

Applause

Volume 17, Number 6

School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC

March 2016

soa-applause.com



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Letter from the Editor

Jay Rode

Dear Readers,

March is here. Get ready for extreme levels of pinching, and slightly warmer weather as we march (pun intended) closer to the end of the third quarter. Luckily, *Applause* is here to help you through the next four weeks to Spring Break.

Inside, you follow the *Applause* staff on our field trip to the *Post and Courier* on page four. We've also got a preview of Narrative 4: the unique story-sharing program coming to SOA (5), the upcoming talk by a local Auschwitz survivor (6), everything you didn't know about St. Patrick's Day (9), Where Are They Now with Rebecca Fanning (10), six women who changed the world (11), and an exclusive interview with Raven's Rugby player Jacob Fairchild (14). Don't forget to complete this month's crossword featuring fairies, folktales, and fables (20) and learn how to say "Good Luck" in American Sign Language (19).

Remember, soa-applause.com is your one stop shop for submitting artwork, letters to the editor, and writing. You can also read through our fabulous archives, which dates back to the very first *Applause* published in 1999. We're also on Facebook at "Applause 2015-2016" and on Twitter @SOAApplause.

Have a mad March, everyone.

Jakob Lazzaro, Editor-In-Chief



Applause

since 1999, the official student

publication of

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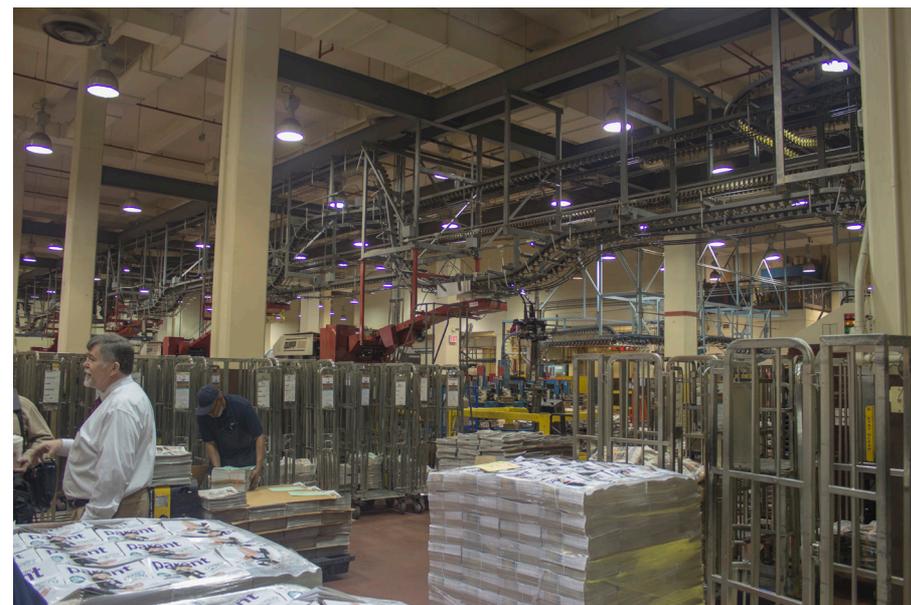
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Cover by Jay Rode.

Nick Huss as the leprechaun.

How It's Made: Applause

On February 28th, the Applause staff headed to the Post and Courier to learn about the journalism industry and watch the February issue roll off of the press. **Jay Rode** captured our adventure on camera.



At full bore, the *Post and Courier's* printing and distribution facility can produce thousands of papers per hour. It is the only large-scale printing press in Charleston, and the *Post and Courier* prints everything from the *Myrtle Beach Sun* to the *Lowcountry Parent*.



A side effect of the sheer volume of publications carried through the printing room on the high-speed conveyor belt is the occasional paper dropped onto the sloped, glass ceiling of the control booth. This surface must be cleaned daily. No *Applauses* landed on the roof while we were there.

The *Post and Courier* is the South's oldest daily newspaper, published in Charleston since 1803. It is the flagship publication of Evening Post Industries, which also owns nine other papers, thirteen television stations, a forestry company, and a marketing agency.



The inside of one of two identical machines responsible for printing all the aluminum plates used for the final printing stage. The room is lit in yellow to protect the light-sensitive plates. Each printed sheet of paper requires four aluminum plates, one for each printing color channel (cyan, magenta, yellow, and black).



A black-channel plate next to a final print of the cover. Each plate appears blue because each plate represents the shading of each color channel, not the color channel itself.



A technician operates the printer controls in the main printing booth.



Our tour guides: Pre-Press Supervisor Jason Price (left) and Danny Enfinger (right), a forty-year veteran of the *Post and Courier*.



February's *Applause* moves from the press to the packaging area.



Anizia Fulmore, senior Dance, picks up two bundles of *Applause* at the loading dock.



Auditions bring future SOA students artistic validation and opportunity

by Nick Huss

At the School of the Arts, expectations are high. SOA may feel like a safe haven for artistic talents to a rising sixth grader. A student could have an outstanding arts program or no program at all at their current school. Whatever the case may be, acceptance at SOA is a validation of their talent.

Every arts major has different audition requirements. Future band majors are not required to know how to play an instrument and they are not scored any higher if they do. Band teachers Basil Kerr and Suzanne Reed first conduct a rhythm test where they clap a rhythm and the student claps it back. The next test is pitch, where the two teachers play a note on the piano and the student tries to match it with their voice. For the final part of the audition, the students sing "My Country, Tis of Thee," which is also used to test pitch.

The Visual Arts department is on the other end of the spectrum. Students perform a thirty-minute drawing test to see how well they can draw in such a short amount of time while the teachers evaluate and score the art portfolio of each student based on state and national standards. Each portfolio is then compared to the drawing test to see if the skill level of work done at home mirrors the test completed during the audition.

A student must show clarity and intellect while being interviewed so that teachers can grasp a clear picture of the passion the student holds for their art, so SOA's art teachers ask kids a smattering of questions during the audition. Most importantly, why do they want to go to SOA?

According to rising sixth grader Gussie Levy, who auditioned for vocal, it's because she "loves music and wants a very good education."

Gussie came to the right place. SOA's unique position allows talented students to experience the arts like never before.

Narrative 4: the unique story-sharing program coming to SOA

by Savannah Porter

Narrative 4, a storytelling exchange program that is designed to promote what its founders call "radical empathy," will be coming to SOA in the spring. The program was started by novelists Colum McCann and Luis Alberto Urrea. McCann is no stranger to SOA, having delivered the keynote speech at the dedication of the Rose Maree Myers Theatre in 2010 and the commencement speech for the class of 2009. The Creative Writing teachers are facilitating the introduction of the program and have conducted workshops with nearly twenty area educators.

The program's goal is to break borders and stereotypes through the sharing of stories and exchanges from every corner of the Earth. It grew out of McCann's involvement with students in Newtown, Connecticut in the wake of the Sandy Hook shootings. McCann was invited there to speak to the students about recovery, the topic of his National Book Award winning novel *Let the Great World Spin*. Narrative 4 encourages students from different backgrounds to sit down across from one another and courageously share their life stories.

"Narrative 4 uses the exchange of stories to give kids responsibility for each others' lives," McCann stated in an interview recently published in *The Post and Courier*. "Stories are the engine of who we are. They are a mighty weapon. We must treat them with respect."

Creative Writing teacher Rutlege Hammes agrees.

"This effort is all about breaking us out of the myopic lives we lead," Hammes said. "I want our students to reach further, share more and truly see the world to which they are speaking."

The Creative Writing Department will be working with the English Department from North Charleston High School, but both schools are hoping to expand this list as the program builds here. Beth Webb Hart, also a Creative Writing teacher, is excited to be a part of this new endeavor.

"Narrative 4 came to Charleston to train eighteen teachers from across the county how to, via the exchange and 1st person retelling of one another's personal stories, create a kind of 'radical empathy' among strangers," Ms. Hart said. "It was unbelievably transformative. We can't wait to bring students from a variety of backgrounds together to do the same here."

Nick Huss



"I want to improve my voice and be around people that love music."

Augusta, 5th grade Vocal.

Nick Huss



"I love singing."

Lila, 5th grade Band/Vocal

Erin Molony



"I want to go to SOA because my sister Erin goes here and I hear cool things about the school. I also want to be great at an instrument."

Henry, 5th grade Band.

The passing of a literary icon: Harper Lee (1926-2016)

by Alissa Melsopp

The world lost yet another great artist this year when Harper Lee passed away on February 19. Lee's Pulitzer Prize winning novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1960) touched countless lives over the past six decades, including many here at SOA.

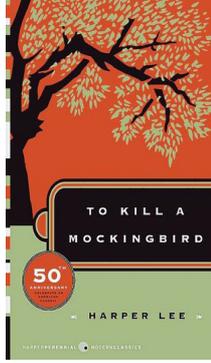
"I have used *To Kill a Mockingbird* for years to teach hypocrisy, point of view, composition, tone and the transformative power of fiction," Ms. Drennan said.

"*To Kill a Mockingbird* acquired a reputation as an adolescent novel," Dr. John Cusatis said. "But its readability is equaled by its literary power. It holds up to careful reading, but it hasn't been given the serious scholarly treatment it warrants."

The College Board is catching on to the book's literary merit. From 1970-2007, the novel was not included as a recommended option for students to write about on the AP English Literature exam. Since 2008 it has appeared on the list of suggested titles five times.

Last year, Harper-Collins published *Go Set a Watchman*, a novel featuring the same major characters but set decades after *To Kill a Mockingbird* and written long before it. The book shot to the top of the best-seller list, though many questioned whether the aging Lee really wanted the book to see print. While many were disappointed in the portrayal of the older, earlier-conceived Atticus Finch, it did nothing to spoil the unwavering worth of Lee's classic.

"It's not a prequel or a sequel," Dr. Cusatis said. "It's the early work of a writer who eventually turned her story into a masterpiece."



Goodreads

Auschwitz survivor will speak at SOA in March

by Anizia Fulmore

Auschwitz survivor and Charleston resident Joseph Engel will be at the Academic Magnet Lecture hall at 1:40 pm on March 25th to tell the story of his survival of the world's most infamous concentration camp.

Mr. Engel was born on October 9th, 1927 and raised in Zakroczy, Poland with his eight brothers and sisters. His parents were uneducated, but made their living by running a small candy store and a taxi service. Joseph lived in a three-bedroom house with no heat or running water, and his family believed in having a large close-knit community.

"In the old days there was no television, no movies, no nothing," Engel said. "So that's the only pleasure we had."

Mr. Engel grew up speaking Yiddish and a combination of German, Polish, and Hungarian. He attended Hebrew school at night and Polish public school during the day. During the war, Mr. Engel witnessed the Polish army marching through his hometown. The soldiers used the horses that belonged to his father's taxi service. When German soldiers occupied Zakroczy, Engel and his family escaped by hiding in the woods.

Once the fighting was over, the family traveled to a town called Plonsk. This town was soon turned into a ghetto with Nazis guarding the fence, no clean water or clothes, small amounts of food, and outbreaks of typhus. His parents and siblings would soon be sent off to concentration camps. This was the last time he ever saw his mother and father.

Mr. Engel was in the last group to be moved from Plonsk to Auschwitz. He experienced the gas chambers and the other horrors of that infamous camp. He could smell the flesh and see the chimneys blowing smoke.

He was eventually freed from Auschwitz and on March 13, 1949, Joseph Engel arrived in New Orleans. He soon traveled to Charleston, South Carolina to reunite with his siblings.

Mr. Engel is speaking here thanks to the help of Ms. Kramer and Mr. Morelli. The entire seventh grade and some of Dr. Cusatis' students will attend.

SOA dominates at All State Jazz with nine acceptances

by Taylor Carnie

On January 30th, the All State Jazz Band auditions, which collect the best young jazz artists from around South Carolina, took place at Lexington Middle School. Several SOA students tried out and nine were accepted, with some earning first chair, the highest number of acceptances ever at SOA.

The number of accepted students went up two from last year's seven. That may not seem like a large increase, but the band is composed of only 19 people in it. Some of the band's spots only require one person as opposed to several, so to get them you must beat every other musician in the state. SOA had three students fill those positions.

The All State Jazz Band has their first meeting on March 3rd and performs on the 5th of that month. These students are some of the best artists in the state, and the school hopes to increase the number of students accepted next year.

Look out for Spring Showcase this April

by Alissa Melsopp

SOA's nine majors will be performing samples of what they've learned this year during the upcoming Spring Showcase on April 8th. Both middle and high school students will be performing. The Showcase runs from 5-8 PM with the first hour dedicated to a silent auction taking place the same time as the performances.

Other scheduled events are set to take place before the auction and the showcase begin. To celebrate SOA's twentieth anniversary, SOA is welcoming alumni back to the school to attend. At 2 PM, former alumni of the school will take a tour and see what today's SOA students are up to. At 3:15 the alumni will get a chance to meet and greet faculty members followed by an alumni reception at 4 in the Pegasus Garden.

All the proceeds of this event will be evenly distributed among the majors, and tickets will be available for purchase at the door. Admission for the Spring Showcase is free for students, alumni, and rising sixth graders. Children and siblings of students can pay five dollars a ticket while parents and adult family members must pay ten. Bringing the whole family takes the price down to just 25 dollars for everyone.

Students come together and build cat houses

by Jay Rode

From Wednesday, February 3rd to Tuesday, February 9th, SOA students built homes for feral cats. The event was sponsored by Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, or SETA.

During lunches, about thirty students took soldering irons to the large, plastic tubs, one small tub inside a larger one, and stuffed their creations with Styrofoam and small bunches of polyester fibers for insulation. On Monday and Tuesday, the volunteers grouped up to decorate each cat house. The winning group, determined by high school Ceramics and Social Studies teacher Kimberly Zerbst, received a bonus of five extra service hours.

"We all had a lot of fun, and we got several shelters built!" SETA co-leader Virginia Doran said. "The project went amazingly well."

Doran also said the project would have been impossible without all the volunteers or the materials they contributed to the cause. The cat houses will be distributed to Pet Helpers, who will determine the final destination of the homes.

Jay Rode



Meagan Horres, senior Dance, slices through the wall of a plastic tub with a soldering iron as her sister Allie, sophomore Dance, looks on.



Freshman Visual Arts majors Honor Kerley, Peyton Mettler, and Jaden Brown hold up their first-place interstellar cat house, complete with paint planets and space cats.



Panel presentations a chance to discuss issues facing humanity and students

by Mia Pernice

Panel Presentations are a time of self-expression through thought and passion. In Mrs. Passerello's Junior English class, students are given a chance to choose any subject of their choice, write and argumentative paper, and present it in front of their fellow classmates.

During this month's presentations, subjects including racial equality, euthanasia, parental art censorship, and stereotyping were openly discussed and supported with evidence. The students were able to express themselves in a safe and judgment-free environment and were given the chance to support their claims and answer any questions that other students may have had. The beauty of such a project is that it allows young minds to educate themselves and speak freely about issues that they find important to society or themselves.

Winter Formal a hit with students, fish "just an added bonus"

by Nick Huss

SOA's Winter Formal, held at the South Carolina Aquarium, was a smash hit with close to 500 in attendance. For one night last month the aquarium was filled with food and great music from three local bands in addition to the ever-present fish. Manchild and Doctor Primate, both made up of SOA band majors, covered numerous dance staples and even played several original compositions. Later, local indie rock group Stop Light Observations lit up the dance floor with several of their more popular tunes. The two bands also mingled their members to cover several requested songs.

"The formal had such great music," student council member Peyton Corder said. "The fish were just an added bonus."

The student council originally decided to put on a winter formal to raise money for a senior trip. When it became clear that such a trip would not take place, the council decided to instead spend the money on throwing the winter formal in the aquarium instead of it's original location in the cafeteria. The money raised from the dance will help fund future student council projects and events this year.

Creative Writers smash last year's record of winning Scholastic submissions

by Mollie Pate

This year, the Creative Writers blew the annual Scholastic Art and Writing Awards out of the water with 493 total regional awards, smashing the previous cumulative award record of 386. In addition, SOA had 136 gold winners, a whopping number compared to last years' 56.

The gold winners will move on to the national competition and the results will be released on March 14th. National winners will travel New York City and attend the Scholastic awards show at Carnegie Hall.

Two SOA students jump to success

by Emily Dail

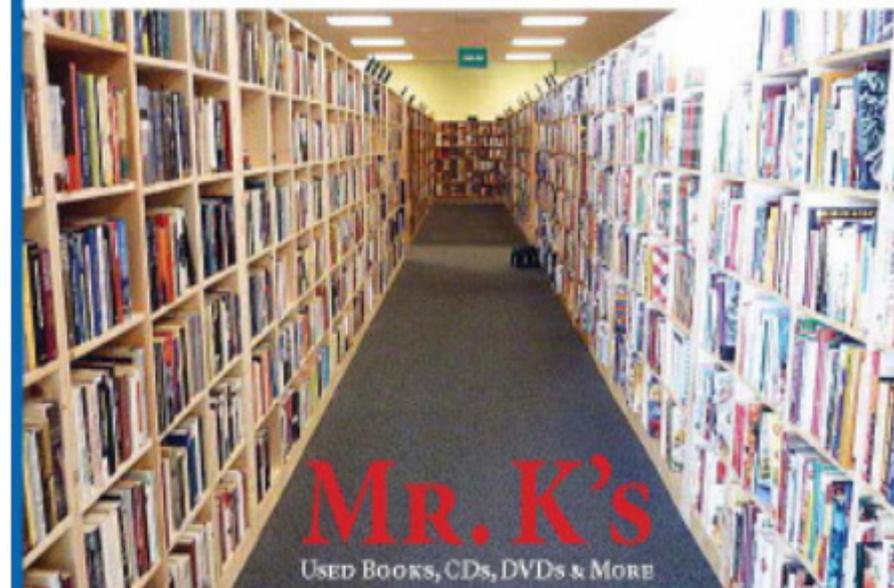
Sophomore Vocal major Lance Wylder and freshman Theater major Delsharia Richardson have found success as double dutch champs: Lance is even the captain of his team. He has been with the double dutch program since the 3rd grade after he was introduced it through an after school community center he attended.

The team made it to last year's world championship, held at New York City's Apollo Theater, competing against teams from France, China, Japan, Greenland, Belgium, and Korea. They currently practice every Sunday at the Mount Moriah Church gymnasium.

Seventh grade Piano major Jason Guo took third place in the Charleston County School District Spelling Bee. He will now move on to the Tri-County Bee in March. Congratulations!

Seventh grade Visual Artist Lily Bluestein took first place at the SOA Geography Bee. She will now move on to the state level bee. Congratulations!

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**Sophomore Creative
Writer Jacqueline
Pretorius placed third in
the most recent Holy City
Youth Slam competition.
Congratulations!**



Cheyenne Koth

Biting on the backs of my eyelids
Dull pulsation within the
Subtle quivering, the creaking of my
disjointed ribcage
As it jolts out of place in protest
To a sudden, shuddering intake
and flash-freeze of thought
Momentary pandemonium whose aftereffects reverberate for
millennium
Relapsing in pulsation, as a lingering paranoia is aroused
That depth is cavernous, devoid of light, of substance,
In contrary to my unfortunate mind.

For instance, take note the manner in which my words dip and
soar,
Soft curving across the syllables,
harsh finality in the conclusion of a line
Emphatically, yet comprising a spectrum of uncertainty,
skillfully hidden by a bravado of
'my speech is skillful enough to be considered a poem'

I'd love to feel the wisps of air, the faint whisper fading
As my facial features are drained of color,
My pallor, mocking my own reflection in a mirror
I'd love to admit that yes, I'm afraid,
but no, I'd rather submit to silence
than subject myself to the shame that follows
I'd rather be impaled with something sharper than stainless steel
than be subjugated by my own inadequacy.

I can't do this.
I can't do this.
Oh god
My speech.
My self-centered speech.

I...
There...
They've always told me to be confident.
To believe in my abilities,
To never compare myself.
It's a little hard, don't you think?
The threat of over-exaggeration,
of an intake so intense, a signification of immaturity.
Who am I to call myself a poet?
Who am I to be on this stage
with nothing to complain about other than insecurity?

My chest compresses against my lungs,
the sickening snap of bones shifting beneath skin.
Friction between opposing enamels, I attempt to conceal,
threshold between internal and real
Blurred, paucity of distinction, meaningless images,
processing vague voices, sensing presence of squinted eyelids,
My own dilated, pried apart by recollection, my realization

Spoken sorrows through expression contribute to my own
Breathing, basking in the stale afterglow,
faded applause from poets past
I'll force a smile for all of you,
Then lament my performance when I'm alone.

SOA Jazz Band shines at the Charleston Jazz Festival

by Erin Molony

This January, SOA's own Jazz band had another stellar performance at the Charleston Jazz Festival. The festival, held at the Sottile Theatre, was a high stakes affair this year with competition from many other notable bands. A plethora of jazz bands played with nonstop performances going on for multiple days. However, the festival line-up saved the best for last.

SOA's Jazz Band performed the grand finale, and ended the entire festival on a good note. The band's performance featured stunning solos by Noah Jones, Stephan Tenney, Woods Browder, and Ken Foberg that resulted in a standing ovation. After the performance, Charlton Singleton gave out awards and the SOA Jazz Band received a multitude of awards for excellence in Jazz.

The Charleston Jazz festival gains more notoriety every year, and with a crowd of about a thousand people the attendance this year has almost doubled compared to last. A lot of pressure, hard work and practicing comes with being in such an amazing Jazz band but events like the Charleston Jazz Festival make it all worth it.

Get to know Shamar Smith

Applause's **Savannah Porter** is taking a closer look at SOA's Deaf/Hearing Impaired department. This month, she talked with senior Shamar Smith.

Savannah Porter: What are your plans for after graduation?

Shamar Smith: After I graduate I am going to get a job. I hope to work at Rewind Candles.

SP: What is your favorite class or subject and why?

SS: My favorite classes at SOA are math and stage tech. It is fun to paint and build things with tools. We call it Man Land.

SP: What are some of your hobbies and things you do in your spare time?

SS: I like to play video games and basketball in my free time.

SP: What is your favorite video game?

SS: My favorite video game is Sonic.

SP: What is your favorite part of SOA?

SS: I like hanging out and working with my friend Maya at SOA.

Starmites: Theater's upcoming show is primed for success

by Nick Scapellato

Between *Star Wars*, *Deadpool*, *The Avengers*, and more, it seems the world is poised on getting their fix of aliens and space. When Andrea Catangay found out her class would be performing in the Rose Maree Myers Theater, her brain immediately thought of doing something big, as well as something relevant. What better way to do that than with a production of *Starmites*?

The story centers around Eleanor, a young girl who feeds an escapist mentality by reading and almost living in the worlds of her fantasy novels. When her fantasy becomes reality and she is identified as the prophesied leader of the Starmites, she must summon her inner strength to save the galaxy.

Ninth, tenth, and eleventh grade theater students will form the backbone of this production, doing everything from stage management to acting to sound. Mrs. Catangay has also invited several students from other majors to assist in making the play the best it can be.



Provided

St. Patrick's Day's hidden past

by Cheyenne Koth

We've all heard of and celebrated St. Patrick's Day. We know to wear green, pinch people who don't, and chase nearby rainbows. But do we know why? Who was St. Patrick, really? Why the shamrocks? Why the green? Look no further, because I'm here to answer all of your St. Patty's Day questions.

We'll start with St. Patrick: the Patron Saint of Ireland for whom the holiday is named. His birthplace was not Ireland, as many might think. Though experts can't exactly agree on where he was born, they know it wasn't there. Instead, Patrick was captured to be a slave in Ireland for shepherds. After years of hard labor, Patrick heard a voice that he believed to be God telling him to escape and return to his family. Being a good God-fearing Christian, Patrick listened and made the 200 mile journey to Ireland's east coast where he hitch-hiked across the sea. Even though he was home in Scotland, Wales, or Great Britain, he couldn't stop thinking about Ireland and its people. This must have been a good thing, because after about five years of being back home, an angel came to him and told him that he had to return to Ireland as a missionary. After being ordained as a priest, St. Patrick returned to the country that had kept him captive.

St. Patrick proceeded to rid the Emerald Isle of the paganism that had been so prominent, converting as many people as possible to Christianity. And this is where the shamrock comes in. St. Patrick used the three leaves of the shamrock as a visual to explain the concept of the Holy Trinity to the people of Ireland. According to author and Irish historian Peter Quinn, this demonstration caused people to begin to wear the leaves as a symbol of Irish Christian pride. From here, the tradition of wearing green evolved.

Through his actions and adventures, many legends about St. Patrick emerged. Perhaps one of the most prominent would be the story in which, through the power of God, he drove all of the snakes out of Ireland. This is all well and good and was no doubt a classic tale in its heyday, but we know that Ireland could never actually have snakes. Ireland is an island surrounded by frigid seas for miles. Snakes haven't been able to construct boats, last I checked, so swimming through these waters would be impossible for our slithering friends. Most likely, this legend was a metaphor for the pagans of Ireland. It's a bit disappointing, but it's history.

Now this is all well and good, but what's the deal with leprechauns? Those little ginger men of the hills, clad in green with pots of gold at their disposal, didn't spring from nowhere. In fact, leprechauns are an American creation.

After the great potato famine, the starving Irish rushed to America for better opportunity. As always, the Americans who were already here didn't approve of immigrants invading their land of huddled masses. The answer to their disdain was propaganda that portrayed the Irish as short, bedraggled ginger men with pipes and hand-me-down clothes. Sound familiar? It should. This portrayal, as well as various legends from Ireland, contributed to the creation of those lively Leprechaun lads.

On this March 17th, think of the origins of this holiday and the rich history of Ireland while you enjoy your corned beef and cabbage.

Where Were They Then: Mrs. Passarello

She's well-known around SOA as "Mama Pass," but what exactly was Ms. Passarello doing before she joined us here? Erin Molony and Denver Baer caught up with her on pre-SOA life.

Erin Molony/Denver Baer: Where were you born and raised?

Ruth Passarello: I was born in 1957 in Summerville, SC, and that's where I spent the first five years of my life. My father was an Air Force pilot, so we moved from there to Goose Bay, Labrador. We spent three years there and then moved to Andrew's Air Force Base. I spent a few years there in elementary school and then spent a few years of middle school in Maryland, as well as high school.

EM/DB: What was your favorite subject in high school and what were some of your childhood interests?

RP: My favorite subject was English, obviously. I loved to read, interpret poetry, break down stories and participate in class discussions. You know I don't talk much, so that could be hard to understand. I always loved sports so I was on the gymnastics team, the dance team, and the tennis team. I know that might be hard to believe.

EM/DB: Where did you attend college and how was your college experience?

RP: I went to Coker College in Hartsville for two years, and then I transferred to College of Charleston where I graduated in 1979. I was going to be a PE major at Coker. People find that funny for some reason. I liked Coker, but then I figured out I wasn't cut out for PE because I took anatomy and physiology and that was awful. And so I transferred to College of Charleston and found that was where I wanted to be. I missed Charleston and I loved CofC's English department. I always knew I wanted to be a teacher ever since I was five years old.

EM/DB: Why did you want to be an English teacher?

RP: I remember when I was five or six and my little brother and I were in Goose Bay. I had a chalkboard so I taught him his ABC's. He didn't want to learn them, so I said, "Frank, you're gonna learn your ABC's," and he was fighting me on it. I just knew I was going to be a teacher from that age, and here I am. I started my teaching career at Goose Creek High School in 1981 with Mrs. Crawford.

EM/DB: What made you want to teach at SOA?

RP: Mrs. Crawford said that they had an opening in the English department. She said that I had always wanted to be like her, so she suggested that I look into it. I was ready for a change. I am now in my ninth year of teaching at SOA.



Ms. Passarello as a child.

Provided

Where Are They Now: Rebecca Fanning

Former Vocal major and class of 2007 graduate Rebecca Fanning has been busy after SOA. After majoring in Russian at Bard College, Rebecca has lived in St. Petersburg, New York State, and the San Francisco Bay Area. She is now back home to study wetland ecology. **Mollie Pate** caught up with Rebecca on her post-SOA life.

Mollie Pate: At Bard, I know you studied Russian. What made you want to dedicate yourself to this in college and potentially out of school? What was it like studying it?

Rebecca Fanning: I really enjoyed studying French at SOA from Madame Touhri's class in the eighth grade up to Mrs. Kovatchva's fifth year tutorial my senior year. I knew I wanted to challenge myself in college with a new language and I chose Russian precisely for its challenging breach from Indo-European languages. I didn't mean to major in it, but when the time came my sophomore year to choose a course of study I realized that the Russian department had my favorite offerings. I just couldn't resist devoting semester after semester to the smattering of language, literature, and the history of Russia.

MP: How long were you in St. Petersburg, what were you doing there, and what made you decide to go?

RF: When I first traveled to St. Petersburg, it was to participate in a month long intensive language program. The course took place on the embankment of Vasilyevsky, the island Peter the Great built up out of the swamps as the cornerstone of the city, during a time of year known as the white nights. It's called that because during a slice of the summer the sun never really sets. That's how far north we were. I was so taken by the city and the people I met there, especially a certain young and dashing entrepreneur, that I knew I had to come right back just as soon as possible. So, in 2009 I spent my junior year studying at Smolny Institute in Bobrinsky Palace. That's where Prince Bobrinsky introduced the emperor to a model steam engine he built in his yard to convince the court to fund the Trans-Siberian railroad, which is now the longest rail system in the world. And a certain young and dashing entrepreneur took me for a ride on that railroad on the way out to his family's country house where we found berries as big as our eyeballs and ate dinner alongside the neighbors' beloved pet vulture.

MP: Wetland ecology is quite a change from Russian. How did you get into it? Where has it taken you and do you see yourself pursuing it in the future?

RF: After working at the Berkeley, California Marina Nature Center for a year, it occurred to me that it wasn't too late for me to go out and make a difference. I started organizing beach clean-ups at the marina and got interested in the area of habitat restoration, which is basically what you get if you played that they-paved-paradise-and-put-up-a-parking-lot song backwards. I joined an organization called Save the Bay and worked with their restoration team in a place called Eden Landing just south of Oakland. We harvested native plants and seeds in the wild and redistributed them to our project sites. The terribly frustrating part of it was that California was in a serious drought and it was wildly difficult to haul enough buckets of water out to keep our plants alive. I'm looking forward to visiting Eden soon and seeing how the plant life has fared since I last saw it in August. My work with Save the Bay lasted for about a year before I decided to move back home where grad school is much more affordable, but it isn't just about the money. As it turns out, South Carolina has done a remarkable job protecting its marshland from development. I'm back home to study the marshes, the policies that have kept them safe, and the methods needed to restore them in places that haven't been so lucky. I can't wait to get started! I am 26 and I finally know what I want to be when I grow up! It's a good feeling, but there's no way I would have gotten to this place trying. It was only by way of floating around all planktonic-like, shifting around with the winds and tides that I figured it all out in the end. Plankton is a funny thing, misunderstood really. Some things, like jellyfish, stay plankton their whole lives. But then there's also meroplankton that grows up to be something else, not plankton at all, but sticktight barnacles or tunicates or a wandering hermit crab or a wetland ecologist. I think for my PhD work I'll find an excuse to go study the swamps of Russia, because why not?

Two one-act plays a cornerstone of Theater senior thesis

by Ryan Biddix

Two one act productions, Ed Monk's *Cut* and Doug Cooney's *Mustardseed*, were part of this year's Theater senior thesis, performed on February 8th and 9th.

Mustardseed is a contemporary take on Shakespearean comedy that focuses on the dramatic spectacle of backstage production. It aims its attention on the four fairies in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*: Mustardseed, Moth, Cobweb, and Peaseblossom. This coming-of-age dramatic comedy highlights the themes prevalent in Shakespeare's work that inevitably change each character in the production.

Ed Monk's *Cut* is a play within a play, creating chaos and confusion amongst the production cast. The playwright has not named the majority of the characters, and the first eight are identified only by letters of the alphabet. As the play progresses, each character forgets their identity and questions reality. The whole performance is an illusion making the audience believe that the play has been poorly rehearsed.

Both productions focus on the hectic process actors go through during a performance and inevitably end with a moral. Senior theatre majors go through a three part process for senior thesis. This practicum show was the second part and the senior solo pieces will be showcased in the first week of May.



Before moving back to Charleston, Rebecca worked at the Berkley Marina Nature Center.

A celebration of women's history: six female world-changers

by Cheyenne Koth

Although less known than it's February cousin, March is National Women's History Month. To celebrate, **Cheyenne Koth** profiles six women who were highly influential and important in history.

Enheduanna (2285-2250 BCE)

Born in Mesopotamia, Enheduanna was the world's first author known by name. She was highly trusted by the emperor Sargon the Great and was appointed a High Priestess of the most important temple in Sumer. In her writings, she describes her work as High Priestess and her eventful exile from that position. She called to the Goddess Inanna for assistance and was, incidentally, brought back to her rightful place in the temple. She is best known for her *Inninsagurra (The Great Hearted Mistress)*, *Ninmesarra (The Exaltation of Inanna)*, and *Inninmehusa (Goddess of Fearsome Powers)*, which are all devoted hymns to the aforementioned Goddess. Enheduanna served as the High Priestess for forty years, even surviving the office through an attempted coup. In addition to her hymns, she wrote forty-two poems that describe her religious devotion as well as personal frustrations and hopes. Enheduanna redefined literature and homogenous religion to the Mesopotamian society, and has left a lasting mark on history and many civilizations.



Provided

Sappho (620-570 BCE)

A lyric poet born on the Isle of Lesbos, Sappho's work was wildly popular in ancient Greece so much so that she was immortalized in statuary on several occasions. Described in texture as having a dark complexion and short stature, Sappho completed nine volumes of poetry in her lifetime though only fragments of them survived to the modern day. Her volumes were simply lost to time, but the fact that she wrote lesbian love poetry did not help in the eyes of medieval Christians. The term 'sapphic,' meaning of the lesbian persuasion, was coined in her honor. Sappho was truly a pillar of poetry and is very much so still relevant to this day.



Provided

Pauli Murray (1910-1985)

Pauli Murray was a Howard University trained lawyer who fought for the equal punishment for sexual discrimination in the Equal Protection Clause. Despite being a driving force behind the 1960s African-American civil rights movement, she is not well known. During her studies at Howard, where she studied under William Howard Hastie and Leon Ransom, Murray suggested that *Plessy v. Ferguson* was inherently immoral and was immediately ridiculed by her peers. She named the combination of sexism and racism she encountered "Jane Crow." Even great justices like Thurgood Marshall used a copy of her senior thesis, titled "Should Civil Rights Causes and *Plessy v. Ferguson* Be Overruled?" as a reference for arguing in *Brown v. Board of Education*.



Provided

Sylvia Rivera (1951-2002)

Sylvia Rivera was a pivotal figure of the gay and transgender rights movement and basically helped birth it. A warrior of the Stonewall riots, Rivera also fought against the exclusion of transgender people in the Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act in New York. Despite being so influential and important to the cause, she was often hard to swallow to many of the figures of the movement and is generally overshadowed. Rivera also fought for the rights of low-income trans and queer people, who face the most harsh and multi-faceted discrimination.



Provided

Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell (1821-1910)

The first woman to earn a medical degree in America, Dr. Blackwell graduated from New York's Geneva Medical College. Born in Bristol, England, Elizabeth moved to America with her family as a child because her father sought to abolish slavery. In addition to being the first woman M.D., Blackwell was an advocate for medical educations for women and strived to help women in their careers. She published several books, including *Address on the Medical Education of Women* in 1864 and *Medicine as a Profession for Women* in 1860. Later in her life Dr. Blackwell established a practice for herself in New York City, but due to her gender she did not receive many patients. In 1857, along with her sister Dr. Emily Blackwell, she opened The New York Infirmary for Women and Children. Ten years later, an adjoining medical college for women opened.



Provided

Wilma Rudolph (1940-1994)

Wilma Rudolph was the first woman to ever win three gold medals at the Olympics. A polio survivor, Rudolph overcame her childhood disabilities to qualify for the 1956 Summer Olympics at only 16. As the youngest on the team, she won a bronze medal in the sprint relay event. In the 1960 Summer Olympics, Rudolph set two world records: 11.3 seconds for the 100-meter dash and 23.2 seconds for the 200 meter-dash. After these wins, Rudolph was one of the fastest and most sought after athletes of her time. In 1960, when she was only 20, Rudolph won the Associated Press Women's Athlete of the Year Award. She won it again the next year.



Provided



My Mother is a Smoker

**Reese Fischer,
Junior**

I pick up my air guitar and she plays her steering wheel like she's Dave Grohl. She tells me this is one of her songs, one of her songs the old sea witch, Tobacco didn't steal.

She used to be able to sing, the kind of singing that makes you feel better than a good kiss or eating ripe fruit.

Stress dressed her in tar black lung, she lost it. She sits now and chain smokes on my back porch, curses her boss and sings Janis, she can't hit those notes anymore.

Heartbreak damned her to mourn in Marlboro, now she croons from a back pew and idolizes the way the choir girls hit those notes like gold bells.

Loneliness found refuge in her lullabies, she doesn't sing us to sleep anymore because it tires her out, she is too tired.

Sometimes I'll catch her with headphones in, mopping or dusting or filing papers, and one of those songs will come on, Patsy or Aretha, and her tone will slip out the open windows, then turn the streets to honey.

Against the Eire Sky

Luke Gair, Junior

Todd moved closer to the body. Her skin was now losing its color, but it flourished in places where the golden patches of sunlight hit it. Her lips ajar, painted pink. Dried blood caked the corners of her mouth, and her tongue was dried from the cold winds that came through at night. Black flies found refuge on her eyelids, and he could see where the moths kissed her forehead. Her neck was painted with shades of blues and purples, and Todd could see the popped blood vessels under her chin. Dirt encased her cuticles, along with scraped fingertips and cracked nails. The summer atmosphere began to take a toll on her skin, concentrated areas began to turn brown and green, and in other places it peeled into darkened strips. Her legs were nowhere to be found in the area, only stubs where her bones protruded out of her severed flesh. Todd stepped on his heels as he backed away from the corpse. The body's scent began to make his eyes water.



Holly Rizer



**Samantha Dupree,
Senior. Watercolor
and pen and ink
(above).**

Holly Rizer



**April LaRoché,
Junior. Charcoal,
acrylic, and ink
(right).**





Holly Rizer

Cheyenne Koth



Winter Comes to the Diner
Chris Beckley, Junior

The diner at night was a fishbowl for strangers. There were far too many tables and too many chairs. And some nights there were so few people that Renee had to imagine ghosts filling up those empty seats. It was always cold as if the place had cut a shady, back room deal with the overworked fry cook eternally wiping sweat off his underpaid brow. She sighed. Her breath froze in front of her eyes for a second. She wondered if it would stay there forever. Suspended like a spirit caught in the branches of a willow, forever weeping. The apparition collided like a galaxy with the steam from her coffee; intergalactic particles smashed and canceled each other out in the purest form of love. He was late. She checked the time. She checked through her messages. She sighed again but no conjuration of friend or foe presented itself, only the silence of abandonment that this diner honed like a conduit.

Overhead the snow globe light fixtures had overstayed their welcome. They blotted out the shadows of comfort that came when she closed her eyes. Renee checked her phone again. She wished that the bulb above her would die and cast a solemn shadow over the world. If she stared at it hard enough it would flicker like a rainy-night candle being blown out before bed. Llewyn walked into the diner with a familiar disheveled walk. Renee knew he had practiced this act of imperfection to throw people off. He glanced around the diner, dazed, before locating her. She rolled her eyes at the charade, they had only ever sat in one booth in all the time they had come here. He fell onto the seat across from her. He opened his mouth to make an excuse.

“Here take my sweater,” he said.

“Come on, I’m fine,” but he threw her the ripped sweater, spotted with faded bloodstains. She threw it right back with force.



Elsa Cline, Senior.
 Oil paint (above).

Holly Rizer



Ethan Lopez,
 Junior. Oil paint
 (left).

Crossword Answers

Down

10. Ring
7. Hook
6. Ugly
3. Damsel
1. Strayed off the beaten path

Across

13. Chicken Little
12. Boots
11. Cow
9. Cookie
8. Pea
5. Mouse
4. Fairy Godmother
2. Tinker Bell

Raven's Rugby Schedule

- 5 Feb- Ravens vs. Irmo: Loss, 22-7**
12 Feb- Ravens vs. Wando A (at Ft. Johnson Middle): Loss, 18-0
 26 Feb- Ravens vs. Chapin (at Ft. Johnson Middle) 7:00 pm
 18 Mar- Ravens vs. Greenville (at Crooked Creek Rd. Columbia, SC) 8:30 pm
 8 Apr- Ravens vs. Aiken (at Aiken) 7:00 pm
 15 Apr- Ravens vs. Oconee (at Seneca) 7:00 pm
 22 Apr- Ravens vs. South Greenville (at Crooked Creek Rd. Columbia, SC) 7:00 pm

*all times and locations are subject to change

Sports Updates

Peter Gair: Wando Soccer, the team Peter captains, has just won a tournament 5-0 Greenville.

David Seim: His season has just started and things are going well so far.

Health Week Schedule

- Monday: Yoga**
Tuesday: Drug and Alcohol Awareness
Wednesday: Tobacco Prevention
Thursday: Stress Management
Friday: A pen for petting puppies (Stress Management)

Jacob Fairchild juggles rugby, AP courses, and vocal

Provided

By Mia Pernice

Jacob Fairchild is a senior Vocal major at SOA, but his talents aren't only displayed on stage. Jacob also shines out on the field as President of the Ravens Rugby team. His position? Fullback.

"Fullbacks stay back on defense in case someone kicks," Jacob said.

However, the fullback is one of the most important positions for

attacking as well. Fullbacks handle the ball during nearly every set of six and are often running to the open spaces on the field. It is one of the four key positions that make up the teams "spine." Jacob has been on the team for four years and is one of the most experienced members. As president, he is in charge of running the team's board meetings and enforcing the rules. Interestingly, the rugby bi-laws were created and documented by Jacob himself.

The team's practices start with a general warm up followed by a few rounds of touch rugby and end with some skills training. Jacob also tries to make it to the gym before school every morning. Staying healthy lets you feel and play stronger which is extremely important for State Allstars, a regional tournament where the best players in the state play against one another. Jacob is hoping to be a member of the Allstars and has been working hard for his spot.

Doing sports, multiple AP and honors courses, major, running the blood drive for NHS, and having a social life is extremely difficult to balance; so how does Jacob manage it?

"Basically no sleep," he said. "It's a lot like a constant balancing act or like juggling 24/7."

Starting in ninth grade and building his strength as a rugby player, as well as a sense of enjoyment, is impressive and shows Jacob's extreme dedication and happiness to rugby. He plans to continue his passion next year at Clemson University.

"I love rugby, it's one of the best random decisions I ever made," Jacob said. "Anyone can play, it takes a bit of crazy but it's different and universal because of the community that surrounds it."



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Persimmon Cafe: a tasty downtown secret

by Ryan Biddix and Nick Huss

With the overwhelming debt of college tuitions and heaps of dirty laundry, students gravitate towards this deli-laundromat hybrid. Persimmon Cafe is a well-kept secret amongst locals, as most tourists venture only far enough to spot their favorite franchise: Starbucks.

This cafe's exterior resemblance to a strange laundromat lunch spot does not give justice to its quality dishes, and the interior ornamentation and dining experience sets it apart from other local delis. The walls are filled with elaborate murals from different local artists and the seating is arranged in a bar-like style suiting the cafe's sentiment: providing fast service for the hectic schedule of college students.

Persimmon offers a vast selection of gourmet sandwiches, paninis, homemade sides, soups and handspun custards. They also offer many vegetarian and vegan options. After navigating through the menu, we finally decided on the Adult Grilled Cheese and the Caprese paninis with side orders of Rosemary Lemon Ice Tea and the Nutella & Toasted Marshmallow Custard. The Adult Grilled Cheese consisted of smoked Gouda, locally grown green apples, prosciutto, and cheddar. The holy trinity of cheese and hand cut meat makes this sandwich unlike most ordinary, mundane Kraft™ grilled cheese sandwiches. Apples are not a conventional grilled cheese ingredient, but they added texture and an acidic taste to combat the savoriness of the blend of cheeses.

The Caprese Panini was composed of fresh mozzarella, homemade date balsamic jam, marinated tomatoes and speck ham. We substituted the speck ham for a grilled Portobelo mushroom because it was the healthier alternative for meat products. The combination of the date balsamic jam and the tomatoes created a honeyed flavor that overwhelmed the taste buds.

The Nutella & Toasted Marshmallow custard is a must-have item to purchase at Persimmon Cafe, and the creation is an experience by itself. After hand-spinning the custard into a thick paste, the waiter brings out a torch and sets fire to the marshmallows placed on top. It is truly a show-stopper. Head to Persimmon Cafe for hot food and cool custards. Waiting for your laundry has never been more delicious.



Open every day except Sunday.
10:00AM-9:00PM
Price Range: \$

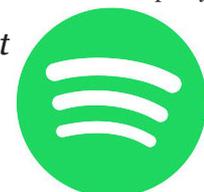
Ryan Biddix



March Spotify Playlist

Your monthly Applause certified list of jams: just head to **cusatisoa** on Spotify to listen.

- “Something” - The Beatles
- “1996” - The Wombats
- “Salvatore” - Lana Del Rey
- “Buleria” - David Bisbal
- “The Good, the Bad, the Dirty” - Panic! at the Disco
- “The Feeling” - Justin Bieber
- “Shine a Light” - Spiritualized
- “Mona Lisas and Mad Hatters” - Elton John
- “New Horizons” - Moody Blues
- “Further Along, Farther Away” - Snowmine
- “Bill Withers” - HoneySmoke
- “Oh! You Pretty Things” - David Bowie
- “Ophelia” - The Lumineers
- “Come Back to Me” - Janet Jackson
- “Kickin’ da Leaves” - Judah & the Lion
- “Lifted Up” - Passion Pit
- “Here We Go” - Drew Holcomb & The Neighbors



Spotify

Yann Martel’s *Life of Pi* lives up to hype

Goodreads

by Alissa Melsopp

First published in 2001, Yann Martel’s critically acclaimed novel *Life of Pi* was a hard sell, as Knopf Canada was the first of at least five publishing houses to actually accept the novel. That’s quite ironic considering the very positive reception and large number of awards the novel has received.

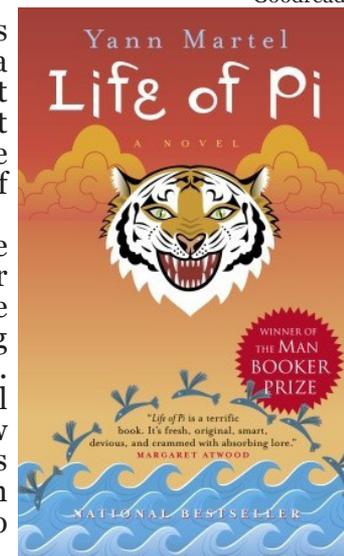
This enthralling novel is cut into three parts. The first details Piscine, or Pi, Molitor Patel’s childhood in Pondicherry, India. He describes the zoo that his father owned along with the experiences he had working there. At this point religion becomes an integral part of Pi’s life, and he decides to follow Hinduism, Islam, and Christianity in his quest to understand God. Part one ends with Pi and his family selling their zoo to move to Canada.

The second part describes the sinking of the *Tsimtsum*, the ship Pi’s family traveled on, and Pi’s escape onto a small lifeboat with a hyena, an orangutan, a zebra, and Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. Soon, it is just Richard Parker and Pi left on the raft and they have to learn to coexist with each other to survive their 277-day trip across the ocean. When they finally reach land after the long and grueling experience afloat, Richard Parker disappears into the jungle without looking back and the locals find Pi heartbroken at the painful goodbye.

The final part dictates a conversation between Pi and two Japanese officials in which Pi tells them two different but parallel stories of his time afloat at sea: one with the animals and one with a cook, a sailor, and his mother.

The themes in the novel really bring another perspective to life. *Life of Pi* demonstrates the interdependency that all animals and people have through Pi’s relationship with Richard Parker aboard their life raft. In order to survive, the two depend upon each other in spite of their obvious biological differences. This novel also shows how essential faith is to life whether it is faith in God, in one’s ability to survive, or in a Bengal tiger with a funny name.

Witnessing Pi’s growth and development from his childhood in India and his experience lost at sea is also an integral part of the book. Even though Pi is taught from a young age that tigers are incredibly dangerous, he manages to mature into a person capable of overcoming his fear and showing Richard Parker that he is in charge. The powerful message and masterful storytelling make *Life of Pi* a compelling choice.



Music review: talented female artists

In honor of Women's History Month, Applause music critic **Jada Orr** is featuring two women who are breaking boundaries with their crafts.

New Album: Rihanna

This album is one to RIHmember. *Anti* is Rihanna's eighth studio album, but it has been labeled as her first project incorporating her artistic perspective.

Besides the conflict of the album being leaked early through *Tidal Magazine*, *Anti* still managed to go platinum in less than 14 hours. It's the fastest album to be certified platinum.

The Barbadian beauty's fantastic musical masterpiece has features from Drake and SZA as well as lyric and production contributions from James Fauntleroy, Natalia Kills, The Weeknd, Timbaland, and Travis Scott: La Flame himself.

Rihanna is currently in a 25 million dollar deal with Samsung. The company contributed to the promotion of the album and is funding her upcoming Anti World Tour. This is a must-listen.

New Artist: Tommy Genesis

It's ridiculous how many female rappers go unrecognized simply because their style is different. Tommy Genesis has formed her own wave by creating her platform through Soundcloud, Spotify, and more. *World Vision* (2015), currently her only album, defies the stereotypes and expectations of rap music.

Her voice creates a nonchalant vibe that is generally layered on trap influenced beats with slight techno elements. Her flow is very unusual, but that only gives more of an artsy feel to her genre. She deserves her own genre simply because she doesn't fit with anything already pre-classified. Check her out!

Honey Smoke brings Charleston the Blues

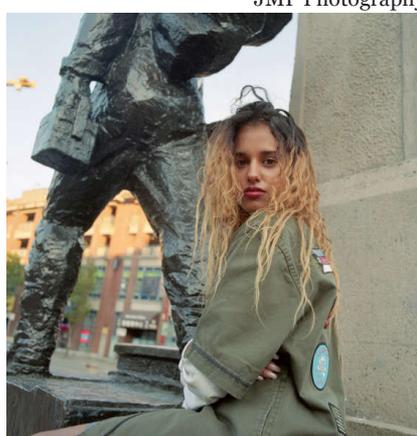
by Jackie Evans

Honey Smoke is a Charleston grown band with a delta blues sound. The band is made up of four members: Dave, who plays resonator and acoustic guitars, telecaster, harmonica, ukulele, accordion, and sings; Justin, who plays telecaster, Morris, Les Paul, national steel, and lap steel, guitars ukulele, and sings; Mike, who plays double bass, electric bass, and sings; and Jake, who plays drums and percussion.

Their musical goal is to mix the styles and sounds of blues, a little rock and occasionally country, and the instrumentations of the Sea Islands. Influences include Fleetwood Mac, Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, Eric Clapton, and Creedance Clearwater Revival, and our own beautiful city. The band's music has great feel that can easily get you groovin, and music lovers will find themselves hooked. I definitely suggest taking a good listen to this talented group!



Billboard



JMP Photography



Provided

World of Tomorrow: a short film with a long impact

by Nick Huss

As a kid, I always enjoyed the Pixar short films that came on during the previews. The most iconic was *Luxo Jr.*, about a tiny lamp playing with a ball. I continued

to anticipate the short film at every Pixar movie I saw, and I soon had the full two disk collection of all the Pixar short films. However, as time went by my joy for the films diminished as I found them too childish. I've now come across *World of Tomorrow*, a short film produced by Don Hertzfeldt, one of my favorite animators.

World of Tomorrow is about a young girl named Emily who is visited by a clone of her future self. The clone is trying to recall a memory she has forgotten. While searching for the memory, she takes the younger Emily on a time traveling adventure showing what her future holds in store. The two talk about her future as well as human civilization. Emily will have a very successful life working in space and will fall in love with a moon rock, fuel pump, and alien. People will stop using the Internet and instead use the "Outernet," the moon will become a workplace for robots, and aliens will live among us.

After already seeing many of Hertzfeldt's films, I knew *World of Tomorrow* would not disappoint. I was absolutely correct. The movie is filled with science fiction elements that will appeal to anyone who dreams of the future. *World of Tomorrow's* ending leaves you wondering that if technology makes it possible to clone ourselves, will we make new memories? Or forget the ones that are most clear? The film clocks in at about fifteen minutes and is available on Netflix, so set aside some time to watch this Academy Award nominee: it's up for Best Animated Short Film. You won't regret it.

Fashion: Calvin Klein's new campaign

by Jada Orr

Calvin Klein recently begun a new campaign to show off their newest fashions. The ready-to-wear collections display a range of colors. The women's collection has pieces with precise detail and structure and nude and natural tones. It plays with the perspective of different angles. The men's collection includes more color and less graphic detail, bringing focus to the fabric and structure of the garments. Share with #mycalvins



Kendrick Lamar sports the male line, showcasing the focus on raw fabric and structure.



IMDB

Instagram

Kendrick Lamar, Hip-Hop Art

POINT/COUNTERPOINT

*Everyone loves ancient Rome, and the most glorious era of Roman history begins with the murder of Julius Caesar and the beginning of the Empire. But was Julius' Ides of March stabbing justified? **Cheyenne Koth** helps **Caesar** fend off the conspirators as **Alissa Melsopp** hands **Brutus** the knife in this edition of Point/Counterpoint:*

Caesar V. Brutus!

Cheyenne: Caesar

Jay Rode

Alissa: Brutus

Julius Caesar was a devoted leader who just wanted the best for Rome. He was willing to do anything for his republic. See, if Brutus was as smart as people say, or innocent as some claim, he would've actually talked to Caesar.

They were buds!

Had Brutus done the right thing and confronted his best friend about his worries, Caesar would've taken Brutus' words into consideration and begun to mend Rome. He trusted Brutus and relied on his council! Of course he listened.

You want to know what this little chat would've also done? This talk between friends would have cleared up any misconceptions about ambition that may have been wrongfully placed into our poor Brutus' mind. you see, he had been

manipulated into thinking that Caesar desired to be king and had stopped caring for the happiness of his people. This, of course, was totally false. Had Brutus simply told him about his feelings, Caesar would have been grateful for his honesty.

But, no. Brutus had to fall into the trap of the manipulative Cassius, then kill and betray his best pal.

Do you want to know where traitor's go? Traitors who double cross their fellow man? Traitors who kill those who trusted them, who relied on them? Who kill their best pals?

Hell. They go to Hell. Satan's mouth, to be specific.

Just ask Dante. What Cassius and Brutus did is the most punishable offense out of all sins forever. At the bottom of that fiery pit that is Hell, lie Cassius and Brutus in the mouth of its ruler. There, they suffer endlessly. Over something that could've been cleared up with a little heart to heart? Come on.

This March, don't be like Brutus. Talk to your friends about their ambition and bad habits.



We all know the story of Julius Caesar's death. On the Ides of March, he was literally stabbed in the back by his best friend Brutus. As terrible as that sounds, Brutus and Cassius were definitely in the right. The death of Caesar ushered in a new era for Rome under Octavian that was vital in Roman history.

Let me lay down some info for your young eyes. Our old pal Jules was a part of a triumvirate, a little team of three people who were all equally in charge of Rome, the other two being Pompey and Crassus. At one point, it became apparent that Pompey wanted to take all the power for himself and take advantage of the Roman people, so Julius Caesar decided to kill him. Later, the exact same

thing happened when Caesar wanted to become a solo act. It's a bit hypocritical to get down on Brutus for doing the exact same thing that Caesar did, is it not? I don't think anyone wants to be a hypocrite, do you?

Also, Brutus loved Caesar until the very end. He was not killing him to further his own position or out of spite. He honestly thought that he was doing the right thing for the Roman Republic at the time. He saw that Caesar was trying to take too much power in a government that was supposed to be for the people, and he knew deep down in his innocent little soul that it was the right thing to do. Don't think he didn't shed a tear or two over the abrupt end of a beautiful bromance. No one is that cold-hearted, especially Brutus.

Now that you know the cold hard facts, readers, it is up to you to decide who was in the right. I know none of you are hypocrites, so that makes this decision easy. Brutus did what he had to do. End of story.

The first hit is free, but the next...

by Jay Rode

Recently, I joined a highly-exclusive league of shoppers whose only goal is to thwart corporate America and buy a lot of food for very little money. This time, I picked up five large boxes of fruit gummies for the delightful price of 23¢.

As I play Call of Duty and write English papers, I can now select from some 120 packets of delicious and fruity (but made with zero fruit juice, let's not be ridiculous) gummy candies. Sunkist has surprisingly accurate flavors. The cherry-flavored ones actually taste like cherries instead of that terrible flavor that typically accompanies the bland lollipops in waiting rooms (Damn you, you cheap, corporate America, you!).

This couponing event has spurred my inner super-consumer. Since the Day of Cheap Food, I've spent five dollars on two packs of Oreos (family size, I'll have you know) sunk a few dollars into one-too-many cold Starbucks bottled drinks, and combed the Internet looking for coupons to use on a new laptop.

Hopefully you noted a trend there. Twenty-three cents for gummies, five dollars for Oreos, five dollars and fifty cents for coffee, and now a few hundred on a laptop. I reiterate my titular point: the first hit is free, but the next...

It's a slippery slope, folks. To quote the words of lyrical mastermind Weird Al in a song about music piracy: "...you start out stealing songs, then you're robbing liquor stores, and selling crack, and running over school kids with your caaar...". The man who has parodied Iggy Azalea's "Fancy" is also telling you to not download music illegally, and I'm telling you to be careful about the savings game.

Companies start these games because they know you'll get hooked. Something something, wake up sheeple.

Sass Attack

by Cheyenne Koth

Picture for me, readers, a Venn Diagram. On one side are things that annoy people and on the other are things that can, have, and will kill people. There's a considerably small space between these things, and right there is where annoying things that kill people reside.

Texting and driving looms large there. I know you've heard this before. Lecture upon lecture from adults, and mentors, and teachers, and here's another one, right?

Well. Right, actually. So here goes: Do you know why people tell you not to text and drive? Because it literally ruins people's lives by killing them. Besides, do you think that you, worrying over your AP classes and social life, could add more stress to your life by actually killing a person? No? Yeah, no.

So just stop, all right? I see you, okay? I see what you're doing and I hate it. Everyone hates it.

If you text and drive think of the people that you're endangering: namely everyone in the car, on the road, and around you.

Or, if you text and drive, you could die.



Jay Rode

Editorial: Denial is not the way forward unless you like to swim

Last October, we all got a taste of the future. Our wet and watery future.

Charleston is a low-lying coastal city, and the reminders of our aquatic perch are everywhere. The crosstown twists and turns at such strange angles because it lies above an old creekbed. MUSC and Roper sit on top of an area of the peninsula that used to be known as "millpond," because it was a millpond. Everything west of Ashley Avenue was once marsh. That's why streets become rivers at the uncommon coincidence of high tide and heavy rain.

Uncommon? Scratch that.

Now it seems that downtown becomes drown-town much more often, with higher water levels and longer periods underwater, as October's week of wetness demonstrated.

In addition, there are now permanent puddles and mini-lakes dotting the western half of the peninsula. Don't believe me? Take a drive down Bee Street by the VA hospital and make a left onto Cherry Street at the Credit Union. There's always at least six inches of stagnant water there. You can even see it on Google Earth if you zoom in. Loop around Mason Prep any time of day for those smaller permanent puddles that seem to spontaneously ooze out of the earth. Parts of downtown are slowly but surely reverting to marsh or river, one flood at a time, and it's only going to get worse.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, sea levels have been rising at a rate of 0.12 inches per year since 1992. But that's just the beginning. According to the EPA, sea levels are expected to rise one to four feet by 2100. At that point, canoeing through the Market won't be a yearly or even monthly event: it'll be the daily commute. Nobody wants to deal with canoe traffic on top of regular traffic. The parking situation alone would be a nightmare!

Oh, also, the knee to shoulder deep water permanently sitting in the first floors of downtown's buildings would be an issue. But ignoring this coming crisis will solve it, right? No. Denying the reality of climate change is like knowing your house is on fire but refusing to leave because you can't see the flames through the smoke. It defies logic. Even if it's all made up, what do we have to lose? Making a cleaner and greener planet for everyone? Oh no! Not that!

The climate agreement brokered last year in Paris is a good beginning. But taking the first step of a journey does not immediately take you there, and the road ahead is very long and increasingly wet. We must do more to save the planet and ourselves, or we'll end up snorkeling down King Street instead of strolling.



Jay Rode



Editorial cartoon by Holly Rizer

21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25 th	26th	27th
<p>1925- The first issue of <i>The New Yorker</i> is published.</p> <p>1946- Alan Rickman is born.</p> <p>1950- The First International Pancake Race is held in Liberal, Kansas.</p> <p>1965- Malcolm X is assassinated in New York City.</p> <p>2003- David Hasselhoff is injured in a motorcycle accident.</p> <p>World Whale Day</p>	<p>1900- Hawaii becomes a US territory.</p> <p>1903- Due to drought, the US side of Niagara Falls stops flowing.</p> <p>1923- The first successful chinchilla farm starts in Los Angeles.</p> <p>1935- Airplanes can no longer fly over the White House.</p> <p>International Dog Walking Day</p>	<p>1836- The battle of the Alamo begins</p> <p>1861- Texas becomes the seventh state to secede from the Union.</p> <p>1896- Leo Hirshfield introduces the Tootsie Roll.</p> <p>1954- Polio vaccines begin.</p> <p>1983- Aziz Ansari is born.</p> <p>International Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day</p>	<p>1711- Handel's opera <i>Rinaldo</i> premieres.</p> <p>1868- First US parade with floats.</p> <p>1909- The Hudson Motor Car Company is founded.</p> <p>1955- Steve Jobs is born.</p> <p>1986- First Uranus flyby.</p> <p>1998- Elton John is knighted.</p> <p>National Tortilla Chip Day</p>	<p>1923- Bread in Berlin rises to 2000 marks.</p> <p>1973- Juan Corona sentenced to 25 life sentences for 25 murders.</p> <p>1990- Stevie Nicks breaks down in BBC interview, saying no man can stand her for too long.</p> <p>Inconvenience Yourself Day</p>	<p>1907- US Congress raises their salaries to \$7,500.</p> <p>1930- The first red & green traffic lights are installed in New York City.</p> <p>1956- Sylvia Plath & Ted Hughes meet at a party in Cambridge.</p> <p>1975- The first televised kidney transplant.</p> <p>1999- The 15th Soap Opera Digest Awards - <i>General Hospital</i> wins</p>	<p>1594- Henri IV crowned king of France.</p> <p>1908- Star #46 was added to US flag for Oklahoma.</p> <p>1956- Women gain the vote in Egypt.</p> <p>1981- Josh Groban is born.</p> <p>1991- James Brown is released from prison.</p> <p>2013- Pope Benedict XVI delivers farewell speech.</p> <p>No Brainer Day</p>

Sign of the Month: Good Luck!

In our newest feature, Applause's **Savannah Porter** heads to the deaf and hearing impaired department to teach us all a common phrase in sign language. This month, **Kendie Garcia** demonstrates "Good Luck!"



Good:

Luck:

Place your right hand on your chin and move it down onto your palm. Draw your right hand across your chin while closing your mouth.

Crossword: Fairies, folk tales, and fables.

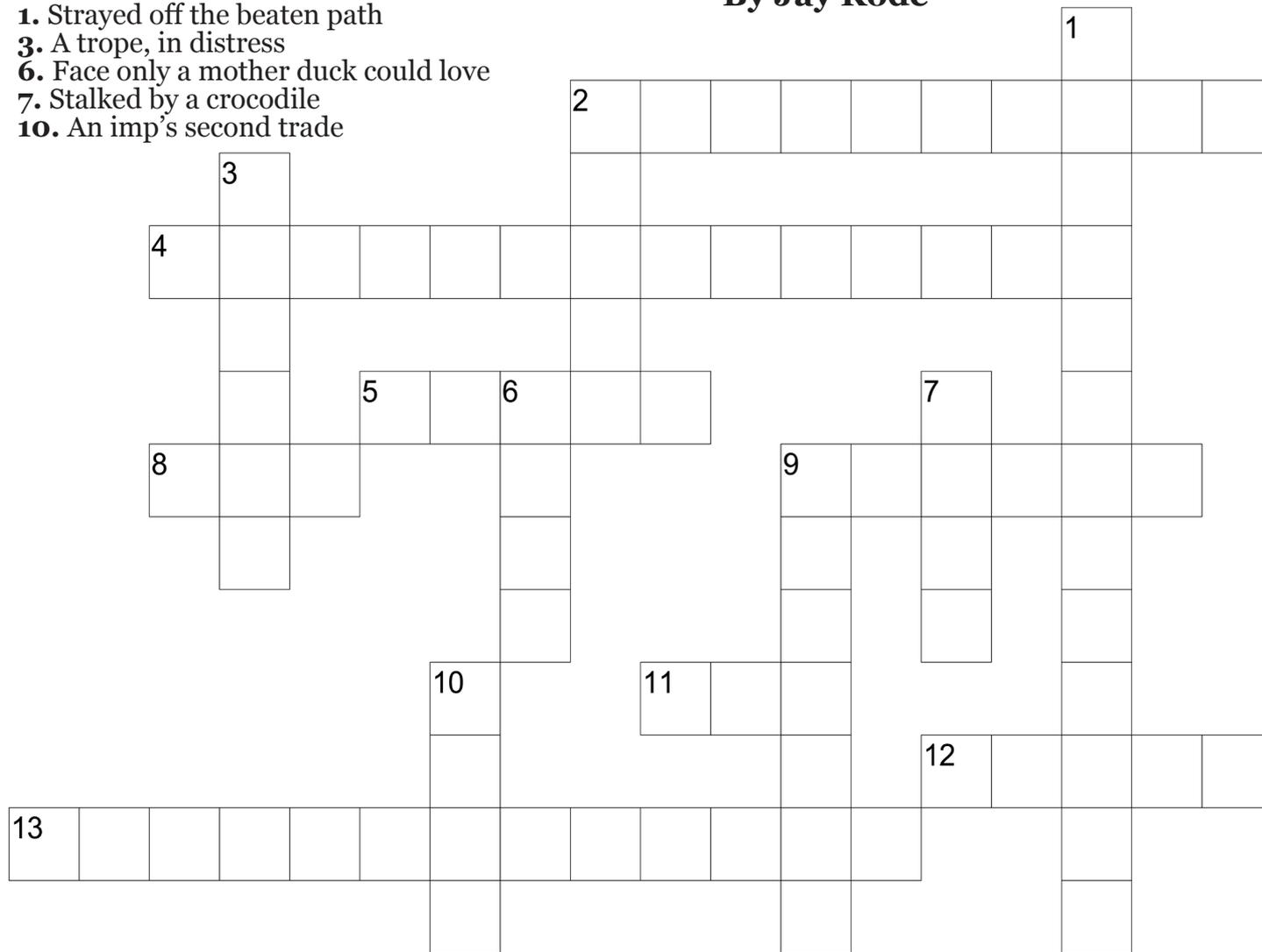
Across

2. In the end, forgotten by Peter
4. "Oh, my diet is ruined!"
5. Town? Or City?
8. Princess can't sleep
9. Paul Bunyan's cook
11. Jack's only source of income
12. Sly cat's apparel
13. "The sky is falling!"

Down

1. Strayed off the beaten path
3. A trope, in distress
6. Face only a mother duck could love
7. Stalked by a crocodile
10. An imp's second trade

By Jay Rode



Wacky Holidays: March

Applause's *Etta Elliott* brings you these strange celebrations in our newest feature.

March 1:

National Pig Day

March 6:

National Frozen Food Day

March 8:

Be Nasty Day

March 10:

Middle Names Pride Day

March 17:

Submarine Day

March 18:

Oil Expropriation Day

March 20:

National Alien Abduction Day

March 21:

National Quilting Day

March 22:

International Goof Off Day

Etta Elliott's Hot Tips: Dealing with unfortunate things

1. When a busy restaurant only has one bathroom.

Cut everyone in line and say you already wet your pants. Or just go outside.

2. When you get chocolate ice-cream on your white pants.

Wear black pants, ya dingus.

3. When you put your roll-on-lip-balm on your lips but it is actually your roll-on-perfume.

It doesn't taste as good as it smells. Use your eyes when you search for things, then you won't have this problem. Or just get normal lip balm.

4. When you swerve to miss a squirrel and hit a tree. #worthit

This might seem harsh but just hit the squirrel, it's not worth your death. There are too many of them anyways.

5. When you show up to school wearing your jacket as a shirt in 80-degree weather.

Take a shirt from some youths or go to the costume room and make one.

6. When you get your braces off and figure out you have to wear a permanent retainer for the rest of your life.

Change orthodontists or rip them off. #savage

7. What to say when your mom says you are going to die because you burp so much.

If you don't burp, it's basically like dying.

8. When the only free cookies at Harris Teeter are sugar free.

Boycott Harris teeter and tell the people at the bakery to stop being your mom when they leave out the sugar, as incompetence isn't unexpected these days.

9. If you forget your jelly shoes at home...

It's cool, bro: just make some out of glue.

10. What to say to your car when it breaks-down.

Sorry you're feeling abused or whatever but it's not my fault. It's yours. Peace and blessings to you.

Jay Rode



Horoscopes: St. Patrick's Day Edition

Applause mystic **Holly Rizer** reveals what the signs say about you.

Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Getting mistaken for a Leprechaun? Don't hate it, embrace it. After all, green is totally the new black.

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Need a little luck trying to get healthy again after all those Thanksgiving, Winter Holiday, and Valentine's Day treats? Make yourself a four-leaf clover salad! What's that you say? You can't find any four-leaf clovers? Oh well, I guess that extra-large pizza will just have to do.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Didn't get a kiss on Valentine's Day? No worries, here comes your second chance! Yep, you guessed it: it's that time of year when you write "Kiss Me, I'm Irish" on your forehead.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Forget pinching the green-less. Instead, start helping these poor souls! The green-less, a.k.a. the Leprechaunophobic, have lived in fear of the Lucky Charms Leprechaun their whole lives. The time has come for you to raise awareness of this ever so important issue.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Guess who's going to find a pot of gold!?! Oh, you thought I meant you. That's my gold sweetie, and I AM NOT sharing.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

Pssst, buddy, pal, bro, sis, amigo, do me a favor and confide in a Gemini about your "Leprechaunophobia." Don't question it.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Looking for your perfect match? Search no longer, young grasshopper: Leprechauns Meet and Leprechauns Only are the dating sites for you. Don't look at me like that! We both know that tiny, mischievous, magic, green, bearded fairies that are super into shoe-mending are the hottest.

Libra (September 23-October 22)

March 9th is National Panic Day, so I suggest visiting a disco to do so. Pun completely and utterly intended.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Resources are depleting, the stress is building, and I see leprechauns, leprechauns everywhere... I am not sure how much longer we can survive, but we must because... SPRING BREAK IS COMING!!

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Oh Sagittarius, silly, silly, Sagittarius. What have you gotten yourself into? Those heels with that hoodie? *sigh* I raised you better than this.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

March 14th is Pi Day, and you know what that means: the time has finally come to begin your mission. I have no doubt that your training has prepared you. The weight of the world is on your shoulders. TELL NO ONE.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Hoping to catch a Leprechaun? Beware. Although a Leprechaun will grant you three wishes, you may not end up with what you wanted. But hey, don't let me ruin the fun. After all, what do I know... maybe you'll like being a potato.

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

Sixth grade then and now

Applause's **Denver Baer** takes a look at how times have changed.

What is/was your favorite movie?



Sixth grade Visual Artist **Jonah Canlas** loves *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs*.



Senior Theater major **Carlin Dooley** adored *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.

Dream Interpretations

*Each issue, Applause asks students to share recent dreams. Then, our dream analysts **Holly Rizer** and **Jackie Evans** interpret them.*

Dream 1:

“My mom was a preschool teacher and she wouldn’t talk to me because I wasn’t a preschooler.”

Ellie Marino, eighth grade Theater.

Interpretation:

Mothers symbolize nurture, the teacher symbolizes seeking guidance, and the preschool symbolizes childhood. When you were younger your mother always helped you. Now that you are older, you’re feeling like she may not care as much about your troubles. You wish she would give you advice like she did when you were little.

Dream 2:

“I dreamed that my dad put on a sombrero and started rolling around in the bushes outside.”

Aubrie Hammond, eighth grade Dance.

Interpretation:

Your father symbolizes authority or protection, the sombrero symbolizes money, and the bush symbolizes personal growth. You see your dad’s success as a model for your own growth.

Dream 3:

“I was cutting my hair and then I cut it too short and then I just shaved it all off. I didn’t want to but I couldn’t stop.” **Carson Stehling**, eighth grade Theater.

Interpretation:

Cutting hair symbolizes a loss of strength. You’re feeling weak and powerless in your life and you don’t know how to gain control.

Dream 4:

“I was a dragon and I was throwing up fire. I was silent and killing aliens with my eyes.” **Jack Powell**, eighth grade Vocal.

Jack Powell, eighth grade Vocal.

Interpretation:

The dragon symbolizes your strong will, the fire symbolizes destruction, the aliens symbolize difficulty adapting, and your eyes symbolize comprehension. Although you have difficulty adapting to new things in your life, you have realized it and you are overcoming it. #slay

Dream 5:

“I was at work at Starbucks, and there was this girl behind the counter with me who kept using the fire extinguisher foam as whipped cream on top of the drinks. I was telling people about it and they wouldn’t believe me and I was like “Try it!” I woke up so upset. I always have the worst dreams after I eat Chipotle.” by **Savannah Porter**, senior Creative Writing.

Interpretation:

Work symbolizes anxiety, the fire extinguisher symbolizes you letting go of anger, and the whipped cream symbolizes joy. You are trying to let go of the anger in your life, but other people are trying to push you to be joyful before you’re ready. You might be nervous about changing your perspective.

Dream 6:

“We were at a beach that required a four mile hike through a tropical forest to get to. We spent awhile trying to get a good spot in front of all the vendors on the boardwalk. I left something in the car, so my brother and I walked back. Somehow I ended up driving the car around in town, and I got very lost because of how the roads work: I had to go straight from the left turn lane. I ended up at the house of a few friends who graduated last year, and then the much smaller house of the people whose son I used to tutor in creative writing. They wrote me a 365 dollar check for some arbitrary reason.” by **Jay Rode**, senior Creative Writing.

Interpretation:

The beach symbolizes peace, the rainforest symbolizes emotional destruction, leaving something behind symbolizes ready for a change, driving a car symbolizes ambition, the busy town symbolizes compassion, being lost symbolizes losing sight of goals, and the house symbolizes yourself. You may have been dealing with a lot of emotional chaos. You were ready for a change, so you achieved this by finding peace. However, you lost sight of your goals despite your compassion and ambition and you now need to find yourself again. You got this, bruh.

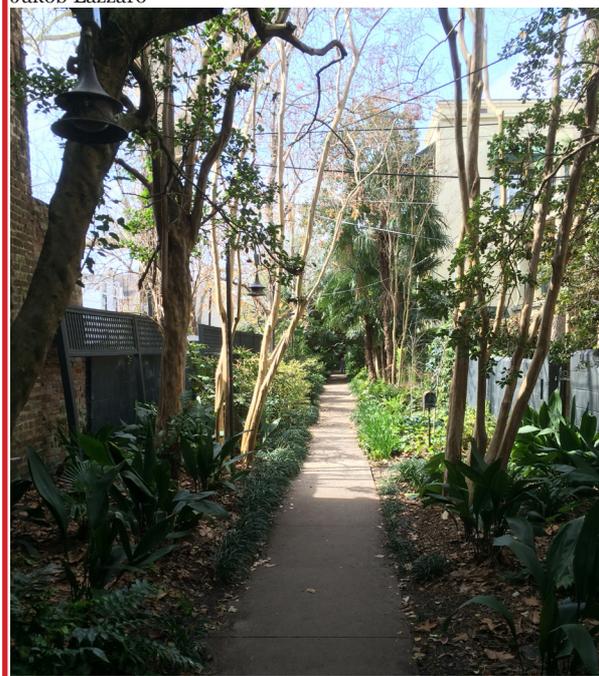
For all you non-believers, we have decided to include the names of our dreamers with their permission, rather than keeping it anonymous. We always get our dreams from SOA middle and high school students. If you would like to contribute, please email **Holly Rizer** at hrizer1219@gmail.com

Nooks and Crannies: the lesser-known spots

The locations we feature will be relatively unknown and the description may help in locating the place... or it may be far too vague. Regardless, we will not disclose the location. Ever. Happy hunting.

This hidden alley lurks downtown. Here’s your hint: it connects a graveyard to a royal.

Jakob Lazzaro



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Specializing in Small Business Accounting

Paint the town **Red** and **Gold**

by Nick Scapellato

Charleston Tells Storytelling Festival (March 11th and 12th), Wragg Square Downtown

Filled with a sprawling live oak, Wragg Square is the perfect setting for this annual festival. Several of the nation's top storytellers will be present accompanied by a plethora of local artists and tale-weavers. Come down and show your support for an art medium that has and always will hold a place in Charleston's heritage.

Charleston Walk for Water (March 12), Joe Riley Stadium

Do you like running 5K races but don't like the running part? Well, this event is perfect for you! Running is not permitted, tickets start at five dollars if you're under 16, and all proceeds benefit Water Missions International! If you're looking for an excuse not to go, you're going to have a hard time. This event is sure to be lit, so be there or be square.

Charleston Fashion Week (March 15th to March 20th), Marion Square

Featuring over forty runway shows, Charleston Fashion Week has long been a popular event. Several SOA students have participated in the past. The production seeks to get recognition for many East Coast designers as well as pave a potential path to New York for some of the models. Life's better when you attend Charleston Fashion Week.

The Front Bottoms (March 18), The Charleston Music Farm

The confessional nature of everyone's favorite indie-punk band makes The Front Bottoms a prime choice for any angsty teen. And yet, their anthemic jams will also keep you jumping up and down for as long as your calves can stand it. Tickets start at 16 dollars, but you should act fast as some ticket vendors are already sold out.

Post Malone (March 20), the Charleston Music Farm

If you're not one for the Front Bottoms, then perhaps this is a little more up your alley. Even if you didn't start ballin' when you were young, you can probably groove to the soft flow that characterizes Malone's sound. Tickets are going to start at 25 dollars here, but that just shows that these tickets are going to be in high demand. Get them while you can!

by Jakob Lazzaro

It's March: one month closer to 2017. Sometimes, we need to take a look back on the past instead of focusing on the future. This month Applause is bringing you trivia about the fetch-est decade of them all: the 2000s. Get ready as current emperor Parris Byars faces newcomer Cameron Wescott in this throwback of a contest.

The Trivia Challenge

Questions

1. What was the highest grossing movie of the 2000s?
2. What year was YouTube founded?
3. What city did the students of East High School live in High School Musical?
4. Name the Democratic candidate for president in the 2000 election.
5. What is Squidward's last name?
6. What 2007 Pixar movie features talking rats?
7. What was Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign slogan?
8. What Disney sitcom starred two twins living in a hotel?
9. Name the first American Idol Winner (2002).
10. What team won the 2004 World Series, breaking a infamous losing streak?

Cameron Wescott, Freshmen Band

1. Spiderman.
2. 2001.
3. Denver?
4. George W. Bush.
5. Tentacles.
6. Ratatouille.
7. Yes we can.
8. The Suite Life of Zack and Cody.
9. Kelly Clarkson.
10. Atlanta Braves.

Jakob Lazzaro



4/10

Parris Byars, Senior Band

1. Avatar.
2. 2004.
3. Los Angeles.
4. Al Gore.
5. Tentacles.
6. Ratatouille.
7. We Can Change.
8. Suite Life of Zach and Cody.
9. Kelly Clarkson.
10. The Cardinals



6/10

Jakob Lazzaro

Answers

1. Avatar.
2. 2005.
3. Albuquerque, New Mexico.
4. Al Gore.
5. Tentacles.
6. Ratatouille.
7. Change we can believe in.
8. The Suite Life of Zack and Cody.
9. Kelly Clarkson.
10. The Boston Red Sox.

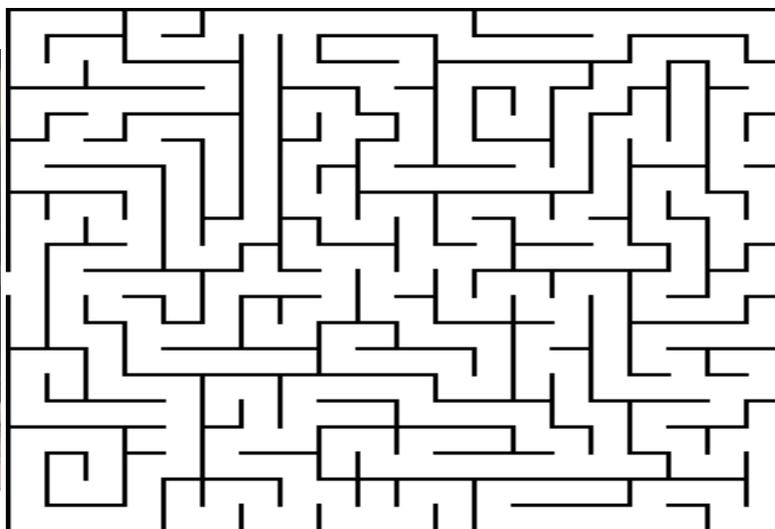
The Victor

Once again, Parris could not be beat as Cameron's attacks just bounced off his shell of 2000s knowledge. Therefore, Parris will retain his crown and scepter and return once again to compete again.

Billboard

Help Ms. Pass find her albums!

Provided





“My cats from Neko Atsume.”
Sasha Grigorieff, Sophomore
Visual Arts



“Marshmallows.”
Maggie Scapellato,
Sophomore Band



“My Heeleys.”
Joey McGuinn,
Freshman Band

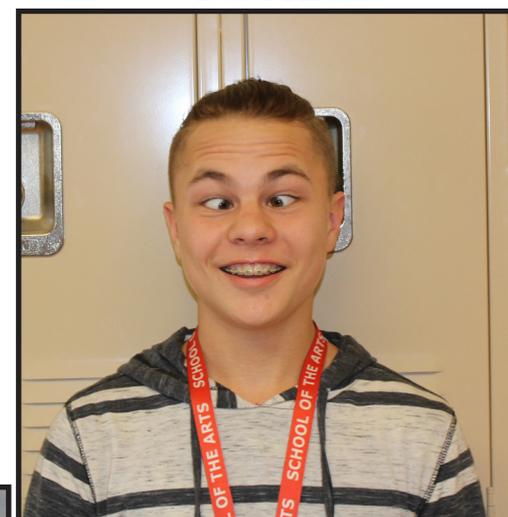


“Finger Puppets of a bunny
and a duck.”
Mrs. Cimballa, High school
Visual Arts



“A rock of quartz.”
Parker Gustafson, Senior Band

**WHAT'S YOUR
GOOD LUCK
CHARM?**
BY NICK HUSS, RYAN BIDDIX, AND
MEAGAN HORRES



“My mother.” Igor Satsenko,
Freshman Theater



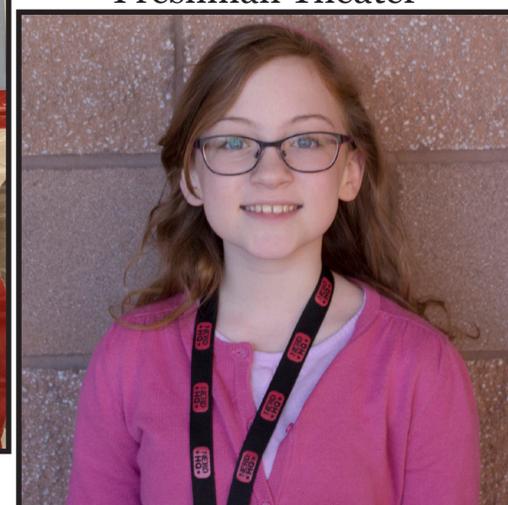
“A five-leaf clover.”
Gregory Drummond, Eighth
grade Visual Arts



“My best friend, Sylera
Morrison.”
Breona Green, Seventh
grade Creative Writing



“The magic bell that Mr.
Brehm gave me.”
Dr. Tesenir, High school
history



“My apron.”
Hannah Glueck, Sixth grade
Vocal