

# APPLAUSE

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 5

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

MARCH 2012

5109-B H. ENTERPRISE STREET, NORTH CHARLESTON, SC 29405

## 100





## Editor's Note



What is the significance of one hundred of something? What makes one hundred better than ninety nine or two hundred and three? The significance is that one hundred represents a milestone. On this sixth issue of the thirteenth volume of *Applause*, we have reached that number, but not without transformation, creation, and the occasional battle with administration. Yet, since its beginning, our mission has always been clear: *Applause* is, and always will be, the voice of SOA.

Flip to page four where you will find **Jacob Elsey's** extensive history of the newspaper which includes interviews with past editors, the newspaper's creator, and even a special columnist. Also, don't forget to check out the centerfold, pages eight and nine, where you may find your own contribution to *Applause's* history.

Additionally, thank you to all that submitted covers for *Applause's* spring cover contest, especially **Megan Dawson**, our winner, and **Angelica Halversson** and **Karin McQuade**, who both won honorable mention. And thank you to all who have provided *Applause* the support, sponsorship, and guidance to allow us to the opportunity to make it to the big 1-0-0. I cannot wait to see how *Applause* continues to grow.

Please feel free to email any questions, comments, or concerns to savannah@soa-applause.com.

*Savannah Miller*

## Congratulations

*to Ms. Pitman and Mr. Ratigan on their recent engagement!*

## Upcoming Events

March 15-17: All State Chorus @ Winthrop  
 March 15, 16: 7th Grade Theatre Workshop School Show - 4 PM @ BBT  
 March 19: 10th and 11th Grade Theatre Practicum Play #2 - 6:30 @ BBT  
 March 20: HS Orchestra Evening of Sight and Sound Concert - 6:30 @ RMMT  
 March 21: End of 3rd Quarter  
 March 21: Junior Intermezzo Club to Royal Winnipeg Ballet, "Moulin Rouge" - 7:00 @ Galliard Auditorium  
 March 21: PASS Writing Test  
 March 22: Band Concert Festival  
 March 22: College and Financial Aid Information Night - 6:00 @ Cafeteria  
 March 23: Teacher Workday  
 March 22-24: National Orchestra Festival @ Atlanta, GA  
 March 23: HS State Choral Festival  
 March 27: Report Cards go home :-/  
 March 28: Composition Dance Performance  
 March 28-30: 9th and 10th CW Trip @ Penn Center  
 March 29: Early Release Day  
 March 29: MS String Spring Fling Concert - 6:30 @ Cafeteria  
 March 31: HS Vocal Cabaret - 6:30 @ RMMT  
 April 3: HS Wind Ensemble Concert  
 April 4: SOA Jazz Ensemble Concert  
 April 6: Freshman Picnic during lunch  
 April 7-15: Spring Break

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Cover art by  
**Megan Dawson**



## Quiz Bowl Gets Fourth in the County

Will Dodge

The School of the Arts Quiz Bowl team's season came to an end February 23rd against James Island in a close contest that went down to the lightning round. Going into halftime with the lead, the Pegasi missed a few vital questions that led to a narrow, four-point loss. The game before, a thumping from AMHS put the Quiz Bowlers one loss away from being ousted in the double elimination tourney. At the final the following week, held at 75 Calhoun Street, James Island placed third behind second placers Wando and champs Academic Magnet. Coming in fourth, SOA placed one spot behind their mark from last season.

The regular season was successful for the team, finishing with a 9-3 record and two controversial nullified games in which the judges were not available. With wins in

both games, the team could've reached an 11-3 record, feasibly putting them at 3rd in the regular season instead of fourth. Fifth year Quiz Bowl sponsor and head coach

**Mr. Clark** said of the season, "I am extremely proud of our team this year. We compete against teams from much larger schools, with much larger programs in science, math, social studies and ELA. We always want to win every game, but the

competition is fierce, and I am more than happy with caliber of our team this year." With no seniors on the team and the majority of the roster planning to return, Mr. Clark is excited for the future of Quiz Bowl, telling me "(We) will have a large group of experienced players next year, and I cannot wait to see how well we do then."



## Former Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts speaks with AP Lit Class

*Dana Gioia, an esteemed poet and critic, was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts in 2002, a position he held for six years. As chairman, Mr. Gioia started such programs as Poetry out Loud and The Big Read. He has been an enormous advocate for the arts and arts schools, and a highly coveted public speaker, having delivered the commencement address at Stanford University, for example, in 2007. Dr. Cusatis's AP English class was fortunate to interview Mr. Gioia via speaker phone from his home in Los Angeles, where he is a visiting professor at the University of Southern California. --Editor*

### On arts schools...

I'm a fan of arts high schools. I think there's too few of them in the United States. They give kids the chance to do stuff seriously at an early age, which is all important.

I should also say that when I was in high school, music was most important to me. I played piano in the jazz band, bass

clarinet, alto clarinet and tenor sax in various ensembles. I composed music, I did arrangements. That was entirely formative for me as a person and as an artist. And even when a few years later I moved from music into poetry, I was impressed, or gratified, that almost everything I learned in music had a kind of relevancy to poetry.

### On words...

Well my poem "Words" says that the world does not need words and that the world exists without words, and then I live right where the oak trees are blooming, the whole landscape is turning green from the winter rains, and this would happen whether anyone spoke a word or not.

But as human beings, if I walk with you as I do with people who visit me, I resolved that I would be able to identify every plant, every bird, every tree, and suddenly those words allow you to notice things about reality, and to remember things about reality, that otherwise there's

just so much reality. How could we deal with it; but it falls over it like a waterfall.

And so words, which are imperfect in some sense, ever try to explain some complicated feeling to a friend, and sometimes it's very difficult. Yet they still are the best tool we have to describe what it's like to be alive, what it's like to be mortal, and it's also the only tool we have to take with, the part of our mind that's invisible our inner life and express it to people who only see the outer life.

An interesting experience for me was that sometimes to be somebody you know from the outside you they see that this is a real popular person who is very good looking, etc. Then you actually end up having a long conversation with them and you realize all of these things about them, about their inner life that you had never known. It often fundamentally changes how you see them as a person. How you see them as a person you can no longer just see the outside you sort of go through. So why are words-- why is po-



## Vocalists belt it out for Young Americans



Photo by Katie Bailey

Junior vocal major, **Essence Robinson**, was featured in *The Lion King*, which was the closing number to the Young Americans performance. Students enjoyed singing and dancing to songs like "Take Me Out To The Ball Game" and Michael Jackson's "Smooth Criminal."

etry—important: it's that poetry is our most concise expressive and memorable way of using words to speak to one another about what it means to be human. About what it means to be immortal in this magnificent world that goes on around us, and to articulate our senses and that there is something underneath and beyond the visible world.

### On an artist's background

I realized that being professor was not a great gig for a poet. You tend to be much to self-conscious, much to intellectual, and a poem should work primarily on feelings and emotions. And so I felt I really had to get out of graduate school to be the writer I wanted to be.

I had every crappy job you can imagine so I went to business school to create a life where I could be a poet. I believe that artists need to take control of their own lives. They can no longer trust institutions to look out for them. I was willing to have a day job for that.



# Applause

the official student publication of

Charleston County School of the Arts

Founded in 1995 by Rose Maree Myers

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Jacob Elsey, Copy Editor

Miki Sugimoto, Business Manager

Will Dodge, Sports Editor

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# 100th Applause

## A History of One Hundred

By Jacob Elsey

This is it, number one hundred. One hundred papers ago a man by the name of (at that time) **Mr. Cusatis** took on the Advisor position of the Charleston County School of the Arts *Applause*. His motto was that the *Applause* would remain a student-run paper because the "voice of SOA should be the voice of the students." I was lucky enough to go through those ninety nine papers and acquire a vast amount of unique SOA facts and information (and a few paper cuts). While reading almost every paper I would have to call over Dr. Cusatis to my paper-scattered desk where I would question the credibility of every article. "Unbelievable," I'd always say. When I got through my eighth volume; I realized that these surreal articles about student and teacher accomplishments were only fit to be in a paper whose skilled writers were allowed vast creative freedoms and at the same time kept a very professional tone that gave the *Applause* its unique credibility as we know it today.

Dr. Cusatis came to SOA in 1999 after establishing and advising St. Johns High School's newspaper, The Islander Pride for the earlier part of the 1990s. Since the late 1990s, Dr. Cusatis has seen the newspaper publication process take a complete 180. From the humble beginnings of cutting and pasting articles onto a poster board,

to using mass amounts of floppy disks on an old Mac computer and emailing them to a printer in Alabama, then hand-delivering them to a much closer (yet still inconveniently distanced) printer in Georgetown, slowly transitioning to zip disks, then cds, then finally to flash-drives. Today, the *Applause* is uploaded to an online server and

printed at The *Post and Courier*, downtown Charleston. Adding color to the papers was also a very gradual process; the first issue was in black and white, followed with an issue that used spot color, and in 2001 full color was applied to the first ever 48 page graduation issue.

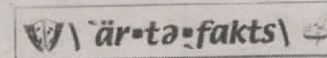
As I flipped from page to page, I felt as though I was slowly turning through the eldest scrolls of SOA's enriched history. For example, did you know that the first SOA paper was entitled 'Artifakts,' and was printed on copy paper? However, this name had already been taken by a different publication, so one day Dr. Cusatis overheard the year-

book staff tossing up ideas for the name of that year's yearbook and 'Applause' really stuck out in his head. When the yearbook decided to go with a different name, Dr. Cusatis was quick to pluck the name from the metaphorical recycling bin of ideas. And the *Applause* as we know it, was born.

It goes without saying that a paper written by artistic students about artistic students is not going to have the same features as your run-of-the-mill student paper. As former writer **David Sass** put it "the *Applause* has the idea mixture of invested professionalism and artistic freedom." The *Applause* has run stories ranging from various student trips to foreign countries for reasons such as charity work and artistic study

Our faculty has had a breadth of adventures including 6th grade social studies teacher **Mr. Smyth's** trip to an impoverished village in India to build a water purification system with Water Missions International or when 12th grade US Government and

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Volume 1 Issue 1 A Publication of the School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC October 1995

**Mrs. Yalton chosen as CCSD "Teacher of the Year" finalist**

For the second year Mrs. Yalton, with her eighth grade class, was named 1995 Teacher of the Year finalist. Mrs. Yalton, CCSD's Director of Curriculum and Instruction, was one of the top ten finalists in the entire county. Mrs. Yalton's nomination was based on her dedication to her students and her commitment to the school community. She has been a member of the CCSD staff since 1987. Mrs. Yalton is a graduate of the University of South Carolina and holds a Master's degree in Education. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Education at the University of South Carolina.

**A Word from our Principal**

Dear Parents,

It is my pleasure to inform you that the 100th issue of the *Applause* is now available. This issue is a special one as it marks the beginning of a new era for the paper. We are proud to have Mrs. Yalton as our principal and to have her support in this endeavor. We are also proud to have you as our readers and to have your feedback on the paper. We hope you will continue to support the paper and to help us make it the best it can be.

**SCHOOL OF THE ARTS**

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## The Jefferson Award

By Rachel Lechler

The Jefferson Service Club gives monthly awards to students that prove to go above and beyond in community service. This month's winners are sixth grader **Malachi Jones**, eighth grader **Tanner Crunelle**, and teacher **Mrs. Priester**. Congratulations to the winners!

### Tanner Crunelle

The unstoppable **Tanner Crunelle** is at it again with his involvement in community service. The 8th grade band major has been helping the community since he was in 5th grade when he was on student council.

Now he's on Junior Beta Club, which has him doing 35 hours worth of community service. He spends those hours by tutoring, helping out with school activities, and he said that he even helped build a play set for a church.

A couple of his favorite experiences of community service included ushering for this past production of *The Music Man*, especially since he



got to see it for free, and he says he really enjoys tutoring and teaching people. He's considering being a teacher.

Another mentionable experience is his volunteering on his swim team and coaching younger kids to teach them how to swim.

Tanner says that he will definitely continue to do community service in the future and follows up this statement: "I really want to get into a routine of doing something over a long period of time, so once we're finished with it be it a year, two years, three years, step back and see what we've accomplished and maybe do that with some friends."

Keep up the good work, Tanner!

### Mrs. Priester

**Heather Priester** has been involved in community service since she was in high school. She participated in after school tutoring at a school with students that had low reading skills.

Once she was in college, she did volunteer work at the Community Theatre in Greenwood, SC. Now, the 8th grade composition teacher gets students

involved and teaches them the value of community service.

Ms. Priester says that her favorite part about commu-



nity service is "seeing the gratitude on people's faces when they are helped in some small way."

At the beginning of the year, Ms. Priester and **Mr. Smyth**, 6th

grade teacher, felt that they and the Middle School Student Council should help North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary build a library since they didn't

have very much funding at the beginning of the year. They were able to donate 2,300 books.

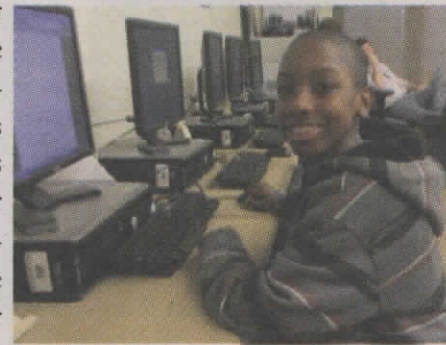
### Malachi Jones

6th grade creative writer, Malachi Jones, has been involved in community service with his family for the past two years. The biggest

component of their community service help is food charity. Malachi says that "Sometimes it would be one or two in the morning and someone would come for food, and my family would serve them boxes." He likes

knowing that he can help other kids like himself go to sleep healthy and with plenty of nutrients. After asking what community service means

to him, he responds with, "[It's] awesome karma and I think it gives a feel good emotion!" Hopefully Malachi won't stop there and continue to help the community and feed those who can't feed themselves and help make the world a better place!



## AP Art History takes on the Big Apple



Photos by Alle Augustine

The **AP Art History Class**, along with a few students from Intro to Painting, took a long train ride to New York City. While there, they visited the Museum of Modern Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Students also saw a jazz performance with the piano majors and watched a dramatic opera titled *Ernani*. **Ms. Cimballa** said "One of the best parts was all of the students from different majors that I didn't know before and getting to know them better. I loved seeing how excited everybody was about something that I'm excited about."



## Ravens ruck the Warriors

By Miki Sugimoto

Although SOA lacks official team sports, no one can argue that the Ravens don't represent our athletic talents. The team is comprised of mostly students from SOA, supplemented by students from Academic Magnet, Bishop England, Garrett, and occasionally Stall High School. The team practices Monday and Wednesday of each week and ends with a game against another team on Friday.

The Ravens hold their own against teams with over twice as many members, such as Wando. Often when school trips and injuries prevent the entirety of the team from participating, there are only one or two substitutes, whereas teams such as Wando can essentially trade out their entire lineup. Despite this, only one team has managed to shut them out: Chapin (notoriously the team who has only lost 1 state championship in the last 10 years and finished the 2011 with a perfect season).



Fellow *Applause* staff member Allie Augustine and I attended the Wando match. Despite the chill and shortage of seating, it was clear that the Ravens had a solid base of support. The girlfriends of the team members will tell you that sitting on the cramped, wet, metal bleachers is nothing like "The Real Basketball Wives of Miami," but the concession stand makes it almost worth braving the cold and the rain. The game ended in defeat, but the final score was close; the Ravens managed to hold a team nearly double their size.

The Ravens might have a less-than-perfect record, but Jacob Elsey claims, "the SOA Ravens Rugby Club is a team of booty-shorted champions". They also manage to do something that most teams don't - synthesize athletes from multiple different schools. Despite their varying backgrounds, Jacob assures us that they "all get along and work well as a team to the very last ruck."

## Tre Raynor: the people's champ

By Will Dodge

Junior Tre Raynor, aka Tre Mixxin', is no slouch on the basketball court. At an intimidating 6' 3", the visual arts major has been a force since he started shooting hoops as a toddler on a small hoop his mother got him for Christmas. So when Tre's North Charleston Cougars won the Region AA state championship in Columbia on March 3, all those shooting sessions seemed to pay off.

Coming into the state tournament, the Cougars were ranked first after a tie-breaking win over Woodland. Their tourney got off to a fast start, and upstate powerhouse Mullins tested the Cougars' strength in the tournament's third game. The teams traded blows throughout, but Tre and the Cougars clawed their way back for a four-point win and a spot in the semifinals against the Marion Swamp Foxes. After winning 66-55 against Marion, the team was ready for the final, which turned out to be a nail-biter.

The decisive game, which was held in USC's 18,000 capacity Colonial Life Arena, opened up with an 18-0 Cougar run on the Newberry Bulldogs, with Tre contributing a dazzling reverse layup to set the tone early. The Bulldogs would

fight back though, cutting the lead down to three with just over a minute left. After a three point heave from Newberry bonked off the rim, the buzzer sounded, and the Cougars had won the state championship.


Playing in the small forward position, Tre finished the game with a vital six points and three rebounds. He's still riding high from the Cougars' win, but his hunger for success has only been whetted.

Aside from his stint on the Cougars, the sharpshooter stays in top form by playing for his local AAU all-star team. Tre plans to play again season for the reigning AA champs next season, and "work on absolutely everything during the offseason because I am going to be the focal point of the offense next year." Some might say this is too much pressure to put on the soft-spoken visual artist. But Tre's ready. With March Madness upon us once again, he's already looking towards college ball. And he's being looked at as well, exemplified by the scores of college scouts at the final. Who knows... in a couple of years, Tre Raynor might just become a household name.

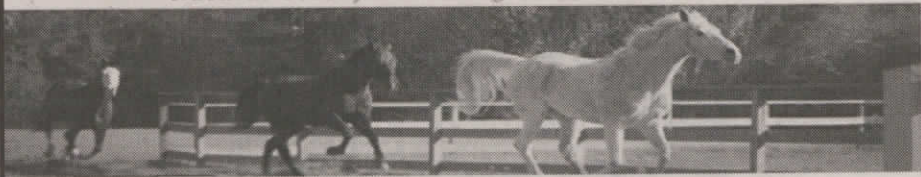
## Lucy Rummler: eat her dust



March 3rd's Sandlapper Track & Field Classic was rained out before athletes from schools as far away as Charlotte could compete in their final events, but not before senior Lucy Rummler and her Wando track teammates could capture a meet, stadium, and possibly state record of 21:41 in the 4x1600 relay (the state record is being reviewed because the event is not run at the state meet, and records are less clear). Lucy recorded a mile split time of 5:17.



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**Pony Rides:** Parent-led pony rides are available from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. by appointment for children up to eight years old. Wait until you see the excitement in your children's eyes! \$40.00/half hour.



## Editorial-Tim Scott: can't we all just get along?

By Will Dodge

South Carolina is not always the vision of innovation or intelligence. Ranging from the infamous Miss South Carolina snafu to one Joe Wilson telling President Obama himself, "You lie," one could say the Palmetto State has had its moments. These two predicaments, and many more, have passed the test of time and still hold exhibit on YouTube and the ceaseless scrutiny of the internet (Miss South Carolina has garnered 54 million views, while "You lie" has accumulated a respectable 400k). Now, more than ever, it is vital that we have the best people to represent South Carolina and its citizens, where the majority of people (I hope) have a general idea of where "The Iraq" is. So when South Carolina Congressman Tim Scott visited the Rose Maree Myers Theatre on February 22, a little light was shed on exactly who is being elected to carry SC on their back.

Tim Scott is a local, so it makes sense that he would give a talk to the SOA high school and Academic Magnet underclassmen. His conservative views are undoubtedly reflective of the SC majority, but Charleston seems to have a bit more of a foot recently on the political left (Obama won the county in 2008). Throughout his lecture, which bounced between tips for success and stories from his adolescence, he stressed the importance of American values and reiterated that "Anything is possible in America." Even tickling yourself? Didn't think so. All of this was fine though, and his tale of peer pressure was amusing, but the morning's sour point came when students were given the floor to ask questions.

Hands went up throughout the crowd, some students hoping to stump the Congressman and others looking for a laugh out of their friends. When senior **Dewitt Floyd** asked Scott his stance on gay marriage, a few snickers could be heard and a hesitant Scott prepared his answer. "I believe in marriage as it has been for the past 235 years: a contract between a man and a woman." Embarrassingly enough, a hefty majority of the crowd cheered his answer, while a few students booed. Whatever one's

view is on the subject, is this the place to be fueling the fire for such a heated subject? As junior **Austin Worth** was called on for the last question of the event, he reiterated a point made by sophomore **Corey Popowski** a few questions earlier.

"If America has the money to wage wars across the globe, and as you say, we have the strongest economy in the world, why can't the government give health care and education to its citizens, like Canada and the majority of Europe?" Austin's question initially got a mix of cheers and snide comments, including one from a sophomore who won't be named saying "Well this isn't Canada, dude."

Representative Scott became defensive.

"Do you have a job?"

Austin told him he did, and Scott proceeded to ask the crowd if they wanted more or less taxes. Everyone said less, and the Representative went back to Austin.

"Taxes are through the roof in those countries. No one wants more taxes. It's not the government's job to guarantee an education or health care."

Many students cheered for this as well. Scott went on. "If you look at many of those countries, they're not doing so great. Study them and Greece and you'll see why it's not really plausible. Good question, though."

There are a few problems with Scott's answer. Greece's recent economic meltdown was primarily caused by bad banking, and while America undoubtedly has the most money of the aforementioned places, our debt to GDP ratio has recently reached 101 percent. America is not exactly thriving with its current policies.

Scott finished and the majority of the crowd cheered. The talk left some raving as the day went on and others in total disagreement. Teachers could be heard reflecting their opinions throughout the day, and a few arguments popped up during the twenty four hours after. After sitting through the talk, some were a bit more interested in politics then they were coming in, which might just be a bad thing. Anything's possible in America... except getting along on politics.



## Mama Kim's: a "rice" experience

By Miki Sugimoto

This month the *Applause* staff selected popular local restaurant Mama Kim's to review. **Jacob Elsey**, **Rachel Lechler**, and I along with fellow SOA students **Paul Cain** and **Ren Fish** met at 145 Calhoun St. to sample the modern Asian food. Jacob and Rachel both ordered the chicken bowl which they both were unable to finish; even though it is a little pricey (about eight dollars for a bowl with meat), the servings are generous. Ren and Jacob also enjoyed an order of rice, which is much less expensive, but still "really filling."

The majority of the crowd was college students, and even at six o'clock most of the seats were occupied. If you

## Excelsior! Captain's Comic Expo a success

By Cat Santos

Upon entering Captain's Comic Expo, I was a bit surprised by the amount of people stuffed into the room. There was an endless plethora of comic books, *Star Trek* figures and the occasional costumed geek. Needless to say I was like a kid in a candy store and nearly had a sensory overload. Once I overcame the initial overload, I noticed that there were tons of comic book artists and illustrators selling sketches, original art, and graphic novels.

Ever since I was a little girl I had the fascination with comic books and cartoons, so I took this opportunity to pick the brains of most of the artists in the room. The steady mantra for all of the artists seemed to be "draw from life" or "draw all the time." Christopher Hanchey, who is currently working on a comic book known as *Bullet Proof Angel*, and Aimee Moray, the comic book colorist both suggested bringing your portfolio to conventions for critiques. Getting meetings with editors is often difficult and they

decide to eat here, you shouldn't expect a restaurant atmosphere like Sushi Hiro or Spring Roll – the service is efficient and the food arrives quickly.

However, the experience is not impersonal. Mama Kim herself was visiting tables when Jacob asked her for a photo with the staff. There's also a giant bulletin board in the entryway full of photos of her and her customers, which is something you shouldn't miss if and when you decide to visit.

Overall, we definitely recommend giving Mama Kim's a try if you've never been!



Good times with Mama

see tons of amazing art on a daily basis. Meeting them in person allows you to put a face to the art, and makes you stand out. I also spoke with Steve Stegelin, the political cartoonist for the *Charleston City Paper*, who cartoonified me. It was adorable.

The advice I have gotten from various professionals has been to "immerse" myself in as many comics as I can. Read all different ones in all different styles. Kevin Alteri, one of the directors of *Batman: The Animated Series*, told me to take plenty of figure drawing classes and study human anatomy. The secret seems to be understanding the human form and understanding movement. If you want to break into the comic book industry, draw like the wind, go to every comic book convention (especially Captain's Comic Expo) you can, and harass as many comic book artists as possible. If you just want to have fun, go to Captain's Comic Expo and buy a whole bunch of comics.



A cartoonified Cat Santos by Steve Stegelin



*What is your favorite memory  
from your art major?*  
October 2008



"Our first dance ever. Everyone was all excited and hyper."  
Ben Rindge  
7<sup>th</sup> grade- Dance

*What are your plans for spring  
break?*

March 2008



"I'm going skiing in North Carolina at Ski Beach. I went there last year. I love going fast."  
Logan Church, 8<sup>th</sup>, Theatre

*What are you looking forward to  
at the new school?*  
December 2009



"Getting new classrooms."  
Anna Holloway, 8<sup>th</sup> Dance

*How did you spend your  
summer vacation?*

September 2005



I had fun paint balling with my dad!  
Zach Donaldson  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Vocal

100th

Question  
the

What would  
perfect ho  
Decemb



"A new skateboard."  
Sydney Dixon  
7<sup>th</sup> grade, Theater



**Applause**  
**Ins from**  
**past**  
**and be your**  
**day gift?**  
**2008**

*What are your feelings on the Theatre of the Absurd in post-*

*WWII France?*

April 2008



*"Junie B. Jones by Barbara Park because the main character has a great personality and she's funny. I think my teacher recommended it. It's just funny what she goes through."*  
- Chelsey Comyers, 8<sup>th</sup>, Dance

*What are your plans for winter break?*

December 2006



*"My plans are to go to Norway to see friends."*  
-Anna Methais, 7<sup>th</sup> grade

*What is your biggest superstition?*

March 2007



*"Burning a ouija board brings bad luck."* -Will Isaacson, 6<sup>th</sup> grade

*What are you most excited about for the new school year?*

October 2008



*"The new teachers and people."*  
Dean Britt- 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Vocal



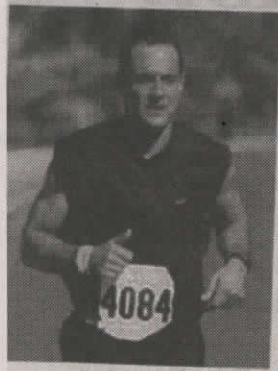
*"A record deal."*  
Joseph DuBose  
6<sup>th</sup> grade, Creative Writing



# 100th Applause

## A history of one hundred, continued

Economics teacher, **Mr. Brehm**, loaded up a van full of food, water, gas, and other various goods and headed for the harshly affected areas after hurricane Katrina. In 2001, the theatre majors took a trip to England to study theatre at the Globe. The *Applause* takes pride in both its' students' and teachers' accomplishments, whether it was reporting on former editor-in-chief **Lucy Hunter's** run in the Boston Marathon, or Dr. Cusatis' marathons that took place in places like Boston, Kiawah, and even Jamaica!



### Mr. Cusatis completes third marathon

SOA English instructor John Cusatis approaches the 23 mile mark in the Reggae Marathon in Negril, Jamaica in December. Mr. Cusatis covered the 26.2 mile course in 3 hours and 51 minutes. It was his third marathon in as many years, having completed the Dublin City Marathon in Dublin, Ireland in '00 and the Mayor's Midnight Sun Marathon in Anchorage, Alaska in '99.

But none of those stories could have ever been written had it not been for the dedicated staff, namely the editor-in-chief. The position of "Editor-in-Chief" is prestigious, no matter the paper; however, an editor-in-chief for the *Applause* must be prepared to handle unique situation that can only be found here at SOA. These team leaders have sacrificed countless mornings, afternoons, cups of coffee, and in some cases, schoolwork, in order to assure that the *Applause* comes out of print as flawless as possible. This lack of sleep/social life can lead to what is known as, "downright madness."

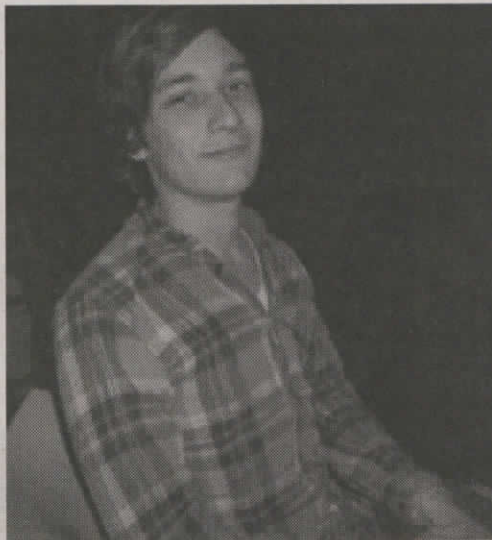
Former editor-in-chief, **Chaney Long**, reflected on her ex-

perience publishing one of her first papers, which happened to be special issue for SOA's production of *The Wiz*. While *the Wiz* cast was parading the halls for the pep rally, Chaney was "hunched over" in Dr. Cusatis' classroom, cramming to finish the issue due

in only a couple of hours. Chaney then proceeded to lose her mind and yell out at the jolly paraders, "NO! NO! NO! GO AWAY! NO!"

The freedom that *Applause* writers have is perfectly displayed in the columns published in every issue. One of

the pioneers of the column was a three year staff member named **David Sass**, who wrote through volumes 9-11 (symbolic?). David was one of the first *Applause* staff members to write about absolutely whatever was on his mind. David said that the goal in writing his articles was to "cause a bit of an uproar, but write in a way that



Former writer David Sass wrote the memorable and still-going column "Sass Attack"

the reader had no choice but silently applaud any topic, no matter how controversial."

He wrote about topics ranging from how if you own a Chihuahua, then you are doomed to be a bad driver to how much of a bummer having a summer job can be.

Chaney Long had her own column entitled 'A Day in the Life of a Sixth Grader.' In these, she reflected on her days in sixth grade and how "nothing is more terrifying than having over half a decade left on your plate." Chaney said that she "really wanted to write articles for the sixth graders to offer some sort of helping hand and make that transition into SOA hopefully at least a small bit easier."

And have you ever noticed that the *Applause's* horoscopes are anything but average? In the fourth volume when **Cody Palmer** undertook the position as editor-in-chief, the small staff number (only five students including Cody) resulted in a very rigorous deadline schedule in order

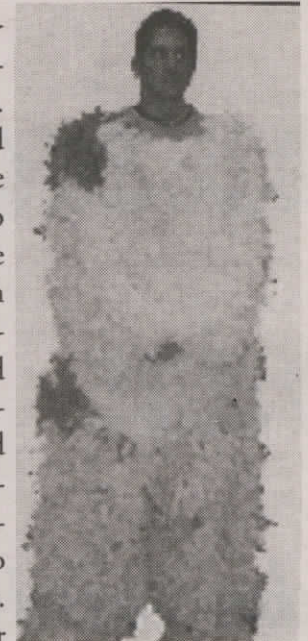


Chaney Long is one of many notable editors-in-chief

to get a paper out every month. Palmer said that the lack of sleep that came along with the position resulted in "disillusioned" and unconventional horoscopes to say the least.

For one hundred issues, the *Applause* has been the voice of the SOA community by publicizing the talents and achievements of its community, SOA's student and staff. And inversely, it has helped all who have both written for it, or just read it monthly to keep up with the SOA news. Chaney Long credits the rigorous *Applause* scheduling for her current work ethic in college, David Sass thanks both Dr. Cusatis and every editor-in-chief who took in his last minute columns for the "extra prodding," and Cody Palmer gives thanks for being able to take on such a prestigious position at one of the most uniquely-voiced papers published.

But most of all, on behalf of the SOA *Applause*, we would like to thank you, the reader, for your continued support and attention. It has been an immense honor to continue to publish papers month after month, and now that we've reached our one hundredth issue, we look forward to the future and can assure that the 101th will be just as special.



Former editor-in-chief Cody Palmer is seen in costume as the dog in SOA's *Peter Pan*



## Where are they now: Francis Smalls, vocalist, class of 2010

By Allie Augustine

**Allie Augustine:** What have you been doing after graduating from SOA?  
**Francis Smalls:** After I graduated from SOA, I went to Francis Marion University in Florence, SC. I wasn't too happy with my decision, and now I am a Communication major and French Minor here at The College of Charleston.

**AA:** How are you still taking part in the Arts today?

**FS:** The Performing Arts a major part of my life still! I continue to sing with my Dad and Church Choir in and out of the Low Country. At the College of Charleston, I am apart of the Concert Choir and The Madrigal Singers which is a small group composed of 16 singers from the Concert Choir. Under the Direction of Dr. Robert Taylor, The College flew the Choir out to Fort Collins, Colorado where we performed the National Collegiate Choral Organization (NCCO). This was an amazing opportunity because only the top twelve college choirs in the entire country were invited to this event!

**AA:** Have you been any more productions after *The Wiz*?

**FS:** Yes, I have. In December of Last year, The Madrigal Singers put on our annual Madri-

gal Dinner! It was my first time doing it, and I loved every moment of it. It was a lot of work but the end product was amazing. We performed beautiful songs from the Renaissance, dressed up in lavish costumes, fed our guests awesome dishes, and performed two plays within one show. I played a character named Roberto Crachit who is an "over the top" dog lover and his only passion in life is to be a "Stylist to the Stars!" In March, I will be doing something totally new: Opera. I will be performing with Opera Charleston as a chorus member in the famous opera Carmen. What makes this experience even more amazing is that International Superstar Denyce Graves will be playing the title role as Carmen. She has performed all over the world and even had lead roles in the Metropolitan Opera. This semester, I had another first, I was able to perform at the Music Farm with



a couple of my Choir Mates during the Battle of the Bands. Their group is called South Street and they asked a few of us from the Choir to join them on stage. I got the chance to step out on center stage and drench the lead singer in a ton of golden glitter. It was one of the best nights ever!

**AA:** How are you enjoying attending the College of Charleston?  
**FS:** Going to school in Charleston seemed really upsetting at first because...well...it's in Charleston, but going to school Downtown is like living in a whole new world! You meet so many peo-

ple that share interests with you and you really create strong friendships. I have to admit sometimes I do feel like I am a bit too close to home, but at least I know my family is always there when I need them so I can't complain.

**AA:** What advice can you offer to those who are going off to college?  
**FS:** My advice to those who are going off to

college would be to follow your heart and do what YOU want to do. I know that is something that everyone hears, but it is so true. My first year I wanted to be a nurse because I knew it was a major that everyone understood and I knew they made money. I never wanted to be a nurse because I don't like hospitals, sciences, or math. I just wanted to make money, but I was so caught up in the thought of money that my first year of college was horrid. My grades were good, but my experience was not all that fun. So please please PLEASE do what you love to do. If you love something, you will be passionate about it. If you are passionate about something, you will work to be great at it. When you are great at the thing you love to do, someone will pay you for it. So trust in your heart and do what makes you happy. Life is too short to try and please everyone. Also, try and sit in the front of ALL of your classes. College professors love it. Participate in class! Stand out from the crowd. Come to their office hours, introduce yourself, and bring them Starbucks! You want to be that student that professor remembers. That will come in handy when you need those letters of recommendation.

## Where were they then: Ms. Sarah Fitzgerald, strings instructor

By Allie Augustine

**Allie Augustine:** Where did you grow up?  
**Sarah Fitzgerald:** My father was a Methodist minister so we moved basically every four years around Western North Carolina.

I was born in Charlotte, NC.

**AA:** What High School(s) did you attend?

**SF:** I attended High Point Central High School (but I don't like to admit that).

**AA:** What was your first job?

**SF:** I worked at John Crowder's Star Cleaners in High Point.

**AA:** What colleges did you at-

tend and what was your major?  
**SF:** I attended Appalachian State University in Boone, NC where I studied English and French before settling on Music Education. My instrument is the viola. I never wanted to teach, but that was the only major where I could learn a little bit about all the instruments. After student teaching, Charlotte/Mecklenburg Schools gave me a job right out of college. The rest is rock and roll history.

**AA:** How did you get interested in orchestra?

**SF:** I have always been drawn to the sound of string instruments. I remember hearing strings in Carol King's album *Tapestry* and I would play it over and over to listen to them. When the orchestra teacher came around in elementary school and asked if anyone wanted to sign up to play a stringed instrument, I chose the violin. The teacher took one look at my long arm and fingers and placed me on the viola (it's bigger than the violin). The rest is rock and roll history.

**AA:** What is your favorite stringed instrument to play?  
**SF:** I love the viola and really enjoy the guitar too.

**AA:** Do you have any hidden talents?  
**SF:** I am secretly a nerd. I love computers and technology. I love to read about history in the summer as I'm lying on the beach, listening to the waves and the birds. I have been particularly enjoying reading about the Black Plague in 14th century Europe. I guess it just appeals to my dark side.

**AA:** Are there any other fun facts that students may like to know about you?  
**SF:** I think everyone knows that I love animals, especially my mini dachshund puppies, and that Johnny Depp is my boyfriend.



Ms. Fitzgerald in high school with her friend Adrian, who is now an orchestra director in Paris, France. Photo provided



Ms. Fitzgerald in high school doing what she loves. Photo provided



**Nonsensical**

Eli Braddock, 6th grade

Strange words haunt me  
made by my demented brain.  
I cannot make sense of them  
and they drive me insane.

My brain happens to think  
it is a game  
these nonsensical words  
that drive me insane.

The game is to find definitions  
to words that it makes,  
but there are no definitions  
to words that are fakes.

Slobalob!  
My brain says quickly with a shout.  
I say but what does it mean,  
get slobalob out!

Lorestonuxo!  
My brain says as it tries again.  
I can't even pronounce that  
I say without a grin.

Delfty!  
It yells, making my ears clatter.  
There must be something wrong with me.  
Brain, what is the matter?

Trop!  
It exclaims making me jump in my chair.  
I claw at my head,  
hoping my brain will surely tear.

Stram!  
My brain says, as I hope I will die.  
I hug my knees against my chest,  
rock back and forth, and cry

Tokun!  
exclaims my brain as I start to scream.  
I start to sweat uncontrollably.  
I wish this was a dream.

Frodelodenon!  
My brain says. I am going to explode.  
Ciffo, VitobSORomously, shouktan.  
Then my brain just crowed.  
The words are coming faster  
circling my head.

Konsondomon, chiodok, mep  
I want to be dead.

Then my brain shouts  
a single pronounced word.  
The word is so simple  
I think it is absurd.

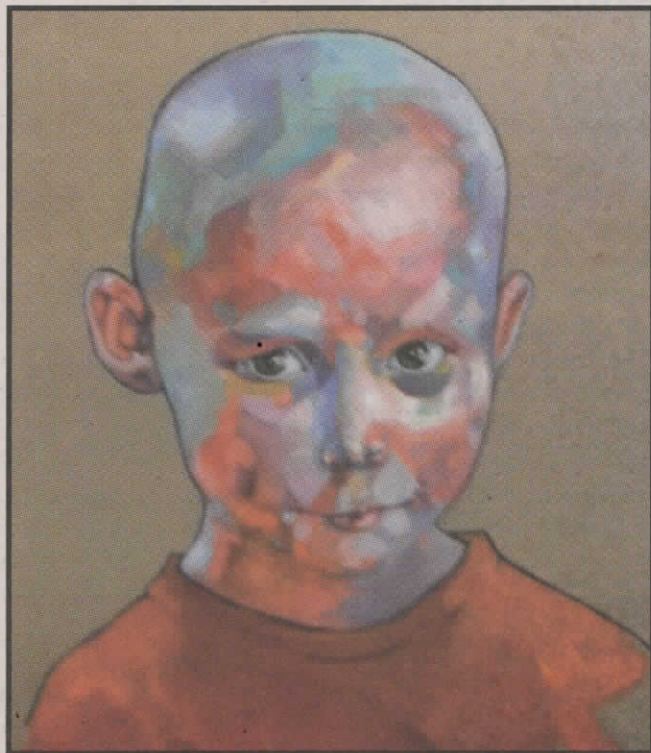
The word came with a tickle.  
The tickle meant the word was not the  
same,  
different from the words  
that ran around in my brain.

In a way the word is different.  
At that moment, I didn't understand.  
Then it hit me  
and I slapped my face with my hand.

The word I knew the definition to;  
that was why it did tickle,  
a cucumber at heart  
and green; pickle.



Morgan Nuss, 12th grade  
Awarded Scholastic Gold Key



Allie Acierno, 12th grade  
Awarded Scholastic "American Vision" Award

## Airsoft Guns on a Rainy Christmas Morning

Joseph Dubay, 12th grade

Family time was over.  
I un-fwoomped an umberalla  
and stepped out into the thunderless storm.  
We met at no man's land, the driveway  
in between our houses, and stood  
on our respective sides.  
I reached inside my jacket  
and pulled out my shiny new  
Magnum in all of its orange capped glory.  
The only reply was a soft click,  
and a sudden pang of stinging  
on my left cheek.  
My hand shot up to the spot,  
wiped at it,  
and I looked down to see  
blood.  
I let it trickle down my face.  
He reached down, muddied his finger,  
and made lines under his eyes.  
This was friendship.  
The war had begun.



# antiintellectualis- matitsfinest

By Catherine Santos



"I don't understand! Stop using big words!" is the response I always get when I use words larger than two syllables. It drives me absolutely insane. Whenever someone berates me for using large words I go and look at their facebook profile. 99% of the time their favorite books section are something along the lines of "Teeheehee! ☒ I don't like reading!" The first thought that comes through my mind is "Good lord, somewhere a village is missing its idiot." If you do not read books then I think you are an asinine, insensate, doltish, inane, obtuse person, and that you should watch less Jersey Shore. When I encounter a specimen as simple minded as you, I feel the bile rising in the back of my throat.

It seems like we are inches away from being an Idoocracy. We have people who don't read and tell the teacher lady that they only have to know three letters: U, S and A. We have people who genuinely think that being unintelligent is cute. We have presidential candidates like Rick Santorum, who think that college is for snobs and genuinely frown at science. The anti-intellectualism is apparent when people are accusing scientists of "lying" to support their "agenda." When people accuse "fat cat" teachers of only wanting to "indoctrinate" children, you know something is wrong. A normal IQ ranges from 85 to 115. I know extremely intelligent people who prefer to be perceived as dumb because they believe that their intelligence is off-putting. Why? Because TV tells us that everyone is stupid, and that beauty and brains do not go hand in hand. My favorite is the glasses phenomenon. We have an anti-social smart girl who is brilliant and beautiful, but she has glasses, which of course makes her "unattractive." She takes off the glasses and stops acting sarcastic and whaddya know!? She's an insta-babe! This does not work in real life.

If you refuse to read a single book then you can obtain your job application for McDonald's online or in one of their stores. Doctor Cusatis would not let me include ones in the newspaper. Then again, the people who don't like reading and don't like smart people probably don't read the paper. In which case, those of you who do read should inform them that they will spend the rest of their lives aimlessly flipping burgers.



With the drunken holiday of St. Patrick's day coming up, I've noticed that conversation of "luck" and "good karma" has become much more frequent among the halls of SOA. This is going to have to stop, because like the personality of a Ms. Kim Kardashian, it is clearly fake. Why do we as a society spend so much time discussing something that we've never been able to get a feasible grip of? So what if you found a dollar on the street right after your girlfriend dumped you? Big deal, it's called a coincidence, and if anything it's most likely bad luck because that could have been the only dollar of an orphan child who just escaped his corrupt orphanage that held the same characteristics as the one from 'Annie.' The same child, who's personal economy is now zero, can no longer afford his bus fare back to his real parents in Wisconsin where they would rekindle their love and live happily ever after. Moral of the



**Elsey**, first I would like to say that I am not responsible for any that is brought upon you after you spit in the face of the spirits. It's not my fault that today you make fun of Madame Rousseau, and tomorrow you die of getting fatally crushed in the face by a school bus. Legally you are accountable for your words and curses/hexes/bad mojo brought on you by voodoo priestesses/gypsies/witch doctors is completely your fault.

Their, now that my rear is covered I'd like to now present my argument. Have you ever heard anything go bump in the night? I'm assuming yes, but you probably use your small insignificant 21st century mind to assume its nothing more than an animal or a change in the wind. HOW BORING!!!! You're a creative writer Elsey, have you no sense of adventure? Where is the thrill in assuming that every occurrence on Earth is "coincidence"? If the ancients believed in such things as spirits and ghouls, who are we to deny their existence?

# Jacob vs. Jacob

*Superstition versus reality*

Jacob Elsey



Might as well shave her head while you're at it.

story: belief in luck or any of that superstition mumbo jumbo is pointless and cruel to small orphan children with luscious red locks.

I mean, what do you really think that knocking on that wood is going to do for you? It certainly isn't going to pay your mortgage, the only thing it might do is cost you a new desk if you knock to hard. And you can rub your thumb on the severed foot of a formerly perky rabbit, but in the end you're just going to look like your well... just rubbing a foot. I'm not criticizing your current ways, just trying to prevent the further defootitation of **Mr. P's** favorite lagomorphs.

So this St. Patrick's Day, do what you must, if you feel like finding a clover or evading walking underneath that ladder, whatever makes you happy. Just know that if you accidentally do, bad luck will not be there to haunt you. Just keep in mind that the only luck you may have is if you "get lucky" involving a mate who may have had a little too much St. Patrick's day to drink.

Jacob Hallex

Where you alive in 275 B.C. to see what the Celtics saw? How do you know Leprechauns aren't just hiding now because humans have lost imagination and no longer want to believe in them? I'm assuming you don't clap your hands for Tinker Bell because you hate children, fun, and freedom.

If I gave you a tarot reading I would be sad at the probable outcome that you see. Though the cards are not permanent and nothing is set in stone, I can see your major arcane being "The Fool." Open your eyes and see that your eyes are open. Wear no disguise for me. Come into the open. When its cold, outside, am I here in vein? Hold on to the night their will be no shame. Always, I want to be with you and make believe with you and live in harmony, harmony, oh love. I also do think it's funny that you bash superstition when someone that you personally know writes horoscopes every month for this publication. Quit being closed minded. You should want to believe, give your life meaning, no one but you can do that for you. You should want to believe!!!

Sass Attack-A well-played offense

By Jacob Elsey



Recently, I was able to sit down with 'Sass Attack' creator, **David Sass** in downtown

Charleston. It was surreal, there I was with the God, the Creator,

and all the Holy Spirits that is... David Sass. Together, we tried to focus on the interview but found our minds trailing off behind the strange personas of the Charlestonians who strut so confidently along King Street. It was actually by doing this, that I was shown was Sass Attack is all about: the art of being offensive, but craftily.

David saw a local frat brother promenading with his, as David put it, sorostitutes. He pointed to the ceiling in revelation and said that the epitome of "Sass Attack" can be described by using a recent encounter that he had with one of these stereotypical fraternity brothers, you know the kind with the neon aviators that they bought from Urban Outfitters along with their mug that makes it look like they have a mustache every time they take a sip of whatever it is that college students drink from mugs, the kind who has way too much confidence that is fed by the egos of his other frat brothers, and likely played lacrosse in high school. David said that he was simply walking down the street when a frat boy pointed at David's tired appearance and laughed, enticing the rest of his (again, not my word) "sorostitutes" to laugh as well. On his feet, David quickly called back to the brother something that unfortunately was so scattered with socially tasteless words that to edit the quote would simply be useless. However, I can assure you that it was so clever that the frat boy could only call on his goons to "take care" of David, but even they didn't know what to do.

David's proper wording had landed him not only respect from all around him, but a sense of self-satisfaction: the kind of satisfaction that David said he found after writing each of his "Sass Attack" articles. The kind of satisfaction one receives after saying something so blatantly yet intelligently controversial, that it deserves nothing less than, as David put it, a "silent applause." I truly admire this careful art of critique, and do my best to follow along his sometimes staggered footsteps. Once I can achieve even a sliver of what David once did on a monthly basis, get all of my readers to purse their lips uncomfortably and perhaps the occasional guilty smile, than that kind of understanding will help carry on the column for years to come.



# 100th Applause

Congratulations to the *Applause* cover contest Honorable Mentions

Angelica Halversson



Karin McQuade



## *This Means War*: 3 out of 5 By Catherine Santos

When two top notch CIA spies fall in love with the same woman, an action packed tug of war ensues that nearly ruins their friendship. There are explosions, guns and two VERY attractive spies: Chris Pine and Tom Hardy. This chick flick has enough action to keep the guys happy, and just the right amount of romance. Nine times out of ten I hate romantic comedies due to the over the top mushiness of the film, however it was a well balanced film and by no means a tear jerker. There were emotional moments but none were emotional enough that you needed a Kleenex.



The film starts out with FDR (Chris Pine) and Tuck (Tom Hardy) being the best of friends and discussing relationships. FDR is the bachelor: single and loving it. Tuck is a family man who is finally moving on after his divorce with his ex-wife. When Tuck sets

up an account on a dating site and meets Lauren (Reese Witherspoon) they share an immediate connection. Right after their date, Lauren meets FDR at a video store, and persuades her to go on a date with him. Soon after, the two of them figure out that they are dating the same woman and decide to keep their friendship a secret. Soon they begin to compete against each other for her affection, and spy on her to figure out her opinions. While all of this is occurring the two of them are being followed by a drug lord, who has followed them back to the United States.

The film is very funny, although there are some awkward moments. A lot of people have disliked it, but I personally enjoyed it. There is not a lot of thinking involved, and it's a very straight forward film. If you don't like romantic comedies, there is a lot of shirtless Chris Pine for you to stare at.

## Some Nights – Fun. By Rachel Lechler

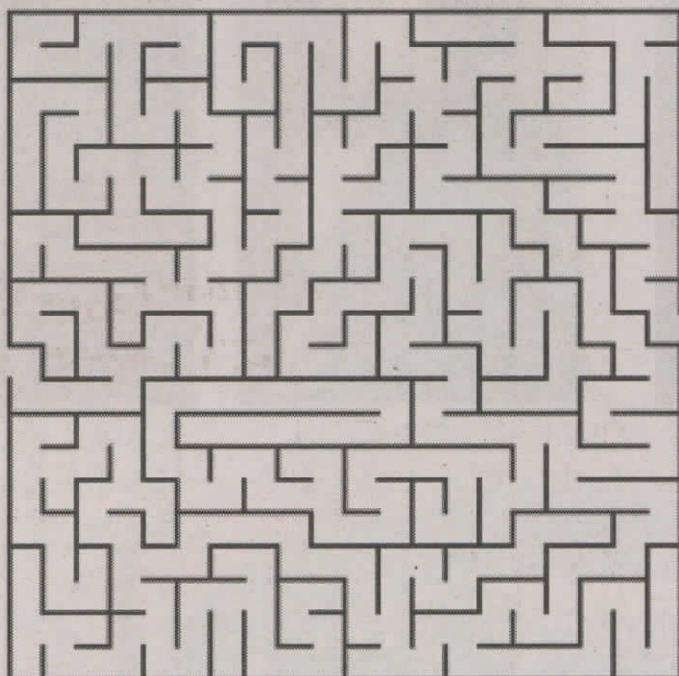
The American indie pop band, Fun., recently released their second studio album *Some Nights* on February 21st, and I must say, I am thoroughly impressed with all ten tracks. The album itself was a mix of indie pop, theatric rock, and hip hop, but Fun. presents the listener with the album's namesake, after the intro, which is an upbeat melody that should be noted. But the real hook is the second track, the lead single, "We Are Young." For all you Glee fans out there, you might have heard this song before, but it is easily one of my favorite songs on this album, not just because of its mesmerizing lyrics that gets stuck in my head, but the beat itself makes me want to sway along to



vocalist, Nate Ruess', hypnotizing voice. Another song worth mentioning is "It Gets Better." When I first listened to this song, I wasn't so sure if I was a big fan of the electronic intro, but after listening to it a couple of times, it works perfectly with the fast tempo rock and uplifting lyrics. I will admit that there have been many a times that I've danced around my room and sang along on the top of my lungs to that particular song. The entire album as a whole really caught my attention and it was difficult trying to pause it every once and a while just to write this review. This three-piece really sucked me in and I'm eager to see what kind of work they will produce in the future.



## Help Fitz find her viola!



## Horoscopes!

**Aries:** A little bit of fresh air will do you a lot of good.

**Aquarius:** Your self-confidence and courage enable you to pursue any objective with success!

**Pisces:** Polish off those roller blades from 2001... your time to hit the rink is now.

**Taurus:** Reconsider everything, pal.

**Gemini:** Blood-orange is the new black. Hit up Goodwill and get all the \$5 blood orange colored shirts you can... before it's too late.

**Cancer:** If you're shoelaces keep coming untied, get a pair with some Velcro straps. You will not regret it.

**Leo:** Keep talking to those voices in the walls. They'll repay you for your congeniality one day.

**Virgo:** Yin and yang feeling out of line? Rearrange that room of yours and get your chi flowing.

**Libra:** Flip on your scratched copy of N'Sync's No String Attached and get a bubble bath going. You're worth it.

**Scorpio:** Consider a new hair-style. It'll put you on that next level.

**Sagittarius:** Remember... YOLO.

**Capricorn:** Take a dance class and get that stagnant winter blood flowin'.

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"Probably those gold covered chocolate coins."  
Haley Campbell, 8th grade  
Strings



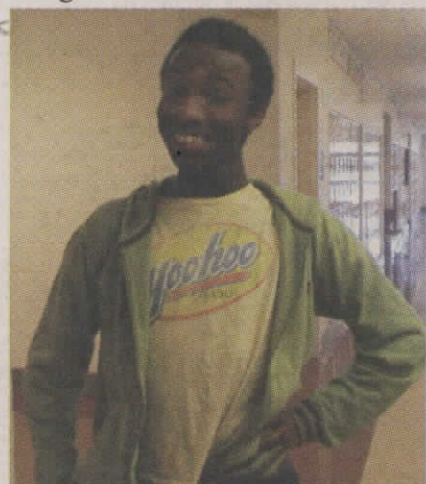
"Dubstep."  
Maria Veronina, 11th grade  
Visual Arts



"Children's smiling faces."  
Harrison Carr, 11th grade  
Vocal



"Gold because it's worth a lot."  
Caroline Ainsworth, 7th grade  
Dance



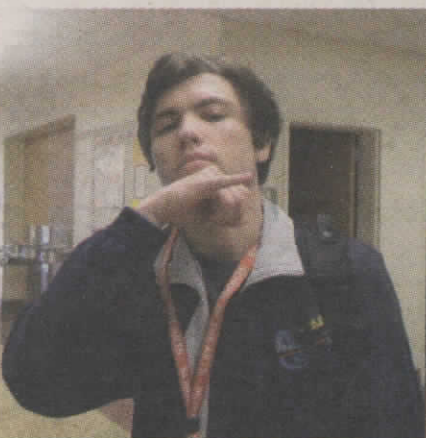
"Success and my musical career."  
Kahliel Burden, 11th grade  
Vocal

## What is the pot of gold at the end of your rainbow?

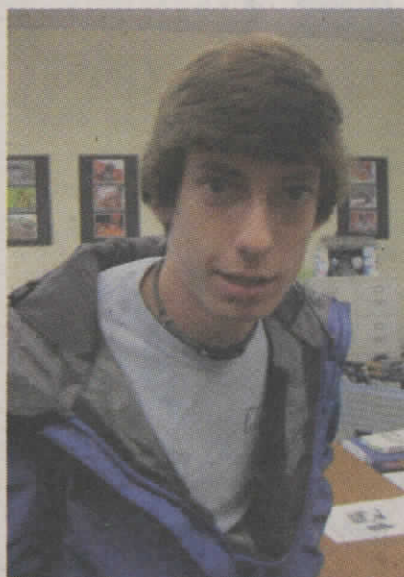
By Allie Augustine and Miki Sugimoto



"A pot of chocolate."  
Alec Pourmoghadam, 7th  
grade Vocal



"World peace and free donuts."  
Tyler Coons, 11th grade Band



"Graduation."  
James Decker, 12th grade Vocal



"Zach Sharpe is in my pot of gold."  
Elize Miramontes, 10th grade Strings



"To be on American Idol."  
Nolan Tecklenburg, 8th grade Piano