

# Applause

Volume 21, Number 2

School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC  
[soa-applause.com](http://soa-applause.com)

November 2019

Y  
A  
L  
L  
F  
E  
E  
T

**EMERALD**

The Thompson  
Family

Julia Welch

**RUBY**

David Bundy

**SAPPHIRE**

Mr. and Mrs.  
William Baker

**AMETHYST**

The Baker Family  
The Cusatis Family  
Lori Dickerson  
Susanne Drennan  
Sylvia Edwards  
Kristen Jacksa  
Jennifer Mathis  
David and Brenda  
Waldron

**TOPAZ**

Caroline Baker  
Karl Clark  
John Cusatis  
Andrea Derrickson  
Thomas Doran  
Natasha Fields  
Sarah Fitzgerald  
Robin Grieg  
Matt Hastings  
Brett Johnsen  
Brandon Lyons  
Alea McKinley  
Amanda Miller  
Joseph Naas  
Nancy O'Donoghue  
Heath Orvin  
Derek Pickens  
The Poulnot Family  
John Schuster  
Kevin Short  
Laura Smith  
Jill Swing  
David Thornburg  
J. Tim Tipton  
Kenneth Turner  
Jen Waldron

P

A

T

R

O

N

S

**GARNET**

Christine Bednarczyk  
Debbie Benson  
Cynthia Branscome  
David Cosgrove  
Michelle Gorenstein  
Elizabeth Hart  
Austin Miller  
Meg Orchard  
Barbara Richardson

**TURQUOISE**

Charlene Felder  
Brian Johnson  
Katherine Johnson  
Manuel Laguna  
Karen Lyle  
Benjamin McCauley  
Jennifer Mitchum  
Mike Morelli  
Suzanne Reed  
Stephanie Smalls  
Rachael Stallsmith  
Kathy Sullivan  
Pricilla Svendsen  
Kyle Wells  
Melanie Wise

**PEARL**

AJ Bednarczyk  
Chris Barnwell  
Linda Cline  
Tristan Hill  
Maria Mackenzie  
John White

## Letter From the Editor

Dear Readers,

Happy fall! It's the most wonderful time of the year! It's the season of changes, colder weather, and warm blankets. Coincidentally, if you're looking for something to read while curled up with a cup of hot chocolate you're in luck; we've got a packed issue this November!

To see the highlights of SOA's spirit week, check out page 18 and 19. For coverage of the upcoming YALLFest, visit pages 12 and 13. Learn about Mr. Hill's childhood in Alaska and what inspired his love of languages on page 16 and 17. And most importantly, to find out what Thanksgiving food you are, take the quiz on page 31. Stay tuned for next issue, where we'll celebrate the 20th anniversary of *Applause*!

Love,  
Your Editor-in-Chief  
Maya Cline



Maya Cline and her sister-in-arms Maya Green getting into the spirit for SOA's decades day.

## Letter To the Editor

Students were so excited to see the October *Applause* and were begging me for their copies. The edition was received so well. Clearly our kids love *Applause* and I wanted to give you the feedback. I struggle to get my kids to read silently for 20 minutes, and I had to pull my children away from silent engagement with the text your staff wrote. They also were interested in writing briefly about a story they personally selected. I am eager to see what my kiddos had to say. By the way, the cover was gorgeous. Absolutely stunning. Were the paper in Barnes and Noble, it would make people stop, turn, and approach it. In a word -- BRAVO! Thanks for the fantastic journalism.

-Kristen Jacksa, SOA 8th grade English

# Applause

since 1999, the official student publication of

## School of the Arts

Founded in 1995 by Rose Maree Myers

### Editor-in-Chief:

Maya Cline

### Assistant Editors:

Clara Collins  
Logan Baker

### Business Manager:

John Allen White Jr.

### Cover Artist:

Kenna Steele

### Staff Writers:

Autumn Chaveco	Sophia Leonardi
Chapel Barker	Luke Shaw
Chris Barnwell	Peyton Smalls
Ethan Butler	Carson Stehling
Leo Cantrell	Lilly Stevens
Sam Clarke	Aliza Reynolds
Avea Diamond	Ramie Thompson
Makayla Gonzalez	Lilly Tipton
Charlie Hastings	Ella Waldron-Noren
	Toni Walker

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

[soa-applause.com](http://soa-applause.com)

## Editorial: Paper and Ink Continue to Thrive during the Digital Age

Many say that reading has been lost on the younger generation, but this weekend's Charleston Literary Festival and YALLFest prove the contrary. Young adult literature, sometimes dismissed as "fluff," explores deep, challenging themes such as grief, mental illness, blood and found family, and self-acceptance. As a still-developing market, YA is less grounded in convention, allowing for more diverse voices to be published and celebrated as they will be at the ninth annual YALLFest. And who can deny the abiding importance and popularity of Joyce Carol Oates, who will spend time speaking with SOA Creative Writers while attending the third annual Charleston Literary Festival.

Reading books remains a vital part of growing one's character. Readers develop empathy for others by vicariously experiencing struggles that would otherwise remain remote and misunderstood. It opens one's mind to more perspectives than possible for one person to personally experience. The internet may be, in some ways, replacing books, but it can also help writers extend their reach across the world.

At SOA, the written word remains paramount, as senior Creative Writing majors reached the halfway mark last week on the road to completing their 100-page books --poetry, fiction, and non-fiction--that they will publish in the spring. Middle and high school Creative Writers will get a chance to share their work at Wordfest, their annual public reading, on November 16th at the Mt. Pleasant Barnes & Noble.

Shakespeare, who turned 455 this spring, is not forgotten as his plays are still regularly performed by the Theatre majors. Last month they presented a wonderful rendition of the timeless *Romeo and Juliet*. Senior Theatre majors will create and direct their own plays, around the time Creative Writers complete their theses.

While novels ---and then movies--- moved poetry from its prominent literary position, the compressed power of poetic expression has not diminished. SOA prepares this month to participate in Poetry Out Loud, hoping to produce yet another state champion. And the South Carolina Poetry Society, which will host the Charleston Literary Festival this weekend, remains the oldest such society in America.

Finally, last week *Applause*, now in its 21st volume, formed a partnership with the *Charleston City Paper*, an alliance that promises to help both publications continue to keep ink and paper journalism in the hands of Charleston readers. Hope to see you at YALLFest and future literary events around town!

## Transgender Day of Remembrance

by Leo Cantrell

*Content Warning: This article discusses the topics of violence, racism, transphobia, killing, and a brief mention of suicide.*

There is a solemn date, once a year, where we remember those lost to violence against the transgender community that year. It is November 20, the Transgender Day of Remembrance (not to be confused with Transgender Day of Visibility on March 31).

This year we mourn nineteen violent deaths in the community. Every death was a black transgender woman, except for one transgender man. We begin with Dana Martin, aged 31, in Montgomery, Alabama on January 6. She was shot and left in her car, driven into a roadside ditch. She was described as being “loved by many.”

Jazzaline Ware was found dead in her Memphis apartment in March. Her death is being investigated as a homicide. Not much is known about the circumstances of her killing.

Ashanti Carmon, 27, was shot and killed in Prince George’s County in Maryland on March 20. Her fiancé, Philip Williams, said, “Until I leave this Earth, I’m going to continue on loving her in my heart, body, and soul. She did not deserve to leave this Earth so early, especially in the way that she went out.”

Claire Legato, 21, was shot in the head on April 15 in Cleveland. She died from her injuries on May 14. She was described as “full of life.”

Muhlaysia Booker, 23, was attacked in April in an act of what authorities assume to be mob violence. On May 18, Muhlaysia was shot and killed in Dallas. She was found facedown with a gunshot wound near a golf course. As of May 20, police did not believe the two incidents were related.

Michelle/Tamika, 40, was shot in Franklinville, Philadelphia on May 19. Police responded to a call about shots being fired and found her with several gunshot wounds. She was pronounced dead when she arrived at Temple University Hospital.

Paris Cameron, 20, was one of three people killed in an anti-LGBT killing in Detroit on May 25. Two gay men, Alunte Davis (21) and Timothy Blancher (20) were left dead. Paris succumbed to her injuries in the hospital, and two others were shot but survived.

Chynal Lindsey, 26, was found dead in Dallas, with signs of “homicidal violence” on June 1. No further details were available as of June 4.

Chanel Scurlock, aged 23, was found dead in Lumberton, North Carolina, on June 6. There are not many details surrounding the case, but police said they had some “great leads.”

Zoe Spears, 23, was gunned down near Eastern Avenue, Maryland, where Ashanti Carmon (the third trans murder this year) was killed. Zoe said she had witnessed Ashanti’s death. Earline Budd said Zoe had told her she was scared and didn’t want to go to her apartment alone after Carmon’s killing.

Brooklyn Lindsey, 32, was found on the porch of an uninhabited home in Kansas City, Missouri on June 25. Her friend wrote on Twitter, “I love you, Brooklyn Lindsey. I shall live on for you. Rest in power, sista.”

Denali Berries Stuckey, 29, was shot and killed in North Charleston, South Carolina on July 20. “I lost my best friend, first cousin. We were like brother and sister. I love you so much, Pooh,” wrote a family member on Facebook. We mourn this loss even more painfully, for we lost her so close to us.

Kiki Fantroy, 21, was shot in Miami on July 31. She was remembered as having “a heart of gold.” Her mother begged for justice

for Kiki: “My baby, my baby. Please help bring justice to my baby.”

Jordan Cofer, a white transgender man aged 22 years, was one of 9 killed in the mass shooting in Dayton, Ohio on August 4. He was only out to those he was close to. His friend said, “Jordan was probably one of the sweetest people you would ever meet, a true saint, but he was also very scared constantly. He tried to give the best to everyone.”

Pebbles LaDime Doe, 24, was found dead in a car parked in a driveway on August 4 in Allendale County, South Carolina. We remember and celebrate her life as a fellow South Carolinian and a kind soul.

Tracy Single, 22, was killed in Houston on July 30. “Rest in power and peace Tracy. You were taken away from us way too soon,” said Monica Roberts, a trans advocate based in Houston.

Bailey Reeves, 17, is the youngest on this list. She was fatally shot in Baltimore, Maryland on September 2. Little is known about her death.

Bee Love Slater, 23, was brutally killed in Clewiston, Florida on September 4. She is described as someone who had “a really sweet heart who never harmed anyone.”

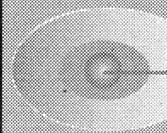
The last woman was Itali Marlowe, aged 29. She was found with multiple gunshot wounds in a driveway in Houston on September 20. She was pronounced dead when she arrived at a nearby hospital.

I am a transgender male myself, and the violence the community faces, especially black transgender women, is sickening. I’m appalled at the brutality with which these people left us. I spoke to a close friend of mine, a closeted trans woman only open to a select few. For her safety and privacy, she will be referred to as ‘A.’ I asked A how she felt about this year’s deaths, she responded: “It highlights the violence in society against people who are different. It’s really sad. This is a big contributor of the high rates of suicide and drug use among trans people. The fact that the majority of those killed were black trans women shows how violent people, mostly men, are towards trans women. It also highlights the need for more inclusion and solidarity among all marginalized groups.”

I think we all can agree the killing needs to stop. Until it does, we can only remember and honor the lives of those lost.

### YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD EYE CARE SPECIALIST SINCE 1991

- Comprehensive Eye Health Exams by **Dr. Paul Bohac**
- Contact Lens Specialist
- Professional Optical Services
- Specializing in No-Line Bifocals
- Full Selection Of Eyewear & Sunglasses In All Price Ranges
- Fill/Duplicate Your Rx
- Most Insurance Accepted



Angel Oak Eye Center

2875 Maybank Highway • Johns Island

Phone: 843.559.5333

E-Mail: [DrBohac@AngelOakEyeCenter.com](mailto:DrBohac@AngelOakEyeCenter.com)

Hours: Mon-Fri 9-6 • Sat by Appointment

## A Letter from your Student Body President

Hey, SOA!

I hope that you enjoyed Spirit Week and Fall Food Festival! The Student Council worked very hard to make both happen. I loved seeing everyone's creative outfits (my personal favorite was Meme Day) and fun Instagram pictures. @SOA\_stuco tried to repost anything we were tagged in on our story, which we'll do throughout the year, so give us a follow! Fall Food Festival was a major success, raising just under \$1000 for the Lowcountry Food Bank. That's all because of you! I'm looking forward to harnessing that generous Pegasi spirit during the rest of the year to give back to the community in many different ways.

Fall Food Festival especially taught me a lot of lessons that I'll carry throughout the year. Firstly, I was reminded how important it is to delegate in order to make events run smoothly -- Christina Lewis, Senior Vice President, and I spent a week calling upwards of thirty businesses for donations, which felt pretty overwhelming at times. Thankfully, this year's reps are AMAZING and many donated their time (on Halloween!!) to bake a lot of what we sold as well, and I know that I can count on them to help get things done in the future. Secondly, I was taught the value of planning far ahead. As amazing as Fall Food Festival ended up being, some of the reps' ideas had to be scrapped due to time constraints, as it takes a while for everything to be approved! I want every event to live up to its full potential, so going forward I know to give myself at least a month in advance to plan and get everything set up.

At the end of the day, what was most rewarding about Spirit Week and Fall Food Festival was the inspiration it gave me to dream big for the rest of the school year, and find ways to unite community service and events that bring the student body together. It can only go up from here!

Your prez,  
Maya Green

## Editorial: Spinning the Facts Through Media

by Charlie Hastings

We all get annoyed when our words are taken out of context. High school in itself is a giant petri dish where rumors and insecurities grow freely: saying something completely innocent might spawn



provided

misunderstandings that tarnish your reputation for no good reason. American media seems to work the same way more and more as time goes on, making reported events hard to trust, even from large and respected news outlets.

The plight of the truth is widespread, to say the least, according to a poll conducted by Gallup polls, the percent of the general public who described the news media as trustworthy has declined every year since 2003. With only 32 percent of people trusting the news as of 2017. This could be due to the ability for individuals to publicize opinions or even lies about a certain event through social media and the internet. The world is becoming a lot more public, with lies and twisted facts becoming seeded deep within our perceptions of world events. I'm talking, of course, about fake news.

Fake news is a very real issue, not just some phrase Donald Trump uses, it is important to take seriously, so remember to ask questions: Does this seem too outlandish to be small-scale news? Is this from a source that is well known and respected? Can these claims be corroborated?

That being said, you can always trust the Applause to report all the facts, without all the ruffraff shenanigans pulled by some old lady's blog trying to seem legit.

## Creative Writers Attend Lake Logan Retreat

by Clara Collins

Near the end of October, the junior and senior creative writers traveled to Lake Logan for their annual three-day long writers' retreat. Students relished the chance to bond with their fellow writers away from the usual buzz of schoolwork and deadlines as they hiked through the North Carolina mountains, took copious amounts of pictures, and tried in vain to start a campfire.

However, the main focus of the retreat was writing, and senior thesis in particular. Students and teachers gathered in a cozy cabin to hear the seniors describe their ultimate ideas for their thesis and read excerpts from what they've written so far. Juniors were encouraged to participate in the brief workshop of each piece, and were later asked to begin thinking about what they wanted their own thesis to include. The daunting task was made easier with some sage advice from the seniors and the inspiration their amazing excerpts provided. The final collections of prose, essays, and poetry will be published in the spring and will be followed by a highly-anticipated reading in May.



Caitlin Shelor

The junior and senior creative writers pause for a picture before their nature walk.

## SOA Out on the Water

by Lilly Tipton

Our very own sailing team has been around since August of 2008 and we have been loving it ever since! Our coach is **William Scarborough**, who graduated from SOA himself and decided to come back to coach high schoolers on the sailing team. A little about him: he graduated in 2013 as a band major and has been sailing since he was 14. He is finishing his last year at Trident Technical College and has enjoyed traveling through Europe since graduation.

The sailing team also would not be complete without some great team members, including our captains and co-captains **Allie Combos**, **Lilly Tipton**, **Ellen Emge**, and **Sophie Stalnaker**. The team meets on Friday afternoons to enjoy tacking drills and practice actual races to obtain skills to hopefully take home some wins this year!

We sail 420s at the Charleston Community Sailing Center at the Charleston City Marina. We are lucky to have such a great range of ages, having very skilled sailors from 7th and 8th grade all the way to 12th grade. It is such a great way to bring students of all different ages all together. Senior Captain Allie Combos says, "I love how we have so many different ages and majors on the team and at practice we are all together doing something we love. The community is super welcoming and I'm so happy to have been on this team!"

## English Teacher's Passion for Education Reaches Across the Globe

by Logan Baker and Katie Forrester



Ms. Rink and her students beam during a summer English lesson.

When there was time to explore the city, she and her newly made friends hit the town and sampled a wide array of foods, including, surprisingly, lots of "American" food. Ms. Rink also became a student herself, learning how to serve tea in a traditional Chinese tea ceremony and combatting smog to visit the

**Ms. Alaina Rink** traveled farther than most this summer - all the way to Beijing, China to teach English to Chinese students. She went with other CCSD teachers (including our very own **Ms. Katharine Johnson**) to instruct groups of sixteen and seven year olds on learning English as a second language.

When there was time

famous Great Wall.

She says that teaching in a foreign country while not understanding the language made her more confident in her abilities at home, especially after relying solely on herself to navigate the bustling city, figure out taxi apps and menus, and change lesson plans on the fly. She also loved bonding with and learning from her students, saying that at the end of each day's lessons, they would either "talk about culture between China and America or do reverse-storytelling, where they would tell me a story—a Chinese story—in English." Even though she was halfway across the world, Ms. Rink still infused southern charm in her teaching, starting each lesson with an enthusiastic "Hey y'all!"

## SOA Students Get Active in Community through Literacy Program

by Logan Baker

SOA's Jefferson Service Club, a school fixture sponsored by **Mr. Kirk Lindgren** and dedicated to doing good in our community, has once again commenced its Liberty Hill program. Designed to help Liberty Hill Elementary School students become more confident readers, this ongoing collaboration has become a vital part of SOA's community involvement.

**Ramie Thompson**, junior and co-president with **Michelle Schultze**, junior, says that the collaboration helps the kids in "gaining a more positive outlook on school" and that they aren't the only ones who benefit: "It has become a great outlet for me when I just want to help people instead of dealing with the stress of high school." Thompson also finds that the program is a reminder that "you don't need to go too far" to help people. This is much more than a way to get service articles, it strengthens our school ties to North Charleston and inspires young kids to keep learning and, in true SOA fashion,

Not only is this a great way to get service hours, but it also strengthens our school's ties to the area, inspiring young kids to keep learning and, in true SOA fashion, explore the intersection between arts and education. Jefferson Club encourages all students, not just current club members, to get involved in the program, which runs Mondays through Thursdays every week.



2019 SOA graduate Emma Butterworth during her time volunteering in the program.

**SW** SEAMON WHITESIDE

Mount Pleasant, SC Summerville, SC Greenville, SC Spartanburg, SC Charlotte, NC

www.seamonwhiteside.com

## Sophomore Theater Majors Present *Puffs!*

by Chapel Barker

This year, the SOA theatre department performed *Puffs!*, which was directed by **Mr. Derek Pickens** and starred the tenth grade theater majors. The show is a satirical take of the *Harry Potter* franchise focusing on the underdogs of the series, the house of Hufflepuff, and their point of view throughout the events of books 1-7. Written by Matt Cox, with original music composed by Brian Hoes, *Puffs!* is described as “a tale for anyone who was never meant to save the world.”



Chapel Barker

The cast of *Puffs!* keeps the audience spellbound.



Chapel Barker

Members of the cast pose after a successful show.

The performance reflected the effort and hard work that the students and director put into it. It was fast paced and hilarious and there was never a boring moment. Along with the humor, the show included heartfelt themes of friendship and growth. **Finn Coyle**, who played Wayne Hopkins, said, “I really enjoyed seeing all of the character growth throughout the show.” The show included several displays of the theatre majors talents, like when **Patrick Whiteside** improvised a new monologue every night while playing Zach Smith.

When the cast were first told about the play, **Mia Bowersox** said, “We were all hesitant at first when we found out it was Harry Potter related, but eventually it really grew on us”, while **Miles Kendrick** was pretty nervous because the show “was very prop heavy.” However, the final product was fantastic and witty with a dedicated cast.

## Christina Olson shares her work with SOA

by Maya Cline

Guest writer **Christina Olson** visited SOA on Friday, October 11th to share her poetry with SOA creative writing students. Olson traveled all the way from Statesboro, Georgia, where she works as an assistant professor of creative writing at Georgia Southern University. During her morning session in the RMMT, Olson gave students a taste of her work that often seamlessly weaves science and personal experience. Olson’s poetry is filled with thought provoking leaps in images and ideas. One poem she shared, “Blue Bloods,” marvels at the scientific use of horseshoe crab blood in modern medicine, then quickly transitions to an intimate scene of a daughter at the side of her father’s deathbed. Another poem, “Catalogue of Damages,” leaps between the complicated

path of westward expansion and how problematic historical figures are remembered. After the general reading, Olson held a workshop for high school creative writers. Here, she encouraged the writers to try their hand at a science poem, which yielded some very interesting results. The workshop also provided a great chance for the high school creative writing classes to hear each others work and bounce ideas off one other.



Makayla Gonzalez

## Juniors Perform *Romeo and Juliet*

Cast includes: Leah Hand, Abby Gardner, Aiden Wunderly, Davis Varnado, Cayden Spitz, Dixon Moss, Tyler Herrman, Luke Linhart, Elijah Aiken-Dietz, Naja Aleem, Brianna Beckenridge, Lizzie Herring, Hannah Bendure, Tori Copeland, Sylera Morrison, Elijah Aiken-Dietz, Luke Linhart, Cayden Spitz, Davis Varnado

# Applause

presents

# Free My Soul

A celebration of Early 1970s Rock 'n' Roll

Thursday, May 21, 2020, 6:30 PM

Rose Marie Myers Theater

A Free Event featuring performances by SOA & AMHS students and faculty.

Donations will be accepted for the Rose Marie Myers Scholarship

## Ms. McKinley Takes First Role in Ten Years

*This October, English II and Theater teacher Ms. Alea McKinley starred in the Woolfe Street Playhouse's production of Tracy Letts' Mary Page Marlowe. Clara Collins spoke with her about the unique role.*

**Clara Collins: This is the first play you've been in in a decade. What drew you to this part, and why now?**

**Ms. Alea McKinley:** Mary Page Marlow is an actor's dream for a full-time teacher: I only played her in two scenes, so I only had to go to an hour of rehearsal a few times a week. That kind of schedule allowed me the time to do this kind of work. Usually, plays require hours of rehearsal every single day of the week. Because of the freedom, I happily took the part. I will say it was still a challenge to even do a few days a week and the show runs once we kicked into full gear at SOA. Teachers and actors are very busy humans!

**CC: For those that don't know, what's your background in theater?**

**AM:** I have a BA in Theatre / Performance from College of Charleston. I also went to two conservatories through Second City Chicago (improv/scene-to-sketch and the music improv conservatories—I interned there for free tuition). I graduated from iO (formerly known as Improv Olympic) Chicago, I was an intern at Steppenwolf Theatre Company, and in the years of 1998 - 2008, I did any scrappy piece of work to get my body onstage. Once I played Captain Kirk stuck in a woman's body in a Second City musical about George Takei. Yup. I acted in anything and everything. Once I hit grad school for education, I took a long break from the theatre world.

**CC: How is this role different from others you've had? What did you enjoy the most about it? Were there any particular challenges?**

**AM:** Mary Page was a tough role for me for multiple reasons. I am used to "being funny," and this is the first big dramatic role I've ever been given. My scenes were Mary Page age 40 (when she's breaking her divorce to her two children) and age 44 (when she finds out her son died from a heroin overdose). These moments were a big responsibility. I was amazed at how much prep I needed to memorize lines (something in my brain totally died after a 12-year hiatus—a big thanks to my boyfriend Derek Pickens for helping me memorize those lines!) and how much warming up I needed before crying on stage. The scenes were exhilarating to act, but they took a lot of time to process once I was off stage. Now I understand how a method actor may get caught up in a role. I used to totally judge that as "lame"—how little I knew.

**CC: What was it like working with the other actresses playing Mary Page?**

**AM:** I didn't get much time with the other actresses playing Mary Page. Tracy Letts is such an amazing writer, so the moments when audience members said, "It was so cool to watch you all share similar lines/mannerisms" is a tribute to his amazing writing. I only saw my colleagues do their scenes a few times. I honestly just felt in awe of everyone and a little out of my league. It was good practice for what I tell my students: comparison is the root of all evil; just be yourself. I had to practice what I preach, and I found great confidence through telling the little devil on my shoulder to be quiet. Once we started the run, I got more time with the other actresses and marveled at how much we all have in common. I also loved that we are all brunettes. There's something very "brunette" about Mary Page.

**CC: How did your work as an English and Theater teacher influence how your acting and interpretation of the play? What does the structure mean to you?**

**AM:** Being a teacher helped me develop my "parent voice" in scene

one. The structure of the show included bouncing around from scene to scene not in chronological order, and I think Letts did this because Mary Page Marlow's life is intense. It lightened her story to tell it out of order, and I marveled at how he captured how family history shapes us as people. We can't blame our families for everything, but we can see how our situations have shaped us, good and bad. A scene with 12-year-old Mary Page being told to "toughen up" by her alcoholic mother was right before my scene, where I played a 44-year-old Mary Page with an alcohol addiction problem. I did a lot of listening to that scene before I went on to help me get in the head space of how my character got to that place. 12-year-old Mary Page broke my heart every single night, and I needed that moment before my big emotional scene to get to that frenzied place.

**CC: How did you balance the hefty work of the play with your work at SOA?**

**AM:** I planned my schedule out to the calendar minute. My cast-mates often teased me for grading papers in-between scenes, even during the Friday and Saturday night shows when everyone else was just kickin' it. My pretend son, 12-year-old Colin from scene one in the show, took every quiz I made during the stage breaks just for fun (and he caught any strange typos due to my fatigue). I was truly the resident teacher when I wasn't on stage being Mary Page.

**CC: How will this influence your teaching in the future?**

**AM:** I have a deeper understanding of what I'm asking my students to do in Theatre (learning lines and how hard that can be/balancing nerves and anxiety/the need to be super organized when planning a show) and in English II. I also have a deeper sympathy for all of my students re: school pullouts, night shows, and trips away from school. I expect a lot in my English classes, and my goal (because of this hectic schedule and time-consuming experience) has been to give more quality (vs. quantity) assignments and more time to work in class.

**CC: Any memorable experiences/memories associated with this production?**

**AM:** Honestly, the most memorable part of working with Village Rep has been meeting such wonderful people. Keely Enright is a visionary, Sierra Garland is a kween (stage manager, techie, and fabulous actor), the cast was a delight, and I just loved every moment getting to know these creative people. The other amazing part was the SOA community support. Colleagues, students, and Theatre Boosters came to the shows, and I was touched that so many people came to see it. Now I know how my students feel when teachers come to their events, and my goal is to go to as many SOA events as I can because I love supporting our creative community, and I appreciate how it has shaped me.



## November Major Updates

*There's so much happening at SOA that it can be hard to keep up, but John White is here to help! He asked major teachers to share what their classes have been up to.*

### Piano

The middle school students are working on their blues in jazz piano and the 8th grade students will be presenting their annual blues concert at the new jazz club, Forte, on Sunday, Oct. 27 at 6:30 PM. Middle and high school piano majors are preparing ensembles for their concerts on November 7 & 8 in the Rose Maree Myers Theater at 6:30 PM.

### Dance

Middle School dance majors are taking a field trip to Wild Blue Ropes for a ropes course, and then a jazz class at College of Charleston. 6th Graders are working on modern dance and 8th graders are working on anatomy and dance. 8th Graders are also talking a field trip to Aerial Fit, for an aerial and circus arts workshop on the hoops and silks. Then they will travel to Dance Lab for a hip hop class!



The sixth and seventh grade dancers pose together.

Juniors are preparing for their performance on December 4th "Art in Motion". The students are choreographing dances that are inspired by abstract art of the 20th century.

Seniors are preparing for their performance on December 5th "Senior Thesis Social Issues." Their choreography ranges from mental illness to bullying, which will raise awareness of these important issues.

### Fashion

Fashion majors recently completed costumes for SOA's production of *Romeo & Juliet*, and visited the Van Gogh exhibit at the Columbia Museum of Art. They will have a weaving workshop in November and are currently working on Fashion Show projects such as Developmental Sketches and the Work Matrix used to schedule their time and materials thought the design engineering process. 11th grade is also learning to drape (create 3D patterns on muslins on the dress forms that later will be turned into 2D patterns for sewing) this month. Seniors are working on Senior Thesis, which is an 8-10 piece fashion collection to debut at the April 2 Fashion Show & Senior Thesis.

### Vocal

The High-school Vocal Department recently performed at the ACDA middle school Allstate as a featured choir at Charleston Southern University. Additionally, the High school singers performed along the North Charleston Pops performing music of the movies.

Now students are preparing for Allstate auditions, as well as our approaching holiday concert at the Galliard with High-school symphony.

### Strings

The MSO (Middle School Orchestra) and the HSO (High School Orchestra) students had an intense audition in October to qualify for the Region Orchestra, of which, 78 student students made it. They will perform a concert with all of the students from our Region who passed the



Strings majors take a break from practicing.

Come out and support our young fiddlers!

## Freshman Cody Newman's Attracts National Attention

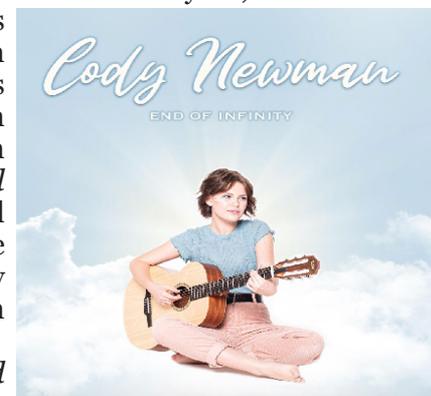
by Chapel Barker

Earlier this year, SOA vocal major **Cody Newman** released her debut EP, *End Of Infinity*, and the response has been phenomenal. Cody began working on the EP November of last year, but didn't start recording until this July. It was recorded by local producer Brian Jarvis at Anchor + Pine studio. She is currently promoting the EP through a radio tour and has gained attention from press and critics alike. *Digital Journal* called her "one true musical prodigy" and Jimmie Allen said she has "a voice of gold." She was recently interviewed in New York and been on several local news channels.

Cody told the *Post and Courier* about the inspiration for the title, saying, "The first time I thought of the idea *End of Infinity* was when I was on my way to my guitar lessons with my mom and "The Last of the Real Ones" by Fall Out Boy was playing. One of the lyrics caught my ear: 'I'm here at the beginning of the end, the end of infinity with you.' I told my mom, 'Wow, that's a crazy idea, to have an end to infinity,' and it just kind of sparked from there." Her favorite song on the album is "Comet" because it has aspects of a great pop song, but with a few things that make it different from the rest, such as the lyrics.

Cody was first attracted to music when she was six years old and started taking guitar lessons. Now she plays guitar, piano, ukulele, violin, and the drums. Some of her musical inspirations include Meghan Trainor, Coldplay, and Bastille, and she is lyrically inspired by a fairytale-like romance. When asked if she was ever nervous about sharing her music she responded "Sometimes, but it's better to share my art than to have it hidden away." The best advice she has for other young artist comes from her mother who always says, "Be scared and do it anyway."

To support Cody visit her instagram (@codynewmanmusic) or her website (codynewmanmusic.com). You can also stream *End of Infinity* on Spotify, Apple Music, and other streaming platforms.



## Forte Jazz Lounge is Open for Business

by Sam Clarke

On August 1st, SOA Piano's very own **Mr. Joe Clarke** had his life-long dream come true when he opened his very own jazz club in the heart of Downtown Charleston. Forte Jazz Lounge offers live music two times a night every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Forte Jazz Lounge is the puzzle piece the Charleston music scene needed. Mr. Clarke told the Post and Courier, "We are dedicated to bringing out the best jazz musicians in Charleston. There is a big difference between hearing jazz musicians in a corner in a restaurant and on a stage talking about their passion."



A mural of the Jazz Greats gives off an artistic vibe.

Mr. Clarke grew up listening to jazz records and learning how to play various instruments including, the drums, piano, and even trumpet. Frank Sinatra has always been a huge influence on Mr. Clarke, and you can hear it when he sings. After growing his talent throughout high school and college, the first Joe Clarke Big Band performance happened November 28th, 1994, and the rest is history.



Mr. Clarke fulfills his dream of playing piano in his own downtown jazz club.

and got to work. By cleaning every nook and cranny, painting the walls, and laying down new floors, the place was beginning to come together. Mr. Clarke turned to SOA Visual Artists, **Leighton Webb, Enrique Boyd, Zane Simmons**, and alumni **Mahogany Christopher, Gigi Fusco**, and **Mackenzie Percy** to paint a stunning mural which features various iconic jazz musicians such as Frank Sinatra, Duke Ellington, and Ella Fitzgerald to help set the tone. The hallways are also decked with a rotating gallery of artwork from artists in the area.

The club was on track to start putting on shows in June, but due to issues with permits and inspections, opening night was delayed to August 1st. Despite this delay, the club's first month brought in about \$30,000 worth of business, with all signs pointed toward success. The club's growth was stunted when Hurricane Dorian hit the day of the ribbon-cutting ceremony (which three local mayors were scheduled to attend). The storm sucked an estimated \$20,000 of business, but Mr. Clarke was not discouraged by this. He is now networking with local hotels and tour companies to help the club gain the attention it deserves.

With everything from blues, to funk, to big band music, who wouldn't have a good time? In addition to the regular Thursday, Friday, and Saturday shows, Mr. Clarke also hosts a masterclass for youth musicians on Sundays, and big band rehearsals open to the public on Mondays. Mr. Clarke and his team are actively working on scheduling more events for other nights of the week.

In the future, Mr. Clarke hopes that the club continues to become a success as more and more entertainers join the scene.

**Mr. David Cosgrove**, who has been helping since opening night, says, "Joe is an important person doing an important thing. This is more than just another club, it's a community that artists and listeners alike need." With all that said, it's safe to say that if you have the chance, you should come out for a night of entertainment before there is a line out the door.



## New Teacher Focus: Ms. Richardson

*Leo Cantrell talks with Ms. Barbara Richardson, our new fine arts teacher.*

**Leo Cantrell: What classes will you be teaching this year?**

**Barbara Richardson:** This year I will be teaching 8th, 9th, 10th, 12th and AP Visual Art.

**LC: Did you grow up in the Charleston area? If not, where did you grow up, and what attracted you to Charleston? Why SOA?**

**BR:** I grew up in Charleston and have always loved art.

**LC: Where did you attend college? What degrees did you earn?**

**BR:** I received a full tuition scholarship during junior year in high school simply because a local art professor saw a piece of my art in the Coastal Carolina Art Show and reached out to my art teacher. I earned my Bachelor of Arts from CSU and my Masters of Arts from USC.

**LC: How did you become involved in education as a career and how long have you taught?**

**BR:** This is now year 30 of my teaching career! During this span I have painted hundreds of murals in the community from residential, to local businesses, to many schools and public places, including the S.C. Aquarium. I have been the Lower Region Coordinator of the S.C. Art Education Association, Teacher of the Year a few times, at both the high school and middle school levels.

**LC: Where did you work prior to coming to SOA?**

**BR:** I am the owner of my own art school in Summerville "All About Art", and I am currently the Cultural Arts Commissioner for the city of Goose Creek.

**LC: What were some of your earliest jobs? What did you learn from them?**

**BR:** One of my first jobs in high school was in a local day care center where I took care of school aged kids in an after school program. It was then that I knew I had to have a career that included both visual art and children.



Provided

**LC: Is there any moment or story you'd be willing to share that stands out to you as one of those "this is why I do what I do" moments?**

**BR:** One of the moments that truly made understand the impact that a teacher can have on a student was a few years ago when a former middle school student got in touch with me to say thank you for helping him recognize his talent in the field of art. He graduated from Clemson with a degree in art and was working for Pixar Animation Studios and had just finished a project for Pirates of the Caribbean. I love keeping in touch with students after graduation and even help them by critiquing the artwork they do in college. Last summer, I attended five of their weddings, five weekends in a row! I am so happy to be at SOA, working with wonderful talent in a beautiful environment, and I can't wait to see all the incredible things the Visual Artists do this year and in years to come!

## Vaping Brings Dire Consequences

by Sophia Leonardi

By now, many of you have heard about the vaping epidemic amongst teens. All of us know someone who has vaped; you probably know someone who has gotten caught with a vape. But do you truly understand how it is affecting you and your peers? Not only are there physical and psychological effects, there are immediate consequences when caught. The consequences of vaping must be talked about and taken seriously.

The first e-cigarette was created in 2003, and within the last four years it has become extremely popular among teens. Dr. Pirzada,

a physician interviewed by *The New York Times*, reveals he is "treating more than 215 patients with life-threatening illnesses related to vaping." Most of his patients are in their late teens and early twenties. The truth is, we do not know what the long-term effects of vaping are. However, e-cigarettes have only been around for sixteen years and are already causing serious health problems. Most people do not know what they are vaping. When you vape, nicotine and THC mix with solvents that dissolve and deliver drugs, these solvents heat up and leave oil behind. Inhaling that oil causes lung inflammation and breathing problems. After confirming at least thirty seven deaths in twenty four states, The Center for Disease Control and Prevention issued a warning to teens, advising them to stop buying bootleg and street cannabis.

It is important to be informed on what happens when students are caught with nicotine or cannabis products. **Mr. Robert Grant**, middle school assistant principal, states, "Vape products are considered contraband and will come with immediate response if students are caught with that type of material." Just recently, the district decided to increase the severity of disciplinary action taken when a student is caught with contraband. According to SOA principal, **Dr. Shannon Cook**, changes to administrative retribution occurred because "several years ago vaping was not a behavior that administrators addressed. Now that it occurs more frequently, the district has included vaping as one of the behaviors that requires disciplinary intervention."

Vaping is a serious issue that has taken the lives of teenagers and young adults. What is promoted as a healthy alternative to smoking is really a highly addictive and harmful substance marketed to teens. It is not worth the risk of damage to your health. If you know someone who vapes, encourage them to quit. It is not cool, just stop.

**SOON TO BE  
EX-STUDY PARTNER**

**CONFESSES HE DOESN'T  
READ THE CITY PAPER**

Your new study partner  
in print and online

CHARLESTON  
**CITY PAPER**  
charlestoncitypaper.com

## YALLFest Weekend is a Can't-Miss Event

by Ramie Thompson

It's incredible to think that many people still think the term YALLFest is referring to some sort of Southern food celebration instead of an event dedicated to young adult literature. In 2011, Johnathan Sanchez co-founded this event, along with two authors, Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl. What may have started small grew into one of the largest young adult book festival in the South and spawned a counterpart held in Santa Monica, California named YALLWest in 2015.

With tickets selling quickly, YALLFest is always highly anticipated by book lovers. Many teens in the area get pulled out of school to go see the start of the two day event. There are free signings, interviews, and keynotes that last from 2 to 4:30 pm on Friday and from 10 am to 6 pm on Saturday, making the streets of Downtown Charleston difficult to navigate. Truly, the authors make this festival what it is. With such a big crowd every year, it is an honor for each author to be invited and serves as just one way for them to get the recognition they deserve.

This year, over 60 authors will be attending, with six of them acting as keynote speakers during the event. The event opens with two keynote speakers, Holly Black and Tochi Onyebuchi, discussing how they create such magical worlds in their books. If this caught your attention, you may also appreciate the Spotlight On session, where Kate DiCamillo and Roshani Chokshi dive into fairy tale and childhood stories that everyone will know, all the while talking about how your stories could become just like theirs.

The closing keynote will feature a conversation between Karen McManus and Stephanie Garber and show you that the excitement doesn't slow down with the day. Last but not least, YALLFest will end with its annual YA Smackdown. This can't miss event will have you laughing and dancing, proving once again that these authors are just people like you and you can, one day, be on that same stage.

## Talking Shop with Corrie Wang

*Ramie Thompson talks with Corrie Wang, a 2019 YALLFest author and restaurant owner.*

**Ramie Thompson:** How long have you participated in YALLFest?

**Corrie Wang:** I have been, I want to say, for the last five years but I think the first two were just as a spectator. The very first year I think I had an agent, had just moved down here, and we didn't sell the book until that April. The next year I had a book sold but not out in the world so I went as a guest. Then, officially, the first time was about three years back.

**RT:** So are you excited to go this time around? Anything new you are excited for?

**CW:** Yeah, YALLFest is always so great because they pull in so many huge authors so it's like one of those moments of being like 'I loved your book! Oh my gosh, it's that person, I loved your book!' So it's always fun for that. I feel like I get to meet great people and walk away with a few new author friends. As far as the whole circus goes, it's one of the goofiest in the very best ways. It's fun to see people letting their hair down a little bit and having fun with it.

**RT:** That's great! So I'm a Creative Writing Major at my school and we have to publish a book for our senior thesis. I was wondering what the stress and excitement of publishing your

first book was like.

**CW:** *The Takedown* was my first book and it's a very weird experience. The whole time that I have been in the published world, I have also been running a food business. For awhile, it was a food truck and now it is a restaurant. It's always been this very surreal thing. I spend all day working at this food thing and then at night I have to go home and respond to writing emails. So it has always felt a little chaotic because I haven't been able to focus on it (writing) as purely as if it was my one thing, which is probably good.

The first book is weird because you expect it to conquer the entire world. Your publishing house is like 'Oh, the American Library Association bought x,y,z number of copies' and you feel great, like 'Wait until you see me world!' Then the book comes out and nice things happen but I think it is very rare that immediate interest happens right off the jump off. There is the one or two percent that have that experience, where as the rest of us are slow builders until your third book is the one. It's kind of funny because you are super excited to have completed this life goal and it's still very anxiety producing. So it's wonderful but also one of the worst experiences you'll ever have.



Provided

Corrie Wang joins dozens of other talented authors for YALLFest.

**RT:** You mentioned your food truck; it's called Short Grain, right?

**CW:** Yes. Well it was called Short Grain but then we took it to a sort of pop-up restaurant status, where we were working out of Edmund's Oast Brewing Company for a year, one night a week. We ended that because we finally found a restaurant space and we are calling the restaurant Jackrabbit Filly, like the female horse, filly. It's not going to be like the food truck was with rice bowls and this and that. It is going to be a much more expansive menu, more of a reboot.

**RT:** And when is the restaurant opening up?

**CW:** It is going to be November 13th, November 14th, hopefully sometime that week. All of the YALLFest stuff is just crazy because we are training this coming week and then I am doing this event I created called Foodie Fun-atics. It's super fun but it is really fun when you are not trying to open a restaurant like that same night and I roped my husband into it too cause it's this whole chefs vs. authors. There are crazy food eating competitions and trivia, all this really great stuff but now we both have to do this thing while we are trying to host our friends and family the next night. So it's kind of crazy.

**RT: That sounds like a lot. I'm about halfway through *The Takedown* so we can talk about that some more before going into *City of Beasts*, your new book. Your first book addresses the danger of technology. What do you hope the readers will get from this warning?**

**CW:** I think I am just wanting to create awareness around the fact that what we put out there is going to come back to haunt us. So what you can do when that happens because I think it's gonna be just a given at some point, more than just a silly YA novel premise. It was supposed to be set a tiny bit in the future and it is kind of like we are living that future already. I wrote the book, the first draft of it, when Twitter was just becoming a thing and Face Book was pretty new but publishing takes so long, I did a few revisions, and while I still have the same concerns, at this point I feel like what are we supposed to do at this point. I think this is just the world now.

**RT: One thing that really helped me get into your book was that you made it so we knew what was coming but there was still the mystery of how everyone else was going to react, what is going to happen.**

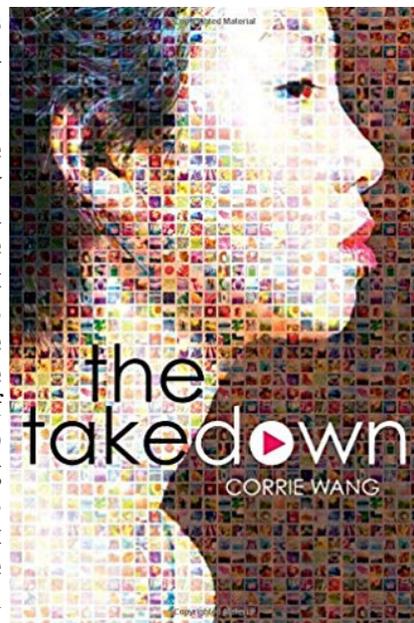
**CW:** Yay, good! That also shows that a lot happens in the editing process because it still had the same voice, the same feel, and it still read really well but in the first draft, everyone believed her. So my editor had to be like look, this video is out there and there is no discernable way you can tell it is not her, she is getting off a little easy. A lot of that happened in the editing process and one thing that stood out to me was that the original version flipped back and forth between two of the characters. They said 'we think you should insert some more red herrings; you need other villains to write a proper mystery.'

**RT: I love how it fights the cliches and it has this mystery packed into it where even if they solve it, the video can't go away.**

**CW:** Part of it, I wanted to write about girls that were unapologetically crushing it. I feel like with YA, to be a girl character, you have to have some flaw, be on the outside, or just don't fit. When you see a character who has all of their stuff together and they are attractive and smart, they were the villain, any single time. I was sick of it, like we were only given one way to be and I knew lots of people growing up that didn't fit any of the characters that we see. I wanted to write about girls that were just crushing it because maybe if we see more of that, we will let ourselves be more like that. Nobody liked it because they didn't think the girls were sympathetic enough which is why I wrote the whole first chapter to those editors.

**RT: And I really found that, through your writing, the characters were like real people to me. They over exaggerated, they would fight, and it was really good. Kyla is fighting a lot of stereotypes with being a smarter popular girl. How do you think this generation of YA novels will act towards stereotypes? Will they fall back into more cliches?**

**CW:** I think that girls will always have a bit of an uphill battle and *City of Beasts* is a little like this too, where you sort of go the opposite route. If they are this strong girl, then they are this strong girl all of the time. So I think it is always going to be rough to get the nuances right. The same



goes for boy characters. How many boys do you know who are rippling with muscles and are spitting out perfect one liners? Not many because they are teenage boys! They get all of these masculinity tropes too. I think there are a good mix of books out from a lot of different voices and there will always be stuff that is just trope-y. That's just the genre.

**RT: Moving on to *City of Beasts*, how would you describe the book, without spoilers, to someone who is newer to the fantasy genre?**

**CW:** I can say a little bit about the reasons of wanting to write that book and then I can go into what it is about. As I was writing *The Takedown*, I kept reading all of these articles about how we are raising boys and girls differently and how it is affecting both groups negatively later in life. It's almost exactly what you would expect; the girls get coddled and the boys are told to try harder. So girls are afraid to be brave and boys are afraid to show their emotions. Reading all of these articles led me to think, 'Uh, we should all be allowed to live separate!' I tried thinking of how that could realistically happen in the world, where you could explore this community of women who were just allowed to come up by themselves, and I figured the only realistic way would be nuclear war.

You have to decimate every system in order to reset like that and if we were allowed to do that, would women want to make a sort of power play? That was the origination of the idea and I don't see it as fantasy, more as speculative fiction because all of the science facts and technology are based on actual science and technology. At the beginning, I say all of the science is factual and everything else is made up because even as outlandish as some of it seems, it all already exists in the world.

The book is about Buffalo, New York, where women decide to move to this place called Grand Island to be separate from the men because of various backstories. It centers around Glori, who is a seventeen year-old, who has grown up without men in her life

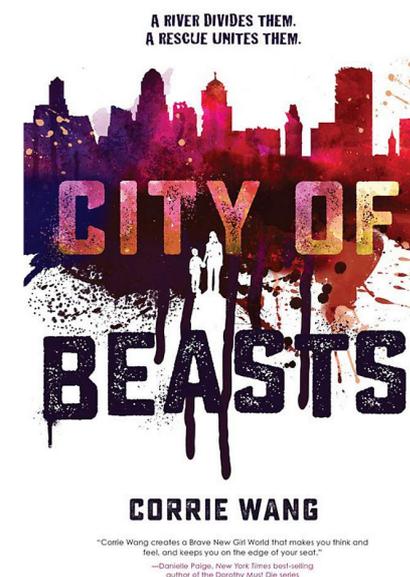
until her younger sibling is snatched by who they are starting to call the beasts. So she has to go over into the City of Beasts to get her sibling back.

**RT: Because he's a boy, right?**

**CW:** Because he is a boy, something you find out shortly in, and other sort of backstory. She is the one teen that has a younger brother and they have to separate themselves from the women so they can raise him up because they are not exactly sure what to do with him. Glori goes over with all of these preconceived notions of what she has been taught about men and then runs into, since it's a YA book, all of these teen boys who smash the conventions because they have also grown up without the constant comparison to the "weaker sex."

**RT: DO you think you would ever dip out of the YA genre in the future?**

**CW:** Yeah, totally. I have a few projects I am working on, one about women in the restaurant industry that would be super fun and I have something that is built as YA but will probably become an adult novel after I revamp it. Likewise, I would like to write for a younger crowd so I would like to do it all.



NOVEMBER 8-9 2019

UPPER KING ST.

# YALLFEST

CHARLESTON YOUNG ADULT BOOK FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY UNDERLINED



## Fall Sports

coverage by Peyton Smalls and Katie Forrester

With the fall sports drawing to an end, we are checking in on our School for the Arts athletes who participate in sports at their home school.

**Carson Archie** has had an outstanding cross country season and is preparing for the state championship meet this month. This being his fourth and final season running with the Wando High School team, he has realized the overall strengths and weaknesses he can perfect. With these realizations, he would like to try and work on speed in the off season as opposed to endurance training. Carson, the captain of Wando's team, was thankful to make it through the season with zero injuries. He placed fifth in the 5A region 7 championship, covering the 5k course in 16 minutes and 54 seconds.



**Carson leads the pack.**



**Will and his girlfriend Brianna celebrate after a game.**

**Izzi Lindon's** tennis season for West Ashley High School ended a few weeks ago against Wando, but that her team made it to the second round of playoffs, which is farther than they have made it before. Overall, Lizzi states, she is satisfied with the team performance. This is her second season with West Ashley. She states that in order to improve her performance, she would have consistently practiced more in order to improve her performance. She states that there have been no injuries this year, and that she is very excited to make it to the second round of playoffs.

**Katie Oswald and Hannah Elledge**, who cheer for James Island Charter High School, agree this fall season has generally gone well. Katie says that while the JI football players are not always living up to expectations, both the cheerleaders and the team are hopeful for the last two upcoming games of the season. Hannah states that even though the James Island football team did not win the last game, the team celebrated the senior cheerleaders of the team, as it was their last game with James Island. Hannah is excited for her James Island Wolfpack team, a competitive cheer group which begins their competition season in several weeks. It is Katie's first season cheering with James Island,

while this year will complete Hannah's second year, and her sixth season with her competitive Wolfpack team. Katie says she would change her performance this season by interacting more with the crowd and simply enjoying her time on the field more. Hannah, however, feels she would not want to alter her experience, as she views it as a learning experience and has especially enjoyed her time making long-lasting memories with her friends and fellow cheerleaders, Katie Oswald and Chrissy. She states that as far as her Wolfpack team goes, she hopes everyone enjoys themselves and is excited for the upcoming season. Katie and Hannah both state that their team has had a few rough patches as far as injuries go. Katie says that while one flyer tore her MCL, and several teammates have let throughout the season, James Island cheer has nonetheless persevered, and Katie and Hannah have both avoided injuries so far.



**Hannah (center) and Katie (katie) enjoy their last game.**

**Abby Grace McLaughlin's** fifth and final season with the West Ashley swim team has come to an end and she is very satisfied with how the season went. The whole season was full of love and support as they cheered everyone on as a team. Thinking back on the season, Abby Grace wishes she was a bit more organized and that her time could have dropped in the events. As a whole, a lot of people on her team went to the state competition this year.



**Abby kicks back after a great season.**



SOA Special

First visit is 20% off.

excluding teen nights

Show your ID to receive it.

**Craft & Canvas**

a make it, take it art studio

4412 Spruill Avenue

North Charleston, SC 29405

[www.charlestoncraftandcanvas.com](http://www.charlestoncraftandcanvas.com)

843.801.8960

## Where Were They Then?

Staff writer *Charlie Hastings* talks with *Mr. Tristan Hill* about the path that led him to the School of the Arts.

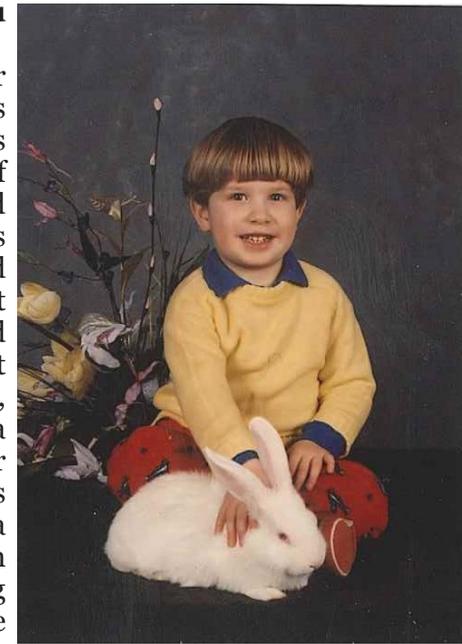
**Charlie Hastings: Where were you raised? What did you like about it and what memories do you have of that place?**

**Mr. Tristan Hill:** I would say that I was a person who grew up non-traditionally in the 1980s in that I had older parents. In today's times, one would see my childhood as normal but in the 80s to have parents in their late 30s was quite rare. My brother was also quite older, 7 and a half years to be exact, but we grew up as kindred spirits in the mountains of Alaska where my father was stationed. When I was born, my father was in the last years of his stretch in the Air Force before he retired. Unlike most people, I was not born in the lower 48, as we called it then, but rather in Alaska, the last frontier. For those who have been blessed with the opportunity, Alaska is the most beautiful state of them all. There is a certain tranquility that can be felt in Alaska through the pure and untouched landscape. As I have grown older, I find myself more drawn the idea of adventure that can be sought by the uncharted wilderness that Alaska has to offer. Nevertheless, whom would I ever talk to? I am a World Language teacher after all. What I remember most about Alaska was our way of life. I know such a statement may sound trite but living in Alaska is a state of mind. You have to understand that due to the low population, that you do not actually live in Alaska as a human being, but rather as a guest among all species in Alaska. To evince such a statement, I remember as a toddler around four witnessing what I thought at the moment was an earthquake. Normally, for those you have not yet indulged in such a grave experience, an earthquake may only last two minutes aside from aftershocks. However, this particular "moment" seemed to be lasting longer than usual, and remember that Alaska is accordingly on the faultline with California so earthquakes were normal. As my family took the proper precautions of taking cover and protecting our heads, my mother had the bright idea of looking outside. After investigating the scene, it was in fact no apocalypse, but a moose scratching his back on the house. Although we were in the 80s, we were pioneers still, in contemporary times.

**CH: What was your early schooling like and how did it differ from this school?**

**TH:** The earliest schooling that I can remember was when I was in Alaska for Pre-K. I will vaunt for a moment saying that I have what is called an elephant's memory: a good memory. I remember the pre-school my mother took me to and the piles and piles of snow strewn through the land in an infinite desert of cold moist sand. Nevertheless, this Winter Narnia of snow ceased when we moved to Beaufort, South Carolina when I was 5 years old. The crystaled castles of frigid snow were replaced by the palmetto trees, beaches, and humidity. My first summer in Beaufort was spent mostly next to an air conditioner, and my brother and I found ourselves many nights reminiscing about the times in Alaska, hoping for what we perceived as a normal night of 50 degrees in the middle of July (HOT CHANCE). For primary school, I went to a montessori school and later a private school in the 3rd grade because my mother felt that I needed to build stronger reading skills. I went to Beaufort Academy from 3rd to 12th grade so I empathize with students who say "I want to meet new people!" My graduating class was only 29 people and we had a

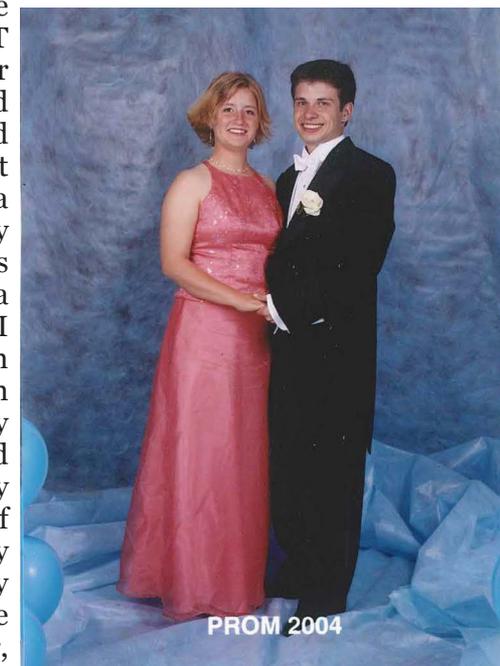
very general curriculum that emphasized the three R's: reading, writing, and arithmetic, which perturbed my mother, a public school teacher, for years. So she enrolled me in several lovely after school activities such as dance and vocal. I even auditioned and enrolled in the Governor's School of the Arts Academy for vocal as a baritone. Nonetheless, I wanted to travel and see the world and meet new people and you know what I did: I went abroad my junior year of high school. During my freshman year of high school, I had the biggest crush on the Spanish exchange student. She was not only beautiful but a wonderful person at heart. I had grown up with parents who lived also in Thailand, Germany, England, and the Philippines (let me not forget all my *Napoleon Dynamite* lovers, but yes, they also lived in Idaho); therefore, I had an affinity for traveling and even to this day, I find airports one of the most fascinating places on Earth. Regardless, unbeknownst to my parents, I filled out an application to be a Rotary exchange student and after several interviews found myself travelling abroad to Belgium my junior year where I learned French. Later, in college I learned Spanish by living in Spain. Yes, I am trilingual, but I am no genius. Like most things, it takes grit to have what you really want. People ask me what the best way or method to learn a foreign language is. I respond that it is much like a workout video: if you use the video, you will get some results and then you can build upon that; however, you buy the workout video and let it sit on the shelf and you keep buying others while not practicing, then you are pretty much buying a useless video library.



Mr. Hill poses with a bunny at age 4 1/2.



Growing up in Alaska offered much colder weekend activities than Charleston.



Mr. Hill and his date dress to the nines for Prom 2004.

**CH: Who did you look up to as a child?**

**TH:** I will have to say my parents. Growing up, I always thought of myself as being weird not looking up to any particular famous or learned person, but that's because I never felt a person connection to them. I have met several famous people in my life working in restaurants downtown and have been a little starstruck, but I keep remembering to myself that they are just people who want to be treated in just that manner. As a small child, I looked up mostly to my father. He made me stay up late after he was done with flights and watch *Saturday Night Live*. Later on in my life, I looked up to my mother, who worked long nights creating lessons for her middle school students and continued to teach for 34 years up to the age of 71. Her fame within Beaufort became so prolific and widespread that in the grocery stores, she would know the whole staff and the kids and sometimes even their grandchildren. I guess my admiration for people is more pastoral than fantasy: pastoral in the sense that I hope to continue a generation of hard workers for the immediate community rather than for a larger stage such a pop stars.

**CH: Did you play any sports? Do you still play?**

**TH:** I did play sports up until the 8th grade. I played both soccer and baseball and unfortunately stopped because I was diagnosed with Crohn's disease. However, at the age of 33, I find myself more active than most people in their early 20s. I love the gym and weights and try to do orange theory at least five and sometimes seven times a week at 5AM.

**CH: Where did you see yourself being now when you were a kid?**

**TH:** I find this question difficult to answer because there is such a focus on what one will become in the future with a stress of success. It's as if our list of accomplishments is some kind of liquid filling up the beaker that is our life, measuring our success, which will in turn determine our self worth. Being caught up with such images and anxiety impedes us from being in the moment. My point is when I was a kid, I wanted to work for the Foreign Service and work in embassies. Now, I am working at a prestigious school with great aspiring artists. My dream has not changed but I am thoroughly enjoying the ride and if I never get there, I would still consider myself blessed to be a part of what is happening here.

**CH: What was high school like for you?**

**TH:** I loved high school as a freshman because it was different. Sophomore year was pretty good. I ADORED my junior because, of course, I was abroad. At the age of 17, I had seen 11 countries in Europe. I had seen places even my parents, who were world travelers, had not seen. Senior year, after I had experienced the freedom of Europe and its cultural liberties and had spread my wings, I returned to Beaufort, SC. In all regards, my senior year, the year everyone looks forward to, was very difficult. The experiences that I cherished made me very different compared to others, and I looked at the world very differently.

**CH: What was your path after high school?**

**TH:** After high school, I wanted to get my degree in whatever, and then get a masters in foreign affairs to eventually become a diplomat of some sort. It is still a dream of mine, but like I said I am still enjoying the ride.

**CH: What made you decide to major in foreign languages?**

**TH:** Long story short, growing up, I was fascinated whenever I heard someone else speaking another language and my parents at the dinner table always regaled us with stories about their past in Europe. Therefore, after living abroad, I wanted to keep my languages up so I continued to study them.

## Where Are They Now?

*Leo Cantrell finds out what's happening now with SOA alumnus Noah Jones.*

**Leo Cantrell: What year did you graduate from SOA? What was your major?**

**Noah Jones:** I graduated from the School of the Arts in 2016 as a Band major.

**LC: Are you in college now? What are you studying and where?**

**NJ:** I'm a senior at the College of Charleston, majoring in Music Performance.

**LC: How does your major at SOA relate to your current life?**

**NJ:** Band taught me very early the dynamics of performing music in a group setting, which is an essential element as performing professional musician.

**LC: What is your band called?**

**NJ:** My band is called Little Bird! Check out our newest single, "gHost," on Spotify, Apple Music, iTunes, Amazon Music, YouTube Music and Soundcloud.

**LC: What was your favorite thing about SOA?**

**NJ:** I really appreciated the open and accepting environment for creativity as a student. It helped me discover what I wanted to do in my art.

**LC: What were your inspirations relating to music in your high school years?**

**NJ:** Well, the SOA jazz band was a catalyst for motivation. Seeing everyone trying to better themselves for the good of the group inspired me early on.



**Mr. Hill and his friends stopped in Prague during their European exploration.**

theory at least five and sometimes seven times a



**Noah Jones still counts on skills he learned at SOA when playing with his band.**



Decades Day

SPIRIT WEEK!!



Meme Day



Bikers vs. Surfers



Wild



West

Shoutout to student council for organizing such a fun week! The Fall Food Festival on Clown vs. Crown day was able to raise over 1000 dollars for the Lowcountry Food Bank.



Clown vs. Crown



## National Recording Act Shovels and Rope Shares their Success Story with *Applause*

by Ethan Butler and Avea Diamond

Since the release of their self titled debut album in 2008, Shovels and Rope has developed from a popular Charleston duo to an internationally successful touring and recording band, playing shows around Europe and America, and frequently occurring on NPR. Cary Ann Hearst and Micheal Trent unravel a whole new concept of sound, balanced between folk and roots, delivering a distinct tone. “Genre is something I do not consider at all when writing,” says Cary Ann, “I follow my instincts and whatever the sound is, that’s what it is.”

In the years prior to the formation of Shovels and Rope, Trent was a lead guitarist and vocalist in the Denver, Colorado band, Tinker’s Punishment, before relocating to the southeast and renaming it as The Films. In 2010, the group disbanded allowing him to expand and collaborate with his now wife, Cary Ann Hearst, whom was pursuing her own solo career as an expressive soul-vocalist; she released a handful of albums, one of which landed a single “Hells Bells,” in the 2010 season of *True Blood*.



The husband-wife duo pull personal material to use for inspiration, often influenced by the changes in their lives.

Currently, their most recent album, *By Blood*, captures their words in their most poetic, raw form. “*By Blood* is a captured moment in time from two writers who are growing older, raising kids, and watching their parents grow old and die...” says Cary Ann, “The characters in the songs are either us, or people we have been, or people we knew and identified with in some way.”

In 2017, Cary and Micheal curated the start to Charleston’s High Water festival, an elaborate celebration of food and music.

Later this year, they’ll release their first children’s book, incorporating the story from their song “C’Mon Utah,” which is about a “magical horse that reunites families who have been seperated at the border.” Hearst says, “It felt like if we illustrated the song, it could facilitate families talking to their kids about the song and the subject matter.”

In ties with illustrations, music, and festivals, *The Ballad of Shovels and Rope* paints a 3-year synopsis of the “two-man” family band, as they create and release their critically acclaimed album, *O’ Be Joyful*. The film was released on October 4th, 2014, and aired over many media forms.

While staying true to the Lowcountry, they continue to hit the road as a family band, spreading the love and live action.

## Cary Ann Hearst Explains Process Behind Creative Projects

*Ethan Butler and Avea Diamond talk festival organizing and album creation with Cary Ann Hearst.*

**Butler and Diamond: Could you explain some of the major preparations for the opening of the High Water Festival?**

**Cary Ann Hearst:** We start working on High Water the morning after the festival ends. Booking is about a 6 month process and is completed before the festival announces. Sponsorships and other funding must be in place before entertainment is officially booked so we don’t have a Fyre Fest situation.

**BD: Since the start of the High Water Festival in 2017, what are some of the most remarkable moments and performances?**

**CAH:** Every High Water has been special but I was floored when the audience gave Jeff Tweedy [founder of the band Wilco] such a respectful listen. It was just him and a guitar and 10000 people just listening.

**BD: Could you explain the process of recording ‘By Blood’ in your backyard studio? How did it personally affect the style and meaning of the music?**

**CAH:** The studio has no effect on the meaning of the music. We did, however, create a designated space to create that is free of the trappings of family, so it’s easy to get into work mode. It made a separation between work and family life that was crucial.

**BD: Can you talk about the creative process behind making *The Ballad of Shovels and Rope*?**

**CAH:** These two filmmakers followed us around for 3 years, off and on and captured our life as a career started to unfold. It was really a Moving Picture Boys project—their creative mission and their vision. We just tried to act naturally as they documented us.

**BD: Where have your tours taken you, and what is it like having your kids with you on tour?**

**CAH:** We have been all over the United States a dozen times over—but never to Alaska or Hawaii to play. We got to Europe, UK, and once to Australia and New Zealand. It’s nuts having kids on tour, but it’s nuts having kids anywhere and we have way less stuff to keep up with.

**BD: As collaborating musicians, how do you produce such original sounding albums, and what are your inspirational motives?**

**CAH:** We don’t collaborate in the studio. Michael runs the show there. I don’t even know how the equipment works. It’s not my passion. I love to perform live. Michael, on the other hand, is brilliant in the studio. He is patient and particular about what he likes. He gets better every year so it’s really fun to hear what he comes up with. I get to hear it with fresh ears and I’m always excited by what he comes up with.

**SOA Creative Writing presents Wordfest**

**Saturday, November 16th**

**9am-4pm**

**at the Mt. Pleasant Barnes & Noble**

CONTINUE YOUR  
PASSION FOR

# THE ARTS

AT COLLEGE OF  
CHARLESTON



COLLEGE of  
CHARLESTON  
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

SOTA.COFC.EDU



## NOVEMBER EVENTS

### THEATRE & DANCE

STUDENT DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

11/1-11/2 + 11/6-11/9 THEATRE  
*A Lie of the Mind* by Sam Shepard  
FOR MATURE AUDIENCES

11/22-11/24 DANCE  
*Legacy* - choreographed by faculty  
and guest artists

### MUSIC

STUDENT DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

11/11 2ND MONDAY SERIES  
Philip Lipton, clarinetist

11/16 COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON OPERA  
Opera Workshop Scenes

11/25 COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON ORCHESTRA  
Fall Concert

### HALSEY INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

FREE UNLESS DENOTED  
STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE

Ongoing-Dec. 7 EXHIBITION  
*Katrina Andry: Over There  
and Here is Me and Me and  
Colin Quashie: Linked*

11/8 MEMBERSHIP CELEBRATION  
*Howlin at the Moon*

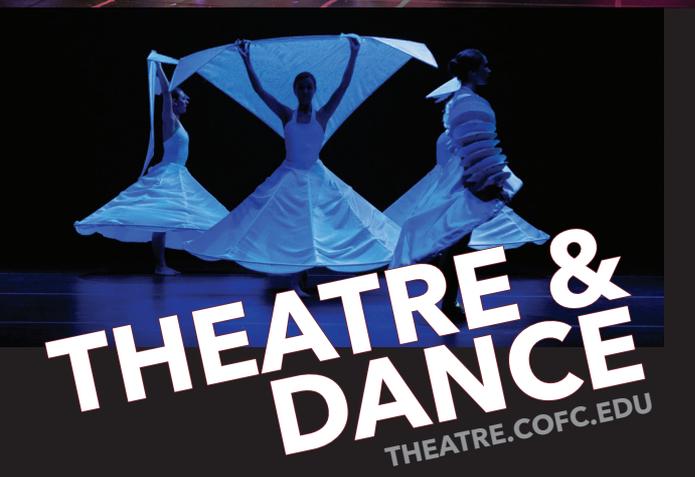
11/14 LECTURE  
*Art Stars, Superstars and Death  
stars: The Art of Fame in  
Ray Johnson & Andy Warhol*

11/19 ROUNDTABLE TALK  
*Text vs Image* - discussions on  
intriguing concepts in art

### STUDIO ART

FREE

Year round STUDENT EXHIBITIONS  
Painting, drawing, photography,  
printmaking, sculpture



**MUSIC**  
MUSIC.COFC.EDU

2020 Music  
Scholarship Auditions  
Jan. 18, 24 and 25  
MUSIC.COFC.EDU/SCHOLARSHIPS



**STUDIO  
ART**  
ART.COFC.EDU

**HALSEY INSTITUTE  
OF CONTEMPORARY ART**  
of THE COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON

HALSEY.COFC.EDU

Untitled excerpt by **Anni Mullins** (7th grade Creative Writing)

*Aah.* As I looked into the dirty, smudged mirror at the unfortunate reflection of myself in a too-small suit, my mother cooed and tugged on my collar. “You look so handsome! Mandy is such a lucky girl to go to prom with you!” she said, tying my tie so tight I swear my head was going to fall off.

“Yeah, definitely, mom.” I choked out, trying to loosen the 10,000 year old suit that smelled of old shoes and mothballs. I could feel my armpits prickle with sweat, as the scratchy, stiff material made the room feel 100 degrees. It felt as though there were bugs living inside it, crawling all over my arms and back, and I desperately wanted out. I would go to this stupid prom with stupid Mandy in my freaking underwear if that meant getting out of this stupid suit. That is, if I even wanted to go at all. I’m sure tons of kids were just staying home, right? But it didn’t matter, Mom was making me go anyway, stupid suit and all.

Moments after I had adjusted the suit to be even slightly more comfortable and fitting, I was shoved out the door and tied down in the car against my will, and driven to school even though it was 8 pm on a Friday, and I shouldn’t have had to go back for at least two more days. Sweating profusely, I waddled my way into the building, and was about to lock myself in a bathroom stall until it was all over, when Mandy found me, dragged me by the arm into the gymnasium, and made me dance like a fool. At least, I thought, nobody else was really watching, except Mandy, and I really didn’t care about her opinion towards me.

“I like your suit!” she cried, practically yelling over the obnoxiously loud music. I almost snorted. “Do I look nice in my dress?” She yelled again, her tight brown curls bouncing around her shoulders as she curtsied, and forced me to twirl her around to show off her hideous dress.

“Definitely!” I yelled back, plastering a grin on my face, and thank goodness she wasn’t looking, because my god, was that the worst fake smile I’ve ever made. I could feel how much pain my face was in, along with the rest of my body, constantly getting pinched and stretched by the ugly suit.

Mandy yanked my arm again, practically ripping it off, and led me onto the dance floor as the slow music started.

Oh god. Oh god, please no, just kill me now, end my suffering. I could feel my back dripping with sweat, and it was pooling slightly in the back where the coat squeezed the life out of my waist. The stench of body odor, alcohol, and spiked fruit punch, along with the fact that my tie practically closed my airway made it difficult, almost impossible to breath.

“Are you having fun?” The music was quieter now, and the sound of talking was reduced to a low murmur among the crowd, so Mandy didn’t have to yell at me. I nodded, looking at the top of her head to avoid eye contact. It wasn’t that I disliked Mandy, no, I just hated being here. If I could just choose a quiet night alone, not dressed in a ridiculous fashion, and alone with her, I’d choose that in half a heartbeat. She frowned.

“Is something wrong?” I sighed, looked down at her face, and grimaced.

“Sure is.” She furrowed her eyebrows, and looked around at the other people in the room.

“You wanna go? I hate this dress, it’s itchy and too small.” She looked back up at me, a small, pained smile etched across her lips. I nodded enthusiastically, and followed her through the thick crowd of people, before reaching the huge steel doors. The air was hotter out here, and made me sweat like 2x more, but the fresh air was a huge improvement. I gulped in a huge lungful, before following Mandy to her car. It was a blue, beat up car probably older than both of us combined, but charming, in a way. The first observation I made while climbing in the car, was that it smelled of melted caramel and ketchup, just like Mandy.

“Yeah, sorry...” She started apologetically. “It’s not exactly new.” She chuckled, and patted the dashboard, which coughed out some dust.

“I mean it’s better than being in there.” She jerked her head towards the building. I nodded in agreement, and breathed in the sweet autumn air through the rolled down window as we drove away.



above: **Evelyn Bueschgen**, 9th grade

## STUDENT WORK

below: **Mya Genegrasso**, 11th grade



# CREATIVE & WRITING

The Book of Life  
By Niamh Carmichael (6th grade Creative Writing)

Quiet things are humble  
Early morning and late evening  
The moon gleaming down from the sky  
And dewdrops on a spider's web weaving  
The soft whisper of pages turned in a book  
Ferns on which ladybugs lie  
The wind in the trees  
And a fox's paw steps, swift and sly

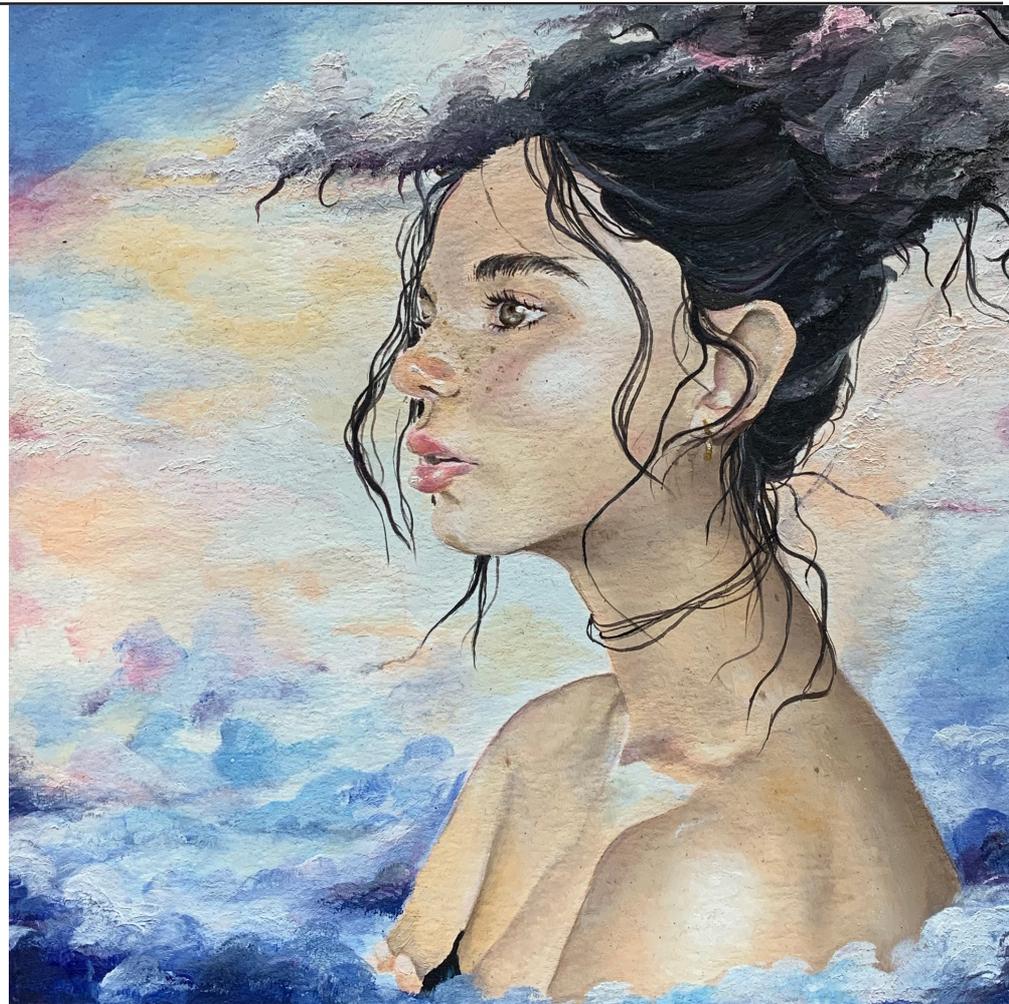
Loud things are humble  
The chatter of squirrels  
The chirp of a bird  
The foamy rapid that whirls  
Hum of the beehive  
A cow's resounding moo  
And the bullfrogs that sing

Biotic Things are Inspiring  
By Alison R. Fletcher (6th grade Creative Writing)

Biotic things are inspiring,  
The peacock's iridescent tail,  
The Arctic fox plowing through hail.  
The lion and his pride, who are revered.  
The octopus who has disappeared  
With camouflage and deceit.  
The newborn doe, struggling to her feet.  
A violet's petals, opening one by one,  
Kissed by the morning's rising sun.  
The bearded dragon's black throat,  
His thorny body a protective coat.

Abiotic things are inspiring too.  
The waves crashing on shore,  
The waterfall's thunder and roar;  
Its mist that rains and sprays.  
The sun's fiery rays,  
The soft fall of winter's snow,  
Rolling mountains that tower over all below,  
The scars where rivers have been,  
The weathered rock along the ocean shore,  
Witness to peace and evil and war.

# V I S U A L A R T S



above: **Emma Heesen** 12th grade// below: **Chloe Payzant** 8th grade



## Ask Autumn

by Autumn Chaveco



Ramie Thompson

*Have a problem? Junior Creative Writer **Autumn Chaveco** has an answer. To submit a query, write it on a piece of paper and drop off your question in the “Ask Autumn” box in Dr. Cusatis’s classroom in the high school building.*

**Dear Autumn, I’m new to SOA this year and its been a really big transition. It’s way different from my middle school, and it seems like the other people in**

**my major all already know what they’re doing. I’m starting to feel like the odd one out. How can I stop feeling like this and make the change easier?**

**-Anon**

**A: Dear Unsure Freshman,** I can PROMISE you right now, you are not the only one. And no one in your class probably knows what the heck they’re talking about either! My first few weeks at SOA (all the way back in the sixth grade) was absolutely terrifying and I felt like I didn’t belong here. Everyone else in my major was so good at writing and coming up with ideas on the spot, and I started to fall behind. But soon, I naturally began to make friends when I stopped worrying so much, and today I am closer with the people in my major than anyone else. They’re basically my second family. And if you still feel conflicted after a few weeks or months of trying, talk to your major teacher about your concerns— that’s what they’re there for! My three major teachers simultaneously work as teachers and personal therapists; they help me so much. SOA is such a friendly place that everyone can find a way to fit in. You can do this!

**Dear Autumn, my mom’s fiancé’s family is about to move in with us, and I don’t know how to feel. I’m a little conflicted, because it’s a big change for my family, and I’m worried that they’re going to get on my nerves. What should I do?**

**-Anon**

**A: Dear Conflicted Sister,** I actually have a friend that is going through almost the same thing right now! If you’re really concerned, I would start by talking to your mom about it. Remember, you were her child first, so she should be open and understanding of any concerns you have about the new fam. If the issue you have is with your new step brothers or sisters, maybe try and plan on a little one on one time with them before you move in and find something in common that you can bond over. Try and think about it— they’re probably just as nervous as you are! Their dad is going through the same thing that your mom is, and they are going through the same thing as you. You could also try maybe talking to your mom’s fiancé about your concerns and find out more from him about his family. It’s always scary having a parent remarry, but hopefully you’ll get lucky and everything will work out!

## Take a Look at What Flies Ahead at the Avian Conservation Center

by Ella Waldron-Noren

### Photography Day

November 24, and December 22

This 3-hour program begins at 8:30 AM and takes place outside (observers should dress accordingly)

You will have the once in a lifetime opportunity to:

- \* Photograph 15 different species of birds of prey outside of their enclosures, both perching and in-flight perspectives
- \* Take close-up photos of live birds-of-prey in natural settings
- \* Take a self-guided tour of the Center
- \* Photograph flight demonstrations featuring several species of birds-of-prey in free flight

MEMBER RATE: \$52 per photographer, \$14.40 per adult observer, \$9.60 per youth observer

NON-MEMBER RATE: \$65 per photographer, \$18 per adult observer, \$12 per youth observer

For online purchasing and more information visit our website at [www.thecenterforbirdsofprey.org](http://www.thecenterforbirdsofprey.org) and look under the “visit” tab.

### Thanksgiving Schedule and Clinic Tours

We will be open on both Friday, November 29 and Saturday, November 30 with programs at 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

The Avian Medical Clinic and South Carolina OiledBird Response Facility are two areas of our campus that are not usually accessible by the public, but during these two days, visitors will be able to get a behind-the-scenes tour of both clinics.

For online purchasing and more information visit our website at [www.thecenterforbirdsofprey.org](http://www.thecenterforbirdsofprey.org) and look under the “visit” tab. We hope to see you soon!



## Palmetto Pediatrics, PA

Michael Leonardi, MD  
Philip K. Lowe, MD  
J. Bruce Etheridge, MD

Jennifer A. Nordby, MD  
Jennifer M. Graves, PA-C

2781 Tricom Street, North Charleston, SC 29406

[www.charlestonpalmettopediatrics.com](http://www.charlestonpalmettopediatrics.com)

Open 7 days a week

843-797-5600

## Influential Artists: Dance

by Luke Shaw

Each issue **Luke Shaw** asks an arts instructor and his/her students about an artist who has inspired them.

### Luke Shaw: When and how did you first encounter the work of Merce Cunningham?

**Ms. Linda Cline:** A friend of mine was studying at the Cunningham School on Bethune Street in New York City and she thought I would like it. I started classes there and within a short amount of time with company teachers, I was taking class with *the* Merce Cunningham!

### LS: What initially drew you and what continues to draw you to his work?

**LC:** I am drawn to the work of Merce Cunningham because it is so clean and clear, and I can make my own associations and think my own thoughts about what I'm watching without being told what the movement is about. It really challenges my imagination.

### LS: Is there a certain technique that he uses that contributes to your admiration?

**LC:** The Cunningham Dance Technique is quite unusual. It develops clarity, strength and flexibility in both the spine and the legs. The upper body and the legs either work together or against each other, and there are quick changes of direction. It uses much of the ballet vocabulary which was ingrained in me, yet it doesn't look like ballet! I love when I get to teach the technique to my students and see how they react!

### LS: What are your favorite works by Cunningham?

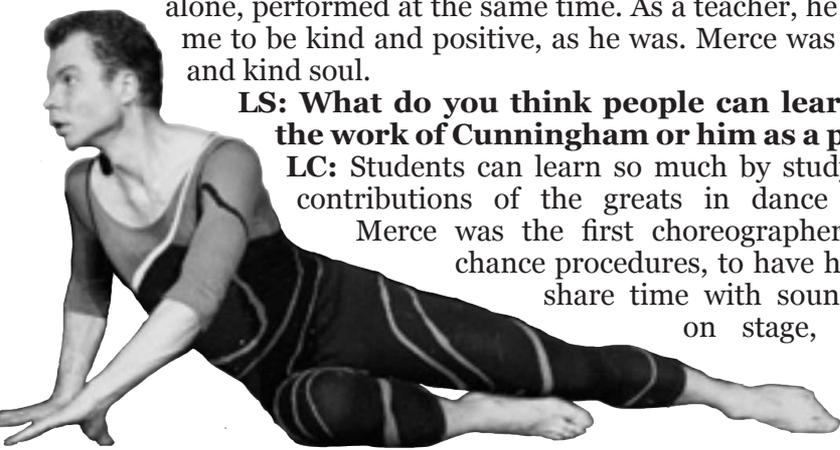
**LC:** I really enjoyed *Summerspace*, choreographed in 1958. I loved the backdrop and the matching costumes by Robert Rauschenberg. I'm not sure when I saw it but as a student in his studio, I was given discounted and free tickets to see the Cunningham Dance Company perform at City Center so I went to the theatre a lot! I also went to the NYC Armory for an "Event" in which the dancers performed in the vast space and the audience could come and go as they pleased. They danced for hours. I thought that was so different and I loved every minute of it.

### LS: In what ways has he inspired your own work?

**LC:** I think Merce Cunningham was a genius. He was also a huge innovator in dance during his time. I like to think that a lot of the ways I present movement has been inspired by Merce. Throughout my career I have reminded myself to stay simple and clear. For a while I choreographed a lot of dances devoid of meaning, the way he did. Dance and music stand alone, performed at the same time. As a teacher, he inspires me to be kind and positive, as he was. Merce was a gentle and kind soul.

### LS: What do you think people can learn from the work of Cunningham or him as a person?

**LC:** Students can learn so much by studying the contributions of the greats in dance history. Merce was the first choreographer to use chance procedures, to have his dance share time with sound/music on stage, and he



Luke  
the



### Shaw: When and how did you first encounter work of Al Blackstone?

**Jenna Riling:** I had taken one of his classes at a dance convention when I was around 13 years old.

### LS: What initially drew you and what continues to draw you to his work?

**JR:** I think what initially drew me to him and his work was his passion for musical theatre dance. He has such a special talent of portraying music through dance while keeping the story alive. His movement qualities excite the audience and always keeps them wanting more.

### LS: Is there a certain technique that he uses that contributes to your admiration?

**JR:** He uses a lot of dance techniques in his choreography. He mostly pulls from classical jazz and ballet, but he is very versatile and includes techniques from other genres as well.

### LS: What are your favorite works by this artist?

**JR:** His most recent work and one of my personal favorites is the show he directed and choreographed called *Freddie Falls In Love*. I was lucky enough to see it in New York this past summer, and it was absolutely captivating!

### LS: In what ways has he inspired your own work?

**JR:** He has inspired me to really focus on portraying stories throughout my choreography. Dance can be more than just movement on a stage; it can make audience members feel emotions and carry them along a journey expressed by dance.

### LS: What do you think people can learn from the work of Blackstone or from him as a person?

**JR:** One thing I think we could learn from him is to never give up on your passions and dreams. With hard work and determination, anything is possible.



EDUCATION  
is a lifelong  
journey whose  
DESTINATION  
EXPANDS as  
you TRAVEL

-Jim Stovall

Allison Tolbert

LUXURY TRAVEL ADVISOR

AND PROUD SOA PARENT!

Call me to help plan your next adventure!

954.806.1383 | atolbert@departurelounge.com



departure lounge VIRTUOSO MEMBER  
TRAVEL PLANNING SPECIALISTS SPECIALISTS IN THE ART OF TRAVEL

Virtuoso is a global network of the best travel advisors and travel providers all focused on providing you with the best travel experiences.

## Table for Two

by Bojena Sabin and Sam Clarke

Restaurant: Vicious Biscuit

Where: Mount Pleasant

Rating: 10 fluffy biscuits out of 10

Located on West Coleman Boulevard in Mount Pleasant, Vicious Biscuit is the “knife and fork biscuit,” niche the Charleston food scene needed. Serving biscuits the size of your face with a variety of toppings and fillings, Vicious Biscuit is sure to fulfill your southern comfort food cravings. For only being open a little less than a year, the Vicious Biscuit has been a huge success in the area. The head chef pulled inspiration from a couple similar biscuit restaurants in North Carolina and Tennessee, and with the help of some other teammates, made the restaurant a dream come true. The restaurant was a huge success right off the bat, and even now a line out the door can be expected any given Sunday. We were lucky enough to land a table on what they consider one of their slower days to see what the rave was all about.



The sweet puppies served as a delicious preview for the goodness to come.

white chocolate custard.” The first comment we made was that it tasted much like a churro, but better. The satisfying crunch, followed by a warm doughy inside, and finished by the sweetness from the powdered sugar and the custard made for an all around enjoyable experience. This definitely was a very rich starter which admittedly made it difficult to move to the next dish, but hey, go Vicious, or go home.

Now for one of the hardest decisions of our self-proclaimed food critic lives: picking a biscuit. Serving everything from the classic biscuits and gravy, to the more adventurous “Ranchero” piled high with jalapeños, pico de gallo, and black beans, it was almost impossible to decide. We settled on two very southern options: “The Fat Boy” and the “Vicious Shrimp and Grits.”

### “The Fat Boy”

A buttermilk biscuit stuffed with southern fried chicken breast, house-made pimento cheese, and topped with their signature hot and honey drizzle. Living in the south for most of my life, I’ve eaten copious amounts of

pimento cheese; one might say I am even a connoisseur of it. It is safe to say that the Vicious Biscuit’s melt-in-your-mouth recipe is now in my top five. The smooth pimento cheese spread complimented the crispiness of the chicken harmoniously. Let’s not forget the namesake: the biscuit. The head chef was not messing around when he perfected this flakey goodness. The biscuit was just doughy enough, while also being fluffy enough to serve as a vehicle for the fixin’s. Overall I really have no complaints about this dish. The subtle flecks of hot honey drizzle added the kick that all good southern dishes should have.

### “Vicious Shrimp and Grits”

When they set this down we both got wide eyed at the sheer volume of food that this dish contained. Think a bowl the size of your head with every bit covered in thick, creamy gravy (and not that powdered, packet gravy either). Think homemade, truly southern gravy, cheesy grits, open faced biscuits, jumbo shrimp all topped with bacon crumbles and crushed up jalapeño potato chips. It was the perfect collection of textures with the grits balanced by crispy toppings, the buttery biscuit just absolutely smothered in sauce. It was a dish that keeps on giving (literally since it was so rich I’ve got enough leftovers for a couple days) and that’s not me complaining. It was so good that I don’t think I’ll ever get sick of it!

Just as a side note if our review is so good that it makes you want to try it: we got a chance to speak with the manager, who in addition to giving us some info on how Vicious Biscuit got started, also clued us in on the busiest times. It’s a brunch place, so if you’re not looking to wait in a line that stretches from the front counter to the parking lot, then going on a Saturday or Sunday morning may not be the best time to try it out (but if you do decide to go on the weekend mornings than it’s definitely worth it). Also right now their only location is the one off Coleman Blvd. in Mt. Pleasant, but by February they’re opening up a second spot in Summerville.

## Harriet: A Sneak Peek

by Lilly Stevens

On October 30th, I got the privilege of seeing the movie *Harriet* two days early before the rest of the country. The movie was released on November 1st; I highly recommend everyone to see the film. *Harriet* is a very educational and enlightening movie, based on the heroic life and events of Amarinta “Minty” Ross, also known



“The Fat Boy” delivered on its classic southern elements.

as Harriet Tubman. Harriet Tubman was an abolitionist who was born a slave in Dorchester County, Maryland. She ran for her life when she was 20 and came back to rescue friends, family, and many more who were suffering from the cruelty of slavery.

The movie depicts how she saved thousands of lives aided by the voice of God. Cynthia Chinasaokwu did an amazing job taking on such a huge role and portraying Harriet Tubman; she is a breakout star. Other cast members such as Leslie Odom Jr., Joe Alwyn, Clarke Peters, and singer Janelle Monáe shone brightly. I must say, as a teenage African-American female, this movie was very inspiring, especially considering how little we are taught about black history. When we learn about black females, it’s only ever the stories of Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks when there are so many other black females who have put their lives on the line for people like me to be here today. I greatly appreciate these women and everyone else should too.



Harriet is out now! Go check it out, it’s worth it!

## Visiting Author Review: Blonde by Joyce Carol Oates

by Katie Forrester

Joyce Carol Oates, a prolific Pulitzer Prize finalist and Nobel prize nominee, has published a wide range of literature during her long career, ranging from novels, short stories, poetry, plays, criticism, and nonfiction. She will be making an appearance at the 2019 Charleston Literary Festival which runs from November 7 - 10.

Her engrossing novel *Blonde*, a finalist for the 2001 Pulitzer Prize, attempts to offer a more distilled and genuine portrait of the mythic Hollywood legend of Marilyn Monroe. In the true fashion of the woman whose story she’s telling, Oates skillfully intertwines fact, fiction, and rumors in her prose, taking tasteful artistic license to combine both fabricated diary entries and truthful events. In doing so, she crafts a deep psychological and literary profile of the pop culture icon.

This perspective contradicts her common remembrance in popular culture as male-marketed entertainment, Andy Warhol inspiration, and vintage Coca-Cola ads. Oates strips any preconceived notions of Marilyn with which the reader may approach *Blonde*, whether that be her as an archetype for the naive, dumb blonde, or as a dark mystery in need of saving, or a “fountain of simple sweetness in a poison landscape,” as Oates describes it.

Joyce Carol  
Oates

Blonde



La Cosmopolite

**Blonde remains one of Oates' most iconic works.**

She does so by beginning the novel not with the iconic high-heels-on-city-grates image, but with six year old Norma Jeane Baker and the trauma which shaped her. Oates seamlessly moves through Norma's youth in L.A.: a troubled orphan destined to be a damsel in distress of the 1960's,

two troubled marriages resulting in wounds, and a photographer discovering her working in a WWII factory: nothing more than a bored, brunette housewife he planned to transform into a pinup movie star.

Though the novel delves into her childhood, Oates also tackles better known events such as her relationship with John F. Kennedy and her famous movie *Some Like It Hot*, spinning them in ways simultaneously coated with profound literary insight and the same Hollywood drama of a Marilyn Monroe movie, captivating the reader with each page.

Oates successfully deconstructs the mysteries and theories surrounding her death, dissecting each of the rumors off L.A. and New York sidewalks and newspaper headlines for the reader, while allowing the event to contain its timeless, iconic air of mystery.

Throughout, Oates describes the endlessly complex and mystifying life and the contradictory public and private personalities of Norma Jean and Marilyn with ease in gripping scenes down to the sweat, dust, and clicking of film reels in waiting rooms and movie sets of the 60's. Oates's novel feels less like autobiography and more like a page turning, Stephen King sort of thriller. Her utilization of both fictitious and true events is refreshingly inventive in her approach to a woman covered so frequently in modern pop culture, and the shifting points of view, from Marilyn's managers to passersby on the street keeps the reader from seeing Marilyn in any one dimensional light.

## Reel Talk: *The King*

by Clara Collins and Logan Baker

Logan and Clara have notoriously conflicting opinions about movies. Clara refuses to see movies without a pretentious coming of age story, whereas Logan appreciates movies about people who just look at each other instead of talking (think *Lady Bird* vs *Dunkirk*). In this edition, they will be deeply analyzing Andy Michôd's *The King*.

### Clara's Take:

About two hours into *The King's* fantastically unnecessary two and a half hour run, there comes a scene where Robert Pattinson's character falls as he attempts to fight King Henry, played by Timothée Chalamet, during the final battle. It could be fashioned into a metaphor about the unfulfilled potential of *The King*, but instead, it just calls to mind how much better the movie would be if it was all like this. It's a brutal scene, but darkly funny, with all the grandeur of battle shattered as Pattinson stumbles over himself again and again. I'd say it's reminiscent of *The Favourite*, but that would be like comparing the one right note Fergie hit singing the National Anthem to Beyoncé at Coachella. Timothée Chalamet got a bowl cut for *this*?

There are many parts to the movie, none of them particularly compelling or good. Characters show up for ten minutes, do absolutely nothing, then fall over in battle so Timothée can cry over them. Motivations are never explored; these aren't humans, these are walking Wikipedia articles. Scratch that, the Wikipedia article about King Henry V is more interesting than this. The actors are fantastic, but it's all pointless, either because of inexplicable decisions about how the role should be played (I genuinely thought Robert Pattinson's character was a parody of Hamlet until I realized the accent was supposed to be French), or because they're stuck mumbling lines about treason in the name of “political intrigue.”



**Robert Pattinson introduces viewers to a different kind of French.**

Truly, the political intrigue during the last twenty minutes of a Law and Order episode is stronger than this. Timothée is somehow underused despite being the titular character.

I haven't been so bored by a movie since *Jack and Jill*. At least *Jack and Jill* provided something novel.

### Logan's Take:

I spent two and a half hours watching this movie and I only remember about three scenes from it, a testament to the fact that it is (disappointingly) flat. So much and yet so little happened over the span of those hours that I struggled to piece together the plot in my head. What I did come away with was a deep understanding of how boring life in this time period would be. No wonder all England and France did was get into wars; it was the most entertainment the people had had since dear sister Prudence Goldworthington was crowned festival maiden three long, long summers ago. Adding to the tone was the lighting, which remained dark and gloomy regardless of scene; I haven't decided yet whether or not my inability to see the screen helped the movie or made it worse.

The historical events (and Shakespeare) that inspired this movie are endlessly compelling, with complex moral qualms and court intrigue, two elements that were sorely lacking in *The King*. Maybe my expectations



**Timothée Chalamet, of *Call Me by Your Name* fame, sports a new look.**

were too high, but even with such a loaded cast, the writing couldn't be salvaged. The character arcs were almost non-existent and, if they were faintly present, too uneven and open-ended. King Henry V goes from waywardly irresponsible to a respected king, but the movie makes no attempt to show us that he's different from his father (even though Chalamet's character's hatred of him drove much of the initial plot). Timothée Chalamet gets lots of opportunities to look tortured and cry, but are these moments earned by good characterization?

In an effort to justify this movie's existence, I will say that the acting was well done (although Robert Pattinson's accent added some unintentional comedy). The cinematography of several scenes, especially the culminating Battle of Agincourt, was phenomenal and for the first time in the movie encapsulated the viewer, but it wasn't enough to make this film less forgettable.

## A Look at *Looking Glass*' Self-Titled Album

by Charlie Hastings

*Looking Glass* only has one song that is well known on this album, the Billboard Top 100 number one hit, "Brandy (You're a fine Girl)", which you may recognize from movie soundtracks such as *Guardians of the Galaxy 2*. Unfortunately, the buzz about "Brandy" has taken some of the spotlight away from the album's other spectacles of hippie soft-rock like the slow, somewhat somber track "Catherine Street," and the funky, African-American blues inspired song, "Don't It Make You Feel Good."

These songs are reflections of the social attitude of the time, something you can clearly see in all the album's tracks. There is a positivity to the lyrics of songs such as "Golden Rainbow," where even today the listener can empathize with the feeling portrayed in the songs. An electrifying sort of feeling I've felt only a few times when listening to certain songs.

It is important to mention the possible reasons why the band never exploded in popularity like its 70s new wave counterparts. All you need to do to find the answers is compare *Looking Glass* with the other popular bands at the time like Boston or Styx. *Looking Glass* did not appeal to the same audience as these bands; examining the lyrics it is clear to see that *Looking Glass* wrote for the grandpa type instead of the teens whose purchases determined which music succeeded. And while the songs are still lyrically ingenious and harmonious, they lack the exciting swing in tempo and tone that other rock bands of the time utilized frequently. It's like comparing Eeyore to Tigger, or Han Solo to C-3Po.

## Ms. Mortensen Discusses her Pet Snakes

by Leo Cantrell

**Leo Cantrell: How did you get into collecting/breeding/selling animals, primarily reptiles?**

**Ms. Rebecca Mortensen:** After graduate school, a good friend of mine left his animals with me when he moved out of state. I inherited quite a few of the animals and have continued working with them ever since.

**LC: What sparked your interest in these animals?**

**RM:** I've loved them since I was a kid, so I really can't say for sure. Growing up in Michigan, herps (reptiles) were quite accessible and harmless.

**LC: Who are your favorites?**

**RM:** Giraffe, a 6-year old Kenyan sand boa, was the first reptile that I purchased for myself and has always been my favorite.

**LC: Do you have any you wouldn't sell? Who and why?**

**RM:** I have quite a few that I'm attached to, but since reptiles don't grow attached to their owners they would all be easy to find new homes for. It's a reassuring thought that they would be cared for if I had an emergency.

**LC: How many animals do you have in your home, approximately?**

**RM:** That depends, do you count the chickens outside in their coop?

**LC: When did you start bringing your animals to school?**

**RM:** I'm not sure exactly. Initially, I would bring in an animal occasionally but students requested them more and more often so I settled into a



routine.

**LC: How do students and teachers react to having snakes and geckos in the classroom?**

**RM:** Generally, surprised at first, sometimes fearful, but ultimately no one minds. They aren't very intimidating little animals. It takes a bit for most people to get over the idea of a "class pet" that lives at school.

**LC: What are your favorite reptiles to breed?**

**RM:** Kenyan sand boas. They are live-bearers (i.e. they give birth) so I don't have to find their eggs and incubate them. The females do all of the work.

**LC: What is your favorite morph\* of the Kenyan Sand Boa, considering you have so many of them?**

**RM:** I generally prefer the more naturally colored animals, however, if I'm breeding animals to sell (which allows me to fund the hobby), then the gene x paints are pretty high on the list.

\*morph= each of several variant forms of an animal or plant.

## A Few of Ms. Mortensen's Snakes as Jelly Beans



<---Pixie as Buttered Popcorn



Mambo as Licorice--->



<---Giraffe as Peach



Charm as French Vanilla--->



## Publix

OR...

## Harris Teeter

*Peyton Smalls and Leo Cantrell tackle the question that plague all our minds...Publix or Harris Teeter?*

**Peyton FOR Publix:**

As we all know Publix reigns supreme over all grocery store food chains; among the humble grocery establishments, there lies the mediocre Harris Teeter. On James Island, as well as anywhere else in the lowcountry, the two rival establishments leave no room at all for chains like Food Lion and Bi-Lo. With these two going head to head for grocery business, there has been a lot of talk and rumors about good ole Publix and its competition and I'm here to set the record straight that in comparison to Harris Teeter, Publix is exceptional. Some may say that Publix doesn't give out free cookies or that their prices are super high but here's the thing: not only are both of those false, but they give out the BEST cookies and have the BEST prices. You can even use coupons from our rivals (that include but aren't limited to HARRIS TEETER, walmart, manufacturer coupons, and more.)

From couponing to the subs all the way down to how clean Publix's bathroom is, everything about this establishment is AMAZING. Trust me, even the employees are appreciated and well compensated for their hard work unlike Harris Teeter... Let's be real here, Harris Teeter wants to be like Publix in every aspect. I mean, imitation is the highest form of flattery right? You can even ask Plato the Publixaurus who has been Publix's mascot since 1991. Harris Teeter literally came up with Harry the Happy Dragon a whole YEAR after Publix did and a dragon?? Really?? Dragons and dinosaurs are in the same reptile family and Harry looks TERRIFYING. Harris Teeter is literally KNOWN for being unoriginal like, *Harris Teeter*??? All of my James Island friends have heard of Terrace Theater. Coincidence? I think NOT. They can't even be original enough to come up with their own original sounding name.

Imagine making assumptions about Publix when you have no backed up facts for the simple reason that NO ONE CAN HATE ON PUBLIX. And wine tasting in a family friendly store? Tragic. Customer service in Harris Teeter is already bad enough; imagine adding drunk adults to the list. And don't even get me started on how heavenly Publix fried chicken is. It doesn't even matter whether you love or hate Publix, their fried chicken is a universal dinner, snack, or single meal. You can even go to the public records, many have said that Publix is superior in their deli when it comes to fried chicken and Harris Teeter's chicken shouldn't even be talked about in the same capacity as the heavenly Publix fried chicken. Also, not only is Publix produce amazing, but it stomps on Harris Teeter's neck. It's truly astonishing as to how these exceptional reasons even leave room for consumers to shop at Harris Teeter but anyways, in conclusion, Harris Teeter's produce? WACK. Their prices and couponing system? WACK. The way that they have their floor laid out? WACK. But Publix? Literally better. Also they're always hiring. And THAT'S on customer service!

**Leo FOR Harris Teeter:**

Truly, Walmart is the overlord of grocery chains; however, Harris Teeter is the silver lining through the hullabaloo of these establishments. Plus, you get free cookies. The mascot, Harry the Happy Dragon, is the most huggable thing I've ever seen. At least Harris Teeter has a viable mascot, unlike some people. Who has ever heard of Plato the Publixaurus? Not me. In addition, Harris Teeter has coupons actually worth using. \$10 off any \$50 purchase? Where's my VIC card? And, let me just say, Publix's subs? Garbage. I took one bite of one in 2014 and gagged. The tuna was at least 3 days past its "Sell By" date. Subway is FAR superior. Publix's produce is often wilted and expired. Who wants smelly lettuce? I know I don't. Harris Teeter, on the other hand, has ESTEEMED produce; ask anyone (except Peyton). Anyway. The calm, soothing blue of the uniforms is inviting unlike the harsh green of the Publix uniforms. I agree khakis aren't the most visually appealing article of clothing in the world, and that goes for both stores. That's on corporate.



The store's name is great: Harris Teeter. You get to say Teeter. What's better than that? The store has been around since 1936. Harris and Teeter were the surnames of the founders of the store. Nobody was worried about Terrace Theatre, which didn't even exist until the 90's. Plus, Harris Teeter was founded in North Carolina. The Terrace Theatre on James Island is the only one of its kind, and is my favorite cinema. Personal bias aside, Harris Teeter has nothing to do with the Terrace and never has. If I'm being honest, maybe the Terrace took inspiration from good old Harris Teeter. And that's on Jah.

For the parents out there, the wine section is expansive. Some locations even have wine *tastings*. How much more bougie can you get than sipping bubbly at your favorite local grocery store? Also, Harris Teeter is ALSO always hiring (stop by your local Harris Teeter and inquire today). Certain locations have a Starbucks inside the store! I don't know what more you could want. Why would you ever go to Publix? Imagine getting in your car, driving however far, and arriving at such a disappointment of a grocery store. On the other hand, imagine going to your local Harris Teeter and browsing the low prices with your Pumpkin Spiced Latté in hand? Much better, no? So, in conclusion, everything about Publix? ATROCIOUS. DREADFUL. SUBPAR. WACK. End of story.

**Naas Quote of the Month**

"There is no key to happiness, the door is always open."



NOVEMBER

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

- |             |             |                  |                 |
|-------------|-------------|------------------|-----------------|
| YALLFEST    | GREEN BEANS | CHARLIE BROWN    | VANILLA BEAN    |
| BOOKS       | CORN        | SNOOPY           | PUMPKIN SPICE   |
| KING STREET | POTATOES    | THANKSGIVING     | COFFEE          |
| AUTUMN      | FEAST       | HAYRIDE          | MOCHA           |
| FALL BREAK  | STUFFING    | DISCOUNT CANDY   | STARBUCKS       |
| RELATIVES   | TURKEY      | FOOTBALL         | WHIPPED CREAM   |
| FAMILY      | CORN        | CHEER            | UGG BOOTS       |
| APPLE PIE   | BREAD       | MACYS DAY        | FALLING LEAVES  |
| CRUSTS      | SQUASH      | PARADE           | CARAMEL APPLES  |
| HARVEST     | GOURDS      | ELECTION DAY     | SWEATER WEATHER |
| SCORPIO     | ROAST       | VETERAN          | CAFE            |
| SQUANTO     | APPLE CIDER | GIVING           | PANCAKES        |
| PILGRIMS    | STEW        | MY SISTERS HOUSE | MAPLE SYRUP     |

**Self Care Tip of the Month**  
by Sam Clarke

With the weather getting colder, that means more cozy days inside! To make the most of this coming holiday season, take a day or two to declutter your surroundings to create a piece of mind, and a positive environment. To top it off, light a delightful fall-scented candle (I recommend from Bath and Body Works). Once your space is fresh and cozy-fied, treat yourself to like some homemade pumpkin bread! Take care!



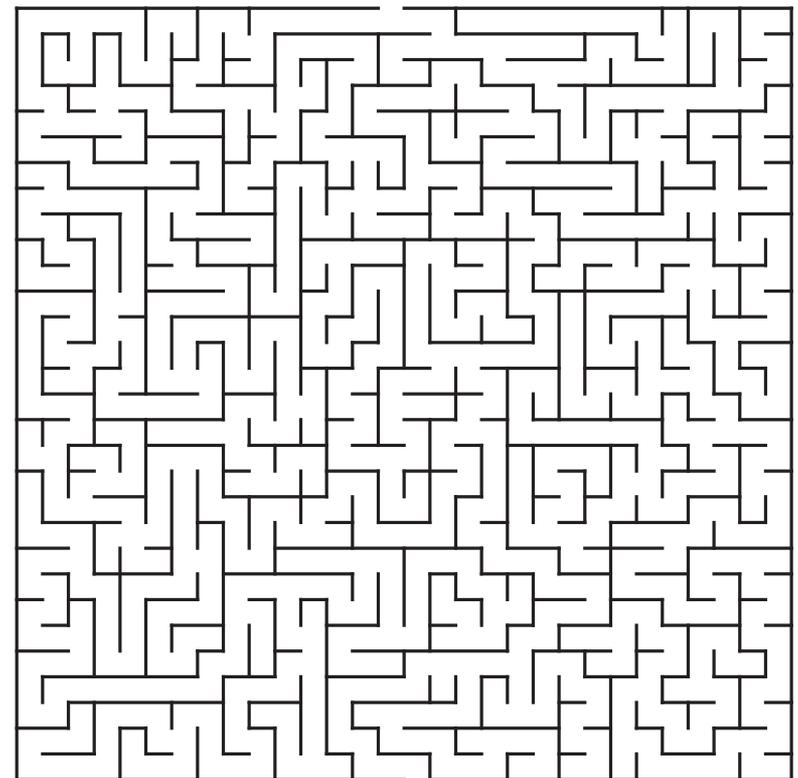
**November Cultural Calendar**

by Logan Baker



- Every Saturday: Charleston Farmers Market (8am-2pm, Marion Square)
- Every Wednesday: West Ashley Farmers Market (3pm-7pm, Ackerman Park)
- Every Saturday: Johns Island Farmers Market (9:30am-1:30pm, Charleston Collegiate School)
- Thurs, Oct 31-Sun, Nov 10: Coastal Carolina Fair (Hours vary, Ladson, SC)
- Thurs, Nov 7-Sun, Nov 10: Charleston to Charleston Literary Festival (Hours vary, Dock Street Theatre)
- Fri, Nov 8- Sat, Nov 9: The Woodlands Fall Music & Arts Festival (Charleston Woodlands)
- Fri, Nov 8-Sat, Nov 9: YALLFest (Hours vary, venues vary)
- Sat, Nov 9: 25 Years of Celadon (11am-4pm, Celadon Warehouse)
- Sun, Nov 10: Second Sunday (1pm-5pm, King Street)
- Sun, Nov 10: The ABBA Show (7:30pm, Charleston Music Hall)
- Fri, Nov 15-Tues, Dec 31: Holiday Festival of Lights (Hours vary, James Island County Park)
- Sat, Nov 16: Charleston Oyster Festival (11am-8pm)
- Mon, Nov 18- Wed, Nov 20: North Charleston Holiday Market (Hours vary, North Charleston Coliseum)
- Sun, Nov 24: Celadon Flea Market (10am-2pm, Celadon Warehouse)

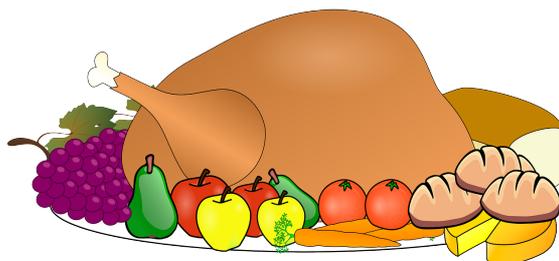
**Help Mr. Hill find his headband!**



## What Thanksgiving Food Are You?

by Makayla Gonzalez and Aliza Reynolds

- You find a wallet stuffed with money lying on the sidewalk. You are alone, and didn't see who dropped it. What do you do?
  - You take it straight to the police station.
  - You take it to the police station, but take a few dollars for yourself. You found it, after all.
  - Look for an ID and put it in the mailbox.
  - You keep the wallet and spend the money on a bulk package of chinese finger traps.
  - Nothing. You leave it right where you found it.
- How would you describe your wardrobe?
  - Light colors and put together well.
  - Trendy.
  - Alternative and cohesive.
  - Whatever seems clean enough to wear
  - Cool colors and comfy.
- Describe yourself in one word.
  - Kind.
  - Outgoing
  - Loveable.
  - Chaotic.
  - Quiet.
- Which friend are you?
  - The mom friend.
  - The talkative one.
  - The artsy one.
  - The funny one.
  - The introvert.
- What do you do at parties?
  - Check up on my friends and make sure they aren't doing anything too stupid.
  - I am the party.
  - Bring food for all my friends.
  - Do a diving elbow drop into the coffee table.
  - Hang out in the corner with my close friends.
- What do you do when a conversation becomes suddenly silent?
  - You ask your friend if they are doing okay.
  - Ask about the homework in a class you both have together.
  - Say that you have to go. You give them a big hug and wave goodbye.
  - You let out a big scream.
  - You get distracted by your thoughts



**Got mostly As?** You are...mashed potatoes!

You are warm, comforting and dependable. Essentially, you are the 'mom friend.'

**Got mostly Bs?** You are...the turkey!

You love the spotlight. You always have the juiciest gossip, and know the ins and outs of what's going on. You have lots of friends and love each and every one of them.

**Got mostly Cs?** You are...pumpkin pie!

Everyone is always waiting for you to show up! You're sweet, thoughtful, and a friend to everyone.

**Got mostly Ds?** You are...mac and cheese!

People know you for pulling the craziest stunts and being a general class clown. You never say no to a good time and spend most of your time goofing off with the boys.

**Got mostly Es?** You are...a bread roll!

You are somewhat introverted, but can fit into any crowd once you warm up to them. You may sometimes go unnoticed, but you always improve a meal.

## November Playlist

By Sam Clarke

This one goes out to my fellow seniors, whether you're still finishing up those college applications, or you're sitting on pins and needles waiting to hear back from your dream school, it's a very stressful time of the year for all of us. And for my non-seniors, if you're going through a rough patch, some serious changes, or just need a little pick me up, boy do I have the tracks for you! To listen visit [@soapplause](#) on Spotify!



Spotify

I Will Survive - Gloria Gaynor

Help! - The Beatles

Changes - David Bowie

My Life - Billy Joel

Signed, Sealed, Delivered (I'm Yours) - Stevie Wonder

I'm Still Standing - Elton John

Right Back Where We Started From - Maxine Nightingale

Respect - Aretha Franklin

Stayin' Alive - Bee Gees

I'm So Excited - The Pointer Sisters

Last Dance - Donna Summer

I Want to Break Free - Queen

MacArthur Park - Donna Summer

For Once In My Life - Stevie Wonder

Waterloo - ABBA

## Editorial: The Real World is Too Real and Too Close

by Peyton Smalls

So with me being a senior, the realities and finances of life and being independent are starting to dawn on me. As I look back on my school years, I realize that the only thing I learned and retained was that mitochondria is the powerhouse of the cell. Throughout the 12 years of grade school and kindergarten/preschool years, not only have I not been taught how to balance a checkbook, do my taxes, or how to properly buy a place of residence, but I have *dreaded* the idea of having to actually grow up and leave from under my parent's wings that serve as a financial crutch. It's not just the fact of South Carolina's standards being out of whack, but the schooling system as a whole and its lack of real life application and preparation is astonishing. For example, what real life application does sine, cosine, or tangent have for a run of the mill student like me? And those annotations that our teachers stress us out about completing? How is that going to help me become a successful, 6+ figure earning person? Now short term, these do help us get high GPAs and test scores to get into college but what comes after that? Our whole life, that's what. And instead of drawing punnett squares we should be learning how to communicate for success, have financial literacy, emotional intelligence, and nutritional values. With agendas that have subject matter like these, who knows, it could propel the next generation of wandering students into the real world with knowledge and preparation for the mounds of obstacles that come with it.

# xfinity

**SUPPORTS**

*APPLAUSE*



**NIGEL SHINE,  
DIRECT SALES  
SPECIALIST,  
SOA CLASS  
OF 2004**

## Sass Attack

by John White

*“Sass Attack” was originally created by David Sass ten years ago, and as per tradition, Applause writer John White has continued its legacy, giving us his take on life’s daily inconveniences.*

Saturday I woke up at the ungodly hour of seven to make the arduous trek to North Mount Pleasant to Wando High School where for the next four hours I would be subjected to the psychological torture that is the SAT. Millions of students across the world that very morning were sitting down sleep deprived and disheveled to take some one hundred and fifty four multiple choice questions that somehow tell admissions offices how well prepared we are for college. If this sounds like a lazy way for institutions to judge prospective applicants, that’s because it probably is.

How are fifty eight algebra based math questions supposed to gauge how well we would do in a college calculus class? Why should a high school senior be tested on how to find  $x$  if  $x+3=6$  (an actual question I was asked on the SAT, spoiler: it’s 3) when the majority of seniors are in Calculus or above?

What about the so called language test?

If I were to say: *The college board is not very good.* Should the underlined portion be changed to

- A) a for-profit scam.
- B) unable to guarantee the same standard of education as a college class.
- C) under investigation for selling student data.
- D) NO CHANGE

If you had trouble with that last question you might feel like some students who took the SAT back in May of 2019 when the correct answer did not appear on the exam. The correct answer to the previous question is E) All of the above.

Truthfully these numbers produced by the SAT are about as good at predicting our “college readiness” as a groundhog telling us the weather, but that doesn’t stop America from continuing to use both. The numbers have never been accurate. The first Scholastic Aptitude Test was first administered in 1926 by creator Carl Brigham. He tested people from different racial backgrounds and concluded that white people from Western Europe were inherently smarter than other people despite the fact that test takers from other ethnicities didn’t have access to education or even speak english.

At least today the College Board realizes how a student’s socioeconomic background can give students an unfair advantage. So how does the College Board look to solve this issue? By doing what they do best; giving each student a useless number. Each students “economic hardship” would be generated into a number called an “Adversity Score.” It came as no surprise when the College Board quickly abandoned this idea (NPR).

Hopefully college admissions offices will follow suit and realize students also cannot be summarized in a number. Groundhogs can’t compete with the meteorological talents of Rob Fowler, and numbers can’t talk.

## Out of the Darkness Walk

by Acadia Reynolds, Sixth Grader

On the Sunday of October 20th, the air was chilly and had the clean smell of recent rain. Over five hundred people were gathered at Riverfront Park for Charleston’s annual Out of the Darkness Walk. I was one of those people. The walk was organized by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, or AFSP, to raise awareness of mental health. It was a way of saying, “No. We can not just push these things into the dark and forget about them. No.” For the first event, guest speakers came up onto the stage, and shared their own personal experiences. Although their stories were very different, the theme that ran through them all was that, if you are struggling with mental health, you are not alone. To all of them, whether the person affected had been the speaker or a family member, support was important. They said it was very, very hard to get out of the darkness alone. At three o’clock, I clapped with the others for the bravery of the speakers, who had shared something very personal, in the hopes that it might help others. Then five hundred people and assorted dogs set out around the park, on a long, paved loop. There was a sense of unity, as we walked. A sense of hope.

Suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States. Across the country, AFSP had over half a million Out of the Darkness walkers and was able to donate several million dollars to mental health

research and treatment. Maybe, someday, instead of thousands of people dying from suicide, there will be none. It is the responsibility of us all to fight for that day. Go to [afsp.donordrive.com](http://afsp.donordrive.com) to find out more.

## The Wonder of Spirit Week

by Nora Green, Sixth Grader

I really enjoyed spirit week! It made me feel so included. Everyone was so enthusiastic and there was so much school spirit and everyone was so invested. I was excited everyday to come in to see other people’s costumes and to show off my own. My favorite day was Meme Day and there were so many ways to interpret that prompt. My favorite meme was Flashback Mary, one of my friends did it. I thought that was hilarious. I was Kermit and for that costume, I made a mug that said “that’s none of my business.” Some people thought I was Peter Pan, but I didn’t mind. It made me so happy to drive in and look out from my sister’s car window and see the juniors and seniors in the parking lot in their fits. Everyone loved coming to school and it was really a group effort. Even though everyone didn’t participate, most people did and it made Spirit week feel really special. Some of my teachers even dressed up! It was kind of funny. I think that this is a fun school tradition, and I am excited for future school wide events and I feel like I really got I got a taste of Soa. It was just a lot of fun and I liked dressing up.



VS



## Horoscopes

by Carson Stehling



**♏ Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will receive good news this month from a surprising source. I can't find out who exactly but I can tell you this: a friend, enemy, acquaintance, neighborhood kid, parking spot buddy, version of you from the future, or a deceased relative reincarnated as a bird has something very exciting to tell you! Keep your ears open, Scorpio.

**♐ Sagittarius** (Nov. 22- Dec. 21): November is a perfect chance for you to start that "random acts of kindness," thing you were talking about starting in July. Try to do one selfless thing every day. Help someone with their groceries, tell a stranger that they're "killing it," and you "could never pull off those clogs," throw Jennifer Aniston a bone and watch *Marley & Me*, even if you know you won't get anything out of it.

**♑ Capricorn** (Dec. 22- Jan.19): It's here! It's finally here! *Victorious* is on Netflix and you are gonna binge until your eyes fall out! The novelty will wear off halfway through the third episode but you're going to watch it all, every miserable empty second. You're just gonna eat it up like it's sheep feed you freaking sheeple! Who needs a plot or character development or good writing? Not *Victorious*; it has Elizabeth Gillies!

**♒ Aquarius** (Jan. 20- Feb. 18): Scorpio season could be a creatively productive time for you. It could also be a pit of emotional despair. Carry a sketchbook around with you to write down negative thoughts or draw something when creativity strikes. Also, be sure to be super obnoxious about the fact that you have a moleskin notebook. Reference it often and take it out on occasion to read one of your brilliant thoughts to someone who doesn't care. Everyone will love that.

**♓ Pisces** (Feb. 19- Mar. 20): November will be a great chance for you to try exercising your inside voice. Your input has a great deal of merit and your friends and colleagues are interested in what you have to say so you don't have to like, scream it. Seriously, I'm two feet away I can hear you.

**♈ Aries** (Mar. 21- Apr. 19): You may find yourself lacking the fire everyone associates with your sign this Scorpio season. You can go looking for an answer in the stars all you want, but the truth is you're just kinda sleepy. I wish there were some deeper meaning, but there isn't. You should probably just take a nap.

**♉ Taurus** (Apr. 20- May 20): Be careful to not be too overly generous with your time this month, Taurus. People need to put up boundaries and that's okay. Your attention is valuable and yet you give it away for free. That's called free emotional labor and no one is entitled to it. You don't need to listen to your friend's family drama. Who cares about your Grandma's dumb ancestral quilt? Not you! It's not worth your time!

**♊ Gemini** (May 21- Jun. 20): Your flaky nature may come to serve you in the coming month. This month will hold more boring social obligations than usual, but you can always pull the old Gemini last-minute-cancel. Your closest companions have come to expect it of you, which isn't necessarily a good thing, but this month the guilt-free dipping on social events will be your superpower.

**♋ Cancer** (Jun 21- Jul. 22): You may have noticed that your friends and family are distancing themselves from you, and deep down, I think you know why. That's right, it's because you're so gassy. No one wants to say anything but you are tooting up a storm. You should try cutting out dairy or something because honestly, it's intense to be around.

**♌ Leo** (Jul. 23- Aug. 22): Blah, blah blah, blah blah blah. Blah. God, you're so boring. You could find a way to make a five-minute interaction turn into a half-hour story. You're just talking and talking on and on about absolutely nothing. You found a leaf that kinda looks like Cher? Fascinating, tell me more... NOT!

**♍ Virgo** (Aug. 23- Sept. 22): In the near future, Virgo, you will meet your match. One might call it the boss-battle of your life. Every enemy you've encountered thus far has been preparation. Put age, gender, and temperament aside because this applies to all Virgos. In the next few months, every Virgo in the world will enter a battle of strength or wit or twitter and emerge victorious or scorned. We all have great faith in you.

**♎ Libra** (Sept. 23- Oct. 22): This month will present you with new challenges you've never had to face before. A new responsibility could emerge at work, you may have to flex a different skill in the next unit of your English class, you could be entered into a dressage competition without your knowledge as part of an elaborate bet even though you've never even ridden a horse before. Be eager and excited about every new door that opens!



**Jude says, "all the cool kids RECYCLE!"**

Message Sponsored by the Eastlake Community Foundation

**Sign of the Month:  
Happy Thanksgiving!**  
Demonstrated by Marion Major, 11th grade



1. Hold hands out, palms facing chest.



2. Bring hands to chin.



3. Bring hands forward, out from chin.



4. Repeat, bringing hands further from chin.

Photos by Chris Barnwell

## The Trivia Challenge: Kanye West Edition

by Charlie Hastings

Kanye West's new album, *JESUS IS KING*, came out this November. So how better to celebrate than with a trivia game about Kanye, an increasingly complicated individual with a history full of weird facts.

### Questions:

- Who is quoted with saying "I live and breath every element of life," God or Kanye?
- What is Kanye West's middle name?
- Kanye's song "Runaway" appears on what album?
- In Kanye's song, "Flashing Lights," Kanye compares paparazzi to what fascist group?
- Kanye has four children: Saint, North, Chicago, and \_\_\_\_\_?
- How many number one albums does Kanye have?
- Kanye West is quoted with saying, "George Bush doesn't care about \_\_\_\_\_."
- In a 2010 interview, Kanye compares himself to what search engine?
- How many times has Kanye been married?
- When does Kanye plan to run for president, according to a series of tweets?

### Bojena Sabin 11th grade

- Kanye
- Oglethorpe?
- Jesus is King*
- Nazis
- Satan?
- 3
- Black people
- Google
- At least once
- 2020



6/10

### Silas Payne 12th grade

- Kanye
- Yeezus
- My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*
- Nazis
- Hope?
- 8
- Black people
- Google
- Once
- 2020 I guess



5/10

Bojena, vehemently defending her title as SOA trivia champion, viciously strikes down Silas the Great using facts and knowledge that no one cares about. Silas drags his injured self away in retreat. Bojena has won this day, but more will return to challenge her.

[soa-applause.com](http://soa-applause.com)

Are you interested  
in competing in an  
upcoming *Applause*  
Trivia Challenge? If so,  
email [mjmcline@gmail.com](mailto:mjmcline@gmail.com)

Photos by Maya Cline

### Answers

- Kanye
- Omar
- My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*
- Nazis
- Psalm
- 3
- Black people
- Google
- 1
- 2024



“Boys in this school.”  
-Abby Trolley, 6th grade Band



“Bugs.”  
-Ms. Svendsen, Campus Receptionist



“Kneecaps because they’re just unnecessary.”  
-Savannah Halpern, 10th grade Piano



“Hateful people.”  
-Tyheme Jenkins, 12th grade Vocal



“VSCO girls.”  
-Tyler Caplea, 9th grade Theatre



“Mosquitos.”  
-Mr. Wells



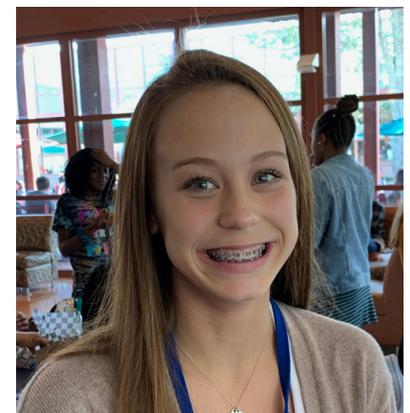
“My ex...jk lol.”  
-Grace Vail, 11th grade Fashion and Costume Design



“There aren’t enough Marvel movies in my future.”  
-Mr. Clark, High School History Teacher



“Someone dropping chicken tikka masala on my Birkenstocks.”  
-Ella Rogers, 7th grade Visual Arts



“Pickles.”  
-Addison Adams, 8th grade Dance

# What are you least thankful for?

by Sophia Leonardi and Luke Shaw

Photos by Luke Shaw