



Applause

Vol. 8 No. 7

School of the Arts

April 2007

FREE

Letter from the Editor



I am proud and excited to announce the latest achievement of *Applause* newspaper: a fifty-thousand dollar grant from the South Carolina Board of Education will allow us to build an on-campus printing press! This will afford us innumerable opportunities to make *Applause* better than ever before. With our new facilities, we can publish weekly installments in full color. Students and faculty alike will get the chance to tour a working newspaper press. The staff is truly grateful for the generosity of this grant, and is more committed than ever to the coverage of students and their endeavors at SOA.

Above all else, I would like to wish everyone a very happy April Fools Day.

Sincerely,

School Calendar

- April 2-6:** Spring Break
- April 21:** Junior/Senior Prom at SC Aquarium
- April 25-26:** HSAP testing
- April 30:** HS Theatre Gnomecoming in Black Box at 7p.m.

Cover art by Laura Matthews, senior.



Applause
the official student newspaper of
Charleston County School of the Arts



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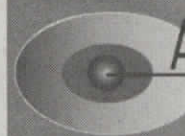
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Ashley Sagan

"Untitled" by **Brooke Warden**, senior.



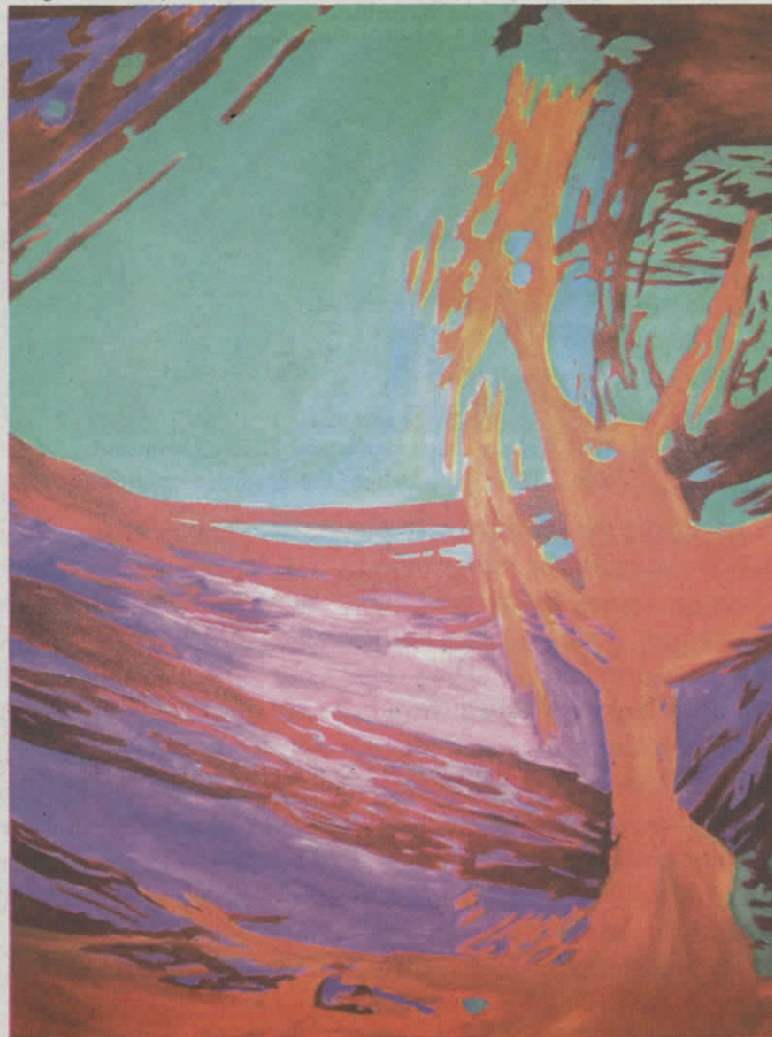
Lucy Hunter

"Big Berries" by **James Vickers**, freshman.



Lucy Hunter

"Oh Geez I Have A Disease" by **Charlotte Kaufman**, senior.



Lucy Hunter

"Untitled" by **John Wray**, junior.

National Honor Society Update

By Victoria Doose



The March 10 yard sale at the Wholly Cow on Coleman Boulevard in Mt. Pleasant was cancelled due to ominous weather forecasts, but was rescheduled and held on March 24 at the same location, beginning at 8:00 a.m. We in the National Honor Society thank all of those who donated items and helped us raise money for our scholarship fund.

NHS is having a beach sweep on Saturday, April 31. It will be at Folly Beach and participants will meet for breakfast at 9:30 a.m.

Keep purchasing breakfast from the NHS table in the Fine Arts Building in the mornings to satisfy your morning hunger and increase our scholarship fund. Tutoring is also still being held, as always, every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon in Ms. Cobun's room.

SOA brings home trophies from Quest competition

By Lucy Hunter

Quest, an annual competition which invites sixth through twelfth graders to compete in math, science, social studies, composition, public speaking, visual arts, Spanish, and French, was held Saturday, March 17 at the Trident Technical College. SOA middle schoolers took two top prizes and two high schoolers went home with medals as well.

Ms. Anna Bronk,

an English teacher, coordinated SOA's participation. The Level I social studies team, comprised of 6th graders **William Waters, Nick Bentz, and Henry Camp** took



Will Walters, Nick Benta and Henry Camp outside Trident Tech, where the Quest competition

first, qualifying for a written test and then dominating in the buzzer round. The buzzer portion was the most difficult, said Nick, a self-professed history buff. "We had to be fast." Their closest competition was Rollings Middle School, who they said was a bit too quick and random with their buzzers. Buist Academy was right behind Rollings, but as Henry pointed out, "we beat them by like 220 points." The social studies trio expressed interest in teaming up again and competing next year. Because this year's preparation consisted mostly of last minute cramming, Will suggested, "I think we should study

together."

Seventh grader **Jack Gallagher** took home the second place medal for Level II visual arts. Of this year's topic "Messy Room," inspired by a Shel Silverstein poem, Zack said, "Yes, it was a good idea" and that he "liked designing all the messy parts of the room." It took him about a week to create the colored-pencil work. He said he chose colored-pencils as his medium because they are "easy to color with and they show texture." He enjoyed the competition so much that he has decided to compete in next year's competition.

Lucy Hunter, a junior, won third place in the composition category. **Carolyn Brown**, also a junior, competed in Level IV public speaking and earned first place. "It was fun," she said. "Competing is always fun." She composed her speech in her public speaking class. "In the process of writing it, I learned a lot," she noted. She took great efforts to "not sound like all the other competitors." Obviously, her work paid off.

Congratulations to all winners and competitors.

Students and teachers jam at SOA jazz performance

By Liz Gildea

During fourth period on Thursday, March 1, **Ms. Laura Tisdale's** U.S. History classes jammed with a "real live" jazz band. Filling the risers in the high school vocal room, the students watched as pianist Richard White, bassist Vince Rivers and drummer David Patterson performed several classics including Duke Ellington's "Take the A Train" and "Nostalgia in Times Square" by Charles Mingus. Middle school band teacher **Mr. Charlton Singleton** accompanied them on the trumpet for a portion of the performance.

After White, Rivers and Patterson played their set, SOA band students took turn in joining the musicians for an impromptu jam session. One by one, our young players stepped forward and, with enviable improvisational skills, sounded off his own syncopated solo. Some were a little reticent; others were bold and assertive; all received enthusiastic applause.

"It was sweet," said junior **Daniel Harper**, one of two SOA guitarists who played Thursday. "The best part was when **Michael Kay** first played his solo on the piano."

Michael, a senior, played alongside Mr. White while the rest of the soloists alternately stepped up to the mic. The two were tapping their feet and smiling, even switching places several times as they experimented with the chords.

The other SOA juniors and seniors who played solos Thursday are **Adam Warden**, on guitar; saxophonists **Ricky Quinones, Kelly Macha-**

do, Cody Nelson and Leon McGill; Thomas Cooper on trombone and **Charlie Richardson** on trumpet.

At one point, five juniors – **Bugs Utsey, Alanna de la Pena, Virginia Lee Pfahler, Logan Wells and Sysstke Hillenius** – began swing dancing in an open space on the vocal room floor (until they were finally urged by a teacher to give it a rest).

They were applauded as they returned to their seats.

After the performance, the musicians took questions and spoke a little about their experience with jazz music. Mr. White reminded students of the importance of practicing: "Playing a musical instru-

ment is a very physical thing," he pointed out. "You're using muscles that you wouldn't normally use."

And in jazz, he said, "You're not relying on notes on a page. You have to dig deep within yourself and pull something out."

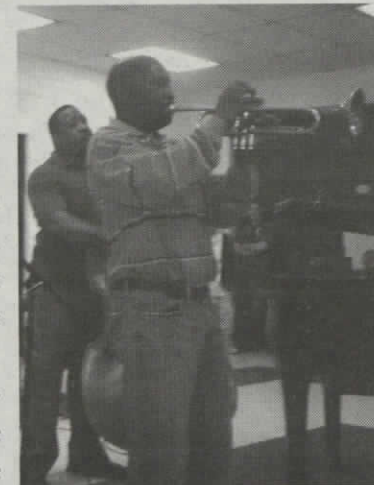
Ms. Tisdale, known for the annual "Living History" project and mini-show put on by her CP and Honors classes, coordinated the musicians' visit in order to celebrate Black History Month and reinforce her students' study of the birth of jazz in America. "You guys have been studying it from a social, political,

historical point of view," she said to students at the performance. "I wanted you to actually experience it." She said she especially wanted to "emphasize Charleston's impact on jazz – which continues today."



Senior Thomas Cooper improvises on the trombone.

Photos by Liz Gildea



Vince Rivers played bass while Mr. Singleton accompanied him on the trumpet.



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Charleston County School of the Arts



Middle School Interns

Page 5 is compiled by our 8th grade interns:

Chelsea Adent Paige Lamprecht

Desie Ashe-Bradford Eric Payne

Mary Lee Carter Gabrielle Wolfe
Liz Gildea, intern advisor

Congratulations to the following middle school Visual Arts majors who received awards in the state REEL art competition, sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources:

Ryan Bing- 1st place
Miles Merritt- 3rd place
Pete Page- Honorable Mention

Police Blotter

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.

Cop-Misspelled Words Of the Month:

- "Charelston"
- "The victim had a severe stork".

Regular Stupidity

On one lovely evening, near the end of April, a drunken man stumbled around the parking lot of a Meeting Street gas station, walked into a parked car, and nearly fell on someone trying to enter the store. When approached by a cop, the man said, "You can't arrest me for walking around drunk because I'm not driving." He was then arrested for public drunkenness. No word if he's been charged for public stupidity.

Two boys got into a fight at a local high school on May 2, apparently because one of the boys thought the other had thrown a chicken bone at him. Both were arrested and taken to jail for disturbing school. Kentucky Fried Jailbait tonight?

On Sept. 15, a young girl forgot her purse in Spanish class and returned to find its wallet missing. The poor kid is now without her Hilary Duff wallet, containing \$10, two Limited Too gift cards and a fake New York driver's license picturing — who else? Hilary Duff.

A man was busted on June 11 in a King Street grocery store for tucking a package of Nestle Toll House chocolate chip cookie dough into his trousers. He was arrested and the merchandise was returned to the store, where it will promptly be sold to someone who has no idea it hung out in a dude's pants for awhile.

Threatening Text Message Of the Month:

"Be afraid. Be very afraid. I'm going to get you!" Geez, where was the >:(?

The way I see it: An argument for smaller cars

By Eric Payne

What is so great about rumbling down the road, pushing other people off, and wasting gasoline that pollutes the environment in order to get to dance, piano, or sports practice in a huge monstrosity SUV? I can understand if you have a large family that has to go places, in an eight-passenger vehicle, but if you are single or even married with one or

two kids, you do not need such a large car. I have been more observant about this and I see most SUV's -including Hummers- occupied only by the driver. These things are almost as big as mini busses, and they hog the road on small streets. And last, they are mammoth gas wasters. In a comparison between Ford, Chevrolet, Hummer, Lincoln, and

Cadillac SUVs, the average mpg was 14.2/city and 19.4/hwy. These cars cost about 30,000 dollars. However, a Honda Accord can get 26/city and 34/hwy, and a Toyota Camry 24/city and 34/hwy. They can seat five passengers easily and cost about 10,000 dollars less. The way I see it, everyone should get a hybrid or a small sedan.

Ms. Mitchum is Teacher of the Year finalist

By Chelsea Adent

Ms. Jennifer Mitchum, a 6th grade language arts teacher at SOA, is a finalist for Charleston County Teacher of the Year. We all think this is a well-deserved honor for her. She has been teaching for fourteen years and is the mother of two children: Sara, who is in 10th grade at SOA, and Jeffrey, 8, who attends Hanahan Elementary School. I got the chance to sit down with Ms. Mitchum and talk to her about her experiences as a teacher and what she looks forward to in the future.

Chelsea Adent: Where did you go to college and what degrees did you receive?

Ms. Jennifer Mitchum: I went to the College of Charleston and I have a degree in Elementary Education. That's for grades 1-8. I am taking classes at the Citadel. I've kind of gone on and off, trying to figure out where I want to go, because I'm taking English classes and science classes. I probably have enough to have a masters degree by now, but I think I've settled into language arts as something that I really enjoy doing — but I've tried out a lot of different things.

CA: What made you want to teach elementary school?

JM: When I first was in college, I thought, "Well, middle school kids are too hard to handle," and so I thought I would try elementary. I did, and I enjoyed elementary while I was there, but then I got a job in a middle school and fell in love with the kids. I just absolutely love their enthusiasm, and the fact that they are a little more mature and that you don't have to walk them to the bathroom, tie their shoes, and do other stuff like that.

CA: What's your favorite thing to teach in English

class?

JM: That's hard. I enjoy a lot of things, but I really enjoy poetry. I don't know that the kids enjoy poetry as much as I enjoy poetry, but I enjoy teaching the metaphors that are in poetry and I enjoy discussing good points.

CA: Where else have you taught?

JM: I began teaching at Hanahan Elementary School, where I was an assistant teacher first although I had a teaching degree. For some reason that year, it was really hard for teachers to find jobs. And so I started out as an assistant in a kindergarten classroom. I taught kindergarten for two years there, and then I went to Hanahan Middle School and stayed there for about five or six years. Then I went to 5th grade, [which] I taught, got moved back to the elementary school, and so I went back to the elementary school. That's when I realized I really didn't want elementary school kids anymore. I was like, "Get me out!" So I went back to Hanahan Middle School the next year, then went back and forth between those two schools until I came here. And this is my fourth year at SOA.

CA: What do you think is the hardest thing about teaching kids?

JM: I guess sometimes the most frustrating thing is — and I only say it's hard because I don't have any control over it — is how encouraged they are to do what I've asked them to do. I try to plan things that I think are engaging and things they'd be interested in. But I guess it's difficult for me when I feel like I've planned this really great thing and then they're just ho-hum about it. That's frustrating. So that's the difficult part, is finding things all the time to keep kids engaged



Chelsea Adent

and excited about what they're doing.

CA: Did you have to prepare anything to become a finalist for Teacher of the Year?

JM: Yes, we had to write eight essays. They were on various subjects. A lot of it was, why did I become a teacher? Where have I taught in the past? What kinds of things do I like to do? Some of the same questions you have asked me here today. Also, a lot of political kinds of questions. Like, where do we see education going? What is difficult in education? I guess they judged the finalists on the answers to the essays.

CA: What is the best thing for you about being a finalist?

JM: Probably the opportunity to share some of the things I've found success with... I think as a finalist, I may be able to share these things with some other teachers, such as the Socratic seminar I do, and that sort of thing. I would enjoy being Teacher of the Year because teaching is something I love to do. Winning would open a new door for me.

SOA professionals: Students do

Daniel Davis tours the east coast as a contemporary violinist

By Victoria Doose

Daniel Davis is reinventing violin music.

A Strings major, Daniel is taking his talent with the violin to untraditional extents. The senior not only uses his first chair orchestral skills to play the classical music everyone is familiar with, but also to translate contemporary R&B and hip-hop songs to the style of the stringed instrument.

It seems an impossible combination, but it works. Daniel and his music are in high demand: he has played in cities all along the east coast – Ft. Meyers, Tallahassee, New York City, and Atlanta, just to name a few – and has made appearances in events such as the Black Expo held here in March.

Daniel first started playing the violin at twelve years old and has been taking private classical lessons ever since, also receiving training in his orchestra classes at SOA. He hopes to start taking jazz strings lessons soon at the College of Charleston to enhance his self teaching in that area.

Though he is not associated with an agency and has no official manager, Daniel has no trouble finding work with his instrument. He performs at everything from conventions to conferences, churches to weddings, schools to talent

showcases, and plays in styles ranging from gospel to jazz. His performances themselves are good promotional events, since he receives on-the-spot offers of both classical and contemporary gigs while performing at venues. There's good money in it, too.

"Oh, you don't want to know how much I make," Daniel said, laughing. He revealed the sum, however, saying he makes anywhere from \$200 to \$600 a performance, when donations and sales of his promotional CDs are factored into the set prices. It's a testament to his talent and the appeal of his music, as well as good incentive to continue playing

after graduation.

Daniel's main goal, however, is to broaden the violin's conservative image and give it more appeal to the general public.

"I want to take the violin out of its label as a boring classical instrument and give it a little style and flair," he says. His enthusiasm is obvious, and with determination, he may do just what he wants.

Samples of Daniel's music can be heard online on his Myspace page <www.myspace.com/danyell7145>, and he has promotional CDs for sale.



Lucy Hunter

Daniel earns more than \$200 for a single performance.

Jesse Lee dreams of

By Victoria Doose

Starting from the age of five, senior Vocal major **Jesse Lee** has been working toward her career as a model. Although her mom first introduced her to the modeling world when they lived in Rome, New York, Jesse didn't develop her own love and appreciation for modeling until around the third grade. Her mother, a member of the Air Force, was transferred to the Charleston area, where Jesse became a client of the Southeast Talent Agency. She is also affiliated with Millie Lewis and the Florida-based Ozone magazine.

Her job offers come randomly and without warning, based on companies' opinions on her looks and personality as presented on the Southeast Talent website. The offers go to the agency first and are then relayed to her;

their suddenness doesn't often bother her as far as schoolwork is concerned, but it sometimes creates issues with her job at Best Buy.

"Sometimes I'll get a job like three days before I find out I have a shift to work at [Best Buy]. I have to call people and get them to work for me," she explains. "You don't even know when a job's going to be offered to you; it's your decision whether you want to take the job, and I'm the kind of person who wants to take every opportunity I get."

Her determination to turn modeling into her career is evident in the amount of shows in which she performed. Though mostly a fan of high-fashion runway modeling, Jesse has also entered pageants, been featured in



Developing careers as performers

Modeling for a living

magazines, and even won a Got Milk contest several years ago. Last month she was in a David's Bridal fashion show, and she is scheduled to appear in a Savannah show by hairstylist Paul Mitchell on April 25.

Jesse has, in addition to her vocal training at SOA, been taking acting lessons in an effort to develop as many of her talents as possible. It's important for a model to be prepared, Jesse says, so she practices her modeling skills often. She meets with the Southeast Talent CEO every Wednesday to do runway practices, vocal exercises, and improvisation sessions.

Not only does she have to keep her skills sharp, but her body in shape. It is typical to stereotype

a model as an anorexic backstabber, but Jesse dispels this myth.

"That whole 'models don't eat' thing is definitely not true. I mean, I eat all the time. My model friends eat all the time. And I can definitely say that whenever I go to conventions, I'm friends with everyone. I haven't really come across anything where people steal peoples' shoes and rip dresses."

Jesse's greatest dream is to make her living as a model, but she wants to attend either College of Charleston or University of Georgia and major in Psychology.

More images of Jesse's modeling can be seen on her webpage with Southeast Talent at www.southeasttalent.com/jesse_lee.html.



Demetrye Malloy pursues vocal ambitions, sings at local venues

By Victoria Doose

With three talents and three names to go along with them, **Demetrye Malloy** is a multi-faceted character. Also known as "Dee" and/or "D'jzhai" (his stage name), the senior vocalist is adept at singing, playing the piano, and composing both the lyrical and instrumental aspects of songs.

Dee has been singing practically all his life, introduced to it at the young age of six through his church. He didn't start playing the piano until sixth grade, receiving formal lessons for only two years, and began writing lyrics soon after at the age of thirteen.

When he first started performing on a more public level, Dee found gigs with the aid of his mother and his uncle, who, using his connections as a band member at the Atlanta Apache club, introduced the budding musician to what is currently his most steady venue. A couple of months ago, however, Dee was introduced by senior **Jesse Lee** to the Southeast Talent Agency. He now gets most of his show offers through the agency, which caters to aspiring models, dancers, and musicians.

Though generally a soloist, Dee occasionally joins fellow seniors **Daniel Davis** and **Joe Wiggins** to play as a band. Their last appearance, and Dee's last performance in the local area, was at SOA's Winter Formal.

Dee says he performs on any given day, mostly at weddings and clubs, and he is always up for hire. He sings and plays all genres of music except country (he's not a fan), but puts his music under the general style



of "rawk."

"Rawk music promotes people to be themselves," Dee explains. "You know, like 'raw.' I like to keep it real."

In addition to performing around clubs and other venues, Dee has been the director of the youth choir at his church, Oak Chapel Missionary Baptist, for three years. He credits everything around him and all of his experiences as the inspirations for his songwriting and compositions. Inspiration can come at any time provoked by anything, and Dee is always prepared for it.

Where are they now?: Trevor Murray

By Ashley Sagan

Trevor Murray, a graduate of SOA's class of 2006, is a music engineering major at University of Miami.

Ashley Sagan: *What do you miss most about home?*

Trevor Murray: I miss the real South. I miss my friends and family, and all the people I've known forever. I miss the few responsibilities I had when at home and the fact that the only thing I had to worry about was making decent grades in school.

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

TM: The people. The people at SOA kept me coming back day after day. And as strange as this may sound, I'm not just referring to the students. I had so many teachers, like **Dr. John Custatis**, who were funny and made class enjoyable while teaching. Only, sometimes they repeatedly forgot to give me their soup recipes --SOA kids, demand that Mr. Brehm hand over his secret recipe, or else. Of course, I miss being able to walk around and always find someone I know and enjoy talking to. There are so many people at UM and initially, it was extremely frustrating not being able to meet them all, but I've gotten used to it.

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

TM: Sadly, there are no more bassoons in my life, and I don't play in any wind ensembles or orchestras. Good news is that I'm studying jazz guitar and get to play with some insanely good musicians. jazz guitar is my principal instrument. I'm not in any performing ensembles yet, but hopefully that will change in the coming years, because spots are usually filled by performance majors.

AS: *How has attending SOA benefited you?*

TM: At SOA, I was exposed to many different things and developed an appreciation for many types of art. If it weren't for SOA, I would probably

never have become interested in jazz, and would most likely not be attending UM. In addition to teaching me to keep an open mind, SOA also showed me that school can actually be interesting. Really, I could go on and on about how great SOA is and how much impact it has had on everything I do. I like how it has shaped me as a person and prepared me for college.

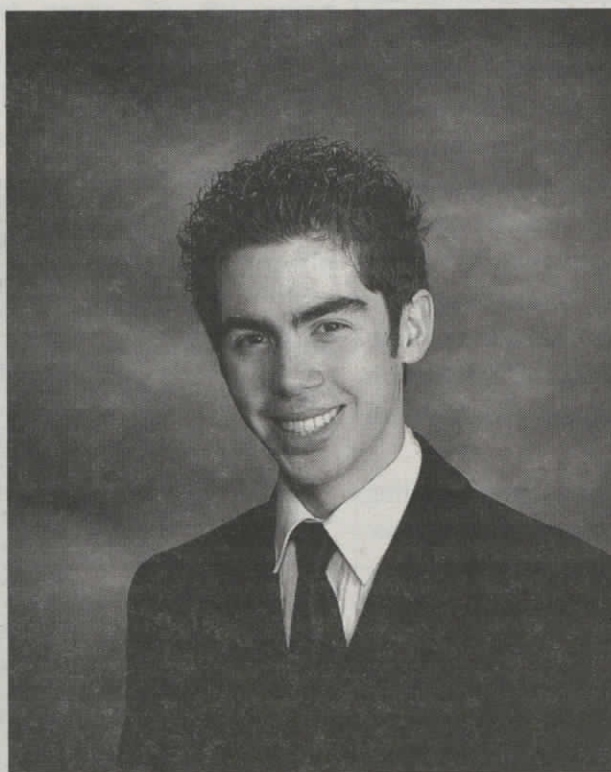
AS: *Why did you choose University of Miami?*

TM: Well, it's got one of the best jazz programs in the country, along with one of the strongest and well-known music engineering programs around. The MUE program, as we like to call it, was the first of its kind (it's been around for over 30 years), and has a very good reputation in the audio and music industries. It is a perfect blend of the artistic and the technical, and there is no other program like it. The jazz program is also widely known and is associated with names such as Bruce Hornsby, Pat Metheny, and Raul Midon. In general, the Frost School of Music at UM is just plain awesome. I'm confident that it'll be worth the \$5 billion --exaggeration-- that I'm paying to go there.

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

TM: Besides being amazing, my experience at the University of Miami so far as been very exciting, eye opening,

life-changing, and most definitely humbling. Being around so many talented people was intimidating at first, but I've gotten used to it and now use that intimidation to fuel my improvement. As far as classes go, I'm pretty happy. I've learned so much since I've been at UM, and I am satisfied with the classes and professors, with the



exception of Calculus II, the only class that will prompt me to ask for a partial tuition refund. No price can be placed on the experiences I've had or the people I've met, though. I've made many cool friends from all over the country

and even the world. Foreexample, right now I'm producing a dance track for this girl from Milan, Italy.

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

TM: I reluctantly roll out of bed around 9 a.m. --7.30 am last semester-- and go to either Music Theory or to Ear Training. Physics is next in line, and that's always a party. After that, I run back to the room, try to gather my stuff for the rest of the day, possibly get some work done, and then take a 20-30 minute power nap, which keep me alive. I quickly grab something to eat at the dining hall and then head off to work. I work in the recording studio, where I'm the Inventory Manager and Maintenance Assistant. Most days, things work well in the studio, so after class I run inventory of our equipment, I spend some time practic-

ing guitar, doing homework, or studying for a Physics test I have later on in the day. Right after work, with guitar and all, I head over to take the Physics test I have been frantically studying for. After I confidently complete the test (ha!), I head to Calculus II for more brain pillaging. At this point in the day, it's 7.45 pm. Still not done. Off to my Contemporary Rhythm Section Techniques class, which is an ensemble. I'm paired up with a bassist and pianist, and we whip up some quick arrangements of jazz tunes and perform for the rest of the class. That ensemble is over by 9.15 pm or so. I go back to my dorm, cook up some Easy-Mac, then work on a MIDI project for my Desktop Audio Production class, maybe practice piano, and then practice for my guitar lesson. Bedtime is, on average, 2 a.m.

AS: *What will you do next?*

TM: To be completely honest, I don't know. I haven't given much thought to what I might be doing after college, but I know that I'm happy with my major and what I'm doing now, so I'm sure it'll lead to something good later on. Plus, who knows what or who will arise in the next few years? I haven't even been at UM for two semesters and I've already met some really cool people who have got me interested in things I might not have experienced otherwise.

AS: *Any long-term goals?*

TM: I want to become big-time rap producer, get at least 45 Grammy's under my belt, and drive grossly overpriced European race machines --joking. But really, other than the standard long-term goals such as retiring early and owning a house on the beach, I have none. I do want a recording studio in my house. I guess I just want to be happy. Hopefully that's not too hard to achieve in this life.

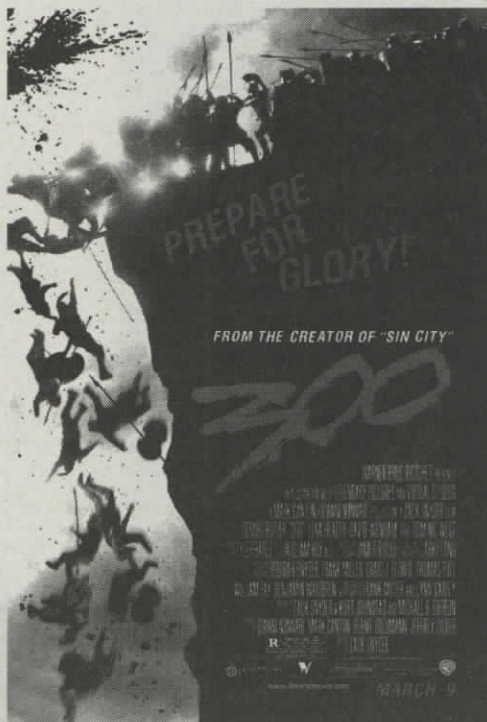
300 is an exciting, bloody war story

By Blake Engel

A bloodbath of nearly unimaginable proportions, Zack Snyder's sophomore directorial effort *300* is an epic that tells the story of 300 Spartan warriors who fought against the million-strong army of the God-King Xerxes of Persia at Thermopylae, in the end gaining glory and "the beautiful death" so desired by the Spartan warrior-culture. Adapted from the comic of the same name by Frank Miller, *300* can be described as no less than a visceral and visual experience that does not require itself to be a completely well told tale. Beginning with a choir's bombastic war-song, the film barely lets go of the viewer, nearly making one's veins burst with the sheer volume of adrenaline inspired by the constant screaming, stabbing, dismemberment, and blood-letting of the film's combatants.

The Persian army is presented as a mostly faceless mass gathered on some distant hill, only occasionally given a voice by an extravagantly dressed man. The 300 warriors, on the other hand, are well represented. Some of them include Delios (David Wenham) who will ultimately deliver the tale of the Spartans to their homeland, and the second-in-command Captain Artemis (Vincent Regan). The Spartans depicted in the film, as well as pretty much everyone else, are a far cry from their historical counterparts. Though powerful and out for revenge after gaining the throne, the Emperor Xerxes (here portrayed by Rodrigo Santoro) was not a bald, mostly naked,

numerously pierced God-King who trotted along the front-lines of the battlefield on an absurdly majestic throne. King of Sparta and leader of the 300, Leonidas (Gerard Butler) is another real historical figure and, according to the Greek historian Herodotus, he actually did say some of the many one-liners in the script. He, along with 299 of his best pals and about a thousand Greek soldiers head out for the narrow mountain pass at Thermopylae



where they manage to slaughter several hundred thousand severely deformed Persians (some are normal, but others, for instance, are disturbingly obese man-things with thick scythes for hands). Eventually betrayed by the grotesque Ephialtes, a Spartan-warrior wannabe and distant cousin of the Elephant Man, the warriors reveal themselves as a well-trained bunch of masochists as they fight to the last man. Alongside

the main story is a pointless subplot about Leonidas' queen, Gorgo attempting to send her husband some reinforcements. This doesn't actually pan out and it's no surprise that this wasn't even in the original comic book.

The story of a culture of people where everyone had a great physique and no one had a last name, Zack Snyder, whose only other film is *Dawn of the Dead* (the remake), manages to capture one's eye in the bear-trap, so to speak, that is the experience of *300*. **Rated R.**

How to: Recreate Lou Reed's album *Metal Machine Music*

By David Whitley

Originally, I planned to recommend this 1975 album to all of you in my classic CD review—hear that sound? It's the fourth wall breaking—because I seem to be the only member of the staff in support of an entire April Fool's issue. However, I am not a cruel person and wish to retain the friends I have and those that follow my advice, so I'll walk you step-by-step through the process of creating a nearly identical CD of your own.

- 1.) Obtain a tape recorder and head out to your car.
- 2.) Tune your car's radio in between two stations where all you can hear is fragments of garbled noise.
- 3.) Record and sell to faux intellectuals who will pretend that it is their favorite CD because they are the only ones who understand its artistic integrity and depth.

Alternatively, you can mimic the production Lou Reed put into it, which would be playing nothing but feedback on two guitars for one hour.

Out of Time: the best of the 90s

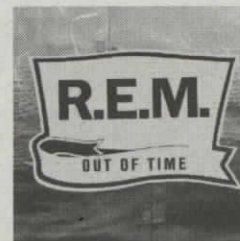
By David Whitley

Reviewing this album has just caused me some mental trauma because I started thinking about other '90s music and how every single girl in elementary school talent shows nationwide decided that she had to sing "My Heart Will Go On." I'm sure that everyone reading this would prefer to remember "Losing My Religion" as the musical juggernaut of the early nineties due to its extensive radio play that continues to this day. That, along with other classics, is what makes this album an essential in my collection.

Out of Time is R.E.M.'s first major commercial album and is often cited as their finest work, competing with *Automatic for the People*. *Out of Time* also often appears on lists of albums most influential to alternative rock. It is also one of the clearest examples of R.E.M.'s unique style, namely Michael Stipe's distinct vocals and ambiguous lyrics. In fact, nearly every song on the album is open to interpretation, except perhaps for the more straightforward "Radio Song," which is a collaboration with rapper KRS-One. He provides backing vocals

as well as a brief rap to close the song. The rest of the tracks are all Michael Stipe singing purposefully vague lyrics over a hybrid of rock and pop instrumentation.

The only song on the album I don't enjoy as much as the others is "Shiny Happy People." The overtly bubblegum aesthetic and collaboration with B-52s member Kate



Pierson makes it contrast with the rest of the album, which consists of more somber songs, and even one that is brooding and vengeful. "Country Feedback" stands apart from the rest of the songs on the album as the most directly emotional. This is most likely because

the lyrics were improvised by Michael Stipe, who recorded it at the last minute and as such based the words off of what he was feeling at the time.

Out of Time is a classic album with a unique sound that became a radio staple and gave the country a safe haven from "My Heart Will Go On." Near, far, wherever you are—I will never forgive you, Celine Dion and the fifty girls who sang "My Heart Will Go On" for my third grade talent show.

On the Roster: Local April concerts

- 1 Galactic @ The Music Farm
- 6 At Last Glance @ The Music Farm
- 24 Bonnie Raitt @ North Charleston Performing Arts Center

Atkinson *pools and spas*

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Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464
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Photos by Ashley Sagan

"I'm going to Coney Island in New York City."
-Imani Graham, 6th grade



"Surfing on Folly Beach." -Annie Kice, 7th grade



"I will be camping in North Carolina and swimming in an ice-cold lake." -Tate Hansen, 8th grade



"I'll be in Ireland." -Hannah Chilcote, freshman

What are your plans for Spring Break?



"I am traveling to New York City." -Andy Musselwhite, sophomore



"I'm going to Disney World with my girlfriend and family." -Ricky Quinones, junior



"My cousin is having a bachelor party in New Orleans." -Andrew Smith, senior



"Sleeping late, going to the beach, digging in my gardens, watching the grapes grow, and playing with my puppies who are the most wonderful creatures on the face of this earth." -Ms. Sarah Fitzgerald, string teacher

