

APPLAUSE

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The Vocal Issue

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Letter from the Editor

Desiree Horlbeck

As some of you may have heard or read in the last issue, SOA is no longer hosting ArtSmart. Like Dumbeldore, though, ArtSmart will only truly be gone when none that are left are loyal to it. Forever remember the ArtSmart, fellow Potterheads. And non-Potterheads too, I suppose.

Anyway, this issue would normally be dedicated to ArtSmart: the cover, the interviews, everything. Thankfully, however, something big is happening this October to take its place: the Vocal Department, as they did last year, is putting on their own musical. This year they are performing *Beauty and the Beast*. The Vocal Department's rendition of this classic is sure to be quite spectacular and may even have a few twists and turns that most have not seen. Come out to support the vocalists at the end of October/beginning of November! There are ten shows so you cannot possibly miss it!

Seeing as All Hallow's Eve is fast approaching, we just had to include a few tricks and treats of our own. Check out the tastefully done candy map to find the best (and worst) places to satisfy that candy hunger on the 31st. For other spooky features, look for a bed-wetting movie review, a terrifying Fright Night review, and a Halloween flashback in the sixth grade "Now and Then" segment.

This year *Applause* is working overtime to attend and review every event that every art area puts on: shows, plays, readings - you name it. If your art major held an event in the past month or so, check the second half of the paper for pictures and a review. You all are the cream of the crop!

Thy humble servant,

MADELEINE VATH

Letters to the Editor? Email your thoughts to madeleine@soa-applause.com



Applause

the official student publication of
Charleston County School of the Arts
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Editorial: Favoritism

It is one thing to *pick* favorites. Let's be honest: everyone favors something or someone at some point in their lifetime because everyone is human. It is another thing entirely to base actions in a class almost solely on favoritism toward a group of students. It is cruel and demoralizing to other students and it allows those in the circle of favorites to slack off because they know that they will be picked for whatever they want anyway.

Favoritism will forever be a part of our society because, admittedly, people are unfair. It is impossible to be objective in all aspects of one's life, and those who are best capable of such distance are cold and oddly mechanical. However, we do not need to be a society of robots in order to control favoritism. Favoritism, in most cases, should be something we feel, admit to ourselves, but do not act upon; especially if we are in a position of authority over others.

If, or when, we get to the corporate workplace, for example, almost all of us will be the victim of favoritism at one end or the other. In other words, we will either be the favorite, who is granted the best projects and the biggest raises, or the one left in the dust, who has to scrounge around for the extras left behind by the boss's pet. You may think, "Gosh, that is really unfair for the little man." But in reality the boss is being unfair to both employees. Obviously, the little man is getting the shorter end of the stick for no apparent reason, and has to work extra hard just so he does not attract *bad* attention from the boss. But Mr. Boss Man is being unfair to his favorite as well by enabling him to do mediocre work and still receive praise for it; he is altering the favorite's ideals on what is acceptable and what is not, what should be achieved and what it takes to achieve it. To be perfectly frank, this will - over a prolonged period of time - diminish the favorite's quality of living because he or she may very well become complacent in all other aspects of life.

Equal opportunity is the answer here. Each worker, student, child, insert-almost-any-being-here should be given the same chances to prove his or her abilities to do whatever job, project, task, insert-almost-any-opportunity-here. Their abilities should then be evaluated *objectively*, not *subjectively*. This is the only way to avoid the foul, destructive beast that is favoritism.



Caroline Cash

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Mrs. Zerbst

PLATINUM

Ms. Looney Ms. Fitzgerald
Dr. Cook

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Ms. Drennan Mr. Short
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Ms. Brooks The Ratigans
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Jakob Lazzaro

Thanks to our patrons for keeping *Applause* clapping!

Upcoming Events

October 24-27 - *Beauty & the Beast* @ 7pm in RMMT
 October 28 - Teacher Workday
 Oct. 31-Nov. 2 - *Beauty & the Beast* @ 7pm in RMMT
 November 4-6 - *Hamlet, Zombie Killer of Denmark* @ 6:30pm in the Black Box
 November 5 - Early Release Day
 November 9 - Junior Ring Ceremony @ 5pm in RMMT
 November 12 - HS Orchestra "Thankful" Concert @ 6:30 in RMMT

Go like our Facebook page -
 "SOA Applause."

We would love to hear your feedback!

Cover art by **Caroline Cash**

Major General Livingston stressed Jefferson Service Club Awards one key point on his visit to SOA

by Ted Anastopoulos

As Major General James Livingston walked across the stage of the Rose Maree Myers Theatre on October 8th, the effects of war were obvious: a stiff walk, a tough mentality, and an undying patriotism. As head of evacuation for the city of Saigon, Major General Livingston was the absolute last evacuee to leave the city before it fell to the North Vietnamese.

"Before boarding the last helicopter," he recalled, "I had to look into the eyes of 40,000 Vietnamese mothers and deny them a place on the last helicopter leaving. Some were trying to raise their babies up to me to take back to America, but I had to turn them down. There isn't a day I live, where I don't think of those 40,000 mothers and their children."

With the collaboration of the Student Council and Mr. Orvin, SOA was fortunate enough to schedule a presentation from the Major during one of our advisory periods. During his speech, Major General Livingston expounded on life lessons that simply could not be recreated in an advisory meeting.

One conspicuous feature of Major General Livingston's presentation was that he never actually explained what he did to earn the prestigious Medal of Honor. By visiting the Medal of Honor website, *Applause* was able to get the full story on his venerable feat. Had he said his full story, every person in the theatre would have been in utter disbelief. His bold actions truly depict his love of America.

On May 2, 1968, Major General Livingston was issued a top secret assignment to liberate another Marine company and the village of Dai Do, which had been captured by the North Vietnamese. Knowing full well that this was a suicide mission, Major General Livingston defied all odds by leading his men across 500 yards of open rice paddies while under heavy enemy fire. Even though he was badly wounded from two nearby grenade explosions, Major General Livingston denied any medical treatment and continued to lead his men across the mine infested rice paddies. Along the way he also annihilated over 100 underground enemy bunkers in an attempt to alleviate enemy fire.

Eventually reaching the village of Dai Do and the captured Marines, Major General Livingston was only halfway done with his show of incredible valor. While maneuvering the remaining Americans out of the war zone, he was met with an even tougher counterattack from the Vietcong. This time, a third grenade exploded close to Major General Livingston, leaving him unable to walk. Still determined to save his fellow Americans, he remained stranded on the ground in front of enemy fire to continue to maneuver his men. When he felt positive that all his troops were safe, he allowed himself to be dragged out by two fellow Marines.

With so much gore, violence, and carnage - not to mention humility - there is little wonder why he did not say what he did to earn the Medal of Honor.

The Major also stressed the importance of integrity. As a child, Major General Livingston discussed how he always tried to please his mother by following her lead. By using his mother as a guide to uphold high morals, Major General Livingston said he developed a strong set of values, the most important being integrity and honesty.

Discussing the importance of honesty, the Major said, "Not having integrity in school can get you in a little trouble. Not having integrity on the battle field can cost someone's life."

Following the Major's discourse, a question and answer time was monitored by Mr. Orvin. Students submitted questions to gain a further insight on the Major's character by asking about his views on courage, education, and dedication.

When asked what America needed to do to better respect our veterans, Major General Livingston simply said, "Say thank you." There is no doubt in anybody's mind that he himself deserves a sincere "thank you" not only from SOA students, but from all of the United States.



Freshman Olive Rentz, who hopes to pursue a military career, poses for a picture with Major General Livingston.

by Ted Anastopoulos

Every month, the SOA Jefferson Service Club recognizes two members who have shown exceptional service towards others.

Lamar Hunter, Senior Dance major

As part of a competition hosted by the Lowcountry Food Bank, Lamar displayed sick dance skills in conjunction with a scene produced with the help of other SOA Jefferson Service Club members. Lamar showed nerves of steel while staying on beat in front of other service clubs from James Island, Ashley Ridge, and Academic Magnet.

Each school had to creatively include the arts into a scene relating to hunger or canned goods. The scenes were posted online, and the school that received the most "likes" would win a shopping spree to Food Lion to benefit school food drives.

Portraying a homeless man attempting to receive help from strangers, Lamar incorporated contemporary dance skills into the song "Royals," which was sung by **Abbi Floyd** during the skit. Dancing to the beat, Lamar's character was ignored by wealthy CEOs and Cadillac Escalades, whose parts were played by other members of the Jefferson Service Club.

Lamar's performance ultimately persuaded voters to "like" SOA's scene, and was a key driving force in helping SOA clinch the shopping spree.

"I'm glad I was able to help SOA with something I love to do" said Lamar. "It all went to the same cause, so it did not really matter who won. But it is awesome that SOA came out on the winning side."



Ted Anastopoulos

Mia Silvestri, Junior Dance major

After winning the Food Lion shopping spree, Mia was elected to collect as many canned goods as she could in 90 seconds. The only other school to receive this opportunity was Academic Magnet, who came in second place with the most "likes."

Arriving at the Food Lion, Mia quickly got to work, reaking havoc on the store's gigantic supply of cans. Mia started by dumping entire boxes of food in her shopping cart. After filling her buggy to the brim with corn, carrots, peas, beans, and yams, Mia went for the kill by grabbing 20 pound bags of rice and placing them below the buggy.

"Not gonna lie, I was pretty winded after lifting those behemoth bags of rice" said Mia. "It was a good thing the workers called time when they did because that buggy was about to break in half with all the food I shoved in it."

Mia did indeed shove a lot of food in that buggy, an impressive 256 pounds. All of the food collected will help benefit SOA's food drive.



Ted Anastopoulos

SOA Blood Drive

Graham Crolley

SOA's National Honor Society organized the Red Cross Blood Drive for our strapping, young students to donate their oxygen-rich blood back to their community. The Blood Drive took place on September 20th, and our lovely SOAs students churned out 32 useable pints of blood. This translates to 96 transfusions, possibly saving 96 lives! **Zoe Abedon**, a Junior Creative Writer comments about giving blood, "It didn't hurt at all, and it felt good to help people!" A big thanks to **Mr. Lindgren** and everyone involved in making the blood drive possible. The next one is scheduled for December 19- do not miss it!

Pastel artist Tammy Papa visits SOA

by Noah Jordan

Noah Jordan: What is your background in art?

Tammy Papa: I actually have always drawn and my art was always chosen to be put on the board and that sort of thing. In college I got As and actually was a music major for a while, but was doing better in art than music so I switched. It was just kind of my thing. So I got a degree in advertisement and design and I did that for a while until my kids were born. Later in life I picked up drawing and painting classes.

I went to a workshop in Taos, New Mexico, and decided that I could sell my work, as my mentor at the time was doing. I just pursued it from there little by little taking classes and visiting shows. I have been doing this since 1996.

NJ: What style of art do you identify with?

TP: Well, I am a colorist. I enjoy a lot of bold color. I guess I am slightly impressionistic, I mean, you can define what I am painting but I have a lot of soft edges and I try to make it poetic. I like more impressionist and abstract paintings.

NJ: Was there an art program that you were involved with at your high school?

TP: I went to an American high school in Germany, and the art teacher was really good, but it was just one class. I would have given anything to go to a school like this. I wish I had.

NJ: Were either of your parents involved in art? Did they encourage it?

TP: No, neither of them were artists, although they do have more art in them than they think they do. They did not stop me from entering art school, but I think they had their worries. They had a lot of worries. What was I to do when I got out of school?

NJ: What do you hope for the students to learn from your class?

TP: I teach everything from the technical part of art to what you want to say with your art, so there is a really big umbrella of information. One of my friends has a quote about the painting having a head, a heart, and a soul: the head is the technical part of drawing; the heart is the color because people respond to color emotionally; and the soul is the edges of the painting. I try to teach to those three elements of painting mostly depending on where my students are skill-wise.

Catching up with Ms. Slenk

by Madeleine Vath

Madeleine Vath: What did you teach at SOA?

Ms. Erin Slenk: I taught Vocal for five years. In the middle school I taught seventh and eighth grade and in the high school I taught two women's choirs. I also coordinated music for the school-wide musical, ArtSmart, and Vocal senior thesis.

MV: Why did you leave SOA?

ES: SOA was my first job and I knew when I started that, at some point, I wanted to go back to school and get my Master's degree. I love to learn and after five years of teaching I knew that I had things to work on and improve in my own teaching. I decided to attend Michigan State University to get my Master's degree in Music Education. I missed my SOA students terribly, but I loved learning about how to be a better teacher.

MV: Where do you work now?

ES: After I graduated from MSU, I wanted to go back to teaching in schools so that I could try out the new things I had learned. I am currently teaching in Southern Pines, North Carolina at Pinecrest High School. I have three choirs: one beginner group, one women's choir, and one honors mixed choir. The school is in a small town, but the students are really talented and it has been great to get back in the classroom after a few years off.

MV: What types of music are you and your students preparing currently?

ES: We actually have our first concert in a week! I decided to center the concert on the idea of hope. The concept of hope was important to me as I began a new life and new job in a new place. I had hopes for my students and what the year would bring, so the pieces in the concert deal with people who are in places where hope seems to be lost and what types of things we put our hope in. For some people, it is their religious faith and for others it is the goodness shown to them by other people. The music is diverse: some is contemporary, some is classical, some is musical theater, but it all centers on the idea of hope. I am really excited to hear it all together.

MV: Do you have any advice for aspiring music teachers?

ES: My advice would be to do what you love. A lot of things about being a teacher are hard and if you do not have a passion for what you are doing, you can easily be discouraged or worn out. If you believe in what you are doing and know that it makes a difference in a student's life, then all of the headaches and long hours are worth it.



Student River Kopsak and guest artist Tammy Papa standing by Papa's watercolor painting."

Noah Jordan

SOA's Arts and Humanities students become published authors

by Graham Crolley

SOA's very own Arts and Humanities classes are publishing a book to be featured in the Library of Congress!

The book chronicles the history of the arts from 1550 to 2000, showcasing writers, painters, composers, architects, dancers, actors, philosophers, and more for each of the 45 decades.

There are 90 pages, written by the 86 students in the class. Students paired up (with a few exceptions) to work on their two pages together, not only documenting the artistic achievements of their decades but also the historic events that took place, showing the class's well-rounded understanding of their given decades.

The pages include bright and vivid pictures of various art forms and history of interest from their time periods, as well as adept descriptions to garnish these photos.

Like any real deal published work, the book is to have a cover, a copyright page, a title page, and an acknowledgement page where all of the students' names will be listed.

It will be put together by Art Bookbindery in Winnipeg, located in Manitoba, Canada. The pages are being sent in mid-October, and the galley proofs for each page should arrive back in mid-November. And, of course, two copies will be on the shelves in the Library of Congress.

Copies of the finished books should be back at school in December, just in time to make excellent Christmas gifts! Congratulations to all the soon-to-be published authors in Arts and Humanities, and a big thank you to Mr. Smyth for making this opportunity for his students possible.



Mr. Smyth expresses his excitement to his students about the Library of Congress book.

Noah Jordan



Ms. Slenk conducting her Pinecrest High School choir in their first concert.

Provided

Where Were They Then: Mr. Robin Rogers

by Madeleine Vath

Mr. Rogers, a Vocal teacher at SOA since 1996, talked to Applause about his music past.

Madeleine Vath: Where were you born and raised?

Robin Rogers: I was born and raised in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

MV: What colleges did you attend and when?

RR: I started taking classes from John Ericson at Converse College in the third grade. In high school I started taking organ, harpsichord, and voice at Converse as well. I later graduated from Newberry College with a triple degree in Music Education, Church Music, and Music Theory with an emphasis in Piano, Voice, and Organ.

MV: Where else have you worked besides SOA?

RR: I started my teaching career at Middleton High School; I taught there for fifteen years. After that I worked at Fort Dorchester for three years. I then came to SOA the second year after it was founded.

MV: Did you always want to have a music-related job?

RR: Yes, I knew from age four that I wanted to be a pianist. What I really wanted to do was play piano and be a conductor on Broadway. I have worked at places such as Disney, Six Flags, and Carowinds, all in music related jobs.

MV: What led you to teaching?

RR: I had a music director named John Mabry for whom I was the student accompanist. He taught me how to play ad lib piano, and I really admired him because he was such a great musician. Because of him, I fell in love with vocal music.

MV: What do you enjoy about teaching Vocal?

RR: I love working with kids...on most days. I love seeing them grow as young people and learn how to demonstrate strong musicianship through hard work. What is so great about our school is that when you come in as a sixth grader, you are inexperienced and naïve, but you grow into a strong musician and mature adult. Not many schools have the uniqueness of this program.

MV: What advice do you have for prospective singers who want to make it into a career?

RR: In today's society you need to be very versatile. You need to be able to read music, play piano, and sing all different styles of music because the world today expects so much of its musicians. The more education you have in all aspects of music - voice, piano, theatre - really plays a part in making yourself a better individual to get the job. You have to market yourself so you can get what you want.

Where Are They Now: Sabrina McIntyre

by Madeleine Vath

Sabrina McIntyre, Vocal graduate Class of 2012, shares her musical experiences at Roanoke College in NC.

Madeleine Vath: What is your major?

Sabrina McIntyre: I am a music major with a minor in music education (K-12) at my school, Roanoke College.

MV: What other music-related activities are you involved in?

SM: I am in the Roanoke College Choir (an SATB ensemble) and an all women's a Capella group called *Mainstreet*. I am also part of the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship Worship Band. I am a member of Mu Beta Psi, a national honorary musical co-ed fraternity that is devoted to community service and promoting music as an art form and educational subject. And finally, I also am involved with piano and voice lessons here at school. Soon the Roanoke College Choir will be going to Washington, D.C., to perform with the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra, and I will be singing as a featured soprano. I am the first sophomore to do so in years! I am so excited!

MV: Do you have any advice to aspiring musicians?

SM: If you get frustrated, that is okay! We have all been there before. Do not expect everything to be like your time at SOA. This is college, so you should of course remember what you have been taught in high school, but also be open to change and you will thrive. Never give up; utilize the relationships you have made with upperclassmen at your campus should you think about becoming a music-centered major. They have been where you are, and all they want to do is help. And do not forget to ask your professors for help.

MV: What is one of the main things SOA taught you that has helped your success in college?

SM: I have definitely learned how to get along with people of other personalities and to stay patient. Community is important and it is half the battle. The other half of it is the technical aspect of music. Thank goodness I learned how to sight read in middle school! If I did not have that background I would be lost! Also, the repertoire of choral music and Senior Thesis helped expand my horizons and taught me what I am capable of. Since then I have learned to push myself harder.

MV: Besides all the great things you are currently doing with your talent, what have you done since leaving SOA?

SM: I have joined Greek Life. I have made community service a large portion of my life (I currently am a volunteer at an after school children's program in a low income area near campus and I help tutor the children). I have also academically accomplished a lot, and that is thanks to the wonderful teachers I had at SOA. Also, I have become a mentor to incoming freshman to the college and I help them with their transition to college academically and socially. I have become very involved with my faith and am a leader amongst the student community to help other women grow in their faith. And lastly, I have also become a student representative of the college and work in the admissions office to help promote the college. Oh yeah! And I also am involved with the college's office of multicultural affairs.



Mr. Rogers at the SOA Vocal Spring concert of 1997.



Sabrina (third from the left) singing with her a Cappella group, *Mainstreet*.

Beauty and the Beast

Cast List Main Characters

Belle - Abbi Floyd
 Understudy - Madeleine Vath
Beast - Jess Rames
 Stunt Double - Malachi Cleveland
Gaston - Ethan Courville
 Understudy - Christian Leprettre
Lefou - Devon Nalley
Maurice - Sam Shealey
Mrs. Potts - Madelyn Knight
 Understudy - Bianca Palillo
Chip - Natalie Sinclair
Lumiere - Victor Swatzyna
 Understudy - Cody Beasenburg
Cogsworth - Parrish Brown
 Understudy - Nick Shaarda
Babette - Grace Benigni
Madame de la Grande Bouche (Wardrobe) - Anna Woodward
Monsieur D'Arque - Michael Stevens
Silly Girls - Carly Edwards
 - Sophie Ferguson
 - Emily Kahn-Perry
 - Maddy Rodeffer
 - Bethany Schroeder
 - Logan Williams

Come and support the Vocal
Department!

Performances are
 Oct. 24-26 and Nov. 1-2 @ 7pm
 Oct. 26 and Nov. 2 @ 2pm
 Oct. 27 @ 3pm

Understudy performance Oct. 26th
 @ 2pm

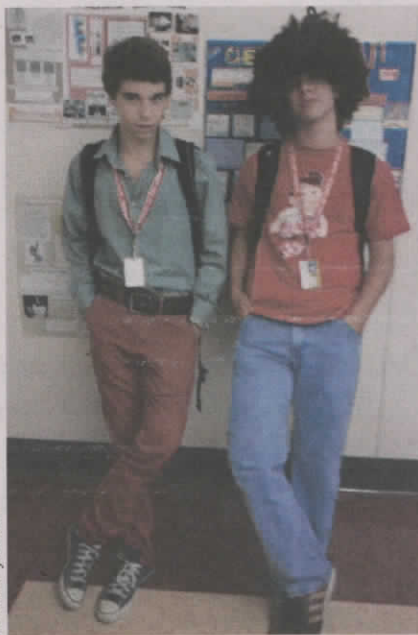
Beauty and the Beast has roots leading back to the 1700s and is known as one of the original fairy tales. It was first published in a magazine for children in 1740. The original story line varies greatly from the recent version, as most fairy tales do. It's no surprise that the original back stories for Belle and the Beast are much darker than Walt Disney interpreted: Belle, the daughter of a king, was banished from her kingdom by a jealous evil fairy and raised by a merchant as a substitute for his deceased daughter. The Beast was originally a prince whose father had died when he was young and his mother had to lead the kingdom in war. He was left in the care of, surprisingly, another evil fairy who cursed him once he reached adulthood and was transformed into the beast we are familiar with. After circulating for several hundred years, *Beauty and the Beast* has taken on a milder tone and isn't nearly as dark as the original tale, mainly due to Walt Disney's child-friendly interpretation. What the modern version lacks in evil fairies, it makes up for in catchy tunes and dancing dishes.

SOA Spirit Week



Suzanne Jackson

Junior Vocal major **Kelsey Costa** on Pink Out Day



Suzanne Jackson

Junior Piano majors **Victor Mardikian**, and **Tradd Zanin** on Decade Day



Anna Kalik

Juniors **Emilie LaPlante**, Theatre major, and **Victoria Vanderpool**, Visual Art major on Decade Day



Suzanne Jackson

Sophomore Vocal major **Rebecca Putnam** on Western Day



Suzanne Jackson

Senior Visual Arts majors **Jackson Knowlton** and **Matt Watson** on Western Day



Anna Kalik

Freshman and Junior Theatre majors **Lachlan Quertermos** and **Lauren Anne Patterson** on Character Day



Suzanne Jackson

Seniors **Ellen Kitchens**, Creative Writing major, and **Bena Parker**, Visual Arts major, on America Day

SOA Vocal Department presents *Beauty and the Beast*

For the month of October, SOA middle and high school Vocal have been working diligently to pull off this classic Broadway production. Applause interviewed the main cast to get the behind-the-scenes scoop.

Abbi Floyd (Belle)

by Madeleine Vath

Madeleine Vath: Tell us a little about your character.

Abbi Floyd: Belle is this super awesome, sassy, independent, and intellectual village girl with big dreams.

MV: What are some of the problems you face in the musical?

AF: Having to kiss Jess Rames

MV: What do you like and dislike about your character?

AF: I like her spunk. She is kind of the perfect character so there is not anything I dislike about her.

MV: How do you most relate to your character?

AF: She is an outcast, kind of like me.

MV: What do you find most difficult about getting into character?

AF: Having to talk girly

MV: How do you balance acting with singing?

AF: I have to study my lines a lot more than my songs. The singing comes naturally but the acting... not so much.

MV: How do you handle stage fright?

AF: I just remind myself that people are there to see a good performance. They do not want to see me mess up, so I do not have a reason to be scared. The crowd keeps me going.

MV: What is your favorite line or scene?

AF: Every scene with Gaston is my favorite; I get to be so sarcastic. Specifically, I really like when he asks me to marry him and I say "I just don't deserve you."

MV: What have you enjoyed most about *Beauty & the Beast*?

AF: Devon Nalley

MV: Have you been in a school play before?

AF: Nope, this is my first time in the spotlight.



Junior Abbi Floyd plays Belle.

Madeleine Vath

Jess Rames (Beast)

by Noah Jordan

Noah Jordan: Tell us a little about your character.

Jess Rames: My character is a loud-mouthed, frustrated recluse with an image problem. Although at one point handsome, his wicked spirit led to him being cursed with a wrecked appearance.

NJ: What are some of the problems you face in the musical?

JR: The most difficult aspect of the performance is remembering the vast volume of dialogue that I have.

NJ: What do you like and dislike about your character?

JR: I love the musical aspects of my character. The songs I get to perform are both challenging and beautiful. Adapting to the abrasive character I must embody has been challenging but interesting for me. My character starts off as both cruel and egocentric. It is not until the end of the play, when he realizes the value of kindness, that I start to appreciate his character.

NJ: What do you find most difficult about getting into character?

JR: The most difficult aspect of getting into my character is properly representing the utter despair that the character faces on stage.

NJ: How do you balance acting with singing?

JR: Acting and singing, in this play in particular, seem to go hand in hand. Singing, of course comes more naturally to me than acting, so it has been a process learning how to emote through dialogue.

NJ: How do you handle stage fright?

JR: Stage fright has always been a problem for me. It just takes some getting used to. The night before the first show always makes me feel used to it, but the excitement usually makes me act more authentically.

NJ: What is your favorite song?

JR: Gaston's first song is my favorite because of how hilarious it is.

NJ: What have you enjoyed most about *Beauty & the Beast*?

JR: I have enjoyed working alongside my friends to create something I hope people will find entertaining.

NJ: Have you been in a school play before?

JR: Last year I spent the majority of my first semester last year emulating the role of Javert. The two characters mirror each other emotionally; both are cold and torn between two worlds. This has made it much easier for me to relate to the struggles that the Beast faces.



Senior Jess Rames plays the Beast.

Madeleine Vath

Ethan Courville (Gaston)

by Noah Jordan

Noah Jordan: What are some of the problems you face in the musical?

Ethan Courville: The limited amount of time is the largest problem I am facing.

NJ: What do you like and dislike about your character?

EC: I dislike how my character acts towards women, but there are some fun songs that go along with the role.

NJ: Is it difficult playing the bad guy?

EC: It is not hard playing the bad guy. It is actually kind of fun.

NJ: What is your favorite song?

EC: Gaston's first song is my favorite because of how hilarious it is.

NJ: What have you enjoyed most about *Beauty & the Beast*?

EC: My favorite song is "Me." The different kind of music is fun to sing.

NJ: Have you been in a school play before?

EC: I was in *The Music Man* and *Hairspray*. I played Link in *Hairspray*; he was also a bad guy type role so it has helped for *Beauty and the Beast*.



Senior Ethan Courville plays Gaston.

Madeleine Vath

Devon Nalley (Lefou)

by Madeleine Vath

Madeleine Vath: Tell us a little about your character.

Devon Nalley: My character is Lefou. He is the dim-witted, quirky side kick of Gaston.

MV: What are some of the problems you face in the musical?

DN: The problem I face in the musical is the dance solo in the song "Gaston." I have never had a dance solo before.

MV: What do you like and dislike about your character?

DN: I like being crazy and quirky. This is probably the most fun role in the musical. Being Lefou is like being myself, only with a crazier voice.

MV: What is your favorite song?

DN: My favorite song is "Gaston."

MV: What have you enjoyed most about *Beauty & the Beast*?

DN: I really enjoy being around all my friends and making them laugh.



Junior Devon Nalley plays Lefou.

Madeleine Vath

Sam Shealey (Maurice)

by Ted Anastopoulo

Ted Anastopoulo: Tell us a little about your character.

Sam Shealey: My character is the father of the main character, Belle. My name is Maurice and I am an inventor of gizmos and other machines. My goal as Maurice is to get enough money from my inventions to take Belle to the magical places she has read about.

TA: What are some of the problems you face in the musical?

SS: Issues that I face are the typical old man issues. I get lost on the way to the local fair and that is when bad things start to happen with the Beast.

TA: What do you like and dislike about your character?

SS: I like the intuitive quality that Maurice has. He is a very smart man and very witty. I dislike the fact that he has a few issues that have come with age. Then again, everyone gets those.

TA: How do you most relate to your character?

SS: I relate to Maurice in that I love tinkering with things. Whether it is creating something new or fixing something that is broken, it is always fun to see the finished product in working condition.

TA: What do you find most difficult about getting in character?

SS: I have an issue getting my voice to sound just like an old man's should...it is quite difficult.

TA: How do you balance acting with singing?

SS: Acting and singing are both fun to do. My part in *Beauty and the Beast* is mainly acting, but I love singing. After all, I am in Vocal.

TA: How do you handle stage fright?

SS: In order to handle stage fright, I often say a prayer before the show and then jump around in random spaz-attacks to get the blood flowing.



Junior Sam Shealey plays Maurice.

Madeleine Vath

Natalie Sinclair (Chip)

by Madeleine Vath

Madeleine Vath: Tell us a little about your character.

Natalie Sinclair: I play the teacup, Chip, who is the child of Mrs. Potts. Chip is curious and adventurous like any other little kid, but instead of being human he is a teacup under the castle's spell where all the people have been turned to household objects.

MV: What are some of the things you like and dislike about your character?

NS: I love how Chip was turned into a teacup at such a young age and pushes through it even though the only thing Chip wants is to be a real kid again. There is not anything I dislike about Chip because he is a hard character to not like!

MV: How do you most relate to your character?

NS: I had the same personality when I was younger as Chip does. I was super energetic and adventurous and loved to dream big like Chip does through the musical.

MV: What do you find most difficult about getting into character?

NS: The most difficult part is probably acting like a little kid who is energetic and playful when, in reality, I have completely lost the high pitched talking voice that younger kids have. Chip is an easier character to play than others, but this was a small challenge I had to work on!

MV: How do you balance acting with singing?

NS: Acting and singing come pretty natural to me. I like to connect the song's meaning with the acting that goes along with it whether it's exciting, sad, or hopeful. This helps the acting come better to me than if I just sang the song without knowing what it really meant.

MV: How do you handle stage fright?

NS: When I am onstage with all the bright lights I can barely see the audience, so I just pretend there is nobody out. Also, I know that if I mess up, it is not a huge deal and I can move on from it.

MV: What's your favorite line/song?

NS: My favorite line is when Chip is trying to convince Mrs. Potts that there is a girl that has wandered into the castle and Mrs. Potts doesn't believe it until the news spreads and Chip says, "See? I told ya!" It is totally something a five- or six-year-old would say if they were right about something. My favorite song is Human Again because being human is what all the characters wish for. In this song they tell all about what they would do if they were human again.



Freshman Natalie Sinclair plays Chip.

Madeleine Vath

Madelyn Knight (Mrs. Potts)

by Ted Anastopoulo

Ted Anastopoulo: Tell us a little about your character.

Madelyn Knight: Mrs. Potts is a pleasant and peppy woman who loves her child and everyone in the castle. She does her best to make people happy, and makes some good tea!

TA: What are some of the problems you face in the musical?

MK: Mrs. Potts has been turned from a human into teapot. She wants the best for her and Chip (her child) and wants to return to her human form. She can only do this if Belle falls in love with the Beast and breaks the spell. Also, it is very hard for her to find a man since she is not human.

TA: What do you like and dislike about your character?

MK: I love my character's personality and how she always looks at the bright side of things. There is not much you can dislike about her!

TA: How do you most relate to your character?

MK: We both like a nice cup of tea, so basically we are the same person.

TA: What do you find most difficult about getting in character?

MK: All the roles that I have played have been annoying, loud, and bad-singing antagonists. It is really different and hard to play a role that is kind like Mrs. Potts.

TA: How do you balance acting with singing?

MK: Personally, I have to study my lines way more than my lyrics. As a Vocal major, singing comes more naturally than acting. It is a lot of work to memorize lines and stay in character.

TA: How do you handle stage fright?

MK: When I am in a musical, I do not get stage fright. I am not myself; I am a completely different person, so why should I be scared? Singing classical solos and such is a completely different story though...



Senior Madelyn Knight plays Mrs. Potts.

Madeleine Vath

Victor Swatzyna (Lumière)

by Graham Crolley

Graham Crolley: Tell us a little about your character.

Victor Swatzyna: The character of Lumiere is a very charming Frenchman with a lot of flamboyance and charisma and fancies himself a ladies man.

GC: What are some of the problems you face in the musical?

VS: Memorizing all my lines to the songs and conversations.

GC: What do you like about your character?

VS: I like how his character is comical in a play about curses and despair.

GC: How do you most relate to your character?

VS: In the sense that we both love to be in the presence of other people and like to be comical

GC: How do you balance acting with singing?

VS: I have to focus more on the acting part because the singing is easier for a Vocal major like me. That has been where most of my problems lie during rehearsals.

GC: How do you handle stage fright?

VS: I have been in plenty of other dramatic productions so I got 99 problems but stage fright is not one.

GC: What's your favorite line?

VS: I love the Beast's line "If she doesn't eat with me... then she doesn't eat at all" because when he says it, it sounds like a rap so then all the main characters start making beats off of it.

GC: What have you enjoyed most about *Beauty & the Beast*?

VS: All the awesome cast members who are also my fellow colleagues in the school environment.

GC: Have you been in a school play before?

VS: I played in the Octet group in *The Music Man*, and I was an ensemble member in *Les Miserables*. These parts most helped me in conquering my stage fright.



Senior Victor Swatzyna plays Lumière.

Madeleine Vath

Parrish Brown (Cogsworth)

by Madeleine Vath

Madeleine Vath: Tell us a little about your character.

Parrish Brown: I play Cogsworth, the British talking clock, who is "tightly wound." My best friend is Lumiere, a candle stick. In real life, my character is the head butler of the castle.

MV: What are some of the problems you face in the musical?

PB: One of the problems that I face with the musical would have to be timing. I wish I had a little more time to prepare, but the show must go on!

MV: What do you like and dislike about your character?

PB: My character is very stuck up; he claims to be "head of the household." My character has a British accent, and I am not that great at doing that voice. This character has been a real challenge, but it will be perfect by the first curtain call.

MV: How do you most relate to your character?

PB: Cogsworth and I are very similar when it comes to change. I am open to change, but not when I am forced into it.

MV: What do you find most difficult about getting into character?

PB: It is really hard literally getting into my costume because it is so big! It throws me off every time I have to walk or go through doors.

MV: How do you handle stage fright?

PB: I don't really have stage fright because I become an entirely different person on stage.

MV: What is your favorite song?

PB: My favorite song from the show would have to be "Be Our Guest." It is so crazy and needs so much energy that you end up never wanting the song to end.

MV: What have you enjoyed most about Beauty & the Beast?

PB: One thing I have enjoyed during this journey is working with people who love what they are doing. Everyone is so passionate about their part and how great they want the show to be. I am so blessed to be able to work with such a unique and talented group of people.



Senior Parrish Brown plays Cogsworth.

Madeleine Vath

Grace Benigni (Babette)

by Suzanne Jackson

Suzanne Jackson: Tell us a little about your character.

Grace Benigni: I play Babette, the flirty French maid who has been turned into a feather duster. She has a little romantic tryst with Lumiere (the candelabra played by Victor).

SJ: What do you like and dislike about your character?

GB: I do not really dislike anything about my character. She is a really fun role and I love doing the French accent!

SJ: How do you most relate to your character?

GB: I do not relate much to Babette because I am not very flirty...and I'm Italian.

SJ: What do you find most difficult about getting into character?

GB: The hardest part of getting into character is probably the body language because I am a tad awkward and flirting does not come naturally.

SJ: How do you balance acting with singing?

GB: Babette does not sing much, but it is fun to really focus on acting because I do not do that very often (being in Vocal and all). It is interesting to focus on a completely different aspect of performance.

SJ: How do you handle stage fright?

GB: I just try to really get into it and completely tune the audience out because if I start wondering what they are thinking I completely freak.

SJ: What is your favorite line?

GB: "Papa...do you think I'm ODD" - Belle

SJ: What have you enjoyed most about Beauty & the Beast?

GB: I enjoy the people because most of my best friends are in it and it is really fun to just be a completely different person for part of the day.

SJ: Have you been in a school play before?

GB: I rocked the part of prostitute #1 in Les Mis last year.



Senior Grace Benigni plays Babette.

Madeleine Vath

Anna Woodward (Madame de la Grande Bouche)

by Madeleine Vath

Madeleine Vath: Tell us a little about your character.

Anna Woodward: I play Madame de La Grande Bouche, which translates quite literally to Miss Big Mouth. Prior to being turned into an enchanted wardrobe, Madame de La Grande Bouche took to the stage as a very successful opera singer.

MV: What do you like and dislike about your character?

AW: I like her diva attitude because it is easy to exaggerate and play around with the lines while still getting the point across. She steals the stage with her larger than life personality, and as an actress, that is a lot of fun. There is nothing I do not like about my character; she is perfect. Just like me.

MV: How do you most relate to your character?

AW: My character is a super diva and I relate to her on a very personal level because I, too, can be quite the diva.

MV: What do you find most difficult about getting into character?

AW: It is most difficult to separate my everyday actions from the actions that the character would make; you have to consciously think and make decisions for your character that makes them unique, from gestures to emphasizing the right words.

MV: How do you balance acting with singing?

AW: Singing any genre of music requires a certain amount of acting, which, after six years of studying voice at SOA, comes quite naturally. Acting out the spoken lines is a bit more challenging, but nothing a little practice cannot help.

MV: How do you handle stage fright?

AW: I rock so I do not really have to worry about it.

MV: What is your favorite song?

AW: My favorite song is "Human Again" because all of the enchanted characters come together and daydream about how great their lives will be once the spell is lifted and they are humans again.

MV: What have you enjoyed most about Beauty & the Beast?

AW: I get to sing a lot of high notes so that is fun.



Junior Anna Woodward plays Madame de la Grande Bouche.

Madeleine Vath

Michael Stevens (Monsieur D'Arque)

by Graham Crolley

Graham Crolley: Tell us a little about your character.

Michael Stevens: My character is Monsieur D'Arque, the owner of the local insane asylum whom Gaston persuades to imprison Belle's father.

GC: What are some of the problems you face in the musical?

MS: My character must convince the entire town that Belle's father, Maurice, is insane and have him committed to the insane asylum, while working with Gaston who is trying to force Belle's hand (in marriage).

GC: What do you like and dislike about your character?

MS: I like how my character is easily persuaded into doing anything when money is involved, but I dislike how one dimensional he is, as he appears in only two scenes.

GC: What do you find most difficult about getting into character?

MS: I find that achieving the right balance of evil and creepy is the most difficult part about playing a seedy insane asylum owner.

GC: How do you balance acting with singing?

MS: I balance acting and singing by treating the two as the same thing. I treat the song I have as spoken dialogue, but with a more musical twist, so to speak.

GC: Is it difficult playing the bad guy?

MS: Playing one of the bad guys is actually a lot easier than I anticipated. I guess this is just a good outlet for my inner dark side.



Senior Michael Stevens plays Monsieur D'Arque.

Madeleine Vath

Carly Edwards (Silly Girl)

by Noah Jordan

Noah Jordan: Tell us a little about your character.

Carly Edwards: I am playing a "Silly Girl." Basically, I and five other girls will follow around Gaston, swooning over him for the majority of the play.

NJ: What are some of the problems you face in the musical?

CE: My main conflict is Gaston choosing to marry Belle over my friends and me.

NJ: What do you like and dislike about your character?

CE: I really like that I have some close friends also playing silly girls. Sophie Ferguson, Maddy Rodeffer, Bethany Schroeder, Emily Kahn-Perry, Logan Williams and I all play these girls. I dislike the annoying factor of my character.

NJ: How do you most relate to your character?

CE: As cheesy as it sounds, I really relate to this character only because Gaston, whom I obsess over, is actually very close to me in reality.

NJ: What do you find most difficult about getting character?

CE: I do not have much of a problem getting into character. The role is pretty fun to play, which makes it easy.

NJ: How do you balance acting with singing?

CE: As a Silly Girl, I only have a few times when I am not singing with the ensemble. This makes it very easy to focus on my character.

NJ: How do you handle stage fright?

CE: Doing a musical with many of your friends makes it easy to avoid stage fright.

NJ: What is your favorite line?

CE: I cannot choose a favorite line in the musical. However, Devon Nalley, playing Lefou, does an outstanding job making every word he says hilarious.

NJ: What have you enjoyed most about *Beauty & the Beast*?

CE: I have enjoyed combining the middle and high school Vocal departments to create one huge show. Having 175 kids involved in one production is extremely powerful.

NJ: Have you been in a school play before?

CE: Last year, I participated in *Hairspray*, playing the role of Amber. My involvement with last years school-wide musical was an amazing experience, and it has led me to become more comfortable with acting and dancing on stage.



Madeleine Vath

Sophomore Carly Edwards plays one of the Silly Girls.

Emily Kahn-Perry (Silly Girl)

by Madeleine Vath

Madeleine Vath: Tell us a little about your character.

Emily Kahn-Perry: I am a silly girl! I am obsessed with Gaston and more than anything I do not want him to marry Belle.

MV: What are some of the problems you face in the musical?

EKP: The biggest problem I face is that there are 6 silly girls so how is Gaston going to only pick one of us?!

MV: What do you like and dislike about your character?

EKP: I really like the enthusiasm of my character and that I can act silly, because it is fun! Sometimes I do not like that all the silly girls can be sort of stupid, but overall it is a lot of fun.

MV: How do you most relate to your character?

EKP: I can most relate to my character because I am funny!

MV: How do you balance acting with singing?

EKP: I balance the acting with singing pretty well because when we sing we really have to act like silly girls and use a fun character voice.

MV: How do you handle stage fright?

EKP: I do not really have stage fright anymore! Performing is just fun!

MV: What is your favorite line?

EKP: My favorite line is, "Why would you go and do a thing like that?" because it is my big debut.

MV: What have you enjoyed most about *Beauty & the Beast*?

EKP: I have most enjoyed becoming closer with the Vocal majors because we get to spend literally 25 billion hours with each other.

MV: Have you been in a school play before?

EKP: I was a little girl in *The Music Man* so that helped me get familiar with the theater and everything that goes on at school to get a show ready.



Madeleine Vath

Senior Emily Kahn-Perry plays one of the Silly Girls.

Sophie Ferguson (Silly Girl)

by Desiree Horlbeck

Desiree Horlbeck: Tell us a little about your character.

Sophie Ferguson: I play a silly girl. I am really dependent on what men think of me, which means I act very stupid. I do not love acting stupid but you gotta do whatcha gotta do.

DH: How do you handle stage fright?

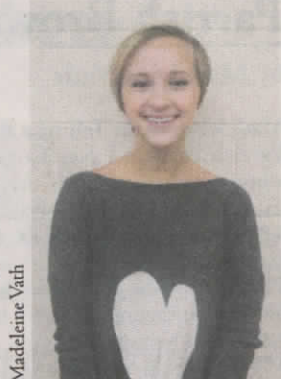
SF: I handle stage fright by distracting myself and then by reassuring myself about my part.

DH: What is your favorite song?

SF: My favorite song is "If I Can't Love Her," sung by the Beast.

DH: What have you enjoyed most about *Beauty and the Beast*?

SF: My favorite part about *Beauty and the Beast* is singing music that is playful and watching students grow as singers that have not yet had the opportunity to shine in vocal performances. This year, talent from everyone is finally being shown.



Madeleine Vath

Senior Sophie Ferguson is one of the Silly Girls.

Bethany Schroeder (Silly Girl)

by Suzanne Jackson

Suzanne Jackson: Tell us a little about your character.

Bethany Schroeder: I am a silly girl, basically meaning I am one of Gaston's promiscuous ladies.

SJ: What are some of the problems you face in the musical?

BS: I am a pretty bad actor, especially when it comes to keeping a straight face.

SJ: What do you like and dislike about your character?

BS: I like how goofy my character is, but dislike that we are only on stage for a total of like three minutes.

SJ: How do you most relate to your character?

BS: I would say I am a pretty silly girl as well.

SJ: What do you find most difficult about getting character?

BS: It is hard to pretend to be obsessed with Ethan, especially since Carly is a silly girl too (can you say awkward).

SJ: How do you balance acting with singing?

BS: I can barely do either.

SJ: How do you handle stage fright?

BS: Stage fright is a state of life I have accepted I will never get over.



Madeleine Vath

Senior Bethany Schroeder plays one of the Silly Girls.

Logan Williams (Silly Girl)

by Desiree Horlbeck

Desiree Horlbeck: Tell us a little about your character.

Logan Williams: I am a Silly Girl in the musical. The Silly Girls are in love with Gaston and want to be with him 24/7.

DH: What are some of the problems you face in the musical?

LW: One of the problems I face is having to act so "silly."

DH: How do you balance acting with singing?

LW: I balance acting and singing by studying the part I need to portray. I use that as a guideline of how I need to act and sing to be a Silly Girl.

DH: How do you handle stage fright?

LW: I handle stage fright by acting as if we are just practicing like always and taking a deep breath before my line in the script or lyric in the song.

DH: What have you enjoyed most about *Beauty & the Beast*?

LW: What I have enjoyed the most about the *Beauty and the Beast* would be the time I get to spend with the cast members. The cast is filled with a bunch of wonderful and talented people. Having the opportunity to work and learn from them is such a great experience.



Madeleine Vath

Senior Logan Williams plays one of the Silly Girls.



Abbi Floyd

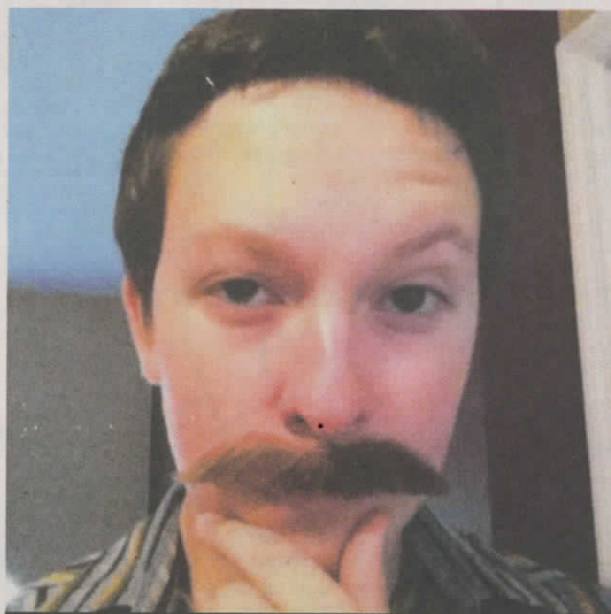
GO ABBI!

Two proud parents who just want to say
you've always been our little princess.
Lots of love, Mom & Dad



Jess Rames

How could this little boy have turned into such
a Beast? Best of luck, Jess!
Love, Mom, Dad, and Sam



Devon Nalley

DEVON,
Congratulations on being selected for the role
of Lefou! We are very proud of you and all your
accomplishments!

Love You,
Mom, Dad, & Collin



Natalie Sinclair

Congratulations, Natalie!
We hope this is the first of many successful productions.
We are very proud of you.

Love,
Mom, Marin, and Dad

Halloween

by Ted Anastopoulos

For the optimal trick-or-treating experience this Halloween, Applause has put together an expert



Houses distributing candy: 2/5

Quality of candy: 6/10

Amount of competition: Lightly crowded with various age groups between the hours of 6 pm and 11 pm

Summary: Be sure to hit up some of the on-campus housing, where college kids are surely mourning their childhoods and majorly overcompensating with the candy they bought last second at CVS.

Would I trick-or-treat there again? Sure. It's hard to pass on free candy.



Houses distributing candy: 5/5

Quality of candy: 9/10

Amount of competition: Heavy crowds of tweens, teens, and toddlers

Summary: Everyone flockes to this portion of Downtown to receive candy from the people who certainly do not hold back on Halloween. You will forget all about the dreaded "fun size" candy bars once you are immersed in the spooky sweetness of South of Broad.

Would I trick-or-treat there again? Yes, a thousand times yes!



Houses distributing candy: 3/5

Quality of candy: 7/10

Amount of competition: Not very crowded due to the fact that mainly everyone is frolicking a few blocks south

Summary: Most people forget to go to these little streets because everyone is so enthralled with the activities happening below Broad St., but do not make this mistake! The houses surrounding Colonial Lake are especially fun, and make sure to walk by the Old Jail if you feel like being genuinely terrified.

Would I trick-or-treat there again? Absolutely!



Candy Map

and Suzanne Jackson

Map of the best places in Downtown Charleston and the Greater Charleston Area to find candy.



Houses distributing candy: 3/5

Quality of candy: 3/5

Amount of competition: An enjoyable experience with limited crowds, but beware the occasional zombie jumping out of a bush to scare you

Summary: Rumor has it that Mayor Keith Summey gives out full sized candy bars at his house in Oak Terrace.

Would you trick-or-treat there again? Cut me some slack, Jack. Sure I would.

Reese's

Houses distributing candy: 4/5

Quality of candy: 5/10

Amounts of competition: Perhaps the most competitive location in all of Charleston with a mix of toddlers, teenagers, and angry parents

Summary: Do not miss West Ashley's immaculate decorations. You will be surprised at the creativity some houses put on display.

Would you trick-or-treat there again? Ehh.



Houses distributing candy: 2/5

Quality of candy: 2/5

Amounts of competition: Maintained at a minimum

Summary: Not the most Halloween spirited place in Charleston; most people are more concerned about the cold weather keeping them from swimming

Would you trick-or-treat there again? Folly Beach would have to step up their game for me to go there again

AIR HEADS

Houses distributing candy: 5/5

Quality of candy: 8/10

Amounts of competition: Slightly less crowded than a Black Friday sale at Best Buy

Summary: Wild and loud describes the town of Mount Pleasant Halloween night, specifically in the neighborhood of Ion. Here, fireworks burst constantly and kids run around at their own free will.

Would you trick-or-treat there again? You betcha.

Middle and High School Band start off the year with a boom



Desiree Horlbeck

The Wind Symphony warms up in preparation of their first piece.



Katy LeBarron

The 6th grade band's first performance is narrated by Ed Ritchen, SOA's first Band director. The song they are playing is "When the Saints Go Marching in."



Caton Hamrick

Accompanied by the 8th grade Dance majors, the Wind Ensemble performs Espana Cani, a Paso Doble traditionally played at bullfights.



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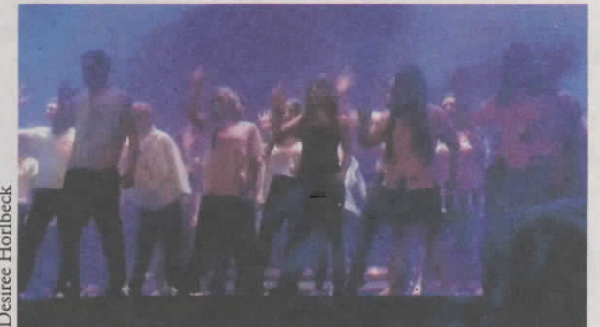
High School Vocal shakes their groove thing

by Desiree Horlbeck

Performing a variety of songs from the 60s, 70s, and 80s that sparked fond memories in the older members of the audience, the high school Vocal department put on a remarkable show for the last night of the "Shake Your Groove Thing" cabaret. There was an overwhelming amount of talent on stage with many outstanding soloists. **Parrish Brown** showed off his vocal talents with a spirited rendition of "Get Ready" and a gorgeous duet with the very talented **Bianca Palillo** in "Ain't No Mountain High Enough." **Devon Nalley** wowed the audience with his performance of "The Way You Do the Things You Do." **Ethan Courville** and **Carly Edwards** aroused a crowd full of "ahhh" with their sugary sweet arrangement of "Don't Go Breaking My Heart."

Megan Hoffman and **Gracie Nofsinger** held the audience's attention with their sweet performance of the Beatles' "Blackbird." **Mariah Hogan** and **Bianca Palillo** ensnared the crowd's heart with a soulful performance of "Killing Me Softly." **Logan Matthews** and **Kelsey Costa** blended well in "We've Only Just Begun." **Grace Benigi** made use of a perfect country twang in "Me and Bobby McGee." **Aly Wintz** unleashed a captivating voice in her version of "So Far Away." **Madelyn Knight**, a vocal powerhouse, put her gifts to good use in her rendition of "Let it Be". Bringing a little bit of humor to the show, shirtless male Vocal majors ran rampant around the theater during the performance of "Raining Men." **Emily Lanter** revealed a powerful voice that fit perfectly in "What About Love."

McKenna Andrews put her other talents on display, strumming an electric guitar in her performance of "Alone." Ending the show with a classic, **Michael Stevens** acted the part of the artist that shares his name and led a performance of "Thriller." However, even faced with the many beautiful voices, my favorite part of the performance was something Vocal majors are not necessarily known for, in this case their impressive dance skills. Displaying a delightful choreography that matched each time period and was, at times, enthusiastically executed, the Vocal majors masterfully displayed the fruits of their labor.



Desiree Horlbeck

Vocal majors during the performance of "Thriller"

Little Mozart in Marion Square

by Ted Anastopoulos

As the sun rose over Downtown Charleston on the morning of Saturday, September 21st, School of the Arts Strings majors began prepping their instruments for the "Little Mozart Concert," a small performance meant to entice children's minds into the world of the arts. Taking place in Marion Square's weekend Farmer's Market at the foot of John C. Calhoun's monument, Strings majors garnered the attention of several hundred people, children and parents alike, to familiar tunes like the *Pirates of the Caribbean* theme song.

"It is always a great feeling to see so many kids take an interest in the arts. I like to think I played a role in that with this performance," commented Junior Strings major **Lana Bagley**.

Strings majors also set up various tents in Marion Square to encourage parents to consider auditioning their child at School of the Arts. Junior **Lauren Twitty** said, "This event helps to take the place of ArtSmart by bringing awareness of who we are and what we do. Our performance today really highlighted our talent, and hopefully will bring more applications!"



Ted Anastopoulos

String majors Lana Bagley and Isabella Sullivan enjoyed playing their instruments for small children in Marion Square.

MS & HS Side-by-Side Concert

by Madeleine Vath

When I first opened the program, I was surprised to see that the orchestra was only going to be performing five pieces. Little did I know that five pieces did not mean short, nor did it mean easy. This concert was the first middle and high school orchestra concert ever performed at SOA. I liked that on almost every stand there was one middle schooler and one high schooler, giving the orchestra a more connected and familial feeling. The entire concert gave off this sort of feeling: a relaxed, homey kind of feeling.

The first piece the orchestra performed was "Red Lodge Reel" by Peter Ostroushko. The middle school Strings teacher, Mrs. Mears, conducted this and the next song, "Fantasia on An Original Theme" by Joseph Phillips. I especially enjoyed this song; it was energetic, but smooth and comforting. I was quickly able to get lost in the music.

After these pieces, a few of the orchestra members shared their thoughts on how SOA has nurtured their love of music. Senior **Margaret Szwest** spoke about the comfort her clarinet continuously brings her and how she hopes to someday bring others comfort with her music.

Next, the orchestra performed "Viva la Vida" by Coldplay. This piece was conducted by, senior **Carlo Garcia**, who demonstrated great emotion and passion as he led his classmates in this popular piece.

After a beautiful Spanish piece titled "España Cani" by Marquina, the orchestra played the song the whole audience was waiting for: the theme song from *Pirates of the Caribbean*. For nearly ten minutes the cafeteria was filled with the power of over 150 musicians performing this piece. There is no word to adequately describe their performance. Except maybe *spectacular*, but really I would need a better word than that. Life-changing? Okay, that is two words. But seriously, if you missed out on this performance, you missed out on becoming a better human being.



Madeleine Vath

SOA middle and high school orchestra performed in the cafeteria.

HS Piano and Dance concert: "A Night of Collaboration"

Anna Kalik

by Anna Kalik

On October 1st, Piano majors and Sophomore Dance majors performed "A Night of Collaboration," in which they worked together to put on a production that showcased both majors.

While the piano took center stage under colorful lighting, the performers, wearing classic black attire, played both solo and duet pieces. The dancers began springing on and off the stage with leaps and turns, bar stools high above their heads during "Jambalaya," played by Seniors **Tyler McKeown** and **Anthony Vaird**. They used the bar stools as props to create unique formations across the stage.

The Dance majors did a great job of playing off the music and tuning into their theatrics, acting rather solemn when the song slowed, and speeding up their motions with the music. In the piece "Tappers" the piano, played by Junior **Tradd Zanin** and Senior **Tyler Sim** worked in unison with the rhythm of **Ashton Platts** and **Abigail Reeve's** tap shoes.

Throughout the night, Creative Writers also made an appearance; Senior **Ayla Jensen** read a poem she titled "The Spider" and Senior **Conor Gattton** read his piece "The Jungle of Sirens." Beside Ayla Dance major **Olivia Givens** interpreted the piece with swift movements resembling a spider.

The night of collaboration was an overall success with beautiful music, dancing, and writing. Hopefully this collaboration is only just the start of many more collaborations to come.

8th grade improv show

by Ted Anastopoulos

Working on their "yes and-ing" for the past two months, the eighth grade Theatre majors were able to show off their improv skills at the annual eighth grade long-form improv show Tuesday, October 8th in the Black Box Theatre. Quick and clever thinking helped the eighth graders feature over 100 different characters in 30 different scenes, some of which included cannibalism, beauty pageants, and a marathon in high-heeled shoes.

Perhaps the most memorable scene in the show came during the game "good angel/bad angel." Featuring an actor split over an important decision, a good angel attempted to persuade the actor to make their decision holy while a demon persuaded them to do evil. **Janae Claxton** said, "I love good angel/bad angel because I can portray a really freaky devil."

While the show was a success, the eighth graders agreed the use of the entire stage was a challenge. "Sometimes you get so worked up in the scene, you forget to mention the small things, like where you are!" said **Lyla Clark**.

The eighth grader's next big production will be in January, where they will perform the annual eighth grade play. This year, the play will be *The Dragon*.

Jazz 2 kids get down in the RMMT

Noah Jordan

The Jazz 2 class recently put on a performance at the Rose Maree Myers Theater. They played a variety of pieces, performed by both ensembles of musicians and the full orchestra. Some notable points in the show were certainly the full jazz-band pieces, especially the song "Slow and Soft". The class overall put on a very impressive performance with good pieces by every ensemble that participates. I was especially impressed by the flutists and clarinet players. Whose pieces were highly emotional and exemplified impressive skill.



Dance thesis successfully “Breaks Boundaries”

by Graham Crolley

If you asked me, “Where were you on the night of Thursday, October 10th?” I would respond with, “Why, in the regal Rose Maree Myers Theater, watching the first Dance senior thesis of the year, *Breaking Boundaries*.” I would then lean closer toward you and speak in a genuine tone, and you would know I speak the truth. “It was very good,” I would say. “A stellar performance.”

The overall theme of “breaking boundaries” was achieved with much clarity, an example being breaking through the dichotomy represented within oneself, symbolized in mirrored movements between a dancer in black and a dancer in white. In a different aspect, the show also broke through the boundaries of what the audience expected, with jack-o-lantern suits equipped with ukuleles, a row-suit complete with a gallon of milk and even a musical appearance from SOA alumnus **Levin Ostapeck**.

All in all, it was very apparent that the senior dancers had worked very hard and were very excited and passionate about their first senior thesis. The Dance Senior class provided us with a clear example of the wonderful talent there is at SOA.



Senior dancers showcase their talent in “Man of the Hour,” choreographed by Katarina Lanier, with music provided by Levin Ostapeck.

HS Theatre Showcase

by Anna Kalik

On October 14th and 15th the Junior Theatre majors presented their showcase to family, friends, and classmates in the Black Box Theatre. I was fortunate to attend Monday’s performance, and though I was one of few in the audience who was not related to an actor, I was excited to see what my friends had been working on.

The Theatre majors alternated between pantomimes and solo pieces. The pantomimes were silent scenes that the juniors had directed, and in which both Juniors and Sophomores acted. They were hilarious and many coincidentally followed themes of murder and religious mockery with a funny twist. When it was time for the solo pieces, groups of three brought their chairs to the front of the room, and one at a time moved to the center to present.

Sarah Platts, whose scene included a behind the scenes look at a Disney princess’ dressing room, said, “It was so nice to see all the hard work that I put into it pay off.”

Ted Anastopoulo’s piece accurately represented our future *Amazing Race* experience in no longer than three and a half minutes. Being that he featured me as a character, I laughed the hardest and probably showed slight favoritism towards his, although I would say that everybody’s piece showed incredible talent that is worth seeing at the next showcase.



Ted Anastopoulo. Enough said.

Jump, Jive, and Wail: A night to remember

by Desiree Horlbeck

SOA’s version of homecoming, “Jump, Jive, and Wail,” is the highlight of the fall season. A night full of smooth jazz, swing dancing, and good company is something looked forward to by high school and now middle school students every year. This year, the fourteenth anniversary, was a particularly good year in spite of the threat of rain.

The Jazz Band, as swanky as always, performed above its usually high standards and fueled the audience’s high spirited attempts at swing-dancing. Some of us were more successful than others. Particularly impressive were the last two standing couples in the annual swing dance competition. Sophomore and Senior Vocal majors **Carly Edwards** and **Ethan Courville** finished in first place while Senior Dance major **Anna Bostick** and Senior Theatre major **Corey Popowski** finished close second.

This year’s vocalists - **Betina North, Maddy Walsh, Parrish Brown, Madelyn Knight, and Emma Lieberman** - accompanied the music with solos that fit each voice type yet matched perfectly with the atmosphere of the event.

This year’s event has opened its doors to more middle school students; the tiny little munchkins blended right into the crowd of upperclassmen and had just as much fun as any high school student, if not more.

All students, however, took Jump, Jive, and Wail as a chance to show off quirky bowties, classy suits, cute dresses, and fashionable heels that were inevitably kicked off before the end of the night. Overall, Jump, Jive, and Wail was a ton of fun and I look forward to visiting again next year as an SOA alumni.



SOA Jazz Band hosted the dance.

Ravens already revving up for spring season

by Ted Anastopoulo

As the winter cold approaches, the SOA Ravens rugby team has started to feel the burn. Every Monday and Wednesday, the Ravens practice their skills through intense workouts. “We have a reputation from other schools as being a tough team, and I want to keep that reputation,” says team captain **Ethan Courville**.

Last season, the Ravens posted four straight wins over the Wando Warriors. Aiming to continue this string of success, the Ravens are getting into shape with weight training, drills, and running with teammates on their backs. When asked to describe his practices in one word, Courville said, “Excruciating.”

“Rugby is different from football because it requires more cardio strength, not to mention pads are non-existent,” said Raven team member **Curtis Caldwell**. “That’s why we work so hard in the offseason. When you are on a field for 80 minutes with continuous play, you better be in good shape.”

The Ravens have recruited several new players and are overall a young team. Veteran **Brandon Holmes** said, “I have been working hard to teach our new players technique. Catching and passing the ball properly definitely helps limit errors.”

While it does not start until spring, the Ravens are looking forward to their season.

“It will be tough, no doubt,” said Holmes, “but our team has been working hard to prepare. I am eager to see how we will respond when we are challenged by another team.”

Applause's very own Graham Crolley goes to the movies! This Issue - *Insidious: Chapter 2*

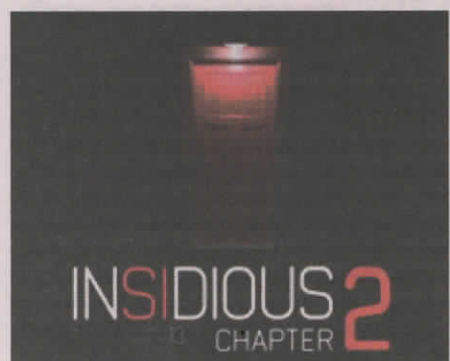
Scare Factor: 5.2 out of 10
Overall Rating: 7 out of 10

On a frighteningly humid October night, I made a chillingly enjoyable pilgrimage to my local movie theater to scope out the harrowing sequel to horror film director James Wan's *Insidious*. The plot isn't too hard to grasp; it is yet another horror flick in which the beloved young child becomes possessed. Normally I am very critical of the predictable mold that horror films have fallen into, but the story of *Insidious: Chapter 2* manages to surpass its shortcomings and succeeds as a memorable Halloween-time flick, in my perfect and unopposed opinion. Suburban couple Josh and Renai Lambert return into the same plot they left. Previously, they had discovered their son had the ability to astral project, or in a simpler and more frightening tone, step away from his body while he is asleep and venture into the spirit world called "the Further," where the boy unknowingly attracts the tormented souls of the dead, who use him as a connection between their world and the real world. The second movie continues this plot, revealing that the boy's father, Josh, was also haunted by other-worldly demons when he was his son's age. Whereas the plot of the first movie chronicles the family's effort to rid their son Dalton of his demon, the plot of the second focuses on the return of the father's demon from childhood, an old woman shrouded in a veil. This sequel ultimately explores the dichotomy between the real world and creepy, mist-filled spirit world. I won't go into the plot much more, so as to not cause an uproar over plot-spoilers. All in all, I would say *Insidious: Chapter 2* gets a mixed review from me, as it has soaring pros and a medley of various cons. Here's the breakdown:

Pros: There is intriguing plot development, and the progression of the story is satisfyingly entertaining. Of course there are those ever-expected frightening "pop-out" moments, and the chilling demon personas from "the Further" are well done.

Cons: The dialogue is somewhat predictable and unintelligent, and some of the scares are exceedingly cliché, involving baby toys and reaching into closets. The acting is just average and is propelled upwards only by the nicely done, gloomy cinematography and the tension of frightening scenes. One last problem is with the characters Specks and Tucker, who help the family with their supernatural problems. Though they are funny, this insertion of crude humor in the horror flick is forced and not entirely successful.

But really, despite the cons, go see it if you like horror movies, because I enjoyed it a lot. Merry Halloween!



Provided

Album Review: *Fuzz*

by Noah Jordan

An old favorite, Ty Segall has recently released an album with his new band, Fuzz. You may know Segall from projects such as The Traditional Fools, Epsilons, Party Fowl, Sic Alps, The Perverts, and The Ty Segall Band. This new band is named for the "fuzzy" sound of the music.

Ty Segal is known for his noisy style and psychedelic lyrics, both of which he brings in full force with this new self-titled album. Though on a first listen the album seems to follow the basic template of any modern, sludgy rock album, one is likely to notice a sharper emphasis on strong percussions which carry tracks like "Hazemaze" in rhythm, a thing which at times gets tragically lost in music of this genre.

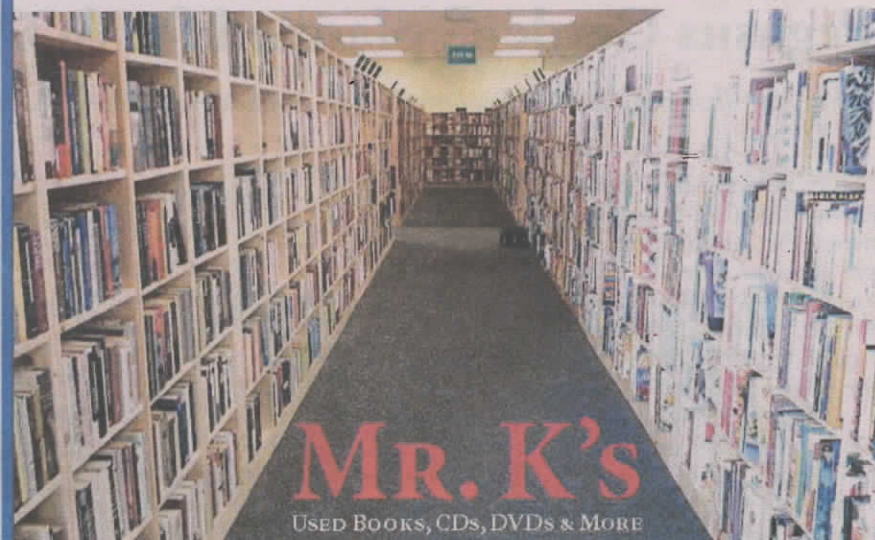
A short album—only around thirty minutes—it is jam packed with powerful songs. The listener will enjoy tracks like "What's in my Head," a slow, melodic break in the album with lyrics that both question reality and seem to attack it through sudden barrages of power chords highlighting the hypnotic voice of Ty Segal. An incredibly diverse song, it blends the tempo of early sludge metal with popular beach-rock riffs.

In all, this album brings an impressive amount of complexity and experimentation into a sound which has been rehashed too many times. This point reminds me of the track "Loose Structures" which is reminiscent of free-jazz, disjointed and highly thought provoking.

The only negative point in this album is that it lacks the smooth transitions between tracks I would expect in such a dissident sounding project. There is nearly no blending, merely a fading out of one track and the bringing in of the next. Regardless, I would venture to say that this is my favorite album of the year so far. I give it a 9 out of 10 for showmanship of superior skill in lyricism and progressive composition, showing an emphasis on the sophisticated finesse of music which is sometimes lost in the gimmick-filled world of the 21st century.



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Restaurant Review: Ms. Rose's

by Ted Anastopoulos

My father is on the frugal side, so Groupons are the only way my family can go out to eat. Going to restaurants is such a rarity to me that I take in every aspect of the experience with the absorbency of a loofah. That's why going to Ms. Rose's in West Ashley was a pleasant evening with a slight twist on the traditional Southern meal.

Ted Anastopoulos



Ms. Rose's, a quaint little cafe

My family's Groupon allowed us to order \$50 worth of food, so we started off the night with an appetizer of dirty rice fritters. These deep-fried servings of sticky rice were served with a side of homemade honey mustard sauce. Crunchy on the outside but soft on the inside, these clumps of Southern goodness already impressed before the entrees were to come. Ordering ricotta gnocchi, I was surprised to find it rivaled the gnocchi of my grandmother. Soft, creamy, and served with house-cured bacon and artichokes, Ms. Rose's

gnocchi deliciously blends the Italian favorite with deep southern cooking.

The atmosphere of Ms. Rose's is quaint and small, yet offers the feel of fine dining. Taking the remains of plates, utensils, chairs, tables, and glass from the restaurant previously located on the site, Ms. Rose's created a large mural by assembling pieces of these items on top of each other to resemble the Earth's layers. Another feature that makes the restaurant special is the use of large televisions. Rather than displaying sports, these televisions randomly show unique pictures in a slideshow format. These pictures range from "The Ecstasy of St. Teresa" to frogs of the Amazon.

Reasonable prices, attentive waitresses, and an interesting take on southern food all make Ms. Rose's a great choice even if you don't have a \$50 dollar Groupon.

Fright Night Review

by Anna Kalik

Every Halloween, Boone Hall plantation hosts Fright Night, the most anticipated regional event of the Halloween season. For those who have grown out of trick-or-treating and the playful theme of costumes and candy, Fright Night offers the actual terror that should accompany Halloween. If zombies screaming and bloody men chasing you with chainsaws sounds exciting, then Fright Night is the epitome of an enthralling experience.

There are four attractions featured at Fright Night this year: Castle Mid-Evil, Zombie Town, Wicked Woods Hayride, and Little Amy's Nightmare. Each has a very different theme to vary the suspense and scare. Typically, the hayride proves to be the most mild, as you are taken through the woods and stopped to view interactive scenes set up along the way. Little Amy's Nightmare, in my opinion, is the most intimidating, with 3D glasses, clowns, and a foreboded black tunnel. As the exit engulfs you in nothing but darkness, you completely lose all sense of vision and place.

Juniors Hailey Williams and Simeon Washington worked at Fright Night this year. Simeon said, "I work various positions it all depends on what I'm scheduled for. Sometimes I'm a clown, sometimes a disembodied ghost and sometimes I operate the animatronics." Approximately 60 actors arrive at 6pm to get costumes and makeup done before Fright Night opens at 7pm. Simeon adds, "The best part of Fright night has to be when the staff catches someone's name and runs around telling us because whoever it is always freezes from fright when we know their names."

It is definitely smart to make sure you know who you are standing in front of and behind when going through the attractions. A lot of people push when they are scared, which is why I find it good to be toward the back, especially in the mansion. Hailey says, "Working here, I've come to realize more about how fear plays on the mind and changes the behavior of everyday people. A lot of jerks come through, but while it's easy to condemn them for lashing out with cursing or assault, it shows the actors that they are truly afraid."

Fright Night runs until November 2nd and is opened from dark to midnight on the weekends, and dark to 10pm on all other nights.



The mansion is "Mid-Evil" themed.

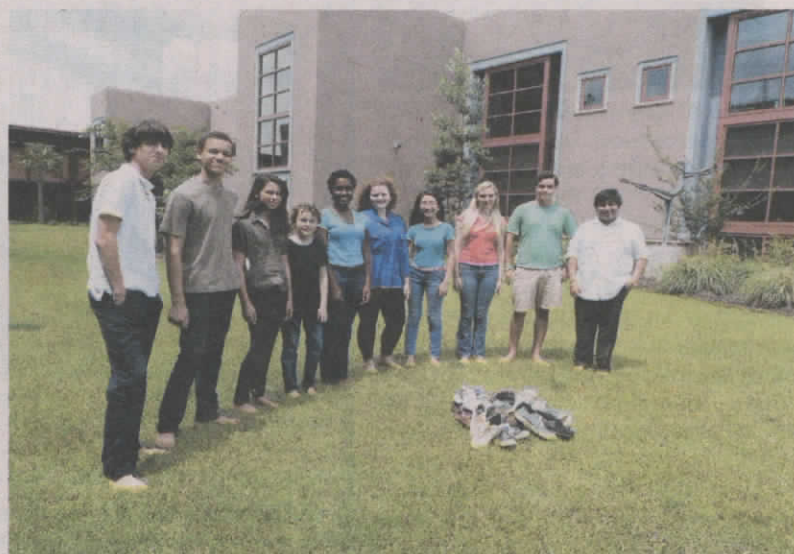
"Pegasus Garden" planned for SOA campus, needs your support

Editor's Note: Thank you to Ms. Elizabeth Warner, Public Relations and Funding Coordinator for the Pegasus Garden project, for providing Applause with an update on the Garden

The Pegasus Garden is a sustainable landscape initiative to encompass the large space between the Administration Building and the High School Academic Building. On the most basic level, it is a solution to significant drainage problems. However, the finished space will be an outstanding reflection of the beauty, creativity, and intelligence of our students and faculty.

Through the Kickstarter campaign, SOA's goal is to raise the funds necessary to create the 4k sqft project. We hope all families are inspired by this school wide permanent project. Please support this effort through any donations you can through Kickstarter. Even small donations of \$5 to \$25 accumulate if many of us contribute! Engraved bricks for students, faculty, and alumni will be available from the Kickstarter rewards.

Further, community members can sponsor bricks containing the names of over 100 "muses," famous artists and thinkers from each academic and art area --from Nelson Mandela to Bob Dylan to Euclid-- who continue to inspire us. There are some very substantial items for large contributions



The cast of the Pegasus Garden Kickstarter video assembles in the future site of the garden.

Provided

and donors will be recognized in signage at the completion of the project. We must get 100% of the \$36,000 goal or we receive none of the partial donations committed. The project is open for only 30 days!

The Pegasus Garden (named after the SOA mascot) installation will involve many students, including those from the Horticulture Club, The Jefferson Club, and the Hearing Impaired program. We welcome any expertise and additional donations (in kind and materials) from families and community partners.

Find our project on Kickstarter.com and type "Pegasus Garden" in the search box.

At press time 28 backers had already pledged \$4,120 with 28 days remaining.

For more information, contact Marie Nichols at Marie.Nichols@charleston.k12.sc.us or Beth Warner at ewarner4u@yahoo.com

POINT/COUNTERPOINT

Each month, *Applause* will entertain the opposing opinions of **Graham Crolley** and **Noah Jordan**. Pick a side or stay neutral: it is your choice. Who will win? That is for you, the readers, to decide. Read each side closely; odds are, their pressing dilemmas will be of great significance to your life in some way.

TOPIC: IHOP VS. WAFFLE HOUSE

GRAHAM'S POINT (IHOP)

IHOP is a shimmering cornerstone of the American dream - a place where everyone is your neighbor and hash browns accented with scrambled eggs of a gilded yellow line the tables of brotherhood. My heart has found a home in the very accommodating and capable hands of the International House of Pancakes. Let me express to you a simple yet deliciously emotional aside in the reader's point of view:

Imagine you are entering the glorious facility of IHOP, windows squeegeed to a crystalline perfection. You cross the threshold and immediately are taken to a place of the angels by the tantalizing aroma of sugary batter, skillet-fried sausages, crisped potato shreds and almost unbearably hospitality-rich waitresses. You are led to a booth of plush upholstery as you take in your surroundings; a jovial family of five is sharing well-natured laughs between forkfuls of buttermilk pancakes and strawberry syrup; a few construction workers are gathered around platters of sunny-side-up happiness, spooning the breakfast food of the gods into their hardworking gullets so as to nourish their bodies, which, by the way, are essential to the infrastructure of our country.

What I am driving at is that IHOP is a community. Of course, they have top notch coffee, hash browns comparable to the sweetest nectar of the sustenance of life, eggs fit for any king or queen, bacon and sausage that melt on the tongue in savory brilliance, and most importantly pancakes topped with bananas for eyes and a whipped cream smile. But the real difference between The International House of Pancakes and any other breakfast joint is not just the delicious food.

Suzanne Jackson



It is the notion of a community, a community in which you do not receive a pancake, you receive a pancake topped with those bananas for eyes and that whipped cream smile. IHOP- International House of Possibilities. Thank you.

NOAH'S COUNTERPOINT (WAFFLE HOUSE)

Graham, I spit in the face of your challenge. The Waffle House is unmatched in any competition of bready treats, since the beginning of times, when the waffle was first formed in the smoldering waffle iron of Hades. Crunchy in its essence, sweet divots and curves: a labor of love unlike any other. One cannot even begin to attempt to succeed in a match of crunchiness when in the holy temple of the waffle.

You speak of furnishings? You speak if service? The Waffle House is furnished with only the finest velour, their counters manned by beautiful angels, most of which have been pouring batter since they could speak, true masters of their craft.

Immerse yourself in the world of the House. Forget your petty material reality and sink your teeth into something more than a waffle, stuff yourself with an avant-garde piece sculpted from carbohydrates. The Waffle House is a portrait of modern-day America, a resilient and truly beautiful symbol of affordability and real filling food for real eaters.

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SAT Tips #2

by Suzanne Jackson

SAT

In case you are taking the SAT this November, here are some suggestions to help make test day much less stressful and as enjoyable as possible (which still is not

that enjoyable, but it is better than nothing).

#1 Use dull pencils instead of sharp pencils because they take a fraction of the time to fill in the bubbles, and every second counts.

#2 Synchronize your watch with the proctor or with the wall clock in order to be sure that you are using all the time you can. If anyone teases you about synching up with the proctor, just remember that you will get a better score.

#3 If you absolutely have to bring your phone and you are paranoid that it will go off during the test, take out the battery. If you have a smart phone and the battery is not accessible, just shut it down and wish for the best.



Anna Kalik

Desiree Young, a 6th grade Dance major, likes watching scary movies such as *Case 39* and *The Grudge*.

6th grade Now and Then: Favorite Horror Show/Movie

by Anna Kalik



Anna Kalik

Desiree Horlbeck, a senior Band major, spent her 6th grade days watching milder horror shows such as R.L. Stine's *Goosebumps*.

'Dear Pegasus' Advice Column

Anonymous



Dear Pegasus, I've found myself in charge of some people that aren't listening to me, or working with me. I'm coming close to a nervous breakdown over it, due to the frustration and the amount of work I have to do. Any advice on how to avoid a nervous breakdown?

-Swamped Student

I'm sorry to say, Swamped, that there is no magical remedy to avoiding a nervous breakdown, and I, unfortunately, just *have* them. I wouldn't recommend it.

Maybe try yoga?

Point being, instead of trying to avoid a breakdown, go straight for the problem. You're in charge? Be in charge. I'm not saying to suddenly channel Stalin or anything, but don't let people bend you until you break. Try convincing them that they're important, just as important as you, to take some of the weight off of your shoulders. They need to know that their jobs are important, are vital, and by extension, *they* are vital. Make them understand that you can't do it without them.

If that doesn't work, you can try channeling a deceased totalitarian dictator for a few minutes.

Send your problems to
pegasus@soa-applause.com

Club of the Month

by Suzanne Jackson

This issue's featured club, Fellowship of Free Thinkers, was started by Junior Creative Writer Maddy Seabrook.

Suzanne Jackson: What exactly is the Fellowship of Free Thinkers?

Maddy Seabrook: We are a group affiliated with the National Secular Student Alliance. Our main goal is to promote tolerance amongst all people, whether they are religious, nonreligious, questioning, or do not really have a specific world view. We are trying to discredit stereotypes such as the "hateful atheist" and the "bigot Christian." We normally have Socratic discussions but are also looking to get involved in many other ways.

SJ: What are some topics of discussion at a typical meeting?

MS: Typically we discuss the role of religion in society, government, international relations, history, gender and race relations, and so on. It is so broad and there are no banned subjects.

SJ: How were you inspired to form this club?

MS: We are fortunate enough to have a diverse student body and have a focus on acceptance. With FCA, SEEK, and Jewish Cultural club, there was no specific place for students who do not associate with one of these groups. **Sabrina Sanchez** and I seized the opportunity. Of course, even if you do associate with a specific group, every single person is appreciated.

SJ: Do you have any particular goals for The Fellowship of Free Thinkers during this school year?

MS: We are looking into community projects, want to explore various religions and philosophies, have discussions with other campus organizations, and maybe even host another guest speaker. Last year we were fortunate enough to read *Candidate Without a Prayer*, the autobiography of Herb Silverman, and have him come discuss it with us.

SJ: Where and when does this club meet?

MS: We meet on B-day Mondays in Ms. Rickson's room.



Co-founder Maddy Seabrook

Sass Attack

by Harris Lynam



Madeleine Vath

Okay, I'm going to keep this as short as possible: there's a thing called turns in the parking lot.

Take them.

You should have learned to take them in kindergarten, but I understand some of your once small brains may have deleted the information to make room for Algebra II. I know none of us likes to remember the days of the buddy system and drawing inside the lines, but when you're behind the wheel, dig deep for me. Driving etiquette is absolutely vital to your becoming a better human being, and it keeps me from shouting hysterically at you from my car.

Let's review:

At that wonderful little triangle in the parking lot that lets all of us out to the first stop sign, it goes 1,2,3. Not 4,6,1. *That will never be the way this works.* Don't be that guy who cuts me off after I've patiently waited for six other people to pass me.

Remember kindergarten.

Thank you.

SOA is proud to welcome award-winning poet Peter Meinke to campus November 28-29, 2013. For more information see Mr. Sean Scapellato.



Photo by Nancy Merrill

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This Week in History

by Madeleine Vath

Sources: library.thinkquest.org, wikipedia.org

WED 10/23	THU 10/24	FRI 10/25	SAT 10/26	SUN 10/27	MON 10/28	TUE 10/29
<p>1850: The first National Women's Rights Convention is held in Worcester, Massachusetts</p> <p>1929: The New York Stock Exchange begins to show signs of panic</p> <p>1958: The Smurfs appear for the first time in the story <i>La flûte à six schtroumpfs</i></p> <p>National Mole Day</p>	<p>1911: Orville Wright stays in the air for 9 minutes and 45 seconds in a Wright Glider</p> <p>1947: Walt Disney testifies before the House of Un-American Activities Committee, naming employees he believes to be communists</p> <p>National Bologna Day</p>	<p>1881: Pablo Picasso is born</p> <p>1940: Benjamin O. Davis, Sr. is named the first African American general in the US Army</p> <p>1984: Katy Perry is born</p> <p>Nevada Day</p> <p>Punk for a Day Day</p>	<p>1861: The Pony Express officially ceases operations</p> <p>1984: "Baby Face" receives a heart transplant from a baboon</p> <p>1946: Pat Sajak is born</p> <p>1947: Hillary Clinton is born</p> <p>Mule Day</p>	<p>1682: Philadelphia is founded</p> <p>1838: Missouri governor issues the Extermination Order, which orders all Mormons to leave the state or be exterminate</p> <p>World Day for Audiovisual Heritage</p> <p>Sylvia Plath Day</p>	<p>1636: The first college in what would become the United States, today known as Harvard University, is established</p> <p>1893: Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6 in B Minor receives its première performance only nine days before the composer's death</p> <p>Plush Animal Lover's Day</p> <p>National Chocolate Day</p>	<p>1787: Mozart's opera <i>Don Giovanni</i> premières in Prague</p> <p>1929: The New York Stock Exchange crashes</p> <p>1998: Space Shuttle Discovery blasts off with 77-year old John Glenn on board, making him the oldest person to go into space</p> <p>Hermit Day</p>

LIFE HACKS

by Madeleine Vath

For those who, like me, are most likely going to be living on your own or with a roommate this time next year, here are some helpful tips for saving space, saving money, or for just being plain awesome.

PUT PANCAKE MIX IN A KETCHUP BOTTLE FOR A NO-MESS EXPERIENCE



SUDOKU

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

HOROSCOPES

by Suzanne Jackson



Libra - You are just full of bad ideas and there is no way that I can possibly name them all. But since I am supposed to help you, I will give you a brief summary of what to avoid this month: tin foil, frayed wire, large bodies of water, lighter fluid, and popcorn.



Scorpio - Hey, wow. It is almost your birthday, Scorpio. I feel like I can confidently say "Happy Birthday" because this year, people might actually remember. No more tears, am I right? Heck yeah, birthday time! Woohoo!



Sagittarius - Hey Sagittarius, hope everyone is treating you like the megababe you are. Keep up the good work. When you walk through the halls, just remember that everyone is jealous of the beautiful person before them.



Capricorn - We can all tell you went trick-or-treating. It seems like you ate too much Capricandycorn. And just so you know, I am the funniest person you will ever know.



Aquarius - I bet you have a really neat and original Halloween costume and you think all your friends will be so impressed. So here is your horoscope: they will not be impressed and it is kind of lame.



Pisces - Just do whatever you want, Pices. Seriously. I mean, maybe you should avoid any of the risky stuff that would be frowned upon, but hey, you live your own life. If you do happen to get arrested, just tell the police that your horoscope instructed you to practice your freestyle when dancing on the counter of Starbucks. They will be cool with it.



Aries - Hey Aries, so I just thought I would give you a heads up and mention that you should really take a better look at those scantrons because that teacher really does have it out for you. Studying? No. Revenge? Yes.



Taurus - If you were a character in *Beauty and the Beast*, you would be the expressionless dishes dancing in the background of the scene where all the forks and dusters are dancing for Belle. Expressionless dishes do not deserve a horoscope.



Gemini - Ugh, Gemini. I honestly hate writing horoscopes for you because you never listen. Do not come crying to me when you did not anticipate the...thing...that is definitely going to happen to you. As Justin Timberlake once wisely sang, "what goes around, comes aaaaaaround."



Cancer - Cancers, you are not the coolest of the group. It is okay, though, because everyone kind of feels bad for you. Just keep telling your mom that all of your "friends" are out of town.

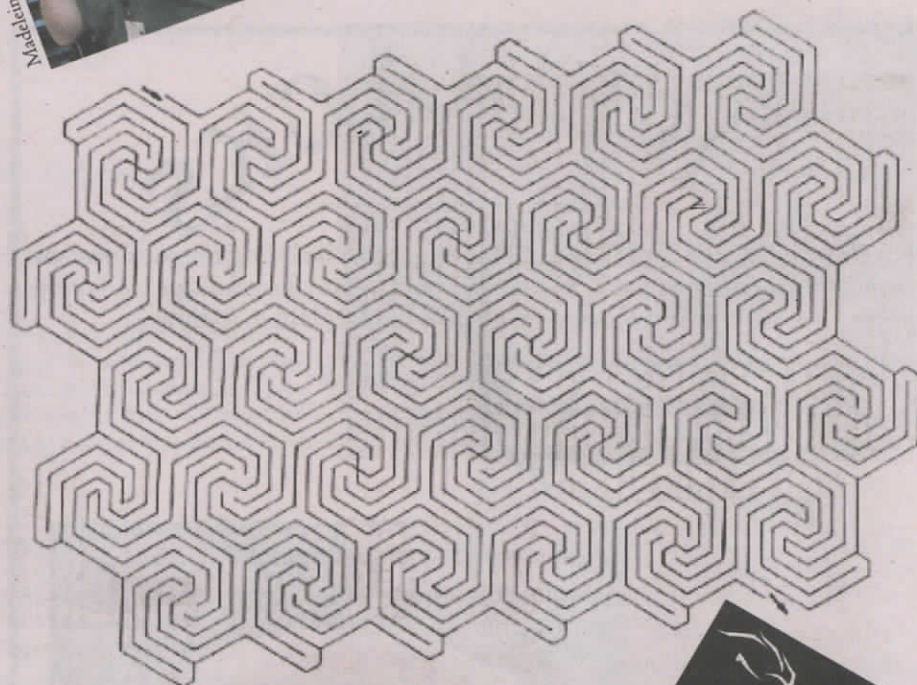


Leo - You did something terrible earlier this month. Yeah, I know about that. You are to watch the second episode of the 39th season of Saturday Night Live as punishment. That is right. The one that Miley Cyrus hosted. Oh, the suffering.



Virgo - Are you feeling better, Virgo? You know, since last issue's breakdown and all. Now that we have covered that, I feel like I should mention that this month is going to be miserable. Aw, come on, you were doing so well. Hold it together. Please stop crying.

Help Mr. Rogers reach his playbill!



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Each issue we will be bringing back segments from past years in honor of Applause's 15th year.

Thank you all for reading!

VOL. 6 NO. 8 "NEW BABIES FOR A NEW YEAR"

New babies for a new year

by Omi Naderi

On June 28, 2005, arrived the cute and infantile **Britni Dale Johnsen**. Then, in time for the second day of school, the 7 pound, 4 ounce **Giovanni Matthew Cusatis** was welcomed to Mother Earth on August 23, 2005.

Says **Mr. Johnsen**, "It's the greatest feeling to go nine months, not having any idea of what she looked like. It's an amazing feeling to know it's your daughter, that the little thing will be listening to you, and you're going to be teaching her everything she knows." Says **Dr. Cusatis**, "Everything is different."

It was the first child for **Dr. Cusatis** and his wife **Anna**, as well as for **Mr. Johnsen** and his wife **Beverly**. Both families decided to go "old school"



and not predetermine the gender of their baby, which added to the excitement.

When asked to reflect on a significant moment of fatherhood, **Mr. Johnsen** spoke of his daughter's first laugh: "The first time she actually laughed was—exhilarating. She was just sitting and making faces when it just came out. It was the most wonderful sound I've ever heard. Now, I've heard many different songs that I love, but this was beyond that. It keeps playing over and over in my head." **Dr. Cusatis** described the birth of his child as "magical."

Both babies are conveniently named: "Britni" abolishes all the unnecessary letters from the traditional spelling of her name, while at the same time avoiding any reference to Britney Spears. "Giovanni" (pronounced JOH-von-E) is the Italian version of his daddy's name, John—no further comment necessary.

Speaking of Giovanni, he is said to already have 30 books in his nursery (soon his dad will be encouraging him to annotate and write journal entries on Drcusatis.com). Furthermore, he has a small CD collection, which undoubtedly must feature at least one Bob Dylan album.

Luckily, these great men have chill babies that like to take it easy in their cribs. **Mr. Johnsen** reports that **Britini** "isn't really a tough baby. Overall, it hasn't been as tough as most stories I've heard. She's still trying to distinguish from day and night, though." Little **Giovanni** is what **Dr. Cusatis** calls, "the coolest baby. He doesn't fuss over anything." Sounds a lot like his father...

SOA wishes these new dads the best of luck for their fatherhood in the many years to come. And in case you're wondering, plans for the wedding of **Giovanni Matthew Cusatis** and **Britni Dale Johnsen** have already been discussed.

VOL. 9 NO. 2 "QUESTION OF THE MONTH"



"I invite friends over for a gingerbread contest. We all build gingerbread houses and when we're done we burn them." - **Ben Kidder**, 6th grade

VOL. 11 NO. 2 "QUESTION OF THE MONTH"



"Getting new classrooms!"
Anna Holloway, 8th grade

Ars Poetica

Reese Fischer, Freshman Creative Writing

Sometimes at night, when I try to hold you,
 you slip from the sheets to get a glass of water
 but never come back.
 In the morning,
 I forget to turn the shower on
 because I am too busy staring at the yellow tile.
 So I stand there, cold, naked, uncomfortable
 and think of nothing but you
 and the reasons you do not want to hold me.
 But, there are nights when you come home
 and you embrace me
 and I am wrapped in your scent.
 You make me feel full again,
 your striking wit makes me swell with light.
 The warmth of your skin on mine
 ignites dizzy thoughts.
 Your hands fit so nicely
 above the curve of my hips.
 And it feels like Sunday morning,
 when you open the windows and
 and sunlight illuminates white bed sheets and
 we talk about the confusing life of lovers
 in soft spoken words.
 We interlace our legs on the page.
 And when you fall asleep
 I lay my head on your chest
 and I listen to you breathe.



A piece by Emma Kryway,
 6th grade Visual Artist

An Evening with a Concept: Ars Poetica

by Virginia Doran, Freshman Creative Writing

A stray concept wanders across my mind,
 an alley cat, wild and untamed.
 I pull the fragment close to me
 and claim her as my own.

I begin to think,
 lines and metaphors are crafted,
 but alley cat hunts them down
 and delivers their corpses as prizes.

So I write instead,
 my pencil scratches pearly paper.
 Alley cat curls up on these,
 words are smudged by her tabby fur.

My fingers click at the keyboard,
 and my inspiration rubs against the screen,
 as if the words are more worthy than me.
 I continue blindly.

I arrange the words one final time,
 balance them across the page,
 until they equal her beauty.

And then I let her go.



A piece by Tevarious Brooks,
 Junior Visual Artist

Paint the Town Red and Gold

by Noah Jordan

Charleston Jazz Orchestra Presents: the World of Bebop (October 26th)

The Charleston Jazz Orchestra is rethinking some of history's best Bebop songs at the Charleston Music Hall. There is one set at 7pm and another at 10pm.

Picasso at the Lapin Agile

The Flowertown Players put on a show by comedian Steve Martin about what happens when Einstein meets Picasso. 133 South Main St., Summerville. Friday & Saturday, 8pm; Sunday, 3pm. \$25-\$20. October 18, 2013-November 3, 2013.

James Brendan Williams: Everything Left to Chant

Artist James Williams mixes his own created artwork with industrially produced materials to create interesting and psychedelic installations. He will be exhibited at the Redux on Radcliffe st., Downtown Charleston. November 22, 2013 - January 11, 2014.

Volunteer at the Liberty Hill After School Program



Provided

Come on out to Felix Pickney Community Center on Hassell Street to help out at Liberty Hill! It is simple! You help struggling readers and writers from Hurshey Elementary School by helping them with their homework, reading with them, playing educational games, and generally serving as positive role models. It is every Monday through Thursday from 3:30pm to 5:30pm. Besides the pleasure you get from helping someone else, you give back to your community, you create long lasting connections with the students that you help, and it looks great on college applications! Meet in Mr. Lindgren's room immediately after school Monday-Thursday if you need a ride or are willing to give someone a lift over to the Community Center. They need as many volunteers as they can get!

The Trivia Challenge

by Suzanne Jackson

Last issue, **Maddy Seabrook** won the Middle School themed trivia against **Zoe Abedon**. We had high hopes for Zoe, but they were apparently too high. It is not like we have anything against Maddy. It is just that her power frightens us and makes us question our own existence. This time, we figured it was most appropriate to come up with questions that gleamed with Halloween spirit. After much deliberation, we chose Maddy to compete against **Steve Dey**, a promising young Junior Band major with a bright future and hopefully a good amount of knowledge about the upcoming holiday.

Questions:

1. Jack-o-Lanterns, originally made from turnips, originated in what country?
2. What is the most popular candy sold in the United States?
3. What do the Halloween colors orange and black represent?
4. What is the most popular Halloween candy among Trick-or-Treaters?
5. What was the first wrapped "penny candy" in America?
6. True or false: the original Halloween movie was made in only 21 days.
7. Apparently, if you wear your clothes on inside out on Halloween and walk backwards, what will you encounter?
8. What is the holiday that occurs on November 1st?
9. What is the name of the talking cat from the movie Hocus Pocus?
10. What is the most popular figure to dress as for Halloween?

Person A: Maddy Seabrook

1. Ireland
2. Snickers
3. The fall harvest and death
4. Snickers
5. Tootsie Rolls
6. True
7. A spirit
8. All Souls Day
9. I don't know
10. A witch



Suzanne Jackson

Person B: Steve Dey

1. Spain
2. Candy Corn
3. Fall?
4. Reeses
5. Butterscotch
6. True
7. Your Mom
8. Good question.
9. Biscuit
10. A Zombie Surgeon



Suzanne Jackson

Answers:

1. Ireland
2. M&M's
3. Orange represents the fall harvest, and black represents darkness and death.
4. Snickers
5. Tootsie Rolls
6. True
7. Witch
8. All Saints Day
9. Binx
10. A witch

And the winner is... MADDY SEABROOK

To no one's surprise, Maddy remains Trivia Empress because, well, Steve apparently has no knowledge about Halloween. To Steve's credit, he did get one question right. Sure, it was a true or false question, but at least he guessed correctly. **Dmitri Grigorieff**, Junior Creative Writer and close friend of Steve Dey, describes his attitude after this crushing loss as "laughin' cuz the haters don't know." Keep laughing, Steve. I can assure you, everyone is laughing with you, not at you. And congratulations to Maddy! Be prepared to encounter your next victim in the upcoming issue.



Anna Kalik

"I dressed up as OJ Simpson."
Nikita Narodnitskiy,
11th grade Creative
Writing



Anna Kalik

"I dressed up as Dobby."
Meredith Coen, 8th
grade Theatre



Anna Kalik

"I was mustard."
Hannah Chase, 8th
grade Vocal



Anna Kalik

"One time I dressed as a girl but I didn't get any candy because they thought I was my little brother's mom."
Dr. Teseniar, U.S. History
Teacher

What was your best Halloween costume?

By Noah Jordan & Anna Kalik



Anna Kalik

"I was a doodleman."
River Abedon, 6th grade
Creative Writing



Anna Kalik

"I was a cute kitty."
Gavin Quinton, 11th
grade Theatre



Anna Kalik

"I was Fred Flinstone."
Parrish Brown, 12th
grade Vocal



Noah Jordan

"I was a nurse, the kind that shows up at bachelor parties."
Graham Crolley
11th Grade Creative
Writing



Anna Kalik

"I was a psycho clown."
Taylor Koozer,
7th grade Hearing
Impaired



Anna Kalik

"We were Scooby Doo and Velma."
Brandon Holmes and
Mia Silvestri, 11th grade
Theatre and Dance