

# Applause

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School of the Arts January 2008



Poetry at SOA



## Letter from the Editor

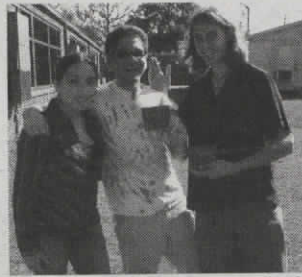


Incorporating areas. Chandler Jenrette '01, poetry into the subject of this month's *Applause* "Where were they then?," touches carries personal on this idea. The Poetry Out Loud contest, featured in the importance centerfold by K. Chaney Long, draws students from all majors to me. As a Creative Writer, words are my medium for expression. That newspapers similarly use words makes the coverage of poetry a natural combination. Our majors enhance our academic experience, and *Applause* is dedicated to covering this unique relationship in each art area.

Our school is unique because the arts are not confined to each major; instead, they actively transcend academic

Cover art by **Min Bu**, senior

Congratulations to  
the  
January Patron of  
the Month,  
**Ms. Chris Ambrose!**



*Applause's* Liz Gildea presents Robbie Kleiman and Logan Wells with their Barnes and Noble gift certificates.

## Applause

the official student newspaper of  
Charleston County School of the Arts

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## Psychology class studies intelligence philosophy, gives presentation to Superintendent

By Blake Engel

The philosophy of Howard Gardner has had significant impact on the world of education, especially in the founding of SOA. According to Gardner, students should be tested academically in terms of seven "intelligences." This is in opposition to the standard method of testing which uses verbal and mathematical intelligences as a foundation for assessment. Former SOA principal **Ms. Rose Maree Myers** created our school on the basis of Gardner's philosophy, and Honors Psychology teacher **Mr. Bill Smyth** incorporated them into a four-week project for his class.

In groups, students prepared PowerPoint presentations outlining Gardner's theories as well as applying it to themselves and the school. Each student read the author's influential book, *Intelligence Reframed*, and established which of the seven intelligences were personally relevant. The dancers usually found bodily-kinesthetic more applicable, while members of the band identified the musical intelligence as more appropriate. Furthermore, they discussed how they were individually

informed by the book's philosophy. In their presentations, students also outlined ideas for the new school based

new school. Some students pointed out the extreme difference between the money allotted to SOA through the

suggested new classes and new majors.

Mr. Smyth said that Dr. McGinley took plenty of notes and that his students gave her plenty of ideas. She encouraged them to continue thinking of new ideas as well as to consider the problems that can go hand in hand with solutions, such as lack of funding. When asked which students preferred no change in the school or the school system, Mr. Smyth said that compared to those who preferred change, those who raised their hands were in the minority.

By the end of the presentation, everyone was standing up and speaking with the Superintendent. In response, she told the class that all the ideas discussed would be considered by the school board.



Psychology students voice their concerns to Dr. McGinley, pictured right, regarding funding and the new facility.



on Gardner's theories.

Before the winter break, Charleston County Schools Superintendent **Dr. Nancy McGinley** visited SOA and was treated to a presentation by Mr. Smyth and his class. The students who presented projects were: **Joel Brown** and **Nick Gantlin**, **Courtney Messer**, and **Wes Snell** and **Ian Brown**.

As the presentations ended, conversation turned to improving the

state's Palmetto Gold Award (about \$35,000) and to other schools such as Wando High School (which earned roughly \$67,000). Others pointed out the type of classes offered at SOA and

### Snapshot: Junior ring ceremony



Rings Ceremony 4: English teacher **Ms. Anna Bronk** honors her former student **Sa'Navia Paisley** by turning her class ring.

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## NHS Update

By Victoria Doose



February is coming soon, and that means Valentine's Day is right around the corner. As we do every year, the National Honor Society is selling carnations and messages for your special someone at school. They are sold at both lunches in the cafeteria, and will be delivered the morning of February 14 – so make sure you know the first period class of your recipient before purchasing a flower.

Also approaching in the

month of February is our annual collection for Pennies for Patients. The fundraiser supports the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, whose mission it is to find cures for leukemia and other blood diseases. Start saving your change now, so we can make this fundraiser a success!

Midterms have already passed, but perhaps they were a wake-up call for some. If you find that you need a little extra help with your studies, remember that NHS tutors are available every Monday and Thursday after school in Ms. Drennan's room to help.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

- Jan. 28** 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Improv 4:00pm, Black Box  
**Jan. 29** 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Improv 4:00pm, Black Box  
**Feb. 1** Fighting Gnome 7:00pm, CE Williams MS  
**Feb. 6** Early Dismissal Day 1:30pm  
**Feb. 8** HS Winter Formal 8:00pm, Mt. Pleasant Village Playhouse  
**Feb. 14** HS Orchestra 6am-5pm (Feb 16<sup>th</sup>), Boone, NC  
 @ App State  
**Feb. 18** President's Day No school  
**Feb. 22** Region Band Clinic 8am-9pm (Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>),  
 Charleston Southern  
**Feb. 29** SOA Game Night 6pm-9pm, Cafeteria

## Not just artists: Winter athletes at SOA

Students participate in ice skating, sailing, frisbee

By Chelsea Adent

At SOA, sports aren't generally considered a major priority for most students. But some students make the effort to get involved with sports at their home schools or participate in different community teams.

**Jacki Brown**, a sophomore Visual Artist, has been ice skating for ten years. It requires a lot of her time and requires her to be in good shape.

"It takes a lot of work to really go anywhere, like the Olympics, but it's still fun to compete," she says. Jacki hasn't competed lately since the main competition season is from mid-February to about September or October, but there isn't really a set skating season.

**Drew Corriveau**, a freshman Visual Artist, has been

sailing for ten years, but this is his first year sailing during the winter. He sails on the Wando Sailing



On the open seas: Drew steers the boat for the Wando sailing team.

Team along with some other students from SOA, practicing every weekend for regattas – boat races – here in Charleston. For bigger events, they travel to

nearby towns. Drew's job on the team is to drive one of the many boats while another member takes charge of the forward sail.

"I want to win," Drew says. "But the whole team wants to win. So I'll do anything to help the team, even if I, personally, don't win the race." Later on, Drew hopes to race bigger boats on longer ocean races.

The SOA Frisbee Team is a known club amongst the high school students, and also helps promote sports at the school. **Adam Bailey**, a sophomore Band major, says, "You really have to try to make every practice and every game." The team has already played Academic Magnet this year. Senior **Marshall Drake**, the president of the

Frisbee Team, says, "We really hope to play more teams and get into tournaments."

At most high schools, athletes are "honored" and held in a certain esteem. Since SOA doesn't have sports, Drew says, "It does stink a little bit since no one knows what I do." Since most of the kids on his sailing team are from Wando, he says, "I do feel like I have to prove myself a little bit more because when people think of SOA, they have an impression of it that isn't true."

So maybe SOA doesn't have sports teams like most high schools – but sports still play an integral part in many students' lives and add to the diversity of their experiences.



## As seniors rush to finish apps, relief comes sooner for Early Decision candidates

By Victoria Doose

Winter Break is usually a time of leisure: two weeks without school, the holidays with family, celebrations of the new year. But for seniors, it's crunch time for college applications and everything that comes with them: essays, letters of recommendation, forms, fees, deadlines. It can be stressful, filling Winter Break with work instead of play.

Unless, that is, they've applied early.

"When you get accepted in November/December, your senior year is much more enjoyable," says senior **Jeffrey Cabiad**. "I no longer have to stress about college until April, when Regular Decision applicants are notified."

That's because he, like several other students at SOA, applied to his first-choice college under Early Decision. Early Decision, with an application deadline of around October, allows students to hear back from a college by mid-December, thus cutting short the period of anxiety and uncertainty concerning college acceptance. However, this early deadline is also binding – meaning that once a student is accepted, they cannot apply to or attend any other college. It is a deadline only for those who are positive about what college they want to attend.

Such commitment is usually based on extensive research into the different aspects of a college.

"I looked into a lot of colleges using Collegeboard.com, but I also visited every school I was applying to," says senior **Gabriella Terranova**, who will attend the College of William and Mary. "I looked around on the website. I talked to [W&M student] Lenna Walker a bit, and also to **Mr. Smyth**, who graduated from there.

In the end, I chose W&M based on its campus, academic rigor, and atmosphere."

Not everyone goes into the application process knowing what school they want to attend, though. For those who wish to get their applications over with, but don't want to commit to a school, there is the Early Action option. The deadline is typically the beginning

college options by that time means a student already knows what college or colleges to send the FAFSA to. By contrast, Regular Decision applicants don't hear from schools until early April.

"The big advantage of hearing a decision sooner, especially if it's a non-binding agreement," says guidance counselor **Ms. Kimberly Carr**, "is that you can either start

go once your letters start coming in."

However, not all schools have early deadlines. Ivy League institutions Yale University and Stanford University removed the Early Decision option from their application processes several years ago, responding to arguments that the option didn't allow lower-income students to compare financial aid offers. For the same reason, Princeton, Harvard, University of Florida, and University of Virginia recently removed their Early Decision and/or Early Action options.

While it's too late for current seniors to consider submitting early applications, it's something for juniors to think about. After two months of relaxing vacation between junior and senior year, early deadlines will likely seem unappealing – but it's best to be prepared.

"There are claims of better housing and early access to scholarships and competitions [when you apply early], the likes of which I can personally attest to being true," Logan says.

Potential advantages and disadvantages aside, "the sooner the better" is what Ms. Carr says is the strongest advice for all college applicants.

### Already in: Senior college decisions

**Maggie Aton:** University of South Carolina – Beaufort

**Ally Bing:** New College of Florida

**Jeffrey Cabiad:** Emory University

**Alex Corsaro:** Brandeis University

**Amanda Eglan:** Indiana University

**Lucy Hunter:** Barnard College, Columbia University

**Morgan Lewis:** Clemson University

**Ellie Linog:** Columbia College Chicago

**Courtney Messer:** Oklahoma State University

**Gabriella Terranova:** College of William and Mary

**Lauren Turner:** Clemson University

**Bugs Utsey:** Columbia College Chicago

of November, with results coming back in December, and it is a non-binding option.

"The grave reality of Early Decision is that you simply cannot pull out, for any reason shy of enlistment. That may encourage some, but frightens me, who likes the idea of options," says senior **Logan Wells**, who applied Early Action to two universities.

Getting an early response from schools also gives students more time to consider financial aid offers. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is usually accepted in mid-February; having acceptance letters and

making up a plan B or preparing for what you want to do. You can always wait to make a decision of where to

jestine's kitchen

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## Ms. Castle discusses poetry in the classroom

By Savannah Evans

Savannah Evans asked middle school literature teacher Ms. Tracey Castle questions about why students should be involved in poetry.

**Savannah Evans:** Why do you think it's important for students to learn about poetry?



Ms. Castle encourages students to embrace poetry.

**Ms. Tracey Castle:** Good poetry shows the true power and music of words. This is important for all students to

grasp, especially SOA students!

**SE:** How do you teach your students about poetry?

**TC:** One of my favorite ways to teach poetry is through song lyrics. Students are amazed at how many elements of poetry, such as figurative

language and imagery, can be found in their favorite songs.

**SE:** What famous poets do you think would be good for students to get interested in?

**TC:** I think students should read poets who speak to them. Different poets experience and therefore write about different things in different ways.

**SE:** What is your favorite poem? Why?

**TC:** I like so many poets and poems. I don't think I can narrow it down to one poem, but if I had to pick one poet, I would probably select Langston Hughes. He accomplishes so much with so few words.

**SE:** If you were to meet a famous poet, who would it be and why?

**TC:** I think I would want to meet William Shakespeare. Who wouldn't want to meet him?

## Seventh grader takes advanced curriculum

By Caylee Mizzell-Smith

Seventh grader Matthew Furlong takes Geometry, putting him two years ahead of his peers in terms of the math instruction he is receiving. Applause intern Caylee Mizzell-Smith asked Matthew a few questions about being in a high school class.

**Caylee Mizzell-Smith:** Do you feel extra pressure to do well in Geometry because of your age?

**Matthew Furlong:** Well, I feel like I have less pressure because, unlike other classes, I am taking a course that is a much higher level than what I should be taking.

**CMS:** While in Geometry, is it harder for you to make friends, since most of them are in high school?

**MF:** Some people don't like it that I'm in their class and only in seventh grade, but others welcome me into

the class. I have made friends in both geometry and Computer Tech.

**CMS:** You're in Computer Tech too - what's that like?

**MF:** Yes, it's very helpful in learning about computers and we have a great teacher who is really nice. It has taught me a lot about computers that is very useful.

**CMS:** How do students react when you tell them you take Geometry?

**MF:** Well, first they're usually in shock, but then they begin asking me questions about what it is like and why I am taking Geometry.

**CMS:** Do you have more

homework in Geometry and Computer Tech than other classes?

**MF:** In Geometry I have more homework than all of my other classes. In Computer Tech, I have no homework. Computer Tech is not hard, but Geometry is much harder.



Even with a heavy course load, Alex still finds time for cookies in the cafeteria.

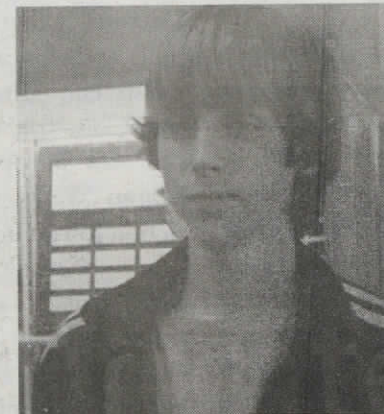
## Alex Enter keeps busy playing hockey

By Anna Warner

Eighth-grader Alex Enter has been playing hockey since he was six but has been interested in hockey since he was introduced to the sport at age three. He now plays defense for the Charleston Wolverines travel team. His team plays home games at the Carolina Ice Palace and travels to other states such as Georgia, North Carolina

and Florida.

"Hockey has made a difference in my life by giving me a busy schedule," Alex says. His favorite part of the game is the teamwork involved and the friends he has made. Alex, who has won twenty-six awards, plans to continue to play hockey in high school and college.



When he's not practicing his Vocal major, Alex spends his time on the ice.

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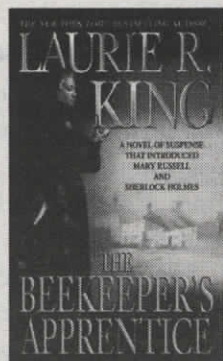
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## *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* adds new twist to old character

By Anna Warner

Sherlock Holmes is reborn in the new release *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* by Laurie R. King. But



should he have remained that classic Baker Street detective?

he have remained that classic Baker Street detective? This book is for those who love quick wit and solving riddles. Not

as intense as *The DaVinci Code* and not as juvenile as *Nancy Drew*, this book has a sort of intrigue that

will keep the reader holding on. It is slow at the beginning, but as the plot unfolds, readers will find themselves trying to guess at what will happen next.

The plot is fairly simple. While in retirement, Sherlock Holmes discovers fifteen-year-old Mary Russell, a girl whose mind is as sharp as his. She becomes his apprentice, and after four years of training, skill building, challenges and tests, they solve a mystery together that includes roman numerals and homemade bombs. The book is excitingly clever; you will have trouble solving its mysteries without the help of

Holmes and Russell.

A little inadequately named, *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* requires a reader with a love of suspense and more than a little initiative to be able to finish it. This is no insult to the author, though: Laurie King uses wonderful descriptions and you feel as though you are the narrator as you read the book. This story did have a good plot line, albeit with a little too much filler. Sometimes I felt as though I were reading a G-rated version of some 007 book. Though not in my top ten, this book is sure to capture the hearts of some.

## Spotlight: French week art contest winners



During National French Week in November, the French Club held an art contest where students imitated a piece of art by a French painter. The first place winners was Allie Acierno, left, and the runner-up was Sammy Derrick.

## Foo Fighters' *Echoes, Silence, Patience & Grace* good, but empty

By Larissa Schiavo

*Echoes, Silence Patience & Grace* is a funny album, in the sense that its influences are fickle. One track, there are Pantera-worthy guitar undertones and its fair share of grunge-rock vocals; the next, it's an acoustic melody with Wilco vocals and Grateful Dead instrumentals. Like all the other Foo Fighters albums, it has heavy Nirvana influences, but this album is more "Heart-Shaped Box" than "You Know You're Right."

Foo has its old producer



back, and it's kicking bum and taking names – sorta. Some songs are all grunge, and some songs are all singer/songwriter. It's too bilateral,

and that's not the Foo Fighters that I initially was captured by. Part of Foo's allure is its fickleness and teeter-totter melodies. *Echoes* definitely has this, but it's applied in the wrong places. Some of the songs are great, and some are dull and drab. It just can't measure up to *One by One*.

Just like *In Your Honor*, it sounds like all of their old wit and fiery melodies are sucked dry from them. Yes; there are very amazing guitar riffs (as in "But," "Honesty," "Cheer Up Boys," and "The

Pretender") and yes, Dave Grohl gives us our dose of the pretty vocals expected. But there's something missing – passion? Rebellion? Poeticism?

It's a very good album, don't get me wrong. But you can tell which tracks will be singles and which ones won't; which ones will get iTunes EP's and which one's wont. It's almost a record designed for cherry picking. And cherry picking you shall go. There are some fruits of excitement and fiery passion hidden

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# The many faces of

## Poetry Out Loud participants apply insight, meaning to poetry recitations

By K. Chaney Long

In the days leading up to January 15, the high school was abuzz with students memorizing poems under their breath.

This year SOA participated for the second time in Poetry Out Loud, a nationwide poetry recitation contest that begins at the classroom level. From all of the high school English and creative writing class, seventeen were chosen by their teachers to compete in the schoolwide contest.

The competition, created by the National Endowment for the Arts in 2005, requires students to memorize and recite poems – two at the school and regional levels and three at state and national – that must be chosen

from the Poetry Out Loud list.

It was evident in the students' deliveries – some of them surprisingly passionate – that poetry is a true interest for these students. Some performances were lighthearted, such as Lucas Hadstein's rendition of Lewis Carroll's "A Boat Beneath the Sunny Sky"; others, like Lauren Hester's presentation of Sylvia Plath's "Fever

103", had a much darker tone.

After each student had recited one poem, eight contestants were eliminated. The remaining nine read another poem each, and, finally, three students were chosen as the winners. Third-place winner Kimberly Jenkins and second-place winner Wilfred Rivers, both of whom are juniors, went home with \$25, and first-place winner Carolyn

Brown received \$50. Carolyn will continue on to the regional PC competition on February 17, which will feature the other winners from Charleston, Dorchester and Berkeley counties.

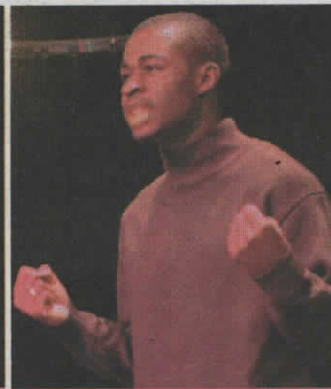
Sophomore Collins Rice, another participant, said, "I think Poetry Out Loud was such a great experience. I, personally, was exposed to lots of different poems that I would never have discovered. It helped me understand people's insight into different things. It was a wonderful learning experience."

Theater teacher Ms. Meg Link said of the contest, "[It shows] to others that poetry isn't something that's just read, and [that] it's not about flowers and candles. It's something that actually means something."

### Winner's Circle



1st place:  
Carolyn Brown, senior



2nd place:  
Wilfred Rivers, junior



3rd place:  
Kimberely Jenkins, senior

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# poetry at SOA

## Senior poet invited to read at local literary event, Monday Night Blues

By Liz Gildea

Virginia Lee Pfahler did not want to be a writer when she grew up.

"I started writing in fifth grade 'cause I wanted to go to SOA," Virginia says. "I never wrote when I was little. I wanted to be an artist and a ballerina." Now, though, as her senior year at SOA draws to a close, it has become crystal clear that writing is this girl's niche.

On Thursday, December 13, I joined Virginia at "Poetry for the People," an open-mic event held downtown at Kudu Coffeehouse on the second, third and fourth Thursdays of each month, and she told me an exciting piece of news: Ellie Davis, the coordinator of the East Bay Coffee Shop's better-known program, "Monday Night Blues," had called SOA creative writing teacher Ms. Rene Miles and requested that Virginia be a featured poet later this year. I asked Virginia how exactly this invitation came about.

"I think it was like, the creative writers did a literary reading at Monday Night Blues," she says, "and she [Ms. Davis] really liked my piece 'Children of Goldfish.'"

"Is that the alligator one?" I ask.

"No, it's not the alligator one – the alligator one is a poem. This one is fiction."

"Oh, right," I say, remembering the day I helped her edit the alligator poem. I tell her it's awesome that she knew exactly which piece I was talking about with a single word's prompting.

December 13 was only one of several times that Virginia has read at Kudu. She has been reading from the collection she is writing for her senior thesis. These open-mics are an opportunity for her both to promote her book and to test her work on an unfamiliar audience.

The creative writers' theses are due in rough form next month so that they will be edited and printed in time for the senior thesis reading in the spring. "It's really hard to write quality stuff with the amount of time we have," she said, "so a lot of crap comes out. What my mentor



Virginia prepares to read her poems at Kudu Coffeehouse.

"Poetry is a writer's secret handshake, conveying a thousand things with a flick of the wrist. There is a freedom in poetry – a liberation in ten words that a novel's million cannot tell."

– Logan Wells, senior creative writer

teaches me to do is cull out a lot of it and pare it down to the couplet structure that I'm fond of." She showed me an example.

Virginia's mentor, Ms. Marjory Wentworth, is the poet laureate of South Carolina, who also taught creative writing at SOA during the 2003-2004 school year and who has mentored Ms. Miles' students for years (her son Taylor is a junior in visual arts).

Virginia's thesis, a collection of poems, is tentatively titled *Efreisone*, which is the name of the mythological personification of an ancient Greek ritual object. The object – an olive branch twined with wool and hung with fruits – would have been carried in festivals by a child with two living parents. Virginia, whose father died in spring 2004, stumbled upon this word while

surfing the internet and was intrigued.

"Since I don't have two living parents," she explains, "it's made me realize I haven't been able to do a lot of things. [My father] can't walk me down the aisle, my kids won't know [him].... It was this random Wikipedia search, but I realized if I were in ancient Greece I wouldn't be able to carry this thing."

"It's really isolating," she says of her father's death. "It's like, 'Can everybody tell? ... It makes you think deep,'" she says with a smile.

Virginia's acute self-awareness has always been evident in her writing, as Ms. Miles, who has watched Virginia and her writing grow for the past seven years, knows well. "Virginia is an incredibly gifted poet who uses poetry to navigate the events of her own life," says Ms. Miles. "What I love about her poetry is, she can create really unusual metaphor, and she ties in really unusual things but somehow brings you back to something universal."

Go to [YouTube.com](http://YouTube.com) and search "Virginia Lee Pfahler" to see a video of Virginia's December 13 reading of her thesis poems.

## AP students immersed in poetry

Dr. John Cusatis spent the second quarter studying poetry with his AP Literature classes. Students spend nine weeks immersed in the work of one English language poet. As a part of this project, they teach a thirty-minute lesson that focuses on one of their writer's poems. Students have approached their lesson in a variety of ways. In the past, students have composed music to accompany their poem, made videos, PowerPoint productions, or acted their poem out in costume. The final project is a 10-12 page research paper on the poet. Applause editor Lucy Hunter recently conducted an interview with her poet, W.S. Di Piero, who is an English professor at Stanford University. Below is an excerpt from their conversation.

Lucy Hunter: How accessible do you think

poetry should be to the "average" reader?

W.S. Di Piero: I tend to shy, in my reading, from poems that I feel are being pitched to me. I don't like poetry that, nowadays, is pitched for a certain effect to an audience. I like poems that seem to—the way they talk about athletes having to stay "inside themselves"—in a sense, stay inside themselves. They have some kind of inner life. And you have to be willing to go to it. It'll come out. It makes itself completely present in its patterns and in its own language, in whatever it opens up of the inner life, or the sheer physical realities, in our lives. You have to be willing to go to it instead of having it land on you.



## “Where Are They Now?": Chandler Jenrette

By Blake Engel

*Chandler Jenrette is a former student and Creative Writing major at SOA. She was recently nominated for the prestigious Pushcart Prize for short fiction. She currently lives in Portland, Oregon.*

**Blake Engel:** *How did your high school experience help guide you in life?*

**Chandler Jenrette:** I think my experiences as a writing major at SOA helped me learn how to focus myself, both creatively and academically. It's pretty fantastic to know that every day at school you have this huge block of time to devote to your art, and having that time really helped me figure out who I was creatively.

**BE:** *How were you involved with writing in school and outside of SOA?*

**CJ:** I wrote a novella as my senior thesis at SOA. I'm sure rereading it would make me cringe. Besides being a writing major, I also worked for the newspaper my junior year. I was the editor, and actually may have been the first editor. Outside of school, around tenth grade, I wrote for a paper called *The Current*, which was sort of replaced by the *City Paper*.

**BE:** *Could you share a few memorable anecdotes from your years at SOA?*

**CJ:** Every anecdote that's coming to mind right now would probably get someone in trouble. The New York trip in tenth grade was pretty great. That was my first year at SOA, and I'd only been there for a few months when we went. I remember walking through the Met with another Creative Writing major while she explained every complicated relationship in the school- who had a crush on whom, and all that really important 10th grade stuff. It was my passport into the SOA culture.

**BE:** *What steps did you take to go from an unknown writer to published author?*

**CJ:** I just sent a couple of stories out to a few different journals, and one decided to publish me. I would say I am still an unknown writer.

**BE:** *How did you come to be nominated for the Pushcart Prize?*

**CJ:** Pushcart nominations are selected by the editors of small journals. Those editors can select a certain number of works they've published (I think five or six) in the past year to be nominated, and the editors who published my story picked me. A lot of people are nominated every year, but it still feels pretty cool to

be chosen. It's nice to be able to say that the one story I've had published got this nomination.



Chandler, left, and Abigail Heston, both graduated from SOA in 2001; in this picture, they pose at the water in Kanyakumari, India, where they spent a few weeks traveling.

**BE:** *What kind of future do you hope for and as a writer? What is your current project?*

**CJ:** Well, it would be nice to publish more. It's nice to be read. Right now I'm working a series of short stories that all involve insects, sometimes very directly and sometimes very peripherally. I have four stories completed in that series, and

I'm trying to tie in a couple of more. I don't have specific plans or ambitions for this project, though. I'm also working on something slightly longer – or, it seems to be taking the shape of something longer – but my medium right now is pretty much the short story.

**BE:** *Are you currently pursuing any non-literary avenues in your life?*

**CJ:** I work as a nanny right now in Portland. It's not very ambitious. I work for two fiction writers, which has given me a lot of insight into how one might survive off a writing career. They also have a lot of famous friends, whom I'm trying to meet.

**BE:** *What further professional and/or educational prospects do you plan to pursue? How do you see your future in general?*

**CJ:** I'm planning to go to grad school. I was a history major at Reed, and right now I'm trying to decide between pursuing an MFA in writing or continuing with history. Right now the idea of academia is winning, and I'm hoping to study material culture. I'm trying to figure out how to have a life that really balances my interests in academia with creative writing.

## “Where Were They Then?": Joseph Clarke

By Shanequa West

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

**Joseph Clarke:** I grew up in James Island. I had an interesting childhood. My father was a single parent. I never really knew my mother. My dad was an entrepreneur and kept weird hours. The one thing he did right with me and my siblings was he enrolled us in music or dance lessons. My fondest memories were learning to play drums when I was a pre-teen.

**SW:** *What kind of music did you listen to when you were younger?*

**JC:** My dad had old Frank Sinatra albums around. I mostly listened to that when I was very young. Then in my teens, I listened to Count Basie and Henry Mancini, mostly. What I danced to was Michael Jackson. Thriller had just come out in the 80's when I was in High School. I also loved Billy Joel,

Elton John, and Stevie Wonder.

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

**JC:** I had some pick up jobs to pay bills in that first year. But after I enrolled in the Masters program, I landed a job at MUSC Institute of Psychiatry, which was the best training I could have had to teach at the School of the Arts....really.

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

**JC:** I have worked on many productions over the last 20 years. But the series I am most proud of is my relationship with Village Playhouse. The last 6 years have been a dream. I have served as Musical Director and occasional actor/singer in 5 shows.

**SW:** *What instruments do you play?*

**JC:** Presently I am concentrating on developing my piano skills. But I am a pretty decent drummer and trumpeter. I



Mr. Clarke received a B.A. in Psychology from the Citadel in 1989.

played trumpet all through college.

**SW:** *Who are your musical influences/inspirations?*

**JC:** As a kid all I wanted to do is be Frank Sinatra. Singing, telling jokes and having fun seemed to be the way to go. He also seemed to get all the girls. For my contemporaries, I had a dated sense of what was cool. Now I listen to mostly Stevie Wonder and Count Basie. I draw a lot of what I play from those two sources.

**SW:** *What do you consider your most important accomplishment?*

**JC:** I have played, sung and acted in front of thousands. But nothing compares to witnessing a student take on a new idea and run with it. To see a student do something that he/she couldn't do the day or a year before makes being here at SOA worth every drowsy morning slug into work.



# jill hunter

## full moon photographer



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



# Sass-Attack: New Year's resolutions

By David Sass



It's that special night: the one that comes around only once a year, the one that brings everyone together no matter their backgrounds. There are parties everywhere – offices, homes, even in the streets. Suddenly, there's only ten seconds to go before the big moment arrives. Ten to zero. It takes forever, then it's gone forever. The ball is down at the bottom of the post, waiting for another 31.5 million seconds to pass until its next drop.

And then the guy next to you asks you the question no one really wants to hear: "So, what's your New Year's resolution?" And it's back to square one, right where you were exactly a year ago when you came up with that bogus resolution, same

## Shedding Winter Weight

By Carolyn E. Brown



Right about now, as you look longingly towards Spring Break, you may have noticed – how should I put this – a bit more jiggle to your wiggle? According to a study done by the National Health Institute, Americans gain an average of five pounds during the winter holidays. Studies suggest that because of the many holiday traditions that seem to center around meals that serve up enormous proportions, and the many treats and parties that are present during the winter holidays, people are more likely to just eat and stay inside rather than venturing out into the cold to burn it off. Unfortunately, those few pounds don't just magically disappear. So follow these steps and shed that winter weight!

1. Change your desserts. Transitioning from those calorie-packed winter treats to some healthier ones is a snap. Instead of cookie dough ice cream that averages 290 calories per serving, try Smart Ones Cookie Dough Sundaes at just 170 calories each. Trade in your grandma's starchy sugar cookies for some Kashi TLC Dark Chocolate Chip cookies that have whole grains and antioxidants.

as the last year and the year before that and the year before that.

For the first time in years, I actually made a resolution: to not do any excessive mental work for the first two weeks of the new year. Ideally, I would take a little hiatus from any serious writing; but thanks to my column I already broke that promise, as I basically annihilated my brain trying to write this. So, as the reader, you had better enjoy reading this and wrecking my resolution.

See, the biggest thing I have against making New Year's resolutions is the fact that it always makes me feel like I'm just changing myself for someone else. Why should I have to change? I think we should all take a page out of Calvin and Hobbes' book, and wait for the world to change to suit us. Why are we even trying to change ourselves for others? What's the point, if

2. Read the ingredients on the label. The first ingredient on the list is the one with the highest amount used in the recipe, so, if the first word is "sugar," refrain from eating it. Also, if there is an ingredient in that list that you cannot pronounce or that has more than five syllables, don't eat it.

3. During the winter months we tend to want to stay inside rather than exercise in the cold. So, do yoga or cardio indoors three times a week. This keeps your heart rate up and increases your metabolism.

4. You might think that chicken you're eating is healthy (after all, the bucket it came in does say "all white meat"), but, unfortunately, fried chicken is not what people mean by "lean protein." When it comes to food preparation, try foods that are grilled, baked, boiled, or broiled. By doing this, you cut out a significant amount of fats from your diet.

5. Take time every day to de-stress. Meditate, read, run – anything that chills you out. The holidays are a hectic time, and with exams looming on the horizon, it is easy to get stressed out – which can cause your body to hold on to unnecessary fats. So, just act like the weather, and chill.

we're just going to revert back before the year is over. That's why any and all of the rare New Year's resolutions I make require me to do very little to nothing at all, and never involve changing myself. Call me lazy, but I think it's smart and practical. And lazy.

And resolutions never work anyway. Everyone always forgets about them, and I honestly don't blame anyone for that. If you've never tried it, I'm pretty sure you'll agree with me that it's really hard to remember to work on changing one thing about yourself for a whole year. I usually forget mine before the first month is even over. And if you don't forget about it, you're usually so busy with school and/or work that you can't make time for it and still have a social life.

Another thing about making resolutions is that it's really stupid and

## Surviving 6th grade changes

By K. Chaney Long



You'll usually see me wandering down the hallways wearing all black, high heels, and red lipstick. It comes as a shock to many that when I was a sixth-grader, I wore an entirely different daily uniform: all pink. I usually wore sweatpants or scrubs, and I also had a particularly lovely habit of crimping my hair. Yes, I know. I was awesome.

I have changed in many ways since my first days of SOA. For most SOA students, these are mostly surface changes. We've dyed our hair and realized that pink sweatpants and tennis shoes aren't always a good look. Unfortunately, not all of these changes are so small. I have watched as the personalities of my friends and classmates shift. Some have become motivated and positive young adults. Other students, unfortunately, have developed drug problems, drinking problems and self-esteem issues, and have become overall unhappy people.

As middle school wears on, some students feel alone and unaccepted, and this causes them to make unneeded changes to their personalities and lifestyles. This will sound cliché, but peer pressure

quite pointless, because most of the time, people make the exact same resolution every year, which means they never did it the year before (or they're just a perfectionist). Either way, you aren't changing anything about yourself if you keep making the same resolution. All you are doing, at most, is "upgrading" yourself, like going from Windows XP to Vista (though that would be more of a downgrade).

If you must insist on partaking in this silly ritual of alteration, choose something that actually means changing yourself. Like ditching the PC and getting a Mac! Why you haven't already is beyond me....

*Questions? Comments? Rant-worthy ideas? Contact Sass at [captain\\_kasper@yahoo.com](mailto:captain_kasper@yahoo.com) to become Honorary Knight of the Rant.*

does cause people to make choices that, deep down, they know are wrong. And at the risk of sounding super-cliché, you don't need to change who you are to be accepted.

Looking back at my sixth grade yearbook is always an interesting experience. I almost want to go back in time and show them the people that they are now. Some of them I would congratulate for becoming insanely brilliant students. A few of them I would applaud for becoming so talented and unique in their majors. I would hug a few, because they have become my very close friends. Then there are a few whom I would warn to be wise in their choices. They would probably be alarmed to find out how dramatically they will change.

Sadly, I can't go back in time and guide my classmates to a better future. So I will do the next best thing, and warn this year's sixth-graders not to change too much. Don't change yourself in order to make others happy. Keep in mind all of the Red Ribbon weeks that have occurred since first grade; don't ignore all the "Just say no" ads and commercials that have been forced at you for years. Try your absolute best to appreciate who you are, and not who others might want you to be.



## Writer's strike devastates T.V.

By K. Chaney Long

On November 4 the Writers Guild of America met with the Alliance of Motion Pictures and Television Producers in a last ditch effort to discuss the WGA's demands in DVD residuals, new media, and reality television and animation jurisdiction. New media would include the free streaming of television shows on the internet, and paid downloads on sites like iTunes.

No deal was made, and on November 5 the writers officially went on strike.

About a month after the strike began, the WGA and the AMPTP met again to negotiate a deal. The WGA dropped their demands for higher DVD residuals, but the meeting still didn't go well. In an interview with *Entertainment Weekly*, WGA Negotiating Committee Chair John Bowman said, "I thought we were actually talking to each other about things that mattered to us, and I thought we were sort of circling areas we could actually figure out a deal. And then they just got up and left the table."

There were no major updates in the WGA strike until late December. Around New Year's it was announced that the late night programming would be returning, but without writers. On January 2 Jay Leno, Conan O'Brien and David Letterman returned. Letterman, who owns his production company, worked out a deal with the WGA. His show was the only show to return with writers. On January 7 both

the Colbert Report and the Daily Show returned, but without writers.

Not even a week after the late night programming returned, a devastating blow was struck for the 2008 awards season. Facing the threat of picket lines and no actors, NBC greatly downsized the Golden Globe Awards. Usually the ceremony is a lavish multimillion-dollar event, but this year the Golden Globes was a small broadcast where the winner's names were announced. There was no red carpet or thank-you speeches, and the usually glamorous Golden Globe parties were canceled.

Sadly, the award ceremonies aren't the only programs being affected. Due to the fact that they don't require writers, this year's midseason TV schedule is heavy on reality shows. Shows such as *Dance War*, *Celebrity Apprentice*, and *American Gladiators* have taken the wheel in weekly lineups.

The good news is that some shows that were already scheduled for midseason will be returning. For those interested in anything besides reality TV there are new episodes of *Medium*, *Lost*, *Law and Order*, *The New Adventures of Old Christine*, and new television shows *Lipstick Jungle* and *Cashmere Mafia*.

The last WGA strike happened in 1988. It lasted 22 weeks, and not only devastated that season's TV season, but also the next year's season.

## *The Kite Runner* insightful, featuring strong performances

By Blake Engel

In *The Kite Runner*, a number of conflicts are considered - between ordinary people, between friends, between family, and between countries. We follow Amir, a wealthy young Afghani boy living in the capital city of Kabul. Along with his best friend Hassan, who is the son of a servant to Amir's family, he finds a special joy in writing short stories and flying his kite. In a city-wide kite-flying competition, the two boys become local champions after they cut down other kites - severing the twine and sending their opponent's kite spiraling into the city. As Amir's kite runner, Hassan seeks out the defeated kite as a trophy, and in the depths of the city, he is suddenly surrounded by a small group of racist, teenage street thugs. The resulting confrontation sets into motion a conflict that will span a lifetime, taking shape according to the obstacles of his life and leading finally to the hope for redemption.

The kite itself serves as the film's central metaphor - a winged toy reaching

impossible heights, like a creature moving far beyond its apparent limit. As a child, Amir is constantly running away - from friends, from family, and eventually from war. We follow Amir into young adulthood, where by then he has been forced to confront many obstacles in his life and suffer the resulting shame. At this stage, the question of the film becomes, "Why does one abandon an experience of fear or shame and how does one return so as to alter the outcome?" As we experience his decade-long journey, Amir learns to escape his shame and rediscover the infinite possibilities of a man unbound, like a kite floating easily below the clouds.

In several ways, this film is epic - in scope, in intent, and in length. In two hours' time, we see Amir mature from a boy, played by first-time actor Zekeria Ebrahimi, to a man on the verge of his own life, played by Khalid Abdala, whose previous film was the acclaimed *United 93*. Screenwriter David Benioff shows us friendship, love, and the social conflicts in 1960s and '70s Afghanistan.

## *The Broker* a page-turner

By guest writer Katie Safford

In John Grisham's eighteenth book, *The Broker*, Grisham veers from his typical realm of legal thrillers to enter the world of politics, crime and espionage. This thriller is different from any other book Grisham has written but shares the important traits that his readers expect - a fast-paced, entertaining and suspenseful story. The novel, mostly set in Bologna, Italy, allows readers to enjoy a taste of Italian culture, language, food and history.

Grisham begins *The Broker* with a fast-paced plot of the corrupt, "lame duck" president, Arthur Morgan, cashing in on a controversial last-minute pardon for the "power-broker" of Washington, Joel Backman. This pardon from federal prison leaves Backman unexpectedly deposited in Italy by the CIA to start a new life with a new name due to his involvement six years earlier in the scandal of obtaining knowledge of the world's most high-tech satellite surveillance system and selling it to the highest bidder. It is later revealed that the CIA bribed President Morgan to pardon Backman, to use Backman as bait.

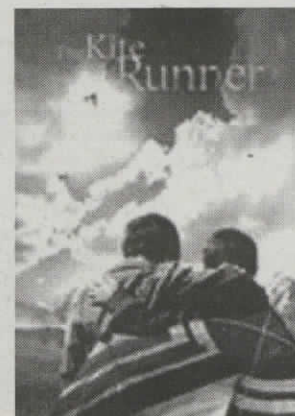
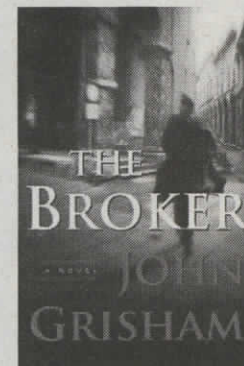
The CIA hopes to find out which country has the satellite software

by setting Backman "free," "accidentally" leaking Backman's whereabouts and then sitting back and watching to see who takes the bait. The broker, however, is not going to sit back and be killed; he has a different idea. After receiving his new identity of Marco Lazzeri, he realizes he is the bait. To become inconspicuous he quickly learns

Italian, adopts Italian fashion and culture, and attempts to blend in. He begins to settle into his new life when the assassins come looking.

This book kept me at the edge of my seat wondering what would happen next. It was an exciting, action-packed page-turner. When the plot slowed, the exquisitely written narrative kept me intrigued. Grisham brilliantly depicts the characters, leaving you

with the feeling of actually knowing them. I came to love Joel Backman, despite his past illegal wrongdoings, and hoped his life could somehow be spared. The detail and description of the Italian scenery in Bologna was much like I remembered in my recent visit and allowed me to connect on another level. Overall, John Grisham's portrayal of espionage, conspiracies, corruption in government, and murder make *The Broker* a book that I would suggest to anyone hoping



Director Marc Forster, who has proved himself as an artist of simplicity and humanity with *Monster's Ball* and *Finding Neverland*, takes the film to another level.

He handles the piece with a deft subtlety, working closely enough with his young actors to bring out wonderful performances and with his camera crew to create a lively world in the deserts of the Middle East. While the script can itself falter in simplicity, specifically in the character of Hassan, played by newcomer Ahmad Khan Mahmidzada, both screenwriter and director

lift the film to greatness by creating a movie that is emotionally honest and, more importantly, valuable.

Each of these facets of the story are culled from the universally acclaimed novel by Khaled Housseini, himself an Afghanistan native whose personal experiences informed not only the sincerity but also the scope of the work. His greatest achievement, among many, was to boil the conflict down and to separate the pieces of young Amir's life so that in his struggle we see also the struggles of his father, his country and his world.

Also worthy of mention is perhaps the film's best performance, by actor Homayoun Ershadi, as Amir's father, who is affectionately referred to by his son as "Baba." He is the moral backbone of the work, his rigid ethics forming the barrier from within which Amir must function.



## Creative Writing

A selection of senior thesis poetry



**surgical sustenance**

By Zan Isgett

if the glowing of my refrigerator  
reveals no food,  
it is time to go to the store.

about to slice into the real world,  
i don a surgical mask, and wrap  
a scarf of blue and violet around myself.

the sidewalk under anesthesia,  
i step like a scalpel over cracks,  
gravel, or anything imperfect.

i give a face lift to the grocery cart,  
give botox to the toilet paper,  
collage for creamed corn and milk,  
and liposuction for the shrink-wrapped meat.

the rotisserie chicken breast gets augmentation,  
a tummy tuck for the navel oranges,  
an eye lift for the potatoes.

finally, after shuffling these home  
i put them in the recovery room  
refrigerator, where they wait with the others  
for their judgment day.



**No End**  
by Jeffrey Cabiad

she walks into his room  
a black hole  
where all is drained  
from her

his bird nest  
of jet black hair  
a corrupted crown  
his shirt has gone  
through earth  
through some kind of life  
once white—now a rag

she sees him asleep  
and turns her head to the wall  
the clock  
emerging with slivers  
of dawn light aflame  
has run out of battery  
stuck  
the long hand twitches upward  
but as always  
the gravity of life  
pushes it back down  
and she is taunted  
by the immortal process



**The Waves in Winter**  
By Victoria Doose

If my redemption will only come  
in the manner of waves in winter  
(at this time of year,  
God's salvation doesn't rise high),  
then I will refuse to wait –

the salt and sand has matted my hair,  
the wind has twisted it;  
my lips are chapped and bleeding  
from the cold, dry air,  
and my patience is eroding  
like the shore beneath my feet.

My surfboard, anchored in the sand,  
is drying, cracking like my faith.  
If the summer storms don't soon arrive  
to whip the frigid water  
into breakers of divine benevolence,  
then I will refuse to wait for the waves  
and ride the swells, instead.



**My black widow porch**  
By Maddie Wood

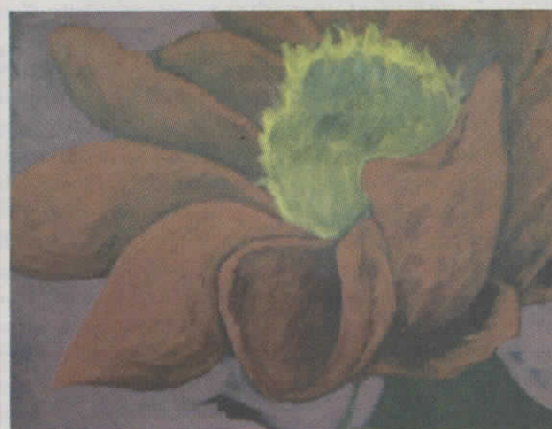
i'm sorry  
that  
in order to get to my door  
you have to climb  
my black widow porch  
try to avoid the webs  
and the spiders  
their crimson hourglass  
taunts you  
as the webs catch your hair  
and you come through the front door  
poisoned and sick



**Untitled**  
By Rachael Lee

You don't leave the car running and take the  
keys  
and quickly January air breathes across the  
windshield  
in lace lines,  
slender fingers roving over the glass.  
I tuck my legs under my sweatshirt and rest my  
forehead against the window  
and the car shelters the cold.  
You leave me outside,  
in your big sweatshirt and in flip flops  
and against the leather seats,  
pleading their long tears against my bare legs,  
and my bones fill with the cold  
and my lips turn blue,  
and the bruises against my legs and arms ache,  
and the skies break against the car  
and the sidewalk  
and spread across the grass,  
and I press my pride  
and my courage  
into the crumbling houses  
so that they can grow old with the floorboards.

## Visual Arts



Christopher  
Nguyen,  
10th grade



Amanda  
Kasmah,  
6th grade



Skylar  
Spies,  
junior



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
 ★ Horoscopes ★  
 ★ By the SOA Astrologer ★  
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**Aries (March 21-April 19):** Find a charity that interests you, like the SPCA or the homeless shelter. Giving back to your community not only helps others but also adds serious points to your college application.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20):** Try to avoid ridiculous squabbles this month, because they cause unneeded problems as well as annoy anyone who happens to be in close proximity.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20):** When returning gifts, make sure that the giver doesn't find out, or your next present will be even worse.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22):** This is the time of year when everyone is coming down from the holiday high, so be forewarned that people are going to be grumpy. Avoid making your parents angry.

**Leo (July 24-Aug. 22):** It's time for you to be brave and try something new. Go rock climbing, conquer your fear of heights, take an art class. Expanding your mind and your abilities will both provide you with a new skill and lessen your chance of being bored.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** When making a New Year's resolution, pick something that you know is possible to do. Don't pick something that you know you are going to give up in a few weeks.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** It's time to start thinking about you. Make a list of personal goals that you want to accomplish before you die, no matter how far-fetched they may be. Tape your list to your wall, or keep a copy with you. Doing this keeps your goals in sight and in mind and will help you reach them faster.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Get in touch with your childhood this month. Watch some old-school Nickelodeon, play your Nintendo 64, and watch as many reruns of Doug as you can.

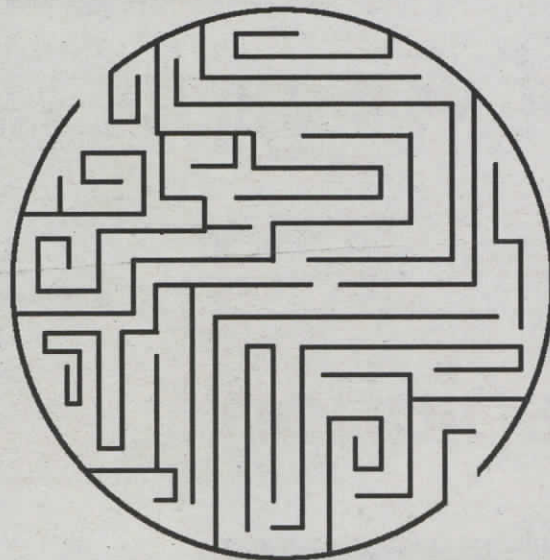
**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** You may have discovered that your waistband is a little tighter and you have this uncomfortable jiggle in your step. To fend off this problem, get off your lazy bum and go to the gym, walk your dog (or younger sibling), and stop eating leftover holiday party food.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Thank your teachers this month. Imagine having to put up with over a hundred students that act just like you every day, and you will surely feel sympathy for them.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Pay more attention to what you say to people — especially in writing. You never know what will end up on MySpace or Facebook.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20):** You know it's never too late to apologize. If you've done something wrong, and you acknowledge and atone for it, karma may not hurt quite as much.

## Help Mr. Clarke find Middle C!

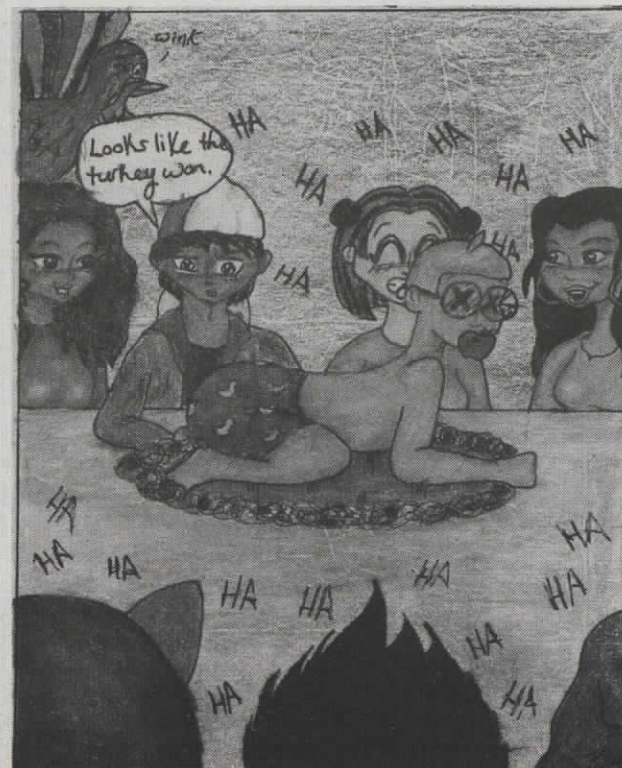


It's somewhere around there...

# Sudoku

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

## Comic Contest winner, Kenish Magwood, junior



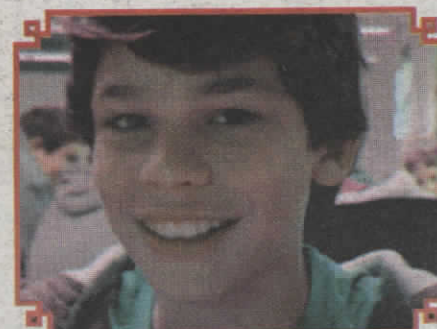




"Make better grades, work on math and science. Right now, I'm improving in Ms. Boyd's and Ms. Marshall's classes."  
- Claire Winkles, 6<sup>th</sup> grade Vocal



"Become a better ice skater. I've been skating for a few years. I want to go further."  
- Blaze Wilson, 7<sup>th</sup> grade Theatre



"To not be the class clown, stop screwing around. No more getting in trouble. Nobody takes me seriously. Now, my grades are going up and teachers like me."  
- Jonathan Jones, 8<sup>th</sup> grade Theatre



"Stay out of drama and stop having attitude. I'm keeping up with it good."  
- Javonna Alexander, freshman Band

# What was your New Year's resolution?



"My resolution is to not bind myself to resolutions. I've already betrayed myself, but I've been following it well."  
- Wes Snell, sophomore grade Creative Writing



"To follow my intuition. When I go by my intuition, it's always right for me. Lately, I've been happier with myself."  
-Kenish Magwood, junior Visual Arts



"I want to learn to play the banjo. I already have one. I want to learn old time claw-hammer hammer banjo. My dad's gonna teach me."  
- Maggie Jo Saylor, senior Theater



"To live greener. I've changed light bulbs, bought a programmable thermostat, and I bring my own grocery bags to the grocery store."  
-Mr. Lindgren, Physical Science teacher

