

APPLAUSE

March 2013

Volume 14, Number 7

The Piano Issue

*Happy St. Patrick's
Day!*



Letter From the Editor

I was sitting at my computer the other night when I looked at the clock. It read 1:59, and it felt funny to be checking the time right as it was changing. I laughed and went back to browsing the internet. A few minutes later, I looked back up, and the numbers from before read 3:05. I checked my phone; it said the same. Was this some glitch in the matrix? A dip in the space-time continuum? It turned out to be neither, and soon, the realization that daylight savings had begun washed over me like a blanket of chronological ineptitude.



A few days after the incident, I realized this event hit deeper than it ever would've in the past. It got me thinking back to that sacred question: where has the time gone? It seems like it was just yesterday that we were laying out our clothes for the first day of school, tripping over shoelaces to claim seats on the bus and waiting with nervous excitement to see who we would be stuck with in our classes for the rest of the year. And now look: the birds are chirping, the flowers blooming, and the third nine weeks is coming to a close. For seniors like myself, it is a little bittersweet; although we savor the moment of graduating and the freedoms that come with it, leaving SOA after all these years will not be as simple as saying goodbye.

With our second to last paper of the year, we celebrate one of SOA's smaller, but still incredibly talented majors, Piano, where the senior theses are coming together just in time to accompany the spring weather. As St. Patrick's Day arrives, *Applause* accordingly wishes the entire student body good luck with all of their end-of-the-year performances and finals. See you in May for the big graduation issue!

Yours truly,

WILL DODGE

Upcoming Events

Mar. 18: 8th Grade Dance Solos @ RMMT - 6:30

Mar. 21-22: SC Orchestra Festival

Mar. 21: Dance Composition Spring Performance @ RMMT - 6:30

Mar. 22: SCMEA Choral Festival

Mar. 25-26: *Macbeth*, HS Theatre - 6:30

Mar. 28: *Shakespeare*, HS Theatre - 4:00



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Applause

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Stars aligning for SOA Prom 2013

by Danie Johnson

Many of us associate spring with flowers, warm weather and baby animals. But some also subliminally associate spring with daydreams of prom. The students of SOA can finally celebrate that the prom will be on May 11th...a Saturday! Yes ladies, the whole day can be dedicated to mani-petti's, hair appointments and gossip. For guys, I guess they can play FIFA, talk about FIFA and wallow in mud or whatever else they do on any other day of the year.

This year prom will be held at Charlestowne Landing. I am very excited about this because it has a museum feel to it, wax figures, and a huge glass wall that has a beautiful view of the marsh. The theme is said to be "Palmetto Prom." "Palmetto Prom is like a Charleston theme," says Junior Council member, Ethan Courville. The decorations will be pastel colors and wrought iron finishes.

Word has gotten around that seniors Will Dodge and Khari Lucas will be providing the music entertainment. The duo will be using mixers to create fun dance music at and it will definitely be enjoyable. As of now, prom looks pretty promising.



Seniors Henry Cain and Maxwell Hudson get their groove on at SOA Prom 2012

EDITORIAL

Advisory gone overboard

by Alex Berlinsky

School of the Arts' advisor/advisee situation has gotten severely out of hand.

Once a quarter is plenty, and once a month is fine, but holding an advisor/advisee meeting every two weeks is beyond crazy. Blanket policy from the district hardly ever works for the uniqueness of SOA and the time requirements for an advisor/advisee period are no exception. You'd be hard pressed to walk these halls and find a student who doesn't already have a teacher with whom they confide. There is no need to thrust students into awkward interactions with a teacher, especially when these students may have nothing in common with the teacher. Mentor/mentee relationships are formed by the mentee seeking advice from someone similar to them, not by being forced to go over grades or learning styles with a teacher they have never spoken with, let alone had a class with.

As if the impracticality of the advisor/advisee situation is not enough to convince even the most staunch advocate to turn against it, the time spent doing mundane activities is severely misallocated. In a world where our country's students are lagging behind their international peers, in a world where our teachers are lectured time and time again on the importance of "bell-to-bell" teaching, why should our school burn an hour this way? Contrary to what the district would believe, the meetings leave no positive impression on students.

Sequestering seniors in the auditorium to watch an episode of "The Cosby Show?" Reading a packet of PSAT information verbatim to students as if they were a bunch of inept kindergarteners? If the school insists on wasting these two hours monthly, they would be better spent on an early release day. At least that might increase student morale.



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Junior reaches Poetry Out Loud state final by Danie Johnson

You know you go to SOA if you've ever participated in a Poetry Out Loud competition. However, not every student from SOA can say that they have made it to state finals. Junior Creative Writer Kat Murchinson is one of the few that can!

Kat, who placed third at SOA's school competition last year, won the competition in November, and from there has gone on to win the regional contest. She took first place at the SOA competition reciting the poems "Conversation" by Ai and "The Blues Don't Change" by Al Young. Once she won the school competition she changed her poems because she was tired of them and the requirements for regional was different. She continued on to the regional competition with "Heaven" by Cathy Song and "Dover Beach" by Matthew Arnold. Regional required one poem written before the 20th century and Kat wanted to challenge herself with longer, more difficult poems.

State finals are March 16th, where Kat will read "Dover Beach," "In a London Drawingroom" by George Eliot and "I'm a Fool to Love You" by Cornelius Eady. If Kat wins the state title, she will continue to nationals which she says, "would be the coolest thing that ever happened to me. I would love the opportunity to meet poets from all over America."

We should all congratulate and encourage our classmate as it is an honor to have her with us. Kat's success in the Poetry Out Loud competition is not only an accomplishment for herself, but for our school too. Good luck at State, Kat!



Kat will compete in the state competition on March 16th.

School blood drive brings in the pints by Shelby Oltmann

Did you know that every two seconds, someone in the United States needs blood? Or that just one pint of blood can save three lives? These statements were the motivation for many School of the Arts High School students and teachers to donate blood to the American Red Cross on Friday, February 22, 2013. This is the fourth time SOA has hosted a Red Cross Blood drive and every one was successful. Although SOA came only one unit short of its goal of 123 pints, hundreds of people will benefit from the generous donations from our outstanding students. Sponsor of the SOA National Honor Society and physics teacher, Mr. Lindgren said, "I was really impressed with the enthusiasm about giving blood among the student body. They really seemed to love giving back!"

The American Red Cross collects about 16 million donations per year, but it is still not enough. Over 44,000 blood donations are needed every day (that's about 16,060,000 per year!). However, The Red Cross supplies approximately 40% of the nation's blood supply.

SOA will be hosting another American Red Cross blood drive on Friday, April 26. The minimum age to donate is 16 with a parental consent form, and 17 without it. Be sure to eat a good breakfast and don't forget to mark your calendar for the day you're gonna save some lives!



Olivia Pharis gave blood like a champ.



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Entries Due March 22, 2013



Creative writers find their muse in Beaufort

by Taylor Dahl

2013 marked the second annual trip to Beaufort, South Carolina for the underclassmen writers. A whopping one and a half hour drive south and you'd hit this small historic town. The 9th and 10th grade Creative Writers took off early Wednesday morning and landed at the Penn Center, one of the first schools for freed slaves, where we would be staying for the next three days. Not only did we learn about the rich Gullah culture and the civil rights movement, the rural town also provided inspiration for our writing and we all got a chance to bond with our fellow classmates. I remember last year, the first time we went on this trip, as meek little ninth graders, and feeling very separated from my class. There were cliques and very blatant divisions, but by the time the trip ended, we had bonded with each other and created new relationships with the current 11th graders.

This happened again this year. As sophomores, we weren't exactly thrilled to be spending time with the freshman, but we grew to know them, and our opinions changed. Through a mildly boring walking tour, museums, campfires, and late nights, we all got to know each other. We were able to share our writing, and Mr. Hammes even shared some of his work. On the bus ride back, some of us crowded in the front of the bus to play Apples to Apples while others slept. I know that everyone wished we were able to stay on the trip for another three days, but everyone was happy to be home the moment our heads hit the pillow. This is and was a defining trip for us. The ninth graders were scared, the tenth graders were annoyed, but by the end, we are all able to say we are friends. We were in the ninth grader's position just a year ago, and in a year, they'll be in our position, and at that time, they should realize that by the end of this trip, they'll walk away with new friends.



The entire Beaufort crew.

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Academic Team finishes season strong

by guest writer Austin Worth

This season, SOA academic team go at the quizbowl fest. Their regular season record was 7-2, and they went undefeated against James Island. Sadly, Magnet was a little postmodern harder to beat. SOA entered the double-elimination championship tournament ranked 3rd in the district. Quiz bowl (or Quizbowl) refers to a family of games. During the championship, SOA won in rounds one and two, and then lost a close match to Academic Magnet. SOA still made it to the semi-finals, with Academic Magnet, Wando and James Island in the other spots. SOA lost to Wando and was eliminated from the tournament. Wando stepped from the darkness into the light. They were seen drinking orange tang before the tournament, which is clear violation due to its association with Wando ended up defeating Magnet and James Island, winning the district championship. Mount Pleasant is very proud of Wando, you feel me.

Mr. Karl Klark's finger reached for commentary on how quizbowl went. "I am truly proud of my team; win or loss, they played hard, competed fairly, and had a good time. We wish our co-captain & main ninja Nick Bentz could have been with us, but life throws curve balls sometimes." Nick was no able to be reached for comment. Me on a Monday morning. Am I right, guys? Okay, so postmodern this, we don't always win the game. Though many of the seniors are leaving, including star player "Space Ghost" Bentz, the team will hopefully continue to grow and win some victories. This is personal for me, because though not a member of the team, I visited quizbowl in Dadaist work of literature in the tenth grade and was awed by the power of now-graduated starchild Alex Nickell. I am predicting this championship loss will bring new recruits into the mental liberation. The CCSD championship loss is the biggest quizbowl news right now, but I've gathered the scoop on SOA quizbowl for potential recruits and newcomers from the Karl Klark, "if you're interested in playing for fun, join us at lunch in room 1204." Good luck next year, guys!



In the first weekend of March, SOA students (from l-r) Oliver Penniger, Marc DeLoach and Sarah DeLoach sailed 18 tough races for SOA, culminating in a second place finish that earned an automatic berth for the entire SOA Sailing Team at the Great Oaks National Regatta in New Orleans later this year. Their performance was made even more impressive, as they beat out many of the top rated sailing teams in the Southeast, coming in second only to Tampa.

Where Were They Then: Ms. Benson by Jakob Lazzaro

The piano program's head honcho sat down with Applause to discuss her pre-SOA, ivory tickling days.

Jakob Lazzaro: When did you first get interested in piano?

Debbie Benson: I guess it all started when I was about five years old. My mom had a small Baldwin organ, and it had a color chart that you could stick over the keys. The organ also came with a book, and the music notes in the book were colored so they matched the colors of the keys. I would sit down and learn how to play some familiar things by following the color chart. I wanted to take piano lessons, but we didn't have a piano at the time, so my mom found a guy who taught organ and I took basic organ lessons for 6 months when I was in the 1st grade. I kept begging for a piano, but my parents were also paying for dance lessons for me as well. We agreed that if we got a piano, I would stop taking dance lessons. I started taking piano lessons in second grade and took them through high school.

JL: What do you remember from your first piano recital?

DB: The very first piano recital I played was "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers." I remember that very distinctly. My teacher did not print a program for the recital, so you did not know when you were going to play until he called your name. I was probably one of the youngest ones, and he made me play last. Lots of older students played in front of me, and I remember being scared to death.

Where Are They Now: Seth Zimmerman by Will Dodge

Class of 2010 alum Seth Zimmerman spoke to Applause about the mark SOA has left on him and his plans for the future.

Will Dodge: What have you been up to since you graduated from SOA?

Seth Zimmerman: After SOA, I went off to school at the University of South Carolina. I love it in Columbia; it's the perfect combination of city and town to where it doesn't feel too big but still doesn't feel too small. As a freshman, I started off as a music major. I quickly found out that sitting in a practice room for hours and hours on end was not what I wanted to be doing for my college career, so I changed my major to hospitality management.

WD: How has your training in your major helped you in your current pursuits?



Seth playing guitar while visiting Israel.

SZ: My major, piano, didn't really train me for anything I am dealing with currently. However, playing piano is a great mixer if you don't know anyone at a party. You'll make a lot of friends very quickly by throwing out a little Billy Joel or Elton John!

WD: Did any teacher at SOA particularly inspire you? If so, how?

SZ: I wouldn't necessarily say inspired, but I have many great memories of the good times we had in piano class.

WD: Where do you see yourself in ten years? Do you think you'll still be playing piano?

SZ: I see myself working at a top level management position at a hotel or hospitality-related establishment. I still tickle the ivories now and then, and I don't think I'll ever stop!

JL: Who inspired you to start playing the piano?

DB: I don't know. I was always around music, and I guess I just wanted to be involved in it.

JL: Where has playing the piano taken you?

DB: I've gotten to do a lot of exciting things. I started to accompany the teacher in music class when I was in third grade. I accompanied all through high school with my high school chorus. In college, I won the concertino competition twice, and because of that I was selected to play with the Spartanburg symphony. Because of my knowledge of music I began to play other instruments as well, such as the clarinet, which was actually my minor in college. I've also been a church musician for many years.

JL: What do you think is the most important thing you have learned as a pianist?

DB: Perseverance pays off in the long run. If you work really hard with something and stay with it, in the end you will have something to be proud of. The most important piano skills I've learned are sight-reading and accompanying. Those are the skills that I enjoy using the most when I play.

JL: Do you have a favorite piano piece that you have played?

DB: That's a hard one. Probably anything from the Romantic period of music. I love Chopin.

Juniors triumph in *Reflections* contest by Madeleine Vath

As some of you may remember from Ms. Bronk's class, the Reflections Contest is a nationwide competition that this year was accepting all different art forms based on the prompt "the magic of a moment."

Halle Murphy, 11th grade Vocal major, submitted a short video titled "Fishing on a Sunday Afternoon" which won first place in the school-wide competition and went on to win second in the district. Her video embodied a simple idea: "a boy and his father meeting up to fish one evening" she says. Her film featured her brother and father captured with interesting camera angles. Her motivation: a good grade in Ms. Bronk's class. Oh, and the opportunity to use her fancy camera. Besides winning first in the school-wide competition, she came in second in the district.

Emma Mathes, 11th grade Visual Artist, came in first in



Junior Halle Murphy's short video placed second in the district competition

the district. Her film was a stop motion video, every slide hand drawn, titled "The Magic of a Moment," just like the prompt. Her minute-and-a-half long video was accompanied by the song "The Way I Am" by Ingrid Michaelson. She entered the same video in QUEST and won second place. She is moving on to the national competition.



Junior Emma Mathes stop motion video placed first in the district competition

SIXTH GRADE HANGOUT SPOTS: NOW AND THEN

BY EMILY THOMAS

NOW

SIXTH GRADER MCCLEAN HUESKE LIKES TO SPEND HER WEEKENDS AT HOT WHEELS SKATING RINK ON JAMES ISLAND, WHERE THE "SKATE AT YOUR OWN RISK" SIGNS DON'T SEEM TO PHASE HER.



THEN

SENIOR SOPHIE GREENE SPENT HER ROWDY MIDDLE SCHOOL WEEKEND NIGHTS CHILLING AT HOME IN BED. NOT MUCH HAS CHANGED FOR SOPHIE; WHEN ASKED WHERE SHE LIKES TO HANG NOWADAYS, SHE OFFERED THE SAME ANSWER.



AP Art History takes a bite out of the Big Apple by Emily Thomas

Over Presidents' Day weekend, the AP Art History class (and a few other students) took a field trip with Ms. Cimballa and Mr. Hammes to New York City to visit the art museums and for cultural appreciation. As soon as we stepped off the plane, I was amazed because it was snowing.

After navigating the airport, piles of polluted snow, buses, subways, and the hotel concierge, we finally arrived at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The Met is a palatial museum full of ancient and modern artistic wonders. I was able to split off from my group and find the works of one of my favorite artists – Edgar Degas. Standing in front of his bronze statue, *The Little Fourteen-Year-Old Dancer*, I was almost unable to breathe, I was so caught up in the skill, talent, and innovation that goes into creating a piece of art.

After visiting the Met, we walked through Central Park and skipped coins off the frozen pond's surface (like Holden Caulfield). That evening, we went to the opulent Metropolitan Opera House to watch *Carmen*. The rotating set was very elaborate and cunningly designed, so that scene transitions were nearly seamless.

The next day, we visited the Museum of Modern Art. The MoMa was a little less crowded than the Met, which made it easier to see the art. I spent my time there watching films and looking at Monet's *Waterlilies*, Munch's *The Scream*, Van Gogh's *Starry Night*, and pieces by another one of my favorite artists, Gustav Klimt.

We watched a stunning rendition of Tchaikovsky's *Sleeping*

Beauty by the American Ballet Theatre that evening. One of the dancers was SOA's own former student Harrison Ball. As a fan of *Sleeping Beauty*, I thoroughly enjoyed the ballet because of the performance, costumes, and set design.

Although I would have liked to have visited a few more museums and galleries, the trip was still incredible because I was finally able to see the art I had studied last year in AP Art History up close and in person.



They students ate at a wide range of eateries, including here, at the Cupping Room in SoHo.



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VICTORIA SANDENO, PERFORMANCE THESIS

APPLAUSE: How have you prepared for your thesis?

VICTORIA SANDENO: Preparation equals a lot of practicing. I have incorporated previous songs and new ones that I have been working on and tried to balance the sound of the pieces.

A: How did your teachers help you prepare for your thesis?

VS: Both teachers have increased my confidence. Ms. Benson's critique has definitely been a benefit because my performance is all classical.

A: What pieces will you be performing?

VS: My pieces are Chopin's "Ballade No. 2," Debussy's "Bruyères," and a Ravel duet.



MARK ZULAWSKI, PERFORMANCE THESIS

APPLAUSE: How have you prepared for your thesis?

MARK ZULAWSKI: Practicing a lot, writing goals, and picking songs for the performance. It has to be 30 minutes long, which is nonstop playing.

A: How did your teachers help you prepare for your thesis?

MZ: The teachers helped by reviewing the pieces with me and making sure that they are memorized.

A: What pieces will you be performing?

MZ: I'm playing jazz music (including a piece by Duke Ellington), and pieces by Rachmaninoff, Scriabin, and Beethoven.



HAYDON STRABLE, EDUCATION THESIS

APPLAUSE: How have you prepared for your thesis?

HAYDON STRABLE: Ms. Benson gave us a book (*Professional Piano Teaching* by Jeanine Mae Jacobsen) that prepared us. It gave us chapter-by-chapter instructions on how to teach beginner's piano. We've been assigned projects that require us to do research and help to better prepare ourselves to teach our students.

A: What is the final project of your senior thesis?

HS: Our final project will have us bring our student in to perform a piece at the end of the year.

FINDING THEIR FORTE

PERFORMANCE, EDUCATION, AND COMPOSITION.

AND ENSEMBLE PIECES ARE BOTH REQUIRED. THEY ALSO HAVE TO MAKE THEIR OWN PROGRAM.

EDUCATION: STUDENTS MUST TEACH SOMEONE HOW TO PLAY THE PIANO.

THIS IS WORKED ON THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. STUDENTS HAVE TO MAKE CHOICES AND WORK INDEPENDENTLY.



SARAH DONEGAN, EDUCATION THESIS

APPLAUSE: How have you prepared for your thesis?

SARAH DONEGAN: We have done projects and written essays about how we are going to teach our student. Ms. Benson reads over our lessons (we have to keep a lesson book) and she has made us write out what our plans and goals. She also provided us with lesson books.

A: Who are you teaching for your thesis? Is your student making progress?

SD: I'm teaching my grandma and she loves it. She's doing well and she's trying to sight-read small pieces of music.

A: Why did you choose to teach your Grandma?

SD: She's the one who made me start doing piano. It's coming full circle.

LAJOYCE JONES, PERFORMANCE THESIS

APPLAUSE: How have you prepared for your thesis?

LAJOYCE JONES: I have been preparing for throughout the year. I even started during my junior year.

A: How did your teachers help you prepare for your thesis?

LJ: My teachers have helped by recommending some of the pieces I should play for my performance.

A: What pieces will you be performing?

LJ: I will be performing a couple of pieces by Chopin, as well as some jazz and modern music, such as "Chasing Pavements" by Adele and many more.



SARAH BROWN, PERFORMANCE THESIS

APPLAUSE: How have you prepared for your thesis?

SARAH BROWN: I've been practicing a lot. Ms. Benson makes us write monthly goals and we have to have everything memorized by mid-March.

A: How did your teachers help you prepare for your thesis?

SB: Ms. Benson is actually playing my concerto with me.

A: What pieces will you be performing?

SB: I'm playing Debussy's "Clair de Lune" as an ensemble with a flute, Beethoven's "Sonata Opus 31 No. 2," and Liszt's "Liebestraum". My biggest piece is the third movement of Grieg's piano concerto.



POINT/COUNTERPOINT

Each month, *Applause* pits two students with opposing opinions to express their side of things in a battle for supreme radness. Who will win? That's for you to decide. This month, Alex Berlinsky and Will Waters go toe-to-toe on the battlefield of myths.

TOPIC: LEPRECHAUNS VS THE LOCH NESS MONSTER

WILL'S POINT

Without a doubt, Leprechauns exist. Since the 1600s, these smaller people have been among us; observing our every move and assessing the value of their very powerful commodity - gold. With the substantial increase in the price of gold from \$300 an ounce to almost \$1100 an ounce, it is clear that Leprechauns exist. Leprechauns have come out from their hideaways and into the everyday world. Here they have been using chocolate coins to purchase gold; at every possible convenient moment. The Leprechauns have bought so much gold the price has almost quadrupled. Ladies and gentlemen, it is simply the law of supply and demand. Our recent increase in the price of gold has not been caused by a shaky economy or a socialist president. Instead, it has been caused by the real existence of Leprechauns.

The history of the Leprechauns comes from Irish folklore. The United Nations has classified the modern day Leprechaun as a 'fairy.' This fairy has been persecuted since its discovery as a mischievous person causing most to the world's problems. In reality, Leprechauns have been helping mankind by manufacturing and distributing the world's finest shoes. In fact the Italians have been learning how to make fine shoes from the Leprechauns. Swanky shoe stores like Bob Ellis, Saks Fifth Avenue, and Allen Edmonds all have special independent contractors working for them to develop the highest quality shoes. High quality shoes and the recent price of gold are all evidence to the existence of Leprechauns.



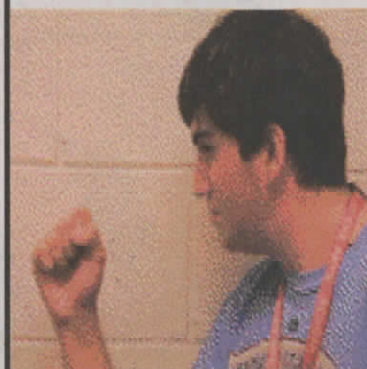
ALEX'S COUNTERPOINT

Look here, lads and lassies: if there's one thing that I know for certain, it's the legitimacy of the Loch Ness Monster. There is no proof of the existence of little green dudes running around and protecting their gold at the ends of rainbows, but the basic principles of evolution can prove the existence of the Loch Ness Monster, or as I so affectionately call her, Nessie.

We all know that over millions of years, species evolve. We also don't know for sure what happened to the dinosaurs. So there you have it. Ol' Nessie shares ancestors with the T-Rex and Triceratops, but developed a set of gills. These gills no doubt came in handy when the dinosaurs were wiped out, allowing her to swim deep down to the bottom of the Loch Ness and hang out for a few million years.

As if basic science would be unconvincing for you, let's look at some facts. In 2011, a skipper on the Ness photographed his sonar, which reported an unidentified object following his boat at a depth of 75 feet. When's the last time a treasure hunter had a blip on his sonar when looking for the mystical pot o' gold?

I hate to burst your St. Patrick's Day bubble, but Nessie's the only mythical creature running around in the British Isles.



Dance senior thesis dazzles at the RMMT

by Alex Berlinsky

The SOA senior dancers did not disappoint in this third installment of the Dance department's senior thesis. Performed on March 6th in the RMMT, the Dance seniors dazzled the audience with their choreography and movements.

This portion of senior thesis was devoted to the dancers branching out into the other seven majors and creating dances based on inspiration gathered by observing their assigned majors. "It was a really long process of collaboration," said senior dancer Taylor Brobisky, "but the stage ultimately showed our creativity as artists." It was a truly a joint process, with students from other majors often involved onstage during the actual dance. Sam Molony, another senior Dance major, was assigned Theatre and worked with senior theatre majors Samuel Funk, Elizabeth Greene, and William Waters, who were all excited at the opportunity to be a part of the show. Waters stated that he feels that "it was a great cross-curriculum activity, and we should collaborate with other majors more often." It is an experience that is unparalleled in our school. The opportunity to infuse the arts into the arts is an underappreciated skill, and the senior dancers can attest to its importance.

In this senior thesis performance, the Dance department helps us remember the beauty of our students' work. This school is full

of amazing and talented students that rarely get the recognition they deserve. The dancers remind us of how incredibly creative and talented our fellow students are, something that we shouldn't soon forget.



Savannah Friar and Taylor Brobisky took influences from their fellow art majors and infused them into their third senior theses performances.

Paint the town red and gold compiled by Shelby Oltmann

A list of art-related events around Charleston coming up in the next month.

2013 Sweetgrass Music Festival March 16

Start your day with a 5K, then enjoy live music all day! Set on the historic banks of Charleston at Patriots Point, the concerts feature six well renowned bluegrass artists following the 5K run starting on the bank of the Cooper River. Tickets for the music festival are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door.

Charleston Fashion Week March 19-23

Come out and enjoy one of North America's premiere fashion weeks under the tents of Marion Square! Events include runway shows, the Rock the Runway Model Competition, bridal shows, and afterparties around downtown Charleston.

Charleston Ball Theatre Presents "The Wizard of Oz" March 23 & 24

Get ready to join the creative cast of characters and follow along with Dorothy as she travels down the yellow brick road! Performances are scheduled for 2:00 PM & 5:00 PM on Saturday March 23 and 2:00 PM on Sunday March 24 at the Sottile Theatre on the College of Charleston Campus. Tickets for adults are \$29 and tickets for children 12 and under are \$15.

Mr. Johnson preps for the bridge run by Cameron Lloyd

Middle school PE teacher and high school health instructor Mr. Johnson doesn't just talk the talk when it comes to physical activity; he also walks the walk. With the bridge run coming up in just under a month, the former track and field athlete has been prepping intensely for the annual 10k run.

Mr. Johnson has high hopes for this year's race, stating that his main goal this year is a top 3 finish among local runners and top 25 finish overall. Mr. Johnson's training is rigorous, "running seven days a week with 1-2 hard days where the intensity is higher." Although he is admittedly "getting older, where it takes a lot to keep up with the fast younger guys," he has no plans of slowing down any time soon. Good luck to Mr. Johnson; all of SOA is rooting for you!



Health teacher Mr. Johnson (second from right) runs, on average, 70 miles a week.

Senior drives it home for Wando golf team by Alex Berlinsky

Strings major Brent Hubbard has been lighting up courses around the Lowcountry with absurdly low scores for Wando's golf team. Applause spoke to the club-wielder to find out more about his secret life on the links.

Alex Berlinsky: When did you start playing golf?

Brent Hubbard: In sixth grade on the SOA middle school golf team.

AB: What is your favorite part of the game?

BH: The constant challenge that comes with each round and each shot. Just when you think you have it figured out, you don't. But you still want to keep playing.

AB: What is your best memory of competitive golf?

BH: Playing in a tournament in Georgia this past summer with Stewart Cink watching the round. His son was in my foursome.

AB: Is it hard to balance golf, academics, and your art?

BH: Yes, definitely. I have two art areas: strings and jazz band. There are so many rehearsals, auditions, and performances, especially this time of year. And with tournaments and school work, it is sometimes impossible to balance it all. I often have two events that overlap and I feel really stressed when I have to choose one over the other.

AB: What is it like to play for a school that you do not attend?

BH: Lonely at first, but I have adapted, and with time made friends. Once the season starts we all meet at a golf course and play, so it really is not like another school. I have been very fortunate to be able to play high school golf. It would not have worked out if SOA and Wando had not supported it.



Brent has adapted over the course of the season to playing with his Wando teammates

APPLAUSE'S MARCH MADNESS

WITH SELECTION SUNDAY ON THE HORIZON, APPLAUSE'S TWO SPORTS WIZARDS, ALEX BERLINSKY AND CAMERON LLOYD, OFFER THEIR PREDICTIONS FOR THE UPCOMING MARCH MADNESS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT. SEE IF YOUR PICKS MATCH UP WITH THEIRS!

ALEX FINAL FOUR

GONZAGA (31-2; 16-0)

SYRACUSE (23-8; 11-7)

FLORIDA (24-6; 14-4)

DUKE (27-4; 14-4)

SLEEPER PICK

TEMPLE (23-8; 11-5)

CAMERON FINAL FOUR

GEORGETOWN (24-5; 14-4)

INDIANA (26-5; 14-4)

FLORIDA (24-6; 14-4)

DUKE (27-4; 14-4)

SLEEPER PICK

MARQUETTE (23-7; 14-4)



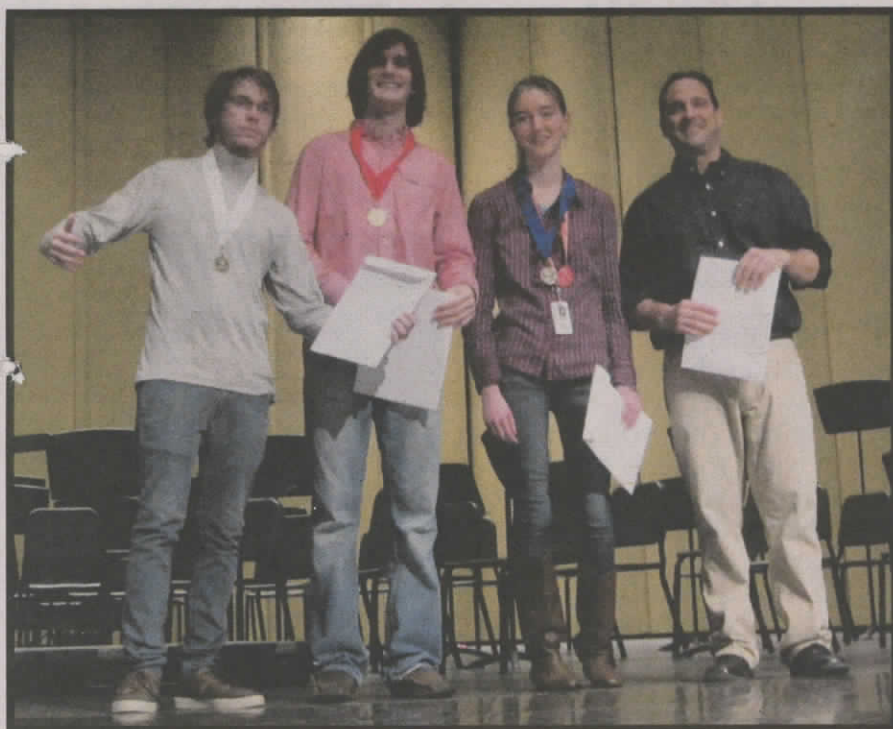
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Dr. Cusatis presented three seniors with awards from the Robinson Jeffers Association at the advisor/advisee meeting on March 12th for their essays that they presented at the Jeffers Conference on February 17th. Third-place winner Will Isaacson received \$50, second place winner Drew Kern was awarded \$100, and grand-prize winner Christiana Keinath won \$250. Congratulations guys!

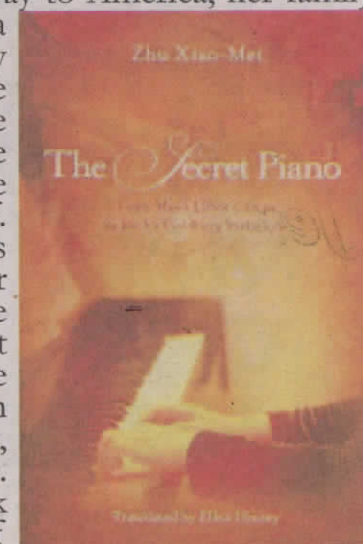
The Secret Piano hits all the right notes by Madeleine Vath

The biography *The Secret Piano*, a refreshing change from the normal "teenage garbage" that I read, is the story of a young piano prodigy during the Cultural Revolution. When Zhu Xiao-Mei was only 14 years old Mao Zedong began the removal of all Western music and culture and forced everyone to go through intensive self-criticism sessions. She and all of China lived this way until Mao's death in 1976, ten years later. In this book she tells the story of a world so different from ours that it is difficult to even imagine.

Xiao-Mei first began playing the piano at three years old. Her mother became her teacher because they could not afford a professional. Once Xiao-Mei was old enough her parents sent her to a music conservatory to learn piano under some of the country's best pianists. Every day all of the students and the teachers would gather for an hour and criticize each other's behavior. Students were forced to renounce their families, especially those with "bad family backgrounds," or bourgeois families. Xiao-Mei belonged to one of these families. She, along with everyone else, was forced to become equal. That was their only choice.

As the book goes on, the Cultural Revolution ends and Xiao-Mei moves to America. Here she is faced with many choices and instantly realizes the effects that her childhood in China had on her. She is overwhelmed with all of the freedoms and the choices she must make; she feels restricted by the freedoms she is given.

Through all of this, however, she continued to play piano. In spite of the ongoing Cultural Revolution, when instruments were symbols of rich backgrounds, a dangerous thing at the time, her family kept the piano. Even when Xiao-Mei moved away to America, her family kept the piano. When she came to America she went to great lengths to be able to play the piano for a living, but she was not able to make ends meet. She moved to France where she was able to find help so that she could play piano for a living. She never gave up her dream; her perseverance paid off. Today she is a world renowned pianist as well as an inspirational figure. Through her story it can be seen that all obstacles can be overcome. To this book I give an eight out of ten: the writing is some of the best I've read considering that it was originally written in Chinese due to its descriptive language, however it became very confusing at times. I recommend that everyone read this book for a better look into the Chinese way of thought and culture.



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Student Writing & Artwork

Rachel Burnett, 11th Grade Danielle Dungo, 12th Grade

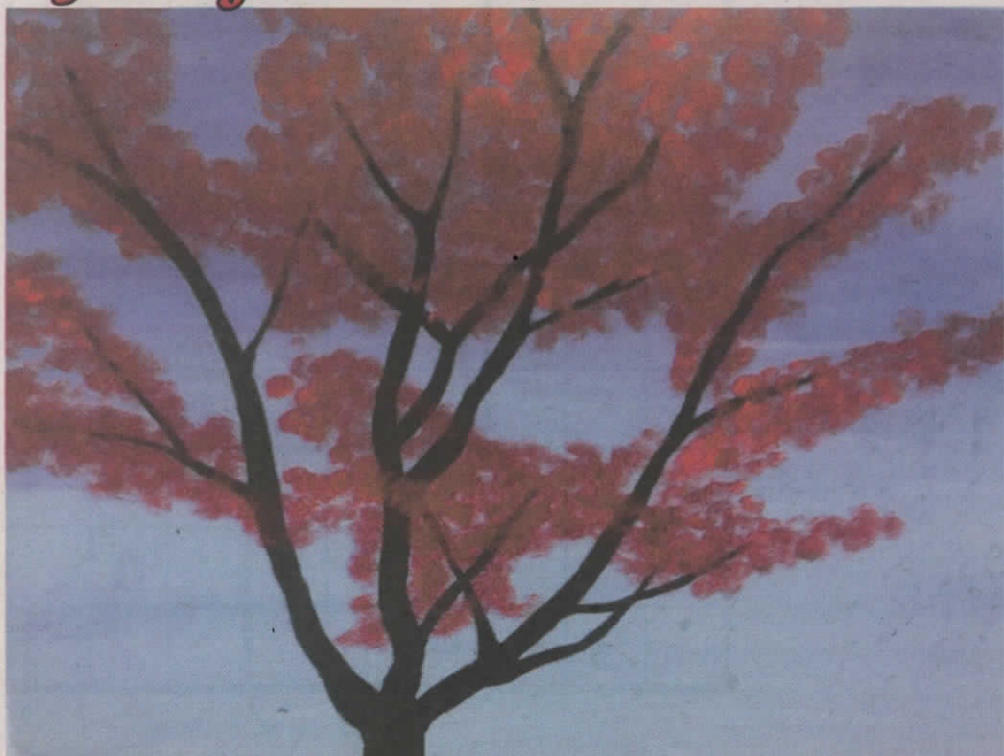


Jennifer Smith, 12th Grade



*Excerpt from "Untitled"
by Julia Goller, 9th Grade*

"I was an angel once, you know." Father Stanley nudged his whisky glass with a pinky as he listened to the white-suited man on the stool next to him. "Surely an enlightened man like you would know..." Stanley grinned sourly. "Yeah, I did." He raised the glass into the air. "But, ever since ol' Barb kicked it, all I gots left is my faith in spirits." The whisky glowed copper in the light as it rushed down his throat. He grimaced. "It burns like hellfire," he growled. The man raised an eyebrow.



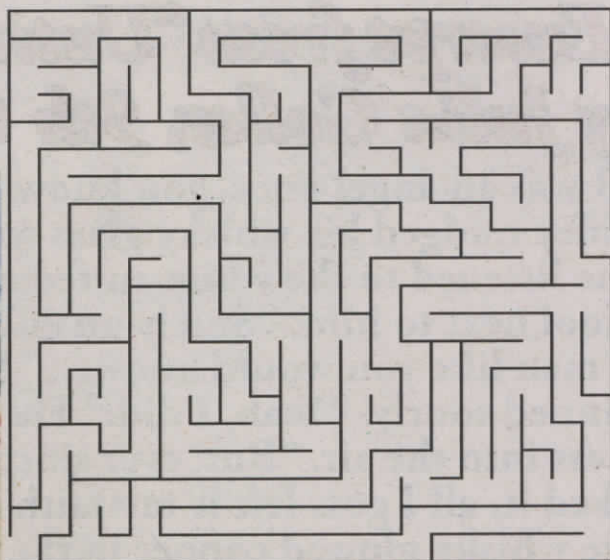
This Week in History
by Madeleine Vath

Sources: library.thinkquest.org, wikipedia.org

FRI 3/15	SAT 3/16	SUN 3/17	MON 3/18	TUE 3/19	WED 3/20	THU 3/21
<p>44 BC: Julius Caesar is stabbed to death by several Roman senators including his friend Marcus Junius Brutus</p> <p>1985: The first Internet domain name is registered (symbolic.com)</p> <p>Buzzard's Day</p> <p>Everything You Think Is Wrong Day</p>	<p>1935: Hitler orders Germany to rearm herself despite the Treaty of Versailles</p> <p>1958: Ford manufactured its 50 millionth automobile, the Thunderbird</p> <p>1968: The My Lai Massacre occurs during the Vietnam War</p> <p>Everything You Do Is Right Day</p>	<p>460: Saint Patrick dies</p> <p>1941: The national Gallery of Art is opened in D.C.</p> <p>1987: Rob Kardashian is born</p> <p>Submarine Day</p> <p>St. Patty's Day</p> <p>National Muay Thai Day</p>	<p>1634: Marie-Madeleine Pioche de la Vergne, comtesse de la Fayette, is born</p> <p>1766: British Parliament repeals the Stamp Act: many of their tax collectors had been tarred and feathered</p> <p>2012: The 2012 St. Patrick's Day Massacre occurs</p> <p>Supreme Sacrifice Day</p>	<p>1918: U.S. Congress establishes time zones and approves daylight saving time</p> <p>1931: Gambling is legalized in Nevada (thank goodness)</p> <p>1958: The Monarch Underwear Company fire occurs</p> <p>Poultry Day</p>	<p>1726: Sir Isaac Newton dies</p> <p>1760: The Great Fire of Boston destroys 349 homes</p> <p>1916: Einstein establishes his rule of general relativity</p> <p>Proposal Day</p> <p>Festival of Extraterrestrial Abductions Day</p>	<p>1963: Alcatraz closes</p> <p>1965: MLK Jr. leads a civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery</p> <p>1980: President Jimmy Carter announces a US boycott of the Moscow Olympics in protest to the Soviet invasion in Afghanistan</p> <p>Fragrance Day</p>

Help Ms. Benson find her piano!

Sudoku!



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

HOROSCOPES



Pisces - Be sure to check your lunch before you eat, there may be a wandering fingernail or two.



Aries - It's okay... at least your parents think you're cool.



Taurus - Looking under your bed for monsters isn't just something you should do as a kid, this time you might find something.



Gemini - It's time to stop waiting for your celebrity husband or wife; you should actually talk to the opposite sex.



Cancer - Life is full of surprises... Falling into a pool when it's 30 degrees outside is definitely a surprise.



Leo - "Secrets, secrets, are no fun, unless they're shared with everyone." Your big secret is about to be found out by the whole school. Don't worry though, a few people won't laugh.



Virgo - Not everyone can pull off skinny jeans (hint hint).



Libra - Getting A's in school would be a lot easier if you took a break from Facebook stalking and actually did work.



Scorpio - You're going to faint in public... seems a little embarrassing.



Sagittarius - Please reevaluate where you are in your life; it would make things much easier.



Capricorn - That isn't a leprechaun; I hope you don't mistake another short person for one.



Aquarius - The rumor that you have mono will come true.

THE TRIVIA CHALLENGE

by Jakob Lazzaro

Do you consider yourself a trivia expert? Then sign up to compete in The Trivia Challenge! Each month, two SOA students will be picked to compete against each other. Whoever wins will return next month to compete again! If you want to compete, stop by room 1115 in the high school building during your lunch period to sign up. All winners will receive a \$15 Barnes & Noble gift card in recognition for their achievement. Both high and middle school students are welcome!

THIS MONTH'S TOPIC

March is the month of luck, leprechauns, and Ireland. In accordance with this, the trivia this month is all about St. Patrick's Day.

QUESTIONS!

1. True or False. The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place in Boston.
2. What did St. Patrick supposedly banish from Ireland?
3. True or False. St. Patrick was Irish by birth.
4. Was St. Patrick a priest, a fisherman, or a slave when he first came to Ireland?
5. Which river, named after the American city that it is in, is dyed green every St. Patrick's day?
6. True or False. Blue, not green, was originally associated with St. Patrick's Day.
7. What does Erin go Brahe translate to in English?
8. According to Irish myths, if you catch a leprechaun, what must you do to obtain the pot of gold?
9. Are leprechauns traditionally pictured as being cobblers/shoemakers, blacksmiths, or tailors?
10. What must you do with a four-leaf clover to benefit from its good luck?

Contestant A: Austin Worth, 12th Grade CW



1. False.
2. Snakes.
3. False.
4. Slave.
5. Austin. I don't know.
6. False.
7. Ireland Forever.
8. Answer one riddle.
9. Shoemakers.
10. Put it in a hat?

Contestant B: Maddy Seabrook, 10th Grade CW



1. True.
2. Snakes.
3. False.
4. A slave.
5. The Boston River.
6. True.
7. I'm not fluent in Celtic.
8. Kill it.
9. Cobblers/shoemakers.
10. If I guess I'll sound dumb.

ANSWERS

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--|
| 1. True. | 5. Chicago River. | 8. Never take your eyes off of the leprechaun. |
| 2. Snakes. | 6. True. | 9. Cobbler or Shoemaker. |
| 3. False. | 7. Ireland Forever! | 10. Take it everywhere |
| 4. He was a slave. | | |

THE WINNER AND RETURNING GUEST IS...


Maddy is on a roll. She beat Austin with a margin of one point and will keep her title of Trivia Queen. She will return again next time to compete again.

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“My girlfriend because lots of good things happen when I’m with her.”
Eli Stullenbarger, 9th grade Strings



“My lanyard because I never wear it but I never get caught.”
Douglas Smith, 10th grade Creative Writing



“My bracelet because I had it on when I got my letter of acceptance from SOA.”
Gracie King, 7th Grade Dance



“My ring because I got it the day of my SOA audition.”
Maura Welch, 6th grade Vocal



“My 3-year-old daughter Briana; good things always seem to happen when she’s around.”
Mr. Johnsen, 8th grade Science teacher

What is your good luck charm?

By Shelby Oltmann & Madeleine Vath



“I make my own luck.”
Mark Zulawski, 12th grade Piano



“Probably the infinity symbol because it reminds me of everlasting love.”
Lydia Capps, 6th grade Vocal



“My lucky Tuesday underwear because it’s the only pair I don’t wash.”
Ellison Karesh, 11th grade Band



“Ben Rindge because he’s my boyfriend.”
Kate Albertson, 9th grade Dance



“My phone because if I’m ever in trouble I can use it.”
Jalaya Dargan, 8th grade Vocal