

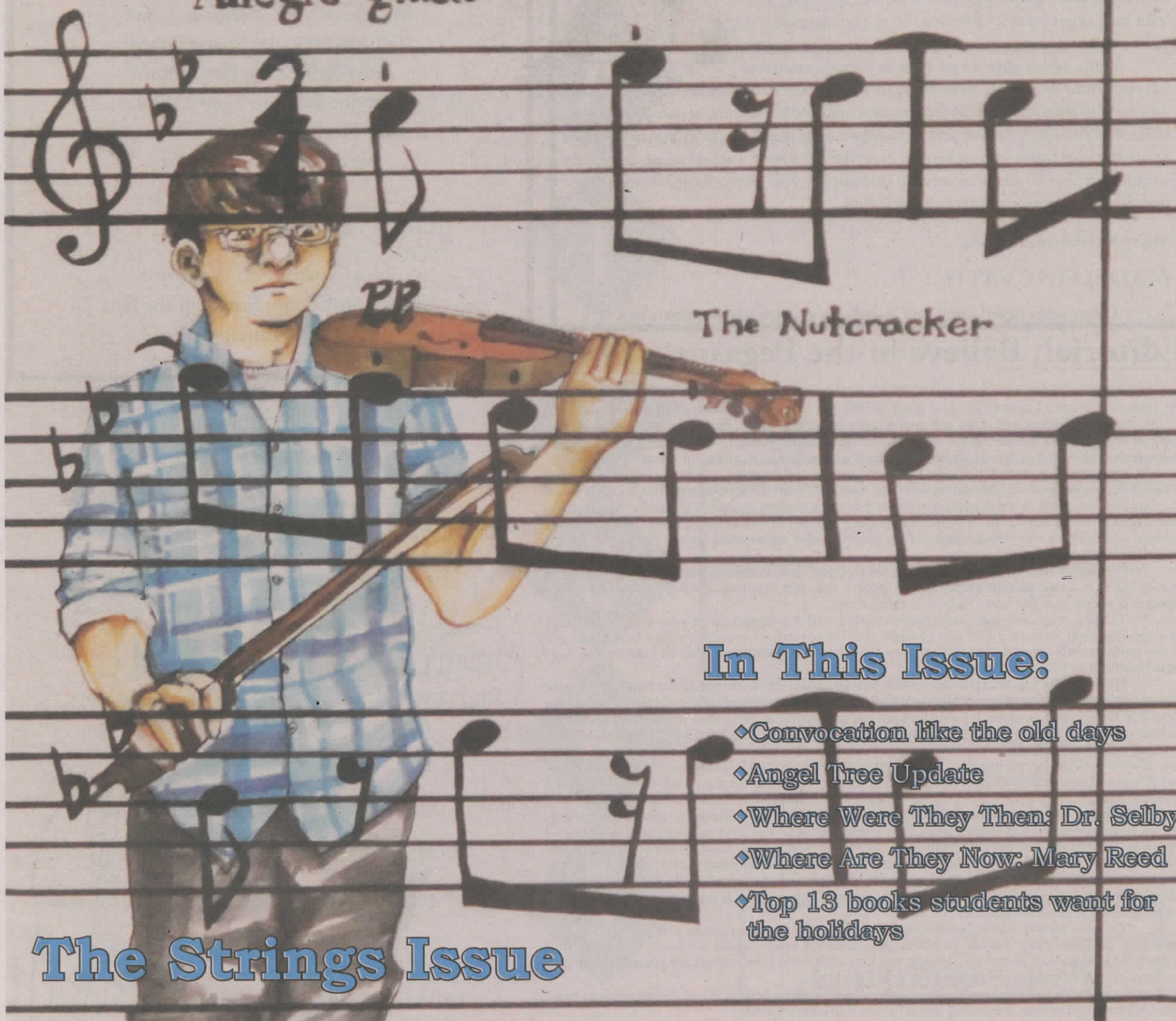
APPLAUSE

School of the Arts 5109-B West Enterprise Street, North Charleston, SC

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Allegro giusto



pp
The Nutcracker

In This Issue:

- ◆ Convocation like the old days
- ◆ Angel Tree Update
- ◆ Where Were They Then: Dr. Selby
- ◆ Where Are They Now: Mary Reed
- ◆ Top 13 books students want for the holidays

The Strings Issue

Letter from the Editor

Desiree Horlbeck

Hello, everyone! I hope you all are feeling as festive as I am! If not, be sure to check out some of our holiday features. I am sure they will get you "ho ho ho"-ing in no time, or at least put a little Christmas-y spring in your step. In this issue we have added some special segments to get you all in that jolly spirit such as our book-y Christmas list, our holiday clothing gallery, and a Christmas version of sudoku.



Sadly, shortly after we get back in January, midterms will start. I am sure you will all be diligently studying the whole break, but be sure to take time for your friends and family this season as well. Do not become so immersed in your books that you forget to take part in making a gingerbread house with your grandma or holding your baby cousin at her first New Year's Eve party. I am, of course, employing sarcasm here, but do take a moment to contemplate your reason for the season and be thankful for whomever you get to enjoy it with.

Merry Kwanzachristmakuh!

MADELEINE VATH

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

Editorial: Believe in the Pegasus

As many of you may have heard, SOA was able to raise more than enough money to fund the upcoming Pegasus Garden. The goal was \$36,000, but through Kickstarter with the help of SOA faculty, students, parents, and other supporters, we were able to raise \$40,345 to pay for the garden. *Applause* was proud to donate \$1,000 to sponsor a bench in the garden. What many people seem to misunderstand however is that this project's primary purpose is not to make our campus "look pretty" or make our school seem richer than it is. The main purpose of the garden is to fix the outdoor drainage system so it does not permanently damage the foundations of our school buildings. This is clearly stated and explained in detail in the Kickstarter video that every student, parent, and faculty member was encouraged to watch during the month of fundraising. Instead of watching the video, however, many teachers and students chose to side against the project, some without any knowledge of the project beside the fact that it required money.

It is admittedly easy to become a bit touchy, especially in this economy, when prodded for money, but it is inexcusable to openly bash a project that someone took the time and effort to put together, a project that you know little or nothing about.

To those who took this road, did you consider the consequences of your words while they were spewing their nonsense? Did you consider that other teachers or students who look up to you or are easily swayed would immediately view the project in a negative light, all because you were misinformed or not informed at all?

Now, those of you who listened to such people, do not think you are off the hook just because you are not the instigators. You are equally at fault for not at least attempting to think for yourselves. Here at SOA especially, we preach individualism, but so many of us just follow the masses blindly and without question instead of using the brains each and every one of us was born with. No one is perfect, meaning it is highly unlikely that everything everyone says is perfectly informed and accurate in every way. Always question everything. Mr. Michael Donnellon may have left this school, but I should hope that this most important of all his principles left a strong impression on the minds of the faculty and upperclassmen.

Many of you may now be proffering the excuse that this bit of information about the drainage and the foundations was not shoved down your throat, and thus you have no responsibility to having known it. Well let me just tell you right now that you are still wrong. Surely it is not necessary that every snippet of information about the fundraising be announced to the campus every day for members of the very institution the fundraising is going to help to refrain from degrading the entire project. The information was and is readily available in the Kickstarter video, which is maybe two clicks away and can be accessed from any computer.

To those of you who supported and/or funded the Pegasus Garden prior to reading this, thank you. To those of you who still do not support it, do not worry: we did not need you to support it to meet our goal anyway. Hopefully, though, you have all learned how to think for yourselves and thus are choosing not to support the garden with your own brains.

In short, do not be a zombie. You might as well not even be alive if you do not use your brain because, really, you are not even living if you do not think for yourself.

Applause

the official student publication of
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Thanks to our patrons for keeping *Applause* clapping!

Upcoming Events

December 20 - Beginning of students' Winter Break-
January 6 - End of Winter Break

January 10 - 1A & 3A Midterms

January 13-14 - 10th & 11th Theatre Practicum
Show in BBT @ 4pm

January 13 - 1B & 3B Midterms

January 14 - 2A & 4A Midterms

January 15 - 2B & 4B Midterms

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Cover art by
Caroline Cash

Poet Peter Meinke visits SOA

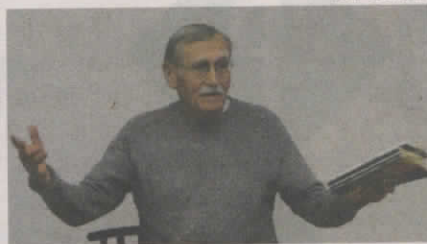
by Graham Crolley

SOA was very humbled to have writer Peter Meinke visit the school on November 21st and 22nd. The Junior and Senior Creative Writers and Dr. Cusatis's AP Literature class were honored to receive insight to his unique writing method.

Meinke described his revision process and gave helpful tips and pointers to aspiring writers and non-writers alike. He spoke warmly to students about his childhood in Brooklyn and what it meant to him to be a young poet.

Meinke hosted another speech for a larger audience during third block in the Rose Maree Myers Theater. He was introduced by our very own Sean Scapellato and read a few excerpts from a variety of his published works. He shared an essay about meeting his wife for the first time, as well multiple poems describing the different familial relationships he has experienced in his life, whether between him and his mother, his father, or his uncle. Meinke stressed the importance of these relationships in one's life and how they often come up as a common theme in writing.

Meinke's easygoing and engaging readings and discussions were a treat for the school and its students. Thanks to Mr. Meinke once again for taking the time to speak to us!



Dr. Cusatis

Poet Peter Meinke shares his poetry and style with one of the AP Literature classes.

Convocation done in the old way

by Noah Jordan

This past month, students at SOA witnessed the rebirth of the tradition of convocation. Around half of the high school was packed into the strings room, sitting crisscross-applesauce on the carpet in a morning stupor. Four of seven majors displayed what they've been working on for the first portion of the school year.

Senior Piano major **Ben Cohn** preformed a wonderful and psychotic piece, including a lot of severe tempo changes and shocking dissidence on nearly every note.

Junior Dance majors **Megan Strange** and **SaVannah Pasley** brought two incredible dances to the floor which wowed the crowd, especially considering the severe rug burns which probably reside on their shoulders to this day.

Senior Creative Writers **Miles Counts**, **Cooper Donoho** and **Alex Peeples** read impressive pieces. Miles read a poem, Alex read an excerpt from a play, and Cooper read a portion of his short story.

The Band majors played a wonderful piece which got the crowd pumped for the next convocation.

A little bit later than expected and a little more cramped than everyone would have liked, the second part of convocation was nothing short of inspiring. It had everyone dancing in place and clapping their hands. The event started out with a performance on guitar by Junior Strings major **Justin Yu** in which he exemplified the utmost composure and focus on the quiet and beautiful piece. There were then another couple of pieces played by the orchestra, each of which were interesting and enjoyable.

Theatre also had a showcase of two monologues. The first, preformed and written by Junior **Sam Chase** was a hilarious scene in which an Australian man taught his witless intern how to survive in a place called Dinotopia (basically Jurassic Park). The crowd then got disrespectfully rowdy for a rather somber scene written by famous playwright Arthur Miller and performed by Juniors **Simeon Washington** and **Emilie LaPlante**. The crowd got especially rowdy during the two's emotional kissing scene.

I do believe half the laughter was caused by immaturity and the other half because the look of utter eye-rolling-disgust on the face of Simeon's girlfriend, Sophomore Vocal major **Shelby Levine** as she watched from in front of the vocal risers. Shelby then went on to spite Simeon for his insubordination by performing a wonderful solo with fellow student Senior Vocal **Michael Stevens**.

It was, however, in the second of one of Vocal's songs in which Senior **Parrish Brown** gave up his position as shaker player and rocking on his heels and bobbing his head he led the crowd in a tempo-keeping clap. This may sound stupid to anyone who was not there, but the passion in the air was tangible, and this was by far one of the more enjoyable events of the year; everyone got to skip fourth block and only one Vocal kid nearly passed out from standing.



Dr. Selby

Most of the high school was able to squeeze into the orchestra room for this year's first convocation.

SOA hosts South Carolina Theatre Conference

by Ted Anastopoulos

For the first time since the 1990s, the SOA Theatre Department won the winning bid to host the 2013 South Carolina Theatre Conference. Over the weekend of November 15th, the SOA campus was transformed into a theatre hub for middle and high school students, adults, professional theatre companies, and college theatre departments.

The conference was highlighted with various workshops held throughout different classrooms. The workshops ranged from musical improv to magic tricks. The numerous classrooms used to hold the workshops were beneficial because it allowed the conference to take place in one location.

"In past years when the conference was held in places like Myrtle Beach and Greenville," said Theatre teacher Mr. Younts, "Everything was spread out and difficult to navigate. This year was much better having all activities in one place."

The conference also held a competition in which over 30 high schools were required to present a performance in 40 minutes. SOA's own Senior Theatre majors showcased their play *Metamorphosis*. Other schools performed pieces such as two person plays and musicals.

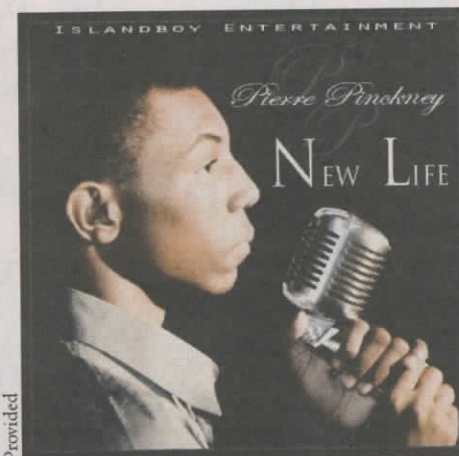
Colleges also showed interest in promoting their theatre departments. Coastal Carolina, Charleston Southern, Clemson, College of Charleston, and South Carolina School of the Arts set up tables in the lobby of the Rose Maree Myers Theatre for students wishing to receive information. Clemson was even giving away free pens!

Over 1,000 students around the state came to SOA for the conference. "This was a huge success," said Mr. Younts, "and I think we will be hosting the conference again in the near future."



Provided

Senior Theatre majors Destini Anderson and Sydney Dixon perform a scene from *Metamorphosis* as part of the SCTA competition.



Provided

Sophomore Pierre Pinckney has been very successful and involved in his music career through his church having already performed for thousands at the International Home Mission Program.

Jeff Club Winner

by Ted Anastopoulos

Angeliki Zecopolous, Freshman Dance major

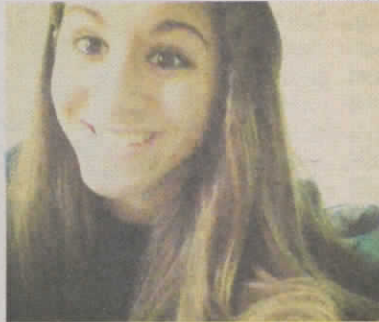
Angeliki is a unique individual. Not only does she enjoy Zumba and Greek desserts, she also spearheads visits to Jenkins Orphanage through her church.

Angeliki has spent several Saturdays with orphans playing games, savoring donuts, and just having a good time. Angeliki hopes to "make the trip seem natural and not awkward." She also collects home necessities and supplies for the orphanage to use, including hand towels, shampoo, and toothbrushes.

On December 7th, Angeliki spent her Saturday at Lowe's selecting a tree with five of the orphans. The tree was to be placed inside the orphanage, which is located in North Charleston. That day, Angeliki also helped put up and decorate the tree.

A member of the Greek Orthodox Church, Angeliki also helped run a church garage sale intended to raise money for My Sister's House, an organization that provides shelter for victims of domestic violence. She helped organize countless items and move heavy furniture from the depths of old Greek ladies' closets.

"I hope to one day raise enough awareness about Jenkins Orphanage that we can construct a new complex. The building now isn't up to par, and it would be great if we could at least update it."



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Angel Tree Update

by Suzanne Jackson

Every one of the 60 ornaments has been collected from the Christmas tree in front of Mr. Lindgren's room. Good job SOA! This means that all of the Liberty Hill kids being sponsored through NHS will receive their Christmas presents this year! There will be a present opening party on Thursday, December 19th at the Felix Pinckney Community Center immediately after school. The students who took an ornament will have the chance to see the child they sponsored receive their presents. All are welcome to attend!



SOA's Christmas-y Attire

For this holiday issue of Applause, Ted Anastopoulos and Anna Kalik wandered SOA's hallways in search of the best holiday attire.



Ted Anastopoulos

Freshman Vocal major Natalie Bise shows off her favorite reindeer: Comet, Donner, and Blitzen.



Ted Anastopoulos

Sixth grade Band major Julian Gioia poses in his fuzzy Santa hat.



Anna Kalik

Junior Theatre major Emma MacMillan won the award of "Best Christmas Sweater" for the 2013 season.

High school Piano performs silvery tunes Junior Dance majors bring life to the stage with their compositions

by Madeleine Vath

On Monday, November 18th and Tuesday, November 19th, the High School Piano Department held classical piano concerts. I attended on Tuesday and, regrettably, I had to slip in late and missed the first few performers. But I thankfully did not miss Senior **Jalesia Claxton's** magnificent performance of "Howl's Moving Castle" theme song by Haisaishi. This piece requires an artist who can play with a certain energy while maintaining a careful finesse - something at which JC is very adept.

Later in the concert, Senior **Olivia Pharis** and Junior **Tradd Zanin** each played a "Prelude No. 2", Olivia's by Bach and Tradd's by Gershwin. It is ironic how two pieces can have the same name, and yet sound so different. When Olivia sat down, I expected something calm and quiet, like her, but the beginning of Bach's Prelude is very fast and loud and busy. It does, however, gradually become softer over the course of the piece. Tradd's piece was soft and calm in its entirety, but had more of a lilting quality to it. Both artists truly performed the pieces instead of simply sitting and playing them.

Those of you who attended Convocation are unlikely to have forgotten Senior **Ben Cohn's** performance of "Allegro Barbaro" by Bartok. This eclectic piece was the same one he performed to close this spectacular concert. It was an incredible experience to sit and listen to Ben perform such a piece and I am grateful I was able to witness it again.

At the end of the concert, all of the performers came on stage to take a bow that they certainly all earned. Each and every performance was impeccable and they should all be very proud.

Sixth grade Theatre majors light up the black box with their debut

by Madeleine Vath

On November 21st, I sat in on the sixth grade Theatre major's first performance of the year. The sixth graders had to write five monologues each, present them to their class, and perfect the two that they chose to perform. All of them were given similar prompts, and yet all of the monologues were different, proving the creativity of this group. Also, they were put into pairs and given the same five or six lines around which they had to create a scene. The results, needless to say, were very interesting.

I was excited to attend the sixth grade Theatre major's performance, partially because I had never been to a monologue show, and also because I always enjoy seeing what the Theatre Department has prepared because it is always of good quality. I was reassured when the first student, **Christian Blackburn**, introduced himself and stated that he would be "forming monologues" for us that afternoon. Even their etiquette was that of a true Theatre company, something I doubt you would find at any other school.

One of the first monologues, titled "Gimme" was performed by **Clarke Brunson** and portrayed an interesting side of Santa Claus, a side all us admiring children hope does not really exist. The following monologue, performed by **Caroline Conway**, was the perfect image of a teen girl's first dance jitters. She spent the majority of the monologue pleading with her invisible mother to clean her favorite dress, which, to me, was amusing and relatable, now that I do my own laundry.

The first open scene involved cheating on a date, which would not have been so funny had it not been for the two talented students acting out the scene: **Christian Blackburn** and **Patrick Wonder**. They made quite the pair.

The following monologue, performed by **Oliver Lewis**, had a twist. To be perfectly honest with you, I cannot remember the exact plot, only that Oliver was playing a squirrel. Almost all of the students performed a monologue about going to the principal's office. The one that stood out most to me was written and performed by **Thomas Polkey**. His principal's office panic was not over getting in trouble in any normal way, but over getting in trouble for dry-cleaning the principal's cat after leaving Taco Bell.

Will Putney brought the Black Box to life with quite a bit of yelling during his monologue about a lazy servant. After his performance, **Kate Schaible** performed a delectable monologue about some deliciously prepared pastries, but apparently "if you eat them you will die". One of my favorites had to be **Luke Shaw's** performance about hating babies. He stepped into center stage to announce himself just as all the other students had, but he performed his entire monologue with a British accent, which made us all laugh.

Dmitry Hackel performed a rather interesting monologue about not doing a monologue. He kept the audience chuckling throughout the performance, seemingly freaking out that we were all watching him. This was one of the final monologues, and I was sorry when the whole show was over. These students have such promising talent that I could have easily stayed and watched for several more hours. They might have had to start some improv at some point, but I have no doubt that they would have managed beautifully.



Junior Gabby Dizon performing her piece "Colors of the Wind."

Middle school Dance graces the theatre for their first performance

by Ted Anastopoulos

Ted Anastopoulos



The sixth graders prepare for their first performance as an SOA class.

The Rose Maree Myers Theater was buzzing with excitement as the Middle School Dance majors performed their annual Fall Showcase, a performance highlighting the hard work the sixth, seventh, and eighth graders put into their art major during the first quarter. The sweet sounds of Justin Timberlake filled the theater as the sixth graders hit the stage for their first performance as SOA students. They performed three different pieces: a Chinese ribbon dance, an Egyptian Nile River dance, and a variety of improv. While the first two dances were more traditional and structured, the dance improv was more laid back. With only three people dancing on stage at once, it was easier to focus on the technique of each dancer. At times during their improv, the sixth graders had to hold positions that seemed rather uncomfortable. Toward the end, it almost felt like *my* legs were cramping.

The seventh graders had the opportunity to choreograph their own performances. In small groups of three to five, they directed a dance that followed a theme. One group skillfully recreated a portrayal of social cliques and how it affects those around them.

The eighth graders, in their glory, walked on stage with an attitude visible from even my seat in the back of the theater. Sassy, sophisticated, and sugary, the eighth graders performed two pieces. The first was another version of the sixth grade improv performance, but was made more challenging, having to incorporate four main movements: running, walking, pausing, and crouching.

"Yeah, it was hard," says eight grader **Courtney Marrow**, "but our class did a good job incorporating all four elements."

When asked what he did to prepare, sixth grader **Dean Monk** said, "I did a lot of stretching beforehand to calm my nerves. Our class had prepared too, so it was nice to know I had them behind my back if I messed up."

High school Strings and Vocal set the holiday atmosphere

by Harris Lynam

The holiday atmosphere is nearly infectious, as our school theater is transformed into a Christmas retreat, where no one wants to sit in the first three rows for fear of being unable to see over the poinsettia blockade. Starting a little late, the orchestra wowed the audience with an ultimate Christmas mash-up of every identifiable holiday song known to mankind; for the record, it was absolutely gorgeous to listen to. **Dr. Selby**, whose passion for symphony and the arts is palpable, is probably the sweetest guy to listen to. He excitedly talked about the set up for the evening and how happy he was to work with the vocalists for the holiday concert.

Susan Lloyd Photography



Sophomore Shelby Levine and Senior Michael Stevens belt it out in "Sing Noel."

vocalists and strings were less than awed at their own performances, but as an audience member, it was really spectacular.

A perfect way to really begin the holiday season, Vocal and Strings blew away the crowd.

Middle school Vocal and Strings light up the theater

by Noah Jordan

The recent performance comprised of the middle school Vocal majors and orchestra members coming together for a holiday concert was an incredible show of the ability of SOA to cross-pollinate in the majors to create a beautiful flower of artistic achievement. The beautiful young faces of the choir illuminated my night with holiday joy.

I was surprised at the performance of the orchestra. I have been to some other middle school strings performances in which instruments sounded out of tune and often the band would lag behind in tempo, but the middle school SOA Strings majors were precise in their execution. I thoroughly enjoyed the show.

The atmosphere set by the lights on stage was absolutely beautiful, with red and green lights that thawed my heart for the holiday season. The wreath in the background was a nice holiday touch as well.

The Vocal majors also put on a great show. Only a couple kids looked light headed and woozy after standing for so long in the bright buzzing lights. Maybe fewer kids passed out than kids in the high school choir. But all jokes aside, the choir was beautiful. Bravo to everyone who participated.



Happy Holidays!
from the Applause staff

High school Band pays charming homage to the holidays

by Graham Crolley

The SOA High School Band put on a heartwarming holiday concert on the night of Wednesday, December 11th. Families and fellow students all came together in the Rose Maree Myers Theater to watch the band perform polished pieces from traditional Christmas songs to energetic jazz.

The night featured a myriad of pleasant performances from the separate band sections. The Wind Quintet started the show with a holiday favorite,

"We Wish You a Merry Christmas," and following that, the Jazz Lab Band played a few Yule time tunes along with an upbeat jazz piece, "Strawberry Jam."

The Jazz Ensemble performed "Jingle Bells," "The Christmas Song," and "All of Me," and were accompanied during a few of these pieces by jazz director and renowned trombonist Mr. Foberg. The audience was captivated by the Tuba Ensemble's rendition of "White Christmas," as well as the universal foot-tapper "Sleigh Ride" and the ever-familiar "Carol of the Bells," performed by the Wind Ensemble and Clarinet Ensemble, respectively. Another piece that stood out was the percussion group's solo piece, showcasing their talent for rhythm by integrating foot stomps while still playing with their hands.

The show closed with the Wind Symphony wishing us all happy holidays with "March of the Toys/Toyland." The night was a great success, and brought out the little part in everyone that loves to celebrate the holidays, especially through enjoying music.

Middle school Band plays the sounds of the season

by Ted Anastopoulo

What a bright time, it's the right time, to see the middle school Band major's "Sounds of the Seasons" concert. After seeing this spectacular performance on such a cold night, one could say it is beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

After I saw Mommy kissing Santa Claus, I headed over to the Rose Maree Myers Theater for an evening of both traditional and contemporary holiday favorites. Upon entering the theater, I asked an elderly man walking in with me, "Do you hear what I hear?" It was a splendid sound, the sound of something having to do with fond childhood memories... Alas, walking into the packed theater and grabbing a seat, I realized it was the song, "Welcome Christmas," a classic from the mountains of Whoville and Dr. Seuss's signature piece, *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*.

After listening to such a powerful first song, two students went to the back corners of the theater and blasted their trumpets as an opening for the seventh and eighth grade song, "On This Day Earth Shall Ring." "What child is this?" I asked, impressed at the power eighth graders **Megan Lebaron** and **Daniel Brown** showed in their solos.

The evening continued with the soft chimes of silver bells and laughter as the Christmas favorite "Santa Baby" was played. The audience happily joined into the lyrics, singing, "Santa baby, forgot to mention one little thing... A ring... I don't mean on the phone."

The night ended with the song "Twas the Night Before Christmas," but with a slight twist. The holy night included the poem by C.C. Moore incorporated with the music, something that even Santa Claus coming to town could not predict.

Walking out of the little manger in the bleak midwinter, it came upon the midnight clear that I had seen a truly wonderful performance. I wondered as I wandered back to my car how truly talented the middle school Band majors are.

Graham Crolley



The High School Band stands at the end of their fine performance to take their bows.

Where Were They Then: Dr. Christopher Selby

by Anna Kalik

Seeing as this is the Strings issue of Applause, we have asked Dr. Christopher Selby, orchestra conductor, to share some of his background and the foundation of his interest in music.

Anna Kalik: Where did you grow up?

Christopher Selby: During elementary and middle school, I lived in Madison, WI, and moved to San Francisco, CA, where I went to high school at an Academic Magnet with a super orchestra (most other academic magnets around the country have an orchestra, and they are usually very good). In high school I also spent my Saturdays at the San Francisco Conservatory taking music theory, piano improv, and composition classes in their Prep Department for students under college age.

AK: How did you get interested in music?

CS: I cannot remember a time that I was not singing songs with my mom, or listening to my dad play Chopin, Schubert, Mozart, or Beethoven on his grand piano; I used to lay under the piano with my blanket and listen.

AK: How did you decide to teach music?

CS: It was a very late choice actually; I tutored many students during high school in math and chemistry, and I knew I liked to teach. I also knew that I had a musical gift, but I did not put the two together until after I already applied to all my colleges in science and math. I was lucky to be accepted by the Hartt School of Music, which is a conservatory in Connecticut.

AK: What instruments do you play?

CS: I started on the piano in elementary school, played clarinet in the middle school band, and starting taking violin lessons when I was in the 9th grade. I started playing the viola seriously in college, and while I have lost most of my clarinet chops, I can still play violin and viola well, and enough piano to bang out some chords when I need to.

AK: What do you consider to be the greatest accomplishment in your music career?

CS: Funny you should ask: my first book, a method book for high school students, is coming out in print this spring. I am finishing up the final touches this winter.

AK: What led you to SOA?

CS: Sarah Fitzgerald invited me to interview. I actually conducted a Region Honors Orchestra here at SOA the fall before I moved here, and after that fall, Ms. Fitz and I kept talking about it until the position opened up.

Provided



This is Dr. Selby's second year teaching orchestra at SOA.

Where Are They Now: Mary Reed

by Desiree Horlbeck

Applause interviewed a 2006 SOA alumni, who is in fact the daughter of our middle school band, Mrs. Reed, about her musical success as the double bassist in the Colorado Symphony Orchestra.

Desiree Horlbeck: What influenced you to pursue a career in music?

Mary Reed: Simply knowing there were viable careers for me as a performer, I was like "duh." Most people don't get to make a living doing something fun.

DH: Do you believe your education at SOA was advantageous to your career as a musician?

MR: Absolutely. Playing with an orchestra everyday was priceless. You can't learn ensemble skills in a practice room.

DH: You have enjoyed a pretty successful career as a double bassist in the Colorado Symphony Orchestra in Denver among many other prestigious opportunities. What opportunities are you looking forward to in your future?

MR: This semester, I had the opportunity to teach students at Colorado University in Boulder. I haven't done much teaching in the past and I'd like to do more. It's taught me a lot about my own playing and process. I've also been auditioning for bigger budget ensembles such as LA Phil and the MET. I'm considering some European auditions as well.

DH: What advice do you have for aspiring musicians that also want to pursue a career in music?

MR: Commit yourself to the amount of work it's going to take. I mean practicing. A LOT. Even now when I'm preparing for an audition, I don't get to see my friends very much. The next hardest part is rejection, despite all your hard work. I get discouraged sometimes, but after the initial sting fades, every loss is a learning experience and the payoff has been more than worth it!

Provided



Mary Reed with her double bass.

Provided



Mary Reed attended the Peabody Conservatory for four years before getting her masters at the University of Southern California.

Applause goes to the movies!

by Graham Crolley

This Issue: The Highly Anticipated Second Installment in *The Hunger Games* series—*Catching Fire*!

Rating: 8.5 out 10

Though I am no nine-year-old girl sporting a Katniss braid and Nerf bow and arrow set, I do consider myself a fan of the *Hunger Games* movies so far.

I will admit I was beyond excited when I arrived at the theater, eager to feast my eyes upon the glorious faces of Jennifer Lawrence and Josh Hutcherson. I am not exactly proud to find myself part of the new international craze that has various groups of kids across the globe pretending to fight to death in their backyards over the last pack of fruit snacks, but I will say that *Catching Fire* was a quality movie, and I have mostly good things to say about it.

To give a little background for those of you who have not delved into the next biggest thing since Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson family movies, *The Hunger Games* movies are set in a presumably post-American nation called Panem, in which the people are separated into 12 districts ruled by the richy rich, utopian Capitol. A boy and a girl from each district are selected to compete in a televised death match in an arena filled with deadly surprises. That is the premise in a nutshell.

Catching Fire was definitely more mature than its predecessor, showing the acute aftermath of what it meant for Katniss and Peeta after winning the *Hunger Games* the year before. The movie does a nice job at showing the boiling tumult in the districts, the start of a revolution, an overthrow of the Capitol and their deadly games, represented by Katniss's defiance. The political treachery and opposition between Katniss, the symbol of rebellion, and President Snow, the symbol of the Capitol, is very well done, as are the emotions of heartbreak in the scene where the victors learn they must go back and compete in the games again. Overall, the movie kept me fully entertained for its entire duration and even managed to get my heart rate up. Here is the breakdown:

Pros: Jennifer Lawrence (a boy is allowed to dream, am I right), the arena (think tropical beach nightmare), the casting for the new characters such as the victors from years past (Finnick is also nice looking), overall acting, plot drags you in and does not let you go, the new view of Haymitch, Effie, Peeta, and Katniss as a sort of unit or family

Cons: the ever-predictable love triangle between Katniss, Gale, and Peeta, similar to that of *Twilight*



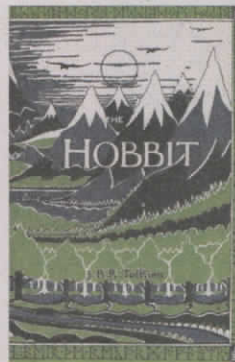
Book Review: *The Hobbit*

by Harris Lynam

This holiday season, as we once again rejoin Peter Jackson on his epic attempt to encapsulate the whole of Tolkien's imaginative opening to the world of Middle Earth, *The Hobbit*, I must take the time to remind everyone that the book will always, *always*, have something for you that the movie does not. This is even if the movie offers you Benedict Cumberbatch transformed in the great and powerful Smaug.

The Hobbit follows a reluctant Bilbo Baggins, a Hobbit of the Shire, on the grand journey of a lifetime, led by the wizard Gandalf and a band of dwarves on a quest to gain back their kingdom in the Lonely Mountain. Baggins must overcome his fears and wishes for home in favor of accomplishing his task of regaining the Arkenstone, the symbol of dwarf Prince Thorin's divine rule, and a stone of "a thousand faces" that represents all the glory and power of the dwarf kingdom. A brief foray into Golem's secret hideout in the depths of misty mountains leaves Baggins in possession of the ring of power which propels the plot of the following three books, and the constant intrusion of goblins and elves, leaves the journey a pulse-pounding, action-packed adventure there and back again.

A true classic, *The Hobbit* is one that should stay with you throughout your life, one that you return to every few years that will gladly welcome you back into its pages. And with every reading, without your permission, a smile will sneak its way onto your face, and something about the world will seem just a little brighter, all because "in a hole in the ground, there lived a hobbit."



CD Review: *Government Plates*

by Noah Jordan

In this new album from the forerunners of experimental hip-hop at the moment, Death Grips, comes a new surprise release which has, I think, been an incredible reflection of apathy which so much detaches them from most music currently being made.

Though the style is reminiscent of some punk chords and drum breaks, the sound the group reflects more than anything the general rhythm of techno and hip-hop. They are characterized mainly by Front-Man vocalist MC Ride, a vulgar, angry, psychopathic poet. The other band members are drummer Zach Hill, former drummer of Wavves and Hella, and producer Flatlander who recently got off house arrest.

This album is by far the most driven by production out of their four releases, with vocals sparse and largely presented as part of the production rather than as a lyrical force which lends meaning to the music. The lyrics of MC Ride sometimes detract from the *meaning* of the music, though seeing as his image and voice are iconic in the music world, he lends much of the power that the music holds.

And the music is certainly powerful above anything. The audience's first intro to the album is a harsh glass shattering sound, followed by a sample of someone screaming and MC Ride's fast disjointed chant: "I hover above you/Life pulled out your mouth/I become you/Opening of the mouth/Unlawful possession/Jellyfish in cold sweat deep end/Hollow shell twitch disconnection." This high-paced harsh chanting is played over the sound of Ride softly and slightly more slowly reading the lyrics and some incredibly intense drumming. The whole thing really disorients the listener in an incredibly exciting way.

The vocals in the album are also at times chopped and edited to flow with the rhythm of the drums. For instance, if you listen closely to the second song on the album, "Anne Bonny," you can hear the sound of Ride saying the first consonant of a word played incredibly fast over and over to complete a high-hat section.

The production on this album is more progressive than anything else I have heard this year. The group even progressed past what we expect of them in some of the songs on this album, like "Birds" in which the band slows the pace down and drive the song more with a synth than percussion. Overall I give this album 8.4 out of 10.



Check out the Liberty Hill After School Program!

• This would be a great way to start off your new year!

Head over to the Felix Pinckney Community Center on Hassell Street Mondays - Thursdays after school until 5pm to tutor underprivileged elementary school kids. They always need extra help, plus this is a great opportunity to get approved service hours!

Stop by Mr. Lindgren's room, Room 1105, after school to see if you can hitch a ride or give a ride, OR ride the newly-commissioned bus, Bus 517, over to Hassell Street.

See you there!

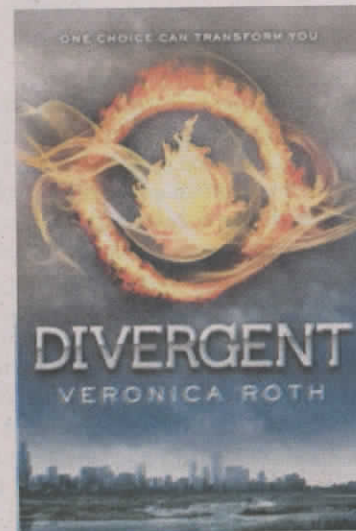
Top 13 Christi

Applause surveyed SOA students to find out what book they liked best. These are the top thirteen.



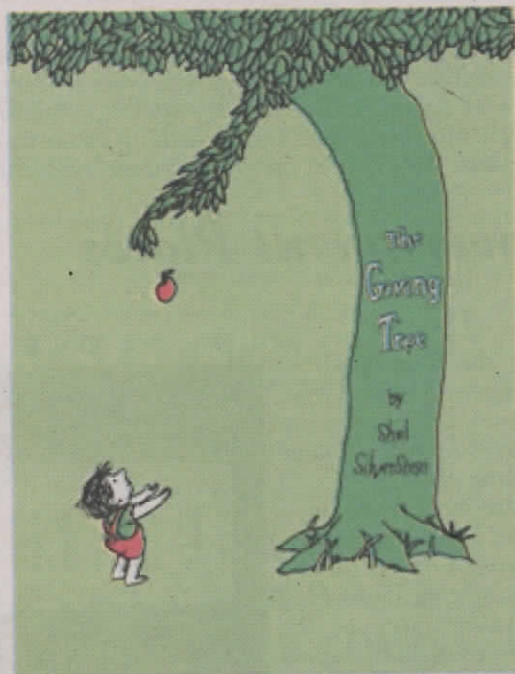
Things Fall Apart

by Chinua Achebe



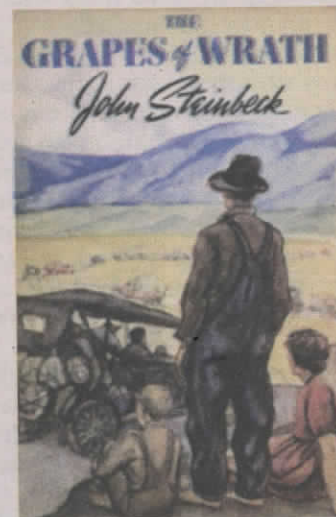
The Divergent Series

by Veronica Roth



The Giving Tree

by Shel Silverstein



Grapes of Wrath

by John Steinbeck



Pretty Little Liars

Sara Shepard

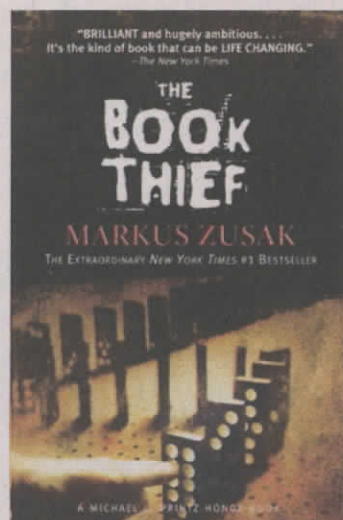


Of Mice and Men

by John Steinbeck

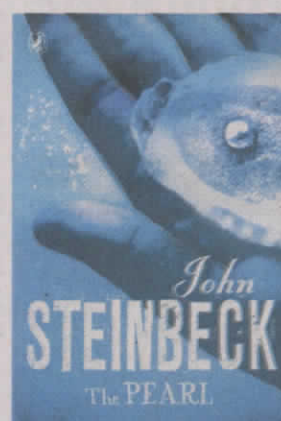
Christmas Books

anyone would like most for Christmas if they could have any responses in no particular order.



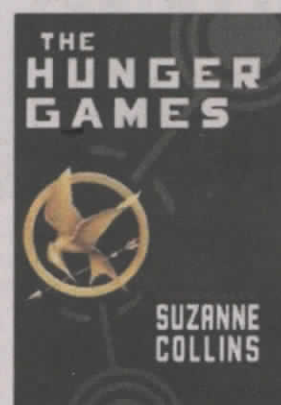
The Book Thief

by Markus Zusak



The Pearl

by John Steinbeck



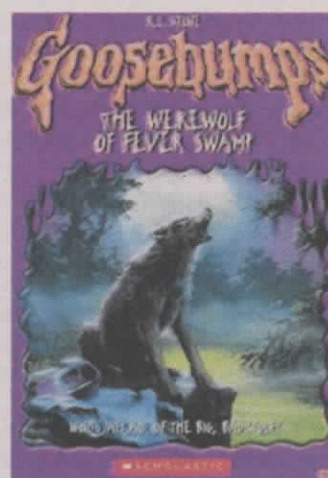
The Hunger Games

by Suzanne Collins



Oh, the Places You'll Go!

by Dr. Seuss



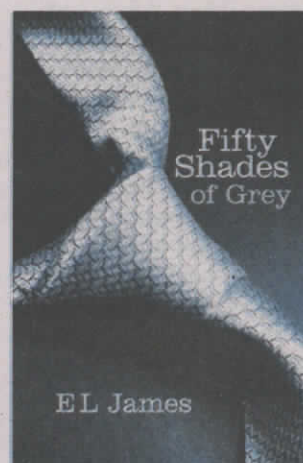
Any Goosebumps book

by R. L. Stine



Looking for Alaska

by John Green



Fifty Shades of Grey

by E. L. James

Reid Haigler speeds through the Sports Update finish

by Ted Anastopoulos

Blink and you might miss him.

Wando track star and sophomore Dance major Reid Haigler has been posting times on the track comparable only to the legendary Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt. The stats are staggering. Last year as a freshman, Reid posted 2:09 in the 800 meter dash, 10:10 in the 3200 meter dash, and most impressively, a 4:49 on the 1600 meter dash, which equates to one mile.

Reid not only runs track and field, but also cross country. Reid easily secured himself a position on Wando's varsity cross country team; a major accomplishment considering tryouts are extremely competitive. Only the fastest seven who try out make the team.

The Fall 2013 cross country season saw Reid and his fellow Warriors clinch second place in the state championship meet, coming a mere five points behind first place. Cross country meets consist of a five kilometer race, or about three miles. The Warriors finished the race with a

speedy time of 16:53.

While cross country and track might seem like easy sports to pick up, Reid discusses how strategy and planning are an integral part of every race.

"Cross country is not about one individual person," says Reid. "Finding the balance between everybody's strengths and weaknesses is an important key."

Reid also assessed the value of running with purpose and a strategy. "Before a race, I plan a strategy to run my personal best. Afterwards, reflecting on what I did right and wrong helps to keep my goals in sight." With Reid's grit, his goal of becoming one of the top four runners in the lower state region do not seem too distant.

"I'm going to work so that it's a pure guts race at the end, and if it is, I am the only one who can win it."



Sophomore Dance major Reid Haigler and his cross country team

Football:

Senior Theatre major Clayton Rosenbaum finished his season 15 of 17 for field goals, and Senior Creative Writer Conor Gatton finished his season with two sacks playing defensive tackle. Both played for the Wando Warriors and finished the season 4-8. Junior Band major Jake Spell also helped the West Ashley Wildcats post a 6-5 record at the left tackle position. Junior Visual Arts major Demetrius Jenkins also played center for North Charleston High School, where the Cougars earned a 3-9 record, including a 32-29 win over Academic Magnet.

Volleyball:

JayC Claxton, a Senior Piano major, led the West Ashley volleyball team to an 8-15-2 record and an appearance in the second round of the state playoffs before losing a 3-0 decision to Aiken. "It was great to reach the playoffs," said JayC. "The team has a lot of firepower coming in next year, so they should do even better."

Basketball:

The 7th and 8th grade girl's basketball has been tuning up their skills before their season by participating in the Fort Johnson Pre-season Warm-Up Tournament. Eight grade Strings major Luba Bauer led the team averaging 17 points per game against rivals Cairo and Christ Our King.

The eight graders have also been sporting intense fashion while sweating it out on the court. "Yeah, we match our Nike elite socks that we overpay \$15 for," said Vocal major Caroline Lloyd. "We might not be the best team skill wise, but we sure look good."

SOA Rugby team raises funds with pancake breakfast



Ms. Cimballa and Ms. Lawson prep themselves before delving into delicious pancakes for the SOA Rugby team's pancake breakfast at Applebee's.



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'Dear Pegasus' Advice Column

Anonymous



Dear Pegasus,

I'm starting to feel like I put so much work into my major, but I don't really get much out of it. No one is really letting me know that what I'm doing is all that important, or that I'm all that good. I don't feel like it matters that much, or that my work is good enough. And it's really starting to drag me down. Any advice?

-Miserable in Major

Dear Miserable,

Honestly, the hardest part of being dedicated to an art form is feeling like you do not get the appreciation for it that you deserve, and it is really difficult to supply that sort of thing for yourself.

My best advice is to remember that you would not be here if your work was not good, and that as long as you can find something to be proud of in the work you have accomplished, it is more than good enough. Do not let yourself judge your work based on the validation that others give you.

Having someone to tell you that what you do is important and good is always wonderful, and it is an amazing feeling, but basing your worth in your major completely off of that is unhealthy. You are more than good enough.

Send your problems to
pegasus@soa-applause.com

Club of the Month

by Suzanne Jackson

This month, Applause is featuring Debate Club, run by Dean Spyropoulos and Sabrina Sanchez, as the Club of the Month.

Suzanne Jackson: Debate Club obviously involves arguing and proving a point. Do you have to be confrontational and argumentative in order to contribute?

Dean Spyropoulos: No.

SJ: What have been some of your favorite topics of debate so far this year?

DS: Well, my favorite would have to be the debate on gun control, because that's the only one we've actually had.

SJ: When and where does Debate Club meet and how should a potential member prepare?

DS: Debate club generally meets in the computer lab next to Ms. Bronk's room every other Friday (A Days). If you ask either Sabrina Sanchez or me, we would be happy to update you on current club situations.

Suzanne Jackson



Junior Vocal major Dean Spyropoulos, one of the main debaters in the club.

Sass Attack

by Harris Lynam

Sass Attack has continued under different columnists since it was begun by David Sass in 2008.



Madeleine Vath

Contests.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with art contests, where we get to showcase our major for recognition or prizes or whatever. The problem lies when students start to base their worth in their art major on winning those contests. That is not necessarily something that the contest, or the teacher, or the school system ever intends, but it is really hard to remember that when you start having nightmares about not winning, or it is understood that if you do not win it is because you did not deserve to because you are not good enough.

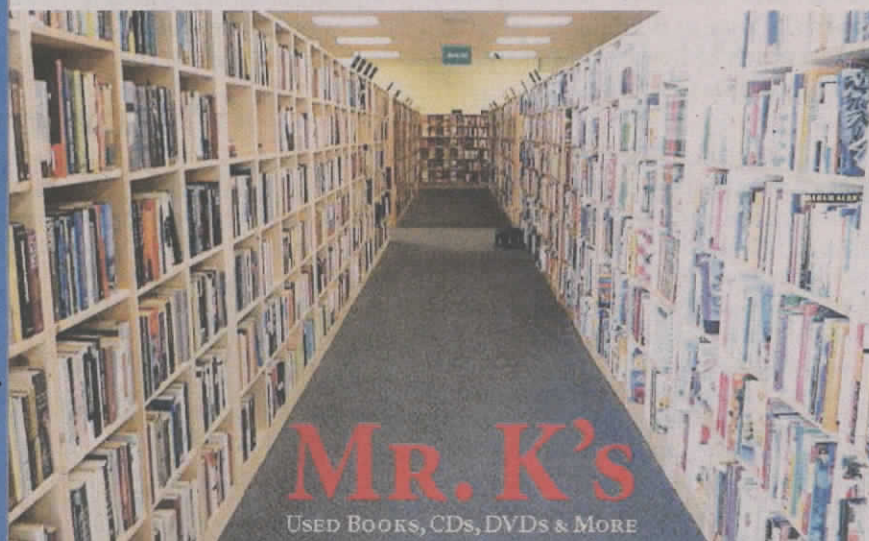
This rant is not to yell at anyone.

It is just to say that maybe we ought to place less worth on winning, despite how good it looks for the school. I know I speak for a few people – more than a few people – when I say that the amount of pressure that can place on a kid is a little excessive. Diverting some of that pressure might be beneficial to those of us who have a lot more to deal with than we are really capable of.

Maybe instead of a national writing contest, we can see if I can eat a whole pizza by myself and watch Netflix for 17 consecutive hours. I bet I can.

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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.

GRAHAM'S POINT: MERMAID MAN & BARNACLE BOY

I would like to start with a simple point: everyone in life has someone they look up to, someone who inspires them. A hero, you could say. Heroes can come in different heroic shapes and sizes, and in this riveting new Point-Counterpoint, I must stress the importance and universal admiration that I and much of the youth alike have for Bikini Bottom's very own senile superheroes, Mermaid Man and Barnacle Boy.

As a young child, I would awake on Saturday mornings, eyes alight with the prospect of a new and innocent day. I would pour myself a bowl of Cheerios (of the Honey Nut variety) and flip on the television to gaze upon a goofy golden sponge of wonder whose universally recognizable laugh and dimwitted troublemaking has defined a generation of children. SpongeBob SquarePants was something like a brother to me on those mornings, something like a hero. And soon, dear readers, soon I learned that even heroes have their own heroes, and I was thrilled every single one of those mornings to see the two occupants of the Sandy Shoals nursing home with unimaginable underwater powers and opposition to evil.

Mermaid Man and Barnacle Boy, SpongeBob's biggest role models, are the perfect heroes, decked out in seashell brassieres and slippers, yet kept humble by Barnacle Boy's various liver spots and Mermaid Man's protruding belly. Do not misunderstand me - these physical ailments do not stop this dynamic duo from surely besting their nemeses, the flimsy Man Ray and his ever-sopetulant sidekick the Dirty Bubble. Only our loveable undersea geezers could be equipped with an Invisible Boat-mobile and treat their number one fans, SpongeBob and Patrick, in such an affable manner.

Call them what you want: my hero's heroes, the hope of Bikini bottom personified, the stars of popular aquatic television show *The Adventures of Mermaid Man and Barnacle Boy*. These men are hope. These men are the ultimate saviors of fish-kind.

Suzanne Jackson



NOAH'S COUNTERPOINT: MAN RAY & THE DIRTY BUBBLE

It is widely thought that the reoccurring theme of the anti-hero in what is being called today's "Golden Age of Television" was started by the critically-acclaimed *Breaking Bad*. It is a simple fact that this portrait of the cast-off brooding character who everyone hates to love was truly created in the animated series *SpongeBob SquarePants*.

It may seem to be that the famed Man Ray and the Dirty Bubble are merely sloppily formed comedic caricatures of what a child's mind considers to be a villain, but it is in this comedic nature that we develop a strange love for the pair. Connected to the pain behind the eyes of the Dirty Bubble and enthralled by the mystery of Man Ray's hooded sorrow, we watch this dastardly pair of hoodlums fail time and time again as they try to take over the world.

And is that not just what life is? A series of failures followed by the bitter sting of a laugh track, learned by the mind to cope with our endless cycle of pain brought on by the very consciousness we revel in.

Man Ray and the Dirty Bubble are the working man, the downtrodden victims of Lady Liberty, trying to make it through every-day life like anyone else; blood-suckers, heathens, realists, pessimists.

Call them what you may, but please, by God, respect their struggle. Do not empower and glorify their oppressors, Mermaid Man and Barnacle Boy. Senior citizens though they might be, they are so very ignorant to the true ways of the world. Their ignorance brings persecution and terror; they are the crusaders of the modern world.

6th grade Now and Then: Best Christmas Gift

by Anna Kalik

Paint the Town Red and Gold

by Noah Jordan

Footlight Players A Christmas Carol

Dec. 19-21 at 8:00 pm

Dec. 22 at 3:00 pm

Come see a local production of a Christmas classic at 20 Queen St!

Great Russian Nutcracker

North Charleston Performing Arts Center

Thursday, December 26, 3pm & 7:30pm

Young dancers from Charleston dance alongside the Moscow Ballet company in the Great Russian Nutcracker this holiday season.

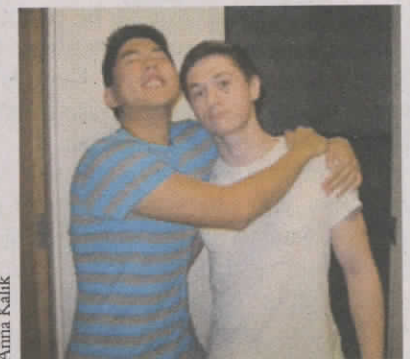
Annie

Charleston Stage, 37 John St., Dec. 6 - 22

Charleston stage presents *Annie*, a play about a small orphan girl who goes from rags to riches in this classic American musical.



Anna Kalik



Anna Kalik

Sixth grade Theatre major **Caroline Conway** wants her mother to set her up with an iTunes account for the holidays. Now that she had an iPhone, she would like to not listen to all her mom's "oldies" music.

When Seniors **Joesph Yu**, a Strings major, and **Michael Convertino**, a Visual Arts major, were sixth graders, they hoped to receive the new Pokemon game and an Xbox gaming station.

This Week in History

by Madeleine Vath

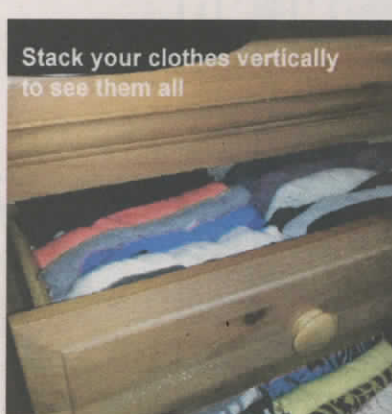
Sources: library.thinkquest.org, wikipedia.org

THU 12/19	FRI 12/20	SAT 12/21	SUN 12/22	MON 12/23	TUE 12/24	WED 12/25
<p>1843: Charles Dickens' <i>A Christmas Carol</i> is published for the first time</p> <p>1924: The last Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost is sold in London</p> <p>1998: President Bill Clinton becomes the second president to be impeached</p> <p>Oatmeal Muffin Day</p>	<p>1803: The Louisiana Purchase is completed</p> <p>1971: Roy Disney dies</p> <p>1983: Jonah Hill is born</p> <p>2007: Elizabeth II becomes the oldest monarch of the UK</p> <p>Games Day</p> <p>International Human Solidarity Day</p>	<p>1620: The Mayflower Pilgrims land on what is now Plymouth Rock</p> <p>1937: <i>Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs</i> premieres</p> <p>Look At The Bright Side Day</p> <p>National Flashlight Day</p> <p>National French Fried Shrimp Day</p> <p>Hamburger Day</p>	<p>1808: Beethoven performs the premiere of his Fifth Symphony</p> <p>1912: Lady Bird Johnson, 38th First Lady, is born</p> <p>1989: Jordin Sparks is born</p> <p>National Date-Nut Bread Day</p>	<p>1823: <i>A Visit from St. Nicholas</i>, also known as <i>The Night Before Christmas</i>, is published anonymously</p> <p>1893: The opera <i>Hansel and Gretel</i> by Engelbert Humperdinck is first performed</p> <p>Festivus, a holiday made popular by the sitcom <i>Seinfeld</i></p> <p>Roots Day</p>	<p>1818: The first performance of "Silent Night" takes place in Austria</p> <p>1851: The Library of Congress burns</p> <p>1865: The Ku Klux Klan is formed</p> <p>1980: Witnesses report the first of several sightings of unexplained lights near Suffolk, England</p> <p>National Egg Nog Day</p>	<p>800: Charlemagne is coronated</p> <p>1066: William the Conqueror is crowned in London</p> <p>1642: Isaac Newton is born</p> <p>1815: The Handel and Haydn Society gives its first performance</p> <p>National Pumpkin Pie 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.



Stack your clothes vertically to see them all

USE A (CLEAN) DUSTPAN TO FILL A CONTAINER THAT DOESN'T FIT IN THE SINK



HOLIDAY SUDOKU

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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. 8 NO. 3

"DR. CUSATIS FINISHES TENTH MARATHON" 2006

Dr. Cusatis finishes tenth marathon

By David Whitley

Well-known to avid *Applause* readers as SOA's resident English teacher/ marathon runner, **Dr. John Cusatis** has accomplished another goal of his. As of November 25, he has officially run ten marathons. He began the school year having run eight marathons, and completed two marathons with only eight weeks between them, a significantly shorter interlude than his usual schedule of one a year. He was able to run each of the ten marathons in under four hours.



Dr. Cusatis finishing the Reggae Marathon in Negril, Jamaica

Marathon number nine started in New Hampshire around Newfound Lake, and the terrain was very hilly. Ten was more relaxed, and Dr. Cusatis was able to cut twenty minutes off his New Hampshire time, completing the standard 26.2 miles in three hours and thirty-two minutes. "The ground was flat, but the weather was unseasonably warm; probably sixty degrees." To train for these events, Dr. Cusatis ran between twelve and twenty-one miles each Saturday. For one particularly memorable run, his wife dropped him off at the Windjammer in Isle of Palms

and he ran the twenty-one miles back to his home in West Ashley.

Looking back, Dr. Cusatis says that the highlights of his experiences were qualifying for Boston, raising thousands of dollars for St. Jude's Hospital and the Leukemia Society, and his marathon in Jamaica in 2001. With the year drawing to a close and with Dr. Cusatis' original goal fulfilled, he has made a new resolution. "I intend to run at least three marathons in

2007. My long term goal is to run a marathon in every state, each in under four hours."

Dr. Cusatis's Marathons

- 1999 – Anchorage, AK, 3:49
- 2000 – Dublin, Ireland, 3:47
- 2001 – Negril, Jamaica, 3:55
- 2002 – Kiawah Island, SC, 3:52
- 2003 – Jacksonville, FL, 3:31
- 2004 – Scranton, PA, 3:17
- 2005 – Boston, MA, 3:39
- 2005 – Memphis, TN, 3:31
- 2006 – Bristol, NH, 3:52
- 2006 – Sparks, MD, 3:32

VOL. 9 NO. 4

"QUESTION OF THE MONTH" 2007

"WHAT INTERESTING HOLIDAY TRADITION DOES YOUR FAMILY CELEBRATE?"



"On Christmas Eve we would go to three different parties and eat ourselves silly. Then we would go to midnight church, in Connecticut."
- Mrs. Drennan, English teacher

VOL. 9 NO. 5

"QUESTION OF THE MONTH" 2008

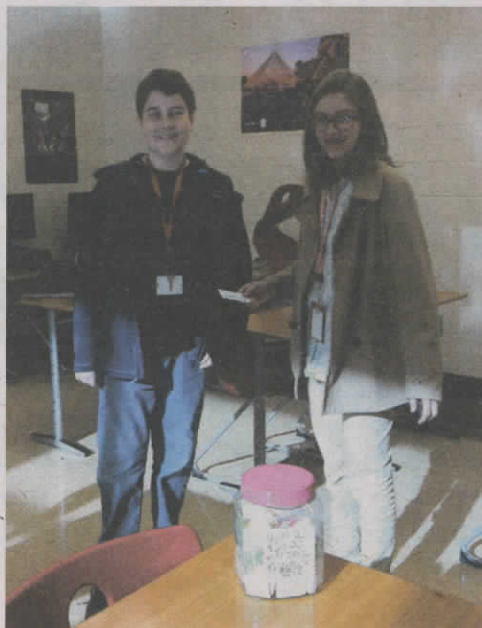
"WHAT IS YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?"



"To live greener. I've changed light bulbs, bought a programmable thermostat, and I bring my own grocery bags to the grocery store."
-Mr. Lindgren, Physical Science teacher

The Trivia Challenge

by Suzanne Jackson



Mrs. Bednarczyk

Freshman Band major Ronnie Hord won the gift card sponsored by the France/Italy 2014 group!

I tried my very hardest to think of a theme other than the holidays, which would be far too easy for our two competitors. I received the suggestion to base my questions off something that will be challenging for both Junior Creative Writer, aka reigning champ, **Maddy Seabrook** and Senior Piano major **Andrew Byrd**: trivia about rappers. That's right. It just got real. Maddy and Andrew, I wish you both the best of luck.

Questions:

1. Who wrote the 2003 hit "In Da Club?"
 2. Fill in the blank: "_____, the Creator"
 3. What can Juicy J not say no to?
 4. Fill in the blank: "Hard in da _____"
 5. What rapper is currently facing a 20 year prison sentence?
 6. What was the first single dropped from Yeezus, projected on sixty cities in America?
 7. Which rapper is thought to be portrayed in Spring Breakers by James Franco and even sued him over the use of his image?
 8. Which infamous experimental hip hop group dropped their new album without warning earlier this month?
 9. How many dollars does Macklemore have in his pocket?
 10. What famous east coast rapper was killed in a drive-by shooting on March 9, 1997?
- BONUS: In your opinion, what was the weakest rap album of 2013?

Maddy Seabrook

1. Wiz Khalifa
 2. Tyler
 3. drugs
 4. pants
 5. all of them
 6. Black Skinhead
 7. Eminem
 8. I don't know
 9. twenty
 10. Tupac
- BONUS: All of them

Andrew Byrd

1. Wiz Khalifa
 2. Tyler
 3. I don't know?
 4. Falklands
 5. I have no idea.
 6. I don't know
 7. Jimmy Carter
 8. Black Eyed Peas
 9. three hunna
 10. Tupac
- BONUS: All of them



Suzanne Jackson



Provided

Answers:

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| 1. 50Cent | 6. New Slaves |
| 2. Tyler | 7. Riff Raff |
| 3. drugs | 8. Death Grips |
| 4. paint | 9. \$20 |
| 5. Gucci Mane | 10. The Notorious B.I.G. |



Ted Anastopoulos

Sophomore Theatre major Kaci Martin and Junior Vocal major Kelsey Costa show off letters they created in Ms. Wade's class. The letters will be sent to deployed American soldiers around the world for the holiday season.

And the winner is...

MADDY SEABROOK...again...

Congratulations to Maddy for winning by two questions! Both contestants seemed nervous when they were informed of the theme of this round, but the results certainly exceeded my expectations. I would like to thank **Dmitri Grigorieff** for helping me form these excellent questions. It was a close call, and Andrew sure did put up a fight.

