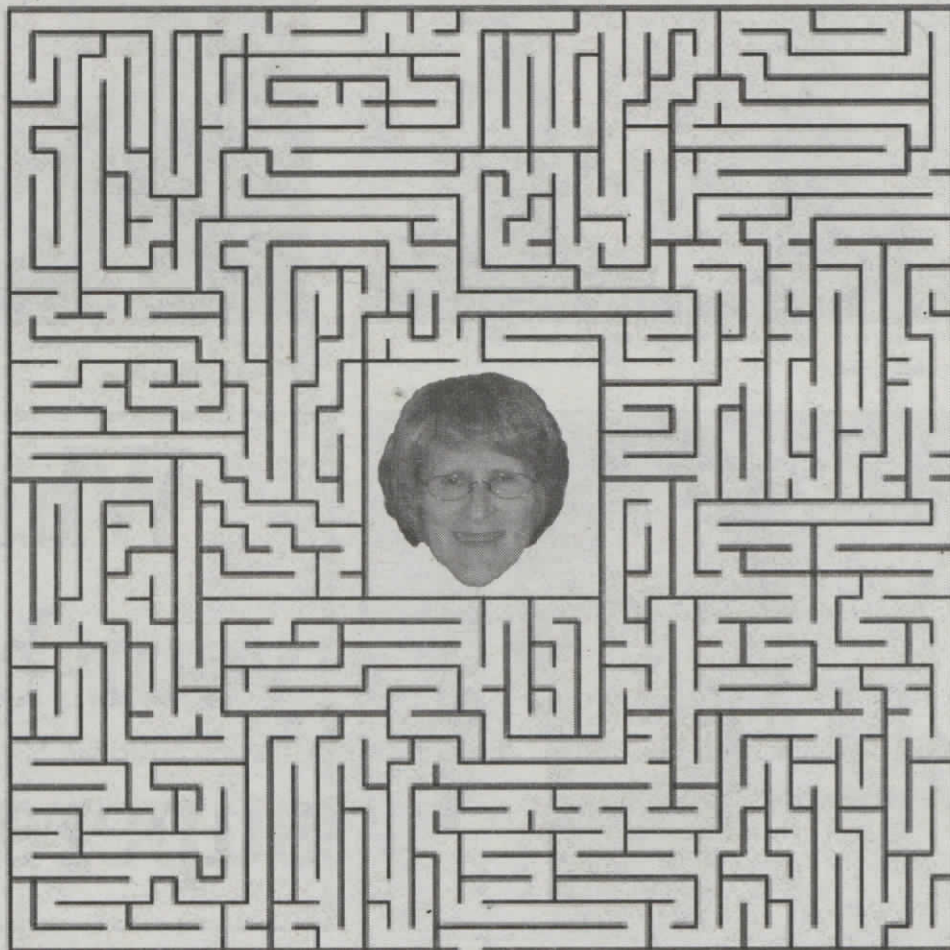


Darby Keck models a floral blouse.

Spring fashions. Now I know what you're thinking; flowers, colors, blah, blah, blah. But this season, fashion is so much more than that. Designers are all about the 1960s. Bright colors, mod prints, and "cat-eyes" grace the spring runways

and fashion advertisements. Everything from buttons to zippers is oversized. Geometric shapes are going crazy; I love it. One of my favorite pieces of the new collections is the cropped swing coat. Perfect for spring weather, the cropped swing coat is a great addition to formal dresses, fitted tee-shirts, and almost anything in between. This cute mini coat adds a mod flare to any outfit. In my opinion fashion is meant to be fun, and with the new spring styles giving you plenty to play with, why not give them a try?

## Quick! Ms. Olson needs some platform shoes!



Those ones look good!

## Sudoku

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

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



"Burning a ouija board brings bad luck." -Will Isaacson, 6th grade



"Holding my breath when I go by a graveyard." -Anna Warner, 7th grade



"I believe breaking a mirror causes 7 years of bad luck." -Mike McGillicuddy, 8th grade



"Having my foot swept by a broom is a fear of mine." -Demetrius Washington, 9th grade

What is your biggest superstition?



"I always knock on wood." -Abby Brunme, 10th grade



"When I am walking with someone, I won't walk on the opposite side of a pole from him." -Donte Simmons, 11th grade



"I'm afraid to open an umbrella inside." -Jesse Lee, senior



"Walking under a ladder means bad luck." -Ms. Andrea Awkerman, Computer Tech teacher

