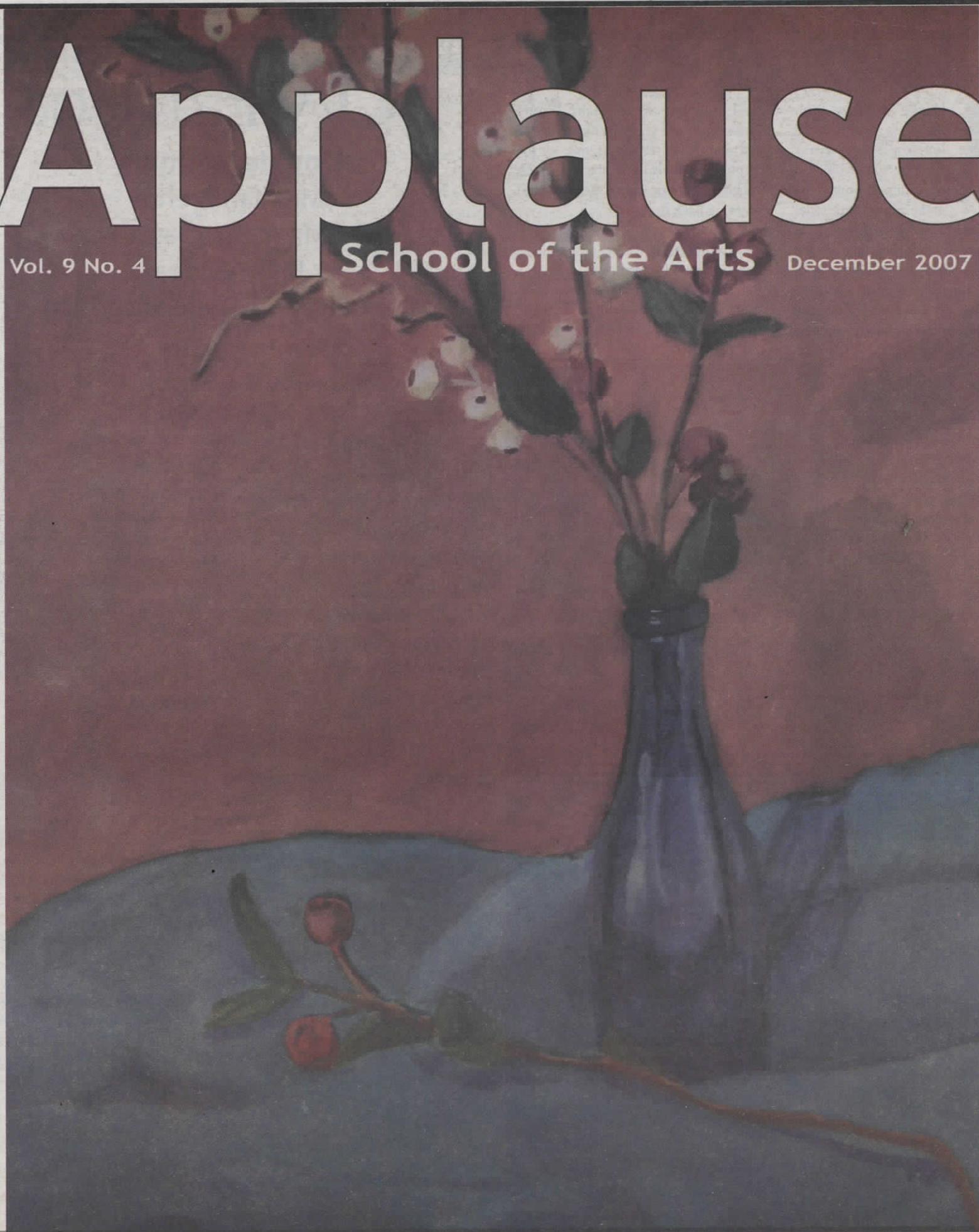


Applause

Vol. 9 No. 4

School of the Arts

December 2007



Letter from the Editor



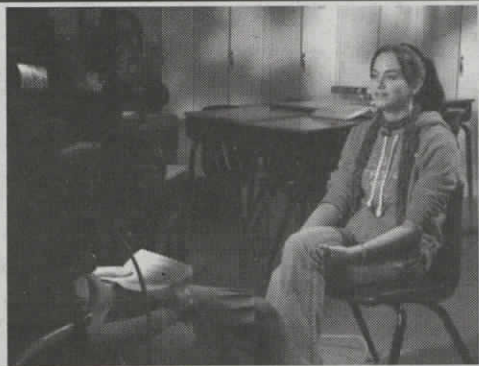
Happy holidays from the *Applause* staff! Before wishing everyone a happy winter break, I want to point out some of the interesting articles you'll find in the December issue. On page nine, we've made a literary gift list based on our survey of students about the books they wanted most. On page five, **K. Chaney Long** examines the issues surrounding the plan for the new

school complex, while **Blake Engel** reports on SOA's recent ranking in *US News and World Report* as one of the best public schools in the nation. I look forward to the upcoming vacation, and to coming back in 2008!

Sincerely,
Lucy Hunter

Fox News visits SOA

Chrissie Thorn, junior, was one of many students interviewed for Fox program "Hannity's America" because of her participation in abstinence education. "I like being a person to look up to," Chrissie says. "I hope people take it seriously." The segment aired on December 16th.



Cover art by **Eileen Swatz**, 8th grade

**Congratulations to the
November and December Patrons of the
Month, Logan Wells and Robert Kleiman!**

Applause

the official student newspaper of
Charleston County School of the Arts

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Arts major performances celebrate the holidays

By Chelsea Adent

Piano

The high school piano majors had a fall concert on November 19. The high school and middle school jazz piano both had a concert during the month of December at Park Circle Recreation Center. The high school performed on December 4 and the middle school performed on December 6. Each student performed a jazz piece with the "Joe Clark Big Band." They performed the piece three times, with a solo included.

Vocalists

The high school vocalists performed a Holiday Cabaret at the Omar Shrine Club in Mt. Pleasant. **Chrisin Darling**, a 9 grade Vocal major, says, "my favorite part of the show was the small groups. 'Santa Baby' was hilarious! The girls did a really good job acting the song out." The cabaret served as a fundraiser for the high school vocal majors. At the performance, there was a silent and live auction as well as food and drinks.

Dance

On December 5 in the Black Box, the middle school dancers put on a show for their friends and family. The 8 graders performed three different styles of dance; the 7th graders performed a modern dance to a Rusted Roots song; and the 6th graders performed a lyrical dance. Also, there were two high school pieces that were performed, intended to show 8th grade parents what their children would be doing next year.

The dancers also had four performances throughout the month of December. Some *Nutcracker* pieces were performed by the middle school dancers on December 5. December 6 was the Junior Composition Dance Performance. Every 11th grader chose a piece of artwork that inspired them and then choreographed a dance to go along with the elements of the artwork. December 10 was the Senior Thesis Performance. Seniors choreographed a dance that was based on social issues. Finally, December 11 was the general high school performance.

Band

The high school Band majors performed their prism concert on December 12 at West Ashley High School. A Prism Concert is when the band plays as a whole and then divides into small groups or ensembles. There was a flute quartet, brass quintet, sax quartet, woodwind quintet, and many more.

On December 6, Hanahan High School was filled with middle school Band majors getting ready for their holiday concert. The 6th grade Beginner Band started off the show with three pieces. One of the pieces was titled "Anasazi," and featured guest conductor Mr. Cordeiro. Another piece was the "12 Instrumental Days of Christmas." Each "day" featured a different section of the band. The final piece played by the Beginner Band was Feliz Navidad, which everyone was familiar with. Next up was the 7th and 8th grade Concert Band. To wrap up the concert, the entire middle school band performed "Carol of the Bells."

Orchestra

The high school orchestra's performance took place December 10 at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Mt. Pleasant. They performed a variety of songs, including a piece by Mozart, a piece with two solo violinists, and of course, a holiday piece.

Theatre

The freshman Theatre showcase took place on December 13 in the Black Box. The freshmen performed pantomime, open scenes, and even some monologues.

Creative Writing

At Kudu Coffee House on December 10, the 8th grade Creative Writers held a literary reading. Most read excerpts from short stories, but some poetry was also read.

Collaborations

The middle school Vocal and Strings combined to perform on December 13 at Citadel Square Baptist Church downtown. The pieces that were performed ranged from the "Hallelujah" chorus to "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

Winter Convocations

By David Sass



At our most recent convocation, held in two shifts on December 6, we heard from four of the majors.

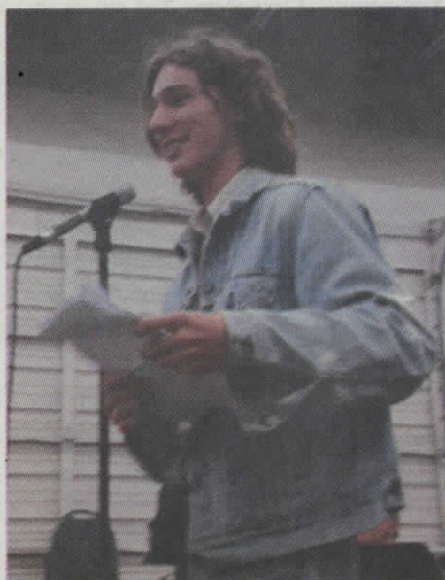
First on the list was the jazz band, playing "The Blues Brothers Review," a medley of Blues Brothers music, with solos from **Chris Benson**, **Arthur Brown**, **Ricky Quinones** and **Adam Fallen**.

Next were the creative writers. **Katie Vinson** and **Monique Collins** each read two pieces of their poetry, followed by **Harry Harrison**, who read a humorous excerpt from his senior thesis, *Jerry Jerraldson* by **Henry Hutchinson**.

Then piano majors **Grace Lee** and **Frank Shary** played, respectively, "Golliwog's Cakewalk" and "Dance of the Arrogant Cowboy."

Last but not least, a small

group of vocal majors sang songs from their December 4 Cabaret concert, with an extra song for the people at the second shift.



Harry Harrison kept the audience in stitches with his performance.

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NHS Update

By Victoria Doose



The National Honor Society held a canned food drive in the last weeks of November. The drive was a success, bringing in over 700 cans for the Food Bank. Over 200 of these cans came from Ms. Katie Owensby's homeroom, a large enough amount to earn them an ice cream party as reward. Congratulations to Ms. Owensby's students!

A car wash was held on December 1 at the Popeye's on Sam Rittenburg Blvd. Despite fears of cool weather, many members came

out to lend a hand, and many people stopped by to have their vehicles cleaned. The car wash went on to raise almost \$200 for the National Honor Society scholarship fund.

With the weather getting colder – and with it getting harder to wake up in the morning – NHS is always ready at school to help get your day started. Danishes, bagels, Starbucks coffee, and hot chocolate are all sold at the breakfast table in the Fine Arts building. Remember to stop by if you didn't have time to fix your own food before you rushed out the door, and remember that all money raised goes to the NHS scholarship fund.

Poetry Out Loud contest coming up

By Carolyn E. Brown

Poetry Out Loud is a national poetry recitation competition for which students memorize and recite poetry. Inspired by the spoken lyrics of hip-hop and rap music, the competition was created by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, and the State Arts Agencies of the United States. Poetry Out Loud is meant not only to give students a chance to delve into the world of poetry, but also to show students that poetry is not boring.

This year, like last year, SOA students are participating in the contest. Certain high school English teachers are requiring their students to take part in Poetry Out Loud. The competition begins at the classroom level: students choose a poem, memorize it, and recite it for the class. The teacher then selects a few high-performance students to compete at the school level, where participating students are required to recite two contrasting pieces of poetry in front of a panel of judges.

Winning students go on to compete regionally and, finally, nationally at the competition in Washington, D.C. The grand prize winner receives \$20,000 in scholarships.



Junior Ian Brown preps for this year's competition.

The scoring for each recitation is based on level of difficulty of the poetry, appropriateness of dramatization, evidence of understanding, overall performance, accuracy, voice and articulation, and physical presence.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Dec 19 – Jan 2: Winter Break

Jan 4: All County Band clinic

Jan 12: Region Band auditions

Jan 16: End of 1st semester

MS dance sponsored by Junior class, 3:30-5:30 PM in SOA Cafeteria

Jan 17-18: Workdays – no students

Jan 19: All-State Orchestra auditions

Jan 21: Martin Luther King Jr. Day – no students

Jan 28-29: 7th grade Theatre Improv, 4:00 PM in the Black Box

Music majors join Youth Orchestra

By Victoria Doose

In October, SOA Band and Strings majors auditioned for an orchestra program known as the Youth Orchestra of the Lowcountry (YoLow). Fifteen total SOA students made it in, making up almost half of the thirty-seven member orchestra. A collaboration between the College of Charleston and the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, YoLow is a program that offers high school and select middle school musicians the experience of playing high-level pieces under a professional conductor.

Mr. Richard Marcus, the conductor of the College of Charleston Wind Ensemble and the current conductor of YoLow, is pleased with the students' performance level.

"I am very impressed by the talent of the orchestra members. Many of them have participated in Region and All-State orchestra and band," he says. "SOA students, especially the wind players, have made a tremendous contribution to

the orchestra."

SOA students, too, are pleased with their participation in the orchestra.

"I've met new people," says sophomore Maddie Cooper, "and I've become a better musician through playing in a different environment."

In recognition of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra's involvement in YoLow, the two orchestras will perform side-by-side on February 10, 2008 at the West Ashley High School auditorium. Among other pieces, they will perform the "Bacchanale" from Camille Saint-Saëns's *Samson and Delilah*.

YoLow also recently put on a holiday concert at the Cathedral Church of St. Luke and St. Paul in downtown Charleston. The December 11 concert included movements from Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5*.

Preserving SOA's identity in the transition to shared building with Magnet

By K. Chaney Long

In 2009, School of the Arts will be departing from its current campus and entering the "new school." In 2010, School of the Arts and Academic Magnet will officially share the Center for Arts and Academics. Superintendent Dr. Nancy McGinley wrote in a statement, "Since the birth of the concept of the Center for Arts and Academics, numerous changes in leadership have occurred across the district, resulting in ineffective communication regarding the purpose and scope of the Center for Arts and Academics."

In order to amend these communication issues and have the SOA/AMHS transition go smoothly, The Center for the Arts and Academics Transition Team was created. The team is made up of five parents and five teachers from both schools. Enclosed in Dr. McGinley's letter is the purpose of the team: "1. Identify unique opportunities a shared campus will provide for students of both schools. 2. Prepare recommendations regarding qualifying factors and/or restrictions to sharing specific resources. 3. Develop positive relationships between adults and students of both schools to ensure a successful transition to a shared campus." The CAA Transition Team will be holding meetings to continue their purpose all the way until January of 2009, about eight months before SOA will move to the new campus. AMHS

will join SOA a year later, in 2010.

Dr. McGinley stated, "Please note we have built in many opportunities for input from the broader communities of SOA and AMHS." One of the first of these opportunities arrived just before Thanksgiving break. For about three weeks, from mid-November to December 3, an online survey was posted on both School of the Arts's and Academic Magnet High School's websites. The survey was available to all persons involved with either SOA or AMHS. The survey asked for input and opinions on topics including whether or not small classes, such as French, should be combined, what sports should be available, and in what activities middle school students should participate.

Whether or not the two schools should combine classes is a major topic in the transition process. Many students feel that SOA and AMHS should remain two completely separate schools, while others welcome the opportunity to have more class options. Senior Gabriella Terranova wrote, "I think that AMHS and SOA should share classes. However, I think that there should be prerequisites before that is allowed. Maybe, you can only take one crossover class in ninth grade, two in sophomore, three in junior, etc. that way, there wouldn't be so much cross over, but enough to provide a wider variety of courses than offered in

either school."

AMHS offers more Advanced Placement courses than SOA, and while students wish to remain in their individual schools, the opportunity to take more AP courses is hard to pass up. SOA alumnus Anna Dunlany wrote, "I think that to share classes is incompatible with the mission statement of both schools, and more importantly defeats the purpose of applying to these two schools separately. The only time I think that it would be acceptable for a student from either school to cross register is if a student from SOA or AMHS wanted to take an Advanced Placement course not offered by their school. If AMHS students could enroll in a major course that an SOA student had to audition for, I think that would be very unfair."

Perhaps the most important topic that was raised in the survey, however, deals with the identities of both SOA and AMHS. How will the school keep their identities, and more specifically, what are the identities of the individual schools? The new school will have better, more state-of-the-art resources for the arts, but the survey didn't mention much about art. The survey did include several questions regarding sports at the new school. This comes as good news to SOA students interested in sports and school spirit events. These can also be important and enriching activities.

The survey was only posted for a brief time, but the documents enclosed with Dr. McGinley's letter have some information on other opportunities that will be available to those outside of the Transition Team. One of these ways is through subcommittees. These subcommittees are Shared Campus Philosophy, Curriculum/Instructional Resources, Athletics/Activities, Interdisciplinary and Global Opportunities, Student Input, Parent Involvement/Communication, and a Groundbreaking Program. According to the document, "parents, teachers, and students from AMHS and SOA," outside of the CAA Transition Team, will have the chance to be involved in these subcommittees. Unfortunately, neither Dr. McGinley's letter nor the documents enclosed with it give information on how to become a part of these subcommittees.

The Transition Team will be working with Dr. McGinley almost up until the campus is completed. Just down the street from the current home of School of the Arts, at the site of the future Center for Arts and Academics, piles of dirt have already been put down, and bulldozers sit waiting to start work on the new school. The future of both Academic Magnet High School and Charleston County School of the Arts is beginning to take shape.

SOA among best high schools in the nation, reports US News survey

By Blake Engel

For the first time in its publication history, the *US News and World Report* analyzed the quality of high schools around the nation. Of the 18,790 schools they evaluated in the 40 states, 1,591 received awards in gold, silver, and bronze categories. School of the Arts was one of 405 schools in the nation to receive the silver award, and one of four schools to receive it in the state of South Carolina.

Fifteen high schools in South Carolina received medals, with ten

receiving bronze. The Academic Magnet High School received a gold award, ranking 27 in a nationwide list of the Top 100. *US News* claims "accountability" as its primary reason for conducting the survey. "While there are many great high schools among the nearly 22,000 across the country," the



November 29 report stated, "too many are still not getting the job done." A school needed to have 12th grade enrollment and adequate data from the 2005-2006 school year to be included in the report. Furthermore, criteria for inclusion required that a school provide a quality of education equal among its entire student

body as well as providing its students with postsecondary opportunities.

To judge a student body's college-readiness, *US News* relied primarily on Advanced Placement opportunities.

The top-ranked schools in the nation were Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Virginia; Pacific Collegiate Charter in California; and the International Baccalaureate Program in Florida.

Mr. Baker plans alumni magazine, *the:form*, with Arts Management class

By Victoria Doose

A new school publication is joining the SOA yearbook and newspaper.

Mr. Justin Baker, the new Arts Management teacher, is leading his class in developing an alumni magazine. His desire to bring applicable meaning to the Arts Management class sparked the idea for the publication, though it started with a more general purpose.

"Originally, we just wanted to create an arts magazine," Mr. Baker says. Then, after inviting Lindsay Williams of *Charleston Magazine* to speak to the class, the focus narrowed. "[Lindsay Williams] suggested an alumni-focused magazine. This opened many doors of ideas, and also gave us a specific thrust for our magazine."

The students in Mr. Baker's class decided on the name of the

magazine. Titled *the:form*, it is meant to suggest the idea that every art area has its own form. *the:form*, though it will be catered mostly to keeping alumni connected to SOA, will also be relevant to current students.

"Of course the magazine will be SOA centered, to inform parents, SOA alumni, and the general Charleston public of goings-on at SOA, but it will also be educational for current SOA students to see what their artistic studies may [turn] into in their future."

All the students in the Arts Management class have official

positions on the magazine staff and will be largely in charge of its content and design. Articles,

magazine grows, it will incorporate more of a mix of Arts Management students and the general student body.

the:form will also serve as the springboard for the creation of an SOA alumni association. Much like a college or university alumni program, it will be a way for SOA alumni to keep in contact with the school and also invest in their alma mater.

Both *the:form* and the SOA Alumni Association are still in their developmental stages. The Arts Management class plans to start focus groups and surveys in order to get feedback on the process and concept of the magazine. *the:form* is set to be an annual publication, with an estimated distribution date of May 2008.



Mr. Baker, right, oversees Katlyn MacMillan, senior, and Wesley Snell, junior, as they lay out *the:form*.

reviews, and stories will also come from contributing alumni and SOA students. Mr. Baker hopes that, as the

Vera Bradley

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SOA mosaic in Park Circle celebration

By Shanequa West

In recognition of the holidays, the city of North Charleston sponsored a Christmas celebration at Park Circle on Saturday, December 1. The park was decked out with a display of lights and served as a kick-start for the holiday season. SOA kids participated in the celebration by contributing a piece of art to display. Sarah White (no longer a student at SOA) and 9th grade visual artists Joey Dixon, Colleen Brennan, Drew Corriveau, and Pete Page submitted a ceramic mosaic postcard design



Drew Corriveau, Joey Dixon, Sarah White, Pete Page, and Colleen Brennan displayed their Santa mosaic at the James Island County Park Festival of Lights last year.

that in 2006 won first place in the middle school unit of James Island County Park Festival of Lights Christmas card contest. Inspired by Norman Rockwell's work, the design took a couple of months for the five students to complete.

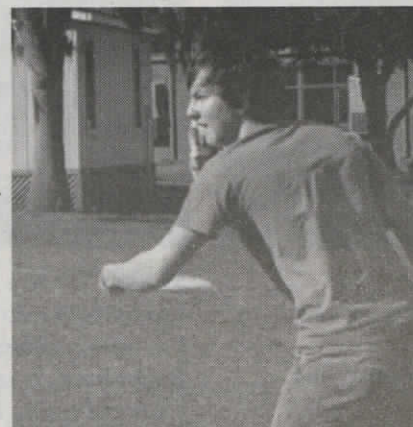
Frisbee piques students' athletic drive

By Tanya Lewandowski

The creation of an Ultimate Frisbee club may be the catalyst for increased athletic participation at SOA. Senior **Marshall Drake**, president, and junior **Kurt Sauer**, vice president, are the founder and co-founder. The Frisbee club meets every Thursday after school from 3:40-4:30 in the open field. **Mr. Justin Baker** and **Mr. Barrett Reese** have agreed to be this year's sponsors. The Frisbee club is planning to compete against local schools such as Wando, Academic Magnet, and Bishop England. They have also planned to take trips every few weeks to visit the Danny Jones complex,

a recreation center not too far from the SOA campus.

There were talks of organized Frisbee during second lunch by physical education teacher **Ms. Cynthia Branscome**. Unfortunately, not enough students signed up. Although Ms. Branscome said she was disappointed by the low number of students interested in organized Frisbee, she still has high hopes for the upcoming basketball



Tristan Richardson, senior, is a fierce frisbee competitor.

season, "which I feel will entice a lot of students. As long as the students are active in some way," she said, "I am more than happy to help organize sports."

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Meet the eighth grade interns

Savannah Evans



Major: Vocal
Favorite book: *Dear John* by Nicholas Sparks
Favorite pasttime: napping
Pets: one dog
Current goal: To do my best at reaching my full potential.

Caylee Mizzell-Smith



Major: Theatre
Favorite book: *Clique* series
Favorite color: pink
Favorite animal: monkey
Current goal: To work my hardest no matter what happens.

Larissa Schiavo



Major: Creative Writing
Political affiliation: Libertarian
Fixations: Doc Martens, *Wir Sind Helden*, psychology, South Park
Aspirations: to be a Harvard grad, a prolific film director, a revolution starter.

Anna Warner



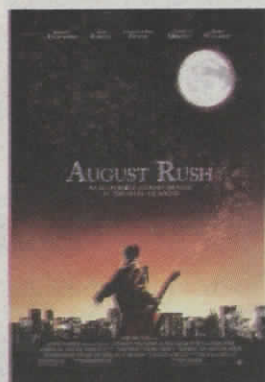
Major: Vocal
Favorite book: *A Countess Below Stairs* by Eva Ibbolsten
Hobbies: sailing, reading, shopping, texting with friends
Future job: graphic designer
Current goal: To make it to an Ivy League college.

August Rush a must-see movie

By Anna Warner

In *August Rush*, Freddie Highmore portrays an eleven-year-old named Evan Taylor who hears music in ordinary sounds. Separated from his mother at birth and lost in New York City, Evan recreates the sounds he hears in hopes that his parents will hear the music and come find him.

In New York City, Evan is far less sheltered than he was in the orphanage. He is taken in by musical street urchins, disciples of a man named Wizard (Robin Williams). When Wizard and the other boys find out that Evan is able to duplicate sounds on instruments he has never played in his life, he immediately becomes Wizard's next moneymaker and is given the nickname "August Rush." Evan is given Wizard's guitar, a prize among the urchins, and is forced to make money for Wizard. Throughout



the movie, while Evan grows as a musician, the story of Evan's parents is revealed.

The theme of the movie is stated in Evan's explanation of his ability: "The music is everywhere. All you have to do is open yourself up."

It is a feel-good movie that encourages you to follow your dreams and to never give up hope. Some people might think the movie does not contain enough action, but those people fail to see beyond the physical. There are many emotional conflicts in this film, such as the unifying of a reluctantly separated family. Also moving are Evan's experiences with music.

If you don't mind a film without guns and car chases, one that is nevertheless wonderfully entertaining, this is definitely one to see – especially if you're a music lover.

Theatre major performs downtown

By Savannah Evans

Ashley Schneider is a 6th grade Theatre major who has recently been in the Charleston Stage Company's production of *Beauty and the Beast*, which began playing at the Sottile Theater on November 29 and runs until December 23.

This is nothing new for her, because she has been in the acting business since she was five years old. In past shows she has played a villager, a queen, a lioness, and a mom, and in *Beauty and the Beast* she plays a spoon.

SOA has prepared Ashley by teaching her how to get into character. She hopes her acting experience will lead her to a career in show business. Through the show, Ashley has met other SOA students such as Prentice Clark, Allie Larkin, Mark Davis, and Preston Hogue.

Ashley plans to be in more plays. "Being with the *Beauty and the Beast* cast has been great," she says, and has helped her conclude that this play is the best she has been in.

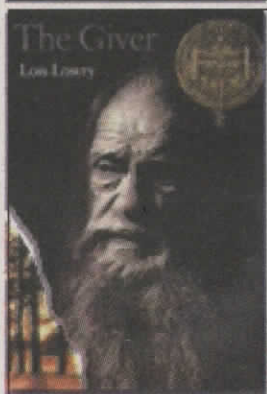


Ashley plays a spoon in *Beauty and the Beast*.

What are you reading this Christmas?

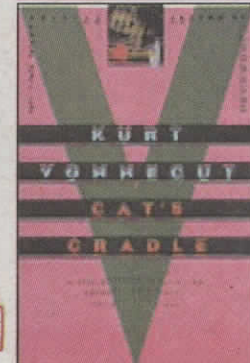
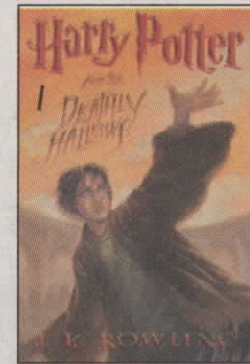
Applause surveyed middle and high schoolers to scope out the most wanted books this holiday season.

Middle School High School



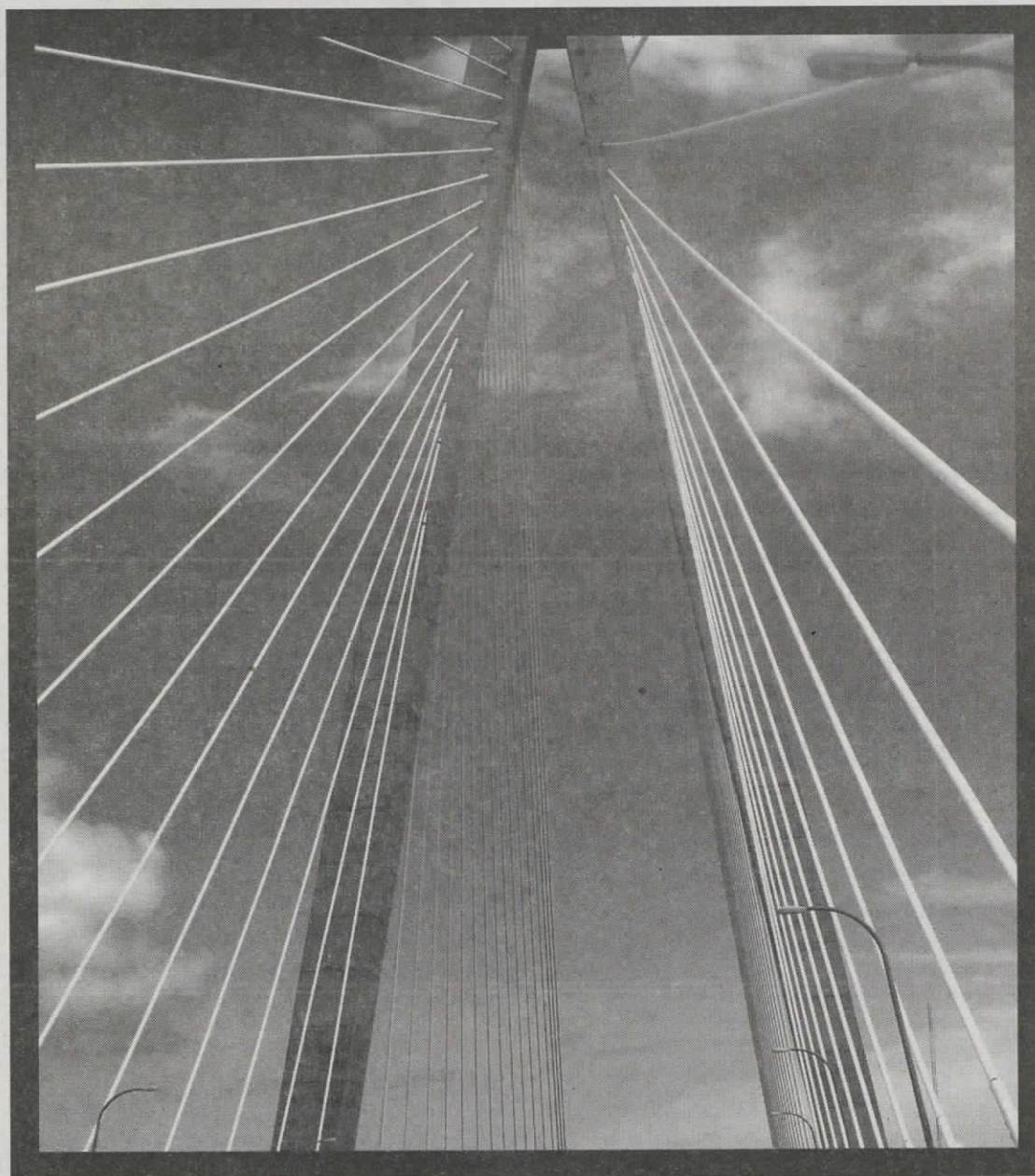
- 1) *Totally Joe* by James Howe
- 2) *Twilight* by Stephanie Meyer
- 3) *Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld
- 4) *Misfits* by James Howe
- 5) *The Clique* by Lisi Harrison
- 6) *Eragon* by Christopher Paolini
- 7) *Eldest* by Christopher Paolini
- 8) *For Freedom* by Kimberly Bradley
- 9) *Eclipse* by Stephanie Meyer
- 10) *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* by J.K. Rowling
- 12) *House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer
- 13) *The Golden Compass* by Philip Pullman
- 14) *Witness* by Karen Hesse
- 15) *Double Identity* by Margaret Peterson Haddix
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- 17) *New Moon* by Stephanie Meyer
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- 19) *Alex Rider* series by Anthony Horowitz
- 20) *Begging for Change* by Sharon Flake
- 21) *Blue is for Nightmares* by Laurie Stolarz
- 22) *Just Listen* by Sarah Dessen
- 23) *Pendragon* by D.J. MacHale
- 24) *Pretties* by Scott Westerfeld
- 25) *The Giver* by Lois Lowry

- 1) *Twilight Series* by Stephanie Meyer
- 2) *Harry Potter Series* by J.K. Rowling
- 3) *The Bible*
- 4) *Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini
- 5) *I am America, and So Can You* by Steven Colbert
- 6) *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky
- 7) *Hazelwood High* trilogy by Sharon Draper
- 8) *The Marvelous Land of Oz* by L. Frank Baum & John R. Neill
- 9) *Cat's Cradle* by Kurt Vonnegut
- 10) *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel
- 11) *Eldest* by Christopher Paolini
- 12) *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri
- 13) *Drama High Series* by L. Divine
- 14) *Elsewhere* by Gabrielle Zevin
- 15) *The Other Boleyn Girl* by Philippa Gregory
- 16) *Go Ask Alice* by anonymous
- 17) *Nine Stones* by A.L. Lewis
- 18) *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson
- 19) *Crank* by Ellen Hopkins
- 20) *Impulse* by Ellen Hopkins
- 21) *Names Will Never Hurt Me* by Jaime Adoff
- 22) *Eragon* by Christopher Paolini
- 23) Stephen King series
- 24) *A Million Little Pieces* by James Frey
- 25) *The Secrets of my Hollywood Life* by Jen Calonita



Jill Hunter

Bridge Photographer



www.jillhunter.net

“Where are they now?”: LaToya Smith performs at the Apollo

By guest writer Bryan Rouse

LaToya Smith '06, Vocal major, recently sang at the world-renowned Apollo Theatre. LaToya is currently attending Eugene Lang College of the New School in New York City, with concentrations in urban studies and jazz.

Bryan Rouse: How did your performance at the Apollo come about?

LaToya Smith: This lady who is a friend of an older cousin here in New York... real outgoing lady. She told me about an open call audition, so I stayed the night at my cousin's job in Harlem in order for the lady to pick me up and take me to the auditions the following morn. I went simply because I knew that was the quickest way to ever set foot inside the Apollo. I did not audition with the intention of even being on Showtime or Amateur Night. I just wanted to go inside where Ella Fitz, Luther, and many other legends had devoted much of their growth. I auditioned with Ella's "Mr. Paginini" but performed Gladys' "Midnight Train to Georgia."

BR: Will you describe your experience performing at the Apollo Theater?

LS: Not what I expected. Like many things (edifices) in our culture, the Apollo has lost much meaning and purpose through its being conformed into a business. I did Amateur Night for two weeks. The first week was great because my grandmother, my mother, my aunt and my cousins came up, and I cannot even express the love in that building. However, it's easy to lose grace and control and get sucked into making a "big" sound. The second week was even better because I was a lot more focused on getting the message out. No gimmicks – just my voice, discipline, and sincerity. I learned so much... not enough time or space to talk about it.

BR: What did you do to prepare yourself?

LS: Resolved all the issues in the mind (or at least some of them). There's always the question of which hand to use, when the answer is both. I have to dance and have freedom in conveying the message while also using the wisdom and growing

understanding one can only obtain through their discipline. Discipline... I cannot say that enough.

BR: Have you been performing any other places?



LaToya Smith performed with Daniel Davis '07 recently at Necter Bar and Grille on James Island.

LS: Besides school, I don't get out much. School is sort of a purposeful hindrance right now. When I want to be in the shed, I'm working or doing schoolwork. But I realize timing is important to everything, so I am excited about how passionate

shedding will become for me. But not to go too far around the cycle... I've performed a few places. Stories for another occasion, perhaps. But this Thanksgiving was my only "gig" gig, playing at Fountain House, a place for the mentally disarrayed and such.

BR: What advice do you have for aspiring singers back here in Charleston and how they can get started?

LS: Greatness is not an option; consistent competence is the goal (and I cannot even take credit for that – that's Theory class with Dr. Harper). But, from my heart: Getting started is first discovering you. Understand your strengths, weaknesses, and purpose. Be sure. Study. Understand how serious music is. Know that it is language. Know where you are and where you stand. Lean not to your own misunderstanding (Marley). Don't be afraid to go across the bar lines, across the genres. Then discover the music within...

“Where were they then?”: Mr. Day recalls years in Charleston

By Shanequa West

Shanequa West: Where were you born and where did you live during your early years?

Mr. Jack Day: My family (parents, four boys and two girls) moved to North Charleston from Elizabethton, Tennessee in 1939 when I was five years old. Our home was located on Old Park Road, equidistant from the North Charleston grammar and high schools and Park Circle.

SW: Describe life in the Charleston area during WWII.

JD: During the early years of World War II, we had air raid drills at school. The sirens would blow and all the students would march out of their classrooms and go out into the schoolyard. I recall telling my third grade teacher that if the Germans attacked, we would all be killed because we were lined up to make an easy target. She told me to keep quiet and get back in line!

SW: Describe your high school experience.

JD: I played football and baseball on the activity field where SOA kids now play. This was 60 years ago! I also boxed on the North Charleston boxing team and won

in my own weight division.

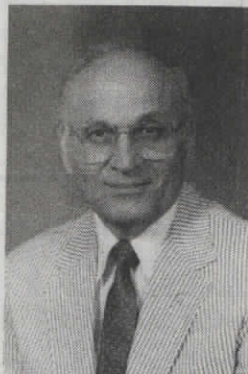
I attended North Charleston High School for grades eight through twelve. My favorite subjects were geometry and government. I lettered in baseball and basketball my junior and senior year. I wasn't allowed to play football because of an injury while in the 9th grade.

During my junior year, I was overwhelmed by a sophomore girl who was the most beautiful and vivacious girl in the school. She was a cheerleader, beauty queen, most popular girl, etc. but she wasn't all that excited about me. However, after graduation from college, we were married and have been together for over 51 years! Clemson men always win!

SW: Where did you attend college and what did you do after graduation?

JD: I received a degree in civil engineering and a commission as a second lieutenant in

the Army Ordinance Corp from Clemson University in June 1956. My first job as an engineer was in the the Charleston Naval Shipyard. Three months later, I had to report for active duty in Army as a platoon leader. I was stationed in Fort Benning.



With the exception of military service, Mr. Day has lived in Charleston for more than six decades.

After serving two years in the army, I returned to Charleston and to my former job in the naval shipyard as a structural engineer/naval architect. I was one of the ten engineers selected to form the new nuclear engineering department.

My next major assignment was to organize and manage the Nuclear Reactor Engineering Division of the Nuclear Engineering Department.

In 1976, I was promoted to the position of Director of Management Engineering for the entire shipyard. At that time, we employed over 8,000

employees. After serving in this position for 13 years, I retired in 1989.

SW: What have you been doing since retiring from the shipyard?

JD: Since retiring, I have been involved in several activities such as serving on the Naval Base Redevelopment Authority; Charleston County Soil and Water Conservation Commission; Board of Trustees for the South Carolina Baptist Commission for the Aging; Board of Directors for the Clemson University Athletic Scholarship Program; and the Charleston Naval Base Memorial Commission. In 1991, I was given the Clemson University Distinguished Alumni Service Award.

The most rewarding experiences that I have had since retiring have been as a substitute school teacher in Charleston County. It has been especially gratifying to work with the students at SOA for over eight years. It is a pleasure to be in their presence, and they make me happy every time I have the privilege to be their teacher. These students are smart and they like each other!

“No Country” minimalist, gripping *Fahrenheit: A strange, familiar society*

By Blake Engel

If there is one word to describe *No Country for Old Men*, it is “empty.” That’s not to say there is anything missing; rather, the film has been stripped down and taken to its core where all you see is all you need to know. As a character walks through a street or opens a door that’s all there is - no one has conflicting or ulterior motivations, no one has a trick up their sleeve, no one has anything to hide. The film follows three men - Josh Brolin as Llewellyn Moss, an antelope hunter who discovers a drug deal gone wrong and a satchel with two million dollars; Javier Bardem as Anton Chigurh, a methodical, violent sociopath hired to retrieve the money; and Tommy Lee Jones as Sheriff Tom Bell, the lawman who tries to help Moss survive and also the film’s namesake. We don’t know much of their past and we don’t know any of their futures beyond where the movie takes us.

This minimalist technique grants the film’s every detail greater power and importance. *No Country* doesn’t have a soundtrack, meaning there are no songs accompanying any specific scene. Sound design becomes the film’s score - instead of music there is the jolt of a cattle gun ripping cylinder locks out of door handles, or a sociopath calmly eating cashews, or an old west windmill rotating in the desert. Cleverly, the directors have hidden the crumbs of film score beneath this sound design, such as during a sequence where Chigurh demands that a gas station proprietor call a coin toss. After he’s clapped the coin down on the counter, he says to the proprietor, “You need to call it. I can’t call it for you. It wouldn’t be fair. It wouldn’t even be right.” And the proprietor responds, “I didn’t put



nothin’ up.” A distant choir of violins intones, building the menace, as Chigurh replies, “Yes you did. You been putting it up your whole life. You just didn’t know it.”

Most of these words come straight from the source: the book by Pulitzer Prize-winner Cormac McCarthy. Even the film’s most controversial moment - when an important event occurs off-screen - is taken straight from the source material. The Coen Brothers, who wrote and directed the film, do not bring the story or setting; instead, they employ their long-time associate, cinematographer Roger Deakins and three masterful actors for the task. The man who will be winning acclaim and receiving the most newspaper write-ups, and deservedly so, is Spanish actor Javier Bardem, who portrays Chigurh with such intimidation that he may be the new century’s Hannibal Lector. But Josh Brolin and Tommy Lee Jones both deserve similar acclaim. The latter thespian brings a dusty quietude and mountainous face built over a handful of similar roles to escalate Sheriff Bell to a career-high performance, and Brolin offers an equally realistic portrayal of Moss, a hunted man who isn’t much of a hunter himself.

The twelfth film from the Coen Brothers is perhaps an evolution. With the possible exception of Chigurh, *No Country for Old Men* is free from Coen-esque caricature and farce. This film is quite literally about as simple a story as can be told, and the duo revel in its modest, unassuming nature. In doing so, they craft one of their finest works and, conceivably, the one for which they will be remembered.

By guest writer Trey Cooper



Can you imagine a world where books are illegal and firemen start fires instead of preventing them? Well, that is exactly the case in Ray Bradbury’s classic novel *Fahrenheit 451*: the protagonist, Guy Montag, is “a fireman whose job [is] to start fires.” The first draft of the novel, *The Fireman*, was written in nine days on a pay typewriter in the basement of the UCLA library and published as a novella in a 1951 issue of *Galaxy Science Fiction Magazine*.

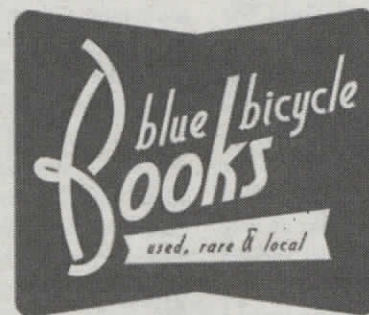
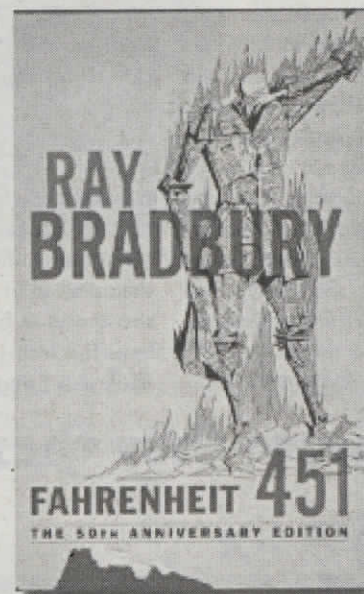
Bradbury’s invigorating page turner depicts the impact of fast cars, loud music, television, and censorship on a future society. The vast majority of society is indifferent to individuality due to the effects of “seashell radios” and “wall televisions” that talk directly to whoever is watching and/or listening to them. Also, houses have been given a special fireproof coating, making the traditional role of a firefighter irrelevant.

In Bradbury’s world everyone “must all be alike. Not everyone born free and equal, as the Constitution says, but everyone made equal.” Firemen burn books because, in the words of the domineering fire chief, Captain Beatty, “a book is a loaded gun in the house next door. Burn it. Take the shot from the weapon. Breach man’s mind.”

Guy Montag has been a book burning fireman for a decade and a conforming, law-abiding citizen for even longer... until he meets a young girl named Clarisse who tells him how the world once was. Montag then meets a retired English professor and together they endeavor to change the world.

Ray Bradbury’s *Fahrenheit 451*

conveys an insane futuristic society, which is strikingly similar to today’s world and makes a statement that is more relevant now than when it was written.



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Sass Attack: Beware the holidays

By David Sass



Yay! It's the month of the Free-Junk Fat Man and his dragon-pulled sleigh of giftiness!

No matter what historical or religious holiday you celebrate, from Chanukah to Christmas, or (to mention recently devised revelry) from Kwanzaa to Ghostmas, it's the season to set aside your differences... and party together like the mongrels you know you are!

Because it's that special time of year, I thought that I would kill some time by mauling the holiday season. Now, before any religious fanatics start stirring up a mob and stoking the fires to burn me on a stake as a heathen, I'd like you to remember that I do this completely for *your* amusement, not mine. Okay, so maybe that's a lie; but it's not a really big one. And besides, the holiday season basically paints a big red and green bull's-eye on its side, so I can hardly be blamed for taking a few potshots.

I'll start this rant off with one of the most irksome things about the holiday season. It's the music, of course. It's all over the radio before Thanksgiving! No thanks, I don't want any "White Christmas" with my mashed 'taters and pumpkin pie. And here my other point about holiday music sticks out its scaly little head: all of it is *Christmas* music. Nope, there's nothing on the air about Chanukah, Kwanzaa or anything else. It's like they've made Santa Claus into the Big Brother of the airwaves – no variety, only repetition. I don't care if all you have

is Adam Sandler's "Chanukah Song" or even the Ghostmas song – just play something that celebrates anything but Christmas!

And then there's the marketing. Honestly, watch just about any of the commercials that play around now and you'll see what I'm saying. I distinctly remember seeing one where a husband was throwing out all the useless junk his wife had gotten him, but then she got him some super-duper electric razor and everything was cool. It's a freakin' razor! How can someone get so excited over a little bundle of wires, stainless steel, and pain from when you nick your chin (with the razor they say can't hurt you)? And whatever happened to being happy because you're with the person you love? Oh yeah, I forgot – this is America. Love divorced itself and married Materialism. Silly little me, whatever was I thinking?

Nowadays, according to this diabolical marketing scheme, the only way to be a good spouse during the holiday season is to buy your significant other something that usually costs more than your own car. I mean, you are a complete moron if you actually believe any of these commercials, and you deserve to be beaten across the brow with a stocking full of hot coal and sharp pointy sticks.

And finally, the heavy metal king of cakes. Yeah, you know it – the fruitcakes. If there were ever a nuclear war and all the natural produce in the world decayed from the radiation, only two types of food would survive: Twinkies and fruitcakes. And only the former of the two is actually edible. The latter could be used for quite a few purposes,

such as a doorstop, the weights on a barbell (if you had the misfortune to be in possession of two), or even a makeshift blackjack to clobber an intruder. Just don't try to eat the thing – unless, that is, you wish to look like some three-toothed redneck from the backwoods who has never heard of dental hygiene. Personally, I think that people just give them to the relatives they don't want to have to deal with, and those relatives just give the same cake back the next year. I bet that if you dropped the thing in the middle of the woods, not even the raccoons would try to eat it. (Maybe the rednecks would.)

All in all, there are Christmas dictators on the airwaves, a rampaging marketing scheme hell-bent on world materialism, and two-ton radioactive fruit-cudgels tossed around from year to year like hot potatoes. Anyway, I think I've done enough damage to the holiday season for one day. Happy and/or merry [insert holiday here]!

P.S. In an attempt to appear as though I actually care what you mere mortals think about my column, I've decided to add my e-mail address at the bottom. So if you have any comments, critiques, or questions about it, send them to me and I'll do my best to answer them. And if you have something that you really want me to attack, I'd love for you to send me that. Anyone who is picked shall be given the title of "Honourary Knight of the Rant" and shall be mentioned at the top of the column. Who knows – I might just pick yours!

Questions? Comments? Ideas? Contact Sass at captain_kasper@yahoo.com.

Healthy holidays!

By Carolyn E. Brown



It's that time of year again – the time when we are hurriedly studying,

shopping for presents, and going to the many holiday parties that occur during this season. However, a mysterious illness seems to infect people of all ages during the winter months. It's called "Santa Clause Syndrome," and the symptom is a tummy that shakes like a bowl full of jelly. Want to avoid this? Here are some helpful tips:

- When you are going to a Christmas party, eat a light meal beforehand so you don't act like a ravenous beast when you see the buffet table and end up grazing all night long.
- If you want to nibble on something, stick to the veggie tray or grab a few pretzels. These will prevent you from munching on the healthier treats.
- When cooking for a holiday dinner or party, substitute healthier ingredients for things like flour and sugar. For instance, if you're baking a pumpkin pie, use egg substitutes instead of whole eggs; use Splenda instead of sugar; try to use unbleached white flour; and, instead of using the store bought crust or Grandma's heavy-on-the-Crisco recipe, bake your own crust that does not include shortening.

Surviving sixth grade: How to handle stress

By K. Chaney Long



I am sure you have noticed there are a great deal of tests and quizzes in 6th grade. I personally remember looking down at my planner and realizing that I had a test almost every day for two weeks in a row. The overwhelming feeling of thousands of thousands of impending tests usually causes massive anxiety and stress.

In fact, the way I reacted to stress was probably my biggest mistake of 6th grade. Stress would creep in and I would completely shut down. Instead of studying

my books or notes I would just stare catatonically at them. This was because the thought of sitting in class and taking a test would almost make me sick. I couldn't study or take a test without thoughts of ultimate doom or failure. Thinking back on my catatonic study sessions, I see the other ways I could have handled stress.

For one, never study with the television on. Some people can complete homework or projects while watching television, but memorizing facts and watching T.V. is almost impossible. Let's face it: your favorite T.V. show is going to seem one million times more interesting than anything you are studying. So hit the record button on the remote and turn the

television off.

Quizzing is one of the most effective ways to study. Do this by having someone ask you questions from your books or notes, or by asking yourself questions that you've made up or that come from the book.

Besides having a good study environment and study questions, there is also one more vital factor: the *motivation* to study. Motivation can't be, "I'm gonna learn this chapter, cuz then I'll be an expert on Egyptians." It needs to be a tangible goal such as, "If I answer the chapter questions in this book correctly, I'll take a ten minute study break." This is a realistic goal.

Besides study skill issues, test

anxiety is what caused me to vehemently avoid studying. Many students feel test anxiety, and it doesn't necessarily begin while taking a test. Panicking about a test might begin as soon as it is assigned. This is what aids in the dangerous art of procrastination. The best way to avoid the evils of procrastination is to tell your parents or study partner about a test the day it is assigned. This way you'll have plenty of time to study, and having more time relieves a great deal of test worries.

Remember: a test is not the end of the world. It does not decide whether you live or die. Take a deep breath (remember to breathe out), and you'll do fine.

Creative Writing

"An Apple's Appeal" Katie Vinson, junior

Because she was all and only woman
and it was ripe, and whole, and young
she tore temptation with her teeth
and held mortality on her tongue.
Yet once the sin was in her skin
its seeds of greed began to show
and he, being all and only man
fulfilled a plan a snake had sown.
So the hungry hands of the first and worst
plucked and peeled at what was pure
when the One called in the shade of dusk
they tried to hide from what they were.
In those grounds grew the roots of curse-
a blood pain for life, a blood taste for lust.
Her fruit still bears the mark of want,
and she was all and only dust.

"Combustion" Lauren Hester, junior

We will never miss the light
We stole away from eyes and days
Roman candles exploding in the night

On our own we burn so bright
In the thick fevered darkness you say
We will never miss the light

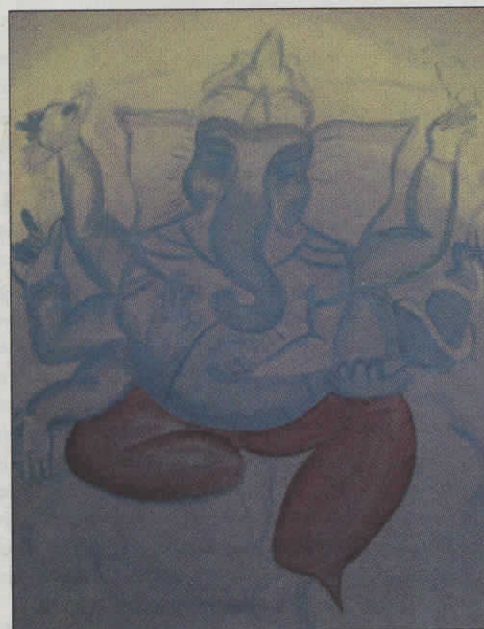
Hearts and thighs move in twilight
The lust and ardency creating the sway
Roman candles exploding in the night

We combust to fullest height
Potent red from dull ash-grey
We will never miss the light

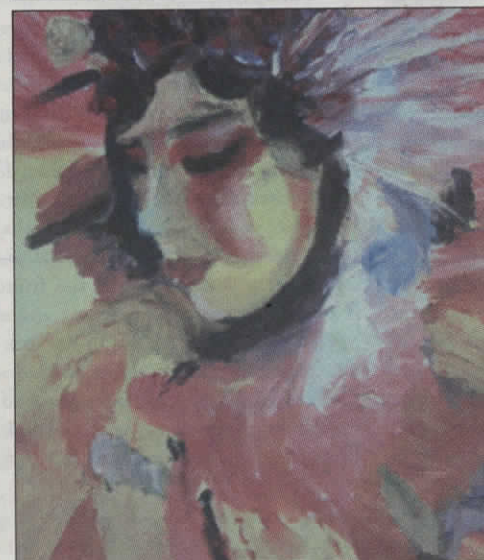
This inferno we ignite
Burns the dark to almost day
Roman candles exploding in the night

Skewed vision but not lack of sight
The dusk may melt the common away
We will never miss the light
Roman candles exploding in the night

Visual Arts



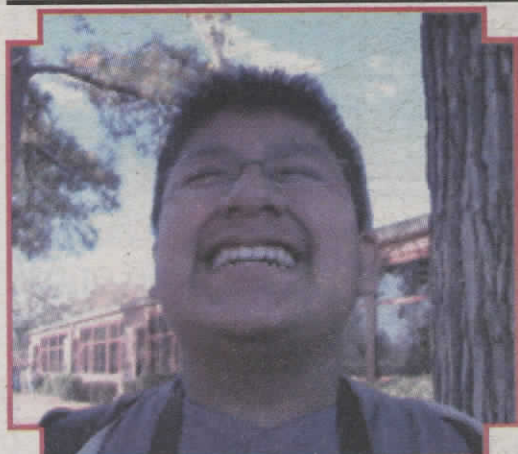
Jessica
Davidson,
junior



Min Bu,
senior



Zach
Collins,
senior



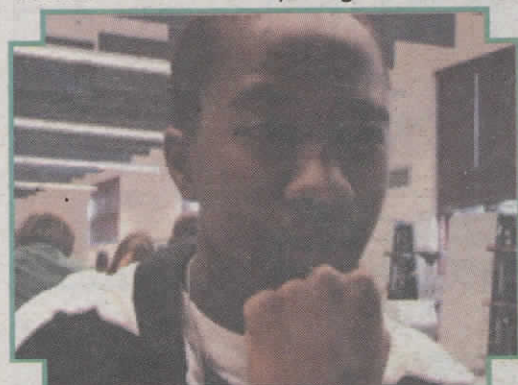
"I invite friends over for a gingerbread contest. We all build gingerbread houses and when we're done we burn them." - Ben Kidder, 6th grade



"I get to eat two different dinners - from Mommy and Daddy." - Natalee Phoenix, 7th grade



"We go downtown to give presents to a homeless shelter." - Sully Hamilton, 8th grade



"We go to Maryland to celebrate Christmas and Kwanzaa with my family. We always have a giant snowball fight." - Devante Lee, 9th grade

What interesting holiday tradition does your family celebrate?



"We fry everything. Everybody sits at the same table. It's like 'pass this, pass that.' We eat rabbit and deer." - Darrel Thomas, 10th grade



"My mom never cooks when it's not a holiday. So when it is a holiday, it's strange to see her cook. She cooks desserts and stuff, collard greens and cabbage too." - Michael Ancrum, 11th grade



"After dinner, we blow up a pie my aunt made. It's pecan pie." - Mike Mears, 12th grade



"On Christmas Eve we would go to three different parties and eat ourselves silly. Then we would go to midnight church, in Connecticut." - Mrs. Drennan, English teacher

