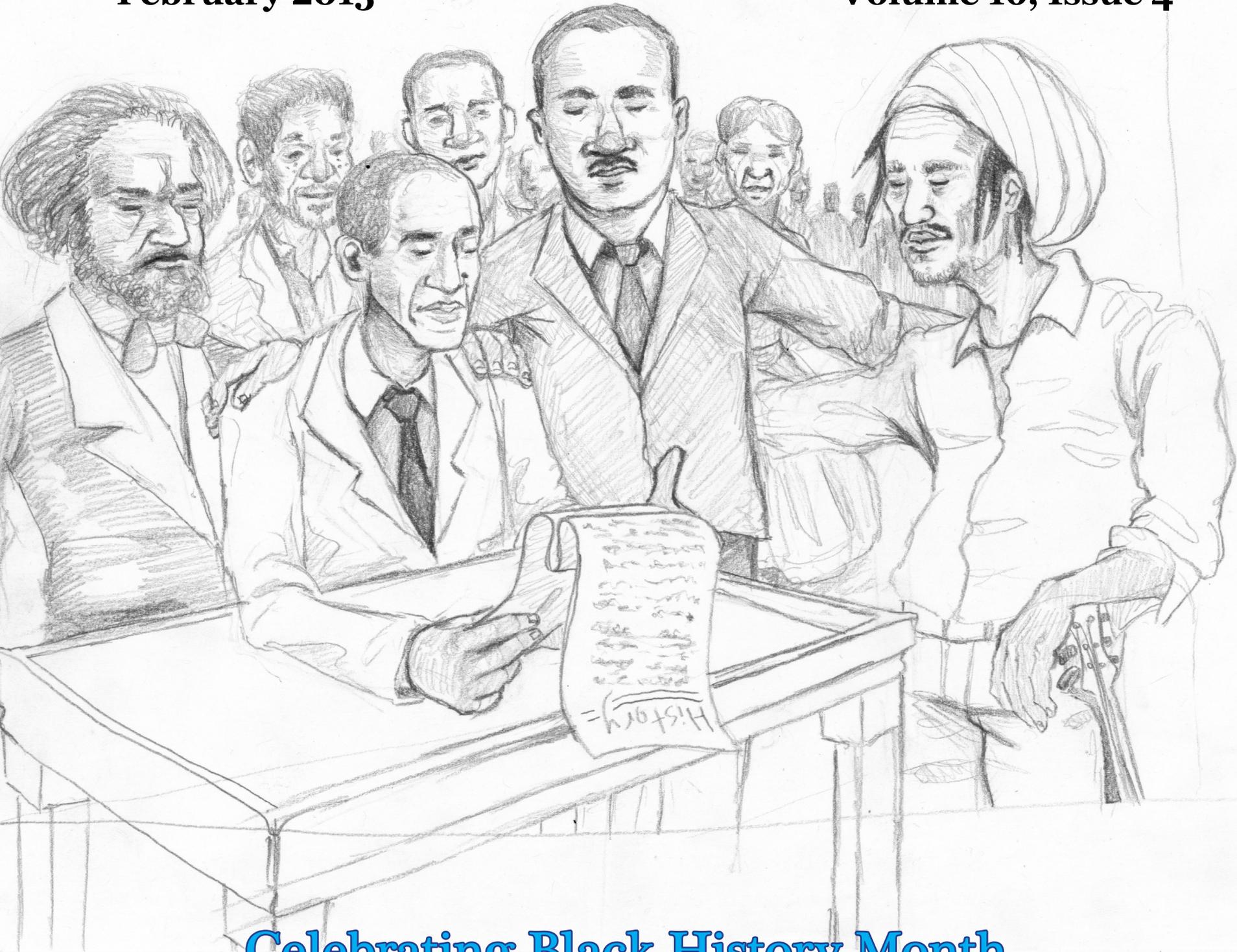


# Applause

February 2015

Volume 16, Issue 4



Celebrating Black History Month

### Letter from the Editors

Dear SOA,

Welcome to the February issue of *Applause*! Black History Month is here, and Valentine's Day is upon us. Included in this issue are several features and articles honoring African American heritage and culture, including an update on NBA star Damien Lillard and a personal profile on his aunt, SOA's Peggy Lewis, a teacher in the hearing-impaired department who has witnessed many culturally significant events firsthand.

Also, take a look at our coverage of the MLK parade. For some lovely Valentine's reading, check out our article on the history of the holiday and our centerfold featuring SOA's cutest couples.

We have also featured two articles on Mr. Smyth's most recent projects, the Spring intern program and the Arts and Humanities students' latest publications.



As always, make sure to visit [soa-applause.com](http://soa-applause.com) to look back into our 15 year archive, filled with over 120 issues.

Thank you all for your continued support!

Much love,  
Suzanne Jackson, Graham Crolley, and  
Taylor Dahl

# Applause

the official student publication of  
Charleston County School of the  
Arts

*Founded in 1995 by Rose Maree Myers*

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## Distinguishing the shame from the glory

by Mattie Smith

A South Carolina tradition that has been maintained since 1934 was broken on January 14th at Governor Nikki Haley's second inauguration ceremony. South Carolina's poet laureate and former SOA Creative Writing teacher Marjory Wentworth was scheduled to recite a poem at the inauguration, as is custom, but she was told earlier that week by Haley's officials that there wouldn't be time. This is the first time Wentworth has not been invited to speak at an inauguration since she was appointed to by former Governor Mark Sanford in 2003. Chaney Adams, Governor Haley's spokeswoman, explained, "Scheduling constraints simply wouldn't allow a poem to be read." This claim doesn't hold much weight since Wentworth's poem, "One River, One Boat," is not a particularly lengthy piece, taking no more than three minutes to read aloud, considerably shorter than inaugural poems of the past.

People who are familiar with Haley's notorious lack of appreciation for the arts (typically in regards to education) may not be surprised at these circumstances, but the situation goes further than disregard for poetry. It is difficult to ignore the possibility that Wentworth's poem was omitted for political reasons. The poem addresses South Carolina's history of racism and confronts the controversy surrounding the Confederate flag that flies proudly in front of the Statehouse, where

the poem was to be read. Wentworth planned on highlighting her aversion to the flag's prominence by gesturing towards it while reciting her lines, "Here, where the Confederate flag still flies beside the Statehouse, / haunted by our past, conflicted about the future; / at the heart of it, we are at war with ourselves." Haley has kept the confederate flag in front of the Statehouse despite continued bitter controversy, having said that she considers the conflict over the flag to be resolved.

Wentworth says she was denied an invitation to speak at the inauguration before the poem was read by any of the inauguration's organizers, and denies any speculation of further political reasons, telling the Post and Courier, "It's not personal. It's not something that is on their radar. I don't make a judgment. I just wasn't going to be included." Whether or not Wentworth's dismissal from the inaugural agenda was truly due to time constraints cannot be unquestionably disputed, but it is clear that the poem has a message many South Carolinians need to listen to.

The flag in front of the Statehouse has not been the only reminder of racial inequality that has become a subject of renewed controversy. In December, the Citadel was denied \$25,000 in funding due to its own display of the Confederate flag as well as its stadium's being named for Johnson Hagood, a Confederate General who refused to turn over the body of a slain Union general for proper burial, as was traditionally done, because he had commanded African-American troops. Attention has also been called to one of Clemson University's most prominent buildings, Tillman Hall. Senator

Benjamin Tillman is known almost exclusively for his goal of justifying violence against African Americans and denying their right to vote.

You can't pass through South Carolina without seeing dozens of other controversial memorials to leaders of the past who supported, encouraged or practiced racist behavior. Next time you're on Calhoun Street, consider John C. Calhoun, an unapologetic slave owner and anti-abolitionist, whose monument towers over Marion Square. Calhoun encouraged white men all over South Carolina to buy slaves, saying it would improve the slave's morality. Right down the street from SOA sits the Danny Jones Recreation Center, named after the founder of the Dixie Youth Baseball League, which was originally created as an alternative to the then newly-integrated American Little League. Charleston Southern, USC, Clemson, and Winthrop all have buildings named for Strom Thurmond, and there is a statue of him on the State Capital grounds commemorating his service as a U.S. Senator. Thurmond opposed the suffrage movement and civil rights legislation, saying "All the laws of Washington and all the bayonets of the Army cannot force the Negro into our homes, into our schools, our churches and our places of recreation and amusement."

At January's inauguration, Marjory Wentworth had hoped to make the point that we have continued to ignore the shame inherent in symbols such as the Confederate Flag. Whether or not time would have permitted her to read her poem, her inability to do so underscores the validity of her message.

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[taylor@soa-applause.com](mailto:taylor@soa-applause.com).

## Real-life *WordGirl* takes first place in spelling bee

by Cherry Hu

SOA eighth-grader **Adriana Carter** won first place against 39 other competitors in Charleston County School District's spelling bee January 22nd. A serious lover of books, Adriana won with the help of her passion for reading and good preparation.



Though she's always been fond of spelling, the young word wiz memorized a sum of 2500-3000 words to secure her place in top 18 — the number of competitors qualified for the next level of competition.

Adriana prepared as best she could, but taking home first place caught her off guard. She says, "I still can't believe I actually won!" Her winning words were *malediction* and *abhorrently*. Some other words used in the competition included *braggadocio*, as well as *gnathonic* and *romanji*, both unrecognized even to Microsoft Word's spell-check.

As for tricks to memorizing all that vocabulary, Adriana hinted that language roots (don't tell me....stems?!) and visualization help. She

says, "there are some tricks for words depending on the language of origin," especially if you've never heard of the word. Though Adriana expressed she's "always had a good memory," she confessed that visualizing the word such as tracing it on her arm helps as well. Annalee Carter, Adriana's mom, also supported the success by quizzing her vocabulary on their weekends.

Though the competition lasted for 20 rounds, Adriana says she was only "really nervous for the first couple of rounds." After making it to the top 18, she recounted, "I wasn't nervous at all because I had been guaranteed a spot in the next competition."

This isn't the first time Adriana's participated in a bee, which may serve as an explanation for her unwavering nerves. She explained that before attending SOA, she went to a private elementary school where she "participated in several spelling bees among other private schools." She previously won 3rd in the state in her 3rd grade year, showing the beginnings of a passion that has continued into her 8th grade year.

Adriana's love of spelling bees apparently arose from her aunt's fascinating anecdotes. "When I was really little, I would often listen to my aunt talk about her spelling bee stories when she was younger," she says. "It made me interested too, and even before then I would often ask my mom to tell me words to spell. She would start asking me easy ones like *dog* or *cat*, and then I would keep insisting

she give me harder ones," she explains. Her favorite words are *button*, which she learned as a baby, and "*supercalifragilisticexpialidocious*," which her aunt taught her to spell in the first grade.

Adriana expressed that for as long as she could remember, she has "dreamed of making it to the Scripps National Spelling Bee." After each of the top 18 spellers from Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester counties battle it out in Spellbound! (hosted at Charleston Southern University on March 12th), the winner will join the nation's top spellers for the Scripps National Spelling Bee in D.C.

Do your best, Adriana!



## Where to look for *Applause*

### West Ashley

Barnes and Nobel  
Zen Asian Fusion  
Total Wine  
East Bay Deli  
St. Andrew's Public Library

### James Island

James Island Public Library  
Ladles  
How Art Thou Cafe

### Downtown

Mama Kim's  
Main Library  
Jeni's

### Mount Pleasant

Mount Pleasant Public Library  
Marco's Pizza  
Coastal Expeditions  
Park West Recreation Complex

### John's Island

Angel Oak Eye Center

### North Charleston

Mr. K's Used Books and More

## 2013 Inaugural Poet Richard Blanco to visit to SOA in April

by Graham Crolley

*Applause* is proud to announce that internationally acclaimed American inaugural poet Richard Blanco is visiting our campus on April 21st and 22nd to discuss literature with AP Literature and Creative Writing students. Blanco is not only a widely celebrated poet-- he is also a maker of history as the first Latino and openly gay poet to read at a presidential inauguration.

Blanco grew up the son of immigrants, and his poetry and fiction showcase and explore his Cuban roots and his time growing up within this ethnic niche in Miami. His prowess in engineering during his schooling and his eventual degree from Florida International University in the subject did not necessarily hint at poetry as a career path for Blanco, but a year after graduating in '97, his first poetry collection *A City of a Hundred Fires* was published. The book won him the Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize, putting Blanco on the map as a thoughtful poet, unafraid to evaluate his own personal Cuban-American identity.

For years Blanco worked as an engineer by day

and poet by night before *Looking for the Gulf Motel* was published to similar acclaim in 2012. By 2013, he was chosen as the inaugural poet for President Barack Obama's second inauguration. Blanco composed and performed a poem called "One Today" for the event, and since then has been well known as a writer of extraordinary insight and talent, in the same ranks as past inaugural poets such as James Dickey, Maya Angelou, and Robert Frost. His latest memoir *The Prince of los Cocuyos* focuses on not only his Cuban-American identity, but also on the complexity of his sexual and artistic identities.

Blanco will be on campus for two full class periods in the morning to talk with students. Dr. Cusatis's AP Literature class Skyped with Blanco in the spring of 2014, triggering the friendly relationship that now exists between the poet and our school, and making it possible to have an accomplished poet visit our campus for the third year in a row, with Nikky Finney and Peter Meinke preceding Blanco in the years prior, respectively.

Blanco's visit was made possible by funding from an anonymous donor, with additional help from *Applause* and the Creative Writing department. We are excited and humbled that Blanco is coming, as his current touring schedule for his new book puts him in Florida a day before he arrives here and Maine just a day afterwards. Thank you in advance to Mr. Blanco, and especially to all those whose donations made this event possible!



Official White House Photo by Pete Souza

## Arts and Humanities makes everyone an author

by Sarah McCord

When he was unable to find an adequate textbook, CD, or DVD specific to the information he wanted, **Mr. Smyth** decided “creating your own textbook” would be the most beneficial way to study the important information conforming to his curriculum.

The Arts and Humanities’ student-produced book makes its third publication this year with a collection of information on various cities around the world. *World Cultural Centers* (2014) elaborates on the culture, including art, fashion, musical relations, and the history of 70 cities, each city is chosen by the students. As Mr. Smyth explains, “the process of taking so much information and reducing it” to only two pages per city, a total of 140 pages created by 128 students.

The first book, *All the World is a Stage* (2013), centers on all major art forms and some history of a particular decade dating from 1500 to 2000. Because this is “student artwork,” Mr. Smyth let the students create the layout and design as they desired, following a basic parameter which all the students agreed on to establish unity: consistent font size, pages formatted with half information, half pictures.

Because the first book was such a success, the second, *Artists Who Inspire Us* (2014), was created to exhibit artists who have been a part of the development of significant art forms and the contributions they have made.

This year’s book included a new challenge for

## A Criticism of “What’s Always Been”

by Cherry Hu

Since gaining control of the House and Senate, the new Republican Congress has pushed legislative progress into a black hole. The problem is not downright on the head of Republicans, but is rooted in the foundations of our political system. While Congress may pass bills favored by the republican majority, the president’s veto could send the legislature back to square one. Overruling the veto would require a two-thirds majority of votes in Congress. Historically, less than five percent of presidential vetoes have been overruled— about the same chance of spotting rain in the Atacama Desert.

These checks and balances were designed to safeguard our rights as individuals. They prevent authoritarian rule and dictatorships, as well as they should. The current stalemate between our Democratic president and Republican congress, however, does more harm than good: time is wasted on the hot potato game of throwing bills back and forth. They might as well settle with a much simpler game of rock paper scissors, and save some taxpayer money. Nothing gets done because the two parties rarely agree (not to say that passing as many laws as possible defines a successful congress, but what we currently have is not working advantageously). One might blame the die-hard extremists that bring a bad name to their party, where



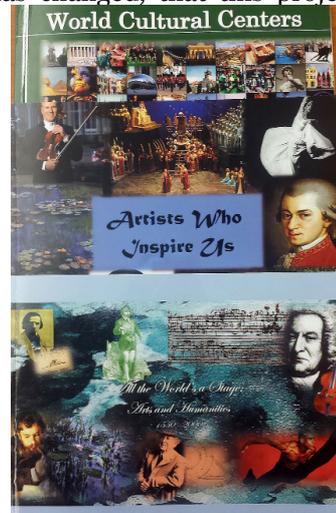
students-trying to stay away from well known cities, and researching more obscure ones because the less commonly known the facts are, the more interesting they are.

Through computer and graphic design work, students take on the task of not only finding information and composing it in an understandable way, but also figuring out how to create a very artsy couple of pages, while not getting too deep into advanced technology skills.

Mr. Smyth simply expresses students’ view of learning about the world has changed, that this project “broadened it” as the students are excited about the education of new culture and learning new technological abilities.

Overall the books are a success, and Mr. Smyth hopes to see more as the students become more excited about making them. Copies of the book are sent to the White House, the Library of Congress, the United Nations, the superintendent, and a copy signed by all the students was presented to Dr. Cook.

All three books are available for purchase; prices range from \$12-\$15. See Mr. Smyth for more information.



The three books produced by the Arts and Humanities classes

the only thought they agree on is to disagree.

The reality of our dilemma stems from the Democratic and Republican parties which dominate our government. This two-party system creates an “us vs. them” mentality, forcing voters to choose between two polar opposites. Rarely does anyone agree with every point on either’s agenda. Instead of limiting yourself to red or blue, why not find the missing purple party that meets you in the middle? Unfortunately, third parties have been largely unsuccessful in America, due to a number of things such as how the electoral process is set up, a lack of funds, and insufficient media coverage. Still, the Constitution says nothing about political parties. We stick with two big ones because “that’s the way it’s always been,” — a dangerous phrase. In a Gallup poll from last year, “58% of Americans agreed the Democratic and Republican parties do such a poor job of representing the American people that a third major party is needed.” A minority of 35% agree both parties do an “adequate job.” Sadly, third-party candidates are subject to receiving bankrolls from either major leaguer, serving as a distraction to siphon off votes from the opposing side. They aren’t considered a real threat. Independent candidate from last year’s Kansas Senate race, Greg Orman, is a prime example. These independents are used by the big shots and thrown aside, giving more reason to question why only two parties have a chance at winning the power to throw them aside. Even when you vote for a third party, your vote is ironically helping a mainstream candidate. Back in Soviet Russia, you could vote for anyone.....as long as his name was Stalin. In America, you can also vote for anyone. As long as they’re Democratic or Republican.

## Congratulations to all the 2015 Scholastic winners!

### Art:

Jackson Averill, Kenneth Brabham, Tavaris Brooks, Malachi Cleveland, Elsa Cline, Hayden Daughtry, Megan Dawson, Madison DeLoach, Lauren DeMarco, Hannah Demos, Olivia Dipaolo, Cassidy Enright, Noah Evans, Ayanna Gadsden, Madison Hall, Elizabeth Herring, Gretchen Hertel, Ariel Hills, Amelia Holland, Frederick Horton, Leo Horton, Tyler Horton, Eva Leach, Lexi Levin, Ethan Lopez, Yulma Lopez, John Marino, Jackson Martini, Sarah McCord, Ashton McLellan, Giovanni Meli, Gracie Morrall, Mackenzie Percy, Teagan Prichard, Camille Richmond, Noah Rigsby, Dean Rudes, Piper Schaberg, Christina Simpson, Alexandria Singleton, Halie Stevenson, Victoria Vanderpool, Amy Walsh, Sawyer Wasserman, Mary Coastal Watkins, Skye Weimann, Lance Wylder

### Writing:

Bailey Abedon, Tess Abedon, Zoe Abedon, Sasha Audier-Johnson, Chris Beckley, Abigail Bonner, Eli Braddock, Jessica Bride, Alex Clifford, Maya Cline, Sarah Courville, Graham Crolley, Taylor Dahl, Maddie DePuy, Arden Dodge, Virginia Doran, Kathryn Dom, Theodore Fairchild, Reese Fischer, Luke Gair, Maya Gardner, Kate Grayson, Maya Green, Dmitri Grigorieff, Madison Harden, Frances Hart, Malayeshia Hubbard, Elliot Hueske, Maclean Hueske, Suzanne Jackson, Jack Jeffrey, Jordan Jensen, Noah Jordan, Taylor Kahn-Perry, Anna Kalik, Hannah Kelly, Kathleen Kittrell, Elizabeth Kurtz, Jessica Leiker, Roey Leonardi, Christina Lewis, Julia Lynn, Reese Macroon, Molly McConnell, Astrid McGlone, Melanee Molette, Glenys Morton, Nikita Narodnitskiy, Amelia Nielsen, Savanna Osborne, Carson Peaden, Savannah Porter, Olivia Provosty, Samantha Read, Clara Richards, Jay Rode, Nicole Sadek, Vasantha Sambamurti, Nick Scapellato, Cora Schipa, Maddy Seabrook, Caitlin Shelor, Emily Shorter, Lucinda Siegler, Trammell Sisson, Douglas Smith, Kelsey Stewart, Aurelyn Van Kirk, English Calhoun Walpole, Layla Wheelon, Courtney Wickstrom, Hailey Williams, Sterling Windham, Patrick Wohlscheid, Canna Yarborough

## SOA's Basketball Star: An Interview with Dallas Grant

by Nick Scapellato

**Dallas Grant** and his teammates on the Stall High School basketball team have been hard at work recently. With an 11-1 record, there's speculation that they're on their way to a championship. Their only loss came just recently to Stall's rival Garrett Academy Tech. The game went into overtime, and both teams battled for the W, but Garrett came out on top 57-54. Though the ten-game winning streak was broken, something tells me it won't happen again.

**Nick Scapellato: What has been the key to success this season for you and your team?**

**Dallas Grant:** The key to success for my team is the confidence that we have in each other. We believe everyone can contribute to what we are trying to accomplish.

**NS: What changed from last season?**

**DG:** We're playing more team ball than street ball and, our confidence is on fleek.

**NS: How have you influenced your team for the better as a senior player?**

**DG:** I'm trying to be a better leader than I was last year. Also, I know that I must be aggressive on both ends of the court. Last year, I stepped back and worried if I messed up. This year, I could care less.

**NS: What are your personal goals for**

**the season? What are the goals of the team?**

**DG:** My personal goal is to get buckets on offense and create steals on defense, so my team has a better chance to win. The goal of my team is to keep winning and win a championship.

**NS: Who's the team to beat for you guys?**

**DG:** I think Garrett is the team to beat because it's like a neighborhood rivalry.

**NS: How do you prepare for big games?**

**DG:** I prepare for games by listening to trap music and cleaning my Js before I play.



Dallas Grant shows off demonstrates his "ups" in one of his latest games

Provided

## Ravens Rugby ready to dominate

by Nick Scapellato

Last year's Division II champs, our own Ravens Rugby team, composed mostly of SOA students, has been hard at work with new faces, player and coach alike.

Joel Driscoll has done more than just coach the team; he's instilled a sense of self-leadership in the boys.

Warm-ups are started before practice begins whether the coach is there or not. Some boys have changed their diets; others work out several times a week, and whether it's 90° and humid or 20° and raining, practice is on.

Driscoll has impassioned every Raven with a love for the sport, and it shows in their dedication to getting better. However, this is harder than it seems. Brandon Holmes describes the difficulty found in



Nick Scapellato

“balancing the responsibilities of going to an arts school with the responsibilities of being valuable to the team.” With major performances, work (for some), homework, and social lives to maintain (also for some), making time for three practices a week can be challenging to say the least. While many can't make it to all three, everyone spends time practicing on their own.

**Dalton Edens**, a senior and returning player on the Ravens squad says he looks forward to “becoming closer to the boys and discovering the feeling of camaraderie.” This has always been one of the fundamental parts of the rugby team. They all make an effort to sit together at lunch on Fridays, just about everyone on the team has some sort of nickname, and anyone who doesn't have a ride to the practices at Danny Jones is promptly shoved into

**Jarby Brown's** trunk.

The boys have their first game on February 13—ironically, a Friday—but I'm sure the only ones who will have a bad day are those unfortunate souls who have to take the field against our Ravens.

## Jackie Berry wrestles his way to success

**Nick Scapellato** had the opportunity to pick the brain of a local wrestling star who happens to go to our school. **Jackie Berry**, along with his other hobbies has been hard at work for the North Charleston High School team. With an undefeated record, there's no doubt in his abilities.

**Jackie Berry** has been doing big things in the wrestling world. He's been involved in the sport since seventh grade and is now currently a member of the North Charleston High varsity team. His favorite part of wrestling is that he can beat people who are stronger than him simply by utilizing a better technique. He describes competitions as “very intense.” Two types of matches exist: duels, which are team versus team match-ups, and individual matches, where wrestlers face off, one on one. Pins are worth six points, and a tech fall (a win by points) earns three points for the team's overall score. When asked if he had a favorite move, Jackie replied, “I have plenty of favorite moves but it wouldn't be in my best interest to disclose what moves I like to use.”

Smart move.



Jackie Berry (left) wrestling with his twin brother Eric Berry (right)

Provided

**Come see the Ravens Rugby first game!**  
**Friday, February 13th**  
**Cario Middle School at 8 pm**

**Later Games:**  
**February 20th- 7 @ Danny Jones**  
**March 6th- 7 @ Danny Jones**

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## The show must go on, even if it's not there

by Jakob Lazzaro

At a glance it seems like just another February at SOA. Students slide to and from their second semester classes and huddle against the winter chill. Yet something seems off, as if the walls of the school are almost imperceptibly tilted. Upon closer inspection one notices the lack of the colorful posters and frenzied students rushing to endless rehearsals. The Rose Maree Myers Theatre, usually an endless hub of activity this time of year, remains still and silent, the stage only occupied by clouds of swirling dust. The source of this sense of loss slowly dawns on anyone paying attention—the absence of an SOA musical.

SOA once produced a musical every other year to allow school trips to Europe on the off years and partially due to the old campus' lack of performance space. The move to the new campus in 2010 and the dedication of the Rose Maree Myers Theatre in April of that year eliminated this issue. The full size stage beckoned, and an annual tradition developed. 2012 had *The Music Man*, 2013 had *Hairspray* and vocal's *Les Miserables*, and 2014 had *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and vocal's *Beauty and the Beast*. And this year after all these tremendous, critically-acclaimed successes, the stage remains devoid of any libretto action. What caused this sudden halt?

According to vocal teacher **Ms. Hammond**, the large amount of work caused by producing two musicals in one year was a main factor in the hiatus. Theatre teacher **Ms. Catangay** stated that another large issue was the great nuisance of schedule conflicts—an issue that all SOA students are uncomfortably familiar with. The school decided to take a year off to

try and solve these issues.

“I must say, I am disappointed that there was not a musical this year,” said Ms. Catangay. “I am sure some students did not mind, but I know many that were let down. Our school is a very busy one and it is very difficult to make everything work. That said, I believe in the musical. I love how students from different majors have a chance to work together and in many cases, work outside of their major. As demanding as the experience is on everyone, I think that is outweighed by the community it creates.”

For all students longing to try their talents on the stage, SOA will definitely be producing a musical next year— with afterschool rehearsals. However, the overall future of the musical still waits in the wings. No decision has been made on whether there will be a return to the annual tradition.

“It is likely that the musical's future depends on how things go next year,” said Ms. Catangay. “There's no school better equipped to put on an amazing show. It is a great way to showcase our collective talents, bring the community in, and bring everyone together. We just need to be smart about how it's done, learn from our mistakes, and give our students the opportunity they need and deserve.”

For now, a pile of old set pieces rest in the corner. A spotlight pans over a deserted stage as the curtain falls.



*Thoroughly Modern Millie* cast during production.

## Theatre Senior Thesis is in full swing

by Aly Wintz

*Senior thesis is in full bloom for all majors, and the senior theatre class has been working incessantly on rehearsals, compositions, and performances. Seniors **Jemma Wyke-Smith** and **Emma Macmillan** took time out to answer some questions about what the Theatre majors have been up to.*

**Aly Wintz: Can you describe the process of your senior thesis?**

**Jemma Wyke-Smith:** Theatre senior thesis has three parts. The first part is in the fall when the whole class performs a practicum play picked out by the teacher. We took the play competition at the South Carolina Theatre Association Conference (SCTA) at the beginning of October, and we won two All-Star Cast Awards. The play we performed was *She Kills Monsters* by Qui Nguyen.



**AW: What part did you play?**

**JWS:** I played Ferrah, a wicked fairy and Evil Gabbi, a bullying, venomous cheerleading succubus.

**Emma Macmillan:** I played Kitty Colonus, who is a mix between Donna Reed and Lady Macbeth. She's trying her hardest to have the perfect family that she never had and she'll do anything to make it so.

**AW: What does the second part of thesis involve?**

**JWS:** The second part of thesis is in the winter and it involves group pieces. This is what we're currently working on. The class is broken up into groups of four or five and in each group we have to write, act, direct, tech, etc. everything for a thirty minute to an hour and a half long play. Our groups are focusing on the Kent State shooting, a “perfect” very, very, messed up family, the assassination

of Robert Kennedy, and an Italian immigrant family who runs an unpasteurized cheese smuggling business.

**AW: How about the third and final part of thesis?**

**JWS:** The third part of thesis is in the spring and

## Congratulations to the 2015 Reflections winners!

### MIDDLE SCHOOL:

#### Visual Arts

Ella Waldron-Noren (1st)

#### Dance

Sophia Northup (1st)

Jenna Riling (2nd)

Abril Castillo (3rd)

Bianna Campbell (HM)

#### Literature

English Walpole (2nd)

Elliot Hueske (HM)

### HIGH SCHOOL:

#### Literature

Jessica Bride (1st)

Patrick Wohlscheid (2nd)

Courtney Wickstrom (3rd)

Malachi C. Jones (HM)

#### Music

Vaibhav Mohanty (1st)

#### Photography

William A. M. Smith (1st)

Melanee L. Molette (2nd)

#### Film/Video

Kaci Martin (1st)

Sierra Crossetti (2nd)

Daniel George (3rd)

Katherine Roddey (HM)

Denver Smith (HM)

features our solo pieces. They're not really solo pieces, we just call them that. We have fifteen minutes up on stage to do whatever we want. We each write a fifteen minute play where we have to be the main character or have a big role in it. We can cast whomever we want in it, have however many characters we want; it's our play. We have to do our directing, tech, pull together costumes and sets, etc.

**EM:** It's totally terrifying.

**JWS:** Overall, thesis is the culmination of all skills we've learned as a theatre major over the past four years.

**AW: How does the theatre faculty assist you in thesis?**

**EM:** We do a lot of table readings so we can hear Mrs. Link's advice and our classmates. It was super helpful.

**AW: So when are the next shows?**

**JWS:** Our group piece performances are on Feb 26 and 27 at 6:30pm in the Black Box, so please come out and support us! It's free! Solo pieces are in May but I don't remember the date.

**EM:** We don't really have a title yet. We want to feel the piece on its feet before we make that decision.

## Valentine's Day: Fact or Fiction?

Aly Wintz

The day of love is arriving. Not only is it a day of pouting for those who are spending the day alone, it is a time for couples to prove their affection as they spend hundreds of dollars on gorgeous gifts that should be bought for your partner regardless of it being a random day in February.

Ignoring the societal expectations, why do we celebrate this day in the first place? Why are we scattering around looking for cheesy cards, and expensive chocolate that looks much prettier than it really tastes? The answer dates approximately two thousand years ago.

Back in the time of the Romans, marriage was deemed illegal because of the actions of Claudius II. The emperor believed that love was distracting his soldiers from being dedicated and "manly." Basically, he believed love was for losers. A man named Saint Valentine decided to marry people in secret as he had a firm belief in the biblical connotation of marriage. This led to his being jailed, and eventually executed. However, before he was executed, he fell in love with the jailor's daughter. Before he was led to death, he left her a love note signed, "From your Valentine."

It was soon after that the Catholic Church made February 14th Saint Valentine's Day.

Okay, so big deal? Nearly every day is a Saint's Day in the Catholic Church. Why do I need to buy my girlfriend a diamond necklace? Well, you can blame Chaucer for that.

The fourteenth century English poet, Geoffrey Chaucer wrote a poem called, "The Parliament of Fowls" describing February 14th as the first day you would hear the birds making love. This wasn't until the middle ages and created a custom that the day is here to celebrate romantic love. A tradition began in which lovers would exchange heart felt notes to each other, just as Valentine did with his lover.

Just. Notes.

It wasn't until the 1900s that gift giving actually began as the heavy marketing of Valentine's cards spread to America. Gift giving doesn't have a single thing to do with the origin of the holiday. It's more or less a societal expectation that allows the couple to have bragging rights. Nevertheless, it's a fun day to celebrate your special person, and a great reason to even just tell your friends and family that you love them. So go out and spend that money on chocolate, buy your best friend a teddy bear, or simply write a heart felt letter to your darling. Either way, it's all in the nature of the holiday.



Catholic.org

## The "Sweet" Life and Times of Jack Smith is pretty sweet

by Jakob Lazzaro

Junior and sophomore theatre majors showed off serious talent with the production of *The "Sweet" Life and Times of Jack Smith*. An adaption of the Henrik Ibsen play *Peer Gynt*, the production showcases town idiot Jack's superficial wishes to be powerful and liked. After Jack hits his head, the play conveys scenes from his wasted life, which is absorbed in dreams and illusions. Jack pretends to be true to himself while putting on an image intending to impress everyone else.

Although the play's plot was rather convoluted and sometimes left the audience scratching their heads, the conviction of the actors' during the play's many intense scenes compensated for any confusion: for example, the audience was terrified when Jack had a tail sewn onto him in one of his delusions. Jack's character, shared between six actors, was done very well. Each actor injected a small personal touch while allowing for a similar overall personality.

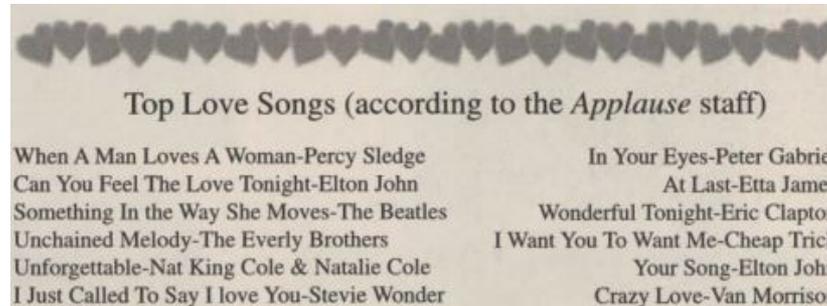
The use of snippets of songs to transition scenes and move the plot along provided a unique edge, but unfortunately when these musical interludes overlapped with dialog the lines were lost. This small issue could not detract from the overall positive experience, with the stage occupied by a stellar cast with superb abilities allowing them to pull a very complicated plot-- causing me to ponder the play's complex meaning long afterwards.



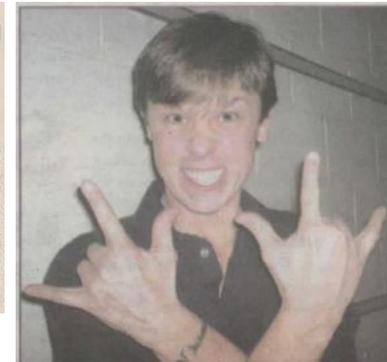
Jakob Lazzaro

## From the Archives...

Check out [soa-applause.com](http://soa-applause.com) for more blasts from the past!



Above are love songs compiled by the 2004 *Applause* staff for the February issue.



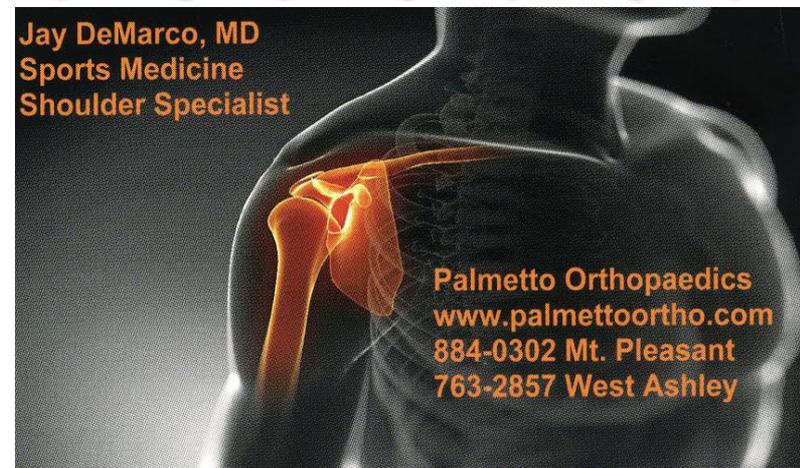
"Julia Stiles." -Mr. Kirk Lindgren, biology teacher

In the February 2014 issue (left) and the February 2009 issue (above), the Question of the Month was "What is your dream date?"



"I'd take her to Golden Corral so she could indulge in the three Chocolate Wonderfall Fountains."  
Daikell Prioleau, 7th Grade Vocal major

Jay DeMarco, MD  
Sports Medicine  
Shoulder Specialist



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## SOA High School student speaks at MLK Parade

**Jada Orr**, a freshman vocal major at SOA, spoke at the MLK Professional Breakfast held by the YWCA at the Marriott Hotel downtown on Lockwood Blvd, January 20th. Below is a full copy of her piece. In the words of Post and Courier writer Adam Parker, Jada “stole the show with her description of young people today.”



When I was working on these words to present today, I was holding back tears. I had just seen the movie Selma, and I wasn't crying just because of the power in the film, but because out of all of the tears, death, and bloodshed for us, my generation would still rather be intrigued by nonsense in the media, that tends to feed us unhealthy messages, and being content with where we are. Yes, we've come a long way since Dr. King's leadership. But there is still so much work left to do not only in our communities but also in this country. There is a new Edmund Pettus Bridge to get over. I know that if Dr. King could see my generation, he would roll over in his grave to see what the fruit of his labor turned out to be. Youth with this sense of self-entitlement, and lacking an understanding of what hard work is. He'd be saddened to see that most

of us are content with getting by. We know that in America there is no black or white but that we are all one. That is America's big picture, the proclaimed vision of our founding fathers. Dr. King said 'we are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly'. The MLK theme "One vision, one voice for the many" is to say that there is no us vs. them. That when born in this country we all have the right to live. And when I say live I don't just mean to exist but to grow and progress as a human being.

I believe that one of America's strengths is its diversity of cultures. We just don't embrace it in the way we should. Other countries look at us and they see the war of cultures in our country and laugh. How are we trying to help other countries when we aren't even straight ourselves?

It's obvious that America still needs change. And that there is work that needs to be done consistently, aggressively, yet carefully. This is where our generation is to come in. As the future of this country, it is left to us to be voices for the many. We have to eliminate ignorance, get out of our comfort zones, and stop underestimating ourselves. Dr. King took risks everyday choosing to fight for what he believed knowing that he might have to die for what he believed in.

We go to school and pledge allegiance to a country that promises "liberty and justice for all". But because I happen to be an African American female in America I may not get the same opportunities and luxuries as a white American male, than that's

not true justice. I want to see someone from my generation help change that. If African American mothers have to fear when their sons go out that they may be mercilessly gunned down, that's not true justice. Someone in my generation can help change that. MLK day is a day to acknowledge that we all must come together and take action no matter how big or small. This is to see change in our selves as a people. I am willing to be a voice to the many and I have faith that I can bring more voices to the table. As the youth, it is more of a responsibility to be involved in our education, who we chose as our leaders, and who our voices will be for us as a whole. Dr. King stated, "Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. Every step towards the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concerns of dedicated individuals."

People marched with Dr. King knowing that a possible outcome of them being involved, standing up to injustice, could be their death. Young teenagers our ages risking their own lives for us. That's the kind of courage it takes. That's the courage to be a voice for the many. As the youth of Charleston, and this nation, we have the power to change what we know isn't right. Honor Dr. King by continuing his legacy with your life. Strive not only to achieve your own understanding of excellence, but also do it making sure it's impacting and benefiting others. Every effort contributes to making that one vision become a reality. But it all begins with making that personal decision of being willing to finish what Dr. King and many others started.

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## A glance into the fascinating life of Ms. Peggy Lewis

Nikita Narodnitskiy

As tension swelled in America between black people and white people, small footsteps went anxiously forward to become one of the first black student integrated into Shannon Elementary School in Morgan City, Louisiana. Local news sources were there to report the unsettlement of the whites appalled that black children would be allowed into their schools. Peggy Lewis says that the cameras never confronted her personally, but she remembers the stir that she caused as one of the first African American students in her fourth grade class.

This is just one of Mrs. Lewis vast repertoire of experiences with historical significance. Lewis, known as Ms. Lewis, to SOA students, spent her early years in Morgan City, Louisiana, a small yet segregated town in the American South. Ms. Lewis recalls the biggest difference between her school, Sumpter Williams Color High School, and the newly integrated school was that she had a white teacher, “We never saw any difference in that,” but the white students who had grown comfortable with the supremacist attitude that permeated the country did. In fifth grade, Ms. Lewis was taught by a black teacher who unlike her white colleagues understood her. She brought her home with her after school and tutored her, taught her everything she needed to know to catch up to the level of the white kids. She was a teacher who was not blind to the mythology of a “separate but equal” education. But school didn’t teach anyone how to handle fear.

Entering high school, Ms. Lewis’s fourth grade year was far behind yet the students in Morgan City High were no more tolerant. Her cousins ran through the school trying to find her after classes had ended. “I remember them saying ‘We don’t want those n-----s in our school’ and throwing things at the bus. We didn’t get on the bus.” Instead they ran from campus, and didn’t stop running until their grandmother found them a block away from where they lived. They had ran all the way home, fueled by a

lingering feeling of dread towards the hostile, hate-filled south.

During the summers, Ms. Lewis’s aunt and uncle would come from Gibson, Louisiana to Morgan City to start their yearly road trip from



Ms. Lewis in December of 1979, at the age of twenty

Morgan to Oakland, California with stops along the way in Houston and LA Watts. In LA Watts, Ms. Lewis sat on the screened porch with her family and watched gangs go up and down the street. “We could never go outside and play,” she recalls, “so we couldn’t wait to get to Oakland ‘cause we knew we would get to play.” During the El Paso stretch of the trip, Ms. Lewis, her siblings and cousins would be allowed to drive; “there was nothing but desert, that’s how we learned to drive.”

Oakland was a different story. “I got to see both lives” Ms. Lewis says, referring to the racial uneasiness of Morgan City and the liberal, accepting air of California. “There was more to do, it was no segregation, but when I got home I had to deal with the black and the white.” Finally in 1978, when Ms. Lewis was 19, she moved from Morgan City to Oakland, leaving in 1986 for Charleston. “It was pretty hard to leave California” she said. She plans on visiting more now that her son will be living in California.

Ms. Lewis had an uncle who lived in Franklin, Louisiana where she spent a lot of time. In Franklin, she became good friends with Lyman White, who went on to become a linebacker for the Atlanta Falcons. One year he asked Ms. Lewis to prom, and drove all the way from Franklin to Morgan City. After that they began to date until he began attending LSU. After not hearing from him for a while (and not knowing that he was drafted into the NFL), an engaged Ms. Lewis received a call from White inviting her to visit him at Joe Montana’s

house, “so I ditched my fiancé and I went to Montana’s.” After parting ways once more, White was imprisoned for Medicaid fraud in 2005 which was the last that Ms. Lewis had heard of him. He was released in 2008.

Ms. Lewis was back in Morgan in the late nineties as Geronimo Pratt was being released from Prison. Pratt was an extremely well known member of the Black Panther Party who went to prison in 1972 under false murder-convictions. In 1997 his conviction was vacated as it was revealed that the prosecution withheld evidence that might have influenced the jury to vote against the convictions. After his 27 years in prison, a parade was held in his honor in Morgan City, the city he grew up in. Ms. Lewis was looking for a t-shirt that she got at the parade. The shirt had Pratt’s face on it, and across the street she noticed Pratt standing there talking to an old friend. He saw Ms. Lewis’s mother and came over to say hello. Looking at Ms. Lewis he said “That’s your daughter? She’s very pretty” and they soon struck up a conversation. He pointed to the bits of grenade shrapnel that were still stuck in his arm from his time in Vietnam. He had a piece close to his heart as well that could not be removed. Pratt asked her if she had any kids and was introduced to her son who was ten years old at the time. Shortly after, Pratt appeared on 60 minutes, an emotional time for Morgan City

because everyone there was acquainted with him and hadn’t seen him all those years he was in prison.

Ms. Lewis has a nephew whose name has appeared in many headlines, a name recognized by not only fans of the Portland Trail Blazers, but a respected name across the entire NBA. “Damian [Lillard] always set goals for himself she says with a smile and an air of pride in her voice, “his first year he set a goal to become rookie of the year and he did it.” The following year, Ms. Lewis says, Damian set out to play in an All-Star game, and he did it. “This year he really, really, truly set a goal to be MVP, so we’ll see. We never underestimate him.” This summer Lillard shelled out some of his NBA paycheck to send his Ms. Lewis and her sisters to Vegas for a week at the Venetian.

Ms. Lewis is known at SOA as one of the Hearing Impaired instructors and as the teacher who never seems to stop smiling, but behind the smile lay her incredible experiences growing up in the segregated south, dating future NFL players, meeting influential civil rights leaders, and more. Her reserved and modest manner might convince you that she leads two lives. She’s brimming with stories that could fill books upon books; it would seem that she would want to share these with everybody who walks past. So if you haven’t met Ms. Lewis, do yourself a favor and lend her your ear.



Ms. Lewis, far right, young Damian Lillard in the the front row, second from the left at a 1998 family reunion in Gibson, Louisiana. Lillard currently plays for the Portland Trail Blazers and is featured on the following page.

## Damian Lillard, an All-Star on and off the court

by Ted Anastapoulo

NBA point guard Damian Lillard has done it all in his short career.

Drilled the game winning three pointer with less than a second left on the game clock? Check. Led his team to a playoff berth and a first round playoff win for the first time in 14 years? Affirmative. Unanimously garnered the NBA Rookie of the Year Award? You betcha.

Did we mention Lillard is only in his third NBA season?

Hailing from the city of Oakland, California, and a graduate of Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, Damian Lillard is the nephew SOA's own

hearing impaired instructor Ms. Peggy Lewis. As a first round NBA draft pick for the Portland Trail Blazers, he has been among the best in the NBA in categories such as three-point scoring and assists and he has not missed a game in three seasons, even after spraining the fingers on his shooting hand this season. Despite his being named a starter in next week's All-Star game and his increased presence in television commercials for such corporations as Nationwide, Foot Locker, and Adidas, Lillard remains humble, grounded, and focused on staying close to his family, friends, and fans, says Ms. Lewis. Lillard further displays his humble nature in his jersey number. As the number "0," Lillard says he is reminded of his hard work in a long journey from Oakland, to Ogden, to Oregon.

This past summer, Lillard flew Ms. Lewis and other members of her family to Las Vegas for a weeklong vacation. Ms. Peggy has also seen Damian play in the 2014 NBA All Star Game in New Orleans, Louisiana, and is always eager to see him dominate when he comes to Atlanta, Charlotte, and Orlando.

Lillard recently exercised his generosity when he discovered a massive foundational crack in the home of Ms. Peggy's parents. Believing they would have to move, Lillard stepped up for his grandparents and financed the building of a new three bedroom home. Lillard also provided all of the children who play at



Damian Lillard scored 22 points in the Trail Blazers' 105-97 victory over the Charlotte Hornets on November 26, 2014.

the local basketball court in his old neighborhood in East Oakland with new book bags and sneakers.

Last season, Lillard led the Portland Trail Blazers to a first round playoff victory over the Houston Rockets when he hit a three-point shot off of his back foot with less than one second left on the game clock. Since then, Lillard has continued to improve his game, leading his team to an impressive 32-14 record and third place standing in the Western Conference.

Averaging 21.8 points per game, Lillard ranks as the NBA's 12th leading scorer for the 2014-15 season, ahead of players like Dwayne Wade, Chris Bosh, Derrick Rose, Chris Paul, and Kevin Love. In a December game against the defending NBA Champion San Antonio Spurs Lillard dropped a season high 43 points en route to a 129-119 win. Lillard has already made the Trail Blazers a serious contender in the NBA, but he isn't focused on keeping his talents exclusively in Portland. With the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil rapidly approaching, he has already been named to the United States Olympic basketball team.

With half of the NBA season complete, the Portland Trail Blazers will look to rely on Lillard as they take on a tough slate of competition against the Washington Wizards, Memphis Grizzlies, and Golden State Warriors. SOA will know when he takes on his toughest opponents when his proudest SOA fan, his Aunt Peggy, will be wearing her nephew's jersey on campus.

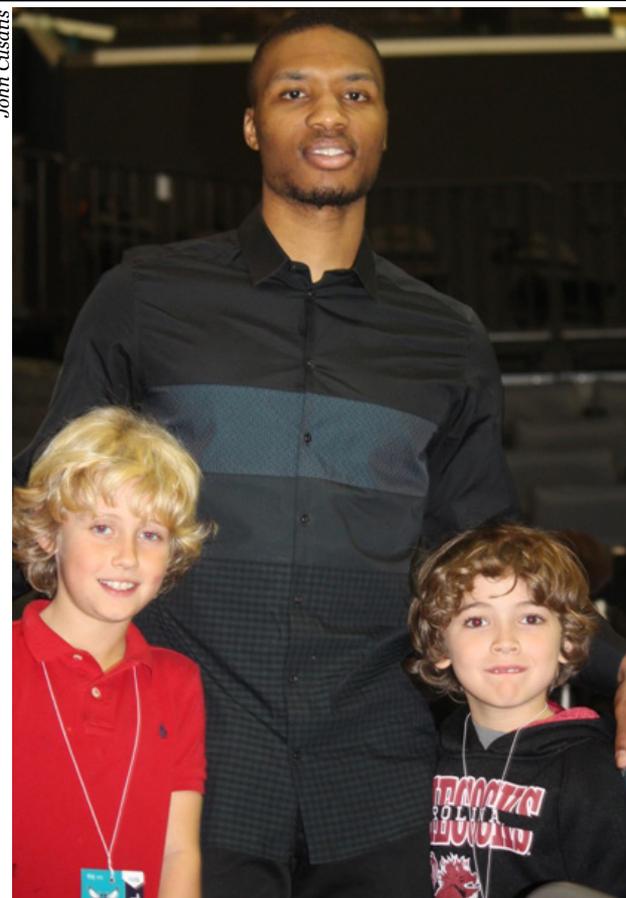
John Cusatis



Damian and his aunt, Ms. Lewis, after the Trail Blazers' victory in Charlotte.

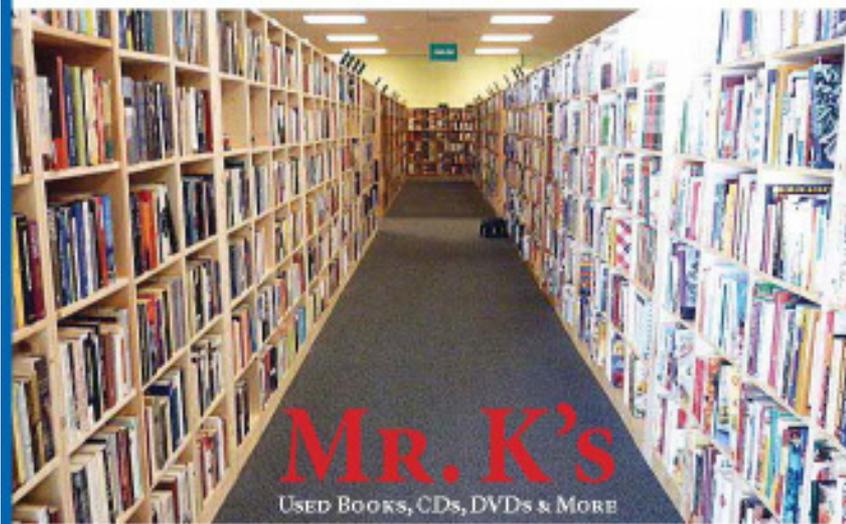
**Don't miss Damian Lillard in the NBA All-Star game Sunday, February 15th, at 8:30 pm.**

John Cusatis



Ms. Peggy arranged for Dr. Cusatis' sons, Giovanni and Luciano, to meet Damian and his teammates after the game in Charlotte.

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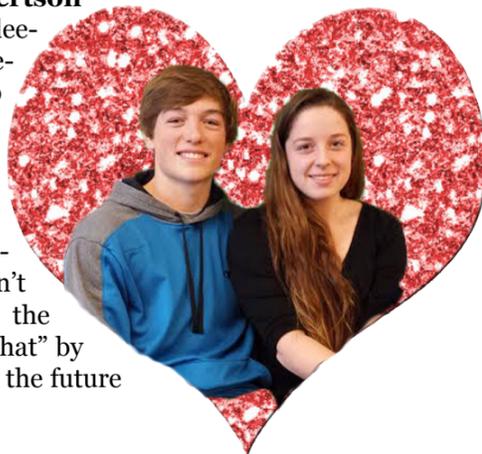


# SOA's Cutest Couples

**This Valentine's Day, Applause decided to catch up with the lovebirds who are most known for their infatuation with one another. If you're alone this Valentine's Day, don't sweat it. Get your fix of requited love below!**

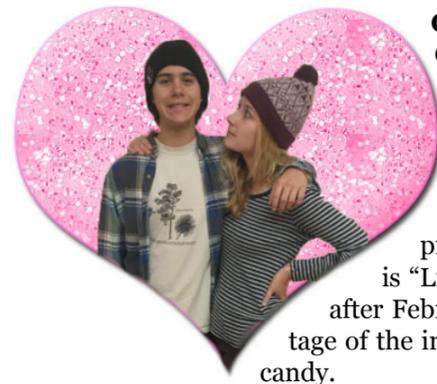
## Douglas Smith and Leeanna Robertson

Douglas and Leeanna, known as "Douglee-anna" by a few of Douglas' fellow Creative Writers, have been dating for two years and three months. Douglas says that his favorite thing about Leeanna is when she makes him a sandwich, and his least favorite thing is when she doesn't make him a sandwich. Leeanna is a fan of Doug's eyes, but doesn't appreciate it when he teases her all the time. Their song is "Turn Down for What" by DJ Snake and Lil John. As far as what the future holds, they plan of going with the flow.



## Graham Crolley and Suzanne Jackson

Graham and Suzanne have been dating for a year and three months. Graham admires Suzanne because "she has the energy of a bouncy ball," but he can't seem to understand why she doesn't like fast food. Suzanne is crazy about Graham's hair, of course, and also appreciates his sense of crude humor. Their song is "Live And Die" by The Avett Brothers. The day after February fourteenth, they plan on taking advantage of the impressive discounts on neglected Valentine's candy.



## Taylor Dahl and Taylor Dahl

Taylor and Taylor have been together for eighteen years and two months. Taylor's favorite thing about Taylor is the fact that she's always herself and never acts like two different people. Taylor's least favorite thing about Taylor is that sometimes they are too similar. But they take all challenges as opportunities for their relationship to flourish. They settled on *All by Myself* by Celine Dion as their song. Taylor and Taylor plan on spending the rest of their lives together, forever and ever and ever.



## Denver Smith and Olivia Levins

Olivia and Denver have been dating for about six months. Denver is crazy about Olivia because "she's hilarious," and Olivia appreciates that he "does everything I say." Their song is *DJ Got Us Fallin' In Love* by Usher. In the future, they plan on getting married and having seventy-two children.



## Tess Abedon and Nick Huss

Tess and Nick have been dating for one year and two months. Tess' favorite thing about Nick is his hair. Nick thinks Tess is "fedorable," a solid foundation for any lasting relationship. Their song is *IFHY* by Tyler, The Creator. Tess and Nick are looking forward to their happy days of marriage and possibly adopting some dogs.

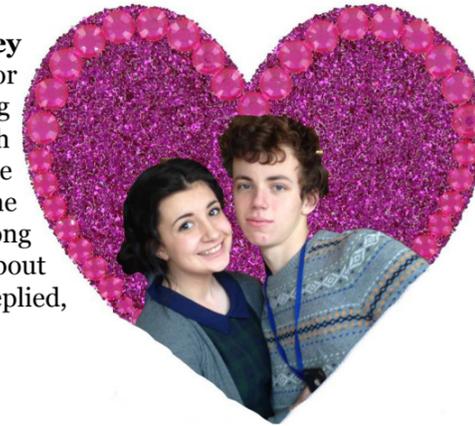


## Rutledge Hammes and Tiffany Clementi-Hammes

Mr. Hammes and Ms. Clementi-Hammes have a very interesting history. They dated in college, but drifted apart. Fifteen years later, they reconnected and were married over the summer. Ms. Clementi-Hammes' favorite thing about her husband is "how sweet he is. He makes me laugh." Mr. Hammes loves how she is "a big goof ball." Their song is "First Day of My Life" by Bright Eyes. As far as Valentine's Day plans, Mr. Hammes says that they are a secret and will be revealed on the fourteenth of February.

## Elizabeth Riddle and Terry Roddey

Elizabeth and Terry have been dating for five whole months. Terry's favorite thing about Elizabeth is that she is friends with his best friend. Elizabeth's least favorite thing about Terry is that he will wear the same outfit for weeks at a time. Their song is "Desert Rose" by Sting. When asked about their Valentine's Day plans, Terry replied, "That's when the ski trip is...Oops."



## Shelby Levine and Simeon Washington

Shelby and Simeon have been dating for two years. Simeon's favorite thing about Shelby is her smile. Shelby doesn't appreciate her boyfriend's argumentative nature. Their song is "New Flame" by Chris Brown. Simeon plans on cloning Shelby later in life. In response, Shelby joked that she is unsure that they will even have a future.

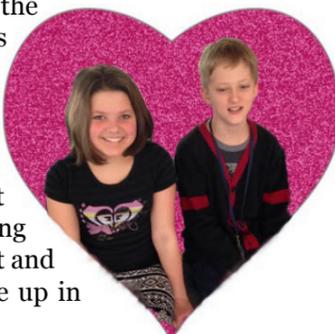
## Alanna Nickels and Patrick Burns

Alanna and Patrick have been dating for six months. Alanna's least favorite thing about Patrick is his mustache. Patrick's least favorite thing about Alanna is her distaste for his mustache, and his favorite thing? The fact that she's still around, despite his mustache. How romantic. Their song is "You'll Be In My Heart" by Phil Collins from the *Tarzan* soundtrack. They enjoy snacking on pumpkin seeds together. In the future, they plan on pursuing their passion for sheep herding in Scotland.



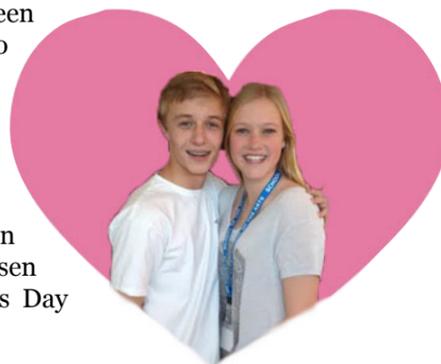
## Abby Gardner and Aiden Quertermous

They have been dating since the first month of school. Abby likes Aiden's blonde locks. Aiden claims his favorite thing about Abby is that she likes monkeys. However, he doesn't like that she hasn't seen the latest *Doctor Who* season. Their song is "Shake it Off" by Taylor Swift and their Valentine's Day plans are up in the air.



## Mike Wiles and Kali Brown

Mike and Kali have been dating for a blissful two months and one week. Kali likes Mike's eyes, while he appreciates her for her wonderful personality. Their song is "All of Me" by John Legend. They have chosen to keep their Valentine's Day plans a secret.



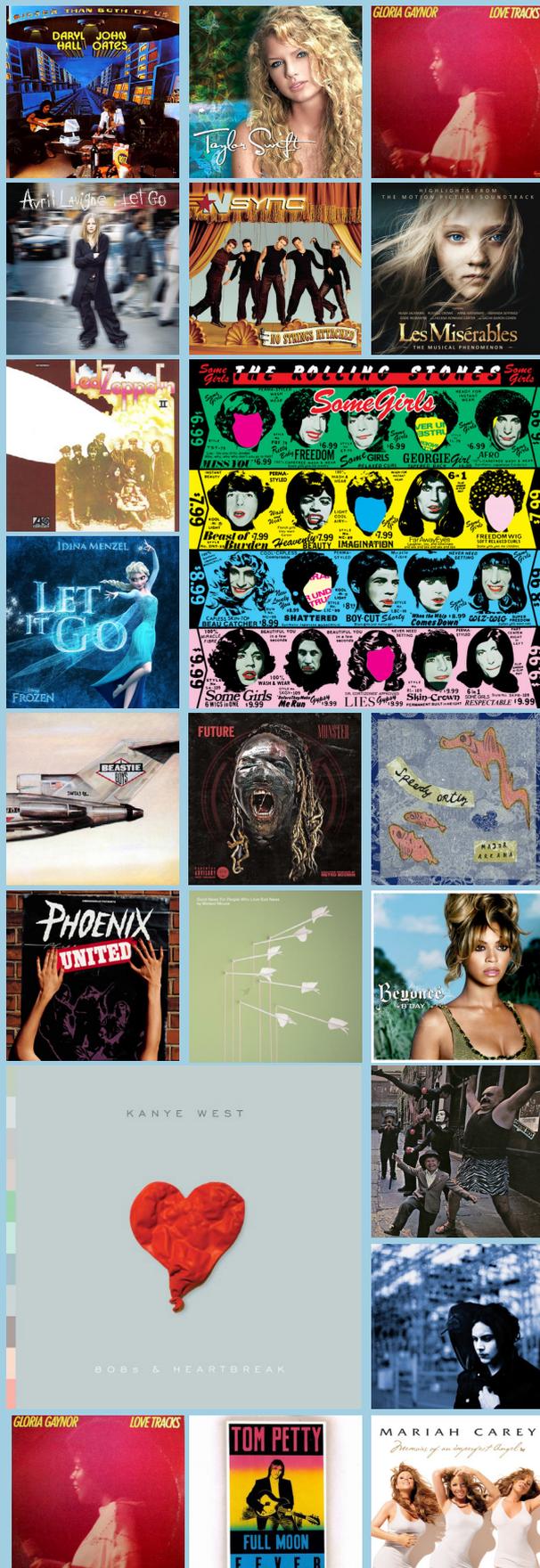
## Zoe Abedon and Cinnamon Altoids

Zoe first encountered Cinnamon Altoids at a gas station about two years ago and they have been inseparable ever since. Zoe says that she is rarely ever without Cinnamon Altoids. If they aren't on her desk, they're either in her purse or her pocket or her car or her book-bag. When asked of their Valentine's plans, Zoe blushes and grins. "We're going to spice it up." Zoe and Cinnamon Altoids plan on strengthening their curiously strong connection well into the future.



## Top 20 Break-Up Songs

Mourn the loss of your would-be Valentine for a few minutes, then get right back on your feet with these empowering jams. You'll forget your ex-special someone in no time!



**Rich Girl**  
Hall and Oates

**Teardrops On My Guitar**  
Taylor Swift

**Complicated**  
Avril Lavigne

**I Will Survive**  
Gloria Gaynor

**I Dreamed a Dream**  
Anne Hathaway

**Bye Bye Bye**  
N\*Sync

**Heartbreaker**  
Led Zeppelin

**Free Fallin'**  
Tom Petty

**Obsessed**  
Mariah Carey

**Let It Go**  
Idina Menzel

**Miss You**  
Rolling Stones

**People Are Strange**  
The Doors

**Girls**  
Beastie Boys

**Throw Away Your Love**  
Future

**Tiger Tank**  
Speedy Ortiz

**If I Ever Feel Better**  
Phoenix

**Charles Bukowski**  
Modest Mouse

**Irreplaceable**  
Beyonce

**Heartless**  
Kanye West

**Love Interruption**  
Jack White

## Top 20 Love Songs

Serenade your one true love this Valentine's Day with any of the following songs, or use a giant boombox to blast your song of choice while holding it above your head, like John Cusack in Say Anything.



**The Promise**  
When In Rome

**Sea of Love**  
Cat Power

**Grow Old With Me**  
Blackbird Blackbird

**In Five Years Time**  
Noah and the Whale

**Crazy In Love**  
Beyonce

**I Would Die 4 U**  
Prince

**Somebody To Love**  
Queen

**Kiss You**  
One Direction

**Burning Up**  
The Jonas Brothers

**Lovesong**  
The Cure

**Marvin's Room**  
Drake

**The Nearness Of You**  
Ella Fitzgerald

**Besitos**  
Pierce the Veil

**If That's Not Love**  
The Naked Brothers Band

**Blue Jeans**  
Lana Del Rey

**Found Love In A Graveyard**  
Veronica Falls

**Happy Birthday, Mr. President**  
Marilyn Monroe

**Seasons (I've Been Waitin' On You)**  
Future Islands

**Heaven Is A Place On Earth**  
Belinda Carlisle

**Ain't No Mountain High Enough**  
Marvin Gaye & Tammi Terrell

## Scented Candles: how to keep the flame alive

Applause's sauciest staff member **Jakob Lazzaro** has decided to share a bit of his infinite romantic wisdom for anyone not yet struck by Cupid's arrow this Valentine's Day.

If you are looking for the perfect Valentine's Day experience with your significant other, it's time for a reality check. Your relationship will not even last until February 15th if you ignore this swanky love advice. To set the world record for best relationship ever, continue reading.

The most important tip for a successful relationship is being yourself. Never change who you are for someone and if they don't like it, they can leave! Everything about you is already totally 100% awesome. If someone doesn't like everything about you, they obviously

just don't understand.

The second stone on which all successful relationships are built is the scented candle. To constantly remind your partner of your presence, put scented candles everywhere! Car? Scented Candle (Moonlit Sun)! Locker? Scented Candle (Eraser Gala)! You can even spice up the house by replacing their bed with an extra large Algae Stardust scented candle! Who needs conversation when you have the overpowering scent of Gecko Bliss?

Finally, one should always keep in mind that relationships built on the truth are never fun. Do you spend 25 hours a day playing Starcraft? You are a professional competitor in international sports. Favorite color is red? You are wearing all green! Special snowflake? You prefer melting! Say anything to make your partner temporarily happy!

With these tips and various scented candles, head out for a long moonlit walk on the beach for the perfect Valentine's Day.



## Graham Goes To The Movies: Annie Hall

Graham Crolley

It is especially hard to critique Woody Allen's Academy Award-winning 1977 *Annie Hall* when in a way it has already critiqued itself.

It is right off the bat so opposite from any other sugar-saturated rom-com, and to call it purely a Valentine's Day flick would be like looking at one side of a die and declaring the entire cube one square. But the thing is, the film is aware of how much it differs from other love stories. It even pokes fun at it with blistering sarcasm. Allen's style of script writing is off-the-wall and well-versed in various technique, leaving behind any sort of chronological plot and skipping around life, looking back, mimicking memory.

The idea is deceptively simple: boy meets girl in New York City, and they date, and things fall apart. The main character Alvy, played by Allen, is a middle-aged NYC-native Jew, neurotic, hyper-aware, and plagued by anxious brilliance. The character is speculated to be somewhat autobiographical as Alvy is a comedian, running from fame and embarrassed when recognized on the street. Diane Keaton plays Annie Hall, the seemingly laid back 70's woman with mild insecurities about the validity of her aspiration to sing.

The film explores this age-old tale of the initial romantic attraction of two very different people, and is chock-full of unforgettable details of rich character development and excellent film construction. Allen's character in a way guides the viewer through the film, breaking the fourth wall and talking directly to the camera, letting us

see inside of his obsessive and uptight thought process. The way the film is made seems to parallel the way modern relationships are structured, implementing film devices such as split-screen scenes and a goofy cartoon version of Alvy.

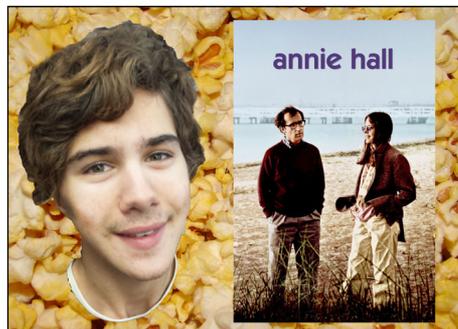
Allen points out that cliches in life are unavoidable, painful even, and the formulaic layout and predictability of how relationships break down mirrors the film's structure. Alvy and Annie walk through scenes of their past and comment on their intentions during conversations to each other. The movie highlights what we wish we could do in relationships, and is blisteringly sarcastic in regards to human nature and media.

As a side note, it is clear that when writing the movie, Allen was dissatisfied with modern culture, and the film is loaded with not-so-secret jabs at the phony facade of LA music and advertising which ultimately serves as a metaphor for Annie Hall herself. If the viewer moves past the initially off-putting avalanche of themes and social criticisms, they will see Alvy's nervous rants and Annie's opposite despondence and receive a movie about why we put ourselves in these damaging situations that spurn from love.

**Pros:** iconic roles for Allen and Keaton, guest star Paul Simon, like a 1970s cross between *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* and *500 Days of Summer*, hidden Easter eggs of witty humor, the recurring lobster scene (watch the movie)

**Cons:** somewhat overwhelming nervousness of Alvy (like a middle-aged Holden Caulfield as a sarcastic scholar)

Watch this movie, Valentine's Day or not. It is a must-see for film-lovers and love lovers.



## Upcoming School Events

**Rainbows vs. Bunnies: Annihilation Seventh Grade Theatre Workshop Show**  
Thursday & Friday, February 19th & 20th  
4:00 pm

**The Young Americans Vocal Workshop Performance**  
Sat., February 21st  
time TBA

**Senior Thesis Theatre Group Pieces**  
Thurs. & Fri., February 26th and 27th  
6:30 pm

**High School Band Pre-Festival Concert**  
Thurs., February 26th  
6:30 pm

**Piano Rocks: featuring the music of Billy Joel and Elton John**  
Fri., February 27th  
6:30 pm  
\$12/student, \$15/adult  
Dinner included

**Middle School Band Pre-Festival Concert**  
Wed., March 11th  
6:30 pm

**The Misanthrope by Moliere: 10th and 11th Grade Theatre Performance**  
Thurs. and Fri., March 19th and 20th  
6:30 pm

## A Look Back with Mr. Christensen

**Mr. Christensen**, the theatre tech teacher and stage manager, is an essential part of the many productions at SOA. **Sarah McCord** sat down with him to get to know him a little better.

**Sarah McCord: Where did you go to school and what did you study?**

**Michael Christensen:** Vincennes University Technical Theatre and Ball State University Technical Theatre and Design

**SM: How did you become interested in theatre and stage technology?**

**MC:** I wanted to be a Special Effects Artist and it just morphed into a love of all things technical from lights to sound to construction. I have worked in haunted houses, regional theatres, and amusement parks.

**SM: You have created a theatre tech apprenticeship program. What are your future plans for this?**

**MC:** This program is to increase the knowledge of technical theater and acquire skills to get jobs out of high school with different production companies.

**SM: You also have created a way to online stream concerts and productions at the school. What are your future plans for new technology for the theatre to improve it even more?**

**MC:** I would like us to bring the theatre in to the 21st century, including Digital Sound Boards, LED stage lights—a more “Rock and Roll” style with moving lights. This would be not only to enhance the productions,

but also to teach all the new technology to the next generation of technicians.

**SM: Because of your being a huge fan of Star Wars...if you were in Star Wars, what would be your role?**

**MC:** WHAT? Really? Kid, you must understand you are about to open a big can of worms with this question. Ask me this later, maybe during May the 4th, or after I come back from a Star Wars celebration in California... Yes I'm going to a Star Wars Convention.

**SM: You have a Harley. How did you become interested in motorcycles?**

**MC:** When I was working at Flat Rock Playhouse in Flat Rock, NC, I helped a friend fix up a motorcycle he had bought in an auction. I helped him fix the motorcycle and he showed me how to ride one. I bought my first motorcycle three months later.



Mr. Christensen channels his inner Sith Lord while showing off his Darth Vader mask.

Sarah McCord

## Matt Monday, successful rapper and 2004 SOA graduate

**Matt Monday** is a Brooklyn-based, Southern-born rapper who released his newest mix tape, *Before the Filth* this year. The tape showcases a variety of skills, switching with dexterity between storytelling, boastful battle rapping, and clever wordplay. **Matt Monday** is also known as **Matt Bostick**, a SOA graduate. **Dmitri Grigorieff** contacted him to learn how he spent 2014, and to see if he had any new plans for the new year.

**Dmitri Grigorieff: Can you list some of your main influences? How did these artists come into your life?**

**Matt Monday:** My influences are mainly my peers. Artists like Toro Y Moi, visual artists like Fletcher Willams (who also went to SOA), UK bands like SOHN, The National, and Kanye West..

**DG: How did growing up in the South influence your music?**

**MM:** Growing up in SC had a huge influence on me musically because I grew up in a very religious family and I spent a lot of time in church as a kid. That's where I learned to play different instruments and music. I've always said that most African American



Provided

churches in the south have some of the best musicians in the world. What I learned there plays a big part in my beat selection and how my albums sound sonically.

**DG: What is the most important thing you have learned as an independent musician?**

**MM:** Time and Money management. Independent is just another way to say “I pay for everything” and while that's cool, it can sometimes get stressful for my team and I, considering we handle every aspect of business. But I really enjoy it.

**DG: In what ways has your time at School of the Arts impacted you as an artist?**

**MM:** Before I went to SOA, I was under the impression that I was supposed to attend college and get job so I could pay bills and die. Don't get me wrong there's nothing wrong, with that but that's necessarily living, not to me at least. Going to SOA really convinced me that I could practically do anything with my talents. I took that state of mind with me into the world and created a very profitable company 10 years later.

**DG: Do you have any advice that you would give to an aspiring young artist, musician or otherwise?**

**MM:** Perfect your craft and learn the business. Set reasonable goals and work hard. Everyone will tell you it can't be done and that should be all the motivation you need to make it happen.

## SOA's Jazz Band featured in Charleston International Jazz Festival

Suzanne Jackson

On Sunday, January 25, the SOA Jazz band took to the stage of the Charleston Music Hall to display their immense talent during the Family Jazz Jamboree, the final performance of the Charleston International Jazz Festival. They opened for Matuto, a New York City based band known for its fusion of jazz, blues, and heavy use of percussion. However, the SOA Jazz Band, led by **Mr. Kerr**, managed to steal the show before it even began with their impressive stage presence and aptitude for all things mellifluous.

Many of the songs provided a wonderful opportunity to highlight the skills of the band members through solos. **Mary Madden** and **Cameron Leopold** are two of the students that were featured prominently in their rendition of “Cute”, by Neal Hefti.

“One of the highlights of the show was playing ‘Cute’ because it features a long bass solo and drum section that Mary and I have loved grooving on together for years,” Cameron says of her Family Jazz Jamboree experience. “It was thrilling to play for such a large crowd at such a prestigious place”.

Along with the outstanding instrumentals, a few songs included impressive vocal performances as well. Senior Band major **Maddy Walsh** blew everyone away with her delivery of Straighten Up and Fly Right. **Betina North**, also a senior in Band, sounded incredible as she sang Feeling Good. Both Maddy and Betina can certainly carry a tune both with their instruments and their amazing voices.

The Jazz Band has once again managed to seamlessly blend together improvisation and organization, creating a wonderful result. It is such a pleasure to observe as classmates present their passion, led by a teacher whose enthusiasm for music is matched with his enthusiasm for teaching. Congratulations to all of the SOA Jazz band and Mr. Kerr on yet another outstanding performance.



The SOA Jazz Band lights up the stage of the Charleston Music Hall.

Suzanne Jackson

**Do you have something to say? Write us a Letter to the Editor!**

Send your thoughts, opinions, or dream journal entries to [suzanne@soa-applause.com](mailto:suzanne@soa-applause.com)

## SOA Internship program continues into 2015

Sarah McCord

Designing costumes for a local theatre or using learned academic skills to study architecture or cosmic formation are just a few of the various opportunities students can experience while skipping school yet getting credit and a head start on their future. The Interns-at-Work program, headed by **Mr. Smyth**, allows for students to gain real world experience in their career field, a rare opportunity for students who are not in college.

The complications in scheduling this year created some holes in students' schedules, giving the students a chance to fill the hole with an internship.

The idea to create internships at SOA began in late 2013 when a few bioengineer professors from MUSC asked biology teacher **Mr. Short** if there were any students who might be interested in interning. **Max Hutton** and **Joey Busher** were selected to intern as research assistants in various MUSC labs. This year, Max is shadowing the graduate students in their experiment, which is on the "successful development of cardiomyocytes."

Many more students are taking advantage of the local research opportunities as well. At the College of Charleston physics department, **Dean Spyropoulos** serves as a research assistant by using his skills in calculus and particle physics to assist in his mentor's research of dark matter as well as conducting his own research to investigate changes that can affect stellar and cosmic formation.

Determining math as a factor of energy conservation, **Maddy Parnall** picked her internship with Sentinel Works to "get some understanding of how energy conservation works on a large scale." She takes data from energy bills and changes it to be able to easily compare the amount of energy and money spent before and after installing energy-saving software monitored by the company. Her data is then turned into an easily-readable graph used in sales pitches.

**Victor Mardikian** is able to use his math skills and technical ability in the drawing room of local architects while watching them come up with new ideas and find solutions to problems. He shadows his mentor as he take notes and discusses his interest of structural engineering and his possible pursuance in that particular field.

This internship opportunity has

allowed some to conclude that what they thought they had interest in wasn't right for them. **Paris Scott's** internship as a costume assistant at the Dock Street Theatre downtown has taught her to forge a different path within the fashion industry, saving her valuable time in college for classes better suited to her interests.

On the other hand, **Mattie Smith** enjoyed her first internship at the *Charleston City Paper* so much that she decided to continue her position as a journalism assistant with the *Post and Courier*. She says her decision came from her interest in "seeing how a professional newsroom works." She writes event blurbs, longer pieces, and data entries from observations.

**Nikita Narodnitskiy** has begun his internship at the *City Paper*, also as a journalism assistant, preparing events for their calendar and writing short articles for the weekly publication.

Exploring her interests of helping children who require special education, **Michaela Buttell** took an internship as a teacher assistant at the special education program at her former school, Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary, working with teachers and gaining hands on experience with the students. Through this internship she hopes to further develop her passion of becoming a special needs activist in South Carolina.

**Mr. Smyth** hopes to get more students into the program, as it is a great opportunity. While there are few qualifications, students must have the possibility for an open 4th block, either A or B day, a reliable way of transportation, and, preferably, be a senior.

Interested juniors should see **Mr. Smyth** as early as possible with a desired field, so he has time to find the right match and let guidance know to modify any conflicting schedules for next year.



**Nikita Narodnitskiy** works diligently at his internship with the *Charleston City Paper*.

## Sass Attack: Why School is an Inadequate Measure of Your Intellect

Aly Wintz

From kindergarten, we are told by our family to work as hard as we can. "Do well, stay up late to get that last assignment in, get involved in school, but take care of your personal health." The words keep repeating in your head, the hope for a scholarship is high, and your parents are silently hoping they won't have to empty their pockets for your education. Or worse, you end up emptying your empty pockets resulting in years of loans that you are sure you'll never be able to pay off.

You think to yourself, "Well, how do I do well in school then? Do I study every day? Cram all of the material? Work as hard as possible? Cry until the sun comes up because I do not understand why this is applicable to real life when I dream of majoring in Art History?" The answer? Numbers.

Welcome to School, leave your common sense at the door and take a scantron as you enter.

So, let's say you scored 5's on all the AP tests; you've gotten straight A's from kindergarten. You are about to enter college thinking you have all the knowledge in the world. After all, you're the ones that have been pressured since day one to get top marks. You're the one who has been told HOW to take tests rather than to know the material on the tests so you can qualify for more scholarships.

Yet, I'm pretty sure you are entering the beginning of your college life having no idea how to balance a checkbook, how to file your taxes? What about what to do if your car breaks down on the side of the highway? How to properly defend yourself in a dangerous situation? You have no idea how to do any of that but praise the heavens, you know how to properly fill in ninety-one bubbles in ninety minutes.

I see it as a lottery ticket, SOA. Our common knowledge, our "street skills" won't pay for our education, but rather our book smarts, our "bubble filling skills" are the things that do. As a teacher's kid, I've been raised to know the famous quote by Einstein that, "Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid." And that's true! Why is a fifth grade boy, a kid who can memorize the names of every baseball player, their stats, and their history, failing social studies when he spends an hour and a half on homework every night? Why is the child who spends hours reading books, closeted under her tower of blankets, put into CP English because she didn't make it out with an eighty-five or higher? Why is it that these skills are the things that dictate if we get to live the next four years of our lives in a dorm room or a McDonald's?

Let's take a deep breath.

Of course, I know teachers are trying. Most spend their days thinking of new IEPs, ways to make their students succeed, and are always there to help. This is even truer in SOA's case. Why does our state, our country, require us to learn things that in the end really won't help us? Why do scholarships primarily depend upon numbers? Why did you just spend a hundred dollars buying SAT, AP, and ACT test prep books rather than relaxing because you know you know the material? Why?

I honestly do not have an answer, and I hope I'm not being graded for one.

## This Week in History

by Jakob Lazzaro  
Source: wikipedia.org

## 6th vs. 12th

by Aly Wintz

Applause's Aly Wintz asked a 6th grader and a senior what their favorite Valentine's day gift was.



Aly Wintz

6th grade Strings major **Lillian Sustaita** says valentines with chocolates in them are the coolest thing to get on this lovely day.

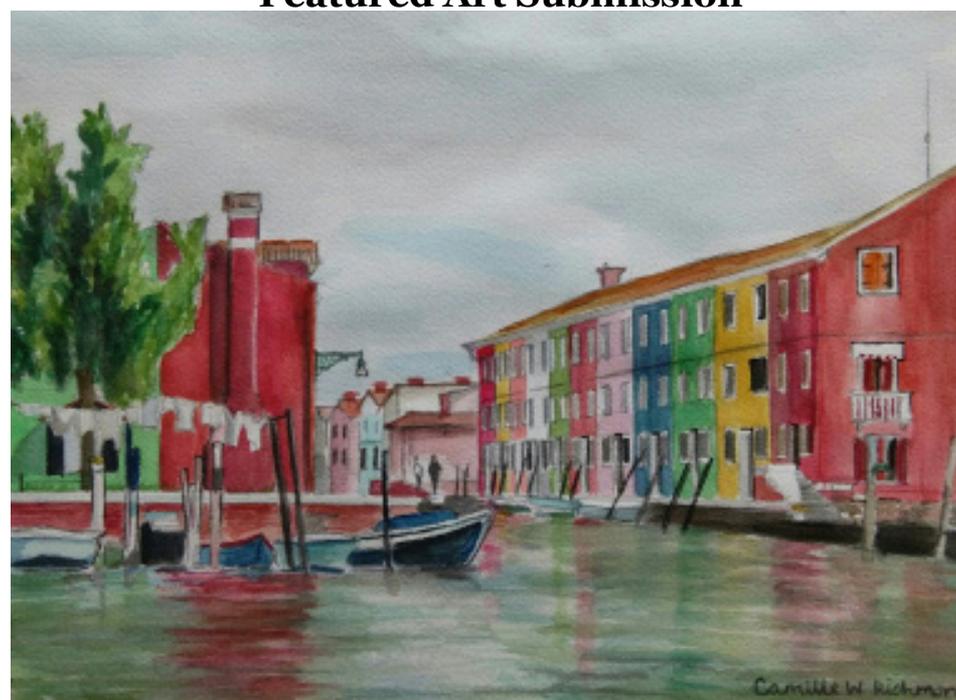


Aly Wintz

12th grade Visual Artist **Kannon Rickell** says that boxes of candy hearts with cheesy phrases on them were the most fun to get on Valentine's Day.

SUN 2/8	MON 2/9	TUES 2/10	WED 2/11	THURS 2/12	FRI 2/13	SAT 2/14
<p><b>1587:</b> Mary, Queen of Scots, is executed.</p> <p><b>1910:</b> The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated.</p> <p><b>1950:</b> The Stasi is established.</p> <p><b>1960:</b> The first stars are installed on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.</p> <p><b>1963:</b> The US embargo on Cuba begins.</p> <p><b>Nirvana Day</b></p>	<p><b>1825:</b> John Quincy Adams is elected president of the United States.</p> <p><b>1861:</b> Jefferson Davis is elected president of the CSA.</p> <p><b>1942:</b> Daylight Savings time begins in the United States</p> <p><b>1943:</b> The Battle of Guadalcanal ends with an American victory.</p> <p><b>1964:</b> The Beatles make their American debut on the <i>Ed Sullivan Show</i>.</p>	<p><b>1763:</b> The Treaty of Paris ends the French and Indian War.</p> <p><b>1962:</b> The Soviet Union exchanged American U-2 Pilot Gary Powers for a captured Soviet spy.</p> <p><b>1964:</b> Bob Dylan's album <i>The Times They Are A-Changing</i> is released</p> <p><b>2007:</b> Barack Obama begins his presidential campaign.</p> <p><b>2007:</b> General David Petraeus takes command of US forces in Iraq.</p>	<p><b>1847:</b> Thomas Edison is born.</p> <p><b>1936:</b> Burt Reynolds is born.</p> <p><b>1953:</b> Jeb Bush is born.</p> <p><b>1964:</b> Sarah Palin is born.</p> <p><b>1979:</b> The Iranian Revolution occurs as followers of Ayatollah Khomeini overthrow the US-backed Shah.</p> <p><b>1990:</b> Nelson Mandela is released from prison.</p> <p><b>1992:</b> Taylor Lautner is born.</p> <p><b>2012:</b> Whitney Houston dies.</p> <p><b>Inventors' Day</b></p>	<p><b>1809:</b> Charles Darwin is born.</p> <p><b>1809:</b> Abraham Lincoln is born.</p> <p><b>1909:</b> The NAACP is founded in New York City.</p> <p><b>1999:</b> Bill Clinton is acquitted in his impeachment trial.</p> <p><b>2000:</b> Charles Schultz, creator of <i>Peanuts</i>, dies.</p> <p><b>Darwin Day</b></p> <p><b>National Freedom to Marry Day</b></p> <p><b>Red Hand Day</b></p> <p><b>Georgia Day</b></p>	<p><b>1542:</b> Henry the VIII executes his fifth wife.</p> <p><b>1689:</b> William and Mary become Queen and King of England.</p> <p><b>1923:</b> Chuck Yeager is born.</p> <p><b>1944:</b> Jerry Springer is born.</p> <p><b>2012:</b> Washington State legalizes gay marriage.</p> <p><b>World Radio Day</b></p>	<p><b>1779:</b> James Cook is killed in Hawaii.</p> <p><b>1859:</b> Oregon joins the Union.</p> <p><b>1912:</b> Arizona joins the Union.</p> <p><b>1929:</b> The St. Valentine's Day Massacre takes place.</p> <p><b>1942:</b> Former Mayor of New York Michael Bloomberg is born.</p> <p><b>1948:</b> Teller, of comedic duo Penn and Teller, is born.</p> <p><b>2005:</b> YouTube is launched.</p> <p><b>Valentine's Day</b></p>

## Featured Art Submission



Burano by Camille Richmond, 9th grade Visual Arts

**How ART THOU?**

MUSIC CAFÉ & TAPAS BAR

Next door to The Terrace Theater.  
Receive 10% off with your Terrace Theater ticket stub

# Point/Counterpoint

**Nikita Narodnitskiy** and **Noah Jordan** hash it out this issue on popular modern dance crazes: the Nae Nae and the Dougie.



## Point: The Nae Nae

You're tired, you had a bad night scrubbing sandwich crust from your shower because your brother's spicy Italian hoagie couldn't wait till he was out of the bathtub, and it seems that nothing could put you right. Then, all of sudden, in your 1A Neuroscience Engineering and Hard Math English Course, someone in the corner shouts: "HUAH!" You feel better. You know exactly what to do. You stand up, and you drop that Nae Nae.

The Nae Nae is performed with mythical elegance that other such dance trends do not have (save for the Soulja Boy), but the beauty of it is that it's easy to conjure this elegance. It's a dance for the people. It's one of those few beautiful things in our society that remind us all that we are one.

The dance breaks down into 2 main sequences, both brimming with metaphorical significance. Step 1: The hand. During the dance, the hand is raised high above the head to signal to everyone that the Nae Nae is about to commence. Then the performer, following the cues of the song, enters the second component: the walk. The performer walks backwards in a choppy yet syncopated way to demonstrate that as humans, it's important to take a step back from our bustling lives and let go.

The dance wouldn't be possible without Georgia Hip-Hop group We Are Toonz. These four philosophers have paved the way for new age thinking. America would fall to ruins had these brave souls not emerged from the rubble and saved us. HUAH.

## Counterpoint: The Dougie

Crank Dat music is a form of modern hip-hop which emphasizes repetitive hooks, infectious, bass-driven rhythms and most importantly, the dance. This practice is as much of a business venture as it is an art form.

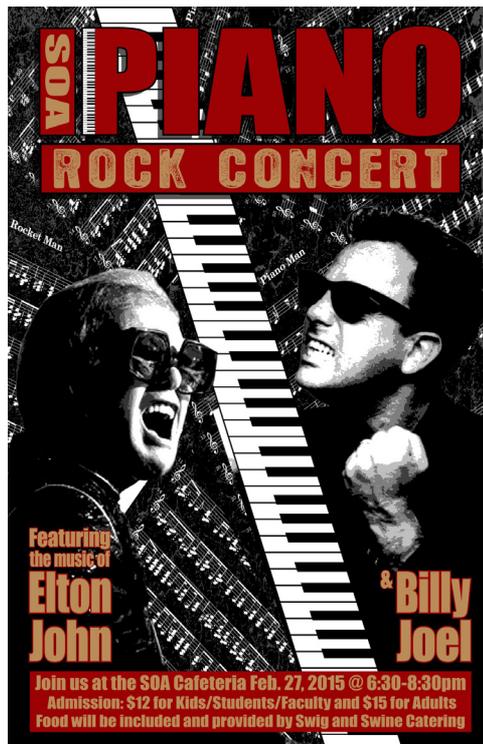
When Cali Swag District released "Teach Me How to Dougie" in 2010, the world of popular music was flipped on its head. Within months of its release everyone from Ellen DeGeneres to Al Roker was doing The Dougie, on live television, for the whole world to see; and if you hadn't already heard of the legendary song and dance by that time you were essentially dead to society.

Teach Me How to Dougie is a song that transcends sound. The beauty of the song lies in its explosive rise to the top and society's nearly unhealthy obsession with it. Cali Swag District did not go into the music game as professionals—in fact, "Teach Me How to Dougie" was the first song the group ever created.

Cali Swag District was meant to be famous, predestined, yet their story is not all success.

In 2011, tragedy struck when rapper M-Bone was gunned down in an Inglewood drive-by shooting incident. Three years later in 2014 fellow member JayAre died from a Sickle Cell Anemia related seizure.

The tale of The Dougie and Cali Swag District is both fun-filled and highly severe. From this eternal piece of art known as Teach Me How to Dougie we can all learn a lesson about the delicacy of life and the power of a dream. In the world of Cali Swag District anyone can make it big. All you need is a song, a dance, and a dream.



## Paint the Town **Red** and **Gold**

by Savanna Osborne

### Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

January 23 - February 8 (assigned days/times)  
Footlight Players present the classic play where husband and wife George and Martha give life to the idea that hatred is the other expression of love. \$30/adults, \$20/students

### Corn Shuckin' Sippin' Saturday

February 7 (1-5pm)  
Pay \$20 for all-you-can-eat oysters or \$10 per bucket and listen to music from Rawberry Jam. There'll be food from Chucktown Mobile Seafood, Coastal Crust, and Stono Café.

### Trivioke

Thursdays (8pm)  
Compete with others in a fast-paced team trivia and karaoke mix to win house cash at the Kickin' Chicken.

### Community Yoga Social

First Friday of every month (7-9pm)  
A one-hour all levels yoga class at the Yoga House of Charleston. \$25

### The Rocky Horror Picture Show

First Friday of every month (11:30pm)  
This classic show at the Terrace Theatre includes live music and theater accompaniment. \$10

### Vinyl Saturday

First Saturday of every month  
20% off all vinyl, new and used at Monster Music and Movies.

### Murder Mystery Cruise

Wednesdays (7:30pm)  
Join a 1920s Prohibition-era Speakeasy at the City Marina and watch a murder mystery unfold before your eyes. Guests are welcome to dress in 1920s attire. \$29.95

## Congratulations to Book Survey Winners!

Three names were drawn from last issue's survey where students told *Applause* what book they wanted to receive for Christmas. The names selected got the book they wanted, compliments of *Applause*. Senior **Stuart James** received Tolkien's *The Hobbit*, senior **Anthony Szwast** got *Eldest* by Christopher Paolini, and junior **Jacob Fairchild** was given Donn Pierce's *Cool Hand Luke*.



*Applause* editor Graham Crolley gives *Cool Hand Luke* to survey winner Jacob Fairchild.



Tavaris Brooks, 12th grade



Elliot Sim, 10th grade



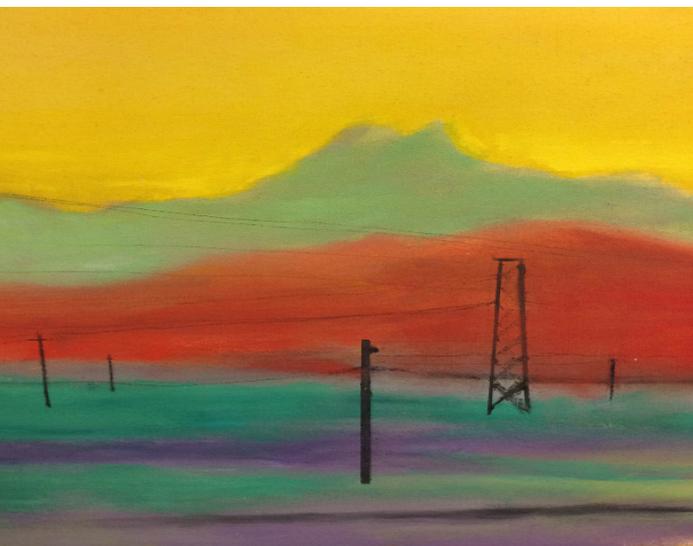
Piper Schaberg, 12th grade



Tyler Horton, 10th grade



Olivia Dipalo and Yulma Lopez, 12th grade



Fred Horton, 10th grade



Lexi Levine and Kannon Rickell, 12th grade

Thank you to all of SOA's talented Visual Artists! If you are interested in submitting artwork to *Applause*, regardless of your major, feel free to send your art to **suzanne@soa-applause.com**.

**Her**

I was going to tell her when  
I was seventeen and she was  
sixteen,  
that she was the epitome of why  
I lived,  
but she cocked her head and  
asked  
what it meant, so I told her I  
loved  
the way she laughed instead.  
Her hair smelled of apples  
and honeysuckle  
and I do not apologize.



Jessica Leiker

**A Drop of Peach**

I saw her every Tuesday at eleven,  
when her parents had turned out  
their lights  
and the sycamore was lit up by  
the street lamp.  
I would climb to the top of the  
tree as  
she sat in the window, reading,  
and I could reach out  
far enough to tap the window  
frame and she made  
me feel my stomach was in my  
throat  
and asked me what the hell I was  
doing  
in her tree, wrinkling her nose  
and scrunching her eyes.  
She new this very well, but I  
apologized anyway.

I told her I wanted to kiss her in  
the rain,  
to tuck her hair behind her ear,  
and to lay next to her and watch  
her  
as her chest heaved up and down  
with every sweet breath.  
When she asked if I had  
homework  
And why I seemed sad at home,  
I told her I could never be sad at  
home  
Because she was my home.  
-I winced.

I told her she was Beautiful- oh  
god that's so sappy,  
but she wouldn't believe me if I  
told her I loved the  
way she scrunched her nose when  
she was tired, and I said loved  
how she loved and what she loved  
and I loved  
the very idea of her, sycamores  
and street lamps,  
and muffled laughs at midnight,  
but she tucked herself away in  
the  
corners of my mind and never  
went away.

I lay my sun-stained apron across the rusted iron chair  
soaked in the shade filled with blossoms above.  
The chair had lasted longer than Grandpa,

who would give me a peach  
to eat on the edge of his knee.  
He would smile with faintly tea stained teeth as the sugary  
juice dripped down my arm.  
When he couldn't bend,  
I learned to pick strawberries and peppers from his garden  
in exchange for a slice of homemade bread and Coke.  
He gave me his long drawl and missing g's  
and had shown me how to crank fresh ice cream  
that stuck to my teeth and oozed its way into each layer of  
his pies.

I now sit in the iron chair, a peach in  
my lap  
as a spring breeze passes,  
pulling summer along by the hand.  
I bite into the peach,  
and let the juice drip down my arm.



Kate Grayson, author of "Her" (left)

**"Blacktracks crawled out of  
your childhood and stood on  
your tongue."  
from "Auschwitz" by Mollie Pate**

**Student Writing**

**"Her hair smelled of apples  
and honeysuckle and I do  
not apologize."  
from "Her" by Kate Grayson**



Mollie Pate

**Auschwitz**

so you spoke,  
your hand on my toddling knee,  
a cigar between your blush lips.  
train tracks, you whispered  
to me through the smoke.  
blacktracks crawled out of your  
childhood and stood on your  
tongue.  
gas trickled from between  
your lips and fell into outlines:  
children rotting in their shoes-  
crouched like dogs in cages  
sputtering like old car engines  
and with pooling eyes, they  
watched  
their feeble bones crack and split.  
you watched as bodies began to  
stack,  
their hands bound in tracks.

tell me, grandmother,  
did those tracks ever  
find their way out?

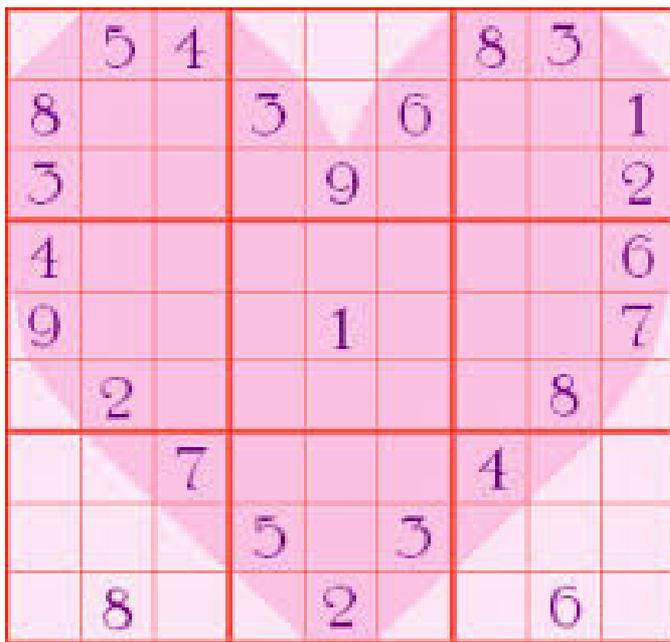


Eli Braddock

**Here, Now**

Here, now, see the place  
where walls crumple like  
wrapping paper.  
The screams still resonating in  
the walls,  
a metallic echo.  
Taste the glowing, dirty, toxic  
ash.  
Feel the sting of the flame.  
I know that if you could imagine  
the pressure of a collapsing roof,  
the wheels no longer spinning  
underneath us,  
you could save them.  
But it's too late.  
And maybe if you were here, now  
you could capture the souls in an  
empty jar,  
before they whisper away.  
But now you are miles from this  
place,  
sirens blaring,  
as if to mock outstretched arms,  
the sound sliding by like smoke.  
You are overdue  
here.  
And so somewhere  
the flames must be taller  
the tire skids longer,  
the names of the dead must cover  
the papers,  
because,  
I stand with few others,  
the escaped.  
I, with only socks for protection  
against the scorching roof,  
climbed through the hatch  
marked  
emergencies.  
I saw the front of the bus  
obliterated.  
And as I and the rest of the  
survivors  
ran across the empty highway,  
dirty with smoke,  
I could taste the blood in my  
mouth.  
And you are here now  
with mustard yellow suits  
to spray the wreckage,  
to suffocate the flames.  
But I know there is nothing  
you can really do –  
not here,  
not now.

Thank you to Mr. Hammes' 9th grade Creative Writers! Send writing to  
be featured in Applause at [suzanne@soa-applause.com](mailto:suzanne@soa-applause.com).



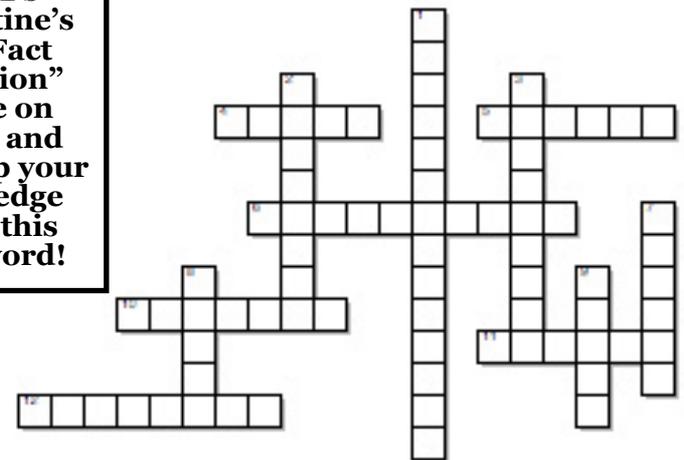
### Valentine's Day Word Search

V O S H L K A A T H T W  
 D D B T J O H L G R D Z  
 Z A G W G K V L A J C N  
 F T B M N N X E J L M B  
 V E J I M C H X R R R A  
 P N P S Q A Q B F O R B  
 K I U T Z N C U T E N E  
 P G T F Q D H S L N O G  
 J H I D R Y J D F Z E D  
 N T X N O G V X J R V D  
 X G J K S S K Q E K I A  
 P T R O S E K N M Q X R

- Babe
- Cute
- Love
- Pink
- Rose
- Candy
- Heart
- Date Night

### Valentine's Day/Black History Crossword Puzzle

Read Aly Wintz's "Valentine's Day: Fact or Fiction" article on page 8 and brush up your knowledge to ace this crossword!



ACROSS

- 4 Civil rights organization, founded Feb. 12, 1909
- 5 Profession of Valentine's would-have-been father-in-law
- 6 Valentine's tradition started in the 1900s
- 10 Writer of "The Parliament of Fowls"
- 11 Hiram Rhodes Revels, first African-American elected to \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 First African-American in MLB

DOWN

- 1 Social institution that proclaimed February 14th St. Valentine's Day
- 2 What Roman emperor Claudius II outlawed
- 3 St. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 A "nutty" guy, well known in black history
- 8 Dubbed by Congress "the first lady of civil rights"
- 9 Dr. Mae Jemison, first African-American woman to go to \_\_\_\_\_

# WE'RE HERE FOR THE APPLAUSE

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## Horoscopes

♈ **Aquarius:** January 20- February 18 ♈

Disconcerting information in the news about the general state of the world economy might have planted some unsettling seeds in your mind. On the whole, you should be pretty financially stable now, and this trend is likely to continue.

♉ **Pisces:** February 19- March 20 ♊

This isn't the day to make a final decision of any kind. Wait until you're in a more secure frame of mind. In the meantime, list your different options. This will get you back to reality.

♈ **Aries:** March 21- April 19 ♈

You're a logical person, Aries. If a feeling is particularly strong, go with it. Don't write it off because it seems illogical. Life isn't always predictable. If you give yourself permission, you can trust your intuition about nearly anything.

♉ **Taurus:** April 20- May 20 ♉

Doubts about a friend's motives could plague you today, Taurus. This person seems to be acting strangely and isn't communicating. There are others who are in a better space whose company you will enjoy at this time. Get together and enjoy the amiable atmosphere.

♊ **Gemini:** May 21- June 20 ♊

A friend or family member might act strangely and seem distracted. You may wonder if he or she is upset with you. This probably isn't the case. This person has issues that need attention. Allow them some space.

♋ **Cancer:** June 21- July 22 ♋

You might have some trouble focusing on whatever work you do today, but this is only a temporary condition. You should be back to your normal self tomorrow. Stay home tonight, listen to music, and take it easy.

♌ **Leo:** July 23- August 22 ♌

Doubts about business and financial matters might weigh on your mind now, Leo, so much so that they invade your dreams. The dreams are only a reflection of your worries - they aren't prophetic. Your situation is probably better than it seems on the surface.

♍ **Virgo:** August 23- September 22 ♍

A scheduling conflict may come up today, Virgo. A business engagement could interfere with a social event. You might doubt whether you can attend both, but if you plan carefully, it should be okay.

♎ **Libra:** September 23- October 22 ♎

Some paperwork you need to do for a task might be delayed - hung up in the mail or filed in the wrong place. It might take a while to locate it, but it should turn up eventually. There might be some strange messages for you, and you may not be sure whether or not you should return the calls.

♏ **Scorpio:** October 23- November 21 ♏

You aren't being told something. Personal relationships, particularly love and romance, should be stable and rewarding now, although today you may not have much time to spend with those you care about. Hang in there.

♐ **Sagittarius:** November 22- December 21 ♐

Business transactions that could take place in your home or perhaps involve the home might seem a bit unclear today, Sagittarius. Before agreeing to anything, read the fine print and verify all the facts about what you're signing. Use your intuition.

♑ **Capricorn:** December 22- January 19 ♑

You might get a lot of mixed messages from friends, relatives, and colleagues, Capricorn. They may say one thing while you sense that they mean something else. Insist on hearing how they really feel. This can prevent a lot of resentment later.

## The Trivia Challenge

by Jakob Lazzaro

As another February rolls around for Applause, we challenge you on your knowledge of black Americans- since it is black history month! Jemma Wyke-Smith returns as trivia empress to battle Cece Fish in this historical contest.

### Questions

1. When was the 13th Amendment ratified?
2. Who was the first black Major League Baseball player?
3. What constitutional amendment granted voting rights to African Americans?
4. Who was the first black Supreme Court justice?
5. Name the historian who created Black History Month.
6. What was the first state to abolish slavery?
7. True or False. Martin Luther King, Jr. won a Nobel Peace Prize.
8. What city was Martin Luther King, Jr. assassinated in?
9. Who was the first black secretary of state?
10. Who is the fastest man on Earth? He set a world record time of 9.58 seconds in the 100-meter dash.



Jakob Lazzaro

### Jemma Wyke-Smith, 12th Grade Theatre

1. 1886.
2. I have zero knowledge of sports.
3. 15th?
4. I honestly have no clue.
5. Oh! Martin Luther King!
6. Delaware.
7. True.
8. Is it somewhere in Tennessee? It's Memphis.
9. Condelezza Rice.
10. Usain Bolt

4/10



Jakob Lazzaro

### Cece Fish, 12th Grade Theatre

1. After 1865- that's my answer.
2. Jackie Robinson.
3. The 15th!
4. Thurgood Marshall.
5. It's 1926 so it will either be Charles, Carl, or Christopher.
6. Pennsylvania. I know that's not it.
7. True.
8. Baltimore, Maryland.
9. I can see his face!
10. Usain Bolt.

5/10

Answers 1. 1865; 2. Jackie Robinson; 3. The 15th Amendment; 4. Thurgood Marshall; 5. Carter G. Woodson; 6. Vermont; 7. True; 8. Memphis, Tennessee; 9. Colin Powell; 10. Usain Bolt.

### The Victor

With a one point advantage, Cece Fish skated into the throne room of trivia empress Jemma Wyke-Smith and snatched the crown from her head and the scepter from her hands. Jemma is out, and Cece is the new empress who will return next month.



Jakob Lazzaro

Are you interested in competing for the title of Trivia Emperor in The Trivia Challenge? The winner will receive a \$15 Barnes & Noble gift card and eternal glory. If you are interested in competing talk to Dr. Cusatis in room 1115 during High School lunch or email [jakob@soa-applause.com](mailto:jakob@soa-applause.com) with the subject line "Trivia." We hope to see you!

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Nikita Narodnitskiy



“Langston Hughes because I like the way he wrote.”  
Roey Leonardi, 8th grade Creative Writing

Nikita Narodnitskiy



“Marian Wright Edelman because she started an organization to help less fortunate children.”  
Elle Hueske, 8th grade Creative Writing

Nikita Narodnitskiy



“Dizzy Gillespie. He came from humble beginnings and made his way to the top.”  
Frank Fabor, 12th grade Visual Arts

Nikita Narodnitskiy



“Migos. They make me trap hard.”  
Dallas Grant, 12th grade Theatre

Graham Crolley



“Jimi Hendrix because he’s a god.”  
Joe Roddey, 12th grade Band

Nikita Narodnitskiy



# “What African American cultural icon has inspired you the most and why?”

by Dmitri Grigorieff and Nikita Narodnitskiy

Nikita Narodnitskiy



“Oprah Winfrey. She took some opportunities that were basic and really created a franchise off of that.”  
Mr. Holt, Guidance Counselor

“Beyoncé because she’s flawless, and she worked really hard for what she has.”  
Liv Provosti, 8th grade Creative Writing

Nikita Narodnitskiy



“Bob Marley. He used his art to convey a message of equality, love, and the fight against racism. We should bring in positive vibrations.”  
Mr. Lindgren, Physics teacher

Nikita Narodnitskiy



“Ben Carson because he had a really hard childhood, but he pulled through to become the greatest neurosurgeon in the world.”  
Jessica Leiker, 9th grade Creative Writing

Nikita Narodnitskiy



“Maya Angelou because of her writing and what she stood for and because of Poetry Out Loud.”  
Kate Grayson, 9th grade Creative Writing

Nikita Narodnitskiy



“Michael Jackson, because he was arguably one of the most famous.”  
Alec Reinhart, 9th grade Band

Nikita Narodnitskiy



“Kurt Franklin because his music is so upbeat and uptempo, it’s really inspirational for those that are not into religion like that.”  
Shamond Riddy, 11th grade Theatre