

Applause

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School of the Arts

May 2008



Letter from the Editor



The end of the school year is always an exciting time. Senior theses performances, AP exams, prom—as indicated by the School Calendar on page four, this month is packed with important events. *Applause* is dedicated to giving you the inside scoop on the end of the year activities. On page four you'll find a prom preview, as well as information regarding the upcoming NHS-sponsored blood drive. Victoria Doose has written a profile on page

three of senior Virginia Pfaeler, who is making national news with her recent win of the prestigious Scholastic Writing Portfolio Award. I'd like to extend special congratulations to Virginia, an outstanding writer and friend. Please enjoy *Applause* and all that this coming month has in store.

Sincerely,
Lucy Hunter

Students admitted to Governor's School Programs By Chelsea Adent

The Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities is a residential high school for the arts in Greenville, SC. Acceptance letters for the Residential High School and the school's summer programs were recently sent out. Congratulations to the admittees!

Residential High School:

Katie Badgett Celeste Pompeii
Jessica Stocker

Summer Programs:

Chelsea Adent Daniel Baer
Lukas Hadstein Matt Lehman
Megan Lewis Alex Martindale

Cover art by **Kayla Watts**, sophomore.

Congratulations to the
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Ms. Gail Moore!

Applause

the official student newspaper of
Charleston County School of the Arts

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Senior wins prestigious, selective writing award

By Victoria Doose

"I never thought I would win the National Scholastic Portfolio award," Virginia Pfaehler says, her eyes wide for emphasis. "Never, ever, ever."

So it was a pleasant surprise when, only weeks ago, the Creative Writing senior received the news from the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards that she was one of only five General Writing Portfolio winners in the nation. Curled opposite me on a couch in the Creative Writing room, her excitement is evident in the stretch of her smile. When she travels to New York City on June 4 for the prestigious competition's award ceremony in Carnegie Hall, Virginia will officially have a \$10,000 scholarship and the recognition she has been working for since elementary school.

"I first started writing when I realized I wanted to go to School of the Arts. The first thing I remember writing and being really serious about was a story about little elves in a Laundromat." Virginia laughs at the memory. "It had a plot and everything. It was only like five pages. But that was a big deal!"

Her ensuing stories were good enough to gain her entrance into SOA as a sixth grader, but as she was exposed to an increasing variety of genres and styles, she found poetry more to her liking than fiction. Virginia began attending and participating in poetry slams – competitions in which poets give dramatic recitations of their work – when she was fourteen, and was recently the featured poet at Kudu Coffee and at Monday Night Blues in the East Bay Coffee House.

Prom '08 takes on nautical twist

By Tanya Lewandowski

SOA Prom is slowly approaching, and Junior Council has worked hard to make this year's dance original. Prom will take place on the Spirit of Carolina Dinner Cruise ship, on Saturday, May 10. The boarding location will be at the Patriot's Point dock, from 7:30 to 8:00 PM; the boat will leave the dock at 8 and take its passengers on a three hour tour of the Charleston Harbour, so arriving late will mean missing out on the dance.

The ship is a spacious one with three levels, the second of which will house a DJ who will take song requests in addition to playing the music that Junior Council provides. Food bars will be available on the lowest deck, along with tables and chairs where students can sit and enjoy the

"My family has inspired me a lot," Virginia says, about the source of her ideas. "They're so...they're so colorful. It's everyday things that really inspire me, the things I think are really normal but shock other people. I'm definitely inspired by all



Virginia will continue writing at Warren Wilson college this fall.

the conflicts I've had with my family, and the death of people."

Virginia knows firsthand the toll and tragedy of death. Her father died of a heart attack when she was in the eighth grade. When I ask her about him, she grows solemn.

"A lot of my poetry is questioning, wondering what would've happened or could've happened. The death of my dad – I always wonder, what was he thinking about? I remember I hadn't seen my dad all that week, and I bought him a bar of oatmeal soap for his psoriasis. One of the first poems

I wrote after that time was about not being able to give him that soap, how that was one of the most disappointing things ever.

"When someone around you dies, all these things happen, and you think – this person is not here anymore. It makes you realize what an impact that person had on you," she says. "I like writing about that impact, all the little things after that."

Virginia's stepfamily also plays a role in her writing. Her mother, who had been divorced from Virginia's father for several years, remarried as Virginia was ending middle school, introducing a stepfather, stepbrother, and stepsister to her life. More recently, Virginia has used her infatuations and Southern surroundings as topics for her poems.

All of these themes are evident in the eight poems she used to create her Scholastic Portfolio. Ms. Rene Miles, Virginia's Creative Writing teacher, was a little surprised back in December when

she saw that there was no prose in the collection.

"When Virginia showed me what she wanted to send [to Scholastic], we discussed the fact that it was only poetry. There aren't a lot of winners who win a Portfolio prize with just poetry – usually it's a mix of stuff," she says.




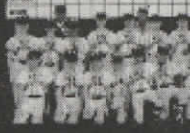

Regardless, Virginia's poems were strong enough on their own to be recognized by the national judges. She is the third SOA student to win the National Scholastic General Writing Portfolio award, joining 2003 graduate Sara Saylor and 2006 graduate Jessica Atkinson. Nationally, only two teachers other than Ms. Miles have had multiple General Writing Portfolio winners.

All of Virginia's winning pieces are included in her senior thesis, a collection of poetry titled *Weighted Friction*, which will be available for purchase at the May 20 Creative Writing senior thesis reading.

"Now that I've actually won the Scholastic thing, it's like verification: 'You're good at this, you can do it!'" Virginia says, smiling again. "I'm not going to make a living off of it, but I'll keep doing it for the rest of my life – because it's a good way to release and think about things."

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NHS sponsors blood drive

By Victoria Doose



The National Honor Society is now sponsoring SOA's annual blood drive.

For the past couple of years, the blood drive has been managed by Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), led by guidance counsellor Ms. Kimberly Carr-McDonald, in partnership with the American Red Cross. However, due to an increased workload, Ms. Carr-McDonald was unable to take charge of it this year and requested that NHS manage it instead – a task that NHS has willingly accepted.

The blood drive will take place on Thursday, May 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Ms. Linda Cline's dance

studio. Students, faculty, and even parents are invited to participate, but they must fill out sign-up slips in order to have an appointment time scheduled. Students must be at least seventeen years of age and weigh 110 pounds in order to donate; sixteen-year-olds may participate with signed parental consent.

Blood donations will be used in hospitals throughout the Lowcountry to provide life-saving transfusions to surgery patients, accident victims, and cancer patients. Participants will receive a free T-shirt and a Chick-Fil-A coupon, and they will also be able to partake in the provided refreshments. Please show your support for local hospitals and communities by donating blood on May 15!

May senior thesis preview

By Victoria Doose

Many senior thesis performances/presentations are to take place in the month of May. Band students have been working throughout the year on their pieces, work which will culminate in performances on May 13 and May 14 in conjunction with the Strings seniors. The location has not yet been decided.

From Wednesday, May 21 to Friday, May 23, the Piano majors will perform their thirty minute selections from memory. It will take place in the Black Box Theater starting at 7:00 p.m.

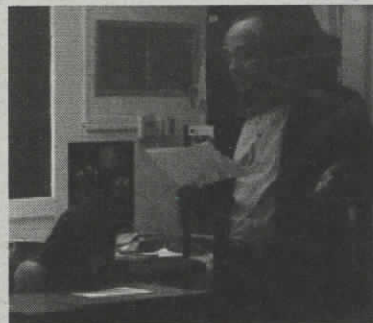
Also to take place in the Black Box – on Tuesday, May 20 at 7:00 p.m. – is the Creative Writing Senior Thesis reading, where the students will read selections from their published novels.

Approximately fifteen of the senior Visual Artists participated in AP Studio Art this year, creating twenty-piece portfolios for the course and also as their senior theses. There will be a senior art show on May 31 at 10 Storehouse Row in North Charleston, where some of these pieces will be displayed.

Conductor discusses *Candide*

By Blake Engel

Maestro David Stahl, Music Director and Conductor of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra and protégé of the legendary composer Leonard Bernstein visited SOA on April 14 and 15. Dr. John Cusatis's AP Literature classes were treated to a unique lecture about Voltaire's *Candide*, the subject not only of study in the English class but also of a Bernstein operetta, to be conducted the following Saturday by Mr. Stahl. Accompanied by Barry Goldsmith, Vice-President of Education



Senior Ally Bing reads closely as Mr. Stahl discusses *Candide* lyrics.

on the Orchestra's board of directors, the Maestro spoke about the intricacies of the *Candide* operetta, from which he played two recording samples. Upon hearing the music, Mr. Goldsmith added, "This hardly does it justice." Dr. Cusatis's students also participated in a symposium with Mr. Stahl and five of the performers of *Candide* on April 17. Students were also presented vouchers so that they could attend the Saturday performance and experience the real music for themselves.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

May

- 1 HS Theater Spring Playfest
- 1 PTSA Meeting
- 1 HS Vocal Sonja Sepulveda Workshop
- 2 MS Orchestra Solo and Ensemble
- 3 HS Vocal Spring Concert
- 3 MS Band Solo and Ensemble
- 5 Monday Night Blues Literary Reading
- 5 HS Theater Gnomecoming
- 6 MS Theater Physical Show
- 6 AP Statistics Testing
- 7 MS Strings Spaghetti Dinner Concert
- 7 MS Dance Solos
- 7 HS Theater Banquet
- 8 AP English Lit. Testing
- 8 MS Vocal Sally Albrecht Workshop
- 9 AP US History Testing
- 9 AP Studio Art Testing
- 9 HS Arts Convocation
- 10 Jr.-Sr. Prom
- 10 MS Vocal Spring Concert
- 12 AP Music Theory Testing
- 12 Monday Night Blues Literary Reading
- 12 Senior Thesis Dance Performances/ Reception
- 13 HS Orchestra Senior Thesis Concerto
- 13 PACT-ELA Day 1
- 14 PACT-ELA Day 2
- 15 PACT-Math
- 15 AP World History Testing
- 16 PACT-Make-up Testing
- 17 8th Grade Dance
- 17 MS Orchestra Spring Concert

- 19 End of Course Exams
- 18 HS Band Banquet
- 19 End of Course Exams
- 19 HS Orchestra Awards Dinner
- 20 PACT-SS (Grades 6th and 8th) Science (Grade 7)
- 20 End of Course Exams
- 20 HS Creative Writing Senior Thesis Reading
- 21 PACT-SS (Grade 7)
- 21 End of Course Exams
- 21 HS Piano Senior Thesis Recitals
- 22 End of Course Exams
- 22 PACT-Field Testing
- 22 Senior Thesis Reading and Reception
- 23 PACT-Make-up Testing
- 23 End of Course Exams
- 23 "Hear We Grow" Storyteller/Piccolo Spolero
- 26 Memorial Day-NO SCHOOL
- 27 PACT-Make-up Testing-Last day of testing
- 27-30 8th Grade Washington DC Trip
- 28 MS Theater Picnic
- 28-30 7th Grade Field Trip to Mountain Trail Outdoor School
- 30 Senior Family Picnic

June

- 3 Senior Honors, Awards & Scholarships Ceremony
- 3 MS Orchestra, Piano & Vocal End of Year Party
- 4 Half Day for Students
- 4 Graduation
- 5 Last Day for Students-Half Day

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Lucy Rummler takes spring break in China

By Caylee Mizzell-Smith

Lucy Rummler, an 8th grade Visual Arts major, went to Hong Kong, China, over the spring break. Applause intern Caylee Mizzell-Smith asked her about the experience.

Caylee Mizzell-Smith: Lucy, is there a certain reason you went to Hong Kong?

Lucy Rummler: In 1994 my dad, mom, and brother moved to Hong Kong for my dad's job, and four months later I was born there. We lived there for four years, so it had been a long time since we'd been there. Our trip to Hong Kong was made to see old friends and revisit the culture my brother and I couldn't remember.

CMS: So Hong Kong was your chance to revisit things you saw when you were little. Could you tell us about some interesting things you saw there?

LR: In the business areas of Hong Kong, you won't find too much out of the ordinary – just skyscrapers and huge multilevel malls. But in the side streets, [among the] markets and discount vendor shops, you'll find giant, spiky fruits called durian and anxious frogs in Styrofoam basins being sold as dinner.

CMS: What were some highlights of your trip?

LR: The highlights of the trip were seeing the thirty-four-meters-tall Big Buddha on

Lantau Island and taking the tram up to Victoria Peak to view all of Hong Kong. A few other things we did were hiking up a few trails in the city's outskirts, taking the Star Ferry across the harbor into Kowloon, going to ancient temples and markets, and of course eating at all the Chinese restaurants.

CMS: Were there any low points in the trip?

LR: Only a few things upset me, such as the homeless man we saw every day sitting on an old newspaper in between business buildings, and the food vendors hacking live fish right in front of me.

CMS: Is Hong Kong what people might expect it to be?

LR: Hong Kong is just as big and crowded as I thought it would be, but some things were unexpected. In the heart of the city are Hong Kong Park and Zoo, which are as big as any park or zoo but with free admission. The park alone includes a waterfall, a conservatory, and a multilevel aviary. One more thing I was surprised about was the large amount of people that spoke English.

CMS: Is there anything else you want to say about Hong Kong?

LR: Hong Kong is a place I hope many people will get to explore. It was very exciting and I wish I had more time to

Yasmin Alvarez-Garcia lived in the Canary Islands

By Anna Warner

Yasmin Alvarez-Garcia knows what it's like to live in two different countries. This 8th grade Strings major (and her older sister, Geraldine, also a Strings major) moved to Mt. Pleasant in 2001 from Tenerife, the biggest island in the Canary Islands, which are located off the coast of Spain.

The town she lived in, La Oratava, is at the top of the island. "You could see the beach from everywhere there," Yasmin says. "[It's] very small."

Yasmin says that "everything was less active, and more active in some ways." She describes La Oratava as "presentable, and nice and neat," which is partly because La Oratava is a popular tourist destination. "There would be tons and tons of tourists who couldn't speak [Spanish]," Yasmin laughs, "and they would all be like, 'Here, here, where's this?'"

In La Oratava, Yasmin went to a Catholic school, and she went home for lunch every day. During winter break, she would visit Teide, the

largest volcano in the Canary Islands, and go sledding down the volcano in the snow.

One of the things she loves most about it, though, are the festivals. She says that La Oratava is a "very festive place."

"The way you celebrate in Spain," she says, "is... lots of parties and costumes and walking down the streets with drums and lots of music." She remembers one festival in particular: "It was celebrating flowers. There'd be all these floats... and there's a bunch of old flowers on the street after the day has gone by."

Yasmin says that music is a big part of life in La Oratava. "All the string instruments are very popular there," Yasmin says. It wasn't until she moved here six years ago, though, that Yasmin started playing violin.

All in all, Yasmin says, the Canary Islands are "flawless," and she can't think of anything about them she doesn't miss.

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SOA spring athletes play across the Lowcountry

By Blake Engel

Eight high school students are challenging themselves on the track and the soccer field this spring. Both seasoned and beginner athletes, these students manage the challenges posed by their serious commitments to both arts and sports.

Cat Bowler—Soccer—West Ashley

Cat Bowler plays for the West Ashley soccer team – something she always wanted to do. She has known her soccer coach since elementary school.

This year, West Ashley played four preseason scrimmages and won all of them. "It's a nice way to see where you're at," she said of the scrimmages.

In a recent game, her team competed against Carlton County and won 10-0. "We're starting to pick up," she said. "We're coming together as a team. And we're peaking at the right time for the playoffs."

Cat said she improved a lot last year as the outside midfielder. The season saw plenty of high scores, she said.

Soccer practice lasts from 4:00 to 5:00 after school, and Cat can usually be seen piling into a car with her fellow teammates.

Kiona Brown—Track—West Ashley

To build up her speed and endurance, **Kiona Brown** runs four miles daily. Kiona, a sophomore creative writer, runs the 800-meter dash for the West Ashley track team.

Before her meets began, she was practicing from 4:00 to 5:30 every day after school. SOA PE teacher Ms. Cindy Branscome had encouraged her to join the team, and that support was echoed by her family. Kiona says the good-will is comforting, and they continue to "[tell] me to keep doing what I'm doing."

She was looking forward to beginning the season and described her feelings as simply "nervous" and "excited." "I think I'll do OK," she said.

For inspiration, Kiona looks to Wilma Rudolph, an Olympic runner who overcame polio and was the first woman to win three gold medals. "She has a great spirit," Kiona says.

Kiona wants to pursue running as a career. She says she is doing "better than when I first started." She added, "I'm really improving."

Deidre Buck—Track—St. Johns

St. Johns track team member and senior Theatre major Deidre Buck decided to enter the sport of running because "everyone told me I couldn't do it." Tryouts began in February, and she jumped at the chance to join the team after having been on hiatus from the sport since her freshman year. Though "sore and tired," she made the team and has taken one more step towards "proving people wrong."

On Mondays, Tuesdays and

After substituting on the junior varsity team for her first game of the season, Aubrey returned to the varsity team, which squared off against James Island High. Other competitors include Summerville High ("one of our toughest competitors," Aubrey says) and Battery Creek, which West Ashley beat 9-0. She cites Wando as the toughest team in the league.

"We have had somewhat of a rough start, but things are getting better!" she said. "I think we just need to hold

it's "going well."

Francisco's commitment to track has helped encourage him in other areas. "It feels like I'm doing something new," he said.

Leila Gorstein—Soccer—Wando

Sophomore **Leila Gorstein** has been playing soccer for eight years. After playing on club teams, this winter she tried out for and was accepted onto the Wando junior varsity team.

Leila, a Theatre major and member of the Fighting Gnomes improv troupe, juggles her obligations to SOA and to her soccer team. Her strategy is to do as much homework in class as possible so that following her games or practice she has less work to do at home. Unfortunately, sometimes she is still unable to attend shows and rehearsals for Theatre.

Practice lasts from 4:00 to 6:00, Monday through Friday, and she also works with a College of Charleston graduate who is her trainer.

After high school, she plans to either pursue soccer or theatre full time. "I love them both so much," she explained. "I have so much fun doing them."

Lukas Hadtstein—Track—Wando

Freshman creative writer **Lukas Hadtstein** is running on the Wando track team for a second year. Though he says he prefers running cross-country (mainly because there is "no circle" to run around), track still proves a worthwhile challenge. He hopes the training and competition will help him to "get faster" and "get in shape." Lukas devotes Mondays and Tuesdays to speed training for the 400- and 800-meter dashes. As the season progresses, he focuses more on the quality of his runs than the quantity.

"I'm pretty happy about how I have done my freshman year," he said. "I plan on doing a lot of training and running this summer." He intends to stay on the Wando team for the rest of his high school career and to continue with track in college.

He cites Steve Prefontaine, a legendary Olympic distance runner from the sixties and seventies, as an athlete he admires, because, Lukas says, "He didn't ever stop believing in himself."



Lucas Hadtstein, pictured center, returns for his second season on the Wando track team.

Thursdays, she goes to practice immediately after school and trains until 4:30. She also runs two miles every day and has worked with SOA P.E. teacher Ms. Cindy Branscome. When asked about the regular training regimen, Deidre replied, "It's killing me."

She finds similarity between running track and her major. "They both involve endurance," she explains.

Deidre's recently competed against athletes from the Bishop England team and came in 3rd place for the 200-meter dash.

"The team is getting better," Deidre said. "I hope it turns out well."

Aubrey Crawford—Soccer—West Ashley

Sophomore Band major **Aubrey Crawford** plays for the West Ashley High School varsity soccer team. "I've been playing since I was four years old," she said.

our heads up high and practice a hundred percent."

Aubrey, a flutist, says she has had some difficulty making time for both school and soccer, but she has found cramming to be a useful and successful method.

Francisco Figueroa—Track—St. Johns

Junior creative writer **Francisco Figueroa** is currently training with the St. Johns track team. Francisco trains with fellow track athlete and SOA student Deidre Buck, who also runs for St. Johns. "We motivate each other," he explained.

At an early age, Francisco said, he "got out a lot" and was introduced to a number of sports, including his favorite, football. "I like sports," Francisco said.

His primary reason for joining the track team was to get in shape for football season. Still, he says, he will stick with track. "I'm determined to stay with it," he said. He continues to train and says

“Where were they then?": Ms. Myrna Caldwell

By Shanequa West

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

Myrna Caldwell: Batesburg-Leesville, a small town in Lexington County. I am the oldest of four children. I had a rather idyllic childhood, although at the time I characterized it as boring. My parents were very interested and involved in everything we did. My grandparents lived next door. We went to church together, had meals together, vacationed together.

SW: *Describe your high school experience.*

MC: I graduated from Batesburg-Leesville High School, where I went back to teach two years after graduating from college. I taught there from 1974 to 1984. During the last few years I was there, both my parents were on the faculty. That was a bit confusing to some of the students, but that's the way things go

in a small town.

SW: *Where did you attend college?*

MC: I was an English major at Winthrop College. I received a Master of Education degree from USC in 1977, and earned my administrative degree from Charleston Southern in 1995, the same year SOA opened.

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

MC: I taught tenth grade English at J. H. Rose High School, near East Carolina University, in Greenville, NC.

SW: *At what other schools have you taught and what did you teach?*

MC: I went to Batesburg-Leesville High, after two years at J. H. Rose. We moved to Florence, where I taught at Williams Middle School. I taught at Southside High in Greenville, SC, for 3 ½ years, before we moved to Charleston in 1989, 3 months after Hurricane Hugo. In



Ms. Caldwell, right, appeared in the newspaper after being tapped for the Book and Key Award at Winthrop.

taught at Southside High in Greenville, SC, for 3 ½ years, before we moved to Charleston in 1989, 3 months after Hurricane Hugo. In

Charleston, I taught at Brentwood Middle School from 1990 until 1995, when I came to School of the Arts.

SW: *What are some of your memories from teaching?*

MC: I think my best memories are from our early days at SOA. In 1996, our eighth graders conducted the first SOA downtown walking tour on the day before Thanksgiving Break. I can still remember a Theatre major ascending the steps of the Dock Street Theatre, to hold forth on its history in very dramatic fashion.

SW: *What was the best thing about being a teacher?*

MC: Students. No doubt about it. Getting to be with and getting to know lots of students really well is what I have missed about being an administrator.

SW: *How did you come to be at SOA?*

MC: I had been working in a special grant program at Brentwood that ended in spring

of 1995. I wanted to do something different. I saw a job posting for a new School of the Arts, and I applied. I still have the business card Ms. Myers gave me the day she interviewed me. She sold me on the vision and mission of this school. I wanted to be a part of this exciting adventure, and I have

never regretted my decision to be at SOA.

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

MC: Being a good mother to Marc Caldwell. I have a wonderful relationship with my adult son, and I am getting ready to have a wonderful relationship with his son, scheduled to make an appearance on April



Ms. Caldwell was raised in a small town in Lexington County.

28.

SW: *If you could go back in life and change one thing, what would it be?*

MC: I would read more books, practice more for piano lessons, take guitar lessons.... I really wouldn't change anything. I have a wonderful life.

“Where are they now?": Harrison Ball

By Chelsea Adent

Harrison Ball, a ninth grader, was a dance major at SOA until he moved to New York City this year to study at the School of American Ballet.

Chelsea Adent: *What is your background with dancing?*

Harrison Ball: I originally began my training at Charleston Ballet Theater (CBT), taking only five to six classes a week – which is unacceptable in the dance world. When I came to SOA, I was offered the advanced level ballet classes, giving me five extra classes. That gave me the chance to further excel in my training and abilities. I was taking ten to twelve [dance] classes a week. That still wasn't my ideal amount of classes, but it was definitely good enough. At SOA, they gave me the opportunity to build upon the training I was given at CBT.

CA: *Where are you currently training?*

HB: I am currently training at the School of American Ballet (SAB) in New York City. It feeds right into the New York City Ballet, so it is basically a preparation school to get into the company, if you are good enough.

CA: *How is training in New York City different from SOA?*

HB: Training here is much different from SOA, but it still has its similarities. The biggest difference from SOA is definitely the atmosphere. The similarity is that I take both academic classes and ballet classes during the day.

CA: *How often do you take your academic and dance classes?*

HB: I attend the Professional Children's School for academics. I take five academic classes daily within two or two-and-a-half hours. I have four ballet classes a day. They usually consume six or eight hours of my day, depending on the days and classes that are given. I go back

and forth between 65th Street (School of American Ballet) and 60th Street (Professional Children's School) four times a day.

CA: *What opportunities have you had in New York City so far?*

HB: Since I have been here, I have been offered lead roles that were to be performed in Lincoln Center's Avery Fischer Hall, which is a major theater in the arts world, where the New York Philharmonic usually performs. While in rehearsals for a performance, I broke my foot, which was a big setback for me. I have been injured for three months now and am gradually coming back from the injury. Since I broke my foot, I have developed other injuries in my hips,



Harrison attends the School of American Ballet, which is consistently ranked one of the best ballet schools in the nation.

knees, and other foot. With the support of the school, I am able to attend physical therapy appointments three to four times a week, which is a huge help in coming back safely from an injury. With my injury, I was featured in a ballet paper with the cover story about my development as a dancer since I have been here in NYC.

CA: *Are you in any upcoming shows?*

HB: I am going to be performing in an upcoming performance at the New York State Theater in Lincoln Center for SAB's Winter Gala. Hopefully following that performance, I will be performing again at the New York State Theater for the school's end of year workshop, which is a huge deal.

CA: *What are your future goals with dancing?*

HB: I just recently received a full scholarship to attend the Pacific Northwest Ballet School in Seattle for the summer. I have also received an offer to train in Denmark under the director of the Royal Danish Ballet. So many opportunities have been offered to me here in NYC. It is amazing.

“Sass Attack”: Why summer is overrated

By David Sass



Man, I cannot believe that this year is almost over already. Soon, in a month or so (or whenever they print this thing... no one tells me anything), school will end and summer vacation will arrive. Students will be shrieking with joy as they sprint down the halls, tearing their old papers up; teachers will be on their knees crying because they'll have no one to torture every day anymore; and me, I'll be trudging along trying to find somewhere cold to go and hibernate.

Don't get me wrong. I love summer (or at least the idea of it) and hate school just as much as the next good-for-nothing slacker. Three months or so of freedom sounds most bodacious. The only problem there is that it's during the summer. If there were ever a season I hated more than the summer, I'd be hard-pressed to name it.

The biggest reason I don't like the summer is the heat. I like the cold, as odd as that sounds. And summer in

Charleston is, like, five bajillion degrees and more humid than a rainstorm in Hell. No thanks – I don't like having to bathe in my own perspiration just to get the newspaper. And with the heat and humidity come the bugs, prepped and ready to drain my fleshy body of the vital red liquor that keeps me writing these horrid things.

“And then the tourists came, and the local spake unto them, ‘Quit stopping in the middle of the street to take pictures and move, before I crush you beneath my car!’ But he was ignored, and the tourists continued to stand in the street, up until the moment their faces became the new hood ornament.”

Don't you just hate when this happens? I mean, it's one thing to ruin my car, but do tourists have to go and ruin my whole summer as well?

In fact, there are only three good things about summer that I can think of: no school, the Italian ice vendors, and the beaches (and I'm not talking about the sand or surf...).

Surviving 6th grade

By K. Chaney Long



This is my last Surviving 6th Grade column this year. If you've survived 6th grade, you've definitely made it through the hardest part of middle school, if not the hardest part of SOA.

It seems like in the blink of an eye I've gone from a messy-haired, spazzy 6th grader to a slightly-more-put-together, spazzy tenth grader. Next fall it will have been a full five years since I began 6th grade. It still seems that just yesterday I was running across the field after major class in an attempt to not be late for Ms. Newell's class. (One of the greatest things about next year is that almost all of the classes are *inside*.)

I hope you take everything you've learned so far and use it to move smoothly through the next few years. Most importantly, I hope you can stay true to yourselves throughout the rest of middle and high school. I know that sounds really cliché, but many students leave 6th grade wanting to change who they are in order to be accepted. One of the greatest things about being at SOA for a full seven years is that your peers become like a family, and in the end they'll accept you for who you really are.

Next year will be easier because, when you walk back in the school doors next August, not only will you no longer be the youngest in the school, but also you'll be fortunate enough to be able to find your way around without having to ask upperclassmen.

If there's one thing you shouldn't forget next year, it is what it's like to be a 6th grader. Remember, when the new 6th graders arrive and you ask, “Was I really that small?”, remember that, yes, you were! So be nice, and don't call them little people.

Congratulations class of 2014! You have survived 6th grade. I hope this column has been of some help, and I *really*

Staying Healthy

By Carolyn E. Brown



I know that you think you know everything about eating disorders and what causes them. But you're wrong. In the United States there are over 10 million confirmed cases of eating disorders—and those are just the ones the doctors know of.

Having an eating disorder is not simply about being thin; its causes run far deeper than that. Nor is it just a female problem. Guys can also develop EDs.

Anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa are the two most common disorders. Anorexia is the extreme limiting of the intake of food. Bulimia is when an individual does anything to burn or eliminate the calories they have eaten.

You can't tell a person is suffering from an eating disorder simply by looking at them. Just because they aren't emaciated doesn't mean they don't have one. Those with eating disorders don't want others to know that they have one, so they hide it.

Even if someone recovers from an eating disorder, they will always feel its lasting effects. With therapy, they can quiet it, but silencing it is almost impossible.

The best way to avoid an eating disorder is honestly just to love yourself. We all look in the mirror and see flaws in our shape or wish we were thinner. Each body stores fat in a different way, whether it is on your bum, thighs, or belly. The truth is, we are all unique.

We humans are a competitive species, always trying to be the best or reach that ideal we have of perfection. When it comes to our bodies, we need to stop comparing ourselves to those around us and realize that our bodies are unique. Eat right, exercise, and be happy – that's the best advice I can give you. But above all, love yourself.

Vera Bradley

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Creative Writing

"A Drink of Water"

Monologue by Cooper Donoho, 6th grade

"I'm going to go get a drink of water." (Matt stands up and walks down the hall. He leaves the room and his painting) "I wonder what the rest of today will be like. Will I live? Will I die? Will luck come my way and bring me good fortune? Will I be tricked into doing something stupid that makes me regret it?" (Matt takes his fourth step toward the water fountain)

"If I die, what will I do? Will I be...dead? Forever? Or will I go to heaven like people say, or will I be reincarnated? That sound like fun. I want to be reincarnated as a tortoise, because they can live to be, like, fifty bazillion years old! I could live in a zoo. But...what zoo? I don't want to go to a cruel zoo, because they'd be cruel. And that would not be fun. I mean, who runs a cruel zoo? A cruel person? I guess so. And who allows a zoo to be cruel? Maybe the zookeeper keeps the cruelty secret." (Matt takes his seventh step toward the water fountain)

"What does the American government do about cruel zoos? They should know everything, even if the zookeeper tries to make it secret. Does the American government really care about animal cruelty? I hope so. If I was a tortoise, I would want people to be nice to me. What does the president do in secret? Is he a bad man? Does he do bad stuff like steal stuff from stores? Maybe that's why he has so much money. He probably steals the speeches he says from professional writers and then uses them. You know, that would be mean." (Matt takes his ninth step toward the fountain)

"What if I was blind? That would have pros and cons. Well, if I was a blind tortoise, that wouldn't really matter because they're pretty much blind anyway. But if I was a human like me, then that would be bad. I couldn't watch movies or go anywhere or see people or see anything! But also, I could wear cool glasses. That would be cool. And have a cane. Well, I guess I like being myself. Yep, that's right. I like me just the way I am." (Matt drinks and walks back to the room)

Visual Arts



Jessie Earle,
sophomore



Sarah
Dimuzio,
junior



Zach Collins,
senior

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

Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20): Grab life by the bookends! I know – the weather is too good. But at SOA, you have some of the same teachers more than once, so think how much more they'll like you if you finish the year with good grades.

Gemini (May 21-June 22): It's totally okay for you to blame your parents and teachers for everything that has ever upset you. Being mature and responsible can only lead to inner calm and better relationships, and if life gets too good, well, there goes your fodder for your art.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): You are attractive inside and out – especially if you're Italian.

Leo (July 24-Aug. 22): Tomorrow you will be awakened in the middle of a great dream, and you'll forget it immediately. Then, during your hardest class of the day, it will all flood back to you just as your teacher begins teaching the most crucial bit of material.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your career prospects will blossom if you take up a foreign language. You'll also discover tongue muscles you never knew you had.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The human body has always proved capable of extraordinary things, but this generation is pushing the limits. Never have opposable thumbs been so strong, flexible and quick-reacting. So keep gaming, my friend, and when trying circumstances arise, you can give danger the thumbs-up quicker than lightning.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Feeling down? Comedy and music are the best and cheapest uppers.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The next time you eat corn on the cob, you'll get a whole bunch of soggy little kernel shells stuck in your teeth. You might consider carrying floss around.

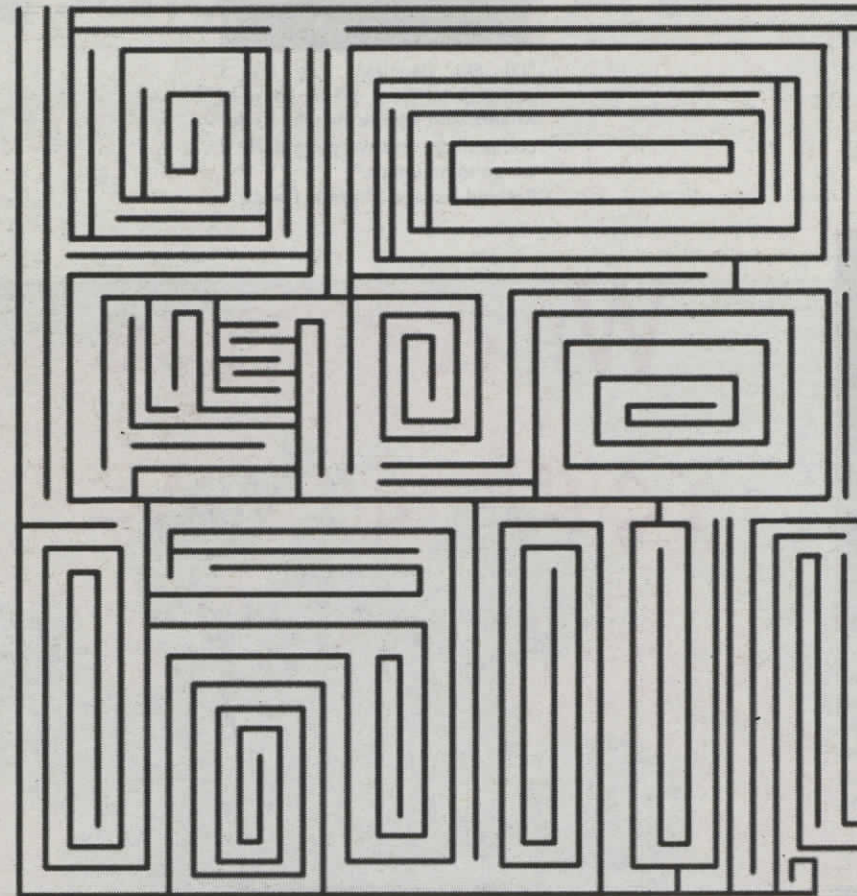
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A lot of dumb stuff happens at school, and we laugh about it and move on. But art school shenanigans can be fodder for legendary comedy. So, next time something memorably ridiculous happens, please, record it and post it on your blog or on YouTube so the whole world can see.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): When people sign your yearbook, "Don't ever change," they mean it. And that's a binding contract, man. So don't even think about changing. Ever. Even your socks.

Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19): Good things will come to you if you start speaking exclusively in clichés.



Help Ms. Caldwell find her clipboard!



Sudoku

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

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



"Go to North Carolina a lot. My family is into gem shows. And we go shopping for gem stones."
C.J. Anderson, 6th grade Dance



"I'll be dancing. I'm on a competition team. I'll be going to Atlanta and Myrtle Beach. It's for competition and we get a party if we go to nationals."
Breland Feaster, 7th grade Dance



"I'm going to go surfing at Folly Beach. That's how I spend most of my time. I'll kayak with my friends and family. That'd be three or four weeks over the summer. I'm also going to Atlanta for vacation."
Jacob Elsey, 8th grade Creative Writing



"I'm going to be working at a summer program. It's after school at Hursey. Basically I'm gonna help kids out with homework and keep them out of trouble. I've been doing some this year already because my mom runs the program."
Michael Lowman, freshman Theatre

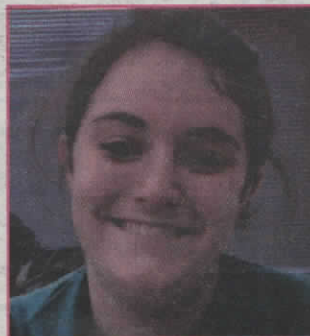
WHAT ARE YOUR SUMMER PLANS?



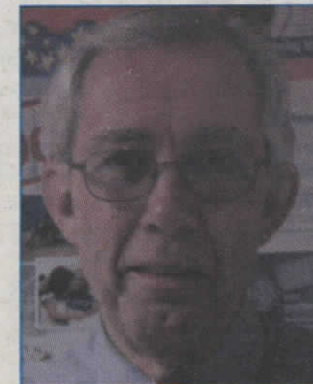
"[Blake Crawford and I] want to make a short film. We've been influenced by British films like *Snatch* and *Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels*. We want to make a dark comedy."
Addison Dent, sophomore Theatre



"I'm working at this place called SPAWAR. It's a class about computers. They pay you and get you ready for college. And they give you a job during college."
Landon Washington, junior Vocal



"I'm going to church camp. Last year we had obstacle courses in the mud. We had a rodeo theme with a mechanical bull and hoedown."
Anna Seel, senior Vocal



"I'm going on a cruise to the Bahamas. It's my third cruise. I've been to Alaska and Cancun. I love cruising. That and my grandchildren."
Mr. Davis, Assistant Principal

