

# Literary Magazine Photograph

Gina White

The Unmasking, Henry W. Grady High School



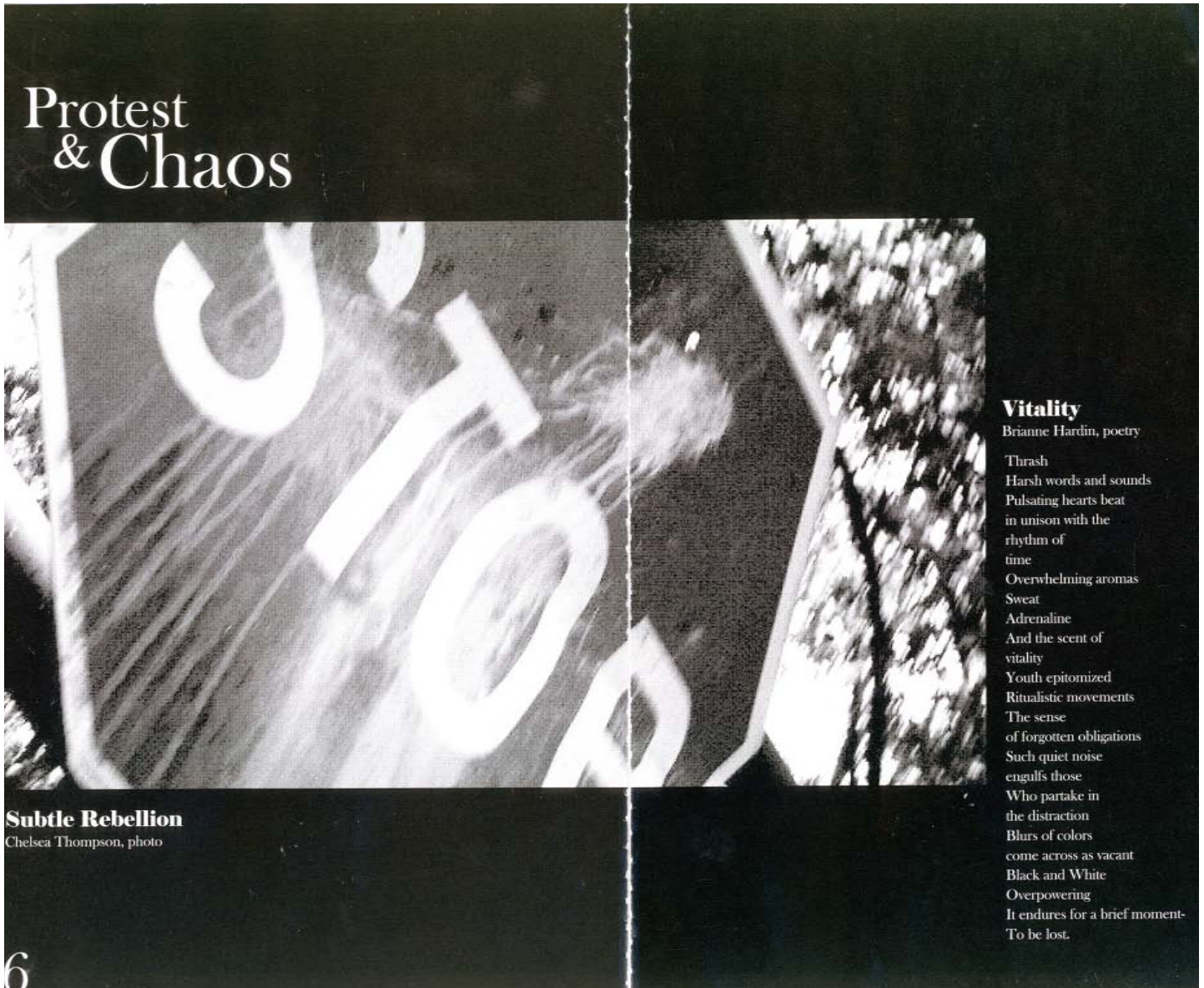
## Judge's Comments:

**\* This photo is purely gorgeous and evocative of something otherworldly and mysterious and sparkling. Lovely composition, technically well-executed and an imaginative take on a common theme (reflections, mirrors, etc.) in student photography.**

# Literary Magazine Spread Design

Emmie Lancaster

Threshold, North Forsyth High School



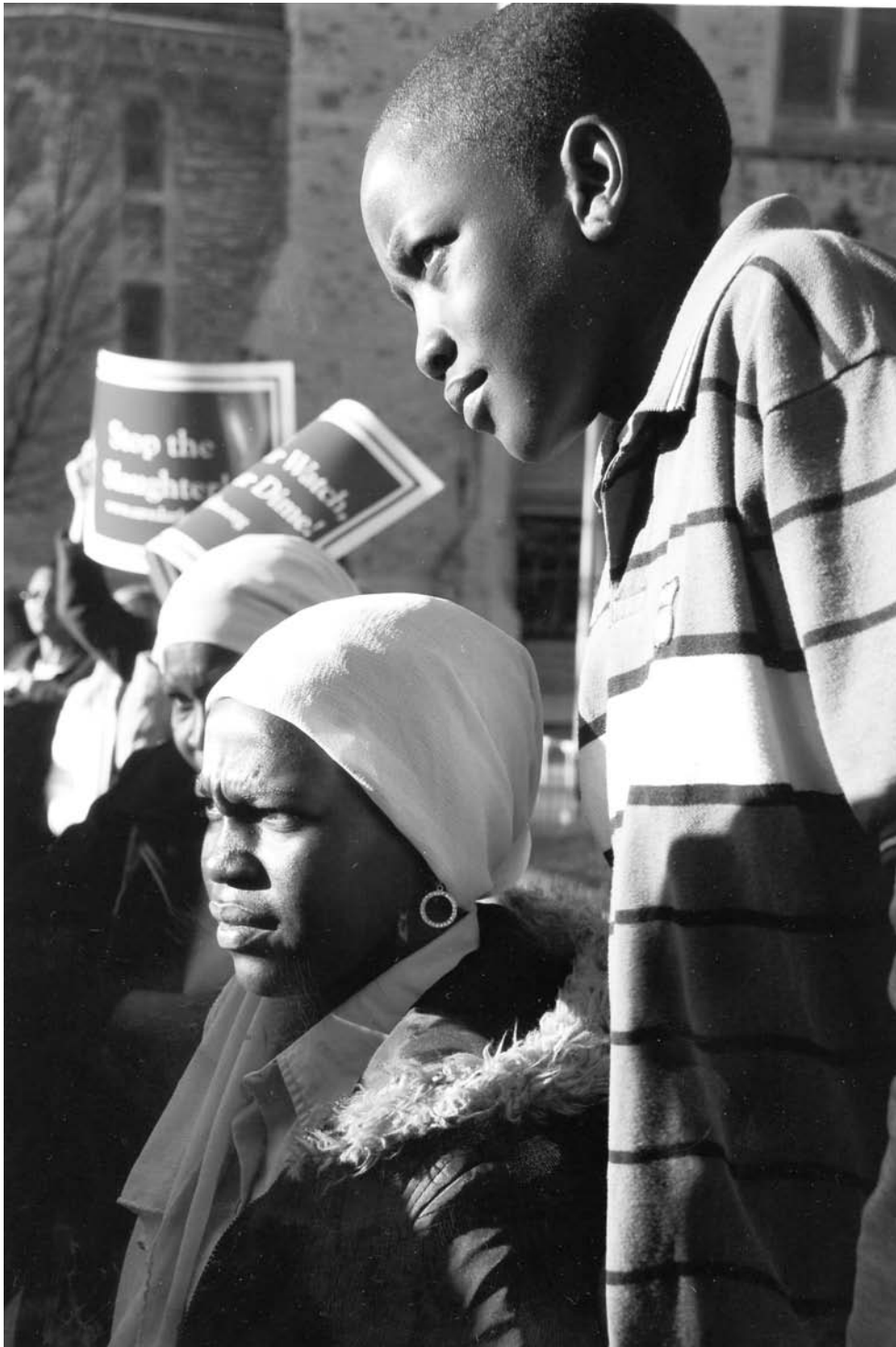
## Judge's Comments:

\* I normally don't like white text on black (my old and haggard eyes prefer the other way) but there's no denying that this spread is not only readable, but it looks awesome -- everything from the photo placement to the appropriately varying font sizes. Everything works thematically, too, supporting the "Protest and Chaos" idea. Well done.

# News Photograph

Charlotte Christopher

The Southerner, Henry W. Grady High School



## Judge's Comments:

\* Excellent use of light. Strong, bold composition that eliminated a lot of potential clutter, giving a quick read to the image. Nice layering of information that never becomes cluttered.

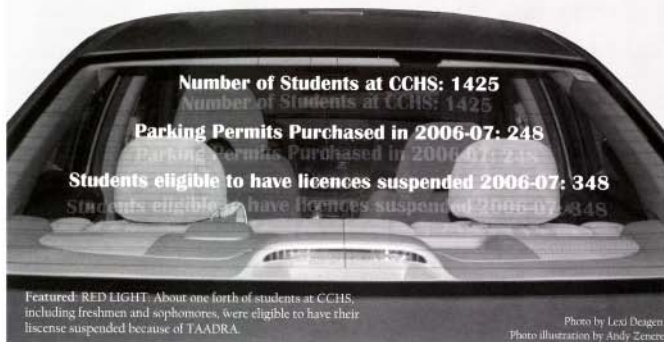
# News Story

Clarie Rosemond

Odyssey newsmagazine, Clarke Central High School

## How to lose a license in 10 days

Since TAADRA was passed in the 2006-07 school year, unexcused absences affect more than class credit. Now, students could be in danger of losing their licenses -- and their freedom.



Claire Rosemond  
News Writer

Next time you miss school to go on vacation or even to the hospital, but forget to bring in an excuse for your absence, consider life without a driver's license. Last year, 348 Clarke Central High School students were eligible to have their license suspended.

"I had just gotten my car in February or March so (I was) just starting to drive, starting to do everything by myself," said senior Gonzalo Del Rio. In May 2007, Del Rio received a Certificate of Non-Compliance in the mail, informing him that his license had been suspended. Now, Del Rio can drive only to school and work, using a temporary license.

Under the Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act which went into effect with the start of school year 2006-07, students can have their driver's license suspended for one year or until they turn 18 as punishment for certain offenses. The law affects Georgia youth from ages 14 to 18, because Georgia law prohibits the issuance of a license to students who drop out of school, have 10 or more unexcused absences in the current academic year or in the previous academic year, or violate the Code of Student Conduct.

CCHS maintains the records, which are given to TAADRA coordinator Ernest Hardaway, Deputy Superintendent in the Clarke County Board of Education. The TAADRA coordinator then submits the data to the state.

"I understand the intent of the law is to help students understand the importance of being in school. I think it's also (good) that the state has been very reasonable in saying that they are looking at unexcused absences, not excused absences," said associate principal Tammy Pope. "The problem lies in that the student needs to take the responsibility to get their excused notes into us on time, and that is not always the case."

Behavior of students is also tied to TAADRA because students cannot break specific parts of the Code of Student Conduct without license suspension. The Code of Student Conduct includes harming a teacher, other school personnel or any student, sale or possession of drugs, alcohol, or

weapons on school property or at a school sponsored event, or any sexual offense.

"I think (TAADRA) would discourage kids from doing the kinds of things that might get their license suspended," said Malcolm McArthur, attorney with the law firm of Hall, Booth, Smith, and Slover and a legal council for the Clarke County School District.

Students can try to appeal the license suspension, but appeals are not always approved. "It's a pretty limited appeals process," said McArthur, "I don't think it is easy to get that appeal granted under those circumstances (dropping out of school or having 10 or more unexcused absences)."

Junior Jessica Catoe also had her license suspended in May due to more than 10 unexcused absences in school, but she did not find out until early August. Catoe was driving with her mom and aunt in southern Georgia when she was pulled over. The policeman checked her license and told Catoe that her license had been suspended since May. "I kind of freaked out, because if I would have known that, I would have stopped driving because I didn't want to get in any trouble," said Catoe.

McArthur feels that it takes efforts from numerous places to inform students of the actions leading up to their license suspension. "I think it's a combination of agencies (that have) the responsibility of informing students and parents of what the consequences of the law are," said McArthur. However, Catoe was left uninformed about her suspended license for months after it was suspended. Rhonda Catoe, Jessica Catoe's mother, was also left unaware of the law. "We had no knowledge about it," said Rhonda Catoe. "I wish the school would take more incentive to inform the students and the parents."

TAADRA allows students nine unexcused absences in the academic year before consequences arise. At CCHS, a student can miss a total of 16 days of school a year, excused or unexcused before they no longer have credit for the class, six more than TAADRA allows. "I got a letter back in the mail saying my absences were appealed (for the school), so as far as I knew, everything was fine," said Catoe.

"I got a letter back in the mail saying my absences were appealed (for the school), so as far as I knew, everything was fine."

-- Jessica Catoe,  
junior

Because of TAADRA, missing school interferes with more than school work. The privilege of driving can now be taken away from students as a consequence for unexcused absences. Catoe said, "(If) I'm doing my work, actually turning it in and passing my class, then I shouldn't be penalized for my absences."

Students drive to school and work, so losing the privilege to drive because of TAADRA can heavily impact their lives. Pope said, "I think it's another effort on the part of the state to find anything that might be a motivating factor for a student to stay in school. It's a significant problem for the state of Georgia, and they are trying to help address the problem with the individual schools from a more global standpoint."

### Judge's Comments:

\* Excellent choice of topic -- this is an issue that interests your readers, but isn't widely known. Finding an actual person affected by this law makes this story. Consider leading with that type of anecdotal story next time. Great work!

# Opposing Viewpoints Column

Cat Williams and John Millett

Lakeside Legend, Lakeside High School

## VIEWPOINTS: Sembler to sustain or stunt neighborhood progress?

### Lakeside community perfectly vibrant at present

**Cat Williams**  
Editor-in-Chief

Progress cannot be measured solely by corporate profits, increased retail spaces or more upscale living square-footage; it is equally important to view progress in regard to human and cultural development in areas such as quality education and a greater sense of community. Therefore, before constructing a mixed-use development in the Lakeside neighborhood, the true cost of change must be examined.

Sembler Company, well-known for its mixed-use developments such as Edgewood Retail District and Perimeter Place, has proposed a similar project for the intersection of N. Druid Hills and Briarcliff Roads. The development, dubbed Town Briarcliff, will offer 1.2 million square feet of retail space, 300,000 square feet of office space, a 300-room hotel and 3,700 residences. The finished product promises to bring shoppers, families and professionals to the area, giving the Lakeside neighborhood trendy, intown-living status.

Though the thought of designer clothing stores and expanded dining options nearby holds some appeal,

challenge with an average of 52,000 vehicles at the intersection daily, according to the Georgia D.O.T. After the addition of Sembler's Edgewood Retail District, traffic in that area increased by 20%, so a similar increase is expected for Town Briarcliff. By the center's projected completion in 2010, the streets of the Lakeside neighborhood will be brimming with shoppers stricken with road rage and commuters anxious to rush home after work.

If Sembler's other developments serve as a sign of things to come to Town Briarcliff, the development's stores and restaurants will be retail chains, removing individual character from the area. These chain stores will most likely challenge and take business from nearby independent establishments and community members, such as those found in the Oak Grove shopping center. I choose to frequent businesses at which I have a personal connection; therefore, the thought of seeing the Oak Grove Market or Mezza bite the dust due to another The Grape location leaves me depressed and unenthusiastic.

In addition to bulldozing Adams Stadium, the

ty School system will thus be forced to buy new property to relocate the three affected schools with the \$64 million offered by Sembler; however, seeing as construction of Tucker Middle School totaled about \$55 million, it is doubtful that an extra \$14 million will adequately fund three schools versus one. If the dingy trailers littering the property of Lakeside and other DeKalb schools are not a clear enough discouragement of destroying and displacing three schools, the diminished value of an education gained in a class of forty due to additional overcrowding should deter Sembler supporters from deeming the development in the best interest of the neighborhood.

Sembler Company's founder Mel Sembler is quoted to have said, "There's one thing we must always remember about our business ... the only constant is change."

The proposed Sembler development at Briarcliff and N. Druid Hills will certainly bring drastic changes to the neighborhood, both to the perception of the community by others as well as to the daily lives of those already present. As a member of this community,

### Proposed development will give area needed boost

**John Millett**  
Perspectives Editor

"Say no to Sembler" signs adorn countless yards in my neighborhood.

The signs would be more appropriate if they read, "Say no to progress."

Sembler's proposed development would redevelop 103 acres of land currently owned by the DeKalb County School System and the Housing Authority. The project faces opposition from neighborhood associations which do not want any more traffic flowing through the Briarcliff North Druid Hills intersection. These neighborhood associations' desire to preserve the past, however, blinds them to the project's larger benefits.

DeKalb County is growing and changing. For better or worse DeKalb gains 1,000 new residents each month who move into many of the small-scale developments across the county. These new residents are still dependent on their cars to go shopping. Both the Northlake and Toco Hills strip malls are prime examples of the antique strip mall style of retail development. They have massive parking lots and are not practically accessible by foot or by public transport. These

ing new low-density developments inside the perimeter impossible unless said development is expensive housing or retail. Sembler realizes this and has worked to implement a new style of development, that of mixed-use.

Mixed-use developments mean that retail, office and residential properties are built together such that cars become irrelevant in many daily tasks. Office workers do not need to get in their cars to go to lunch and residents do not need to get in their cars to go grocery shopping, instead they can walk to run all of these errands. Sembler's project will basically create a new Decatur, an area where 19,000 people live within four square miles. This development will be DeKalb's Atlantic Station.

Sembler's development would not be devoid of green space. All the streets will be tree-lined and a park will run through the center of the development. Neither of these amenities exists in older style strip mall developments. Thus the development's residents will even have a place to walk their dogs and picnic. Why would anybody object to such an ideal arrangement?

Sembler's development

redevelopment will not funnel traffic into strategically place parking decks. Rather this redevelopment will only encourage more traffic as shoppers drive from revamped strip mall to revamped strip mall.

Sembler's development would also be a fiscal boon for the county. The concerned property currently generates no sales tax dollars and a paltry \$720,000 in real estate taxes. If Sembler does develop the area, it could generate as much as 30 million dollars in sales tax and 15 million in property taxes. The increase in sales tax revenue would go a long way toward paying for a new Briarcliff North Druid Hills intersection, one that does not become clogged every day. The real estate taxes would directly benefit the school system, because real estate taxes fund the school system.

As Atlanta grows, DeKalb is in transition from a suburban county to a more urban county. Because it is a county that is inside the perimeter, its land is extremely valuable and will be redeveloped in time. Sembler's proposition is centrally planned and well thought out. Sembler's development is an excellent opportunity for the county

### Judge's Comments:

\* Williams and Millett took an issue of immediate and far-reaching community interest, and despite the daunting and nuanced nature of the topic, crafted well-reasoned viewpoints. In doing so, they showed that their newspaper should be considered an important local voice.

# Photo Illustration

Carson Hale

Nexus, Henry W. Grady High School



## Judge's Comments:

- \* creative
- \* nice balance
- \* great composition
- \* good use with article