

Applause

Volume 21, Number 5

School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC
soa-applause.com

February 2020



Celebrating Black History Month

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
Andrea Derrickson
Thomas Noren
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

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GARNET

Christine Bednarczyk
Debbie Benson
Cynthia Branscome
David Cosgrove
Michelle Gorenstein
Elizabeth Hart
Austin Miller
Meg Orchard
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Manuel Laguna
Karen Lyle
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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 February! I, for one, am a big fan of this month. It's usually at least a little cold and it brings a lot to celebrate, from the Super Bowl to black history, the Academy Awards to Valentine's Day, and of course, my mom's birthday (Happy Birthday Momma!).

Features highlighting this month's two themes, Black History Month and Valentine's Day, are sprinkled throughout the paper. **Pages 12 and 13** explore several inspirational African American artists in all nine of SOA's majors, as told by SOA teachers and students. If you're single and struggling, Sam Clarke has compiled a list of helpful tips to get through Valentine's Day on **page 19**. If you filled out an *Applause* survey a few weeks ago and are hoping to find your soulmate, check **page 15** for the fated matchmaker pairings.

On a more somber note, as I'm sure you all know, a tragic Los Angeles helicopter crash at the end of January took the lives of Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gianna Bryant as well as John, Keri, and Alyssa Altobelli, Christina Mauser, Ara Zobayan and Sarah and Payton Chester. Visit **page 4** to hear guest writer and long time Kobe fan **Joshua Tolbert's** take on the tragedy and the immense legacy Kobe Bryant left behind. In light of this horrible event and the upcoming holiday celebrating love, now is the perfect time to make sure that the people you love know you love them!

Love,
Your Editor-in-Chief
Maya Cline



Your editor-in-chief, offering a biscuit to her dog Mudge, whom she loves dearly.

Applause

since 1999, the official student publication of

School of the Arts

Founded in 1995 by Rose Maree Myers

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Remembering Kobe Bryant

by Joshua Tolbert

Many people can remember exactly where they were when JFK was assassinated in Dealey Plaza or when the World Trade Center was struck on 9/11. I will always remember where I was when I heard Kobe Bryant died. It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon and, ironically, I was playing basketball at my church with my friends. As I walked to take a break, I saw the news blowing up all over my phone. Everyone around me kept talking about it, but I was speechless.

When I first read the news, my stomach dropped as if I were on the helicopter with him. His death came out of nowhere and was so unexpected and tragic. While he was idolized across the world, Kobe wasn't just any basketball star. He was known for being a great person on and off the court. On the court, he was a skilled player as well as a fierce and passionate competitor and team leader. He was always the first at practice and the last to leave, and he never took it lightly. A 5x NBA Champion, 18x NBA All-Star, and NBA MVP, Kobe was truly a once in a generation type of talent. He retired in Kobe fashion, sinking sixty points in his final NBA game, and he left us one of our great sports poems, "Dear Basketball." Off the court, he was a genuine human being and a wonderful father and husband, and whether you are a basketball fan or not, you knew the name "Kobe" and the large impact he had on people's lives. You couldn't shoot a paper ball in the trash can without yelling "Kobe!" He loved sharing his past experiences and teaching younger kids not just about basketball, but everyday life lessons. Kobe coached his daughter Gigi's basketball team, the Lady Mambas. The choice to coach a youth team instead of continuing to work in the NBA was a rare move for a star as big as him. Before he died, one of the many foundations he created was the Kobe and Vanessa Bryant Family Foundation, which he started with his wife to help improve the lives of young people and their families. Something that Kobe once said that will always stick with me is "the most important thing is to try and inspire people so that they can be great in whatever they want to do." I can say for a fact that Kobe has inspired me and many others to try hard and be the best version of ourselves that we can possibly be.

Not only must we remember Kobe, but his daughter Gigi, and the other seven passengers in the crash. Kobe touched so many people in his 41 years. His death has taught us that in the blink of an eye, everything can change. We have to be grateful for today and never take anything for granted, because life is a blessing. While it is sad that we'll never know what else he would have done, we must never forget the life and legacy of Kobe Bryant. Let's keep his legacy alive by continuing to be an inspiration to others.

Congratulations Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Regional Gold Key Winners!

Writing:	Camille Ollard
Lauren Center	Aidan Penna
Alex Clifford	Reagan Perrett
Maya Cline	Gabrielle Perrine
Clara Collins	Bojena Sabin
Carolina Conway	Michelle Schultze
Elle Cooper	Sophie Turansky
Bella Cosentino	Ned Walpole
Sophia Cosentino	Layla Wheelon
Kathryn Dorn	Aiden Wood
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Louisa Hranowsky	Evelyn Büschgen
Jessie Johnson	Maya Drake
Sydney Lee	Stella Fox
Cassidy Lewis	Schenayda Salido
Christina Lewis	Kenna Steele
Burton Mcculley	Mary Coastal Watkins
Je'an Moore	
Kiran Narula	

A Letter from your Student Body President

Happy Black History Month, SOA! Student Council is currently undertaking an outreach project to Malcolm C. Hursey and North Charleston Elementary Schools in attempts to encourage diversity in SOA's auditions. In the month of February, a group of students will be visiting both schools to talk through the audition process with interested fifth graders. It is fitting that auditions fall right after February; seeing as it is Black History Month, it is the perfect time to reflect on the true value of diversity.

When we're young, we're taught that it would be boring if everyone was the same. This may be true, but it's also a vast understatement -- it would be dangerous if everyone was the same. Exposure to people with different interests, ideas, and life experiences expands our world view, which is especially important as we're growing up and deciding who we are and what we believe. I think discussion of increasing diversity is often framed as some sort of charity or philanthropy, when that couldn't be further from the truth. If SOA does a better and more intentional job of reaching out to the community around us and including everyone in the audition process, it's not just the community that benefits -- we do too. Our art will be more urgent and our classroom discussions more varied. Our friendships will be richer. Our school will truly be better.

It is important to not only acknowledge the barriers of privilege that exist in our audition process, but fight to knock them down. If you are interested in joining Student Council's outreach efforts, absolutely email me at mayagreen113@gmail.com!

Your prez,
Maya Green



Ms. Green is working hard to bring positive change to SOA.

Provided

Students Earn Prestigious Internships at Aquarium

*The South Carolina Aquarium Summer Internship Program is an excellent opportunity for 11th graders to gain and develop skills in the science field. The internship will provide them with a hands-on experience that they would likely not get otherwise. The application process is simple but the acceptance rate is very low. Two SOA students were accepted into the program: **Susie Elliot** and **Sylera Morrison**. **Ramie Thompson** sat down with Sylera to discuss her experience so far.*

Ramie Thompson: What did you learn from your first Aquarium meeting?

Sylera Morrison: I learned about taxonomy (the different classification of animals) and identified animals in the aquarium based on their phylum. I also learned about each exhibit they have and some fun facts about the animals. Did you know stingrays can feel your heartbeat just by you placing your hand in the water? I sure didn't!

RT: Did the other students in attendance seem to share your enthusiasm?

SM: Yes, they all seemed so excited to be accepted into the program like me. Some people I connected with instantly. I had an amazing time making friends with people who share similar interests with me.

RT: Was your relationship with them presented as competitive or cooperative?

SM: In the beginning, we played a lot of icebreaker games like the infamous "human knot." Unfortunately, we were unable to untangle ourselves from the mess, but we cooperated really well and got closer with each other... sometimes too close. I may have come off as a little competitive when we played Kahoot about biology (I won 1st place), but all other than that, I was my friendly, eager-to-learn self.

RT: What drew you to the internship in the first place?

SM: I saw this internship as another opportunity to improve my resume for college which can help me stand out among other college applicants as well as a chance to familiarize myself with marine life. I'm not entirely sure which animals I'd like to study, so this would be a perfect opportunity to see what it takes to work with marine life.

RT: How did you prepare for your interview?

SM: My mother helped by asking me questions prior to the interview to work on my responses.

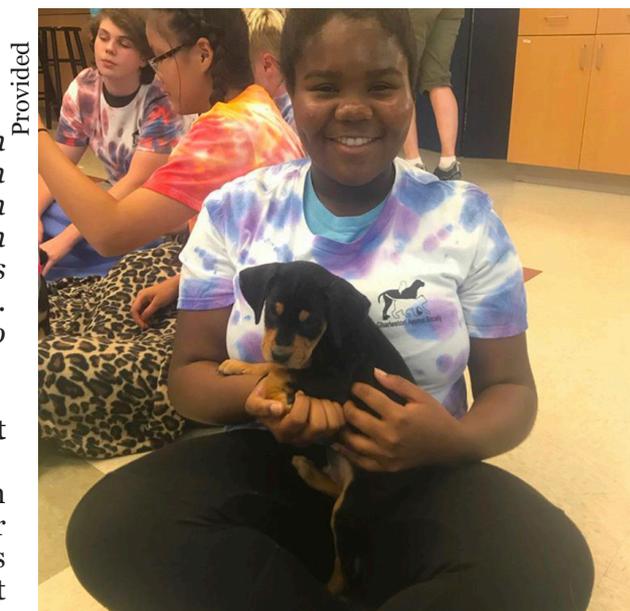
RT: What are you most excited for?

SM: I'm excited to make new friends, acquire new skills that will help me in college, and learn more about native animals in South Carolina that I usually don't learn about anywhere else.

RT: Did this opportunity change your view on the New Year?

SM: It definitely motivated me to work harder this year after being selected in a very competitive program and convinced me that hard work pays off.

RT: How could this internship help you with your future career?



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Sylera Morrison is excited to see where her passion for animals takes her.

SM: This internship not only helps with my decision on what animals I want to study, but it also gives me an idea of how much effort it takes to enroll in veterinarian school. Before applying to some vet colleges, you have to have 100+ hours of veterinarian experience which could be obtained through internships like this. Even though this internship would only give me experience with animals, it is still better than no experience at all.

RT: Is there a specific thing you want to do if you end

up working there over the summer?

SM: I would love to work as a guide because not only will I get the opportunity to speak in front of others (not counting theatre), but I'll become an expert on the animals at the aquarium. Working over the summer would allow me to execute my new skills that I'll acquire over the internship period.



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Where Were They Then?

Lilly Stevens asks school counselor **Ms. Stephanie Smalls** about her life before SOA.

Lilly Stephens: What was life like growing up?

Ms. Stephanie Smalls: I was born and raised in Charleston, and grew up Downtown. Life was great, growing up. I was raised in a very loving family with both of my parents, one older sister, and one younger brother. This was during the time when everyone attended schools zoned for their neighborhoods, so we all knew everyone. Neighborhoods were safe and we all looked out for one another.

LS: What were some of your favorite childhood memories?

SS: Some of my favorite childhood memories are playing sports (football, baseball, tennis, and kickball)

with friends. Our neighborhood was full of children, and we often played various sports from sun-up to sun-down during the summer. We would also play at the local recreation departments. I played on a little league softball and kickball team. As a child, I also enjoyed riding my bike with all of the neighborhood children.

LS: What extracurricular activities did you do in high school?

SS: I was a pretty typical child and teenager. I was always involved in extracurricular activities. I think you can say I tried just about everything. I took piano, ballet, violin and trombone lessons. I was not very good at most of them, but I stuck with playing the trombone. I played the trombone for about six years and was a member of the Burke High School High Steppin' Marching Band, The Concert Band, and the Jazz Band. I was also the Drum Major for two years.



Ms. Smalls celebrates her graduation from kindergarten.

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Ms. Small played trombone in several bands during high school.

LS: What were you doing career wise before SOA?

SS: Before I came to SOA, I held various counseling positions throughout Charleston County. My career started as a Youth Service Specialist with the Department of Social Services. I then became a Mental Health Counselor for a few years before I obtained my certification to become a School Counselor. I have worked in the Charleston County School District for about seventeen years.

LS: What's your favorite thing about being a school counselor?

SS: I love being a school counselor because I enjoy interacting

with students. More specifically, I enjoy helping students with their educational achievements, career and social/emotional development, and ensuring that the students become well-adjusted adults of tomorrow. Even though this job can be very stressful at times, I still enjoy interacting with students and their parents, learning about their hopes and dreams, and just educating young people to be overall good citizens.

LS: Since it's Black History Month, who has inspired you as an African American woman?

SS: Growing up, there were many people who inspired me (too many to name). I never had to look outside of my home or school for role models and never thought of a celebrity as being a role model for me. I was always inspired by my parents, for working hard, providing for their family and raising their children to be respectful, to treat others with respect, and to do unto others as you would have them do unto you. I can also thank my elementary, middle and high school teachers for instilling in me the ethics of hard work, kindness, dedication and determination. I can still name all of my teachers, from elementary to high school. That is how influential they were in my life.

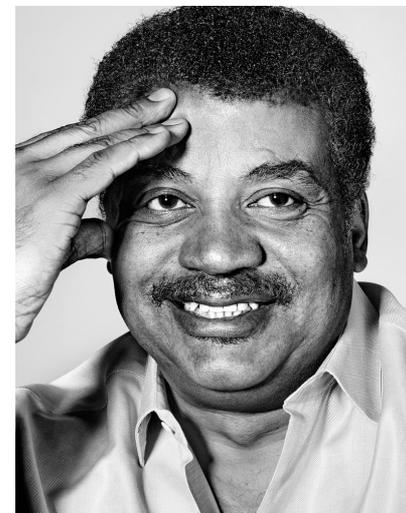
Neil deGrasse Tyson Makes Astrophysics Accessible to his North Charleston Audience

by Charlie Hastings

Neil deGrasse Tyson recently gave an interesting lecture on science and how it's used both properly and improperly in the movies. I attended almost solely to see the man himself, the guy who put me to sleep when I was five by talking about the Virgo supercluster and its vast swath of elliptical galaxies, and when I finally got to see him he was nothing short of out of this world.

Dr. Tyson began with simple sci-fi movies such as *Contact* and *Star Wars*, addressing how being able to see lasers in space would be impossible due to the lack of atmosphere as well as the inaccurate portrayal of hyperspace. His lecture quickly moved towards a stranger side of science and popular culture, such as fractals in *Frozen* and dragon wingspans in *Game of Thrones*. Tyson showed the audience his tweets about each of these subjects and explained his reasoning. He also showed the audience twitter replies, which were usually negative.

It is true that Dr. Tyson is absolutely dedicated to the truth when it comes to science and, although this may be good for his morality, it often ruins perfectly good movies and TV shows. So why did I spend 90 dollars to see Neil deGrasse Tyson give an astrophysics lecture? The answer lies written in the stars, but really, there's something friendly about Dr. Tyson, he is generous with knowledge of the universe, never did he turn a blind eye to a question from the audience. His ability to make astrophysics and science in general so accessible so that even five year-old me could listen to him speak and at least have a small idea of what he was saying is nothing short of remarkable.



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Neil applies scientific principles to pop culture in lectures and on Twitter.

SOA Welcomes New Theatre Teacher

Chapel Barker interviews Mr. Colin Waters, who will be teaching ensemble acting for 10th-12th grade.

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

Mr. Colin Waters: I am not from Charleston. I grew up across the river of Cincinnati, Ohio in Northern Kentucky. After graduating college, I was offered an acting residency position with Charleston Stage Company. So, I moved down here and have since been a member of their Resident Acting Company. Over my past two years in Charleston I had heard so much buzz about School of the Arts. After seeing several of their theatre department's productions and hearing that there was an opening, I knew I wanted to work with this school.

CB: Where did you attend college and what degrees did you earn?

CW: I attended Western Kentucky University where I got my BFA in Performing Arts with a Concentration in Acting and double minors in Musical Theatre and Performing Arts Administration.

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

CW: I worked with a few programs in college that involved education for high schoolers that really interested me; however, it was when I came down to Charleston that I found my knack for theatre education. As a resident actor with Charleston Stage, I am one of



Mr. Waters spends time connecting with his theater students.

their instructors for their theatre school classes as well as their Engaging Creative Minds Classes. My time as a resident actor has drawn me so much closer to theatre education. I have been teaching with them for the past two years.

CB: What did you like or dislike about your own early education?

CW: Although I didn't go to a performing arts high school, my own high school was extremely arts inclusive. Having that arts exposure was such a plus for my education. It allowed me to continue furthering my craft, and pushed me to work harder in the rest of my academia.

CB: What were some of your earliest jobs?

CW: My first job was working for my county's Park Department. So if you've ever seen *Parks and Recreation*, think Jerry from that show and that was pretty much me.

CB: What do you most want students to take away from your classroom?

CW: I want my students to take away the value of working as a community to create something. Individual work is so important, but collaboration is such an important key to success, especially in ensemble theatre.

CB: What interests do you have inside or outside the subject

you teach, and to what degree are you able to pursue them?

CW: As a theatre artist, two of my main passions are performance and direction. I have been lucky enough to be working as a professional actor and director since graduation.

CB: What books, movies, or musical acts have meant a lot to you? What do you like about them?

CW: My favorite book of all time is *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*. It is one of those books that completely revolutionized the way I saw the world. It's beautifully written and I highly recommend it. Currently, the movie that resonates with me the most is Greta Gerwig's *Little Women*. Her direction and adaptation of the story is one of the most intelligent, poignant, honest pieces I have seen in a long time.

CB: What are your favorite shows you've been involved with?

CW: Some of my favorite shows I've been in would have to be *Of Mice and Men*, *Footloose*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, *Into the Woods*, and *Guys and Dolls*.

CB: What attracted you to theater?

CW: I started doing shows through a summer theatre program when I was eight years old. I honestly don't remember much about the show other than the fact that my character's name was Febold Feboldson.... Original, right? But ever since that show, I haven't been able to stop.

CB: Is there anything else you'd like SOA to know about you as this year begins or any advice you'd like to offer students?

CW: For anyone that isn't in my class that loves to talk theatre or film, come stop by, because I could talk about it for hours. As you continue this semester, don't be afraid to take risks as an artist. Challenge yourself. Allow yourself to fail- that's the only way to grow.

Teachers and Students Have a Blast with Dance Department's "Dancing with the Teachers"

by Sophia Leonardi

Dancing with the Teachers was a huge success this year! The dance department raised \$600 hosting this spectacular event. Dancing with the Teachers is SOA's very own version of *Dancing With the Stars*. Students from any major are welcome to participate. Pick your favorite teacher, enter the contest, and rehearse a dance to perform in hopes of winning the Mirrorball Trophy. This year the contestants were Ms. Svendsen,



Ms. Moschella's team poses with their mirrorball trophies.

and Mr. Morelli.

Ms. Svendsen's group, "Twins and Queen," performed a snazzy girl power piece. Mrs. Moschella and her minions gave the audience a taste of multiple styles of dance. Mr. Morelli wowed the audience with his single ladies sass. The Fan Favorite Award went to Ms. Svendsen and the Judges Award went to Mrs. Moschella. Although Mr. Morelli and his team did not receive an award, he did make quite the statement as he exited the stage via back-handspring.



Twins and Queen amazed the crowd with their routine.

SOA Vocal Department Presents Music Down in My Soul

by John White

The School of the Arts singers once again sold out Cafe Diem for two nights of Music Down in My Soul. While Charlton Singleton was unable to make it back to Charleston this year as his jazz group Ranky Tanky is busy touring following their Grammy win for Best Regional Roots Music Album, the choir still wowed audiences with their gospel tunes.

The concert opened with the high school singing some more choral selections and a couple spirituals like “Signs of the Judgement” and “My Souls Been Anchored in the Lord.” The middle school sang “Everlasting Melody” accompanied by the band with several soloists.

The second half of the concert featured gospel favorites such as “Swing Down Chariot” and “Let Everything That Hath Breath.” **Justin Feaster** delivered a powerful rendition of “Oh Happy Day” on Friday night, and **Yorasia Randall** stole the show on Saturday. **Tyheme Jenkins** sang a beautiful tribute to **Quinyah McCoy**, who passed away last year, with the song “He Never Failed Me Yet,” which they sang together in a previous concert. Overall, it was an incredibly moving evening, and we look forward to having Charlton return for next year’s concert.



Justin Feaster sings “Oh Happy Day” in front of a sold-out audience.



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Congratulations to 12th grade Theatre major **Carson Stehling** for being named a finalist in the regional Poetry Out Loud competition at the College of Charleston on Sunday, January 26th! She’ll go on to compete in the state championship in Columbia on Saturday, March 14th, where she will perform three memorized poems by different authors.



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Senior strings major **Aidan Billings** performs with his trio, The Three Pegs, at the SOA High School Orchestra Oyster Roast on Bowens Island on Sunday, January 26.



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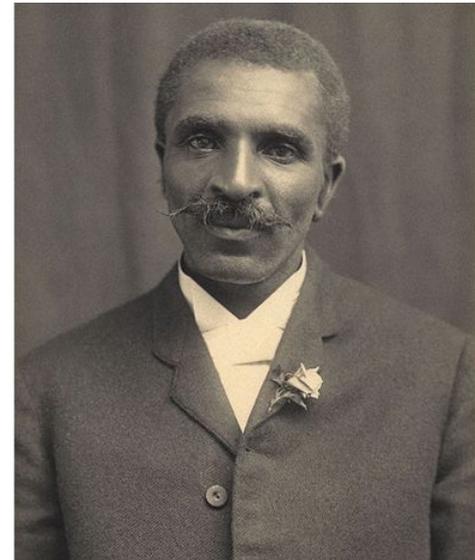
A List of Things You May Not Have Known Were Invented by African Americans

by Lilly Stevens

Happy Black History Month everyone! African Americans have done so much to help this country develop financially and culturally that we don't really get the chance to learn about in school. Here is a list of a few everyday popular items that you probably didn't know were invented by an African American.



The Super Soaker: Lonnie Johnson (left) created this toy in his spare time back in the 90s. After several attempts he came up with the name "Super Soaker" and pulled in \$200 million dollars in 1991!



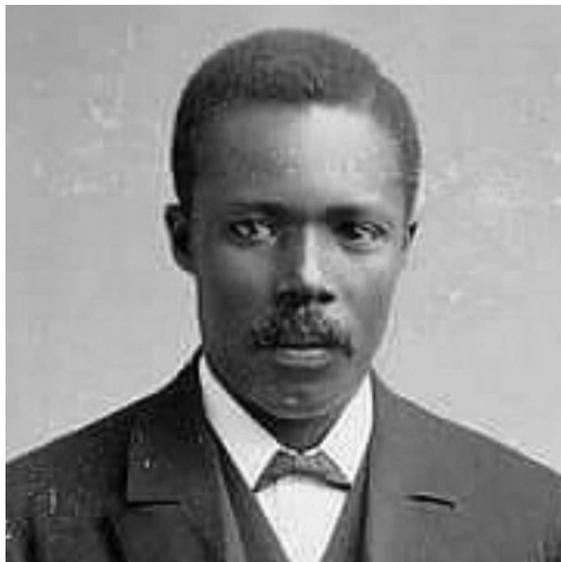
The Traffic Light: Garrett Morgan (top left) invented the traffic light in 1923 after witnessing a car crash at a Cleveland intersection.

Illusion Transmitter: In 1980, NASA employee Valerie Thomas (right) invented the illusion transmitter (far right). This device used concave mirrors to create images that appear to be real, or in front of a mirror itself. This technology was used by NASA and has been used in surgery rooms and for television movie screen productions.



Anything made from Peanuts: George Washington Carver (above) was a popular African American scientist and inventor in the early 1900s. Carver developed hundreds of products using peanuts, sweet potatoes and soybeans. Born into slavery, today he is an icon of American culinary education.

Potato Chips: George Crum (right) was originally a chef in the kitchen of the restaurant at Moon's Lake House. He got a complaint from a customer about the potato slices he had been served being too thick and soft, so he cut the potatoes into slices as thin as possible and then deep fried, added salt, and served them to the customer. He thought that the man was going to be annoyed but instead was surprised when he seemed to find it delicious. Some sources say that the customer was none other than incredibly successful railway businessman Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt.



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Winter Sports

coverage by Peyton Smalls and Katie Forrester

With the winter season coming to an end, we checked in on **Kyla Conyers** to ask her how her season went.

Junior Kyla Conyers has enjoyed her season the R.B. Stall Lady Warriors Basketball Team. She has developed a strong bond with her teammates both on and off the court. This season, the Warriors have “celebrated wins and studied [their] losses.” Their last game of the regular season is on February 14th, however, Kyla and her teammates will be competing in the region final for the opportunity to compete in the State Championship. Kyla is confident in her team’s ability to move onto the state level.

From the start of the season, Kyla has strived to become a more well-rounded player. She wanted to experience playing every position on the court and familiarize herself with all of the plays. “I wanted my coach to know that he could count on me to carry out whatever he needed to be done,” said Kyla. Through excellent coaching and setting goals for herself, Kyla has been able to understand her strengths and conquer her goals.

While her team has shared many fun and joyous moments together, the season has not come without trials. Basketball comes with its usual pains of conditioning and for Kyla, several thumb injuries this season. Though basketball comes with many obstacles, Kyla is sure she will never give the sport up.

Applause congratulates former SOA middle school band instructor Charlton Singleton and his band Ranky Tanky on their Grammy win for Best Regional Roots Album with their 2019 album *GOOD TIME*.

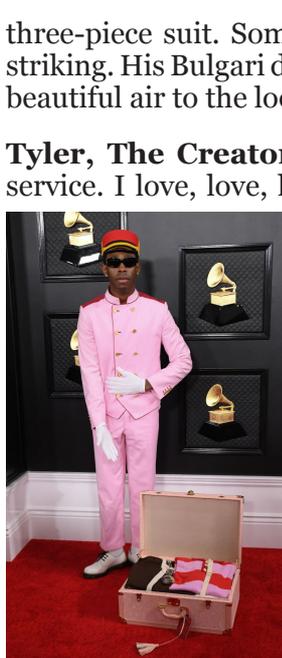


Grammy Fashion Review

by Leo Cantrell



Billie Eilish (left): The tiny sunglasses? Phenomenal. The nails? Stunning. The baggy shirt? Alright, but could have been better. The entire fit was Gucci, which was duly noted. I was glad when the mask came off to reveal her simple but classic makeup look. The best part? Her ear-to-ear grin, holding her five awards. Critics are quick to say she harbors no talent, but her armfuls of awards beg to differ.



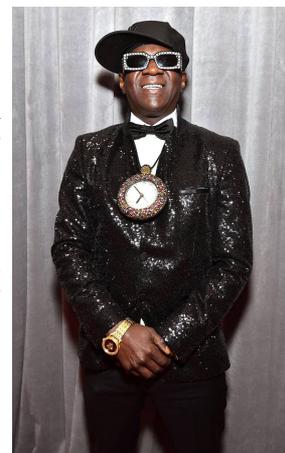
Shawn Mendes (right): Camilla Cabello’s *Shawnito* arrived at the red carpet sporting a burgundy Louis Vuitton

three-piece suit. Some called the fit underwhelming, but honestly, I thought it was striking. His Bulgari diamond and malachite choker-style necklace added a particularly beautiful air to the look. Simple but sweet.

Tyler, The Creator (left): The bellhop look was just that: a look. King of hotel service. I love, love, loved the pale pink suit, accented with gold buttons. The white

gloves and Doc Martens were a nice touch, and the red shoulders and cap added a great contrast to the outfit. The best accessory was the matching pink suitcase full of his costume changes for later in the night. Well done.

Flavor Flav (right): Why was this man even attending? I have no idea, but he was just in the corner, being Flavor Flav. The clock necklace paired with the sequined suit and sunglasses was the definition of a lot. That’s all I’m going to say about it.



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Dance

Ms. Tillotson: Alvin Ailey, he started a company of his own and made it his primary goal to integrate different races while still preserving African American Culture.

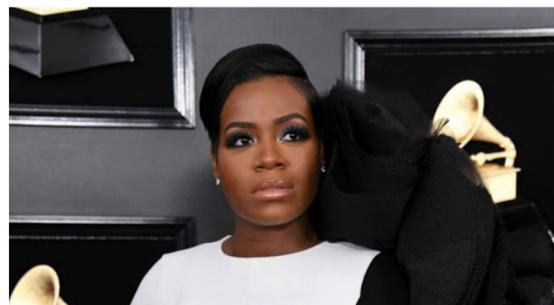
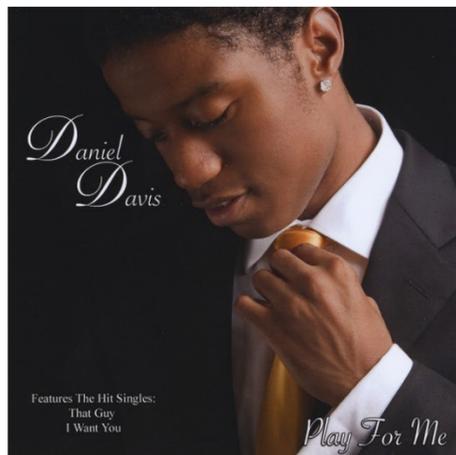
Jaiden Freeman: Michaela DePrince, she was born into poverty in Africa, but she worked her way up from nothing and never gave up on her dream, even when many doubted her. It inspires me today, to work harder on myself and my dancing.



Strings

Peyton Smalls: Daniel Davis, he inspires me because he was a black violinist that attended a predominantly white school and was still able to overachieve in a department that most black people don't partake in.

Dr. Selby: K.O Olusola, due to the fact that we don't see many black cellists, it's comforting to see one take this instrument and mix black culture with classical music. He takes what he does and owns it.



Vocal

Yorasia Randall: Fantasia because she kicks off her shoes whenever she performs.

Band

Jessica Bevins: John Coltrane, he was one of the first saxophonists I was introduced to at a young age while he was in his swing era. He influenced jazz and changed the style in a positive way. He inspires me because he was brave enough to change jazz in a stylistic way which started the era of modern jazz.



Homage to My Hips

these hips are big hips.
they need space to
move around in.
they don't fit into little
petty places. these hips
are free hips.
they don't like to be held back.
these hips have never been enslaved,

they go where they want to go
they do what they want to do.
these hips are mighty hips.
these hips are magic hips.
i have known them
to put a spell on a man and
spin him like a top

Lucille Clifton

Creative Writing

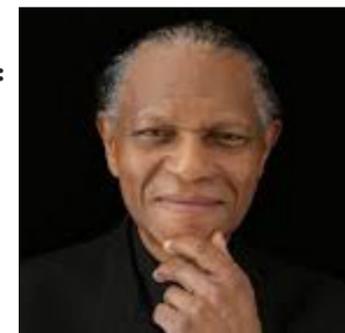
Ms. DeTiberus: Lucile Clifton, she writes with such simplicity that you don't realize how profound her work actually is.

Ramie Thompson: Langston Hughes, he's a poet from the Harlem Renaissance. His poems, especially "Freedom," have a whimsical front but underneath they subtly highlights the issues of that time.



Piano

Ms. Sanchez: McCoy Tyner, I like his use of choral harmony. If I aspire to play like anybody, I would like to play like him.



What African American has inspired you in the major you specialize in and why?

In honor of Black History Month, staff writer Toni Walker asked teachers and students about an African American in their field that they admire.



Fashion & Costume Design

Ms. Baker: Symone Smith, she doesn't let things stop her. When she gets to a point where she doesn't know what to do, she keeps pursuing it until she finds a solution. Her style is exotic and she is never scared to try new and different things. Considering how far she has come since the 9th grade, she took charge of her work ethic and puts forth all of her dedication to whatever she is passionate about.

Chapel Barker: Ann Lowe, Jaickie Kennedy received bad press for letting a black seamstress, Ann Lowe, make her dress, but Lowe didn't take heed of the negative publicity. Instead she grew from it and used the harsh words spoken upon her to motivate her to become the best version of her in her craft and life.

Visual Arts

Mr. Howard: Terry K. Hunter, He's a former professor of mine from SC State. He was very respectful and serious about his work, teaching, and craft. I find myself teaching like him which can be scary because he was always serious and never joked about anything. However, later on, I grew to respect him more, as I found we had similar experiences as black male educators in America. He became a mentor for me in life and it humbled me into a better person.

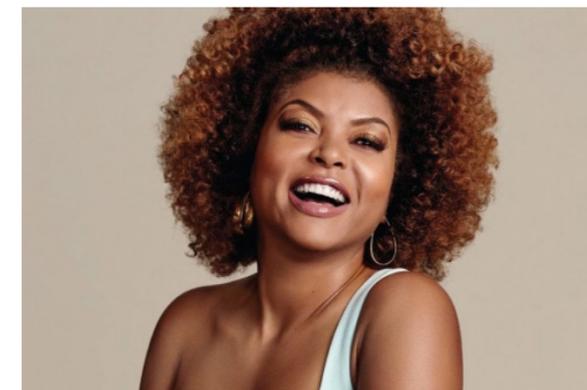
Leo Cantrell: Cherish, she's a powerful and strong willed person. She's different from everyone else and doesn't care what others think of her.



Theatre

Amira Fraiser: Taraji P. Henson, she is a beautiful black woman who was able to overcome all that she went through to become the amazing actress today. No matter how many punches life has thrown at her, she gets up and throws an even harder one.

Ms. Mckinley: Thomas Polkey, the way he uses theater to portray important stories that need to be discussed is remarkable for he highlights a dark situation. He does whatever he can to make the world a better place. Everyday he carries himself with poise, positivity, and never let setbacks hold him down. Through being who he is, it challenges me everyday to become better in what I do.



A Look at the Lovers of SOA

Peyton Smalls interviewed SOA couples in an attempt to find the secret to love.

Seniors **Amel Stewart** and **Jude York** have been dating for three and a half months. They ended up together when they discovered a mutual liking for each other. Jude says that they decided to buy matching sweaters and it went from there. They both call each other “baby” but Amel calls Jude “Jude Sammich.” Amel likes how Jude is flexible and very understanding that she has a life. She says he is especially sweet and silly, but in a cute way. Jude loves Amel’s singing voice and how she blushes. Their plans for Valentine’s Day are to hold hands and watch *Lady and the Tramp*.

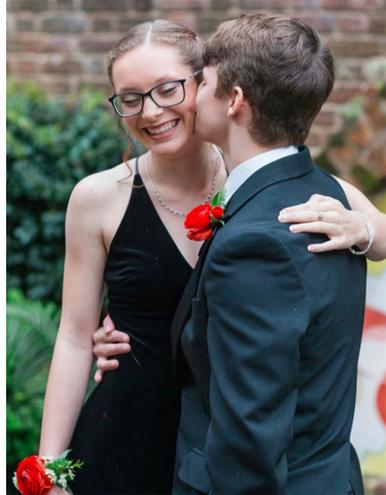
Seniors **Will Bogstad** and **Brianna McElroy** will have been dating for two years on March 1st. Will asked her out after their first date. Will gets called “bro” or “bud” 90% of the time and “bean” the other 10%. He says that Brianna is the most amazing thing that’s “ever happened to [him].” According to Will, Brianna is very beautiful, smart, and overall such an amazing girl. Brianna loves that Will can make her laugh. For Valentine’s Day, Will is going to buy her tons of candy and food and make appreciation posts about her while Brianna’s Valentine’s Day present to Will is a surprise.

Seniors **Manny Laguna**, **Silas Payne** and **Enrique Pascual** have been dating for 666 months. Manny initiated the idea of all of them being one big bromance and the rest of the boys agreed. They call each other “bro,” “baby,” “sweetheart,” and “dawg.” Their favorite thing about each other is their ability to put pals before gals and when asked what they were doing for Valentine’s Day they smiled and laughed.

Juniors **Autumn Chaveco** and **Sam Kremser** have been dating for nine months. They started dating because Sam followed her down the Creative Writing hallway and just asked. They call each other “bubba” and “bubs.” Autumn’s favorite thing about Sam is how he makes her feel like the only girl in the world. Every day he greets her with the happiest smile and warmest hugs. He treats her like “the QUEEN she is.” When she looks into his eyes she knows she is truly home.

Sophomores **Sarah Williamson** and **Eliza Valero** have been together for four years now. Eliza asked Sarah out after Sarah confessed that she had liked her. When talking about Eliza, Sarah says, “She’s adorable and so cute and I love her lil’ nose and her soft hands and she’s so sweet and funny and kind!” Eliza shares that she loves Sarah’s smile and laugh, and also the fact that she is very smart and compassionate. Some of their pet-names include “angel,” “sweetheart,” and more! For Valentine’s Day they are considering seeing the new *Sonic* movie.

Juniors **Ethan Butler** and **Avea Diamond** have been dating for around four and a half to five months. It was a mutual decision to start going out with each other. They don’t have any pet names for each other. Ethan likes how she’s committed to everything but can be flexible at the same time and Avea likes how he’s very thoughtful. For Valentine’s Day they may go out to dinner.



Happy Valentine’s Day, Lovers!

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Valentine's Day Matchmaker

by Peyton Smalls

Disclaimer: We had a plethora of straight girls and not enough boys to make matches with. We took our top seven most compatible matches, and decided to match the remaining girls as friends! We are very sorry for any disappointment. Blame your male friends, and have a Happy Valentine's Day!

Lover Matchups

1. Sophie Heinhold and Charlie Hastings
2. Silas Payne and Sterling Moore
3. Maya Cline and Carson Stehling
4. Jenna Riling and Josh Tolbert
5. Simone Shanae and Enrique Pascual
6. AJ Bednarczyk and Gracen Herrin
7. Manny Laguna and Allison Green

Bestie Matchups

1. Lilli Sustaita and Lily Turner
2. Lilli Kozlowski and Hanna Worel
3. Natalie Holland and Sam Clarke

February Slang Dictionary

by Sam Clarke and Leo Cantrell

1. **Simp**- short for "simpleton," it's typically used to describe a man who lacks common sense when it comes to females.
i.e. Person 1: "Did you hear that she cheated on him? He is still obsessed with her even though she treats him badly."
Person 2: "Yeah, he's such a simp."
2. **Cringe**- used to express distaste or discomfort with an action.
i.e. Person 1: "You don't break off the Kit Kat when you eat it? That's cringe, bro."
3. **Finsta**- combination of the words fake and Insta; an Instagram account used for posting unnecessary or embarrassing content.
i.e. Sarah made a TikTok she was really proud of, but she put it on her finsta because she didn't want just anyone to see it.
4. **Bruh**- address used to express disappointment.
i.e. Person 1: "Bruh. Really? Seriously? I expected more from you."
Person 2: "So sorry to let you down, man."
5. **Curve**- to avoid or decline someone who expresses interest in you.
i.e. Brad is so in love with Lexi, but he is trying to get over her after she curved him last week.
6. **Lit**- often used ironically in response to something boring or routine.
i.e. Person 1: "I found my calculator."
Person 2: "Lit."
7. **That's on periodt**- used to punctuate a controversial opinion, usually imparted in rant form. Typically accompanied by a hand motion that when done by a musical conductor, indicates a stop.
i.e. Person 1: "It's absolutley forbidden to wear lowrise jeans in 2020. We have moved on from that as a society. And that's on periodt."

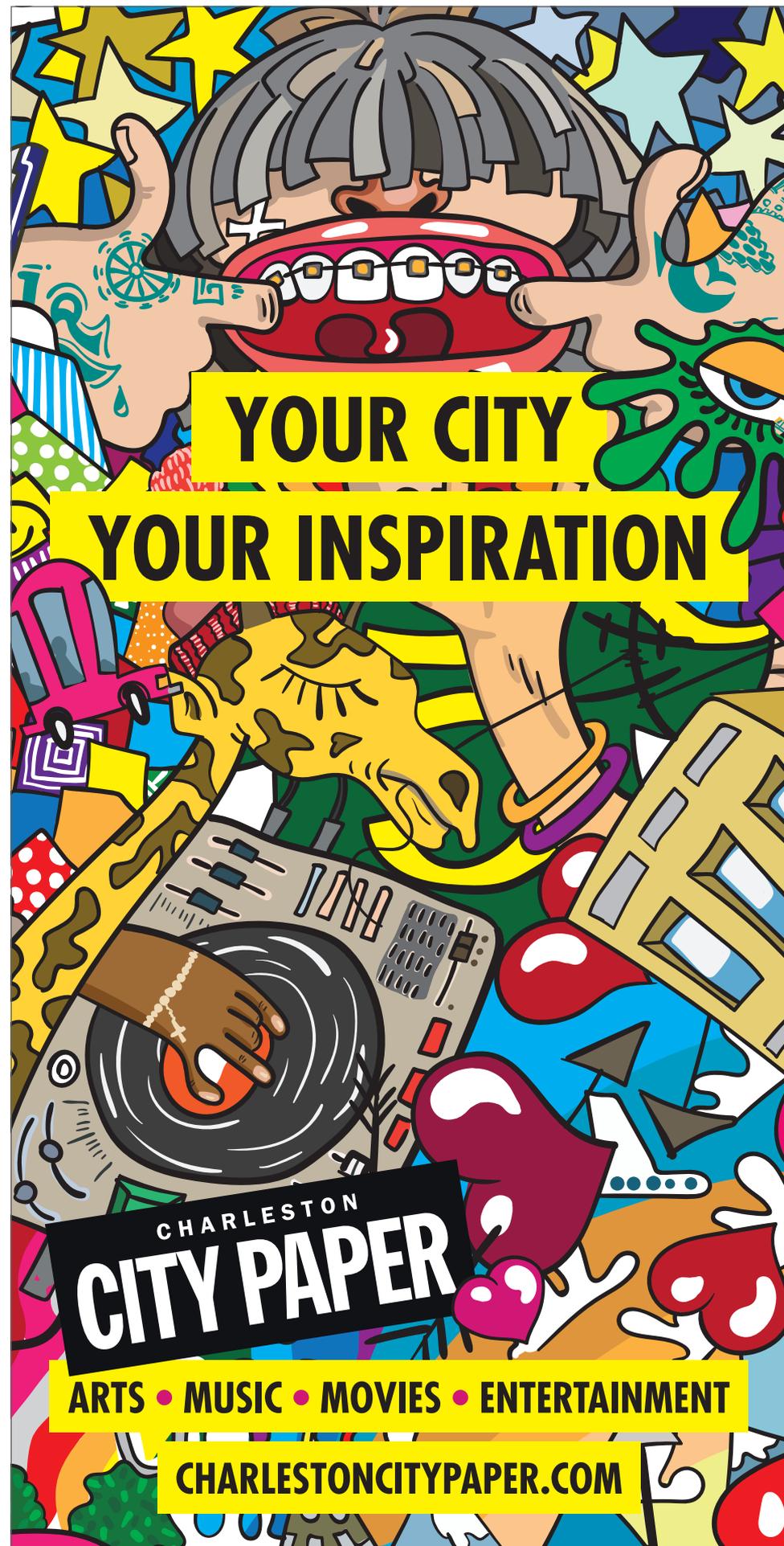
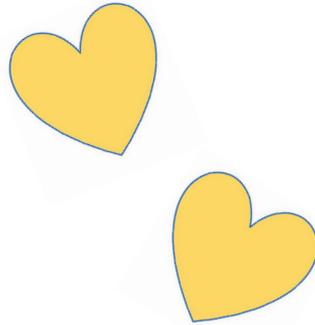


Table for Two: Black Magic Cafe

by Bojena Sabin and Sam Clarke

Restaurant: Black Magic Cafe
Where: Park Circle
Rating: 9 Vats of Hot Chocolate out of 10

For this edition of Table for Two, we ventured out to James Island. Along Folly Road lies Black Magic Cafe, a little beach shack turned “hippie-healthy-naughty” food hangout. The environment is magically nostalgic with quirky signs and wall hangings covering every inch of the interior that are sure to make you giggle. The cafe is perfect for anything from a family breakfast outing to a casual coffee date.

Black Magic Cafe started out in 2009 as a coffee shop, so it would be a shame not to try their signature cup-o-joe. The Zippy Bean is a frappe with ground espresso beans and spicy chocolate, topped with whipped cream. As one who has always been a fan of unconventional flavor combos, I was delighted to try this “spicy” treat. Right off the bat I was reminded

of Starbucks’ Mocha Cookie Crumble. The espresso beans provided a gritty crunch that made every sip satisfying. Overall it was a very delicious drink; however, my only wish would be for the “spicy chocolate” to have a bit more of a kick to it. The spice was something that really only came as a very vague aftertaste, but nonetheless, a solid coffee. I was also delighted to read on their website that all of their coffee and espresso beans are roasted locally! Yay local!

We also got to try the classic hot chocolate, and while nothing rivals **Susie Elliot’s** homemade hot chocolate, this was a close second. First of all, the size is what really made this drink shine. It was what I described as a “vat” of hot chocolate, piled high with a soft cloud of whipped cream. Before seeing someone nearby order this drink, I almost opted for an iced chai, but as soon as it arrived at our table, I knew that I’d made the right choice. It’s a good classic drink for anyone who doesn’t like coffee (which I’m realizing might just be me), but still I highly recommend it!

The menu has so many mouth-



The drink’s delicious presentation was a highlight.

watering options to fulfill almost any type of craving, and because I had not yet eaten that morning, everything sounded good. Luckily, the menu offers several “a la carte” dishes for when you cannot decide between your sweet tooth and your savory tooth. The Loaded Lowcountry Fries caught my eye. Their description, “pimento sausage gravy atop french fries” screamed southern comfort. Think the same sensation one would get from traditional biscuits and gravy, but with a crispy, salty, finger-lickin-good vehicle. I haven’t been so tempted to lick a plate clean in my life, and if it weren’t for the great number of people sitting all around us, I probably would have. This reminded me of the Lays biscuits and gravy chips if you want some context as to the flavor and was just about the richest thing I’ve ever eaten. So rich in fact, between the two of us sharing, we were able to leave with a small box leftover. (Currently eating my leftovers while writing this).

The Gershwin elevates the traditional bagel and lox to make quite a satisfying breakfast sandwich. Besides the typical everything bagel, and smoked salmon, this dish is also filled with a lemon-caper cream cheese, mixed greens, red onion, tomato, and cucumber. There honestly is not much to take note of with this very clean dish. It was very satisfying, and surprisingly filling. I would’ve even liked to have a little more lemon and caper flavor which complimented the perfectly juicy smoked salmon. Overall, a solid dish. I’d have it again.

The french toast was an interesting choice for me as I usually opt for a savory breakfast, but I figured that if I was already having a giant



The lox bagel brought just as much flavor as promised by its vibrant colors.

mug of hot chocolate, why not pile some more sugar into my meal? But seriously, it was that type of breakfast where the bread (a croissant in this case) melts in your mouth while golden waves of syrup drench the dish. It somehow managed to maintain the crunch of the croissant, while also allowing for that quintessential, buttery center you’d want in a french toast. Sometimes, sweet brunch items can lean too heavily on sugar to make the dish good, but at Black Magic, they focused on making their food amazing through fresh

ingredients and good southern cooking.

Reel Talk: *Marriage Story*

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*). This issue they’ll review the critically acclaimed Netflix flick *Marriage Story*.

Clara’s Take:

What better way to celebrate Valentine’s Day than to review a movie about the breakdown of a marriage? When I first finished *Marriage Story*, I wasn’t sure what I thought. Both the script and direction are so subtle that initially the film flies under the radar, and the story isn’t anything particularly new either. But it’s told well; Noah Baumbach is a master of naturalistic dialogue, finding the music in rhythms of human speech. He is not a flashy artist, but every second of the film is perfectly written and shot, the work of a true master. Baumbach manages to make the A-list actors come across as real, messy people and the film seems wildly and depressingly realistic.

The opening scenes are fantastic, as are the last few minutes, but the final shot is slightly disappointing, ending just before a real sense of loss can be felt. Among the well paced but understated two hours, there were a few standout moments, mostly where Baumbach is employing his trademark sense of dark humor. There’s the oft-mocked or -memed fight scene as well, which can only be appreciated after seeing how every scene before it, and every minute movement in the scene leading up to it build up to the explosion. It’s an expertly directed source of catharsis, and a distinctly theatrical one that I hope inspires more films to bring similar scenes from the stage to the big screen.

The main risk here comes from the fact that the story is based on Baumbach’s real-life divorce to Jennifer Jason Leigh. Though I’m still slightly unsure of my thoughts on this kind of storytelling, I have to admit it seems like Baumbach truly tried to explore every nuance of the divorce and is quick to condemn his own actions.

Marriage Story isn’t my pick for film of the year, and I’m doubtful it will pick up any major awards (other than for its actors), but it’s a beautifully made movie and a worthy addition to Baumbach’s catalogue.

Logan's Take

For awards season, we wanted to pick one of the many films nominated (*Parasite!* *1917!* *Harriet!*), and, because *Marriage Story* is on Netflix, here we are. Honestly, I was not expecting to like it, even though I had heard great things about its craft and emotional nuance. A two hour movie about, pretty singularly, divorce, is not usually the kind of thing I'm into, and I was worried I wouldn't be able to stop seeing Scarlett Johansson and Adam Driver as actors instead of their characters but none of these concerns lasted past the opening scenes.

There was so much to enjoy in this film: the almost satirical portrayals of the East Coast theater scene and LA's commercial film culture, the dynamic nature of the scenes, both visually and emotionally, the well-constructed dialogue, and the humor and very human awkwardness at the center of many interactions between characters.

Their son, Henry, is one of the most heartbreaking characters, and every one of his lines and actions goes straight to the emotional core of the movie.

There are a couple parts of the movie that I thought might have been too on the nose, like the closely shot scene of Nicole and Charlie closing a gate between them, but I think I'm going to let that pass because the metaphor is so strong. There's also a point near the end where Charlie gets up in a restaurant and sings an entire (plot-mirroring, of course) song, and I zoned out a little bit, but I can't really decide whether I should accept that as a quirk of the film or what. I think it's kind of a personal preference, like I get it, he's a Broadway guy, but... speaking of, where is this restaurant that somehow fits an entire theater company?

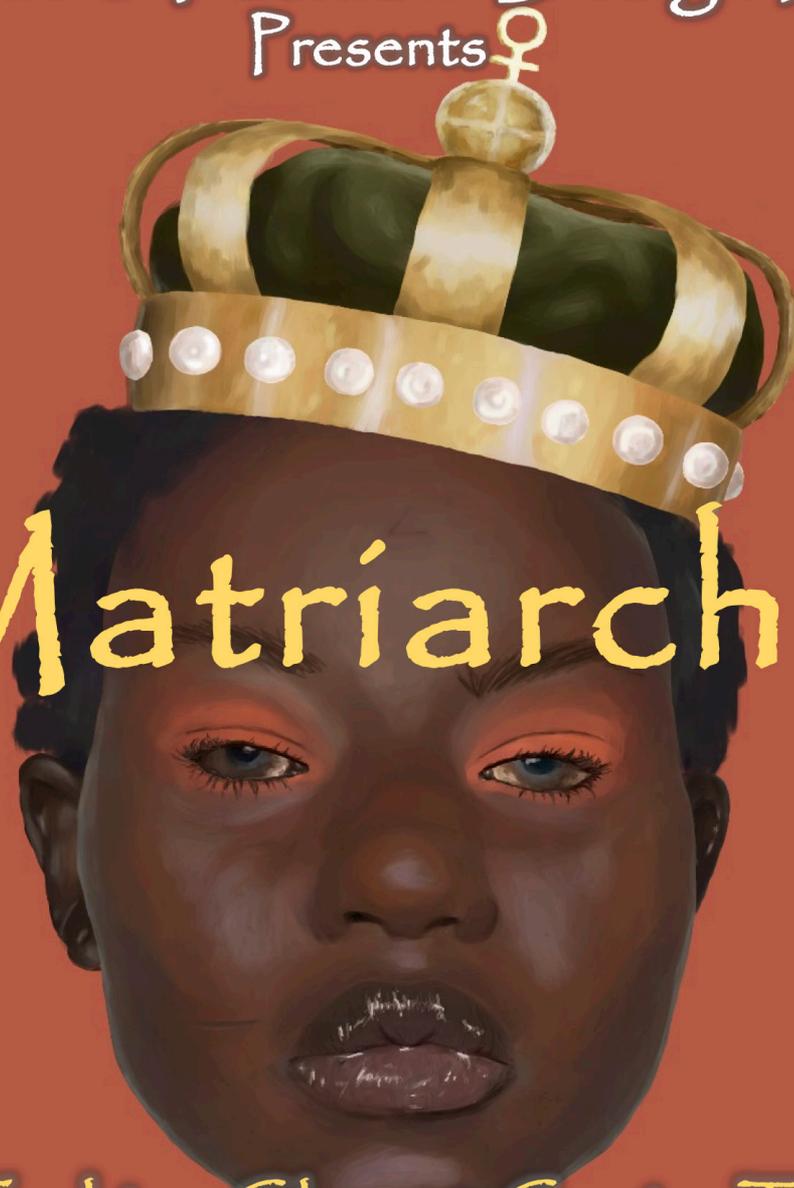
Marriage Story is a personal, incredibly well-crafted story with a level of nuance that makes me want to watch it again in the future. Not exactly Valentine's Day friendly, but a winner nonetheless.



***Marriage Story* is not advised for those looking for a light-hearted romantic movie. Maybe try *Bridget Jones' Diary*.**

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Thursday, April 2 @ 6:30 PM

SOA Café | Senior Thesis Reception following show in the
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VIP Seating: \$27 in advance (online only)

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Artwork by Makayla Gonzalez

The Crocodile
Sam Abney, 6th grade

The crocodile lurks in the marsh
His eyes protrude scanning the swamp
Duckweed stuck between creases in his scales
He maneuvers in the water smoothly with pace
Like seagrass waving in the wind
His massive jaws show off razor sharp teeth
Each one matters to him but he doesn't know why
As loneliness fills him with boredom
He bathes in the sun and watches a little chair
Placed there long ago when others were with him
Then with a click and a bang they were gone
Faded away like dust on shoes
Submerged by water
And he watches this chair
Red paint shaved off
Remembering his family
And how they just slipped from his grasp
Like sand
Sliding through fingers.

Panorama
Nora Green, 6th grade

Water spraying my face as I cross the estuary,
Frigid air pummeling me from all directions,
Then mosquitoes,

Clinging to my face like the sweat on my back,
Adhesive to the shirt that sticks to my skin,
Soon I will rip it off like a bandage,
Then a slight change-

My hair, damp around the edges,
The smile on my face fades,
Tree limbs poke me,
My feet, pinched by the thorns from the plants around the
path,
Then the picture bleeds-

Foam crashes at my feet,
It comes with the waves and slowly sizzles out,
I hear the crackle of cowries,
Sand blows into my face,
And the smell of salt and pungent seagulls,
Engulfs me
Shells wash up on the coast,
Searching for their missing pieces.

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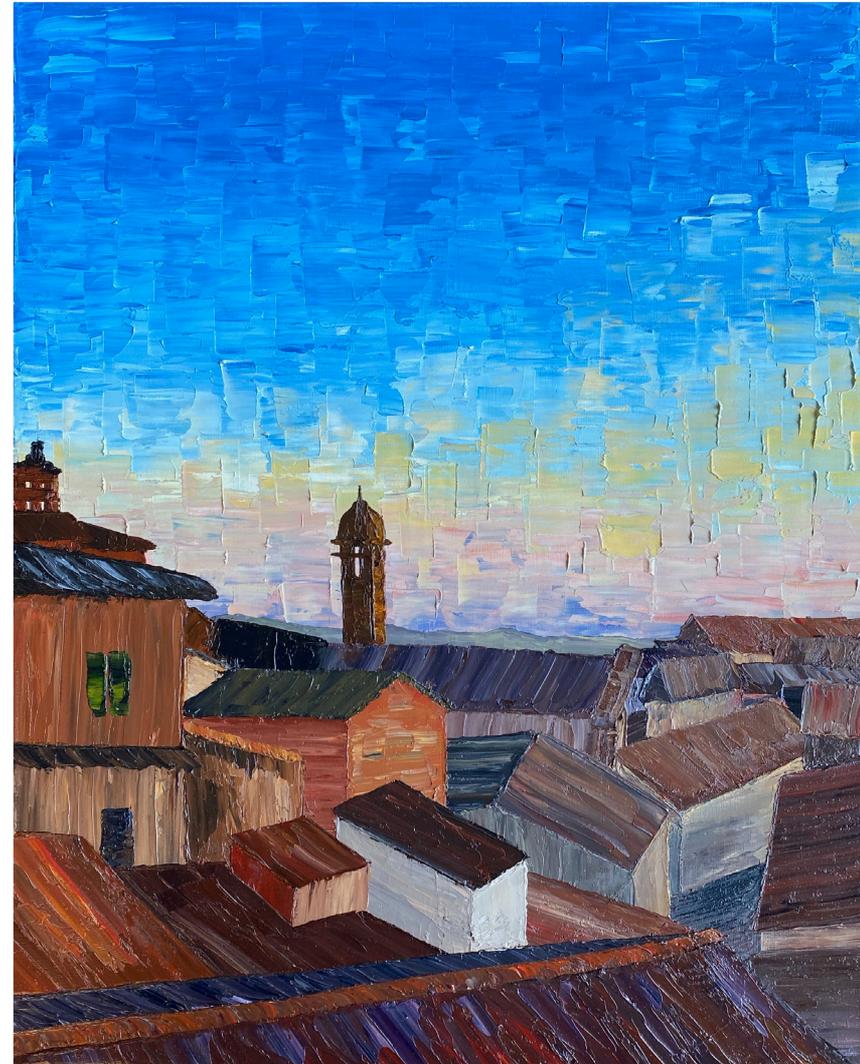
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above: Reyna Roblero, 8th // below: Gracie Morrall, 12th



What Cursed Image Are You?

by Makayla Gonzalez, Leo Cantrell, Ella Waldron-Noren

1. Of these options, who's your favorite musician?

- A. Billie Eilish
- B. Rihanna
- C. Childish Gambino
- D. Freddie Mercury



2. What's your favorite cartoon?

- A. *Garfield*
- B. *The Powerpuff Girls*
- C. *Spongebob Squarepants*
- D. *Big Mouth*

3. Which provokes the most fear in you?

- A. When you drop a piece of paper and it flies across the room
- B. When you step in something wet while wearing socks
- C. When you say "I love you" to a waiter
- D. Seeing an ad for something you were just talking about

4. Would you rather be...

- A. Asleep
- B. Rich
- C. Famous
- D. Anywhere but here



5. Which of these food combinations is the most disgusting?

- A. Peanut butter and onion sandwich
- B. Oreos and orange juice
- C. Peaches and cottage cheese
- D. Ranch on pizza

6. Which of these Disney movies is best?

- A. *Ratatouille*
- B. *Monster's Inc.*
- C. *The Aristocats*
- D. *Mary Poppins Returns*

8. Which actor do you think is best?

- A. Lupita Nyong'o
- B. Keanu Reeves
- C. Zendaya
- D. Whoopi Goldberg

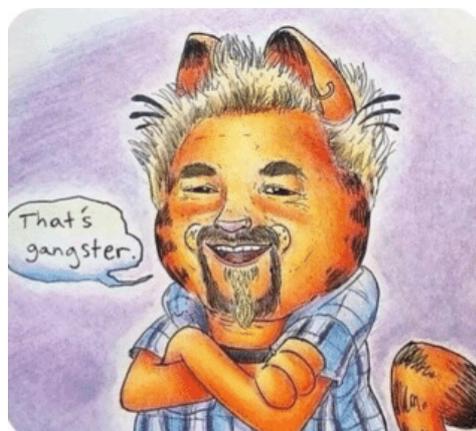


If you picked mostly A's,
you got.... Baby doll filled with guacamole!

If you picked mostly B's,
you got.... Homer Simpson in his mumu!

If you picked mostly C's,
you got.... Squirrel stabbing snake!

If you picked mostly D's,
you got.... Garfield Guy Fieri!



Self Care Tips of the Month

by Sam Clarke



Valentine's Day has arrived, and if you're anything like me, you're probably dreading it. But who says you can't show yourself some love? Here is a list of things you can do to make Valentine's Day feel like less of an eye-roll.



Put on some positive music and have a dance party in your room.
Invite your other single friends over and have a party.
Take a bubble bath.

Eat an entire pizza (brownie points if it's heart shaped).
(Speaking of brownies) Make some brownies! Or bake anything!
Put on your favorite outfit and tell yourself you look nice.

Remember it's okay to cry.

Take yourself out to dinner, (Table for one? Yes please!).

Watch *The Bachelor*.

Cast a hex spell on someone that really did you wrong. (if you're into that).

A Valentine's Day Playlist for All

by Sam Clarke

Sam Clarke has created two playlists for you this month: one to help love birds bask in their joy and one to help singles cope. Visit @soapplause on Spotify to listen.



Spotify

For Love Birds

"I Can't Help Myself (Sugar Pie Honey Bunch)" by the The Four Tops

"Let's Stay Together" by Al Green

"My Funny Valentine" by Ella Fitzgerald

"Can't Hurry Love" by The Supremes

"You Send Me" by Sam Cooke

"Too Late To Turn Back Now" by Cornelius Brothers & Sister Rose

"At Last" by Etta James

"Signed, Sealed, Delivered (I'm

Yours)" by Stevie Wonder

For Singles

"Cuz I Love You" by Lizzo

"What Does a Girl Do" by The Shirelles

"Forget You" by CeeLo Green

"Cry Me a River" by Ella Fitzgerald

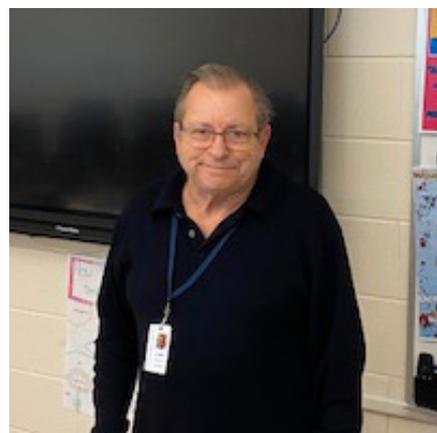
"Mr. Big Stuff" by Jean Knight

"Who's Loving You" by Jackson 5

MacArthur Park - Donna Summer

I'd Rather Go Blind - Etta James

Charlie Hastings



Naas Quote of the Month

"A vision without action is a hallucination."

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FEBRUARY EVENTS

MUSIC

STUDENT DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

- 2/10** STEVE ROSENBERG & FRIENDS
Early Music Ensemble
- 2/20** MAGNETIC SOUTH
Ligeti, Berio & McMillan
Contemporary music in collaboration
with the Charleston Symphony

STUDIO ART

FREE

- 2/5** GUEST ARTIST LECTURE
Alex Paik
- 2/26** GUEST ARTIST LECTURE
Hoss Haley

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

THEATRE & DANCE

STUDENT DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

Various times and dates between 2/21-2/29
Spark by Caridad Svich - AND -
Last Night and the Night Before by
alumnus Donnetta Lavinia Grays

HALSEY INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

FREE UNLESS DENOTED
STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE

Ongoing thru 2/29 EXHIBITION
Butch Anthony: Inside/Out and
Coulter Fussell: The Raw Materials of Escape

2/9 FAMILY DAY
FREE FOR MEMBERS/\$5 NON-MEMBERS

2/20 FILM + Q&A WITH MATT ARNETT
The Quilts of Gee's Bend

2/27 CURATOR-LED TOURS FOR MEMBERS

2/29 GALLERY WALK-THRU
Butch Anthony



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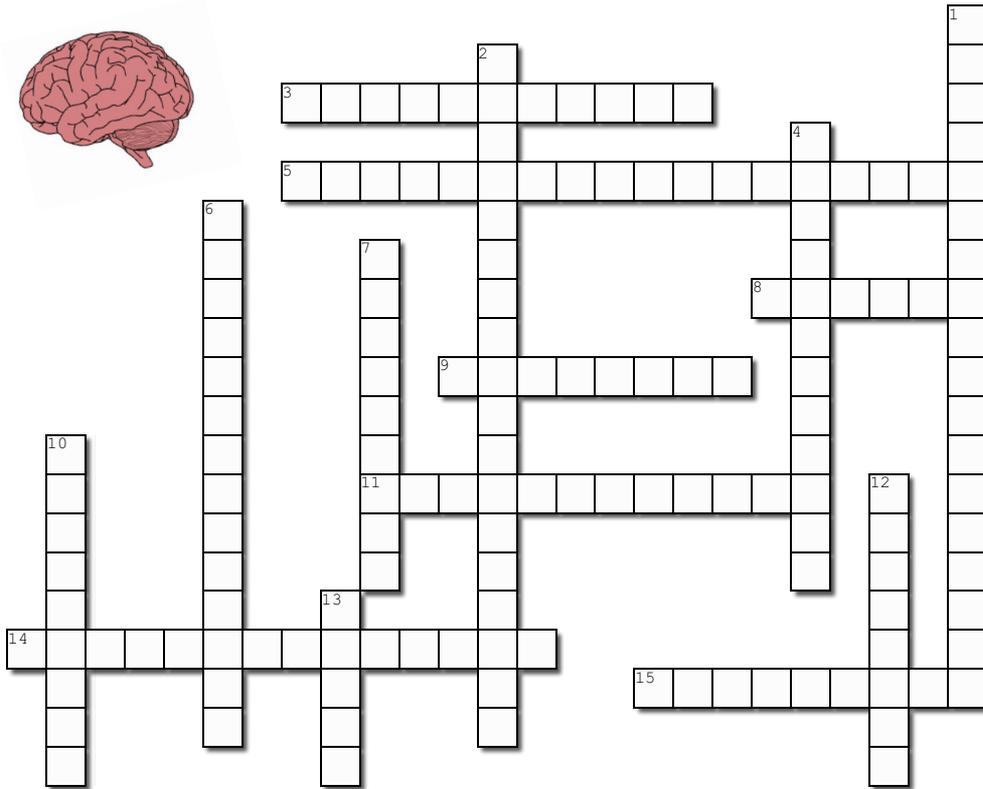
COULTER FUSSELL

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OF CONTEMPORARY ART
at THE COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON

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Black History Month Crossword

by Leo Cantrell



Across

3. Iconic anti-war musician; known for his psychedelic performances and innovative guitar playing; died in 1970
5. "So the question is not whether we will be extremists, but what kind of extremists we will be"
8. _____ Robinson was the first black person to play in Major League Baseball
9. Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln were both born in this month
11. The richest black woman alive
14. The Queen of Soul
15. This influential black figure died in Accra, Ghana the day before MLK's "I Have a Dream" speech

Down

1. This architect drew his blueprints upside down so his clients could see them
2. Black graffiti artist part of the 27 club; died in 1988
4. Renowned comedian known for his afro and being vulgarly hilarious
6. This female tennis player has won 23 major singles titles, more than any man or woman in the modern era of the sport
7. This rapper born in 1971 reportedly has an IQ of 147
10. Led the most effective slave rebellion in history in 1831
12. This musician covered Bob Dylan's "Blowin' In The Wind," making it a civil rights anthem
13. This organization for the advancement of black people was founded in 1909

Crossword Answers

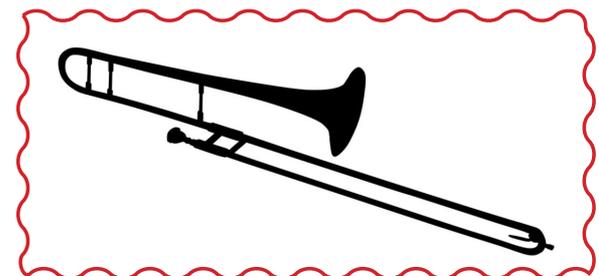
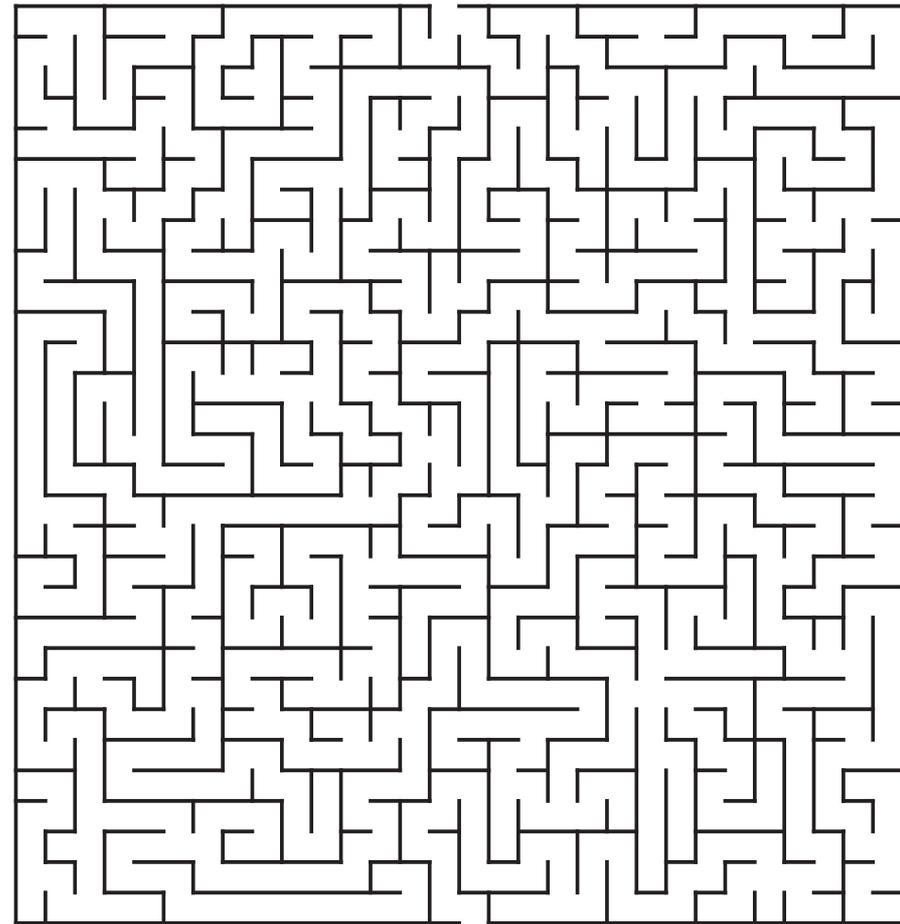
Across: 3. Jimi Hendrix 5. Martin Luther King Jr 8. Jackie 9. February 11. Oprah Winfrey 14. Aretha Franklin 15. W.E.B. Du Bois
Down: 1. Paul Revere Williams 2. Jean Michel Basquiat 4. Richard Pryor 6. Serena Williams 7. Snoop Dogg 10. Nat Turner 12. Sam Cooke 13. NAACP

February Cultural Calendar

by Logan Baker

- Fri, Feb 14- Sun, Feb 16: **Southeastern Wildlife Exposition**
(see website for details)
- Fri, Feb 28-Sun, Mar 1: **The Color Purple Musical** (North Charleston Coliseum, see website for details)
- Fri, Mar 6-Sun, Mar 8: **Annual Charleston Antiques Show**
(Gaillard Center, see website for details)
- Wed, Mar 4-Sat, Mar 8: **Charleston Wine and Food Festival**
(see website for details)
- Wed, Mar 11-Sat, Apr 18: **Festival of Houses and Gardens**
(see website for details)

Help Ms. Smalls find her trombone!



Horoscopes

by Carson Stehling



Aquarius (Jan. 20- Feb. 18): Happy Aquarius season, freaks! You weird little creatures, you walking sideshows... I hope it works out for you, I really do. This has been a tough year for you, astrologically speaking, but I've got a feeling that this lunar phase is your time to shine. Keep doing what you're doing, you lovable oddball you. February is for my freaks!

Pisces (Feb. 19- Mar. 20): It's still Aquarius season. I know you just can't wait for it to be all about you, but it's not that time of year yet. Why don't you take this as an opportunity for growth? Let other people talk about themselves for a second before you jump in with "Guess what just happened to me," because we all have stuff going on. It's not Pisces season yet, you needy fish.

Aries (Mar. 21- Apr. 19): There are choppy seas on your horizon, Aries. It's starting to look like no one is coming to your improv show. Maybe they will, what do I know? But just in case I'm right, stop putting it all over your Instagram story and save a little face. I think you might actually be scaring people away. They have the information by now; if they want to come they will.

Taurus (Apr. 20- May 20): You've been hustling for a while now, and this month, it's paying off. You've kept your head down and put in the work and people are finally noticing. I've never been cool with so many Taurians at the same time in my life. We can tell you've been cleaning up your public image and we all just want you to know that we see you. If you stay unproblematic you might just move up to my third least favorite sign.

Gemini (May 21- Jun. 20): This month will serve as a test of your friendships. Someone close to you may decide to stop putting up with you always leaving your stuff at their house and stop bringing it to you at school. If you want it you're going to have to get yourself down here and pick it up yourself because your friends are tired of keeping track of your AirPods. Buy a case.

Cancer (Jun 21- Jul. 22): You are entering a period of deep, personal growth. It's actually kind of scary. Last week you were 5'3" and now you're 5'6". How is that possible? Are you taking steroids? Did you get bitten by something radioactive? You can't keep saying you're going through a growth spurt. No one grows three inches in a week. We can literally see you growing. Go to the doctor.

Leo (Jul. 23- Aug. 22): Hey there, little guy. Are you tie-tie? You wanna go sleepy? I know, baby, the stars have been keeping you pretty busy. You just wanna nap, huh? Go take a nap... ignore your responsibilities. Just hangout all-day watching Criminal Minds. Nothing bad can happen to you now. I'm here now.

Virgo (Aug. 23- Sept. 22): You've been keeping things bottled up for way too long, Virgo. It's time to let it out. It's been five minutes and they haven't responded? Send a paragraph long text calling them an "energy vampire." A person walking too slow

in front of you? Remind them that you too have places to be and they're worthless scum. No holds barred. Go off, queen.

Libra (Sept. 23- Oct. 22): Aquarius season is likely to bring people into your life who want to mess with your vibes. You must protect your vibes at all costs. If that means taking a break from school or work then that's what you have to do. Do not take on any more than you can handle. Your vibes are fragile and they need to come first.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): We all know it was you that wrote "I hate Bush" in the girl's bathroom and let me just say: beautifully put. Your words are so powerful and direct, yet delicate and beautiful, like elegant prose. You must embrace your talent. You have an incredible gift. Promise me you'll never stop writing. Promise?

Sagittarius (Nov. 22- Dec. 21): This month we would all like to remind you to stop complaining so much. "It's too cold in here," "I'm so tired," "I need a bathroom break," "I refuse to go in a bucket," "You're required by law to give us a ten-minute break every two hours," "These working conditions are inhumane". Can you just chill for one second? Try living in the moment and enjoying what you have: A really nice bathroom bucket.

Capricorn (Dec. 22- Jan.19): You want a horoscope? Do something interesting. I can't keep writing about you if you don't do anything. How am I supposed to tell you what the stars want from you if you're just going to sit around all month and not even listen to me? I'm sick of it. No horoscope for you until you actually take my advice.



Jude says, "all the cool kids RECYCLE!"

Message Sponsored by the Eastlake Community Foundation

Sign of the Month: I Love You Demonstrated by Everett Ladson



1. Point to your chest.



2. Cross your arms over your chest.



3. Point to the person you love!

Photos by Luke Shaw

The Trivia Challenge: Black History Edition

by Charlie Hastings

February marks Black History Month, a month of celebration and appreciation of the crucial role African Americans have played in our history. It seeks to recognize leaders and remember those who fought for the advancement of African Americans. Let's see how much SOA knows about this historic month.

Questions:

1. Who was the first black man to play in Major League Baseball?
2. Who was the first African American to win an Academy Award?
3. What year was the Thirteenth Amendment passed?
4. What day is MLK day?
5. Who was the first black US Supreme Court Justice?
6. What was Muhammad Ali's original name?
7. Complete this MLK quote: "Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of (Blank)?"
8. Who was the first black senator?
9. Who was the first black self-made millionaire?
10. Who was the first black president?

Bojena Sabin 11th grade

1. Jackie Robinson
2. Jah
3. 1860
4. January 18th
5. Idk
6. Momo
7. Alabama
8. Freddie Dougs
9. Oprah
10. Obama



2/10

Eli Jennings 11th grade

1. Jackie Robinson
2. Morgan Freeman
3. 1863
4. 20th
5. John Brown
6. Bruh Bruhson
7. Washington
8. Eazy-E
9. Tupac
10. My man Obama



3/10

Eli triumphantly stands victorious after conquering the long-standing Bojenian dynasty by a slim margin. Bojena is gone, but what is in store for trivia with a new champion in town? Will our new champion start a dynasty of his own, or will he crash and burn? Find out next time on SOA trivia.

soa-applause.com

Are you interested
in competing in an
upcoming *Applause*
Trivia Challenge? If so,
email mjmcline@gmail.com

Photos by Charlie Hastings

Answers

1. Jackie Robinson
2. Hattie McDaniel
3. 1865
4. January 20th
5. Thurgood Marshall
6. Cassius Clay
7. Mississippi
8. Hiram Revels
9. Madam C.J. Walker
10. Barack Obama



“Are you a box of Lucky Charms? Because you’re magical.”

-Evan Mercado, 10th grade Fashion & Costume Design



“Hey, cutie.”

-Hunter Garrett, 12th grade Vocal



“Are you a book? ‘Cause I’m checking you out.”

-Nelli Sundara, 7th grade Piano



“I hear you make great coffee, you should have me over and make me some. It really worked- I was married a year later.”

-Ms. McKinley, High School English Teacher



“Heyyy how you doin’?”

-Ms. Fitz, Music Theory Teacher

What’s your best pickup line?

by Sophia Leonardi and Luke Shaw

Photos by Luke Shaw



“I’m not a photographer but I can picture me and you together.”

-Sarah Overby, 9th grade Strings



“If I had a dime for every time I thought about you, I’d have ten cents because you never leave my mind.”

-Manny Summers, 11th grade Band



“I don’t have one I just wing it.”

-Micah Stokes, 8th grade Dance



“Are you wealthy enough for me to talk to you?”

-Mr. Clark, High School History Teacher



“If I were dying would you give me your heart?”

-Roger Martinez, 6th grade Strings