

Applause

March 2015

Volume 16, Issue 5

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- How to best avoid becoming sick
- Results of Mock Trial competition
- Excerpts from soon-to-be-published Creative Writing Senior theses

Letter from the Editors

Dear SOA,

The end of the school year is rapidly approaching. However, this final stretch is always the most taxing. We hope this issue will help to distract you from the academic chaos and sleep deprivation.

In this issue, Aly Wintz takes a look into what it means to be tolerant of LGBTQ issues and how crucial it is for our society to practice tolerance as well as provide support. We have also investigated some reasons as to why everyone has been so sick this year. Could it have something to do with the time we spend washing our hands? Check out Sarah McCord's article on page 16 for some SOA Myth-Busting.

We are excited to include some middle school perspective as well, as seventh-grader Abby McLaughlin offered to provide an interview with Mr. Wells, middle school English teacher. Anyone else who is interested in being involved with the production of *Applause* should contact suzanne@soa-applause.com. We'd be happy to include you!

Our February issue is up on our website, www.soa-applause.com, along with the rest of our extensive archive. Check out some of our old material. It only gets better with age.

Have a happy St. Patrick's Day, SOA, and stay positive!

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



Applause

the official student publication of
Charleston County School of
the Arts

Founded in 1995 by Rose Maree Myers

Editors-in-Chief:

Suzanne Jackson
Taylor Dahl
Graham Crolley

Business Managers:

Savanna Osborne
Sarah McCord

Feature Editor:

Dmitri Grigorieff

News Editor:

Cherry Hu

Graphics Editor:

Nick Scapellato

Webmasters:

Jason Wintz

Jakob Lazzaro

Staff Writers:

Nikita Narodnitskiy

Noah Jordan

John Cusatis, Ph.D., Advisor
Charleston County School of the Arts
5109 West Enterprise St.
North Charleston, SC 29405

Many thanks to Gretchen Hertel for our cover!

Editorial Gay Marriage in Alabama: Baby Steps and Giant Leaps

by Savanna Osborne

Is it just me, or is it hard to believe that in 2015 we are still struggling for equal rights? We are still fighting to close the gaps that have distanced human beings for so long, still working to obtain the same privileges as our peers. It is still an effort to prove that we are as worthy as our straight companions. Here is a movement made of love and opportunity and fairness, all shot down time after time by those who fear this surging revolution. We take little steps every day; some are very quiet and some are very loud, but they still move us forward all the same.

One notorious state has been taking big steps lately. Since February 9, 2015, Alabama has legally recognized same-sex marriage. No offense to any Alabamians out there, but it must be noted that it has been one of the most hard-headed states since the civil rights era, so this is an event to truly be celebrated.

In late 1996, an executive order was issued banning both same-sex marriage and the legal recognition of same-sex marriages issued in other states or countries. In April of 1998, the Alabama State House voted 79-12 in favor of this ban and four days later, the Alabama State Senate approved

the bill 30-0. It was signed into law. In 2006, the ban continued as the Alabama State House voted 85-7 in favor of Amendment 774, a revision of the Constitution of Alabama which bans same-sex marriage and a "union replicating marriage of or between persons of the same sex." Again, the Alabama State Senate approved the bill 30-0. Three months later, Alabama's voters endorsed adding Amendment 774 to the state constitution with 81% in favor.

The trouble began in 2014. Several lawsuits were filed by couples attempting to gain recognition of their out-of-state marriages. In the case of *Strawser v. Strange*, Judge Granade ruled in favor of a male couple seeking the right to marry in Alabama. In reaction to this case and others, the Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court stated in a letter that his "State Constitution and morality was under attack" and that the federal government has no authority to "desecrate the institution of marriage." As well, he warned any judge that might issue a marriage license to a same-sex couple that doing this would be in defiance of the laws of Alabama.

However, less than a month later, Judge Granade's ruling went into effect. That same day, nine counties in Alabama issued marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Much resistance followed, and several counties ceased issuing marriage licenses altogether just to avoid being made to give licenses to same-sex couples. Forty-seven counties, accounting for 82% of Alabama's residents, now issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

And so this story concludes: we continue taking steps. Every day reveals a new member of the gay community standing up and fighting for their rights and their love. Thirty-seven states have legal same-sex marriage because of these people, leaving only 13 states remaining. If we can overturn Alabama's ban, we can do anything. It's up to all of us to take these steps, small or large, as we grow closer to the equality we rightly deserve.



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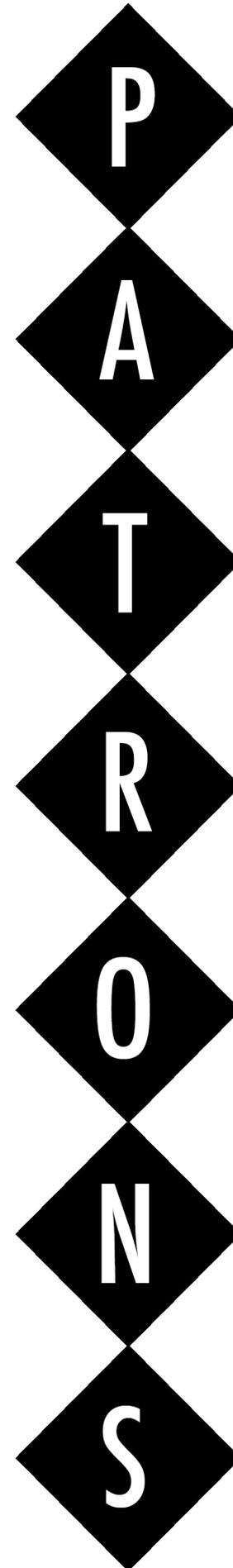
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ART CAMP IS COMING

March 30th - April 1st



Sign up outside of Mr. Lindgren's room to volunteer at Art Camp!

Upcoming Events:

Navy Band Concert

featuring select SOA Band Students
Monday, March 9
12:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Middle School Band Pre-Festival Concert

Wednesday, March 11
6:30 pm

High School Orchestra Pre-Festival Concert

Thursday, March 12
6:30 pm

Theatre Major Showcase

featuring 9th-11th grade Theatre students
Monday, March 16
4:00 pm

The Misanthrope by Moliere

10th and 11th grade Theatre performance
Thursday and Friday, March 19th and 20th
6:30 pm

Music Down In My Soul

Vocal Concert
Friday and Saturday, March 20th and 21st
6:30 pm
Admission: \$15/adult, \$10/student; fee includes dinner

SCBDA Concert Festival

Tuesday- Thursday, March 24th-26th
9:00 am- 4:00 pm

Symphony Concert

with Robert Ivey Ballet and Charleston City Ballet
Sotille Theater
Friday and Saturday, March 27th and 28th
8:00 pm
Admission: \$20/person

Mock Trial 2015

by Dmitri Grigorieff

Mock Trial is a competition in which schools develop teams of attorneys and witnesses around a specific case, which is released on Halloween. Teams have a prosecution and defense and prepare rigorously until the competition, which is judged by real attorneys and takes place on February 28th.

The Mock Trial Competition was fierce, like last year, except that this year SOA had two teams and previous experience.

Performing in the competition, I was unable to see our B team compete, but they took in a "Most Effective Witness" and a "Most Effective Attorney" award, which demonstrates that they did well.

Our A team however was undoubtedly improved. I participated on the team last year, and although we were determined, we had never competed, which lead to some scrappy encounters.

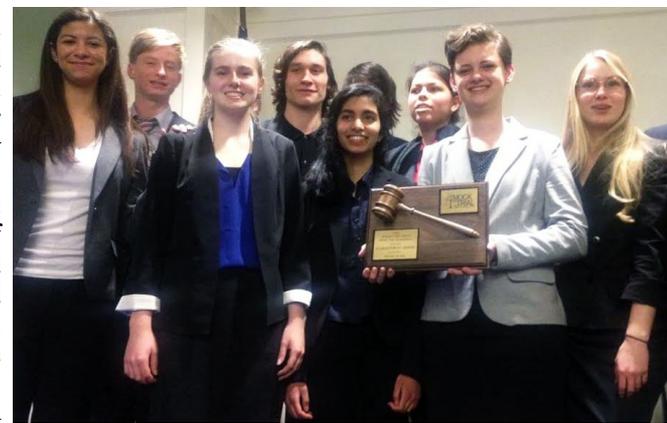
This year we were far more succinct, had far less clumsy lines of questioning, and nobody was forced to deliver a closing statement they had made up five minutes ago. However, we still fell victim to a time violation in the third round, which can be a killer. At the end of the competition, the A team received multiple awards for their performance in various rounds. **Callie McLean**, in particular, was awarded for her roles as a witness and as an attorney.

The A team was declared a "Wild Card" team at the end of the day, which means that we will be factored in to a group of wild cards in regions all over South Carolina, and may advance to the state level, however ultimately we did not.

Another successful year at All-State for Strings Majors

by Cherry Hu

This year, forty-two students qualified for SC's All State orchestra from our middle and high school string programs. Hosted at River Bluff High School in Columbia, the event lasted for two and a half days from Feb. 20-22. With so many participants, Dr. Selby and Mrs. Mears (high school and middle school conductors) took everyone on a field trip upstate. A huge thanks goes out to the boosters club, parents, private teachers, and our conductors who made the event a wonderful experience.



The members of team A (From left to right: Sabrina Sanchez, Nikita Narodnitskiy, Callie McClean, Dmitri Grigorieff, Vasantha Sambamurti, Stev Dey, Zoe Abedon, Anna Woodward, and Maddy Parnall) celebrate their completed performance.

Jane Maybank

The New Civil Rights Movement

by Jason Wintz

As America celebrates Women’s history month in March and ends it’s celebration of Black History month in February, we are reminded of the horrible events that took place and are taking place out of a severe mindset of gender discrimination and racism. While the fight for the rights of women and minorities is far from over, the world is encompassing another issue that unfortunately is causing history to repeat itself.

People are being murdered, tortured, and forced to hide for the sake of success. They are forced to hide that they are LGBTQ.

Just this past semester, a transgender male amongst The School of the Arts’ Senior class was denied from his number one university for not fitting “the image” the South Carolina college was trying to portray. This past year it was also discovered that Dr. James Barry, an English doctor from the 1800s, actually was born female. In February, Austin Wallis, an openly gay teen was threatened to be expelled if he did not wipe his popular YouTube channel of all videos regarding LGBTQ. Also in February, an article was finally released on a gay man by the name of Lamar who was murdered in the city of Louisville, Kentucky simply for the crime of being himself, and not being ashamed of that. This is quiet; it’s not well known, just as the 1960s were not known for blasting the headlines entitled, “Black Male Murdered For Being Black.”

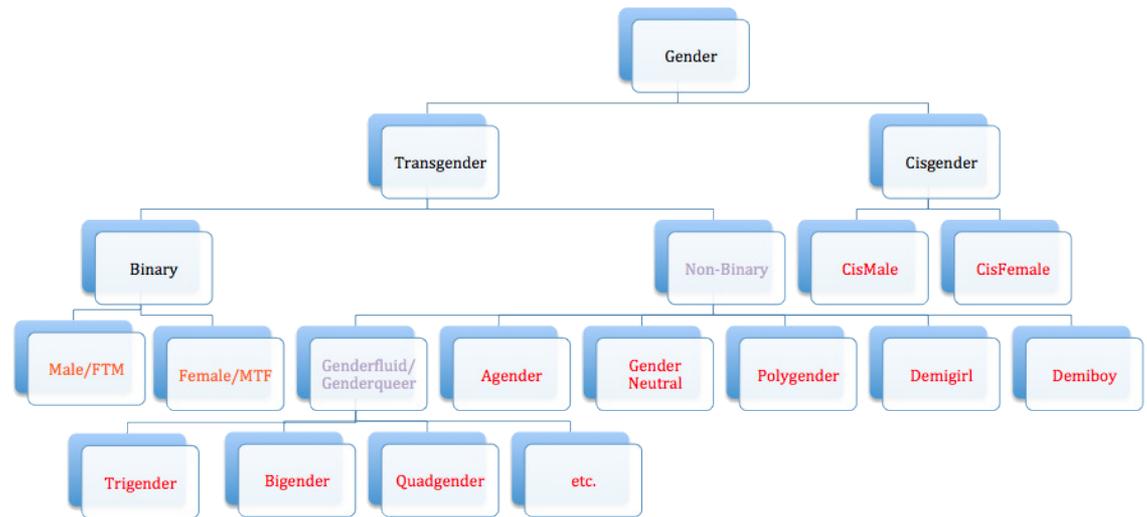
Gay rights are slowly moving across the horizons of the US, arguing that church must be separated from state and equal rights are needed. Slowly, people are learning to accept homosexuals just as fifty years ago to accept African Americans and thirty years ago to allow women to work in

Student Opinions:

“Gender is a fluid aspect of someone’s life and it is their decision how to identify. It should not be definitive of their character. By disallowing someone from claiming who they want to be, we are devaluing who they are as a person.”
Vasantha Sambamurti, 11th grade Creative Writing



“I think [transgendered individuals] deserve the same rights as everyone else... People are people.”
Joe Roddey, 12th grade Band



ministry and positions of power. Slowly, people are finding that LGBTQ is not a new concept. Actually, transgender and gay individuals have been noticed for centuries. They have just always been persecuted, murdered, and/or quietly ignored for the sake of ignorant people hoping it would go away.

One case to specifically talk about is the up and coming awareness of transgender individuals.

“What, you mean drag queens?” You say with a confused expression. No, I mean people who suffer from the social construct of gender. These individuals usually struggle from an identity crisis, with elements of depression and anxiety. Many feel extreme feelings of dysphoria, or “a state of unease or generalized dissatisfaction with life.” In the LGBTQ case, this deals specifically with the body not matching the mind. Some do not fit even within the gender binary of male and female and thus tend to struggle by having a “spork” complex. There are many terms to describe transgender for gender is a spectrum and

if we truly wanted to represent every gender we would have to have a label for every single person that has ever existed, is existing, and will ever exist. Nonetheless, thanks to the Internet LGBTQ individuals across the globe have been able to gather and grow in education as more terms are being created.

Transgender individuals are often forgotten and remarked as those who are simply going through a phase, or those who are mentally ill. For a long time the answer to your child feeling similarities with a different gender was to give them a front lobotomy

and/or shock treatment. This was regarded as transconversion therapy and is still used in the modern day by attempting to “pray the gay away” and to institutionalize those who feel that way. There are some scientific ways to determine if one is transgender such as analyzing the patterns in their

brain. However, this test is hard to come by, and is generally not always accurate. How do the doctors determine if someone is transgender? Easy, they don’t, the person does.

In a final example, a memorial must be paid to recent victim of transconversion therapy, Leelah Alcorn.

The seventeen year old, born Joshua Alcorn committed suicide at 2

am by throwing herself in front of a truck. Leelah was a transgender male to female. This means that she was born male but felt female in her brain and throughout her being. She was bullied throughout school and then was taken out and put through transconversion therapy by her parents. Told that she would never be accepted, Leelah relied on one friend whom she was not allowed to see due to her apparently being a bad influence on the transgender female. The senior girl was essentially locked in isolation having her phone, social media, and all communication with the outside world taken away at various intervals. Leelah grew extremely depressed. She left a final suicide note on Tumblr and died before being able to finish her last semester of high school.

Leelah’s life could’ve been saved by education and by acceptance of LGBTQ rights. Through education and through tolerance despite religion or personal views, the world can save valuable people like Leelah, like Lamar, like Austin, like Dr. Barry and like so many more that walk with you on a daily basis, holding the weight of society on their shoulders. Let’s educate in schools, let’s practice tolerance so that these wonderful minds can be spared.

We cannot truly have tolerance without education.

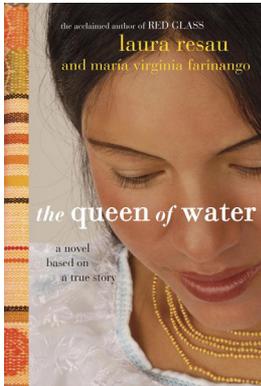
“Gender is a spectrum, and if we truly wanted to represent every gender, we would have to have a label for every single person that has ever existed, is existing, and will ever exist.”

Writer Laura Resau to Visit SOA

by Jakob Lazzaro

The combined clout of SOA's English and Creative Writing departments never has any trouble attracting renowned writers and poets to speak. However, SOA's upcoming visit by Laura Resau, author of *The Queen of Water*, came from an unexpected place- the Spanish department.

The existence of *The Queen of Water* also sprang from an unusual circumstance. The book tells the remarkable true story of indigenous Ecuadoran María Virginia who, at six years old, was sold into servitude for a family in the Mestizo ruling class- a common practice in Ecuador at the time. The book follows María's trials and tribulations growing up as a second-class citizen enduring emotional and physical abuse from her employers.



After escaping this form of slavery and returning to her family, María focuses on getting an education while coming to terms with her identity- is she indígena, mestizo, or both?

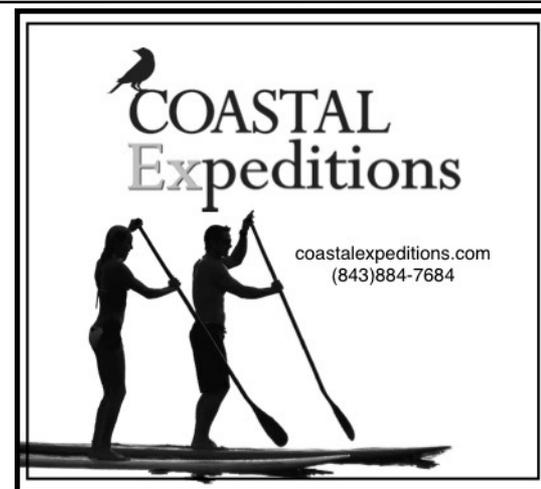
Author Laura Resau met María while teaching ESL in Colorado and was immediately enthralled with her story. María had dreamed of writing a book about her life since she was a teenager but hesitated because she wanted to work with an experienced writer. Meeting Ms. Resau provided her with this opportunity.

Ms. Crawford and her sister, both Spanish teachers, came across the book while preparing for the summer trip they are leading to Ecuador. Both enthralled with the book, they decided to introduce it to their curriculums. After discovering that Ms. Resau is available for speaking engagements, the duo decided to raise the funds- with the added bonus of getting María Virginia to come all the way from Ecuador speak as well.

"I think that the book has given [my students] a greater understanding of one particular aspect of culture in Spanish-speaking countries, particularly in Ecuador," said Ms. Crawford. "I think it's also been inspiring in a general sense, just in terms of seeing someone that was determined to get an education and rise above adversity to create the sort of life she really wanted for herself."

María is now working towards a degree in psychology while running two small businesses- selling Andean crafts and operating a small day spa just outside of Otavalo, Ecuador. *The Queen of Water* is Ms. Resau's sixth book. The authors will be speaking on campus during 4th block on March 9th and will be available to meet after school in the Media Center. María Virginia will also be selling crafts.

"I'm looking forward to meeting both of the women," said Ms. Crawford. "However, I think more than anything I'm looking forward to meeting María and seeing how her life has turned out. I would encourage anybody who loves to read to read this book."

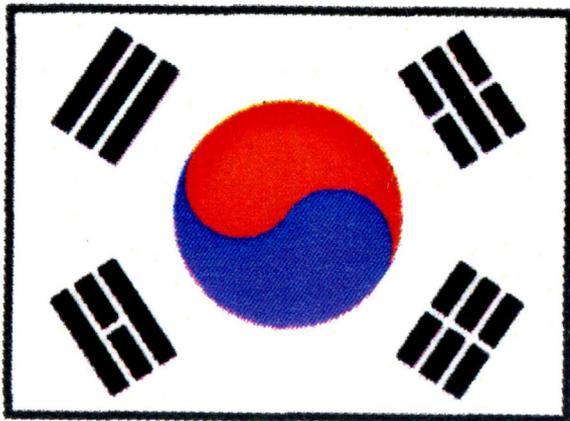


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Where Were They Then: Dr. Selby

Dr. Christopher Selby, our immensely talented high school Band teacher, agreed to an interview with Applause staff member Savanna Osborne. In addition to being an excellent music teacher, he is also a gifted musician and composer. Pictured below, Dr. Selby practices his talent at age fifteen.

Savanna Osborne: What is your fondest memory from childhood?

Christopher Selby: When I was a senior in High School, I was taking violin and composition lessons with teachers from the San Francisco Conservatory. I composed a ten-minute orchestral concert overture that I dedicated to my dad and kept it a secret from him. My fondest memory is of the night I conducted my high school symphony orchestra in the premier of this piece at our Spring Concert and surprised my dad with this gift of appreciation; the reviewer from the *San Francisco Chronicle* wrote an article that was published in the next morning's paper. The same day of the performance, the girl that I had a crush on the entire year said she wanted to be my girlfriend. That was a good day.

SO: When and how did you become interested in music?

and Beethoven. My mom played guitar, and we sang all the time.

SO: What sparked you to want to teach others?

CS: I went to a high school similar to Academic Magnet, but this one had the best school orchestra in San Francisco. They had a tutoring program, and I loved tutoring; I remember winning small awards for tutoring more than anyone else in the school. My senior year, I was a teacher's assistant for the orchestra director, and I began coaching a small chamber ensemble that got a superior at solo and ensemble festival. That year, I decided I loved teaching music enough to do it as a profession.

SO: Did you consider any other professions while growing up?

CS: No. Well, actually yes. Up until Christmas of my senior year, I was planning to be a Science teacher. I enjoyed tutoring math and chemistry, and my dad envisioned me in the field of science. I remember sharing a cup of hot chocolate with my mom that Christmas, and she asked me why, if I was so talented in music, would I not want to teach music instead. The more I thought about it, the more I realized she was right, and I wrote back to all of the colleges to which I had applied requesting them to change my major to Music Education. After that, I have had only one professional focus, and that is to be the best school orchestra teacher I can be.

Provided

SO: If you had a high school version of yourself in your class, what would you think of him? What advice would you give?

CS: I have had high school versions of myself, and some of them keep in touch with me. Only two days ago I was on the phone with a former student who has struggled trying to figure out what she wants to do with her life; I reminded her to listen to herself, and follow her dreams (the realistic ones). If you love teaching, teach because you love it—and not for the money.



Where Are They Now: Nicholas Bentz

Nicholas Bentz, SOA class of 2013, is doing great things as a sophomore at the Peabody Institute at the Johns Hopkins University where he is studying both composition and violin performance. Aly Wintz contacted him to see what exactly he has been up to, and what wisdom he could impart on SOA's current students.

AW: We were informed you went to Moscow. Why was that and what did you do there?

NB: Yes, I did go to Moscow! This past summer I attended a festival in Powell River, British Columbia, and I won the concerto competition there. The grand prize was a trip to Moscow to perform with the Moscow Symphony Orchestra. Russia was an amazing experience, and I had the time of my life while I was there. Of course I got to explore the city as well. Walking through Red Square and the Kremlin was really eye opening, and I can't wait to get an opportunity to go back again! I'll have to work on my Russian before I go, though.

AW: Any plans this year to open your compositions to the world?

NB: Definitely. My piece "Essay" is being premiered this February by the Charleston Symphony, and the conductor of the Moscow Symphony Orchestra has expressed interest in it, so it may get a European premiere as well. Stateside, my thirty-minute long piano quintet, "Carried by the Sky," is set to be premiered this May in Baltimore. Additionally, I'm currently writing a piece for the SONAR New Music Ensemble to be premiered in April titled "Dismantled Embankments." It's a whirlwind of a journey through the different theories behind Couperin's "Les Barricades Mystérieuses," an odd piece that no one has really been able to explain. Also, I plan to start work on a harp trio based on *Anna Karenina* to be premiered in Philadelphia February 2016. So all in all, I'd say there's going to be a lot of music by mine floating around in the months to come!

AW: What is an all-nighter like in a conservatory?

NB: Well all-nighters are few and far between. I try to get around three to four hours of sleep on an average night due to my work schedule, but sometimes the amount of things I need

to get done is just too steep. That's when the trusty 'all-nighter' comes in. Basically, I get all my materials ready and go find a nice spot in one of the great lounges that Peabody has. It's a forgotten fact that Peabody used to be an art gallery, and luckily the school has maintained most of the amazing statuary it had since it first opened in the 1850s. It's really inspiring to be by yourself surrounded by Greek and Roman statues, especially at three or four in the morning.

AW: As a previous vocal major, do you currently have any plans in that department?

NB: Vocal music still plays a huge role in my life, and I definitely don't foresee myself not interacting with it in one way or another. In the past year I've been in the pit or have

Provided

been concertmaster for two operas from Mozart to Britten. Also, numerous people have approached me to commission song cycles, and the first one, "To Pripyat" (that's the working title, at least) is set to be premiered this coming winter. The song cycle is a reflection upon the aftershock of the Chernobyl disaster in the 1980s written by a poet who was evacuated from the uninhabitable zone, so it's easily going to rank among my darker, more serious pieces. Being brought up in the vocal department, I really feel a big connection to vocal music in general,



and that education makes it much easier to take words and to set them effectively, which is a wonderful skill to have as a composer.

AW: If you could say anything to your high school self what would it be?

NB: Never be afraid of failure. It's such a valuable lesson to learn, but it's also one of the hardest to implement in your life. Many times I tended to live in the 'now,' and whenever anything didn't go my way in any respect, I would try to fix it immediately in order to avoid a further sense of failure, and while that works, it is extremely time-consuming to keep backtracking and filling in your own gaps. You have to throw yourself at what you love with complete abandon. Things have a tendency to work out around you if you commit to what you want to do. Also, everything that you do relates itself to everything else. If you push yourself to succeed in the things that you feel you need to do, then your happiness and skill will permeate the other spheres of your life. I feel like one of the faculty at Peabody put it best when he said the following: "If you don't put yourself in the position of failing miserably, you will never succeed brilliantly."

Vocalists join National Choir in Salt Lake City

by Jason Wintz

Every two years the SOA Vocal department takes on a national challenge. Mr. Rogers and Mrs. Hammond allow all vocal students to audition for the ACDA National Choir, a major competition. This year, the challenge was on as we had forty students from grades sixth and up make it into the various choirs. For the second time since arriving at SOA my sophomore year, I have had the opportunity of attending this wonderful choir first in Dallas, Texas and this year in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Not only was it a challenge to get into the choir, but it was also a challenge to get there as Mr. Rogers was struck with the flu, and Mrs. Hammond is expecting twins. The vocal majors were certainly tested in making sure their behavior was top notch so that they didn't disrupt the teachers and chaperones. It also tested their dedication to make sure they looked after themselves and their classmates, especially the middle school students.

We were split up into several choirs, Junior High Boys, Junior High Girls, Senior High Choir, and The Latin American Collegiate Choir. The students would get to rehearse in the Salt Lake Tabernacle and sing with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, an experience that will be remembered forever. The students walked around the downtown area of Salt Lake, getting to explore



SOA Senior High Choir students and SOA Collegiate Choir students "sorority squat" in Salt Lake City.

everything the amazing city has to offer while also rehearsing a minimum of five hours a day.

While I don't know too much about the Junior High choirs, I have been told that they were rigorous, so much so that some of the middle school students were held after for more rehearsal. With this, on top of the rehearsal that they already had, it would eventually equal out to about ten hours of rehearsal in one day.

The Senior High Choir was led by the wonderful Dr. André Thomas and also was extremely difficult in repertoire. I was just across the hallway in the Latin-American room and can testify that this choir was loud and proud. Filled with over two hundred of the best singers in the nation, the audience was in awe at the amazing sound they could create in the Mormon Tabernacle.

Finally, The Latin-American Collegiate choir was filled with multi-generations. Not only could college students audition, but this year they moved some of the high school students up to the collegiate level and allowed adults in the community to audition. This made the Latin-American choir.

Performing nine pieces in Spanish, the choir was led by Christian Grases, a Venezuelan professor at USC Thornton. Not only was this choir an amazing cultural experience, but it was also the first of its kind. The ACDA claims that they can truly be an American Choral Directors Association after addressing that not all music in the Americas is in English.

After days of intense work from all of the vocal majors and the amazing experience, they headed back home to Charleston, exhausted and ready to face school in the morning.

them to disappear. Now we know. At least a part of it.

In a recent study from the FASEB Journal, UK scientists fed bumblebees controlled amounts of these common pesticides called "neonicotinoids." The pesticide is absorbed by the plant and transported throughout the cells till the plant eventually becomes paralyzed and dies. The unassuming b u m b l e b e e, unfortunately, is genetically more susceptible to neonicotinoids than other insects. It also reaches an end after consuming poisoned nectar and pollen.

Statistically, the average amount of neonicotinoids consumed by bees is 2.5 parts per billion. At levels even lower than that,

the mitochondria, which generate energy in their brain cells, ceased to work properly after exposure to the pesticide. Affected brain functions such as memory could have left the poor bee lost in the wild after venturing out from its colony. Results confirmed the colonies exposed to 2.5 ppb had significantly less workers and a smaller nest size.

Why do I care? Well, though not everyone likes honey mustard, I've yet to find a person who hates apple pie. Fruit trees and flowers bloom directly from the pollination process, a

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High School Piano Crocodile Rocks out to Elton John and Billy Joel

by Cherry Hu



Mr. Clarke, Zachary Gilbert, and Mark Ablonczy perform in the concert.

Having been to very few concerts, I wasn't sure what to expect from a piano rock concert, much less any rock concert. It turned out to be time well spent, without the eardrum-bursting experience I had at a past concert (to be fair, it was more pop). This was a different kind of live music than the Mozart and Beethoven I was used to playing in orchestra class, and now I'm wondering why I didn't major in piano. It's much easier to find a piano in rock than a violin.

I was, however, very lucky to be invited to accompany three songs -- "Your Song," "Tiny Dancer," and "New York State of Mind" -- with my fellow strings players. Elton John's "Your Song" sung by Nina Murchinson with piano played by Mr. Joe Clarke happened to be one of my all-time favorites. I was really impressed with their performance. It didn't alter the song too much like those YouTube covers you see sometimes, and the style of the music was conveyed very well.

Every song had the style of the era down. Some performers wore outfits with feather boas and sunglasses to get that 80s feel. It was a step back in time, with music acting as the collective time machine. Even Tevin Deas thought the crowd was "really into" his song (Benny and the Jets). Billy Joel's "Pressure" sung and accompanied by David Turasov and "Only the Good Die Young" sung by Shelby Levine and accompanied by Max Hutton were also some of my favorites. They were both intense and thrilling to hear, to say the least. All the songs were well put-together (the hardest thing in any ensemble), and I'd definitely go again if I could.

boring job bees do for free. Roundup herbicide uses an active ingredient called glyphosate, a chemical found in honey. It's hard to imagine how much bees contribute to our daily lives.

The CRS says "the monetary value of honey bees as commercial pollinators in the United States is estimated at about \$15-\$20 billion annually." Money, food, and flowers. Bees are simply amazing at what they do, that is, if we let them do their job.

Without the pesticides, bees are otherwise quite smart, so be careful the next time you want to call someone a bee brain.

An Interview with a Lady Raven

*Nick Scapellato interviewed junior vocal major **Shelby Levine** about the Lady Ravens, the female counterpart to the Ravens Rugby program at SOA. The season will be ramping up as March goes on. The Lady Ravens team was started in 2012 by Amy George who is now in the Air Force. The current coach is Megan Martha. **Shelby** wears the number 1 on the field, and we predict big things for her and the rest of the Lady Ravens this year!*

Nick Scapellato: How are the Lady Ravens different from the Ravens boys? Do the teams work together?

Shelby Levine: Well... We are girls. Our tactics are much different. The rules are the same, but it's slightly slower paced. The teams are totally separate. We support each other 100%, but we don't practice together.

NS: Where will most of the games be?

SL: Out of state. North Carolina and Georgia mostly.

NS: Any highlights so far?

SL: I scored the only try (touchdown) of our first game in Columbia!

NS: What are the goals for the team this year?

SL: We want to expand the team and encourage all SOA High School girls to play! It's a lot of fun!



Provided

Shelby Levine killing it on the rugby field during a Lady Ravens game.

The Big Kickers at SOA

*Nick Scapellato sat down with junior Theatre major **Hernan Peña** to ask about his recent accomplishments with the West Ashley HS Varsity Boys Soccer Team. Hernan is number twenty and plays as a central defender alongside other SOA students **Alec Johnson** (11th, Band), **Irvin Rodriguez** (10th, Vocal), and **David Seim** (10th, Vocal).*

The promise of a challenge is what drives Hernan Peña. With games against Wando lingering in the near future, and practices led by Coach Jackson (a once-jock now-schoolteacher drill sergeant of a coach) in the nearer future, it's safe to say Hernan has a lot of drive.

As a center back he faces the fastest of the opposing team, deals with the most technically sound athletes, and handles it with skill. Defending corner kicks, destroying break-aways, and punishing overly-ambitious strikers are only a few of the tricks up Hernan's deep purple sleeves.

Although America receives soccer very critically, one cannot deny the physical condition soccer players are forced to attain. With strength and conditioning beginning in December and a season that still hasn't started yet, the entire team has undergone a physical change that will definitely help as games begin.

Hernan expresses some minor concern over having to face off against some of the League's speedier players. To put things into perspective, some of these players alternate between playing soccer and running track. Noting only their impressive speed would be unfair, as many of these speed demons are also incredibly talented with a soccer ball.

This makes it all the more impressive that our own #20 takes the field and breaks down some of the more impressive athletes until their arrogant jukes and moves look like child's play.

Expect great things from Hernan, Alec, Irvin, David and the rest of the Wildcat team.



Junior **Hernan Peña** is a central defender on the West Ashley Wildcats soccer team.

Students to shave Mr. Clark's head if fundraising goal is met

by Cherry Hu

P4P is a fundraiser helping the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society this year, a charity that supports research into combating blood-related cancers in children. **Mr. Karl Clark** says his two 9th grade geography classes have enthusiastically agreed to run the program this year at SOA. The campaign will have student representatives to drop off collection boxes at classrooms and to answer questions. They will total the boxes every two weeks, lasting to Spring Break.

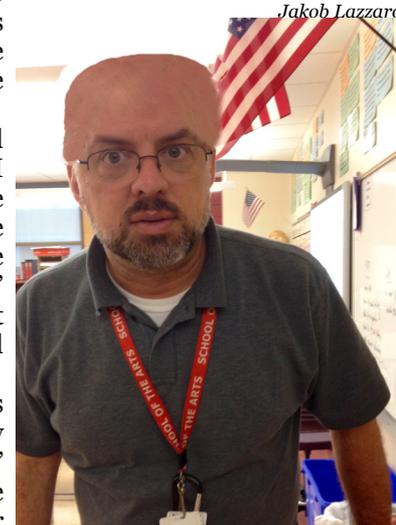
The campaign goal is to collect \$3000 in one month, which may look difficult, but Mr. Clark has added another incentive besides research that goes into saving lives.

He says, "if SOA collects more than \$3000, my students get to shave my head during high school lunch on Friday, March, 27th." If you do a quick estimate, SOA will collect more than \$3000 if every student donated \$3. What an easy way to get someone to shave their head!

Mr. Clark encourages teachers and students to donate their spare change to a collection box every few days. He says "P4P is a great way to help sick children and teach students the value of charity and community service." There will be posters and flyers going up across campus soon, as well as an online donation site for parents to donate at home if they wish.

"I also have a personal horse in this race..." he admits. "I have three young cousins that are alive today thanks in part to the tremendous research done by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society." They all received excellent care at St. Jude's Children's Hospital, all funded by charities like these.

Help the Geo students meet their +\$3000 goal so they can celebrate the "grand shaving" on March 27th. We only have the month of March... "let's git 'er done!" as Mr. Clark likes to say.



Jakob Lazzaro

An idea of what Mr. Clark will look like if the goal is met.

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Student Art and Writing

To be a part of SOA is to celebrate art in its many forms. Enjoy here excerpts from the senior Creative Writers' theses and architectural models created by the 10th grade Visual Artists in their 3-D Design Class.



from Passage

by Nikita Narodnitskiy

Orange Mountain

Orange mountain from a distance
brown looking up
yellow looking down.
stopped. mid trail to look up,
look down.
wind from both directions
collides on the path. a front moving in
a fog of leaves. foliage rains like fire, looking up
like cotton, looking down.

charging through a plantation
disorienting hum
progression of white noise
looks more gray to me
looking up.
glowing pink
looking down
the threat of sirens suspends
hairs on my neck, looking up.
hand in pocket
keys singing over static in the air
looking up
catches them.
looking down
unlocks door.

blue descending
to splash against the forest
the scene would have looked like this
Orange mountain from a distance
brown looking up
yellow looking down.

from A Transient Place

by Sarah Courville

excerpt from "Constricted Winters"

The train station was a short walk away, but the two did not make small talk. The man carried his shovel under his arm, and Gregory walked slightly behind him, looking into the blackness of the road for something. They looked around for a few minutes at the platform, under the benches, across the tracks, near the garbage cans. A cat followed them and meowed terribly, but no dog. The man apologized and boarded the train, and Gregory stood at the platform until the doors closed and it began screeching onward. They didn't wave to each other, but the man saw Gregory staring as the train pulled away. Gregory looked down at his shoes, trying to regain feeling in his frozen feet.

He had no idea what time it was, but it stopped snowing, so he would be able to walk home. There was a woman sleeping on one of covered benches at the station; she wore three jackets and covered herself in blankets so as to not freeze to death. There was number you were supposed to call if someone was sleeping outside in less than 10 degree weather, and a car would pick them up and take them to a shelter. For a moment, he stared at the woman, and he thought it was his sister. Gregory reached for his phone, but it was dead. He left the train station and did not turn back around.



from Springtime in December

by Hailey Williams

EXT. CITY STREET – EVENING – ESTABLISHING

FADE IN:

We open on GIL, a man in his late fifties, with a beat up old roller case. The street is muddy and windy. Car lights are on but it is not yet dark.

GIL

(Looking into the camera)

What a view, don't you think? The idyllic city street, complete with the gutter filth and the generous folk who pay off the mob. I'm no one much, as you see, I just sell bits of this and that to the immigrants who fall for a cheap trick. I'm onto flowers for now, but that won't last. The local authorities might call me a con-man, and maybe that's all I am. Still, I've been around this town long enough to know a few good stories. Maybe one day I will write my own Fairy Tales. There's a kid over there...

CUT TO:

Long shot of sidewalk, as though shot from the opposite side of the street. RALPHY is shown. His hands are in his pockets, and he is dressed for winter in New York. He is wearing a cap that he keeps low over his brow.

GIL (CONT'D)

(Nodding)

That one there. He's got a story, I can bet you. Look at him, he doesn't know the difference between a pickpocket and a CEO, but that's why he's got a story. That naïve trust. He's the hero of every folktale. He's Arthur, of the round table, you see? You just gotta give him his sword.



from So Far Everything is Dirt

by Noah Jordan

Conjugal Sunday

I am the frowning brow.

The scooping wings of the duck.
Divots floating on the surface,
spasm, splashing. Rolling around itself.

Their wings sound like airplane engines.
The engine is the mind.

Rawly and I are skating down Hanover street.

There's glass glittering on the asphalt,
beams of light colliding in the cross space of car rims.

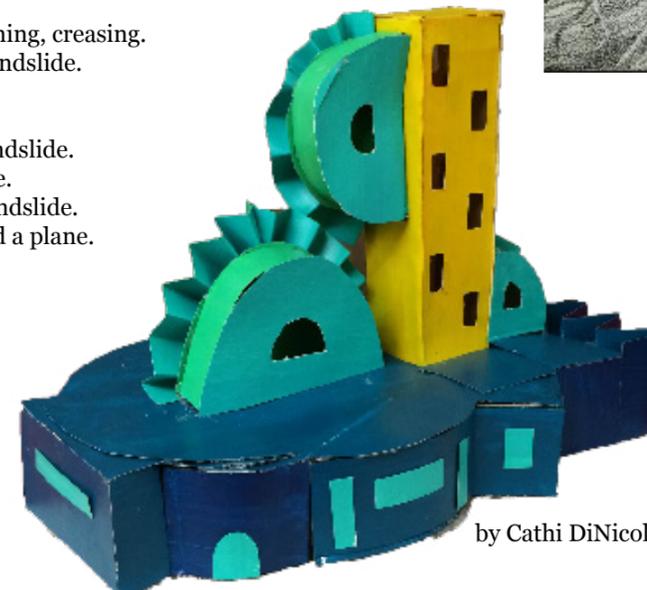
I can see a glass bottle, it looks like it's rotting.

The bottom is crumbling, leaning, creasing.
It can't hear me twitching. Landslide.

Over the small hill-landslide-
dipping through pot holes-landslide.
Silo drips at sunset. Landslide.
Been dripping for so long. Landslide.
The rust is painting a girl, and a plane.
... Landslide.



Art pieces, such as these works by seventh grade Visual Artists **Will Mercer** (below) and **Emma Kryway** (above), are proudly displayed around campus.



by Cathi DiNicola



by Jacob Edmondson



by Kate Sherman



Getting to Know Our Teachers: Mr. Wells

by Abby McLaughlin, Middle School Reporter

I was so happy to interview Mr. Wells for Applause. Mr. Wells is the 7th grade Social Studies teacher at SOA. This is his first year teaching at the School of the Arts middle school. He is funny, kind, and great to have for a teacher. During class, he always has fun activities to do to help us understand more easily. I hope this interview will help all of us to get to know Mr. Wells better.

Abby McLaughlin: Where did you grow up?

Kyle Wells: Newark, Ohio.

AM: What brought you to Charleston?

KW: The warm weather!

AM: What made you want to become a Social Studies teacher?

KW: I really enjoy studying history! My stepdad is a history teacher and growing up around him has also played a big part in me wanting to become a social studies teacher.

AM: Who was your favorite teacher in middle school? Why?

KW: Mr. Westerland was my favorite teacher because he always made students feel welcome in his classroom and you could always joke around with him outside of the classroom.

AM: Do you have any favorite memories of your middle school days?

KW: Playing sports is probably one of my top memories of growing up. I was big into basketball as a kid. Either my brother and I or a group of friends would spend hours every night playing outside.

AM: What is something about yourself that you are most proud of?

KW: Being able to travel as much as I have by myself.

AM: What types of books do you read?

KW: I enjoy reading all sorts of books. History is probably the genre of book that I read most often, but I'm a big Stephen King fan as well.

AM: What types of movies do you like?

KW: Dramas. I like movies that make you think.

AM: What are your hobbies?

KW: Traveling, reading, video games, sports, camping, hunting.

AM: If you were an SOA student, what would be your art major?

KW: Probably visual art. I did a little drawing as a kid but never really stuck with it.

AM: What future goals are most important to you in or out of school?

KW: Find a wife so Thomas Polkey stops asking me if I am lonely.

Provided



Mr. Kyle Wells, age 12 (right), with his older brother (left).

Point/Counterpoint

In this issue, **Noah Jordan** and **Graham Crolley** valiantly defend their sides in this semantic debate. For this match up, we have selected **two homonyms**, words that are spelled exactly the same but have two different meanings. Without further ado, we have...

Point: Seal

a device or substance used to join two things together; as a verb: to fasten or close securely

The seal is one of the most important parts of modern society. Without the seal, we are all open to the world, imperfect, cracked.

And so we enter this ageless debate. Which is better; the seal or the seal? First, aqueous mammal, aka "Pinniped." They are colloquially known as the seal and have been made shark food for centuries. Then we have the valiant seal, the concept of all that is shut, everything which has been assured, watertight, entrapping.

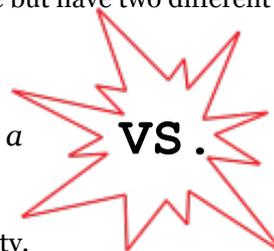
What do you find to be more important to your life? A small, plucky mammal that dwells by the shore and in the ocean, or the act of closing something to prevent leakage? My god, what an easy decision.

Would you rather keep the air in your tire with a fish-dog from the circus or some liquid you bought from the hardware store?

A seal could not repair a ding on your surfboard, but a seal (or seal-ant) certainly could.

When you want your best friend to keep a secret, would you rather him scream and clap his flippers or keep that flapper SHUT?

Seals: there's a better way to tell if your jelly has been tampered with than asking a semi-aquatic mammal. Check the seal, my man.



Counterpoint: Seal

a large, fish-eating mammal that has very thick fur and lives in the sea

This argument is one of beauty and lack thereof.

Sure, the definition of seal as a practical verb and applicable problem solver in leaks and fissures stakes a large claim in the common sense department, but as humans and creatures of romance, we desire more.

No longer do we wish to pine in our ignorant slumbers, haunted by dull dreams of mundane gasket seals and rubber mechanisms. We want to enjoy the many miracles of nature and observe the magnificent complexities of all that is living in this world, including, of course, the exquisite marine mammals gracing our Earth as we speak.

Now, I'm not imploring you to suddenly call seals your favorite— I am merely attempting to open your eyes so you may see that there is a beautiful mysticism to be seen in even the most seemingly insignificant forms of life. Seals matter, from their glossy coats, some darkest brown, some deepest white, to their numerous and impressive innate abilities.

These aquatic beings of awe can hold their breath for 2 hours and dive up to 1,000 feet deep into their ocean homes. They are equipped with motion sensitive whiskers and are inquisitive, just like our beloved human race and swim after many a fisherman's boat.

Seals are alive, and therefore, they are life.



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SOA Feminists speak out

One of the most popular clubs here at SOA centers on a major issue in today's society, Equal rights. I had the amazing opportunity to not only speak at this club, but also witness the power that occurs within it. I sent one of the co-presidents, **Anna Woodward**, some questions to answer so that the school can get a better idea at what this awesome club is.

Alyssa Wintz: What is F.E.M. short for?

Anna Woodward: F.E.M. stands for Feminism and Equality Movement Club but it's also short for Feminist.

Wintz: What exactly is a Feminist?

Woodward: Any person who believes in the social, political, and economic equality between women and all other genders is a feminist.

Wintz: Are there other issues you support in your club?

Woodward: It's hard to have a discussion about feminism without also talking about the consequences of racism, LGBT issues, class struggles, and inequality in all its forms. A lot of our discussions revolve around the intersectional relationship between different types of oppression and what we can do to combat these issues in our hometown as well as in the world around us.

Wintz: How many members

do you have?

Woodward: According to our Facebook page, we have ninety-one members and we expect about forty-fifty people at each meeting.

Wintz: How do you promote women's rights when outside of the club?

Woodward: A few of our members volunteer with the Junior Girls Day Out community project that offers young girls the opportunity to participate in confidence building activities. For example, one weekend we helped organize a fashion show, another weekend the girls took cooking classes and learned about eating healthy. In addition, we met with Wando's Feminism Club (Women of Wando) for a documentary day where we watch a documentary and then talk about it.

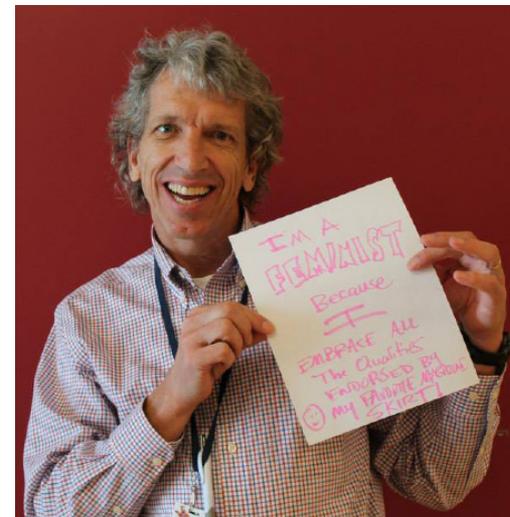
Wintz: When do you guys meet?

Woodward: Every other Tuesday in Mrs. Drennan's room.

Wintz: What is your next move?

Woodward: We're going to be celebrating National Women's Month, although every month should be Women's History Month.

In November, the FEM club asked their members to write what it means to be a feminist. **Dr. Tesenair**, left, and **Anna Woodward**, right, display their reasons.

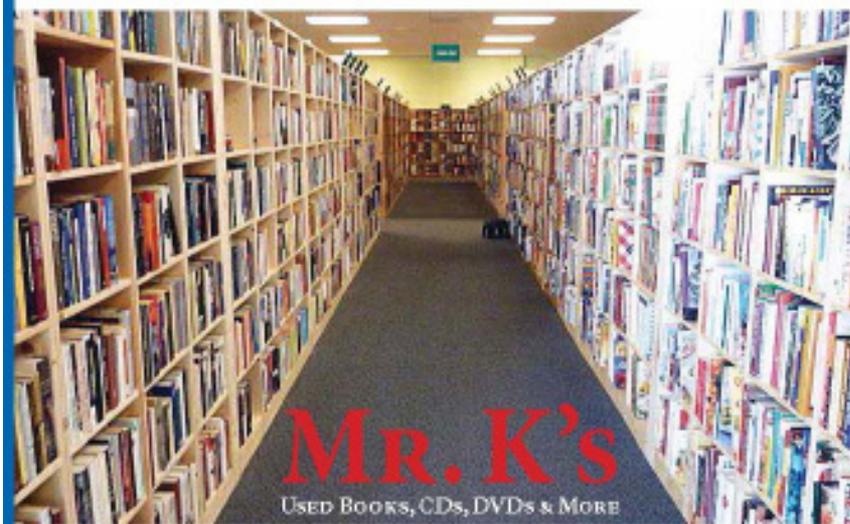


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D'Angelo – *Black Messiah*

by Noah Jordan

Black Messiah is an album rumbling with deep funky rhythms.

D'Angelo is from Richmond, Virginia. Well known for composing the 1994 single "U Will Know" which was performed by an all male R&B group called Black Men United. This group featured monumental artists of this era such as Usher, R. Kelly, and Boyz II Men.

It's been 14 years since D'Angelo's last release, *Voodoo*, and though he may have been forgotten, this comeback will surely earn him a special place in the heart of everyone who hears it.

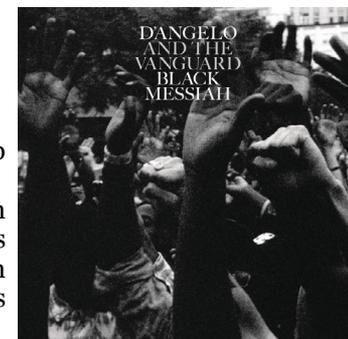
This album is riddled with an undertone of wise bliss.

Songs like "The Charade" and "1000 Deaths" embody the highly emotional influence of Gospel Music on his style, and their locations side by side in the album are just another indicator of how much thought D'Angelo puts into his craft. The mood is always perfect, and songs transition comfortably into one another.

Among my favorite songs on the album is "Really Love"; a song filled with beautiful Spanish guitars, paired with a fresh vibrant percussion line. In this track D'Angelo's voice is nothing but angelic, reaching out to the gods of love with sweet beckoning coos. I do not believe that D'Angelo is in love; in this song he only shows us that he is love.

D'Angelo's music is severe at times; deeply sad and overflowing with lovely happiness, but what really defines D'Angelo's style in this album is this fun loving attitude which comes through in every song. Even in the most intense sadness D'Angelo evokes the art of dance, and in the most glowing moments of groovy bliss there lies some hint of regret and sadness.

I give this album a nine out of ten for its emotional complexity, its high entertainment value and its significance in the career of a highly influential Black musician.



plqj.spotify.com

Congratulations to SOA State Reflections winners!

Logan Baker, Malachi Jones, and Patrick Wohlscheid are all SOA students who won the South Carolina Reflections Competition. Baker and Jones won first place, and Wohlscheid won second. **Elliot Hueske**, a eighth grade Creative Writer, recieved an Honorable Mention. **Jessica Bride, Abril Castillo, and Jenna Riling** all recieved an Honorable Mention. **Sophia Northup**, middle school Dance major, won first place in her area of talent. They will all be honored in Columbia, SC, and will be advancing to the National competition.



Logan Baker, 6th grade
Creative Writer



Malachi Jones, 9th grade
Creative Writer



Sophia Northup, 8th grade
Dance major

Artificial sweeteners

by Jason Wintz

You've seen the statistics, read all of the fatal articles, and heard from your health nut mother about the dangers of artificial sweeteners. As a reaction to the new "calorie-less" sodas in the cafeteria, I've decided to do some other research on what is really going on when we consume these magic-diet sugars.



www.naturaldigestion.net

health issues.

Myth: Artificial sweeteners will give me bladder cancer.

Fact: This has NEVER been proven in humans. When this study was released it was proven that artificial sweeteners may cause bladder cancer in a breed of rats that are already susceptible to bladder cancer.

Myth: Diet sodas will assist diabetics and will decrease the percentage of type II diabetes amongst Americans.

Fact: While in theory sugarless products should be perfect in decreasing diabetes, there has been no study to prove that. However, there has been research on the negative side of it, which has shown that it may INCREASE the risk for diabetes especially amongst women.

Myth: Artificial sweeteners are there to give people a low calorie sugar satisfaction.

Fact: They actually do the opposite, causing you to eat more. Our bodies have a natural ability to taste something sugary and register in the brain that it therefore contains a certain amount of calories. Artificial sweeteners mess with that chemical, tasting something sweet but not registering the right amount of calories.

Overall, are artificial sweeteners bad? Not horrendously. We must keep in mind that these studies involved people who drink diet soda and consume artificial sweeteners on a daily basis. If you monitor your consumption of it and are mindful of the consequences then by all means enjoy your Diet Coke. Everything will keep in line as long as you are educated and aware.

Sass Attack: Weary-Eyed School

by Jason Wintz

Why am I writing this at eight am? Oh, because I'm at school, digging my hand into some sugary cereal and craving my bed. I have a choice here. Do I run to Starbucks and spend my college savings on coffee, whilst developing a bad caffeine habit? Or do I get my proper nine hours of sleep, eat a proper breakfast, and drive to school when the sun is actually out?

Why don't we ask the educational system that declares that it's better to get school over with at three pm despite the fact that students leave the classroom having no recollection of their morning classes because they were half asleep.

Why don't we ask the educational system that is convinced it's the students' faults for staying up and "partying" all night when in reality the students are about to go to bed when they are reminded of homework that was assigned at eight am that morning (when they were about to drool on their desk).

It's not our fault.

Teenagers are expected to wake up in the morning. Okay, that's not a horrible expectation. However, if you want a proper breakfast and you want to look nice you better get up at five am so you give yourself enough time. Then you either ride to a freezing bus stop and pray your bus is on time, or drive to school, hoping the bridges aren't backed up. You go through your daily routine, brain pumping and squeezing, trying to catch up with the rest of the world. Every once in a while, sure this would be fine. There are going to be days in which we have to wake up early and we have to think while doing so, but every day?

If you guys want test scores to get higher, why don't you let your testers actually get the best studying method possible, sleep.

I think the world often forgets that while teenagers are nearly adults, they are also still kids. Teens need eight to ten hours of sleep every night. If they don't get that, so many horrible things can occur.

The primary reason teenagers get into car accidents? Falling asleep at the wheel.

One of the biggest reasons for teenage obesity? A lack of sleep.

Why do teens have those horrible pimples? Sleep has a role in that too.

Teenagers across America are developing narcolepsy, insomnia, and reckless leg syndrome because of the off sleep patterns school is causing them to have.

While waking up at a decent hour is certainly important, would moving school from nine to four, or ten to five, really hurt everyone?

No, no it wouldn't. So how about we enjoy the comfort of our beds and improve our nation's education by letting our students have sleep.

That sounds like a dandy idea.

SOA overwhelmed with illness

by Sarah McCord

An outbreak of student sickness since the day school started has been the nurse's worst nightmare. After a long summer of less interaction with foreign germs and then immediate integration with new people, new bacteria-carrying hosts, students' immune systems can fall weak and be shocked into getting ill.

More kids than average are getting sick, going to the nurse during class, and leaving school early. This is due to the constant spreading of sicknesses that are carried by students.

When a student gets sick, they, understandably, don't stay home because of the stress of missing classes. But staying home would be the most beneficial way to reduce the spreading of sickness and other germs.

Even if students go to school for just a little while when they are contagious, they still expose others to germs that continue to spread.

Just as well, the sharing of water bottles, utensils, and pencils is another way of increasing

contamination at school.

What Nurse Bennett describes as a really "ill year" of a nonstop flow of students can be seen as nothing more than a carelessness of germs and lack of proper care for sanitation.

She states that to most efficiently get rid of germs would require retraining ourselves, rather than adhering to what we have traditionally been taught. For example, coughing needs to be done directly and only into the elbow rather than the hand or the shoulder, making sure to not spread airborne germs.

Hand washing is also a key preventative. Using soap and water while vigorously rubbing your hands together for the amount of time it takes you to sing the happy birthday song twice is the most adequate way to kill bacteria.

This is much easier said than done because of the often lack of soap we encounter in school and outside and because of the lack of time we find especially in between switching classes.

If you notice that there is a lack of soap, Nurse Bennett advises to immediately tell her or a member of the janitorial service to be refilled; this goes for a lack of hand sanitizer as well.

Hand sanitizer is also a good substitute if you find yourself running out of time to wash your hands in between classes.

Suzanne Jackson and I simulated the process of going from a class downstairs, to the bathroom, properly washing and drying hands to be completely germ free, and then up the stairs to prepare for the next class.

Without breezeway and hallway

traffic, a quick locker stop, or a crazy line in the bathroom, it took approximately four minutes. Now add all those other time-consuming acts; settling down and getting prepared for the next class cannot reasonably be done in only five minutes.

Being late to class can be stressful and this stress should not be caused by frantic germ cleaning, nor should frantic germ cleaning be sacrificed for ease of settling into class. Try to take time during lunch to properly clean your hands or an opportunity in class so you can wait to use the time you need for an effective clean (and skip out on the lines and hallway traffic).

Nurse Bennett also explains the mistakes made after washing hands. She states that using clean hands to touch door handles or desks or other dirty hands can be counterproductive to the cleanliness.

She points out that itching eyes or other parts of the face should be done with the "clean side of hands" (tops of hands), not the "dirty side" (palms).

Paying attention to care of how to be germ free and preventing the spreading is the best way to staying healthy and avoid getting sick.



Applause staff member **Sarah McCord** washing her hands.

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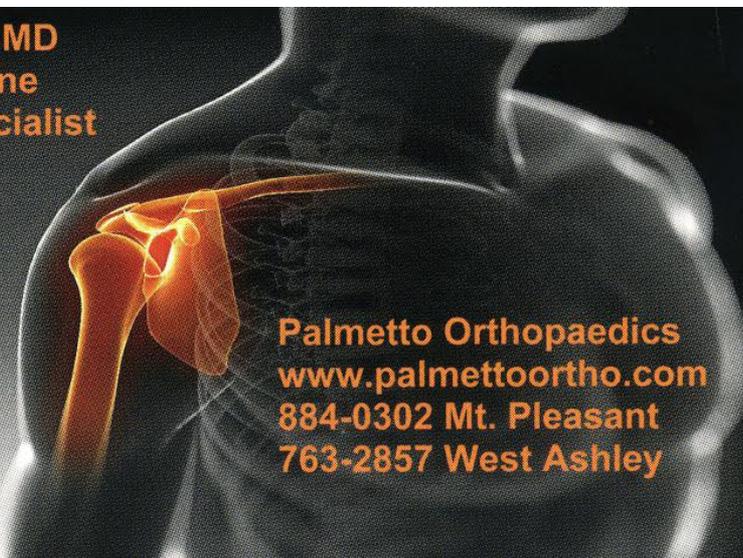
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Horoscopes

This Week in History

by Jakob Lazzaro

Source: wikipedia.org

SUN. 3/1	MON. 3/2	TUES. 3/3	WED. 3/4	THUR. 3/5	FRI. 3/6	SAT. 3/7
<p>1692: The Salem Witch Trials begin.</p> <p>1845: The US government annexes Texas.</p> <p>1872: Yellowstone National Park is established.</p> <p>1936: The Hoover Dam is completed.</p> <p>Self Injury Awareness Day</p> <p>World Civil Defense Day</p> <p>National Pig Day</p>	<p>1904: Dr. Seuss is born.</p> <p>1949: Captain James Gallagher completes the first nonstop round-the-world flight.</p> <p>1965: The movie version of <i>The Sound of Music</i> premieres in New York.</p> <p>1969: The Concorde flies for the first time.</p> <p>Read Across America Day</p>	<p>1847: Alexander Graham Bell is born.</p> <p>1923: The first issue of Time magazine is published.</p> <p>1931: The Star-Spangled Banner becomes the US national anthem.</p> <p>1991: Rodney King is severely beaten by LAPD officers. The subsequent trial would spark the LA riots.</p>	<p>1789: The US Congress meets for the first time in New York City.</p> <p>1791: Vermont becomes the 14th state.</p> <p>1837: The city of Chicago is founded.</p> <p>1933: FDR is inaugurated as President.</p> <p>1974: The first issue of <i>People</i> magazine is published.</p> <p>2012: Vladimir Putin is elected president of Russia.</p>	<p>1770: The Boston Massacre occurs.</p> <p>1953: Soviet Premier Josef Stalin dies.</p> <p>1982: Comedian John Belushi dies.</p> <p>2004: Martha Stewart is convicted of obstructing justice and lying to the government.</p> <p>2012: Invisible Children releases the Kony 2012 video.</p>	<p>1475: Michelangelo is born.</p> <p>1836: The Alamo falls to Mexican forces.</p> <p>1857: The Supreme Court rules on the Dred Scott case.</p> <p>1912: Oreos are released.</p> <p>1951: The Rosenberg trials begin.</p> <p>1981: Walter Cronkite hosts <i>CBS Evening News</i> for the last time.</p>	<p>1850: Senator Daniel Webster proposes the Compromise of 1850 to preserve the union.</p> <p>1876: Alexander Graham Bell patents the telephone.</p> <p>1965: "Bloody Sunday" occurs in Selma</p> <p>2010: Kathryn Bigelow becomes the first woman to win the Oscar for Best Director</p>

Aries: Use this time to improve your social skills and focus the center of attention around yourself. Use caution, however, as everyone will hear what you say and see what you show them. Keep in control and depart safely.

Taurus: A major improvement in your home life is heading your way, but don't get too comfortable just yet. People want to get along with you and you're looking forward to a bigger social role. Remain aware of looming challenges that have been on your mind.

Gemini: No matter how busy you are, save time for lightweight fun with your friends. This will recharge your emotional batteries, keep you close to home, and calm you down.

Cancer: You may be preoccupied with money lately. Make sure to stay organized and lighten your fear of changing your budget. Be open-minded to all advice, even if it's unsolicited.

Leo: Solidify your needs, wants, and your goals. Though this will not be easy or fun for you, there can't be indecision. Remember: sometimes it is best not to hesitate.

Virgo: Any dreams of love will be under heavy scrutiny. If a perfect partner does not appear, the image of one might come into focus soon. Keep your eyes and mind open.

Libra: A lot of people may work hard just to see you happy. Be gracious and allow this to occur. Resolve to keep some little maddening detail of daily life under control. Pick just one. You will feel virtuous for a while.

Scorpio: Don't stress or overreact, and you'll possibly see a door open wide for you. If looking, a new or better job might just find you. Others may scramble to resume business as usual, but you'll already be there.

Sagittarius: Reflect on past relationship problems, examine their causes, and toss them away so you can invite in a new, uplifting energy for the next cycle of romance. Start a new relationship or strengthen the one you're in.

Capricorn: Your emotional energy is strongly tied to your heart, and you will find that there's a longing to be close to others. Indulge in conversation with close friends and let your imagination run wild.

Aquarius: Heightened mental powers might make you spend a lot of time reading or doing research of some kind. Your curiosity is especially sharp right now. You might even consider advancing your education somehow.

Pisces: Your intuition might increase today to the point where you feel like you could deduce the thoughts and motives of people you've never met before. Reading the news might bring you sudden insights as to how things are going to turn out.

6th vs. 12th Grade

by Jakob Lazzaro

What is/was the most popular video game for 6th graders?

Current 6th grader **Stella Wood** said that Just Dance is the most popular video game right now

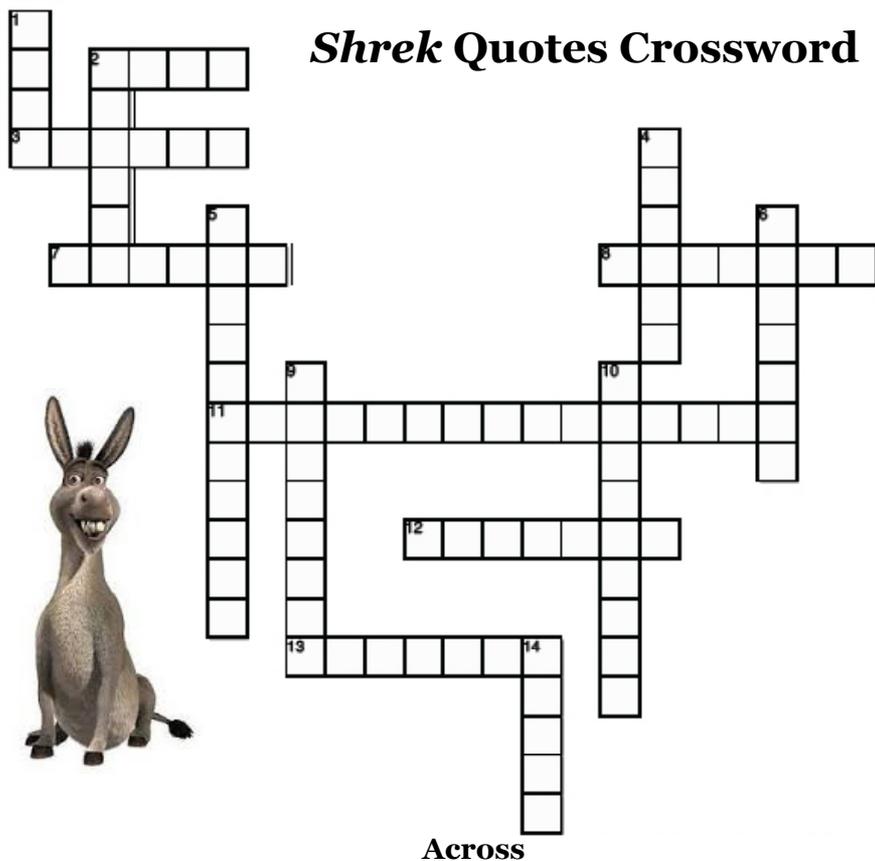


Jakob Lazzaro



Jakob Lazzaro

Soon-to-be 2015 graduate, **Stuart James**, said that back in 6th grade the best game was MarioKart.

**Across**

2. "Don't worry, princess. I used to be afraid of the ____ until.... No, wait. I'm still afraid of the ____." –Donkey
 3. "Don't mess wit' me. I'm the ____ Master. I've mastered the _____. I wish I had a step right here, right now, I'd step all over it." -Donkey
 7. "Ogres are like ____" –Shrek
 8. "I live in a swamp! I put up signs! I'm a terrifying ogre! What do I have to do to get a little ____?" –Shrek
 11. "He [Lord Farquaad] huffed, and he puffed... and he signed an _____" –Little Pig
 12. "You know, you're quite a decorator. It's amazing what you've done with such a modest budget. I like that _____. That is a nice _____." –Donkey
 13. "I have a bit of a confession to make: donkeys don't have layers. We wear our fear right there on our _____." –Donkey

Down

1. "Oh man, I can't feel my _____. I don't have any ____! I think I need a hug." –Donkey
 2. "I will have order! I will have perfection! I will have.... (gets eaten by _____)" –Lord Farquaad
 4. "Blue flower, red _____. Blue flower, red _____. Blue flower, red _____. Man this would be so much easier if I wasn't color-blind." –Donkey
 5. "All right, nobody move! I got a dragon here, and I'm not afraid to use it! I'm a donkey _____." –Donkey
 6. "We can stay up late, swapping manly stories, and in the morning, I'm making _____." –Donkey
 9. "If you don't mind me saying, if that don't work your breath will certainly get the job done, cause you definitely need some _____ or something because your breath stinks." –Donkey
 10. "You might have seen a housefly, maybe even a superfly, but I bet you ain't never seen a _____." –Donkey
 14. "This is MY _____" –Shrek

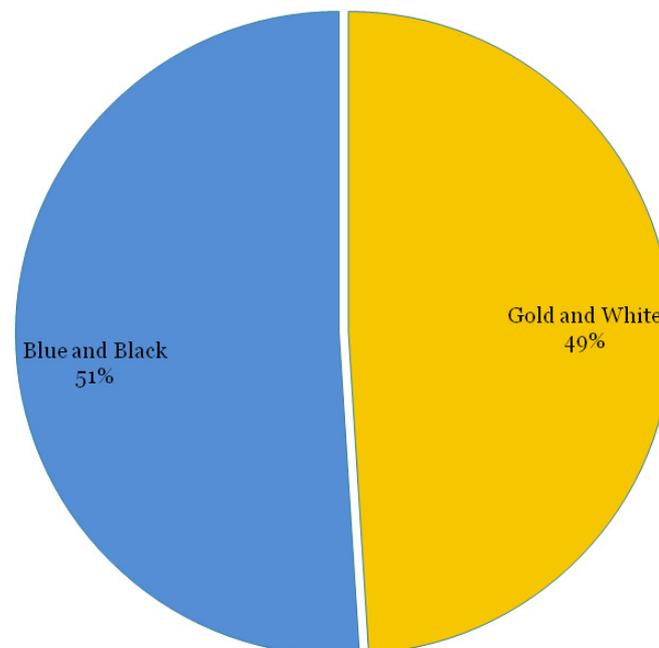
down: 1. toes 2. dragon 4. horns 5. on the edge 6. waffles 9. the face 10. donkeyfly 14. swamp
 across: 2. dark 3. stars 7. onions 8. privacy 11. eviction notice 12. boulder 13. sleeves

Sudoku

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

Applause investigates important topics: "The Dress"- What color is it?

Editors Suzanne Jackson and Taylor Dahl hit the hallways of SOA to find out what the most common consensus was for the color of the infamous dress that has taken over social media. The picture- viral on every social media site and even featured on multiple news sources- has taken SOA by storm.
 100 people were asked.



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

by Jakob Lazzaro

Rocket Man: A Tribute To Sir Elton John

March 7th (8 pm)

Charlie Morgan -Elton John's drummer of 13 years- joins rock quartet Tokyo Joe to present a concert in the style of Elton John at the Charleston Music Hall. \$25/orchestra, \$20/gallery

The Harlem Globetrotters

March 10th (7 pm)

The Globetrotters are coming to the North Charleston Coliseum! After the game, fans can get autographs and have photos taken with the Globetrotters. Tickets are \$20-\$100

God Help The Girl

March 19th (8 pm)

Playing at the Charleston Music Hall, God Help The Girl tells the story of Eve (Emily Browning), low on self-esteem but high on fantasy, especially when it comes to music. Over one Glasgow summer, she meets two similarly souls: posh Cass (Hannah Murray) and fastidious James (Olly Alexander). Together they decide to form a pop group. \$8

Fashion Week Finale

March 21st (Marion Square)

Louise Roe, television personality and fashion journalist, emcees the Baker Motor Company Fashion Week Finale in which leading designer Carlos Campos will be the featured designer.

Charleston Battery vs. Toronto FC II

March 21st (7:30 pm)

Come cheer on the Charleston Battery at Blackbaud Stadium. \$10-\$18

Sixth Annual Charleston Bed Race

March 22nd (1-4 pm)

The 6th Annual Charleston Bed Race, held at Blackbaud Stadium, brings the Charleston community together by racing beds to raise money for childhood cancer with the nonprofit organization Camp Happy Days. Dan's Stamp Tramp and the Moneybags will provide music, and food trucks will be on site. \$125



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The Trivia Challenge

by 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 with the subject line "Trivia". We hope to see you!

It's been cold outside for ages, perfect for everyone to indulge his or her virtual cravings. Since the weather is warming up, *Applause* is testing your knowledge of video games! Cece Fish returns with crown and controller to battle --- in this epic competition. Press A to continue.

Questions:

1. True or False. The first patented video game system was the "Cathode Ray Tube Amusement Device."
2. What was the first game Nintendo's Mario appeared in?
3. Nintendo was founded in 1889. What product did they originally produce?
4. What is the world's first home video game console?
5. True or False. Nintendo owns the Seattle Mariners.
6. What is the most sold mobile game of all time?
7. What is the most sold console video game of all time?
8. How many Pokémon were in the original game?
9. True or False. A copy of StarCraft was sent into space on the Space Shuttle.
10. Up, Up, Down, Down, Left, Right, Left, Right, B, A, Start: What famous cheat code is this?

CeCe Fish, 12th Grade Theatre

1. True.
2. Super Mario Something...
3. Is it like cards?
4. Pong?
5. True.
6. Flappy Bird.
7. Wii Sports.
8. 151.
9. True.
10. I don't know.



Jakob Lazzaro

Emma MacMillan, 12th Grade Theatre

1. True?
2. Mario Brothers?
3. <Mouth noises>
4. Pong... does that count?
5. True.
6. Lets just say angry birds.
7. Is it Asteroids?
8. I feel like it's like five.
9. False.
10. All of the gamer kids at this school will hate me.



Jakob Lazzaro

The Victor

This battle did not go so well for Emma- she lost all her lives and her chance to become trivia empress. CeCe leveled up by keeping her crown and scepter and will return again next month as this year's first double champion.



Jakob Lazzaro



“Man, Denzel Washington, you’re a handsome dude.”
Andre Davis, 10th grade
Vocal



“I wish John Stamos was my real father.”
Sam Chase, 12th grade
Theatre



“Andrew Garfield, I like your hair.”
Finean Williams, 8th grade
Vocal



“Justin Timberlake, how are you even from Tennessee?”
Ms. Cimballa, Visual Arts
Teacher

“If you could say one thing to your celebrity crush, what would it be?”

by **Nikita Narodnitskiy** and
Dmitri Grigorieff



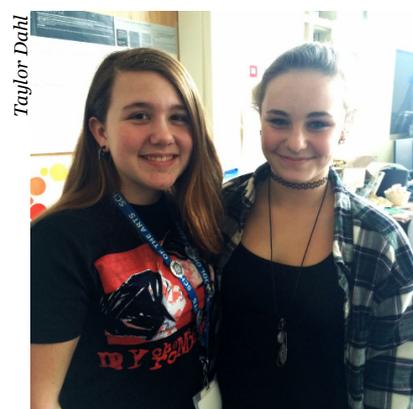
“Rose of the movie *Titanic*-- you are a hot classy Philadelphia dish, will you come out to the ship’s bow and lean with me?”
Mr. Pezzecca, high school
science teacher



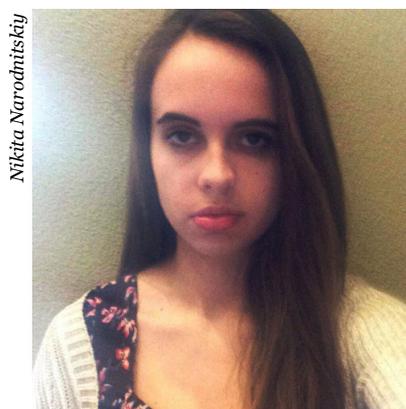
“I liked you in *The Hunger Games*.”
River Abedon, 7th grade
Creative Writing



“Miranda Cosgrove... [unrelated murmuring]”
Graham Martini, 9th
Grade Visual Arts



“Gerard Way, we have a collage of all of your different socks.”
Quinn Burign 8th grade
Strings and **Gigi Fusao** 8th
grade Visual Arts



“Seth Avett, give in to me.”
Sophie Kendrick, 12th
grade Theatre



“Michael Clifford, bye... I mean hi.”
Gaia Strozer, 8th grade
Vocal