THE ARTISTS YOU THINK ARE THE MOST INFLUENTIAL OF THE CENTURY

THE LATEST WAYS TO LISTEN TO YOUR FAVORITE TUNES

WHY "GROUPIES" ARE MORE THAN JUST FANS IN THE AUDIENCE WEARING A T-SHIRT

WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE ROCK (LITERALLY)

THE FRENZY OF FACEBOOK AND MYSPACE

THE TRUTH ABOUT ADDERALL ADDICTION
A Letter from the Editors:

K: Growing up, I can remember listening to a vast array of music at home with my parents—Chicago, Bruce Springsteen, New Kids on the Block, Madonna, Garth Brooks. Disney soundtracks were also big in my house. But when fifth grade came around, I realized there was another kind of music I had never heard before—alternative rock—and I was caught for good. I can still remember purchasing my first CD, *Sublime*, complete with the little Parental Advisory sticker.

L: My childhood memories of music consist of listening to Jimmy Buffett, Doobie Brothers, Earth Wind & Fire and John Mellencamp with my parents. My personal obsession was with the ever-popular King of Pop—Michael Jackson. I also liked (or pretended to like) whatever my older sister was listening to. Over the course of growing up and becoming independent in my music selection, I have grown to appreciate and love all types of music.

Music affects every single person in the world. We buy it, dance to it, cry to it, learn from it and live by it. We at *Tempo* realize everyone has a story like ours—the difference is in the details. These details are what we wanted to capture and illustrate through the words of our writers.

K: However, we still felt as though the magazine was missing something. We didn't feel this issue of *Tempo* would truly "pop" without addressing other issues in popular culture as well. We live in an ever-changing world in regards to music and the media. We wanted to explore current issues and phenomena that our writers felt were pertinent to our campus and to people everywhere.

L: It didn't take long for the stories to fill the pages with issues our writers felt extremely fervent about. This was the finishing touch we needed to make an issue of *Tempo* that truly covered everything we wanted to convey—the past, present and future of popular culture.

K: Our writers have indeed, once again, come through with stories that are honest, candid, informative, interesting and, above all, passionate. We hope that you enjoy (and possibly even learn from) the stories they each had to tell as much as we did. Enjoy reading (and, for the first time in *Tempo* history, listening to) the voices that chose to "step up to the mic!"

Best regards,

Krystin and Laura
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Who is the most influential artist of the 20th century? Now, that is a toughie. How could the mark left by one supersede the influence of all others? And how do you determine this? By the mark left behind? Personal preference in genre or style? Imitation committed by artists today? With so many genres having come and gone in the last 100 years, the possible responses are endless.

Perhaps my say doesn’t count, but I am the writer, so I am going to speak up. My personal choice is Robert Johnson. Have you heard “Crossroads” by Eric Clapton and Cream, “Traveling Riverside Blues” by Led Zeppelin or “Sweet Home Chicago” by The Blues Brothers? These songs were written by Johnson in the 1930s. Using just his voice and an acoustic guitar, he played an enormous role in the development of electric blues and rock ‘n’ roll.

Now that I have had my say, we at Tempo wanted to hear what you had to say. Here is what we heard.

“The Beatles. They began as one of the first ‘boy bands’ and heavily influenced pop music. However, they also explored a wide variety of music styles beyond pop music, including politically-motivated music, psychedelic-type rock and theme albums.”

Amanda Stepp, History and Philosophy Major

“Buddy Holly. The man was a rock ’n’ roll pioneer whose innovation in songwriting and musical talent can still not only be heard today (as evidence of the many covers of ‘Not Fade Away’) but also still felt today… Truly one of the first artists to really make rock music personal.”

Jon Bocian, Management and Marketing Major

“I think that The Ramones have been one of the most unappreciated, extremely influential bands in rock history. Without them, the evolution of the punk scene would have been vastly different, as they have created a milestone whose influence continues to reach out to musicians today.”

Brian Bartnett, English Major

“I think the obvious and really only first choice, even for non-believers, would be The Beatles. They are, without doubt, the most influential band—first in so many vital ways. They were the first self-contained writers and performers; first to do about 100 different things in the studio (in fact, first to make the studio an ‘instrument’ and use feedback in a recording); first to have five Top 10 songs at the same time; first to play a stadium; first to release an album with lyrics printed. The list goes on. They weren’t only the first but best (or certainly way up there) in terms of singing and songwriting (‘Yesterday’ is by far the most covered pop song of all time)—and again the list goes on. The Beatles are to rock what, well, maybe Plato is to Western literature. Foundational, permanent, original, without peer—the touchstone of a genre and a tradition. Elvis is the supreme solo artist, and The Beatles are the supreme rock/pop band.”

Steve Hamelman, Professor of English

“If I was forced to come up with one, it would have to be Brian Eno. His revolutionary work in music production techniques, ambient music and alternative forms of instrumentation sticks out as one of the greatest influences in music. His work with Fripp, Bowie, Iggy Pop, Roxy Music, The Talking Heads, Jon Hassell and U2 has had far-reaching impacts across a number of musical genres. He once stated his favorite musical instrument was the tape recorder. His use of tape-looping and modulation could arguably be seen as the origin of sampling, which links him to rap music as well as traditional rock ‘n’ roll.”

Michael Ruse, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religion

“Louis Armstrong. He is the giant who towers over the first 50 years of jazz development and is still revered by every jazz player today. He taught the entire world how to swing. His talents were so extraordinary that he transcends the jazz genre and encompassed the entire range of Western popular music. His unique way of phrasing a melody affected the way everyone performed after him. Without Louis Armstrong, there is no Billie Holiday, no Frank Sinatra, no Charlie Parker, no Miles Davis. Louis Armstrong, a man born in poverty with few prospects for his future, became America’s jazz ambassador to the world. His career lasted his entire lifetime. His music is loved all over the world to this day and his recordings are still required listening for anyone interested in improvisational music. He is the first soloist in jazz to construct highly-intelligent improvised solos that stand alone, apart from the previous style of collective improvisation. He is the first jazz musician to abandon the stiff rhythms of ragtime, to truly develop a natural swing feel and to create rhythmic displacement in an effective way. He is the first to record ‘scat’ singing, a technique used by Ella Fitzgerald and Bobby McFerrin. His exceptional trumpet solos are noted for their sense of musical drama, with their logical construction and powerful tone. His solos define the vocabulary for all jazz players. I could go on, but the real story is in the music he created. Listen to Louis, and you will understand.”

Dan O’Reilly, Professor of Music
Practice makes perfect

The trials and tribulations of two aspiring guitarists

Photography: Stephanie Hutto
Playing guitar has become a part of who I am. My love for the guitar began with my dad. He has been playing since he was six and is now an excellent player, with influences like Joe Satriani, Mark Farner and Yngwie Malmsteen.

My dad gave me my first guitar as a birthday gift in 2003. It was a teal Samick Valley Arts Strat with a mother of pearl pick guard and inlay. Even though I had a guitar, I did not take lessons right away because I wanted to learn from my dad. Nevertheless, he was in Florida and I was in South Carolina. He sent me computer programs and books to help me learn, but it was extremely hard for me to see my own progress without an outside source looking in and critiquing me.

I began taking lessons with Tom Yoder in the fall of 2005, and since then I have been learning at an accelerated pace. Tom is a magnificent teacher who is extremely encouraging and patient. He has a vast amount of musical knowledge and is eager to share it with others.

For Christmas, my dad gave me a Richie Sambora Signature Fender Strat, which is what I play now. That was very exciting for me because Richie Sambora is the guitarist in Bon Jovi, my all-time favorite band! I also have a custom acoustic guitar modeled after a Taylor 814-C that was given to me by a dear friend.

My main inspiration for the guitar would have to be my dad. He amazes and inspires me every time I hear him play.

"Playing guitar is like a spiritual experience for me... it is the purest expression of oneself."

He is one of the most talented people I have ever had the chance to witness play guitar. Tom Yoder also inspires me. I do not know of any person who loves the guitar or feels more connected with it than him. He is an amazing player with influences like Eddie Van Halen, Michael Hedges and Jeff Beck.

My favorite guitarist is Yngwie Malmsteen, and even though I can only play parts of Black Star right now, I feel I am on the right track to be at his caliber one day.

For me, the hardest part of learning the guitar is not to stop every time I make a mistake—I have really had to struggle with this one. Tom has taught me to accept the mistakes I make and continue playing through them. Also, I'm learning to just have faith, practice correctly and know I will get it. At first, I might think I can't do it, but then I'll wake up one morning, and thanks to the hard work, it's there! It's actually pretty amazing.

I plan to play guitar until I can no longer force my fingers to move around the fingerboard. I am hoping that will be pretty much the rest of my life. It would be difficult to give up something that has brought me so much joy. Playing guitar is like a spiritual experience for me. It teaches me about myself. I feel that it is the purest expression of oneself.

When I play guitar, I feel as if the guitar is an extension of me. And as Tom so eloquently puts it: "It is an inward journey." I firmly believe that. Playing guitar has allowed me to unlock things within myself I did not know existed. I'm sure I will continue to learn new things about myself as I continue to play, and I can't wait to find these things out.

Oddly enough, my story begins with a trumpet. In my sixth grade music class when band instruments were being introduced, I became mesmerized at the sight of the compact brass horn that created such a powerful sound. I'm not sure if it was the sight of the shiny reflection the brass caught under the florescent school lighting, or just the mere fact that these noise-making toys were allowed in school. Either way, I desperately pleaded with my mother to buy me a trumpet.

Of course, it boiled down to my father's input, whose only response on the subject ended my desire. "What are you going to do, Laura? Sit around the campfire and play the trumpet?" Two years later, I received my first guitar.

As a freshman in high school, I enrolled in guitar class. I was one of two girls in a filled classroom. The school provided the guitars, which were strung with nylon strings. When I would go home and play on my bronze wire strings, my fingers would ache and blister.

My frustration intervened between any real practice time. I learned enough to impress my teacher and keep me interested in learning, but after the class was over my skills and interest dwindled. Eventually, my guitar found its way under my bed to collect dust.

Four years later, as I was preparing to move into the dorms, I dragged out my guitar and packed it for the move. As small as I knew my dorm room would be, I somehow found justification that the guitar should stay. Somehow I knew my playing days weren't over. When I got to school a few of my friends in the dorms would play, but I never felt my skills were good enough for public and I enjoyed just listening anyway.

Since I've been in college, I've moved six times and my guitar has made each move with me. It's even traveled to England and back. Somewhere between these moves I splurged on a guitar with a better sound, size and carrying case. I've been determined all along to play; I've just never been motivated to teach myself. During my senior year of college, I finally found the time, excitement and courage to take lessons.

My biggest adjustment since I began taking lessons with Tom Yoder (a very talented musician and teacher) has been to play through my mistakes. Every time I'm playing and I don't get my fingers all in the right places or a finger slips, I stop playing and direct my attention to fixing my mistake. But in doing this, as Tom pointed out, I redirect my concentration from what I am currently playing to something in the past.

I'm in the process of learning to play without correcting myself—no matter how badly I want to—and learning to play complete songs rather than 30-second bits. The weekly lessons and professional guidance have improved my playing skills immensely. I not only have the desire to continue playing, but I also have the ability. I haven't played for a crowd yet (or even at a campfire, for that matter) but at least my guitar isn't collecting any more dust under my bed.
LISTEN UP!

The latest ways to listen to your favorite tunes

iTunes Apple
Cost: $0.99 per song (with frequent album specials)
This online music store holds more than two million songs, over 3,000 music videos and TV shows, 25,000 Podcasts and 16,000 audiobooks. iTunes allows videos and television episodes to be previewed before even purchasing. Once the iTunes program is on your Mac or PC, it stores and organizes purchased or personal music by mood, artist or theme. Importing personal music and exporting music from iTunes is simply done by inserting a CD. Downloads can be held on Mac’s iPods, so music, audiobooks, videos and Podcasts can be viewed and listened to on the go. Once the music is downloaded, iTunes also lets you burn mixed CDs, create playlists and share your music by publishing an “iMix.”

VCAST Verizon
Cost: $29.99 for essentials kit; $15 monthly fee with plan
Verizon Wireless’s new mobile music service allows users to transform their wireless phone into a portable music player

What’s In Your iPod?
Find out what your friends are listening to
Words: Emily Padgett

Walking on campus has never been more pleasant due to a compact, fully-portable music player that seems to be attached to the hip of everyone you see—Apple’s iPod. These gadgets can store tons of tunes, allowing users to listen to virtually anything under the sun. So what are people listening to as they pass you by? Here are the songs some students have on rotation this semester.

1. “Crazy Game of Poker”—O.A.R.
2. “Don’t Stop Believing”—Journey
3. “J.I.M.M.Y.”—Jim Jones
Kasey Ann Vitale, 21, Communication Major

1. “Everlong (Acoustic)”—Foo Fighters
2. “Elias”—Dispatch
3. “Mr. Wendel”—Arrested Development
Mola Lenghi, 21, History Major

1. “No Excuses”—Alice in Chains
2. “The Cedar Room”—The Doves
3. “Lost Souls”—The Doves
Mike Milne, 22, Psychology Major

1. “Have A Party”—50 Cent
2. “Two Step”—Dave Matthews Band
Chris Caraballo, 21, Marketing Major

1. “The Sharing Song”—Jack Johnson
2. “Hurricane Water”—Citizen Cope
3. Greatest Hits—Frank Sinatra
Jon Phillips, 19, Business Management Major

in two ways. The first is by syncing music the listener already has on his or her PC, and the other is purchasing new songs or albums from the Verizon Wireless music catalog by phone or PC. A specific Verizon Wireless phone is needed for VCAST. Music services and extra charges for downloading are applied.

The NEW iPod Apple
Cost: Starting at $299
The latest version of iPod holds songs, pictures, videos and Podcasts in its’ new lighter, thinner model with a 30GB and 60GB option. This new model holds up to 15,000 songs, full-color art and up to 25,000 photos. It has support for up to 150 hours of video, all on a 2.5-inch color display screen. The iPod features 20 hours of battery life and is less than half an inch thin. It is available in the original white model, as well as the newer, sleek black model. Other features include personal calendar, address book, stopwatch and listings of all time zones. Additional accessories can be purchased to play videos or photo slideshows on television with the optional dock or control iPod on dock with the new Apple remote.

XSAO X-Stream Audio Online
Cost: Free
Choose music from an extensive library to listen to from your PC. This privately-run site doesn’t allow music to be downloaded, but it does provide hundreds of albums to be listened to on live-stream audio. New features include a chat room and the option to personalize a playlist. Genres on the site are divided into rock, urban, country, techno, oldies, jazz and soundtracks. While the library isn’t fully complete, they do take music requests and try to please audiences.

LAUNCHcast Yahoo!
Cost: Free with Yahoo! account
LAUNCHcast is an online streaming music service that allows users to create a personalized station according to his or her taste. Users begin by telling LAUNCHcast the music they do and don’t like; the system then customizes and creates a station according to their ratings. High ratings of artists or albums means they will be played more often, and specific artists or albums can be banned from the user’s station. (The more precise ratings are, the more tailored the station will be.) Besides creating personalized stations, there are also pre-made stations created by LAUNCHcast’s editorial staff which include music from their extensive collection.

LimeWire Download Central
Cost: Free
Users receive unlimited MP3, music, movie and game downloads. There is never a downloading fee and full technical support is provided. With access to over 90 million downloads, there are also TV shows, games and software applications available, which makes LimeWire the largest file-sharing network on the Internet. The program also includes media tools that make burning a CD or watching a movie simple and fast. There are, however, warnings listed regarding the use of file-sharing software for the downloading of copyrighted works without permission. This is illegal and could subject violators to civil and criminal liability and penalties. Other warnings of the LimeWire program that are not listed on the site include over-downloading, which could lead to crashing your computer.
What it's like to be a faceless voice to those who care to listen

For two years, I was a nameless face at 99 Rock, WFRD—a local radio station in Hanover, N.H., run out of Dartmouth College. During most of the time I spent there, I was confined to the "sidekick booth" every Friday from 9 p.m. to midnight, armed with a Rolling Stone magazine. I passed the time scanning music news and waiting for five-minute "talk-ups"—that part of the broadcast where most listeners switch stations in search of other music while deejays rant about useless information and local events.

Life at the station went a little something like this...

"Alright, kids, we'll be right back with Friday Night Foreplay after this commercial break. Keep it locked." I pushed the microphone away from my mouth and ran into the main Rock lounge. It was my second weekend broadcasting live with my two partners, deejays "Torrie Crimes" and "The Riot." Unfortunately, with all of us being studio-bound, Torrie Crimes, The Riot and I were all left without food and—to make matters worse—not enough money to order take-out. When we hopped back on the air after break, we started talking about Mary Kate Olsen's eating disorder.

"Who willingly chooses not to eat?" The Riot joked, swiveling the mic sound up until I could clearly hear his commentary in my headphones. I nodded my head at him through the pane of glass and responded, "I have no idea, but there's an entire room full of deejays up here dying to have that luxury of choosing not to eat—"

"That's right! Screw Mary Kate Olsen! Let's get a little support group behind us—maybe a 'Feed The Rock Kids' fund. That or the station could splurge and get some food in the lounge."

"Well," I said, hopping up on the desk as the Riot cued for time, "to reward our listeners for listening to us bitch, let's put on a little more of the Foreplay. Keep it locked to 99 Rock."

I turned the corner into the main booth and saw the phone ringing. "Mine!" I screamed and sprinted for the phone. Not like any of the other deejays ever wanted to pick up the request line... but it was a territorial issue since Torrie Crimes dubbed it a "woman's job."

I listened to the caller, nodded my head and tried to look uninterested, as Torrie and Riot stared at me. "Oh, yeah, definitely...Maybe some spoons and plates? Thanks. What's your name? Great. See you soon."

"Taking up playing the spoons?" Torrie called out through the slanted skylight window above me.

"Ha, ha," I replied, as I craned my neck back. "The spoons are for the Ben and Jerry's ice cream EBA's is bringing us—along with our pizza." A delivery from the local pizza place, Everything But Anchovies, marked the first of an endless stream of free Chinese, Mexican and Italian meals. Although it treaded on the ethical lines of free advertising, it was a sort of unspoken bond that free food meant request dedications that included us dropping businesses' names on the air.

During my time at the station, we managed to get countless free meals, a television set, and plenty of 99 Rock freebies. All deejays had access to CDs that had yet to be released and an excuse to get backstage at live events. For a while, the job was almost like an exchange of free goods for doing something I absolutely loved—talking and hanging out with my best friends every weekend.

My last night at the station this summer was the end of an era. Torrie Crimes was leaving for Rhode Island to scope out bands for a living, The Riot had to quit his Friday night shift to pursue his own dreams and I'd be heading down the East Coast to college. Torrie stole the key to productions so we went in and pillaged all the new 99 Rock gear and music. The studio was a mess from a theme party we threw the week before as a final farewell, so we sat around the deflated balloons and stolen keepsakes the way it had all started—just the three of us.

It would have been nice to relish in the stardom of being a local celebrity, but now that it was all over it dawned on us that the perks of being a deejay ended that night. Our names would be forgotten and, other than to a few people, our faces were never known.
The word “groupie” in our culture commonly brings about the image of a girl throwing herself at a band for sex, enjoying the satisfying taste of being close to someone who is (or almost is) famous.

Some of you are familiar with the movie Almost Famous, where Penny Lane describes herself as a step above a groupie by being a “band aid” where it’s all about the music. And, for me, it is. I fell in love with one band when that undefinable element in music grabbed me. Great music finds its’ way to the intended listener, and this is precisely what happened.

Jeremy, Mike, Jody and Phil, also known as the band Silenced, originally gained my attention because my brother True Groupies

Setting the stereotype straight

Words: Olivia D. Marlowe

What is it about being a groupie that just sounds exciting? Is it the opportunity to travel with exciting, new, talented artists? Meeting interesting people? Yeah, right! It is all about being backstage, hanging with the band and feeling all the glory that comes with the fame.

In this day and age, pretty much only one thing comes to mind when someone says the word “groupie” — pure, unadulterated sex. Why else would these chicks (because undoubtedly they are chicks) be trying their damnedest to get close to their god-like heroes? It definitely couldn’t be the fact that they have loved the band since the tender age of 10. Or that the music makes them feel alive, like they are soaring up and away from all the cares in the world. It certainly could not be all about the music.

No. Instead, Hollywood has to paint the rock ‘n’ roll romance with cracked-out whores, love-drunk off some lead singer or guitarist. This is not always an extremely harsh depiction because the music industry really is a dangerous world filled with many players and pitfalls — unprotected sex, rampant STDs, substance addictions, eating disorders (basically everything your parents warned you about).

But it does have its’ more basic temptations, too — fame, power, reputation, property. It is a gamble to obtain these things through the wild life rockers lead. Hopefully, if you are a die-hard fan — a true “groupie” — the band can see you for what you are, which is more than just a “piece of ass.” You are the band’s survival.

was the drummer. My original motive for attending a show was the guarantee of seeing several familiar faces. However, in life you often go looking for and expecting one thing, but end up with something much more powerful.

I remember vividly the night my cursory interests dissolved my family allegiance and made way for this captivating sound that pulled me from the focus of my attention. I was powerless to the reverberation that immersed itself in my body. I stopped talking to turn my head and readjust my ears as the bass guitar thumped the beginning to “Time Lapse.” As the drums methodically pounded out the tick-tock of the song... as the guitar took on the challenge of transforming the experience from physical to mental and spiraled into the first verse... “Painless freefall...” This was simultaneously the invitation for me to freefall into this band.

The universal wisdom that undulates through the lyrics, coupled with the cosmic frequency the instruments provide, leaves one standing with amazement in the ears and knowledge in the heart. I would imagine that you think I follow the band for recognition, to be a part of the process, to ride the coattails of someone else’s success and try to make it a part of me. But the truth is I follow this band because they give me the clarity I need to follow myself. The music from Silenced allows me to unlock the guarded recesses I conservatively hold on to.

This band has become a part of me, like another chapter in my story. It is a comfort. I anticipate their shows because my life feels better when I find a speaker to nestle myself contently beside, while I let Silenced silence the many voices from the day, so I can hear my own.

I have become a “groupie,” a “band aid,” or as I prefer, a “dedicated follower” because of selfish reasons; this music gives something of me to me that I can’t find any other place. Their music helps to keep me grounded as I go through the changes in my life. And as long as they are around, I will be at their shows in an effort to help push this band off the ground.

WHY “GROUPIES” ARE MORE THAN JUST FANS IN THE AUDIENCE WEARING A T-SHIRT

Words: Amber Pridgen
Photography: Scott Dean

True Groupies

Setting the stereotype straight

Words: Olivia D. Marlowe

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But it does have its’ more basic temptations, too — fame, power, reputation, property. It is a gamble to obtain these things through the wild life rockers lead. Hopefully, if you are a die-hard fan — a true “groupie” — the band can see you for what you are, which is more than just a “piece of ass.” You are the band’s survival.
The beat moves you... it soothes you... it takes you away. The rhyme defines you as the lyrics ignite you, begging you to stay. The preceding introduction was my attempt to "bust a verse," but in all honesty, my lyrical techniques are not nearly as elevating as many of the hip-hop pioneers of yesterday and the innovators of today.

The truth is, hip-hop is not only a slammin' beat and a fresh hook; it is a speaker of truth, a slice of life and an activist calling for change. When I say "hip-hop," I am not referring to those rap songs that revolve around clubbing and the shape of a female's behind. I am talking about "true" hip-hop—from the flows of Grandmaster Flash, Furious Five and a Tribe Called Quest, to the words of Common and Talib Kwelé. These artists have the capability to get the party started and spread knowledge at the same time.

Similar to the artists of the past, the hip-hop artists of today continue to have something relevant to say that has the power to impact society, causing people to stop, think and reminisce.

Hip-hop is a cultural movement that takes on more than music. It continues to revolutionize fashion, dance and dialect as well. The fashion of hip-hop has moved from the gigantic gold chains and Kangol hats of old to the platinum chains and "grilled-out" grins of today. Now, more than ever, hip-hop artists are creating their own personalized clothing lines, giving the public a taste of their original style. The baseball hat to the side, the "ice-filled" watch and baggy jeans are all courtesy of hip-hop. The styles of hip-hop continue to make a statement without saying a word.

Back in the day it was all about "break-dancing" (or rolling around in circles on the floor, elevating the body with the hands to make unique 360's). Today's hip-hop has changed the dance game with simple head-bops and choreographed dance routines. It is rare to view a hip-hop video today without seeing synchronized dance moves that complement the beat or rhythm, giving the viewer the urge to get up and rock to the beat.

Hip-hop is also credited with adding a large amount of unique words to our vocabulary. For example, the word "son" in hip-hop is not used to talk about one's "male child;" instead, "son" is a slang word used when talking to a friend or counterpart (ie. "For real, son, I don't know what they think they're doing"). The word "shawty" is used to refer to a female or girlfriend (ie. "My shawty always got my back"). And, of course, there is the ever-popular "hizzouse," which is normally used when telling someone you're going home ("I'm headed to the hizzouse").

Women have also played a significant role in the rise of hip-hop. Hip-hop artists, such as Lauryn Hill, Eve and Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliot, are known for dropping tracks with hot beats and profound knowledge. Lauryn Hill's first solo release, The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill, was filled with songs that represented the state of the world in regards to education, politics and relationships. Most female hip-hop artists do not allow a genre that is primarily male-dominated to censor anything they have to say.

The sounds, fashion and movement of hip-hop today are influenced by the hip-hop of the past. Modern artists like Kanye West and Jay-Z, along with late greats, such as Notorious B.I.G. and 2Pac, have all impacted hip-hop with their rhymes and style. What started with a turntable and a boom box has become much more than "street music"—it's now universal. Hip-hop will always continue to break grounds, promote change and get the party started!
I consider myself an open person. I am open to new experiences, new ideas, new voices. I try to immerse myself in culture— theater, books, music, art. I relish receiving a CD from a friend full of artists I've never heard of, or getting my hands on a book by an author I’ve never read before.

With that said, I do have my favorites. When it comes to music, rap, pop and country do not top my list. I have been drawn to alternative rock since sixth grade, which I have come to realize is because I'm a “words girl.” Lyrics mean something to me, and so if a song doesn’t have the most distinct sound ever but has some killer lyrics, I am often willing to overlook it.

So let's flashback to the summer of 2004. I was told by the director of the Wall Fellows program at Coastal that I would be interning at the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) and I had three weeks to prepare myself for the symphony world.

The bad news about this was I really only had two precursors to classical music: Walt Disney's Fantasia and my mom's old Richard Simmons “Stretchin' to the Classics” instructional video I used in high school before soccer practice.

So. Classical music. Dead guys with white wigs. Stringed instruments. Etiquette. No lyrics. These were the thoughts rushing through my mind. I suddenly realized that although I could name Beethoven, Bach and Mozart, I did not have the first clue about what “classical music” actually meant. I immediately rushed out to Barnes and Noble to purchase a copy of Classical Music for Dummies.

The bright yellow book came with a CD that included a breakdown of the composers and movements of each piece. I listened to it a few times and, well... I didn’t really enjoy it or not enjoy it. See, there was a problem. All the songs sounded alike!

I couldn’t even tell when one song ended and another began. Where was my open, enlightened disposition now? I was certain I had some sort of defect, some strange predisposition that would never allow me to understand classical music. What if someone asked me who my favorite composer was? I would have no response!

I wasn’t particularly excited to head to Atlanta, but I had no idea what I was in for. Forget creating a business plan for four major symphony fundraising events (which was the task that I—a intern and an English/dramatic arts major—was given), driving in six-lane bumper-to-bumper traffic or getting lost downtown. Learning to appreciate the symphony world would be the ultimate lesson—one that would stay with me forever.

I will never forget my first symphony experience. After a day in my cubicle, I headed across the street from our offices to the concert. I fully expected to play the role of the intern; sitting in the back, forgotten by my co-workers. Instead, I was ushered into the VIP room where I shook hands with some of the richest (and nicest) people I had ever met. After a few cocktails and hors d' oeuvres with the big wigs, I followed the crowd into the hall—a gigantic, bright room with a polished, wooden stage.

I watched the musicians warm up in their assigned seats as I sat in the balcony (by the way, it’s a misconception that the front is always better—the sound is actually much more powerful from the balcony) not knowing what to expect.

When the conductor walked out, my heart stopped. Every time I had pictured a conductor in my mind, he was old, stout and balding. Not Alexander Mickelthwate. He was young, tall and blond, with blue eyes and a disarming smile. I was beginning to like the symphony already.

When the music began, I was in even greater awe. Seeing every string, bow and finger fluidly moving in unison to the passionate waves of Mickelthwate’s hands was a mesmerizing sight. All of a sudden I realized I had been holding my breath. I let it out slowly as the music filled my mind and body. I was hooked.
That summer, I lived "the classical life." I attended countless concerts—a tribute to Mozart, a performance by the Atlanta-Berlin Youth Orchestra, outdoor performances at parks. I spent lovely evenings at Classic Chastain, the ASO's outdoor concert venue, where everyone brings dinner in picnic baskets and lavishly decorates their table with patterned place settings, flowers and candles.

I met so many memorable people—performers, volunteers, patrons, ASO staff members. And every single person had one thing in common: a dedication and love for the music. Whenever we got a mass e-mail titled "Free CDs on the third floor," you could bet the entire staff had picked over the selection within the hour. Everyone was working toward the goal of making the music heard.

I have never met people so passionate about music of any kind in my life. I constantly sensed a deep love for the symphony, as well as a hope for the survival and success of this amazing art form. Looking back on that summer as the sounds of Beethoven and Bach fill my head, I am thankful that my eyes (and ears) were opened to the beauty and power of the symphony.

Music isn't the only art form out there for us to enjoy—sometimes just plain art can do the trick. Experience some of the finest local art (and cuisine) around at this unique bistro located right in the heart of Myrtle Beach.

Collector's Café

Location: between 77th and 78th Ave. N. on Kings Hwy.

Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 6 p.m.-10 p.m.; Fri.-Sat. 6 p.m.-10:30 p.m.

The Rundown: Reservations suggested; up-scale attire; perfect for 1-3 people

Are you one of those people who enjoys a relaxing atmosphere? The perfect place for you is Collector's Café, an art gallery/espresso bar/fine-dining haven modeled after 17th century European bistro. Although it may seem like a long drive from campus, your visit will be well worth the haul.

As a college student, I know the financial situation can be a tight one, so I would only recommend dining here for special occasions, meaning you have about $40 to spend per meal. Collector's offers a four-star Mediterranean cuisine menu that has been reviewed and highly approved by a vast amount of dining critics and deemed one of the best restaurants on the Grand Strand.

If this is just too high-class or out of your financial range, Collector’s Café also houses a great after-dinner location adjacent to the restaurant where they offer a full espresso bar, complete with your choice of coffee specialties, international desserts and alcoholic beverages. Enjoy your drink selection and/or dessert lounging in one of their uniquely comfortable chairs or futons while being serenaded by a pleasant blend of soft rock and jazz.

Admire the plethora of artwork on display for your viewing (or buying) pleasure. Engage yourself in a deep, intellectual conversation about a particular painting that's captured your attention with friends or a complete stranger. You can rest assured that those who partake in the splendors of Collector's Café will have truly insightful thoughts to share about the artwork. If you're lucky, you might even bump into the artist.

If nothing else, Collector’s Café is an environment of culture and exquisite taste that is a rare delicacy among the commonality of Grand Strand restaurants.
Dr. Tom Woodle’s office is located in the Indigo House next to the Edwards College, where he works as a Career Planning Counselor for CCU. But that’s Dr. Tom Woodle. There is, however, another side to this man—a talented musician that has been in bands since he was 12.

Growing up in Clio, S.C., Tom followed in his grandfather and father’s footsteps by learning to play the guitar at the young age of four. He even made a few bar appearances before hitting the ripe old age of 15!

Many bands these days form during middle school or high school, springing from a group of friends who just want to have fun. Soon they begin to think they’re good enough to leave the garage and head for the concert halls. But how many bands form just to get on a TV show?

Reedy Creek formed from bits and pieces of two bands to go on “Star Search.” Tom Woodle was the lead guitarist for this band who (much to their surprise) won the competition. Shortly after winning, Reedy Creek was in the recording studio and planning tours—tours which would take them as far as Seattle, Wash. When this began, it was time to turn things over to managers, promoters, stylists and other people to “run life.”

Tom and Chet Polson, another band member, took breaks during downtime to play at hometown festivals. Tom’s second band, Appalachian Blue, was formed as a sort of getaway from the Reedy Creek schedule. Since the band formed in 1986, they have continued to play festivals, add members and play in other states.

There are three other members of Appalachian Blue: Chet Polson (banjo/fiddle), Kim Denison (mandolin) and Fairly Guest (bass). These men, like Tom, have regular jobs, ranging from engineer to banker to the postal service.

All the members of Appalachian Blue are settled into their lives outside the band as well as within it. Tom thinks this is a good thing, because it means the members don’t need to practice much since they have been together for many years. Appalachian Blue may go two or three months without playing as a group and then pick up and perform at festivals.

Everything in life has its’ good and bad, and band life is no exception. Tom feels the only “good” about being in a band like Reedy Creek (with tours, managers and promoters) was being onstage and performing.

Some of the “bad” habits developed on the road, sleeping on a bus, staying up late, never meeting new people for very long and, most importantly, being away from home and family. The only regret Tom has is missing time with his children. You go where you are supposed to (and don’t even have to drive), and you wear what people tell you to. The only thing Tom did learn was how to deal with deadlines, because of being in the studio before digital technology. This meant having to record songs over and over until they were perfect in an allotted time period.

Now that Tom works as a counselor and professor, he has deadlines of a different kind to meet. By having a “real” job and playing guitar as a hobby at the spring and fall give him summer and winter off to spend with his children and wife, Jackie, who is currently learning bass guitar in their church band. (Jackie also travels with Appalachian Blue and sells T-shirts and CDs during shows.)

The slower band schedule has also allowed Tom to do something else he enjoys, which is learning more about music—especially bluegrass. Tom says he wouldn’t go on the road again if given the chance, because the small stuff is just too much fun.
Being in a band on tour can be pretty miserable. You’re out late, you’re driving all over the place, and you get lost. A lot of those behind-the-music type deals lead people to believe that being on the road is glamorous and fun, with huge tour buses full of indulgences. It is fun, but most bands don’t start out on a bus—they start out in a van. Or, in my case, a 1995 GMC Jimmy with approximately 200,000 miles on it.

Imagine five guys, three of them easily clearing six feet tall, with a combined weight of 1,000 pounds, stuck within arms-length of one another for the vast majority of two weeks. We didn’t have the money to buy anything or rent a van, so we’d rent a U-Haul cargo trailer, load up our equipment and clothes and set out.

But I can’t cut straight to that part. One of the hardest parts of being in a band is actually having places to set out to. Shows don’t normally book themselves, so a lot of time was spent e-mailing, calling, instant-messaging and waiting. And waiting. And waiting some more. By the time a tour gets booked, you can end up with shows all over the place.

In the band I played with, we drove from Myrtle Beach to Owego, N.Y., for the first show, then to Southern New Jersey. Day off, so we thought, “Hey, let’s go to Jersey City and New York City.” Good idea. Next show? Summerville, S.C. That’s almost 800 miles, overnight. Sound bad? Later on, during the same tour, we drove over 800 miles round-trip to play a show, and then had to drive back that night because the person who booked the show didn’t have anywhere for us to stay. Not that Hazard, Ky., was exactly a place we wanted to sleep (no offense to Hazardians).

Places to stay. There’s another part of being in a band that gets neglected in most movies, television shows and shower-singing fantasies. Five people can’t really comfortably sleep in the same hotel room... assuming you can afford a hotel, which most can’t. In this sort of situation, it is handy to note that Wal-Mart Super Centers, while having morally questionable business practices, boast 24-hour shopping days. The lights in the parking lot are a bit bright, but sleep is sleep. However, keep in mind that people get a little surprised when they take a break from their weekday morning grocery shopping to use the restroom and find several sweaty, smelly people taking hippie showers in the sink (no offense to sinks).

And you’ve got to watch out for shady venues and people. This should go without saying, but still—things happen. When a venue says you’ll get paid according to the door, it may sound like that means you get paid according to how many people come to the show. What that might actually mean if you are playing a venue in, say, Jacksonville, Fla., that might possibly be called Jackrabbit’s, is that they’ll pay you according to how many people say to the doorman, “I am here to see [insert band name here].” If it’s your band’s first time out, you’re probably not going to have a whole lot of people say that. And if the guitarist ends up breaking his guitar in half and ripping his hand apart during the show, it still might not inspire any sympathy in the door people.

This isn’t meant to make going on tour sound bad. Because the truth is, 90 percent of the bad things that happen end up being funny stories, just like in “real” life back home. So if you can handle a lot of driving, a little sleep, even less money and a whole lot of smelling horrible, then congratulations—you can handle being in a band on the road.
STEP UP TO THE MIC!

...and look good doing it with fashion that spans the musical charts

"And I saddle up my horse
And I ride into the city
I make a lot of noise
'Cause the girls
They are so pretty..."

On Megan: Skirt by American Eagle—$34; shirt by Wasteland—$16; vintage boots donated by Laura Nagel; hat by J Crew—$50; earrings by White House Black Market—$34

On Tori: Belt by Nordstrom—$30; skirt by Hollister—$30; boots by Dan Post—$150; shirt by Lucky Brand—$80; hat from Wal-Mart—$9.99
"I had to get off the boat,
So I could walk on water
This ain't no tall order,
This is nothing to me
Difficult takes a day,
Impossible takes a week..."

On Robert: Shirt by Natural Exchange—$30; jeans by Sean Jean—$60; shoes by Black on Black (Air Force Ones Low)—$79.99

On Pele: Shirt by Reverb—$15; jeans by Vibe—$24.99; shoes by Nike (Charles Barkley)—$100
I break tradition
Sometimes my tries,
Are outside the lines
We've been conditioned
To not make mistakes,
But I can't live that way...

On Ashley: Jean skirt by Vanilla Jeans—$24; tank top by Guess—$19.99; shoes by Charlotte Russe—$29

On Laura: Shirt by BCBG—$50; jeans by Seven—$21.8; shoes by Mossimo—$16
"If you wanna get the feeling
And you wanna get it right
Then the music gotta be loud
For when the music hits,
I feel no pain at all..."
It is hard to understand what it feels like to be in the band... until you are. Being in band is more than just being in band to these people.

Although the focus of the activity lies in making music, the larger underlying factor is the feeling you get from being a part of something that is a huge support to the school and having a big family to turn to whenever something is going right or wrong.

I found my interest in playing an instrument in sixth grade. I went into middle school knowing only that I wanted to play an instrument and be in the band. I enjoyed music and I wanted to join a group where I could play music with other people. I decided to play percussion and continued to play throughout middle school. With high school came the addition of marching band, along with playing percussion. Aside from being able to play music, I also got to support my school.

My biggest insight about band began to evolve during my later years in high school—I realized all of my closest friends were in band. No matter what happened, I always felt at home in band class, in the band room, surrounded by these people who had become my family.

My greatest love and passion for being in band has come with being a part of the band at CCU. I entered Coastal in the fall of 2001 as a political science major. After seven years of playing percussion and being in band at school, I knew that not being a part of CCU's symphonic band would be one of the most ridiculous choices of my life.

Although I came from Virginia to a college where I knew no one, I walked into symphonic band on the first day of class and already felt at home. As each day went by, I began to make friends within the band and, to this day, the people I met that first year are now my best friends and second family.

The only piece of the music puzzle that was missing during my first two years at CCU was marching band, but with the addition of football and the persistence of the administration and our Director of Bands, Jim Tully, marching band came during the fall of 2003. With this addition, everything just kept getting better and better.

Through being a part of symphonic band, pep band, marching band and percussion ensembles and changing my major to music sophomore year, I gained many opportunities aside from the musical experience. I have worked in the band office for the past two years, gained many outside learning and teaching experiences and, of course, learned how to be a leader from being section leader in the band.

Now that I am a senior, I can look back at what being in band has given me. For starters, I had to work hard to learn pieces for concerts, drill for marching band and hone skills to be a productive member of each ensemble. I have also had the opportunity to travel places, support the school and meet new people.

But the most important things I have with me from being a part of band for this long are the relationships. Because of marching band, I have 100 family members that I could call when I need something. The feeling I get from standing on the field for marching band during halftime or sitting on an auditorium stage with other people who have the same passion I do and share the same love as me is the most exhilarating feeling in the world.

And so, although the work can bring sweat and tears, all of it is worth it. I have an outlet to express myself that I can do with people who are near and dear to my heart. And this outlet is band. It's hard to put into words what band has done for me and what it will continue to do.

The experiences I have had will stay with me all of my life. I cannot imagine a day that band and music would not be involved in my life. I know I could not live my life without the relationships I have made with some of the best people in the world thanks to band—especially here at CCU.
Looking for a concert to go to but don't want to pay to stand in a crowded venue with smoke billowing around you? Want to expand your musical horizons and see what's out there besides what's on the radio? Ever dreamt of picking up the microphone or using your (now secret) talent of playing the saxophone since the age of 12?

Well, look no further than your own university to provide you with the chance to satisfy these longings. With over a dozen vocal and instrumental ensembles, Coastal provides opportunities for students (music and non-music majors alike) to let their voices and melodies be heard.

With this comprehensive guide to all the music ensembles at CCU, you now have no excuse not to learn something new about different musical genres or go to performances... or perhaps even audition to be a part of one.

Raise Your Voice...

**Concert Choir**
Director: Frances T. Sinclair
Audition Required: No
This mixed choral ensemble performs four major concerts a year, showcasing music that embodies all styles of Western music history with an inventive finesse.

**Chamber Choir**
Director: Frances T. Sinclair
Audition Required: Yes
Composed of the "choral ambassadors for the CCU music department," this select mixed choral ensemble performs music from all styles and periods and participates in a recruitment tour (with the Concert Choir and Symphonic Band) each spring. Their repertoire focuses on a cappella music from the Renaissance.

**Pop 101**
Director: Dan O'Reilly
Audition Required: Yes
The name says it all—Pop 101 performs "pop" music with a top-notch group of vocalists, as well as a full band, including guitar, bass, drums, keyboard and horns. Each semester, Pop 101 gives a new and innovative performance that focuses on a specific theme.

**Gospel Choir**
Director: David Manigo
Audition Required: No
This mixed gospel choral ensemble not only provides an outstanding extracurricular activity, but it also seeks to uplift members in a spiritual way by increasing a sense of cooperation, service and responsibility.

**Strike Up The Band...**

**Symphonic Band**
Conductor: James L. Tully
Audition Required: No
If you need a place to channel your creative energy, this large core instrumental ensemble is the perfect outlet for you. Composed of students from all majors, this band performs all styles of music.

**Marching Band**
Director: James L. Tully
Audition Required: No (placement auditions required)
This large marching band, which formed in 2003, may be the most well-known of all CCU's ensembles, as it exudes the "Spirit of the Chanticleer" at many CCU sporting events, including home and away football games, parades and festivals.

**Saxophone Ensemble**
Director: Dan O'Reilly
Audition Required: Yes
Not to be confused with the "Spirit of the Chanticleer," this select woodwind ensemble performs "pop" genres.

**Grand Strand Pans**
Director: Kurry Seymour
Audition Required: Yes
Audiences can pretend to be on a beach in the Caribbean as they enjoy "the rhythm of a steel drum band." The drum sets, which are made of 55-gallon oil drums, create sounds that can transform into anything from classical music to calypso dance beats.

**Strike Taiko Ensemble**
Director: Kurry Seymour
Audition Required: Yes
This modern taiko drum ensemble takes part in a 2,000-year Japanese tradition as well as a modern art. This classical art of music and dance is like no other—the precision and power of the drums create an unforgettable listening and viewing experience.

**CCU Flute Choir**
Director: Amy H. Tully
Audition Required: No (permission of instructor required)
This volunteer flute ensemble seeks to enhance the musical enrichment of the Grand Strand. Five flute variations are represented, and the ensemble performs anything from Baroque to contemporary music.

**Saxophone Ensemble**
Director: Dan O'Reilly
Audition Required: No (permission of instructor required)
This intimate band is the saxophonist's definitive chamber music experience, consisting of three to 15 players and performing music from the classical, jazz and "pop" genres.
Monday, August 2, 2004
My friend, Lee, and I are spending our first summer on our own in Myrtle Beach after freshman year. We were hanging out on the beach today when I received a phone call from Jacob, an old high school friend. He asked if we wanted to make an easy $1,000 at the end of summer by working the last Phish show in Vermont for a festival foods company. So—we immediately quit our summer jobs. We're so excited that we have an end of the summer road trip!

Sunday, August 8
Lee and I woke up at 8 a.m., ready for our 20-hour drive. We really have no idea who we are working with or for... we don't even know exactly what we're doing. I have a friend who has a ticket and still needed a ride, so I let him jump in our car. We didn't have an exact route, so we just followed the map. We were told to be there some time on Monday, so we're taking our time getting there. I have family in Pittsburgh, so we're stopping there first.

Monday, August 9
After driving for a whole day, we finally made it to Coventry, Vt. It was a great ride, but pretty much a blur. We arrived at the festival tents and found our group. Jacob wasn't allowed to come with us because he's not a worker. I have friends in Pittsburgh, so we're stopping there first.

Tuesday, August 10
Today was the beginning of the festival. I was working all day, but it was actually a social scene. I ended up seeing my friends Evan, John, and Howell at my tent and it was cool they found me.

Friday, August 13
After waking up in the rain with about three hours of sleep, I headed to the tent to make more wraps. People were everywhere and thrilled about the night to come. Phish kicked off the festival with three sets. Everyone hadn't even been here for 24 hours and they were already covered in mud. I chilled at the tent all day talking to anyone that came over. When Phish was about to play, everyone started to get rowdy. The lights and energy of the people were awesome. I heard "Run Like an Antelope," "Runaway Jim," and "Harry Hood" (the encore). There was one part of the show where Trey (the lead singer) gave away little trampolines to fans that the band had been jumping on during the show. Right before the show was over I headed back to the tent. After a couple more hours of wraps, I was free to venture the campsites. The coolest things go down at nighttime. Everyone is in the best mood. You meet people from all over and you party. There's a "main street" where people sell shirts, food and special things they make just to pay for expenses to get there and back home. It feels like you're in a whole different world and reality doesn't exist.

Saturday, August 14
Without any sleep, I headed back to the tent. Today was the last day Phish performed. They ended with three sets. This was the last night intense Phish fans would ever hear the band again. Phish has been together for 20 years and tonight was it. They put on another amazing show opening with "Mike's Song"—my favorite. They jammed out to "Wolfman's Brother," and the encore was "The Curtain With." Trey was playing his guitar with glow sticks and the crowd was going wild. At the end there was a fireworks show.

Sunday, August 15
Today marked the end of our trip. People were stuck in the mud everywhere—it was a disaster but everything worked out. After we cleaned up and collected our cash, we were on our way to South Carolina. The first thing I did when I got back was take a shower. I already know what people will ask me: Would I do this all over again? Absolutely!
Okay. So you're wanting to start a band, tour the world, break hearts and, in about 10 years, end up on "Behind the Music" and hosting those "I-Love-The-(insert decade)" shows on VH1. Don't worry if you completely lack talent; Protools and pitch correction can work wonders. But one thing you've really got to know is who's going to be doing what. This is so that you don't end up referring to the drummer as "the guy who hits those round things with sticks." Even if that is all it seems like he or she does.

In general, guitarists are probably the second most recognizable members of the band, right behind the singer (Joe Perry to Stephen Tyler). Guitarists are stereotypically egotistical and often much louder than necessary. In the case of most rock groups, guitars are loud and distorted, but many popular acts feature acoustic guitar as well, either in addition to electric or exclusively (Dave Matthews).

This member of the band (usually the front-person) isn't necessarily limited to voice alone. Singers can play instruments, such as guitar, or throw in the occasional keyboard parts (think Brandon Flowers of The Killers). Some groups have no single lead singer, and instead use several, as in the case of the Blood Brothers. Singers also usually write the lyrics and title most songs.

Drummers. These are probably the most antagonized, ridiculed and necessary members in a band. Some are simplistic in their style, such as Meg White of the White Stripes, while others favor a busier approach. Drums probably do more for a song's "feel" than any other single instrument. Without drums providing a beat, a song dies.

Bass and drums work together to keep a song going. Not too many bands put the spotlight on the bassists, but there are some that completely ditch guitar in favor of bass (Death From Above 1979).

Keys and synthesizers were a staple in 1980s groups, but fell out of favor with the grunge movement. Recently, bands with a more textured, ambient sound have called on the addition of someone to play keyboards and trigger sampled sounds. There still aren't too many bands that utilize a full-time keyboardist, but check out Ikey Owens's work in The Mars Volta for a good example.
Some memories don’t need a recording or flash photography

I went to The Beatles first American tour in Washington D.C. It was 1964 and I was a junior in high school. A group of girls and I decided to go. At first I didn’t like The Beatles. I was more into Motown, folk music and hard-core rock ‘n’ roll. In fact, the real reason I went to the concert was to see the Eisley Brothers who were opening. I remember we were very close to the stage; we were in the second tier. Of course, I thought I wouldn’t like The Beatles. I promised myself I would not scream. But when everyone started to scream, I did too. I screamed myself hoarse.

Nelljean Rice, Special Projects/Associate Professor of English

My very first concert was Wide Spread Panic. It was their New Year’s show in Atlanta, Ga., and I was so excited because my parents let me get there with all of my friends to stay in the city. One of the guys that went with us, Drew, loved Panic. After the concert we couldn’t find Drew anywhere. He never came back to the hotel and he had no phone so none of us knew where he was. We called his parents and told them he never came back from the concert. They said to come back and Drew would end up calling them for a way home. A week went by and none has heard from him. The parents called the police in fear. Come to find out he was able to get backstage and he decided to be one of their groupies and travel the United States in a beat-up van following their tour! He came home a few months later.

Bobbi Rock, 21, English Major

My friends are local rappers, and they were able to get backstage passes to a 50 Cent concert. When we were backstage, 50 Cent invited us to come back to his place for an after party. I remember it was at Kingston Plantation. It was pretty wild!

Mathew Gann, 24, History Major

I went to a Bone Thugs and Harmony concert, and in the middle of it my friends got pulled up on stage to rap with them. Then we got backstage passes to chill with them after the concert.

Patrick Parton, 20, Psychology Major

Rufer is how I discovered ‘car-camping’ and the mysteries of The Grateful Dead while in college. Rufer got tickets to a Dead show in Lewiston, Maine, for a weekend and invited me to come along. She had a Datsun pick-up with a twin mattress in the back. When we got there, hundreds of people were already camping in the parking lot, playing music and partying. The Kool-aid hippies were mingling with the Jack Daniel bikers and comparing tattoos. There were so many enormous bonfires that the fire department came every three hours or so to put another out. It was easy to forget we were there for music. I remember that at the end of the show (we have been there for days and everyone was tired, hungry and plain dirty), I decided to go into town (where was Rufer I don’t remember) to find food. I was able to squeeze through the front doors of a movie theater that was about to close. What I didn’t know was that there were literally hundreds of exhausted, famished and mud-caked concert-goers right behind me, having discerned the same target opportunity. I went into the restroom to wash up at the sinks. Before I was done, the room was filled with about 50 people quite happily bathing! When I walked back out, the lobby had been transformed into a tie-die kaleidoscope. The manager had opened up the concession stands and the previously clear, purple carpets were now peppered with popcorn. That marked the end of my first weekend with Grateful Dead community. Next time, I’ll tell you about The Grateful Dead concert and how I ended up in the Land of the Medicine Buddha or perhaps the reflecting pool at the Christian Science center after a Jerry Garcia Band show!

Philip Whalen, Assistant Professor of Philosophy
Behind The Curtain

Trey Gerrald is a sophomore musical theater major. We asked him to keep a journal throughout the process of creating the spring musical Oklahoma! This is Trey’s seventh production onstage with the Coastal Theater Department. What is presented here is a true and (mostly) uncensored account of what it is like to be in a musical at CCU.

**November 13**
Tomorrow we have auditions for the Rodgers & Hammerstein musical, Oklahoma!, so my friends came over to run our one-minute monologues and 30-second songs. It’s funny how no matter how many times we do this, I still get nervous.

**November 14**
Our department is trying something new where we audition for both main-stage productions at the same time, so tonight I auditioned for both A Life of the Mind (ALOM) and Oklahoma!. It was intimidating to have almost half of our professors watching. They posted a sign on the door that said, “If you mess up, you must end your audition. There will be no ‘start-overs.’” This would be given at a professional audition, but it still made me more nervous.

**November 16**
For my first Oklahoma! callback yesterday, I had to learn a dance combination and have a sing-off with another guy for the role of Will Parker. For my ALOM callback, I just had to read from the script. Tonight I had a third callback for Oklahoma! to read for the principal roles. I felt confident about it, since I think acting is my strongest point. I really want to play Will. He’s the dumb (literally) secondary character, which is a lot different from what I’ve been playing.

**December 6**
We were told the cast list would go up before the end of the week when we auditioned. Then it changed to after Thanksgiving Break. It didn’t go up until today—the last week of the semester. I had my last exam today (called a “jury”) for the “music” portion of my major, where you sing in front of your faculty and they decide if you can continue as a musical theater major. On the way to my jury, the phone calls started. “The cast list is up... Have you heard?... So and so got this part and this person is crying.” It’s quite ridiculous how fast news spreads. I was really disappointed to find out I wasn’t cast as Will. Instead, I was cast as Cord Elam, the Sheriff. It’s a featured ensemble role, so at least that’s something. I got the news right before my jury which sucked. I also didn’t make ALOM, because you can only have a large part in one of the two productions. ALOM’s cast list went up before Oklahoma!’s, which could have hurt my chances of being a big part in it.

**January 12**
Today has been crazy! I was working on a song and my phone rings. The principal characters in Oklahoma!, who were meeting to read the script together, called to tell me something happened and Will is un-cast now. (Once again, word travels fast.) After about an hour of sweating it, I got a call from the director, Greg London, asking if I would take over Will’s role. I am so excited and confused at the same time. Somehow I feel like sloppy seconds. After all Christmas Break of being disappointed. These things just never happen—people don’t get recast... so I do feel really honored.

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**January 17**
Tonight we had our first cast meeting and read-through of the script. I am starting to feel more confident about playing Will now and I know I can. Greg told us our rehearsal schedule: weeknights from 5-8, Fridays off, Saturdays from 10-3 and Sundays from 2-6. I’m pretty used to this by now, but it’s always hard to jump back in. Tomorrow I have my first music rehearsal. My character has a solo number, “Kansas City,” and a duet, “All Er Nuttin.” I am a little worried that the character sings a littler higher than I’m comfortable with, but that just makes it more of a challenge.

**February 28**
I am in my car driving to Orlando. It is midnight and six of us in the show were given the next five rehearsals off to audition for professional summer theater jobs at the South Eastern Theater Conference (SETC). We had rehearsal tonight and now we’re driving through the night to audition. I’m trying to remember all my stuff in the show and my

Continued on p.31
MUSICAL talent runs rampant on our campus and throughout Myrtle Beach—from artists who secretly record songs at home to popular bands that are already touring the nation. The artists featured on Archarios and Tempo’s music CD (which can be found at the end of our magazine) span the gamut of musical genres, creating a mix that is worth listening to over and over again. And so, for the first time in Tempo history, we are proud to introduce the artists featured in the first volume of Coastal Carolina University’s Local Music Edition.

First Degree Burnouts
Jeremy Anderson (Vox/Bass), Trey Gore (Guitar/Vox), Trey Moody (Drums), Andrew Pesa (Guitar/Vox)
“Bottom of the Fall”
The addition of a second guitarist to this band brought their group to another level of power-core music after forming in 2003 as a three-member band. This high-energy group, whose influences include AC/DC and My Hotel Year, puts on shows across the Grand Strand. The Burnouts are currently in the process of creating their first full-length album and planning an East Coast tour for summer 2006. To check out some of the band’s MP3’s, news and show dates, visit: www.myspace/firstdegreeburnouts.

Joey Schumann
“Americana Medley”
Senior biology major Joey Schumann teamed up with fellow church member and vocalist Gina Starr to create music. Schumann’s travels and love of music has led him to play an impressive array of instruments, including the piano, acoustic guitar, violin, guzheng, d’zhí flutes, Armenian duduk and many more. Schumann turned the duo into a three-piece band by recording live performances of a song on his computer. The songs are produced by immediately playing the recording back through the speakers while Gina sings and he plays another instrument. With the help of their church, the two have begun to record a CD, which will be complete this spring.

Sedgefield Drive
Sean Johansen (Acoustic/Electric Guitar), Reuben Long (Drums), Joe Meckley (Bass), Aaron Milz (Vocals), Josh Swindler (Electric Guitar)
“Breaking the Fall”, “1472”
This diverse group formed in the fall of 2004. With their extensive musical background, Sedgefield Drive mixes indie, alternative, rock, pop and jazz into a sound all their own. Continuing to become more popular around the Grand Strand, Sedgefield Drive hopes to create a buzz across all avenues of musical expression with their varied mix of music.

Neil Akers
“Circle in the Wheel”
This guitarist/singer/songwriter from Bluefield, Va., now resides in Conway, S.C., and calls his music rock ‘n’ roll with shades of country, blues and jazz. With musical roots in jam and improvisational sessions, this rocker is influenced by bands like The Allman Brothers Band, The Grateful Dead and The Beatles. Akers’ goals include being the best guitarist he can be, writing the best songs he can write, recording music and forming a great band.

Tom Yoder
“The Moment the Apple Falls”, “Zen Parked on Z”
Ever since hearing Mick Ralphs as a child, Tom Yoder has been mesmerized and dedicated to playing guitar. After attending the Guitar Institute of Technology at The Musician’s Institute in Los Angeles, Yoder moved to Myrtle Beach in hopes of continuing his life with music. In 1986 Yoder began working for Coastal Carolina University (formally USC Coastal Carolina campus) and began teaching private lessons out of his home while also playing as many gigs as possible. Over the years Yoder has been in a few bands but has settled on performing alone. His first CD was recorded in 1999 and Yoder has continued recording ever since, which he claims is “the greatest accomplishment” of his life.
**Kellett Arnold**

"Listen to Your World", "Liza"

This Charleston, S.C., native has been performing, writing and "gigging out" with pop/rock/funk bands for the past four years. A percussion major at CCU, Arnold has performed for the past two years with Coastal Carolina's Epiphany Independent Indoor Percussion Ensemble. Arnold plans to tour this summer with Hypnotic Drum and Bugle Corps as their bass drum technician.

**Park Holly**

Sean Spollen (Lead Guitar), John Valerio (Guitar/Vocals)

"Coldest Night of the Year", "Meant to Be"

This duo started out as two high school friends writing songs together in the basement of Sean Spollen's house. CCU senior John Valerio has played the guitar for five years. Spollen, who graduated from Penn State and resides in Chapel Hill, N.C., has been playing guitar since the ninth grade. Although the two live in different states, they use the Internet to send song ideas back and forward. They are currently working on new material in preparation for more studio recordings in upcoming months.

**Jebb Mac (for Jus Productions)**

"Carolina Swing"

Born and raised in Mullins, S.C., Jebb Mac was writing and performing school-oriented songs over the intercom at school at the age of 10. Mac attended a small college to play basketball, but wasn't satisfied and returned home to search for something else. He continued to write songs at home and, fueled by the desire to rap, started to play around with his lyrics and different beats. When Mac came to CCU, he met up with Justin Smith, who wanted to start his own production label. Mac and Smith became good friends and began making music. In September 2005, Mac released his first album, *I Got Issues*. He is currently working on a second album and hopes to pursue his musical career.

**Austin Floyd**

"Jolan True"

Austin Floyd doesn't feel he is the most interesting person to have ever written a song. He's never lived out of a car, had any groupies or spent time in Betty Ford. The song "Jolan True" is a single electric guitar played using two-handed tapping. This is not because he is any type of virtuoso, but instead (he claims) because he can't keep track of picks. If anyone knows the origin of the title, Floyd is both apologetic and embarrassed. He has been in several bands, the latest of which was a metal band. Floyd has no delusions about becoming a rock star, but since he is a senior English major planning on attending graduate school, he feels the living out of a car thing might just come true.

**If Not Winter**

Andrew Connor (Guitar/Piano/Programming), Julio Navarro (Vocals), Mike Schmitt (Drums/Samples), Chris Willhite (Base), Josh Zurawski (Guitar/Vocals)

"Between These Sheets", "Promise"

If Not Winter is a hard-rocking band with influences like 311, Motley Cure, Sublime and Pantera. They captivate audiences with their energetic and explosive live shows. Since the band's formation in the summer of 2004, they have steadily built a large local and regional fan base. They have toured up and down the East Coast from New Jersey to Florida, distributed almost 2,000 copies of their demo, played local shows in front of thousands of people and also found time to record and release self-produced music. With the average age of members being 21 and a handful of amazing songs, it's hard to tell what If Not Winter will conquer next.
WE ARE LOVED AND HATED. WE ARE IMITATED.

WE ARE THE AVANT-GARDE.

WE BREAK AND REDEFINE THE RULES.

WE DON'T NEED REASONS OR EXCUSES.

WE ARE THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

WE ARE IMMUNE TO YOUR REPLICAIONS.

WE ARE IMMORTAL.

Models:
Elijah Armstrong
Jonah Bowers
Kristina Clifford
Shannon Cook
NeLorea Dozier-McAllister
Rachel Flowers
Trey Gerrald
Matt Hayward
Kirk Johnson
Sharena Limehouse
Kevin McCarthy
Adam Powell
Dominic Sellers

Photography:
Scott Dean

Concept:
Krystin Mementowski
MUSIC

IN CONCERT

JOPLIN

THE SUPREMES GOLD

TEMPO [Spring 2006] 27
Beach Wagon

Location: 906 S. Kings Hwy.
Contact: (843) 448-5918; http://www.beachwagonnitelife.com/
Hours of Operation: Doors open at 8 p.m. Wed. – Sat.; 7 p.m. for concerts
Admission: Free on Wed. and Thurs.; Free for 21 and over locals on Fri. and Sat.; $7 for under 21; Admission for concerts varies depending on show

If you like line-dancing, wearing a cowboy hat and bull-riding, the Beach Wagon is the venue for you! The Beach Wagon offers line-dancing lessons every Wednesday and Thursday night, so when the weekend rolls around, no one has an excuse to not be on the dance floor showing off their newly-acquired moves.

The Beach Wagon’s live band plays a variety of original and covered songs on Friday and Saturday nights. During breaks, the deejay plays a wide range of music that spans country (both new and old), rock, rap and dance beats. Slow songs are played occasionally for couples, leaving the single people feeling reminiscent of high school dances.

If dancing isn’t one of your strong points, you can try your hand at bull-riding for just $5, which gets you three rides on the mechanical bull. This feature is a big attraction for large parties to see who can stay on the longest—the club’s record is 1:29. The Beach Wagon also provides several pool tables, televisions scattered across the walls and two separate bars that offer drink specials all night long.

The biggest problem the Beach Wagon has (which isn’t entirely their fault) is that cowboys like to smoke—a lot. The building is not exceptionally ventilated, so if you have an aversion to cigarette smoke, you may want to avoid this venue. And by the way—don’t show up to the Beach Wagon wearing a hat that isn’t a cowboy hat or baseball cap, because you won’t be allowed to wear it inside.

Concerts at the Beach Wagon scheduled for this semester included Jason Aldean, the Bellamy Brothers and Little Big Town.

House of Blues

Location: 4640 S. Hwy. 17, Barefoot Landing
Contact: (843) 272-3000; http://www.hob.com/
Hours of Operation: Box office open Tues. – Sun. 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Venue open from 6 p.m. – 1 a.m.
Admission: Varies (Call box office or visit Web site for exact prices)

The House of Blues (HOB) is the biggest concert venue in Myrtle Beach, featuring some of the most famous bands in the country and even the world. Night after night, HOB hosts artists like Chris Brown, NOFX, Willie Nelson, Motion City Soundtrack, Rob Zombie, Saves the Day, System of a Down, Styx, Weezer, Velvet Revolver, Snoop Dogg, Thursday, Kanye West and countless others.

HOB also boasts four full bars, so everyone can get “crunk” while jamming out to their favorite artists. There is also a restaurant right next to the venue, offering a varied menu (for a good buck), as well as a gift shop that sells various memorabilia, from shirts to voodoo candles. You can try your luck at solving a murder mystery as it unfolds during HOB’s Murder Mystery Dinner Theater, a great event to attend with a large group.

In addition to booking mainstream acts, HOB also supports the local music scene. The Blues-a-Palooza is a series of concerts where local bands play on the restaurant stage or the Gator Bar Stage to win a chance to play on the main stage. The series spans several months with multiple bands playing each night; whichever band attracts the most attendance wins.

On Thursdays at 8:30 p.m. on the quaint, outdoor Gator Bar Stage, you can find “Rock Star Karaoke.” HOB also hosts “Movie Night Tuesdays” and “Game Night Wednesdays.” Movie nights cost one dollar and offer outrageous drink specials; the only catch is you have to bring your own lawn chair. Game night, which provides the same great drink specials with no cover, invites everyone 18 years and older to play games like Battleship, Operation, Atari, darts and various card games.

HOB is the only music venue in this area that books big acts like Justin Timberlake, Disturbed and Keith Urban. No matter what kind of music you are into, HOB has it all.
007 Music Tavern

Location: 4713 Bypass Hwy. 17
Contact: (843) 293-3227; http://www.myspace.com/007hardrocktavern
Hours of Operation: Mon. – Fri. 8 p.m – 3 a.m.; Sat. 8 p.m. – 2 a.m.
Admission: Varies

007 Music Tavern is a cozy, little neighborhood bar and venue on the south end of Myrtle Beach. This venue creates an intimate atmosphere that makes it feel like a place "where everybody knows your name." However, the business also takes pride in offering a strong, booming and professional sound system, as well as great bands that take full advantage of it.

007 has featured many renowned local and regional bands, such as Regime, Not Yet Rated, Squirrel, First Degree Burnouts, Flick It, Aftermath, Confliction, Behind the Veil and many others since its opening nearly a year and a half ago. This venue hosts mainly hosted hard rock shows, as its previous name (007 Hard Rock Tavern) suggested, but the business is beginning to host shows with a wider variety of musical genres. The current name now suits the venue perfectly.

Another change in the Tavern is that it has begun to host karaoke on Wednesday nights. Each night at 007, you can expect to find a full bar and appetizers, along with pool tables, comfortable couches and great music to entertain you all night long.

The Social

Location: 515 9th Ave. N.
Contact: (843) 626-0730; http://www.thesocialspot.com/
Hours of Operation: 5 p.m. – 2 a.m. on weekdays; Sat. 5 p.m. – 12 a.m.
Admission: Show prices range from $5-$8 to see at least three or more bands

The Social is the premier music venue for anyone interested in checking out great, cheap shows consisting of a wide variety of musical genres. The Social features numerous local, touring and underground bands that will suit almost anyone’s tastes.

This venue has booked bands like The Ataris and Dashboard Confessional before anyone even heard of them, so there is a chance that some of the bands you see here might just be famous one day.

The Social also has a completely separate bar room with pool tables and a full bar. You may want to come vocally prepared (or at least have a few drinks), because The Social hosts karaoke night about every two weeks.

OKLAHOMA (cont. from p.23)

- monologues for this audition—and I don’t really know all my lines in the Second Act yet!
- March 6 Auditions went well this weekend, and I got some callbacks. I got to try on my costume for the first time today. It’s always exciting to see what the costumers have made just for your body. It also really helps with piecing your character together in your head. For example, in this show, we wear cowboy boots and really tight jeans, and wearing that changes how you walk and feel.

March 18 Today was our dreaded 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. technical rehearsal for the show. This is the day we add the sets, lights, sounds and scene changes. It can become very long and force you into a terrible mood by the end. Luckily, we’re used to it since we’ve been rehearsing from 10-6 for the last week. It’s just part of the deal—you sacrifice in order to get a good final product. At least we get our nights free, but by the end of the day, I’m just really tired.

Before we started our first run today, the power went out and we were stuck for three hours. We finished Act One at 11 p.m., so we are going to be behind now, which means a longer day tomorrow. And I have a project and homework. Some spring break!

March 20 Yesterday we ran through the show with costumes. I am so exhausted. We came in at noon and didn’t leave until 9:30. Classes started back today and I still haven’t finished my project. I had to come to rehearsal early to make a few more adjustments to some of the musical numbers. Then we had our first full run including make-up, costumes, lights, sound, full orchestra—everything.

March 21 We were worried about the technical aspect of the show and we almost didn’t even run the whole show tonight because Greg was worried about the lighting cues, but we pulled together and the run worked out. I’m just ready for an audience tomorrow!
It is safe (and perfectly true) to say I would not be able to live a happy, content life if music played no part in it. My soul would be a dry and barren vessel with little motivation to do, well, anything.

Music is a crucial part of my daily life—I'm hardly ever without it. My CD collection is divvied up between my truck and my apartment; my iPod is always on my person; I keep a radio in my bathroom; iTunes is always open on my computer; and several different CDs frequent my DVD player to sing me to sleep. "New Music Tuesday," as I like to call it, is one of my favorite rituals; it involves a weekly trip to Best Buy. I am also a long-time member of BMC Music.

Within the past year, I took a trip to Kansas City, Mo. During this excursion, I expected to have little to no personal time to write creatively while immersing myself in the music of my particular mood (which happens to be another one of my favorite rituals). My expectations were fairly correct, until I found myself walking the streets of uptown Kansas City to the serenade of a street musician.

He was sitting on a curb outside The Cheesecake Factory, where our group had decided to eat. He was playing his keyboard as naturally as if he was sitting on the most comfortable piano bench known to man. People passed him on the sidewalk, cars and motorcycles sped behind him on the road—and yet he still made music, oblivious to it all.

The only time his gaze budged from his fingers and the keys was if coins were dropped into his open guitar case by passers-by. When this occurred, he offered a cheerful, "Thank you!" without missing a single beat. I don't remember recognizing any of the songs he played. I imagine he was a talented songwriter and composer who had the ability and great passion to play for hours on end.

He may just have been a simple (and probably homeless) young man who had a bit of musical talent with the piano and guitar, but the peaceful sound of his music amid the hustle and bustle of the city moved my imagination and sparked my own creativity. Watching his fingers run up and down the black and white keys, going so quickly that they threatened to abandon the man completely and play to their own desires, made me think of runaway fingers and the freedom they could have if they were separated from the holds of the mind.

I began to compose a poem right then and there, on the patio of The...
Cheesecake Factory. I’ve been writing poetry all my life about a variety of issues, people and places, but I have never had verses and rhymes flow from my mind to my fingers so quickly and naturally. Even now, as I remember this moment, I feel like transforming this article into something much more beautiful and poetic.

My fingers flew at such a rate that they threatened to move quicker than my mind. It was an experience I feel blessed to have had as an aspiring writer and poet. To be moved in such a way that one’s mind can hardly keep up with one’s fingers is a phenomenon I believe can only be inspired by an outside force.

Now, I sincerely doubt this street musician had such a spectacular effect on anyone else in the group I was traveling with, or probably anyone else in Kansas City for that matter. But that, my friends, is the beauty of music.

Words: Corey Thompkins

The actual definition of inspiration is, as Webster graciously tells us, “a divine influence or action on a person believed to qualify him or her to receive and communicate sacred revelation,” or “the act of influencing or suggesting opinions.” In light of these definitions, there are not many things that provide me with more inspiration than music.

If I could compare music to one thing, it would be the perfect clothing store known to man—no matter what kind of outfit you’re looking for, there’s something you will like that fits perfectly. My “outfit” has changed tremendously over the years. When I was younger, I went through a phase where the music I enjoyed was much more limited than it is now. As a matter of fact, until I started middle school, if the group wasn’t Boys II Men or 112, I wasn’t very interested. I can now proudly say my musical “closet” is overflowing. On my MP3 player, I have artists as varied as 2Pac, Kelly Clarkson, Fallout Boy and Faith Hill on rotation.

I can’t think of a time I have turned to music and it hasn’t proven to be inspirational. No matter what genre of music I’m listening to, I have found songs that relate to my situation. Over the years, my music selection has proven to be highly indicative of my mood. More recently, the music I listen to has actually foreshadowed future occurrences in my life.

An unfortunate example of this occurred in January, when I found myself compelled to listen to a song by Jamie Foxx (“I Wish You Were Here”) repeatedly. The song is about how no matter how many extravagant things he owns, people he meets or places he goes, things do not seem to matter as much because his grandmother is not on earth to see it. No more than two days after I became fascinated with this song, I received a call letting me know my grandmother had passed away. Hearing this song now inspires me by making me remember my grandmother, the way she lived her life and the way I should strive to live mine.

There are, however, certain songs I cannot extract an intelligent thought from, let alone receive the slightest amount of inspiration. Unfortunately, music is beginning to go down this road much more frequently than it did in the past with the increasing trend of what Kanye West refers to as “bullshit ice rap”—where rappers talk about every piece of jewelry they own, the cars they drive and how many girls they have. Although this particular brand of music does not suit me, there are obviously millions of others that enjoy listening to it, and maybe they draw inspiration from it.

Listening to and writing music serves as an amazing form of therapy for me. If anyone reading this cannot draw inspiration from music, consider broadening your music selection. Challenge yourself to listen to a different type of music you never have before. Country music fans, try to listen to 2Pac. Rap fans, try out Papa Roach. I have a feeling you would be pleasantly surprised by the difference a simple change in music can provide. Music holds something unique for each person that listens to a beat or analyzes lyrics, which is only one of the many things that makes music so special.

Music inspires everyone, and recently I heard a song by Kanye West called “Hey Mama” that completely floored me. When I first heard it, I had to sit down and sort of just stop and think about my life. This track is about Kanye being raised by his mom and what she’s done for him. This song especially hit home with me because it made me realize how important and influential the strong women in my life—my mother, grandmother and stepmother—have been while I was growing up.

Growing up in a divorced family, I feel like I can connect more literally to this track than some people. The song makes me think about the endless love I have experienced, and appreciate my mom for the struggle she went through to raise me as a single parent.

I saw the tough times my mom had to deal with, both financially and emotionally, and someday all I want is to be successful and give back to her. I was a pain in the ass as a child (which definitely didn’t help things), but my mom always showed me infinite love. She’s always supported me and been my best friend, even when times were difficult.

When times were hard and my dad wasn’t able to physically be there, my grandmother often stepped in to help out. She always gave me guidance, took me places and did those wonderful “grandmotherly” things all kids love. These times have made a lasting impression on me.

Don’t get me wrong. My dad is a great father and friend, and he’s always been there when I needed him while I was growing up. However, being hours away from each other was difficult. That’s where my stepmother comes in. All of her encouragement, love and support have been inspirational to me, and I feel that this blends in with the message of Kanye’s song.

This track inspires me to give back someday, and to make the people I love proud. I want to work hard to have the ability to do something for them, even if it’s just a fraction of what they’ve given me. As the chorus of “Hey Mama” declares: “I wanna scream so loud for you, cuz I’m so proud of you. Let me tell you what I’m about to do. (Hey Mama.) I know I act a fool but I promise you I’m goin’ back to school. I appreciate what you allowed for me. I just want you to be proud of me.”

Words: Ryan Conley
Jamie Foxx
Unpredictable
J Records—$11.99

After his film, Ray, everyone was intrigued when Jamie Foxx announced he was releasing an album. It seemed he wanted to prove his 1994 album, Peep This, was not indicative of what he could do—that he was a true "triple-threat." Point proven. With tracks like "Unpredictable," Foxx not only proves he is capable of making hits, but also that he displays distinct versatility. The only negative aspect of the album is the monotony of the songs topics—the album is comprised primarily of numbers for the bedroom. However, two ballads ("Heaven" and "I Wish You Were Here") change the entire scope of the album. Despite Unpredictable becoming slightly predictable in the end, this is an excellent album for relaxing.

Words: Corey Thomkins

Kanye West
Late Registration

One of the most controversial figures in music is back with his sophomore effort, Late Registration. Building on the momentum established by his debut album, College Dropout, West showcases a star-studded guest list (Common, The Game, Nas, Jay-Z and Jamie Foxx). Voted one of Time Magazine's Top 100 Influential People, West stops at nothing to say what he feels. Although government and political references are made in this album, West doesn't dedicate the entire album to controversial issues. His creativity as a producer is showcased in "Gold Digger," a catchy radio and club hit featuring Jamie Foxx. If you liked College Dropout, Late Registration will appeal to you as well.

Words: Ryan Conley

Common
Be
Geffen—$13.98

Best known for years in the hip-hop underground as a socially-conscious lyricist, Common has poetically flowed his way into the mainstream with Be. Common has taken a different route than most rappers—he doesn’t brag about "bling" and bitches; instead, he tells real stories. The delivery is smooth and melodic, making it nearly impossible to not be drawn in. Teaming up with Kanye West, Common takes his career to a new level on this album with tracks like "Testify" and "The Food." Every track offers style and intrigue without straying from the poetic styling that is Common. Aside from the music, the most impressive thing about this album is seeing its’ success in the hip-hop industry without Common selling out. No raps—just rap.

Words: Neal Causey

Junior Brown
Down Home Chrome
Telarc—$13.99

Junior Brown represents what modern country music should sound like. This master of "guit-steel" (an electric and steel guitar hybrid) is able to weave non-country influences into his music without compromising the country sound. The majority of the songs stick closely to Junior's rockabilly roots. The real surprise comes at the end of the album with a cover of Jimi Hendrix's "Foxy Lady" where Brown proves he can manipulate a guitar as competently as Hendrix.

Words: Jessica Edwards

Abigail Washburn
Song of the Traveling Daughter
Nettwerk Productions—$12.98

Rising music singer Abigail Washburn has mixed country music with her Chinese background to create a completely original sound. The tracks embody the theme Washburn believes describes America—transformation—by taking a traditional country sound (the banjo) and transformed it into something distinctly Oriental. It is Washburn's atypical, soft and sultry voice, along with support from instruments like finger cymbals that makes her music sound "Eastern," while others like the banjo, steel guitar and fiddle provide the "country" presence on this unique album.

Words: Caroline P. Smith
- Video Games -

**Smackdown VS Raw 2006**

**System:** Playstation 2

THQ—$49.99

THQ released the next game in the Smackdown wrestling series last fall. *Smackdown VS Raw 2006* is extremely similar to the one released in 2004 with a few added features, such as the “Create-A-Belt” Mode that allows players to create his or her own world championship belt and wrestle other players for it. Another added feature is the “General Manager Mode” that gives players the ability to step into the shoes of the GM and plan a wrestling season. The only downside I found to this game is the new “Stamina Mode” that causes the wrestler to become fatigued and basically takes some of the fun out of the game. (This problem can be easily corrected by simply turning this mode off.) Overall, *Smackdown VS Raw 2006* is highly recommended to any wrestling lover.

**God Of War**

**System:** Playstation 2

Sony—$49.99

Released in 2005, *God of War* won the Academy of Interactive Arts and Sciences (AIAS) Game of the Year and is sure to become a Playstation Classic. The gamer becomes an ex-Spartan warrior, Kratos, who must fight the forces of evil and destroy Ares, the God of War, by uncovering Pandora’s Box. The phenomenal storyline is intriguing and guaranteed to keep the gamer on the edge of his or her seat. The story takes a unique twist by showing the journey of Kratos in one long flashback sequence. Another major plus to this game is the outstanding graphics that can be seen as Kratos fights some of Greek mythology’s most memorable creatures (Medusa, Cyclops, the Hydra).

Words: Matt Hayward

- Musicals -

**The Color Purple (A New Musical)**

Angel Records—$18.98

In 2005, the time finally came for someone clever to adapt Alice Walker’s epic novel, *The Color Purple*, into a musical. The actual show received mixed reviews coming out of New York City slamming the show for having “too much story” and not enough time to tell it in one evening. However, the actual music captured on the cast recording holds its own, with music and lyrics written by three new musical theater composers Brenda Russell, Allee Willis and Stephen Bray. The musical landscape of the piece covers all genres of songwriting from jazz to gospel to the standard “Broadway” sound. With a producer like Oprah Winfrey, I suppose you can’t really go wrong when you go *Purple*.

Words: Matt Hayward

**The Chronicles of Narnia**

C.S. Lewis

HarperCollins Publishers—Box sets range from $20 to $95

Length: 769 pages (seven volumes)

In 2005, the time finally came for someone clever to adapt C.S. Lewis’s epic novel, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, into a musical. The actual show received mixed reviews coming out of New York City slamming the show for having “too much story” and not enough time to tell it in one evening. However, the actual music captured on the cast recording holds its own, with music and lyrics written by three new musical theater composers Brenda Russell, Allee Willis and Stephen Bray. The musical landscape of the piece covers all genres of songwriting from jazz to gospel to the standard “Broadway” sound. With a producer like Oprah Winfrey, I suppose you can’t really go wrong when you go *Purple*.

Words: Matt Hayward

**The Reel Deal**

Simon & Schuster—$15.00

Length: 272 pages

Published over 10 years after *Desert Storm*, *Jarhead* relates a vivid account of what it was like to be a young Marine serving the “U. S. of A.” as a scout/sniper. Readers with queasy stomachs, virgin ears and/or gung-ho military outlooks should not partake. Readers who enjoy vulgarity, the truth (no matter how vile or controversial) and stories of self-discovery will delight in this soldier’s version of Desert Storm and the Marine Corps, as well as how they affected his life.

Words: Trey Gerrald

**The Reel Deal**: In all honesty, you could see the movie and have the same experience, as the relationship the book has with the movie is one of the closest I’ve ever seen. The book, of course, is more personal and includes more gruesome detail, but the movie does stay true to the overall theme and message Swoford gets across.

Words: Caroline P. Smith
Is reality TV real? No, it sure isn’t. Is reality TV high-class? Nope, not at all. Is reality TV entertaining? Absolutely. I love a good sitcom. Who doesn’t? A drama can be good, too, sometimes. But let’s face it—sitcoms have gone way downhill since “Seinfeld” signed off, and these days “ER” is just grasping at straws. So what does that leave? Why, reality television, don’t cha know!

Not all reality TV is created equal. There is the good (“The Apprentice,” “Survivor,” “Project Runway”), the bad (“The Bachelor,” “The Surreal Life”) and the ugly (“Flavor of Love”). However, even the really awful shows are still funny in a “What in God’s name were they thinking?” kind of way. For example, I love watching “Flavor of Love” even though I don’t see how any woman could possibly view Flava Flav as a “prize.”

Reality TV is not real. Well, it is, but it’s “real” like professional wrestling is real—not like everyday life. The genre can’t be true to life, because no one can really be themselves when they know a camera is on them. So there is no reason to expect true reality from these shows. The best thing to do is just sit back and watch how real people deal with unrealistic situations.

Even though it is not real in the least, I love reality television. At its’ best, it is hilarious, enjoyable and entertaining. And at its’ worst... it’s still hilarious, enjoyable and entertaining.
My life is reality. I live it everyday. I go to class, I go to work, I drink excessive amounts of coffee in between, I study, I clean and I maintain healthy social relationships. That is my reality because it is what happens to me and it is real. Tangible, if you’d prefer; matter-of-fact, even. No matter how you choose to define it, what’s real is reality.

I can’t speak for everyone, but I watch television because it isn’t real—it is the product of someone’s imagination put together for other people’s imaginations to enjoy. I like to fantasize, to laugh at the scrapes fictional characters get themselves into, to feel inspired by their good deeds and so on. But when it’s all over, I have my own life to get back to. I don’t want to live other people’s lives with them.

People watch reality television because they wish their own lives were like those people they see on television. I hate to break it to you, but not all high school students live like those on “Laguna Beach.” The true reality is that a good portion of teenagers don’t even go to high school... or they drop out.

How can a “reality” TV show be one that is set up and arranged by a television company? That in itself is proof enough that the show isn’t depicting true reality. If you want to watch real people living real lives, walk outside and open your eyes. They’re everywhere, and you don’t have to pay a monthly fee to be able to look at them.

If you watch reality television because you are unhappy with the reality of your life, why waste it away wishing for somebody else’s fake life? The way I see it, you’ve got the better end of the deal, because your life IS real. So get your ass off somebody else’s fake life? The way I see it, you’ve got the better

The judgmental side of me could never get over reality television because it seemed to reward all of the negative qualities I was brought up to avoid. It’s not just the combination of dramatic girls, testosterone-pumped male egos and an over-abundance of liquor—it’s the fact that even if I did suspend disbelief, I still couldn’t buy this stuff as “real.”

Shows like “Fear Factor” and “American Idol” have allowed Americans to publicly humiliate themselves for money and 15 minutes of fame. I don’t know which is worse: eating unsanitary food (if you consider a variety of bugs and creatures food) or the people who watch it. I can’t imagine whoring myself out on camera just to validate myself as someone “special.”

The “un”-reality TV phenomenon has gotten worse since its root; MTV’s “The Real World.” The characters on the show now promote unhealthy body images and lifestyle choices. Even the first-season veterans who reappear later to avoid getting real jobs are in peak physical condition.

And the over-indulgence and belligerent behavior displayed is also something I cannot get behind. Give any girl at Coastal an unlimited amount of mixed drinks and Jell-O shots, follow her around with a camera, and you’ll get the same footage. What makes the girls we see at clubs throwing up in their hair and the guys at the bars who pick fights suddenly appealing on Monday nights at 10 p.m.?

Most of the distaste I have towards reality television is because it reflects poorly on our society—a group of people who’d rather watch twenty-something’s hooking up or beating each other up than news overseas or a documentary.

Some of you may think that when the reality TV show “Big Brother” came out a few years back, it was a completely cool and original idea. Those of you who read 1984 by George Orwell know better. When this book was written in 1949, it was a shock to society—imagining a totalitarian society where everyone was constantly watched was terrifying for readers to fathom.

Today, we don’t bat an eyelash. Because it’s happening. Everywhere. Now the question becomes: When have we crossed the line into invading people’s privacy? Here are some statistics about the real Big Brother that you may not know.

- There are 25 million surveillance cameras in operation worldwide; the highest concentration can be found in the U.S. and England.
- Earthcam.com provides anyone with an Internet connection live-stream video of locations from Times Square to Niagara Falls—even sunbathers in Australia!
- There are no laws against location of cameras in Canada. The Talisman Center, a fitness center in Calgary, Alberta, films men changing and showering in the locker room.
- In most town centers located in England, the average person will appear on 300 camera monitors per day.
- 10% of homes now have closed circuit television (CCTV)—TV cameras for surveillance that are usually used in places like banks and airports.
- Simple parts purchased at a local Radio Shack can build a receiver to pick up wireless “nanny-cam” signals to watch your family and belongings.
- The National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NACRO) reviewed crime statistics of 14 cities and found that CCTV cuts crime by 5%. Cities that saved money by simply adding more streetlights cut crime by 20%.
- International studies show that CCTV displaces crime, rather than actually reducing it.
- There are no data protection mechanisms in U.S. courts. The question of whether or not cameras breach the Fourth Amendment of U.S. citizens (“The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures”) has been posed.

Words: Caroline P. Smith

Words: Alana Carpenter
What is a stem cell? We hear the word used more and more each day, but how many people really know what these two little words mean—or the big impact they are having in the scientific world?

Stem cells can be equivocated to a sort of "repair system" within the body. Stem cells are able to split and differentiate from each other, which enable them to replenish other cells in the body of a living organism. Scientists feel that research of these stem cells can change the whole scope of disease in the world by being used to repair tissues or even grow organs in the body.

However, even with the growing importance of the use of certain types of stem cells at a feverish pace, the facts about this relatively new phenomenon are seldom brought to the surface. I would be willing to bet that not many people know that several stem cell therapies are routinely being used to treat various diseases as we speak.

These include adult stem cell transplants, as well as the use of bone marrow stem cells and peripheral blood stem cells. The most intriguing one of them all seems to be the multipotent, stem cell-rich blood that can be found in the umbilical cord.

Umbilical cord blood stem cells do not have many of the ethical and legal issues associated with fetal stem cells. This is because umbilical cord blood can only be obtained from a live birth, whereas fetal stem cells have to be obtained from an aborted fetus or from artificially-created embryos in the laboratory.

Umbilical cord blood stem cells are still mostly used for blood disorders, such as leukemia and sickle cell anemia. However, they have recently also been used for brain injuries and cerebral palsy. Other recent studies show that umbilical cord stem cells will soon treat people debilitated by Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.

As we grow older, it is important to learn more about all of the medical research being done in a fast-paced world where new discoveries are being made on a daily basis. Now that you know what a stem cell is and what it's capable of, a new question arises: If someone asked you if you support stem cell research, what would you say?
Former President Jimmy Carter once said, "Penalties against drug use should not be more damaging to an individual than the use of the drug itself." Marijuana prohibition has needlessly destroyed the lives and careers of literally hundreds of thousands of good, hard-working, productive citizens each year in the United States.

More the 700,000 Americans were arrested on marijuana charges last year, and almost 90 percent of those arrests were for simple possession of the substance—not trafficking or sale. These types of arrests waste valuable law enforcement resources that could be focused on more serious, violent crimes.

Let's be realistic. According to recent statistics provided by the government, an estimated 80 million Americans have admitted to smoking marijuana. 20 million admitted to doing it this year, and the most common age of users is between 17 and 35.

Hello, college students. You are the statistic.

Most people realize the vast majority of marijuana smokers are not part of any "crime problem" and should not be treated as criminals. However, this reality is not reflected in our state and federal laws. We need to put to rest the myth that pot-smoking is a deviant activity engaged in only by those on the outskirts of American society.

How can we do this? Well, there is an organization that stands up and fights every day for the reform of marijuana laws in the hope that one day their dream of recreational and medicinal uses of marijuana will be legal and socially accepted. NORML (The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws) is a non-profit public interest group that provides a voice for Americans who oppose marijuana prohibition. NORML has been struggling for the last 32 years in the fight for the decriminalization and legalization of marijuana for everyone.

There is a difference between decriminalization and legalization. Decriminalization is the belief that recreational and medicinal marijuana use should no longer be a crime. It supports the removal of all criminal penalties for the private possession and responsible use of marijuana by adults (similar to alcohol), for the cultivation for personal usage and for casual non-profit transfers of a small amount.

This is the more feasible of the two options because it can be accomplished at the state level. This means it would only need to be passed through our Congress to be enacted. As citizens of South Carolina, all it would really take is our voice to lobby to our Senators to help make this happen.

Legalization of marijuana is more of a national issue. It supports the development of a legally-controlled market for marijuana where consumers could purchase it from a safe, legal and regulated source. It also supports the industrial usage and cultivation of the non-psychoactive strain of cannabis known as "hemp." Popular Mechanics Magazine recently proclaimed that there are over 25,000 environmentally friendly usages for hemp, including the production of textiles, paper, paints, clothing, plastics, cosmetics, fiber, food and even fuel.

There are many hurdles activists have been facing. Many people in Congress only care about what will get them re-elected and, in their eyes, a record of marijuana activism might make them appear "soft" on crime and drug use. Our generation can change this! NORML tries to lobby to Congress and state legislatures for more rational cost-effective marijuana policies. But until our generation stands up and realizes how much harm marijuana prohibition is causing, there is little chance of NORML's dream coming true.

Our country is a democracy for a reason. At its best, elected officials and government agencies derive power from the will and consent of voters. If we do not voice our concerns and make our presence known, we are wasting this gift of democracy. Take this into consideration and next time you step up to vote, pay attention to who you are voting for! Elect officials who favor marijuana law reform and get involved with the process.

To learn more about what you can do for this important cause, visit NORML.org and educate yourself.
EXPLODING THE NUCLEAR FAMILY

Four tales of families that are SO not the Cleavers

Words: Taylor Hemple

Once, in the first grade, I was asked to write a story about my dad for Father’s Day. I didn’t have a dad, so I made one up. He wasn’t awesome or anything—he just cut grass for about three pages, but what else could he do? My mom and my sisters seemed to take care of all that other stuff pretty well on their own. After homework, dinner and bedtime, the grass was about all that was left for poor, old dad to do.

My mom, thrice married and thrice divorced, worked third-shift in a pancake house every night for as long as I can remember in order to provide for me and my siblings. I grew up with three older sisters who practically raised my younger brother and me.

Two of these sisters have since met the same single-parent-with-crappy-job-and-even-crappier-sperm-donor-fate as my mother. The third met something even worse. My life, to this point, has been lived in abject fear of doing the same thing or even something remotely similar.

The first step of my preventative process (also known as Step “Get The Hell Out Of Dodge”) is, ironically, the same step my sisters all took. This, as you may have guessed, involves leaving home as soon as possible. For my sisters, this major first step scores you a kid. For me, however, it scores you a new family.

My current situation is that of a would-be “live-in nanny” to a family of five (though the details of the situation itself are more complicated than I care to get into here). The father of this family is a manager at Piggly Wiggly and brings home a modest amount of bacon while the stay-at-home mother attends graduate school between sleepovers, runny noses and Girl Scouts. Because none of us could really make it all work without the others, the responsibilities alternate between the three of us and two very generous grandparents.

Andy, the two-year-old, has often referred to me as “the other mommy”—try explaining that one to the married preachers across the street. It’s not the ideal situation for anyone involved. I’m sure the kids are just as confused as those preachers, but everyone has adjusted pretty well to the unusual situation and these people have become like a family to me. Even the dog and five cats each have their own place in my heart.

There’s not much of a point to my story, but if it was meant to make one, I suppose it’s that it takes more than pretty thoughts to make a family work. A family isn’t just a mom, dad and kids. It’s an entire network of people who are striving for a similar goal and doing whatever it takes to achieve it—regardless of their relation to one another.

Words: Ebony Ridley

What is your idea of a perfect family? Does your perfect family consist of a father who dons the white collar? Is there a supportive stay-at-home mom? Does your family include the model siblings who never fight? If so, then I wonder what planet you’re living on.

Statistics these days show that the average family involves divorced families, as well as stepparents and siblings. I’m sure statistics never said anything about having a family made up of a hardworking mother who’s been divorced three times and is now engaged... again.

Try finding out your stepfather has been a crack addict since he was in his early twenties. The funny thing is everyone in my extended family knew—except my mother and sisters. It took seven and a half years before we knew the truth. My mother, my sisters and I spent the next six months trying to get him into rehab, shuffling about to keep him off the drugs.

It worked for about two months. Then he started missing work, stopped going to church and stopped coming home for days at a time. This went on until my mother just couldn’t take it anymore. She couldn’t take stolen jewelry, missing funds from her bank account or the stares from the hypocrites at church.

It was a Friday afternoon when I lost hope for my stepfather. The golf resort called the house around 4:25 p.m. “Mrs. Gerald, Frank came in to work today, but he only came to pick up his check. He was supposed to come back in at 3:30 but he didn’t show up. If you see him, tell him to call Joanne at the office.”

My mother calmly looked at me and asked me if I wanted to go for a ride with her. As we rode along, I noticed the
When my Uncle Rod died nearly 20 years ago, my mother and her siblings decided they needed to keep our family close together. The three of them settled in a small town in New Hampshire where no relative is more than 10 minutes away from each other.

My Italian family consists of 14 members. My cousins are more like younger siblings, and my aunts and uncles are like second mothers and fathers. My mother is the oldest and the one who keeps us all together. Our house is the main hub of operation for all holidays and summer cookouts.

Aunt Maria ("Mia") is my designated second mother. She's always been chauffeur to swim meets, and is usually the loudest fan there. Nick, the youngest, is a retired Air Force officer who's never at a loss to pick on any of us.

My "Nona" (grandma) is a woman with the sweetest intentions who is also incredibly blunt. "Pepe" (grandpa) can't really hear what's going on all the time, but he is a classic New Englander who still hunts, fishes and runs every day.

Although we've never had to hire a babysitter or been left without a fan on the sidelines during soccer games, sometimes it can be complicated to maintain such a large network. Most friends can't understand how I don't have my family blocked from AIM on the Internet. Everyone knows what I'm doing 24/7—which can be a kick in the ass when my sister and I put up away messages like "Holy Hangover" or "I'm not quite sure what happened last night but my pants have to be around here somewhere..."

After dressing up as a police officer for Halloween, my away message said, "Really wondering what happened to my fuzzy handcuffs." A couple weeks later, my Nona sent me a check with a card that said, "Maybe to buy a new pair of fuzzy handcuffs?"

Even though I live 18 hours away, there's still constant family communication. If I only talk to one person a day, I know they'll tell everyone else everything. I call and e-mail my mom at least once a day—sometimes three if I need money, and that's when I ask for dad.

I've built up a tolerance to family because I know that even if the kids get put through the ringer, it's my family's responsibility to love each other no matter what. After growing up so close to my family, I can't imagine moving thousands of miles away.

Sometimes my sister and I joke about how we'll have to marry orphans because we don't want to share holidays with another family. In reality, we both know we'll have to wait to settle down until our cousins are ready so we can all be close to each other. Part of me feels bad because I know it's intimidating, but a guy would be lucky to come in fifteenth to my family.

Words: Alana Carpenter

I don't have a "dad." He exists somewhere, and to somebody else maybe—but not to me. That's okay because I have my mom and she's all I've ever needed. In my case, growing up in a single-parent home has been more of a blessing than a burden.

My mom and I have had our dealing of tough times including the unstable jobs of a tourist-trap town and a cycling accident that left her unable to walk for a period of time. I became a little wiser to life and more responsible sooner than some of my peers, but in the end it has only benefited me. I learned to become independent and strong-willed by following my mom's lead.

She and I have always had a pretty close relationship. It's hard not to when your immediate family is just two people. I feel that being the only child of a single parent has allowed me to have a closer relationship with my mom than daughters in larger families have with their moms.

As I've gotten older, my mom has become my best friend. We share the same off-beat sense of humor and enjoy the same things in life. The best word to describe our relationship is "fun." We laugh when we're out in public and people sometimes mistake us for sisters.

My one parent has been more than I could ever ask for in two. Without my mom I'd be completely lost, but with her, I'm completely blessed. She's helped me achieve everything I've ever worked toward, and if something hasn't worked out, she's been there to tell me it will be okay. Despite the challenges it's had, I'm thankful for my situation in life and wouldn't change it for the world.

Words: Anne-Marie D'Onofrio
One of the most heated topics in America today is the issue of same-sex marriage (SSM). Let me begin by saying there is no need to worry. This is not an “opinion” article. All I’m going to do is give you the history on SSM and explain where it’s currently heading. I’ll leave you to make personal decisions regarding the issue.

The current legal definition of marriage is one man and one woman being joined in matrimony and having their marriage recognized by the state. Currently, Massachusetts is the only state that recognizes SSM. But when and where did the idea of SSM originally start?

Some sources say as early as 2500 B.C., where the burial tomb of a same-sex gay married couple, Niankhkhnum and Khnumhotep, was discovered in Saqqara, Egypt in 1964. This tomb dated back to the Fifth Dynasty, which means that SSM has been around for about 4,000 years! According to Yale historian, John Boswell, the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches sanctioned and sanctified marriages between same-sex partners. It was only until modern times that this practice stopped.

That was then. What’s happening now?

As I said before, only one state legally allows SSM. But what about the other states? Where do they stand? As of August 2004, 37 states have enacted the Defense of Marriage Act which effectively bans SSM. Three states (Nebraska, Nevada and Arkansas) have recently amended their state constitutions to ban SSM.

Four states (Maryland, Oregon, Wisconsin and Wyoming) have specific marriage laws that prohibit SSM. However, there are some states that have no legal prohibition on SSM (including New Jersey, New York and Connecticut, to name a few).

That answers the question about laws in particular states, but what about laws in different countries? There are eight countries in Europe where SSM is legal, including Denmark (which led the pack and legalized a form of SSM in 1989), Finland (2001), France (1999), Germany (2001), Portugal (2001), Spain (2005), Sweden (1994) and Switzerland (2005). In December 2005, South Africa’s highest court required SSM to be legalized within one year. Canada has also legalized SSM in all provinces and territories as of July 2005.

But what’s happening on the home front? A lot, actually. Some states are allowing same-sex couples to register their relationship with the state, therefore gaining the benefits of a marriage. However, these couples are not granted any of the over 1,000 federal rights that come with marriage, including joint adoption, joint insurance policies and benefits including annuities, social security, Medicare and automatic inheritance in absence of a will.

There is a growing list of states that are granting “civil unions.” This is a term that basically means a civil status that is similar (but not identical) to marriage. There are different meanings of the term “civil union.” One definition is identical to real marriage in virtually every aspect except the actual name, while others do not share all of the same rights as marriage.

So far, only Massachusetts has allowed same-sex couples to use the word “marriage.” Currently, if any same-sex couple entered into a civil union or marriage in any of the states that allow it, but then went into a state that did not allow these unions, their status would be void and they would simply be regarded as roommates.

The state of gay marriage, just like everything else in the world, is evolving. Like I said initially, I am not trying to influence your beliefs about this issue. I just hope that when someone asks you your opinion on the subject, you now have something to think about before you respond. It is only in taking the time to truly evaluate your position and willingness to assist or desist that will make any sort of difference.

Source: www.religioustolerance.org
The condition of the environment is dependent upon several factors: education, scientific knowledge, willingness of individuals to do their part, businesses being responsible and, yes, even the government.

The latter is a touchy subject, depending on whether you are conservative or liberal. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a government agency whose actions should follow its namesake, has become questionable under the Bush administration. An agency formerly headed by scientists is now led mostly by businessmen. Businesses usually have one main concern—and that concern is money, not the environment.

In George W. Bush’s first 100 days in office in 2001, the environmental tragedies began. Bush froze several regulations and orders that Bill Clinton had signed before leaving office. These included a rule that would tighten soot emissions from diesel engines and the designation of land as national monuments and wilderness areas.

On March 20, 2001, Bush delayed an EPA rule to tighten drinking water standards for arsenic; April 4 brought a delay in the proposal to curtail waste runoff from large livestock farms; April 9 came with a cut of $2 billion from environmental, agricultural and energy conservation programs. During this period, Bush also reiterated his support for drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—drilling that could come with a slew of its own environmental problems.

Another environmental concern is that our food is becoming more and more loaded with chemicals from pesticides and herbicides. One look at your favorite fruits and vegetables on the Web site www.foodnews.org/reportcard.php will shock you. This increase in chemicals is due largely in part to genetically modified foods, many of which are dependent upon the use of chemicals. These chemicals can (and do) seep into our drinking water supply and get into the blood of those who use the chemicals. Many are even known to cause cancer and other severe health issues, such as kidney failure and birth defects.

On the topic of extinction, the 2004 World Conservation Union (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species listed 15,589 species that may be facing extinction, which brings us to what the organization calls a “global species extinction crisis.” The IUCN also has recorded 784 extinct plant and animal species, with an additional 60 species known to be surviving only in captivity. The zoo is not a place for our wildlife to survive and flourish.

Rainforests seem to get all the fame when discussing which lands we need to preserve, but there’s a reason for that. E.O. Wilson, a renowned conservationist and Harvard lecturer, figures that while rainforests (along with other highly diverse lands called “hot spots”) account for only 1.4 percent of Earth’s land, 44 percent of all plant species and more than one-third of all animal species are found in these hot spots.

This is why protection of the land is vital. We are losing these lands at a rate that is all too high. Amazonian forests alone are being cleared at a rate of one to two percent per year. Within these forests, there may be plants or other organisms that can help cure diseases. But we will never know their potential if they are gone.

I feel that Ansel Adams, the well-known photographer and supporter of our national parks, said it best: “Our little planet is the only one we have, and we must have it for a long time.”

Source: Danielle, Nierenberg. "U.S. Environmental Policy: Where is it Headed?" World Watch July/August 2001
Take a Look at My-Face

The frenzy of Facebook and Myspace

Information

"Oh my gosh! I have so much homework to do, and I just wanted to watch one "Seinfeld" re-run. But I still have to check my messages. Hmm... Wasn't I going to check my e-mails? No. Facebook first. Okay, be patient. It's coming up. I just have to enter my password and... Nothing but friend confirmations! Are you kidding me? Not one message today.

Okay, okay. Maybe someone has written on my wall. Alright, I've gotten two hits—people care. Let me just reply back to them, then send him a message... No replies yet?! What is taking people so long? I know they are sitting at home doing the same thing as me. Oh, well, at least three people want to be my friend... What? They just want me to confirm we went to school together back in the day? You've got to be kidding. They really thought I'd forget that incident with the glue in the first grade? Fat chance. Gosh, as if Facebook didn't take up enough of my time..."

If you are a college student and you do not live under a rock, you have more than likely encountered the great phenomenon of Facebook—an excellent tool for stalkers and professional procrastinators alike. For those of you still under the rocks, Facebook (www.facebook.com) is an online directory for college students, alumni and high school students. High school and colleges used to be separate, but were merged in February due to the demand of members.

Facebook was created by Mark Zuckerberg in 2004 in order to create a social network for college students. In September 2005, 1,000 colleges and 20,000 high schools were added to Facebook. Nearly every college campus in America now has it, and Facebook is currently the seventh most visited Internet Web site.

Anybody who is anybody is on Facebook... and most likely beaming at you from some corny photo taken in Drunken Stupor, USA. You can find a plethora of pictures of students (perfect for blackmail) instantly by searching through the photo albums students can keep on their profiles. Each day, around 1.5 million new photos are uploaded! As your mouse clicks rapidly through these photos, you may see anything from wacky clothing to stuffed animals in weird positions to the ever-present, red plastic cups.

Is this tool of modern communication a part of the "dark side"? Are we digressing due to its existence? No way! Facebook has its advantages. For starters, you have to have a college e-mail address to join the college section. You can confirm or deny "friends" to avoid stalker situations. You do not have to give away your address, it is not recommended. Also, if you are a student athlete, be careful if you are a student athlete, be careful if you want to be known as a student athlete, be careful. As for the students you do not want to, you can do the same thing... No replies yet! What is taking people so long? I know they are sitting at home doing the same thing as me. Oh, well, at least three people want to be my friend... What? They just want me to confirm we went to school together back in the day? You've got to be kidding. They really thought I'd forget that incident with the glue in the first grade? Fat chance. Gosh, as if Facebook didn't take up enough of my time..."

Coastal students respond to the question: What do you really think of Facebook and Myspace?

"I like Facebook. You can give as much or as little information as you please. You can connect to friends that you may have lost touch with since high school and share pictures. I feel like Myspace is for predators." --Melanie Dugent, 20, Marketing and Resort Tourism Management Major

"I think Facebook is a great invention, but I will be the first to admit it's addictive. One of my New Year's resolutions was to spend less time on Facebook. On the positive side, I have been able to reconnect with old high school buddies, and I keep in regular contact with my brother and cousins because it's nice to know what people are up to. I don't use Myspace because not many of my friends have accounts. It's one less Web site to become addicted to." --Katie Watson, 21, Accounting and Finance Major

"I only have Facebook, but I think it's great because I have moved a lot and it's allowed me to get back in touch with friends I'd lost contact with. I love it when people friend or message me and I haven't talked to them in a while. I often do get distracted by it, because anytime I'm on my computer to do work I always want to check in and then I get sidetracked. But, overall, I think it's a great tool." --Jessica Leach, 20, Musical Theater Major
I live in New York City. (Well, right now I do, because I am on a six-month internship here.) As most people know, New York is the home of the Knicks, Yankees and some of the most interesting museums, shopping and Broadway shows. One would think people would have extremely fascinating conversations about any of the number of events I just named. But when I'm eating at my favorite lunch spot, listening to the radio or riding on the subway, the number-one topic I hear about is Myspace.

Myspace (www.myspace.com) is a Web site where a person can meet someone new, catch up with an old friend or join a group of people that share similar interests all on the same Web site. The difference between Myspace and Facebook is that anyone that is over the age of 18 can join Myspace, while Facebook is limited to high school and college students. Granted, I have encountered several instances in my browsing where the age given by a member in the information section is 18, but their profile reveals that they are, in fact, 15.

Over the years, I have learned that a fine line exists between liking something a great deal and becoming obsessed with or addicted to it. In the song “Addicted,” Kelly Clarkson speaks of a situation where she is, “hooked, needs a fix, and feels as if she could deal with it after one more hit.” I am led to believe she is speaking of getting over an ex-boyfriend; however, these particular lyrics can relate to Myspace as well.

If for some reason this site was shut down, some of the millions of people who are members of this site would not know what to do with the hours of their day they spend browsing profiles and looking at friends' pictures and additional Web site links.

With Myspace becoming such a popular phenomenon, a popularity contest larger than high school has been created. I have had people I have never talked to (and probably never will talk to) request my friendship. In addition to the random requests, I have people I actually know and their requests to deal with. To quote one of my friends: “If you leave me comments, I'll leave you comments.”

I find it humorous that some people who request comments from me are people that fall into the category of people I went to high school with and never really talked to—and yet they are dying to have a comment left on their page.

Most things people do are not bad in moderation, and Myspace definitely is no exception to the rule. I think Myspace is a cool Web site, but some people need to relax their addiction just a bit and give Myspace some much-needed space.
As college students around campus gear up for those horrific final exams, the tension around the university is wrapped tighter than a turban. Some students thrive in this time of stress and angst; others are forced to miserably drag themselves to the library for countless hours of study sessions, all-nighters and reviews, in hopes of achieving a passing grade.

In this time of academic importance many college students try to get an edge by using “study drugs”—the most common one is Adderall. For some students this stimulant is a way to make the college experience possible; for others, it is simply another amphetamine out there to get some sort of high from.

Adderall was first administered as a prescription medication in 1996 for people with Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD) by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). For people with this disorder, Adderall can be a “miracle drug;” it increases attention span and focus and stimulates the brain and nervous system. Some people think Adderall is like magic—just pop the pill and you’re a perfect student. Unfortunately, this is not always the case. Some users fail to realize you still have to study and do assignments. Adderall is just the kick in the ass to help you do it.

There’s another side to the Adderall story—the side of this drug that gets abused. The fact is if you wander around campus, about one out of five students you meet have used Adderall without a prescription. According to a study conducted by New York University, 36 percent of all college students use Adderall as a study aid.

Aside from being illegal without a prescription, this drug has some serious side effects if it’s abused. According to the FDA, this drug can cause hallucinations, seizures, insomnia and even a change in sex drive. Adderall was recently taken off the market in Canada due to multiple deaths and strokes.

To get through college, we do what we have to do. We make a lot of bad decisions we regret. Maybe we drink way too much, wake up hugging the toilet, and realize that maybe the 44 cent hot dog that looked so good at the gas station at 3 a.m. really wasn’t that good.

These are things we’ll live through and someday can possibly be told as funny story. Taking harmful drugs to study shouldn’t be one of these potentially bad decisions. Having your health is more important than anything; it’s not worth a seizure to get an “A.”

Sources: www.fda.com and www.nyu.edu

One Nation, Under Medication.
A guide to some of the most commonly-used meds

Words: Krystin Mementowski

It is difficult to turn on the television without being bombarded by ads for the latest “miracle pill” to give you energy or to “relax” you. But these ads rarely tell the whole story—which is where Tempo comes in. Maybe you have never heard of “barbiturates” before (which, incidentally, is the drug Marilyn Monroe, Judy Garland and Jimi Hendrix died of overdoses from), but now you will with our guide to some of the main “medications” people across the country—and CCU—are using.

Adderall
Type: pharmaceutical amphetamine used to treat Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and narcolepsy
Possible Effects: increased heart rate, restlessness, dizziness, insomnia, headache, diarrhea, dry mouth, loss of appetite, weight loss, sexual dysfunction

Benzodiazepines (Valium/Xanax)
Type: class of drug with sedative, anticonvulsant and muscle relaxant properties; often used for short-term relief of severe anxiety and insomnia
Possible Effects: fatigue, confusion, impaired coordination, memory and judgment, drowsiness, dizziness, respiratory depression and arrest, death

Barbiturates (Yellow Jackets)
Type: drugs that act as central nervous system depressants, sedatives and sometimes anticonvulsants
Possible Effects: fatigue, confusion, impaired coordination, memory and judgment, depression, unusual excitement, fever, irritability, slurred speech, dizziness, life-threatening withdrawal, respiratory depression and arrest, death

Methylphenidate (MPH) (Ritalin/Concerta)
Type: amphetamine-like prescription stimulant commonly used to treat ADHD, narcolepsy and chronic fatigue syndrome
Possible Effects: headaches, abdominal pain, nervousness, insomnia, dizziness, cardiac arrhythmia, weight loss

Sources: www.helpguide.org and www.wikipedia.com
And Data Network in America! Welcome to the Largest Digital Voice

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Wireless to offer you access to the largest
HTC Horizon has teamed up with Cingular

wireless cell phone company in the world.
Like a good bit of the world, I have been addicted to video games since I was a young lad. I started playing **Nintendo** at the tender age of seven and have been hooked ever since. I’ve played everything from **Atari** to **Nintendo** or **Sega**—even the lesser-known **Nintendo Virtual Boy**.

What is the cause of this addiction? Well, I have come to several conclusions. Video games are some of the only things that will hold my attention and challenge me. Plus, they offer a source of entertainment that can’t be found on television or in books, giving the gamer the opportunity to play hands-on and sometimes even shape the character’s destiny. They give the gamer an alternate world to escape to—you can be your favorite quarterback, a superhero, even the general of your own army.

So, since that question is answered, the real one remains: what is in store for the next generation of game consoles? Here, my friends, is that answer.

**Sony PlayStation 3 (PS3)**

**Release:** November 2006  
**Price:** $300-$500

There are three major forerunners of the next age of game systems: **Sony**, **Microsoft**, and **Nintendo**. **Sony** bussed onto the scene with **Sony PlayStation**, leaving its mark on the gaming world. Since **PlayStation’s** release in 1995, **Sony** has developed two more gaming systems, **Playstation 2** and **PlayStation Portable (PSP)**. **Sony** is currently in the process of releasing the fourth in its series: **Sony PlayStation 3 (PS3)**. **PS3** is a remarkable game system that heavily rivals competing consoles. Let’s start with the basics. **PS3** is powered by **Rambus** (the company that makes microchips for **Samsung** phones). With this new technology, **PS3** will be **Bluetooth** functional with other **Playstation** products. One thing that used to separate **Sony** and **Microsoft**’s systems was the ability to burn music and items onto the hard drive; however, **Sony** has picked this up with the **PS3**. Also, all of **Sony’s PlayStation 1** and **2** games can be played on **PS3**. It has a new, slick and futuristic design and comes in three colors: black, white and silver.

**Microsoft X-Box 360**

**Release:** November 2005  
**Price:** $300-$500

Now let’s take a look at **Microsoft’s** **X-Box 360** that was released last year. **X-Box 360**, like **PS3**, can play games from the original **X-Box**. One difference between **X-Box and PS3** is that **X-Box 360** released two different versions; one at $300 and another at $500. The more expensive one had elements the other did not. (For instance, the memory and holding capacity weren’t as good on the cheaper version.) But the awesome part of having both systems is that **X-Box** allows the owner to upgrade the $300 **X-Box 360** to the better version at any time. **X-Box 360** and **PS3** both have many of the same functions as a computer; you can surf the Web and play games online.

**Nintendo Revolution**

**Release:** November 2006  
**Price:** Rumored at $150

I personally feel that the coolest system will be the next line of **Nintendo** consoles, the **Nintendo Revolution**. All three systems have wireless controllers, but **Nintendo’s** are, by far, the coolest. The great part about the new **Nintendo** is that the controller is also an interactive wand for the console. (This means, for example, that instead of hitting buttons to play virtual fishing, the controller will act as the rod.) **Revolution** comes in a variety of colors, including neon green, black and red. Another plus with the **Revolution** is that **Nintendo** will have a Web site where you can download your favorite games from **Nintendo’s** past game systems.

With all the new consoles coming out, it’s easy to see why kids (and adults) are so fascinated by video games. The market is changing as fast as our minds. Whenever we’re bored with a game, there is another to take its place. It leaves no time to be bored. That, in short, is why I (and millions of people in the world) am addicted to video games.
Thanks:

All of us at Tempo would like to thank some very special people who helped us out so much with our latest issue. Thank you to House of Blues (especially Nicole Romeo), If Not Winter, the CCU Music Department (especially Dr. James L. Tully and Professor Dan O'Reilly), the CCU Dramatic Arts Department (especially Melissa-Ann Blizzard-Hall and Eric Hall for their help dressing our models), Miss Wanda Shannon, all of the bands who submitted songs to our CD, the Archarios staff (especially Ashley and Andrew), the Office of Student Activities, our wonderful advisors Matt Morrin and Paul Olsen (not Olson), Sheriff Press (especially Sam, Trish and Cindy) for allowing us to have another fantastic year and, last but certainly not least, our hard-working staff of writers, designers, photographers and models—we have been so blessed with such a talented and passionate staff. We are so grateful to you for sharing your words with us!

This publication is for you.

God has been so good to me this year, and as usual, He gets top billing on my list of thanks. Mom and Dad—for being everything to me. I appreciate your love and support more and more each day, and I love you both infinitely! Jessie—for being the greatest big sis on the planet. I hope you are having fun seeing the world! Doug—for being so dang incredible and talented, and Laura—for being my dose of sanity and fun each day. I will miss you both more than you know and I can't wait to see what comes next for you! Nellie—for your guidance, love and support. Dr. Ingle—for your support. Kel and Kevin—for being the two best friends a girl could ask for. Scott—for letting me be the one you want to spend the rest of your life with. I love you!

-Krystin

My parents—for giving me the freedom, support and love to make it through college and for teaching me how to live a fulfilling life. Ellen—for being understanding and for comforting me and teaching me to relax. May you continue your art and spread your gift. Stephanie—for being exactly who you are, because I think you are beautiful, talented and smart beyond words. Tucker—for keeping drivers alert and protecting the house from robbers. CCU English faculty—for teaching me to have as much passion about English as you all have and for making me think in ways I never thought possible. Krystin—for being a brilliant, talented and supportive friend and editor. I'll miss our conversations. Doug—for putting up with the "I'm doing it today" line and for designing such a powerful magazine. EJ—for letting me go and taking me back and for knowing all along where my heart was.

-Laura

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thanks, guys.

-Doug
TEMPO 2006
CD Track Listing:

1. Park Holly - Coldest Night of the Year
2. If Not Winter - Between These Sheets
3. Virtue Trap - Candy Apple Red
4. Austin Floyd - Jolan True
5. Sedgefield Drive - Breaking the Fall
6. Kellet Arnold - Listen to Your World
7. Tom Yoder - The Moment the Apple Falls
8. Jebb Mac - Carolina Swing
9. First Degree Burnouts - Bottom of the Fall
10. Neil Akers - Circle in the Wheel
11. Park Holly - Meant to Be
12. Virtue Trap - Halfway to Georgia
13. Joey Schumann - Americana Medley
14. If Not Winter - Promise
15. Sedgefield Drive - 1472
16. Tom Yoder - Zen Parked on Z
17. Kellet Arnold - Liza

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