



Applause

Vol. 9 No. 3

School of the Arts

November 2007

Letter from the Editor

November has been an unusual month for the *Applause* staff, to say the least. As we were preparing to send the paper to press nearly three weeks ago, our computers began crashing all at once.

I am very excited about our belated November issue. On page six, **Tanya Lewandowski** covers Red Ribbon Week, an anti-drug and alcohol contest held by the guidance office. A winning essay by 8th grader **Brett Hanson** by On page seven, I interview **Daniel Davis '07**, who

recently performed at a function held by Jesse Jackson in L.A. **Blake Engel** reviews the movie *American Gangster* on page nine.

It has been an arduous month, but the staff has really pulled through in handling the technical setbacks. I am happy to present the November issue—enjoy!

Sincerely,
Lucy Rose Hunter



In memory of Ms. Vera Smyth

Your unselfish devotion to the SOA family lives on in all of us.

Cover art by **Joshua Norris, junior.**

Congratulations to the
Patron of the Month,
Linda Wozniak!



Applause

the official student newspaper of
Charleston County School of the Arts

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A MONTH IN REVIEW: FALL EVENTS

Art Smart, Oct. 30- Nov. 1



Band, Strings and Piano majors perform a medley of *Beauty and the Beast*.

Convocations, Oct. 24



High school Theatre majors perform an excerpt from *As it is in Heaven*.



A saxophone quartet of high school Band majors also performed.

Talent Show, Nov. 5



Left: Shauntavia Horlbeck, senior. Right: Justin Deas, sophomore, helps Demetrius Doctor, sophomore perform at the piano.

Chef Waggoner Visit

By Chelsea Adent

Chef Bob Waggoner, the executive chef at Charleston Grill for the past ten years, came to SOA on November 5 to attend a Culinary Arts Club meeting. He brought apple tarts, Häagen-Dazs ice cream, pastries made by his pastry chef, and chocolate-dipped strawberries for everyone in the club to enjoy. As the club members snacked, he demonstrated how to make an apple tart and talked to the members of the club.

"His advice was, 'If you want to be a chef, go work in somebody's kitchen,'" Ms. Jean Olson, the Culinary Arts Club advisor,

said. "I was really impressed by that, because a lot of kids don't want to go to school. They just don't have the desire or talent to. So maybe their talent is cooking."

The professional chef also brought a menu from his restaurant and gave Ms. Olson a signed copy of his cookbook.

Future plans for the Culinary Arts Club include touring Trident Tech and hopefully having Mark Heyward Washington, a pastry chef at Rococo German Bakery and former SOA student, speak at a meeting.

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NHS Update

By Victoria Doose



The National Honor Society has made some changes to its breakfast sale menu. Danishes can now be purchased at the sale table in the Fine Arts building for \$1 a piece. Hot chocolate is also offered at \$0.75, to help combat the morning chill of autumn.

NHS held its monthly beach sweep on November 10 at Folly Beach. Another beach sweep was also held at the end of last month on October 27, this time at Sullivan's Island to accommodate the members who live in the Mount Pleasant area.

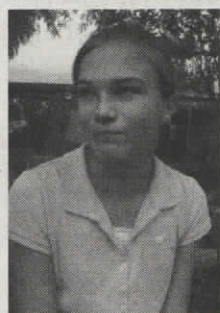
NHS is also planning a car wash fundraiser at the Popeye's on Sam Rittenburg Blvd., scheduled for Dec. 1.

Despite the activities planned for this month, NHS has still made time for rest and relaxation. A movie night took place on Friday, November 9 at the President's house. Members gathered in the evening to bond over pizza and a movie.

Remember that tutoring is still going on every Monday and Thursday in Ms. Drennan's room in the Berry Building, B3. Sessions start after school at 3:30 and last until 4:30.

Student attends D.C. conference

By Chelsea Adent



Caroline attended a youth conference in D.C.

Sixth grader **Caroline Tweedy** spent six days in October at the Junior National Youth Leadership Conference. The Junior NYLC is a program designed to help middle school students develop their leadership capabilities.

Caroline was nominated as a fifth grader at James Island Elementary School based on her maturity, academic achievement, and leadership potential. From October 20 to October 25, she

stayed in the Washington, D.C. area with one hundred and fifty other middle schoolers. For two of the six days, the participants lived in the dormitories of a nearby university.

The students attended three classes a day on leadership, communication, teamwork, and respect. Many of these classes focused on prominent leaders in history. NYLC participants also visited places throughout Philadelphia, Harpers Ferry, and Washington, D.C. in their free time.

"My favorite places that we visited were definitely the Maryland Science Center and Hard Rock Café," Caroline said. "It was a lot of fun and was a great experience."

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Dec. 4th, Concert, HS Jazz Piano, 7PM, Park Circle Community Center
 Dec. 4th, Christmas Cabaret, HS Vocal, 7PM, Shrine Temple
 Dec. 5th, Performance, MS Dance, 7PM, Black Box
 Dec. 6th, Concert, MS Jazz Piano, 7PM, Park Circle Community Center
 Dec. 7th, Junior Ring Ceremony, 5:30-8:30PM, Cafeteria
 Dec. 9th, Oyster Roast, HS Orchestra, 2-7PM, Bowens Island
 Dec. 10th, Winter Concert, HS Orchestra, 7PM, TBA
 Dec. 10th, Literary Reading, 8th Grade, 7PM, Millenium Music
 Dec. 10th, Senior Thesis Dance Performance(Cline), 7PM, Black Box
 Dec. 11th, HS Dance Performance, 7PM, Black Box
 Dec. 13th, Freshman Showcase, HS Theatre, 4:00PM, Black Box
 Dec. 13th, Holiday Concert, HS Band, 7PM, C of C Physicians Auditorium
 Dec. 13th, Winter Concert, MS Orchestra & Vocal, 7:30PM, Citadel Square Baptist Church
 Dec. 19th, Winter Break (Dec. 19-January 2nd) Total School, SOA

Ms. Link wins Best Director award

By K. Chaney Long

This past month, at the South Carolina Theater Association Conference, **Ms. Megan Link** was recognized as Best Director for her work on the SOA competition piece *As it is in Heaven*.

"I wouldn't have gotten it without my hardworking actors," Ms. Link said about receiving the recognition. "Their hard work and creativity enabled me to receive this award."

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Red Ribbon Week: Saying "no" to drugs

Students express anti-drug sentiments in contest

By Tanya Lewandowski

Red Ribbon Week is an annual drug and alcohol awareness event for schools coordinated by the National Family Partnership. This year's Red Ribbon Week took place from Monday, October 22 to October 26, and guidance counselor Ms. Kimberly Carr-MacDonald involved students in contests for both middle and high schoolers.

Middle school students were given the prompt "Why I choose to be drug-free" and wrote 150-word essays on the topic. High school students were given the prompt, "What schools can do to spread awareness and prevention" and a choice of three entry categories: visual art, technology, and writing.

The winners of the middle school contest were judged by grade level. Parrish Brown won in 6th grade, Ana

Lanier won in 7th grade, and Brett Hanson won in 8th grade. They each randomly selected a \$25 Best Buy gift card, a \$25 Millennium Music gift card, or a \$25 Regal Cinemas gift certificate as prizes.

High school winners were judged by category. Freshman Victoria Roy won in the visual art category, junior Devon Heyward won in the technology category for a Powerpoint presentation he created, and junior Zachariah Taylor won in the writing category with an original poem. They received the same random selection of gift cards as the middle schoolers.



Contest winner's showcase:

"Why I choose to be drug-free" by 8th grader Brett Hanson



Myspace,
Facebook,
Instant
Messenger.
E-mail,
phone,
face-to-face

communication. Every day, we talk to the people who care about us, the friends we've made over a lifetime of living. Family and friendship bonds people, forms circles of trust. Our lives are a chain of those circles, a growing chain that keeps us happy, keeps us

healthy, and keeps us sane. Drugs shatter these chains. The second we give in, the second that we accept the joint, take the needle, the second that we say yes to drugs – boom. Shatter. Those chains fall apart, and we have nothing to support us. Broken chains hurt, not just ourselves, but everyone who loves us. That accepted needle pierces the heart of our friends and family. Keep both hands on your chains. I care about the people who love me. That's why I am drug-free.

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Daniel Davis trying to succeed, or at least pay the bills

By Lucy Hunter

Daniel Davis, '07, might be best remembered at SOA for serenading passersby outside the strings room during lunch with his electric violin. Now he's trying to widen that audience, to break through into the music industry with an eclectic sound that puts a new spin on an old instrument. So far he's met success, scoring gigs in LA and distributing demo tapes. But how much room is there on the radio for the electric violin? As he attempts success, or "survival" as he calls it, Daniel speaks about making his dreams a reality.

Lucy Hunter: *What big venues have you recently played?*

Daniel Davis: I played a party hosted by Jesse Jackson at his house in LA. It was an event to support African-Americans in high school [and also his birthday party], so he had a big gathering with a lot of friends and celebrities. Larry King was there, a lot of big-name musicians were there, so I was able to network. I only played for three to four minutes, which was good because I don't like to play dinner music. I like to be the main focus. I try to make it an act. I love to perform.

I also played a half-time show for a NBA basketball game for the Charlotte Bobcats. I got the gig through my church; you'll see a lot of musicians who begin their career in church.

LH: *How would you define your style?*

DD: A lot of violinists play classical music, but I like to play jazz, hip-hop, R&B, country, reggae-- you name it, I like to play it. I'll even play rock. I listen to jazz, which is

the foundation of improvisation, but I like all kinds of music. I'm classically trained, so I write a lot of my solos.

LH: *How has SOA prepared you for your career?*

DD: SOA structure is not like your typical school where you have to study classical. I really felt free. Teachers like Dr. John

people. If you play one style, you can't adapt to different people and different classes. I can switch up my style to adapt to different races and cultures, people who haven't seen violin to people who hear it all the time. Violin reaches more people; it allows me to change up, which is a good thing.

LH: *What are you doing now to start*

people who are doing what I'm doing right now. There's going to be discouragement, but the only thing discouraging right now is that South Carolina doesn't feel musically structured right now.

LH: *Do you have plans to leave Charleston, then?*

DD: I have enough money saved to live away for four or five months. I don't work a regular job but right now I'm making enough money to really continue to live off my music. I'm living at home right now, what I'm going to do is transfer into C of C or USC next semester, to whichever school offers me more opportunities.

LH: *What scares you?*

DD: My fear is not being able to get gigs one day. It's going to stop, one day; it happens to everybody. You're hot one day, and then you're not. I would love to blow up, meet somebody at one of these gigs and break through, but I want to stay steady. I don't want to be hot for one day and then fall off. I'm not trying to make it— I'm trying to survive.

LH: *So you're not trying to be famous?*

DD: Especially here, at an arts school, everybody says "I want to be famous! I want to be a star!"²³ I'm not looking down on it, but I just want to be able to survive and make money. If I'm only known around this area, I don't care as long as I'm still loving what I'm doing. That's more important to me. The chances of getting famous are one in a million. I'm trying to be realistic. I take it one day at a time, one gig at a time, let it roll.



Daniel plays on the red carpet at Jesse Jackson's birthday party/benefit in LA this month.

Cusatis really helped expose me to different music.

I learned what not to do from being a classical strings musician. There aren't many laid-back, cool, classical musicians. A lot of them are clean and up-tight. I learned to try to be the opposite of that. I like to chill out and have fun. Music doesn't consume my life. Because SOA has all cultures, different types of music interact with each other. I've been able to get opinions from a lot of different

your professional career?

DD: I'm trying to put together a demo. I've been in and out of studios in Atlanta and Columbia. I give them out at shows to anyone who's important or who wants one. I have 12 songs, and I break them down into a few from each genre: gospel, R&B, hip-hop, jazz-influenced bluegrass.

LH: *Have you felt discouraged at any point?*

DD: Not yet, there are only a few

“Where were they then?": Mr. Roy Davis

By Shanequa West

Shanequa West: *Where did you grow up and what was your childhood like?*

Roy Davis: I was born in Charleston, South Carolina, and I lived in the country for a while, but I was raised in North Charleston. My childhood was happy and carefree. All the kids in the neighborhood played together, and we all went to the movies on Saturdays.

SW: *Where did you receive your education?*

RD: I went to the College of Charleston and earned a Bachelor's degree in Economics. I also went to the Citadel and earned a Master's in School Administration.

SW: *What was your first job after you graduated?*

RD: My first job was teaching biology at Summerville High School.

SW: *Had you always planned to be a biology teacher?*

RD: No. I wanted to be a doctor, but

that didn't work out. So I took a lot of courses in economics, thinking I would go into business, but when I graduated from college I was offered a teaching position at Summerville.

SW: *What schools have you worked in and in what capacity?*

RD: I worked at Summerville High as a biology teacher. Then, I was assistant principal at North Charleston High. I was also principal at E.A. Burns Elementary and interim principal at M.C. Hursey. Later, I was an adjunct professor at the Citadel. And then I became assistant principal at SOA.

SW: *What are some memories you have from your years-in education?*

RD: There are too many memories to count, but some that I remember that made a tremendous change in the lives of students, parents, and teachers were protests and marches, the total integration of schools, and the

consolidation of the Charleston County School District; and there were also the



Mr. Davis worked in the public schools during racial integration in the 1960s.

back-to-back basketball championships at NCHS.

SW: *Who are some memorable students that you have encountered?*

RD: I remember Warren Pepper, who is now with Channel 2 News. He was an outstanding student and was also outstanding on the basketball court. He was always a gentleman. There is also our very own Ms. Mandy Wade. She was my office monitor and was a witty and vivacious student.

SW: *What are your future plans?*

RD: I plan to grow old gracefully but with spirit, and I plan to travel with my wife.

SW: *If you could go back and go into the field of business like you originally wanted to, would you?*

RD: No, I wouldn't change the choice of my vocation, but I would change a lot of unwise decisions I made along the way.

“Where are they now?": Frances Morris '06

By Blake Engel

Blake Engel: *What was your major at SOA and how has it shaped or aided you personally?*

Frances Morris: I was a theatre major at SOA. Although I haven't taken any theatre classes so far and have only been in one production, my experiences in theatre aided me more than just preparation for more education. I'm sure a lot of theatre majors would agree that their experience at SOA helped them gain confidence in all areas of their lives. I feel more assured about my voice, my opinions, and my self. Not to mention, theatre has given me some extensive knowledge to employ in other areas, such as public speaking, psychology, English, and others.

BE: *Do you have any memorable anecdotes from your time at SOA?*

FM: Hmm... I could relate some of my more embarrassing moments. Dr. Ball sent me to see Mr. Davis for wearing too short of a skirt back when we had a dress code, I fell off the stage during

a rehearsal for *The Tempest*, I dropped a lot of papers performing a scene once in ninth grade, and Mr. Younts once caught another theatre major and me in the janitor's closet.

BE: *How were you involved in activities and/or clubs at SOA and have any of these remained in or affected your life today?*

FM: I tried to do as many extracurricular theatre productions as I could, such as *The Tempest*, *Comedy of Errors*, and *Midnight on the Orient Express*. Probably the only club I was in was the National Honors Society, if that's technically a club. I was the treasurer my senior year, and the Society's advisors at the time (you know who you are) can attest to the fact that I was at times pretty frustrating due to my disorganization. I guess my experiences with the Society helped me realize many of my own limitations and take some more responsibility.

BE: *You're currently a student at Vassar University and employed as a teacher's assistant at a nursery school - how did you*

come by this opportunity and do you plan to continue in this field?

FM: I originally planned to declare Psychology and, in my developmental course, I observed the kids at the Wimpfheimer Nursery School, which is on campus. I knew that I had to be



Frances is a sophomore at Vassar University.

able to work with these kids more and I really couldn't imagine a better job. I spend most of my time in a 3- to 4-year-olds class playing Play-Doh, dolls, or building blocks with the kids. I'm supposed to help keep the environment

harmonious and safe and engage the kids in conversation about their activities. I do plan to continue in the field of teaching, but I believe I'd like to teach high school art; however, there's always a chance I may change my mind. We don't really have to declare our major here until junior year. Vassar encourages its students to try lots of different things before deciding.

BE: *What professional and educational prospects do you plan to pursue?*

FM: As of right now, I think that I'm going to major in Studio Art (maybe a minor in Women's Studies) and, then, hopefully get an MFA and teacher certification. I'm pretty positive that I want to teach, no matter what field it is. I know that it would be the most rewarding career for me. Another option I'm sort of entertaining is majoring in Women's Studies and teaching at the college level, opening other young minds like mine was.

Sass Attack: "Fantasy" T.V.

By David Sass



Everyone in America nowadays has his or her favorite TV shows (well, except the Amish) – something to which they can just chill out after a long day, kick back, and relax. Recently, I've noticed an increasing number of astonishingly stupid shows appearing on the boob tube. They call it "reality TV" but the reality is, there's very little even remotely "real" about it.

In fact, most of these shows have an almost dreamlike quality to them. Take the show *Laguna Beach*, for instance. All the people on the show are extremely wealthy, are obviously not the brightest bulbs in the box, and are arrogant to boot. And, for reasons beyond me, kids out there basically worship and idolize them! Why would anyone want to be like that? Don't get me wrong; I'd love to have some money like that to throw around. I'm not packing a lot of green (one measly little dollar as I write this), but you don't see me idolizing someone for what they have.

Honestly, if the producers of

reality shows wanted to increase their popularity and get higher ratings, they should actually make it real. Instead of making a show about people who are living a lifestyle that most of us can't even imagine, how about making it a show about the true harshness of life? If there were a reality show about the life of hobos and bums, I'd be all over it like white on rice.

Here's an example of how they could beef up their shows. On the show *Survivor*, instead of making the victims – I mean, *challengers* – do completely pointless tasks and conquer unheard-of obstacles, they should drop them all on an island covered in hidden cameras and just leave. About a month later, they'd return to the island and see who is still alive. *That's* a show about survivors. If people are being voted off the island, it's not really a show about true survival; it's a show about a democratic republic on an island. Whoopdeedoo – I can watch that on CNN during the presidential election, on a far greater scale (and no island).

Anyway, I think I've done enough damage to reality TV for one day.

Surviving 6th grade recesses

By K. Chaney Long



I vividly remember 6th grade recesses, when I would sit and watch all the other students congregate into little groups. To me it felt like everyone outside could tell that I was all by myself. I hated the thought that the students in their little groups might pity me. So, I'd walk around pretending to look interested in the trees or dirt underneath my fingernails, but I could not shake the fact that I felt very much alone.

In an effort to look busy at recess I would hang around some of the groups of students and listen to what they were talking about, but every time I would try to make a good friend at SOA I always felt like there was something

tugging at me.

I missed my old friends, whom I had seen on a daily basis in elementary school. I felt that by making new friends I would be losing my old ones.

I was very, very wrong. You can make friends at SOA and remain close with all of your elementary school friends. If you're worried about drifting away from your old pals, consider emailing them. Sharing stories will make you feel like you're still classmates.

Don't feel like emailing them? Hang out with them on the weekends. Invite both your old friends and your new friends to hang out or see a movie together.

Instead of watching other students at recess, go talk to them; if you don't know who to talk to, start with someone in your major. You already have plenty in common.

Top five diet misconceptions

By Carolyn E. Brown

1. **Skipping meals:** When you skip a meal, it throws your metabolism completely off track. Eating all three meals and two snacks at scheduled times keeps your body on a steady metabolic rate. When you skip a meal, it causes your body to react as if you don't know when it will get food again. When this happens, your body will store fats instead of burning them.

2. **Low-carb diets:** Your body needs all kinds of nutrients, including carbohydrates. Carbs give you energy and keep you feeling full. The problem with low-carb diets is that while you are on one, you may lose weight, but once you deviate from the diet, you'll most likely gain back all that you lost and then some. Try sticking to healthy carbs (such as whole grains), lean meats, and plenty of vegetables.

3. **Diet pills:** The fact of the matter is that nothing will give you an

easy fix to lose weight without a healthy diet and exercise. Some diet pills do work, but they have side effects that you need to be cautious of. Diet pills may become addictive, cause acne breakouts, mess with your metabolism, and more.

4. **Diet foods are disgusting:** This is a big fat lie. People place the label "rabbit food" on things that are healthy and amazing to eat. Companies like Kashi, South Beach Diet by Kraft, and The Organic Food and Produce Company are devoted to making foods that are not only good for you, but taste great.

5. **You can't eat junk food on a diet:** This is partly true, but there are healthy alternatives to Twinkies and chips. Try whole grain tortilla chips or sweet potato chips for something salty, and if you're craving cookies or any dessert, go for a Skinny Cow ice cream sandwich or a Smart Ones dessert.

Gangster underperforms

By Blake Engel

Based on a true story, *American Gangster* follows the saga of Frank Lucas, played by Denzel Washington, a respectable family man with a less than respectable business - drugs. His adversary is a less than respectable family man with a more than respectable business - taking down the man with the drugs - the policeman Richie Roberts, played by Russell Crowe. In a cat and mouse crime thriller, director Ridley Scott takes on the 1970's in full force and style.

Gangster involves an interesting moral twist by having the two main characters serve as antitheses to their stereotypical counterparts from film history. For instance, the gangster Frank Lucas is a heroin-dealer who smuggles in cargo via the coffins of Vietnam victims, but he takes his mother to church on Sundays. And Richie Roberts is the type of cop who doesn't take any money when he turns in a million dollars to the proper authorities, but neglects his wife in his sleepless hunt for Lucas.

Both actors give skillful performances; Washington's strength lies in his ability to terrify through non-action, while Crowe does some of the honest-joe bit while maintaining his character as a dogged detective who's not a fan of free time or relaxation. Joining the headliners are such names as Josh Brolin and Wu-Tang rapper RZA as fellow detectives and Chiwetel Ejiofor and Cuba Gooding Jr. as fellow drug-dealers.

With talent nearly flooding from its pores, it's a surprise that *American Gangster* is not a masterpiece. But when great talent is set out so easily on such a shiny plate, the movie's piecemeal construction burdens the final product. That's not to say *Gangster* is bad, in fact it's pretty good, and a monumental improvement for the director. But the film is neither revelatory nor revolutionary in its storytelling and certain aspects of the piece simply aren't new or original.

Poetry

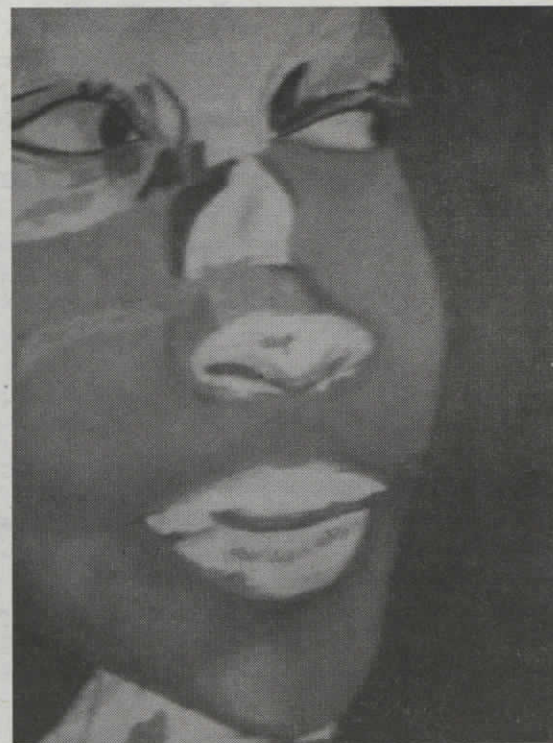
Why?

by **Zachariah Taylor**, junior Band major

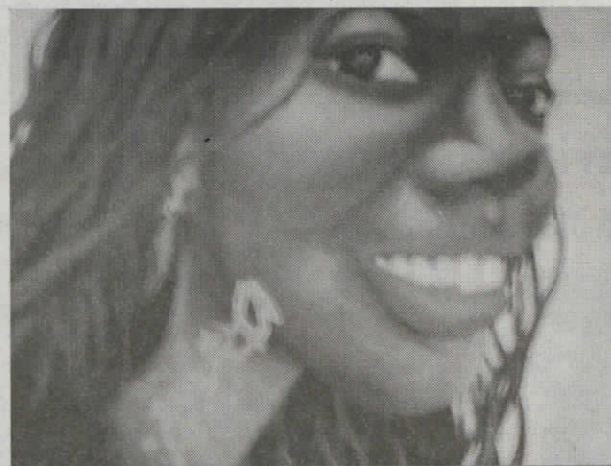
Why do drugs
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Why kill yourself
or put your body under strife?
Why do drugs
when you have a long life ahead?
Ruining your life
is a whole lot to dread!
Why do drugs
when you could try a sport?
At least when you're sleeping
your bud wouldn't say "Il est morte!"
Why do drugs
while people depend on you?
Forgetting your loved ones
is a bad mistake for you.
Why do drugs
when people die everyday
just to get "1" smoke
their lives they have to pay.
Why do drugs
when you could be reading this poem
getting on with your life
and being the best that you can be
Why?!?

Winner of Red
Ribbon Week
Contest!

Visual Arts



Akeem Rivers, junior



Kenish Magwood, junior



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**SUZANNE D. HARDWICKE,
DMD**

GENERAL FAMILY DENTISTRY

3 Gamecock Avenue, Suite 302
Charleston, SC 29407



"A bracelet. My grandmother gave it to me because she said that I probably might pass it on for generations." - Angel Brown, 6th grade Band major



"A Tomcat Jetfighter model airplane. My dad got it for me for my birthday." - William Short, 7th grade Strings major



"My mind, because then I couldn't think about anything." - Justin Henline, 8th grade Band major



"My Spongebob blanket because it's my comfort item. I love it." - Caroline Tanner, 9th grade Dance major

What couldn't you live without?



"The piano because it calms our nerves and helps us let out frustration and anger." - Sonja Engert and Brianna Smart, 10th grade Piano majors



"My Buddha!!" - Kurt Sauer, 11th grade Theatre major



"My older brother because he has always looked after me and helped guide me through my life." - Whitney Wilson, 12th Grade Dance major



"The ocean because it's so soothing and I can't be away from it." - Mr. Heath Orvin, Global Studies teacher

