

# Applause

Volume 21, Number 4

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

January 2020



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William Baker

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Thomas Noren  
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Robin Grieg  
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Alea McKinley  
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Heath Orvin  
Derek Pickens  
The Poulnot Family  
John Schuster  
Kevin Short  
Laura Smith  
Jill Swing  
David Thornburg  
J. Tim Tipton  
Kenneth Turner  
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David Cosgrove  
Michelle Gorenstein  
Elizabeth Hart  
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## Letter From the Editor

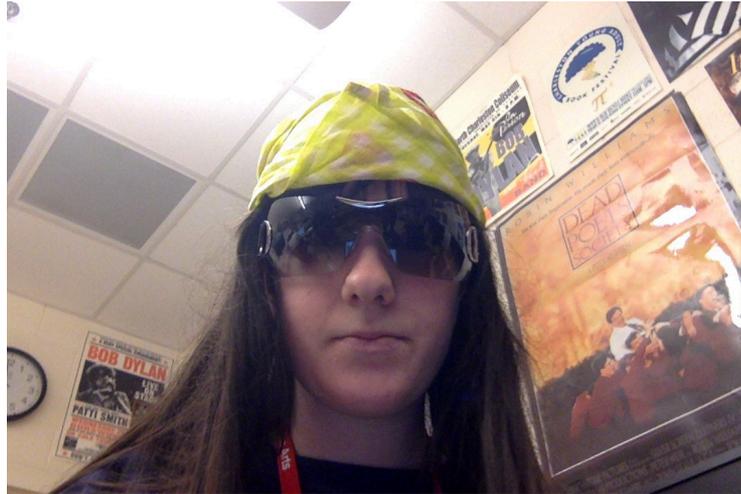
Dear Readers,

I hope you're having a lovely 2020! I can't wrap my head around how fast this school year is moving. It's officially second semester! Hopefully that means some kind of a fresh start for those of you in need of one.

We've got plenty of stuff to check out in this issue. Visit page 6 for an interview with senior Band major **Carson Archie** about his experience running a 100 mile race (a very rare feat for a teenager). Another interesting interview can be found on page 9, where junior **Charlie Hastings** talked with renowned artist Shepard Fairey. To see what a few SOA students (and one SOA student's cat) did over winter break, check out page 10 and 11. In light of the new decade, **Sam Clarke** compiled a list on page 15 of things to bring back from the iconic Roaring Twenties and a few things that are better left in the past. Page 15 also has a fun new feature: a slang dictionary. Show it to your parents so they can finally understand what you're talking about!

Next month we will be publishing our Black History Month issue, so keep a look out!

Love,  
Your Editor-in-Chief  
Maya Cline



Your editor-in-chief, ecstatic at the idea of uploading *Applause* before the end of the school day.

# Applause

since 1999, the official student publication of

## School of the Arts

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## Dance Gets a Visit from Talented Guest Artists

by Sophia Leonardi

The dance department wasted no time getting back to work after break. The week of January 6th, middle school dancers were visited by Ryan Tverk, who graduated from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. For five days they focused on contemporary ballet technique.

Seventh grade dancers will be performing a piece choreographed by Ryan at departmental.

The high school dancers were pushed out of their comfort zones, learning a style completely new to them: Irish Dancing.

They spent the week learning about Irish culture, history, and music. They were taught by Abbey Wood, the first certified Irish dance teacher in South Carolina.

Come see the ninth graders perform traditional Irish dancing at departmental on May 2nd or at our next convocation!

Angie Cirinigliaro was another guest artist who worked with the junior dancers on improv dance skills and helped choreograph for the departmental. Improvisation is a great way to let loose and explore musicality and movement.

Having guest artists throughout the year is a wonderful opportunity to learn new styles and learn from someone who has experience in the dance industry.

## Juniors Receive their Class Rings

by Charlie Hastings

Juniors left the RMMT Theater with good feelings and fresh drip Saturday night after having their self-esteem boosted by their favorite teachers. But the night reflected something bigger, something schools have celebrated for generations every year for the junior class, a transition into adulthood and acknowledging those who helped you become who you are today. With this in mind, it's safe to say that the ceremony was a huge success, with hosts **Ben Hudd** and **Aydan Reimer** introducing teachers and mentors from all grades and subjects.

Some highlights were **Ms. McKinley** dubbing band major **Charles McGuinn** as "the coolest kid in school," and, of course, Mr. Orvin announcing his retirement with **Mr. Clark** in an emotional speech after giving eight students their rings and artifacts from his room to take home.



Ryan Tverk bonded with the sixth grade class.



Abbey Wood exposed the freshmen dancers to a completely foreign style.

Other notable parts of the ceremony include 11th graders **Tay Jones** and **Jonathon Yi** vibing on stage, handing people their rings, **Ms. Fitz's** killer intro music followed by a presentation of **Kyla Conyer's** ring and another retirement announcement, though it seems Ms. Fitz will not miss some students, like me, who she referred to as "spawn of Satan," she says the school will always hold a special place in her heart.

All this ended with the ring turning, a tradition held by schools to signify looking at the past, present, and future by turning the rings three times around the finger. Judging from what the ring presenters had to say during the ceremony, the future looks bright for the class of 2021.

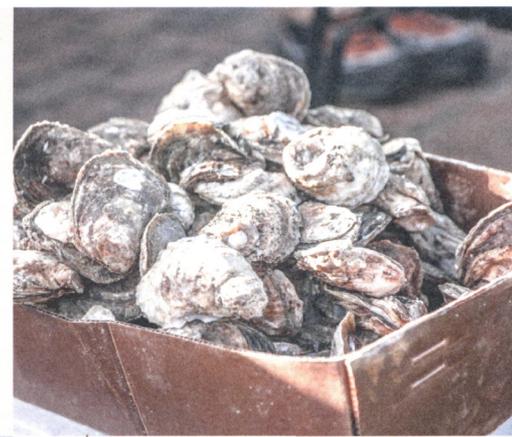


Eight juniors chose AP World History teacher Mr. McCauley to present their rings.

## 17th Annual SOA Orchestra Oyster Roast



All You Can Eat Oysters  
Silent Auction  
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BBQ  
Chili Cook Off



Bowen's Island  
Sunday, January 26  
2-5 pm  
Adults \$25 | Kids \$15



# AMHS and SOA Join Together for Open Mic Night

AMHS and SOA hosted their first Open Mic Night on January 10th in the Academic Magnet Lecture Hall. Many talented people graced the stage, including senior **Noah Lyons** (top right, freshman **Giovanni Cusatis** (middle right), and seventh grader **Azaria Richardson** (middle left). If you'd like to participate or watch, the next night will be held on Friday, March 6th.



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## Senior Carson Archie Places 4th in 100 Mile Race

*Peyton Smalls interviews senior Carson Archie, a standout runner for Wando's Track and Cross Country team, who ran the Charleston 100 on December 27-28. His race time was 22:48:00.*

### PS: How did you prepare for the race?

CA: Unfortunately, I only had about four weeks to prepare after cross country, so I worked on trying to do about eight miles a day at a pretty aggressive pace to work on my endurance. I had two 20-ish mile days to just test my legs; I had to fight off tightness in my legs during this time due to the six month season I was coming off of.

### PS: Did you have a sponsor?

CA: I am a privater and I am not sponsored by anyone but I am working towards a sponsorship with future performances. That is a goal I have with my next big race which is the Georgia Death Race.

### PS: What was it like running for almost 24 hours in terms of sleeping and eating?

CA: Everyone has different philosophies of 24 hour racing, to be honest. I didn't know how long I would be running but I stick with eating real foods for as long as I can and when I start to bonk or get really wiggled out I switch over to gels.

### PS: Where was the course and the terrain like?

CA: The course started up in Park West and went to IOP, Sullivans, and through downtown Charleston and all the way down the West Ashley Greenway and back. The whole course was on pavement and it was really hard on my legs, but it was a really cool to be local and in a cool area.

### PS: How many people participated and how many finished?

CA: Around 50 people started and less than half finished, which is not uncommon with 100's since so many things can go wrong.

### PS: What was your mental state like during the race?

CA: I pretty much got into a zombie-like mode of "just keep moving" and "get to where you need to be next."



Running ultra marathons like this one is unhead of for people at Carson's age.

Provided

### PS: Were you one of the youngest participants?

CA: I was the youngest participant by 14 years. Most people don't start running ultras until at least after college.

### PS: What were the biggest challenges of the race?

CA: I got some nasty rashes and blisters on my feet, and I lost over an hour with having to walk to my support car and fix my feet without getting too graphic. I didn't think I was going to even finish at that point but my good friend Nathan really helped me get out of a dark place.

### PS: What time did you complete your race?

CA: I completed my race at 10:48 am on December 28th. It took me 22 hours and 48 minutes.

### PS: Did you accomplish your goals for the race?

CA: Yes and no. My main goal was to finish, but knowing how much time I lost with my injuries and just never having done one before, I feel really prepared to do a lot better in the future. Under 24 hours was a nice target to hit.

### PS: Do you have anymore huge races like this planned for the future?

CA: Yes, the Georgia Death Race which is a huge mountain race that's a golden ticket event to get into Western States 100. Western States 100 is one of the most competitive ultramarathons in the world; a golden ticket is awarded to the top 2 finishers both male and female.

### PS: Were there any memorable events during the race?

CA: I had a lot of friends and family send me support and show up to see me when I was racing, which gave me motivation to keep moving even though I was pretty much completely drained.

### PS: How did this affect you as a person and athlete?

CA: A couple days after when it really sank in, it meant a lot to me, after a rough finish to my senior year in cross country and having lost my grandpa earlier this past year I really felt I had a lot to prove to myself and I wanted to do well for my grandpa because he was the one who inspired me to run in the first place. Finishing how I did really made me feel confident in my abilities to keep growing as an athlete and as a person because the pain is bad but if you keep pushing you can achieve whatever you want to even though it sounds really cheesy.



Carson was only able to sleep for about ten minutes during the race.

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## Midwest: The Experience

by Lilly Tipton

On December 17th, 2019, the high school Symphony Strings departed to Chicago for the 73rd Annual Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic. After many long rehearsals and lots of hard work we were prepared for a trip to remember. Our first day in Chicago consisted of a visit to the Field Museum followed by a night rehearsal to prepare for the big morning ahead.

Junior **Marshall McArthur** recalls, "I remember walking to the performance center getting everyone into a very excited mood, however, as soon as we got to the stage, the nerves hit me." We had worked so hard and now it was our time to shine. As Dr. Selby said, it was the top achievement and it sure felt like it. We played our best and sounded great. Without a doubt this was a performance everyone will remember. Dr. Selby talked to us in the hotel lobby after and said "I have conducted many performances in my life but this is one I'll never forget." At that special moment swirls of emotion and pride filled everyone's faces. During the rest of the day we were free to walk around the massive convention room that had booths with all kinds of instruments on display from brands, instrument accessories, and so much more which was also quite the experience.

Not only did we have our big performance, but the next day we were fortunate enough to be the demonstration group for two different clinics at Midwest. Those were very exciting opportunities because we were able to help other educators and simultaneously learn a lot about how we play as a group. Freshman **Adrianna Hall** says that she "learned the importance of playing together as an orchestra and working together to make the music." Our hard work throughout the year definitely paid off and I, for one, will never forget the trip.



SOA principal Dr. Cook joined Dr. Selby and Mr. Turner as a conductor.

## Theatre Senior Theses Adored by Audience

by Maya Cline

During the second week of January, the senior Theatre majors put on three incredible nights of entirely self-produced scenes (with guidance from dedicated Theatre teacher **Ms. Alea McKinley**). As a culmination of their theater training, each senior wrote, casted, directed and acted in their own ten minute scene. The scenes ranged from completely hilarious to incredibly thought-provoking; many explored the complicated nature of familial relationships, while others focused on what it means to grow old or how to be truly sustainable.

It was a chaotic week for everyone involved, seeing as every senior was acting in at least one other scene besides their own. This gave them plenty of lines to memorize and plenty of stress to manage, but it's safe to say that the hard work paid off.



Hannah Switzer (left) and Olivia Bouknight (right) in character as aging high school best friends.



Dmitry Hackel's scene required a complicated operating table prop complete with fake blood.

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## ***Applause Catches Up With Composer Nicholas Bentz***

*Avea Diamond* talked with the 2013 SOA graduate about his compositions and impact in the music world. He received a bachelor's degree in composition from the Peabody Institute and is currently working on his master's degree at University of Southern California.

**Avea Diamond: What is your process when transcribing a poem or piece of literature into a musical composition?**

**Nicholas Bentz:** I try to approach every piece of literature in a slightly different way when I go about setting or responding to it. For instance, I'm currently working on my first opera (a short one!), but it's forced me to really be reactive to the text in my music – definitely more so than I've ever been before. If I'm just going about setting or responding to a text, the first thing I think about is the space that that text occupies. What sort of environment does it inhabit? What happens through the course of the text? It's extremely important to make sure that either you rhetorically line up with the text or you have a really good reason for running counter to it.

**AD: What makes some pieces of literature more conducive to adaptation than others?**

**NB:** One thing that I look for when I'm browsing texts is the ability for me to add something. There are plenty of texts, poems, and subjects that I feel a great affinity to, but they've either already been set in a really fantastic way by other composers, or the work itself is too perfect for me to be able to dialogue with it. I need a text that can allow me to latch onto it and participate inside of it. I also look for texts that really create a space or an environment that's reflective of my own idiom. Some texts fit better in my voice than others. Regarding the adaptation of literature for the stage, say in an operatic context, you have to be really attuned to the dynamics of the characters. Music in opera serves as the environment that the characters inhabit and interact with. If those characters aren't interesting, or if they're flat and unchanging, that can be a real detriment to trying to stage it. My job as the composer in this context is to elaborate the mental processes of these actors on stage, and if there's nothing going on, there's not much I can add that won't come across as awkward or out-of-place in the work.

**AD: Your musical adaptation of the poem "Evening Ebb" by Robinson Jeffers was performed at an International Poetry Conference held at SOA in 2013. How important was that writing experience?**

**NB:** Composing "Evening Ebb" was definitely an important experience in my growth as a composer. It was the first time I wrote a piece that was going to be performed by my friends, so it was very special in that regard. It was also one of the first pieces I wrote for choir, and while I haven't written for choir since, I do have ideas for pieces down the road, and they wouldn't have been possible without the opportunity to set the Jeffers and have it performed at SOA.

**AD: What was the main influence for the piece, "A Cosmos in Stone, Respawned"? What symphonies have performed this piece?**

**NB:** "A Cosmos in Stone, Respawned," like a lot of my pieces recently, was an overlap of two wildly different things. I had wanted to write a piece that dealt with the action of respawning for about a year or so, but I felt like I needed something else to respond to as well. I received a commission for a piece for chamber orchestra from the Charleston Symphony, which was awesome. The only problem was that I had just two months to write this piece, which is not that much time. I went to the library and basically told myself I couldn't leave until I had an idea to contrast this 'respawn' idea against. I eventually came across this book, *A Cosmos in Stone*, by

J. David Lewis-Williams. It talks about the ancient rock art of the San people in South Africa – rock paintings that are around 70,000 years old. The book talks about San cosmology and how the shaman say that the rocks act like a screen that one enters through to find the art. This to me felt really similar in a way to the ability video games have to force us into a suspension of disbelief. While the tools and the importance of the act are wildly different, the underlying reason why they were both done have potent overlaps. That was a super interesting concept for me that I knew I wanted to explore once I had made that connection. "Cosmos" was premiered by the Charleston Symphony, but then I expanded it out to full orchestra to have it performed by the University of Southern California Symphony in Los Angeles.

**AD: What is it like hearing your compositions performed?**

**NB:** It's almost always a pretty nerve-wracking experience hearing your music performed, especially publicly. There's a huge difference between what you hear in your head or on the page compared to what the final product sounds like. Also, coming from a background in performance, it's an odd experience to sit in the audience and to have absolutely no control over what's going on.



**Bentz combines history, art, and diverse musical background to create distinctive compositions.**

**AD: Does coming from multiple musical backgrounds, vocal and strings, give you a more well-rounded perspective when composing?**

**NB:** Definitely. Being a string player in orchestras, every rehearsal is basically an orchestration lesson: you start to find out what works and what doesn't. What things take too much time to rehearse and what things the orchestra can really execute. My time as a vocalist taught me a lot about the voice, and I truly owe a lot of my writing for voice to my experiences as a singer.

**AD: How did your time at SOA impact you as a musician?**

**NB:** My time at SOA was extremely instrumental to the path that I'm on now. I think it also goes beyond the easy answer of saying that being at an arts school prepares you for a career in the arts. Of course, I'm so thankful for my time in vocal with **Mr. Rogers** and **Ms. Hammond**. SOA also taught me how to think critically and gave me the confidence in my own self to be able to question anything and everything. Whether it was **Mr. Clark's** history courses or **Ms. Fitz's** music tech courses, I was always pushed to think one step further than I had before. Skills like that are invaluable for composers, let alone any artist.

**AD: What were some moments in your childhood that may have sparked the idea of branching out into the musical arts and who were some influential figures?**

**NB:** There are really too many to mention. I feel like my journey to being a composer involved a lot of small pushes rather than one large spark of inspiration. I had started to become interested in writing music at the beginning of high school but didn't really think that there were people out there who taught composition – after all, most of the composers we hear about are dead. But I was lucky enough to be put into contact with Yiorgos Vassilandonakis over at the College of Charleston, and he took me on as a private student. I would say that he has been one of, if not the most, influential figures in my first years of learning to compose – he gave me a seriousness and sincerity regarding the art form that has followed me ever since, and I'm so thankful for everything I've learned from him.

## Street Artist Shepard Fairey Breaks Down Some of his Most Iconic Artwork

*Charlie Hastings interviewed Charleston-born graphic designer Shepard Fairey to discuss his career. Fairey is known around the world for his iconic OBEY stickers and his Barack Obama "Hope" poster.*

**Charlie Hastings:** There are important things happening all around the world that you try bring to people's attention through your art. Why is it necessary now more than ever before to understand what's happening in our world?

**Shepard Fairey:** My street art is meant to disrupt the assumption that public space and messaging should be controlled by the powerful few while the majority remain spectators or members of the bewildered herd.

I think that now, more than ever, people need to experience things that prompt them to ask questions about the things they encounter whether ads, media, or politicians. We are in a time of pervasive misinformation and disinformation. My hope is that my art can spark conversations that would not happen otherwise. Phenomenology is meant to re-sensitize and awake analysis.

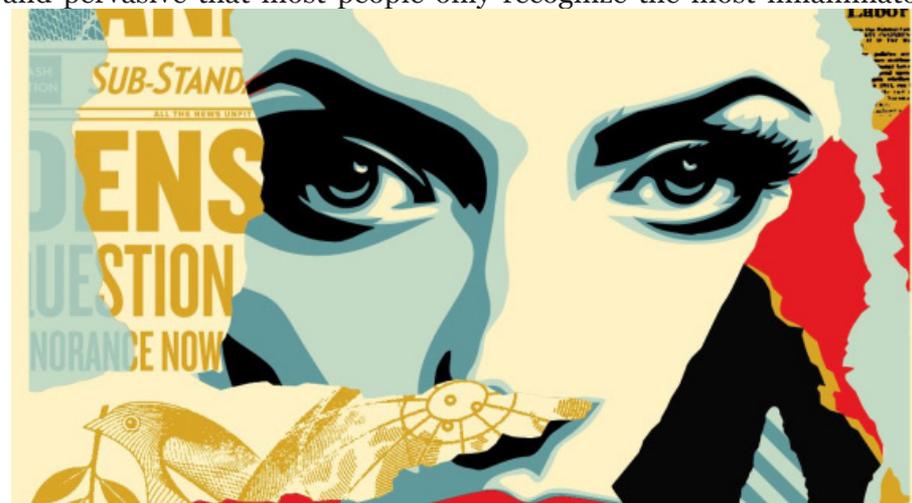
**CH:** Was there a memory or event that made you observe the way the OBEY stickers and your other work make others observe?

**SF:** There have been several conversations I've overheard with people asking each other and even arguing over what my Obey or Andre stickers "really mean." One of the reasons I pushed the sticker project beyond a short-term absurd hobby was because I noticed it stimulated curiosity in people and attracted the attention of an

independent newspaper as far back as 1990. I was fascinated and decided to push the project and its concepts further.

**CH:** I'm interested in one of your more abstract pieces, specifically "Ideal Power." What does this piece mean to you and how is it meant to comment on our society?

**SF:** The Ideal Power print was inspired by the need to address gender inequality regarding both wages and basic respect. I believe power should come from the quality and merit of one's work only rather than being influenced by any other variable including gender. Equality is important on every front, but I chose to focus on discrimination and double-standards toward women because I think the prejudice is so insidious and pervasive that most people only recognize the most inflammatory



This poster, called *Ideal Power* tackles yet another social issue: gender equality.

instances of sexism if they recognize it at all. As a husband and father of two girls, I want to see women treated with equal dignity and respect, with access to the same opportunities and wages as men.

**CH:** Things are obviously very different for kids today than they were when you were growing up; what message do you have for kids today struggling to understand what seems to be an increasingly bleak world?

**SF:** My advice to young people is to question everything, but remain optimistic and idealistic. Technology can create or solve problems, depending on how you use it. Human skills and idiosyncrasies will always have unique value. Make sure to cultivate your own unique vision and understand that as things accelerate and technology enables more quantity than ever, there will always remain a demand for uniqueness and quality.

**CH:** What message do you have for street artists who want to make their voices heard but struggle as new laws crack down on freelance art in public spaces?

**SF:** Risk taking is always important in life, not just in street art. However, being smart and careful to avoid the worst hazards is very important too. I use what I call the "inside/outside strategy." By that I mean that I will work outside the system when it doesn't offer me opportunities, but I will also infiltrate the system when I can use its machinery to further my vision. I paint a lot of legal murals by establishing relationships with building owners, art organizations, and cultural groups.

**CH:** What inspired the colorful vintage styles for sale through OBEY clothing and why does this specific style speak to you?

**SF:** Obey clothing is a merger of my art taste and fashion taste, based on my belief that art should be democratic and accessible. T-shirts were my cultural visual currency as a youth and largely still are, so I try to find a way to create graphics I want with a nod to what is relevant in fashion. Sometimes fashion trends are more aligned with my natural aesthetic inclinations, and other times I have to adapt to what is relevant in a way I'm happy with. All art and design, including fashion, are about creative problem solving. I can go retro and colorful, or modern and black and white depending on the need.



Fairey's controversial OBEY stickers take a stand against the powers that be.



Sisters Maya (12th) and Nora (6th) Green visit the east side of the Berlin Wall.

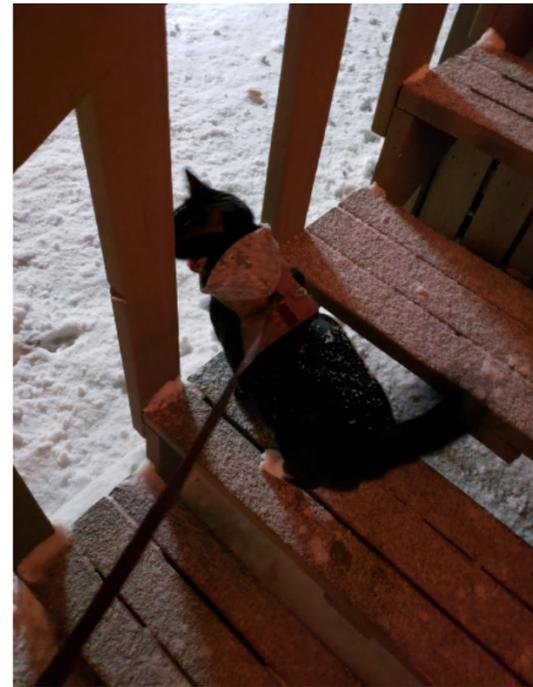


Grace Vail (11th) snowboards in West Virginia.



Caroline Blumer (11th) learns new things at the Newseum in Washington, DC.

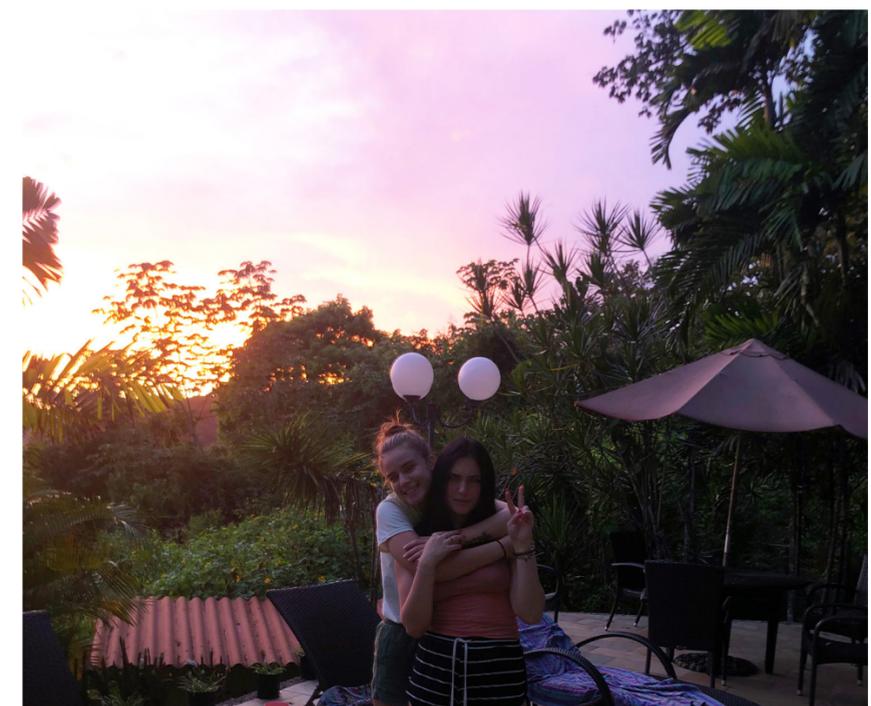
# Winter Break Adventures



Lou Collins' (12th) cat Hecate (4) explores snow for the first time in northern New Mexico.



Katie Jo (12th) and her mom see Hamilton in Chicago.



Wesley Hood (9th) enjoys the sunset in Panama.



Mariam Nguyen (10th) rides a camel and visits the Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world.



Amy Adyaeva (6th) has a blast in Disney World.

## Table for Two: Fratello's Italian Tavern

by Bojena Sabin and Sam Clarke

Restaurant: Fratello's Italian  
Where: Park Circle  
Rating: 8 buttery bites of penne out of 10

**Pomodoro e Mozzarella:** Your traditional, tried and true caprese salad but with a name you're afraid to butcher. We (and by we I mean Sam since I was too afraid to embarrass myself in front of our waiter) actually did a great job of pronouncing the name of each incredibly Italian dish name. This salad, if you call thick slices of creamy, hand pulled mozzarella



The mozzarella appetizer was delicious, albeit a little pricey.

salad, actually served as a pleasant palate cleanser before we got into the more hearty portion of our meal. Think fresh basil, balsamic, olive oil, and tomatoes laid in a lovely, layered assortment. It's fresh enough to almost trick me into forgetting how unhealthy (but perfect) the rest of our meal was. This was kind of pricey for a fairly simple and easy to make at home classic, and this might be my plebeian brain talking instead of my foodie brain, but I didn't taste much difference between homemade caprese and the pomodoro.

**Penne alla Vodka:** Wow. Genuinely wow. It might just be that all I had eaten that day was



The Penne alla Vodka came out on top!

doritos and coffee but both of us took a bite of this dish and just immediately thought "this feels right." There was something warm about it, and we scarfed it down with the same earnestness I would devour any childhood comfort food. On our *Table for Two* adventures, we've gotten the chance to try many exotic and exciting foods, but there's something to be said about eating buttery penne that just melts and fills your mouth with the sweet tang of tomatoes and a hint of vodka.

Oftentimes though, heavy pasta dishes can be overwhelmingly one texture, but that wasn't at all the case with this as the bits of prosciutto served as a chewy and pleasantly crunchy addition that gave the dish a hint of salt and a smoky quality. A side note, but one we thought made the whole experience especially wonderful, was that our waiter pre-split our food into two equal portions, so that we could avoid the awkward, plate-passing shuffle. It was especially thoughtful in addition to the already stellar service!

## Reel Talk: *Cats* (2019)

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 already infamous 2019 *Cats* adaptation.

### Clara's Take:

What can I say that hasn't already been turned into a BuzzFeed article, a scathing review, or a viral tweet?

Here's a start: I loved *Cats*. Not even in a funny, so-bad-it's-good way, like *The Room*. *Cats* has reached a level every film before it could only dream of, and I doubt anything will ever come close again. It's a film that dared to ask what the limits of film were, and then, when film answered, it didn't listen. It is a literal waking nightmare.

I'm sure most people have heard of the most horrifying moments of *Cats* (like the dancing, the singing, the direction, or anything that isn't Taylor Swift's original song "Beautiful Ghosts"), so I'm just trying to convey how it feels to experience a movie where every decision was the wrong one.

Although almost every cat sang a five minute long song about their name, I continued to refer to characters as "James Corden cat" or "the tap dancing one." That's the true power of *Cats*: it manages to somehow be horrifically boring and wildly entertaining (or terrifying) at the same time, resulting in a runtime that at once feels like three hours and five minutes. I walked into the theater thirty minutes late, and I'm pretty sure I would have had the same experience if I'd come at the start of previews or two seconds before the credits. Actually, my friend fell asleep for part of the movie, and I'm pretty sure she understood the plot better than me.

As I write this, I'm still fuming over this

year's awards season, especially the recently announced Oscar nominations. But who can even focus on that when you have *Cats*, the visual equivalent of a stomach ache? Ratings, reviews, nominations? None if it matters. *Cats* for Best Picture!



*Cats* is bound to blow you away, some way or another.

### Logan's Take:

Some things are not meant to be movies, and some are destined to come alive on the screen in horrifyingly realistic, furry wonder. This movie changed me in unforeseen ways, dividing my life into a before and after. There was no plot, I didn't understand half of the words in any given song, and the magic in this film exists with no rules or explanations. Within the first two minutes, a cat human crawled straight down a ladder and it was the worst thing I'd seen in my entire life, no cap, until the rest of the movie followed. Rebel Wilson ripping off her skin to reveal, inexplicably, more skin and a jazzy outfit was so jarring that tears came to my eyes. Were they the result of laughter that had died before escaping? The profound loss of innocence that accompanied the experience? This is as incomprehensible as a cat's real name (and yes, I'm embarrassed and surprised that I retained enough to make that reference).

What's more, this movie has bled into my personal life as well. I can't trust my friends anymore because several of them have expressed attraction towards Magical Mr. Mistofelees, who, I want to stress, is a cat, or at least a terrifying mimic of a cat. Somehow, I felt like this entire movie was something that we were never meant to see.

Once in a while, it really kicked in that I had paid actual US dollars to watch this horror show, but then I was usually distracted by the addition of a new, even more convoluted plot point (it didn't help that new characters, all with names like Ragtagtigger and Janglebunch, were being added right up until the end). Every single creative choice made was baffling.

That being said, I loved it, though I hope to never have to see it again. For those wondering whether to watch or not: Have you ever physically felt your brain liquifying? Would you like to? Good luck.

## STUDENT WORK



above: Abigail Short, 9th // below: Ariana Lane, 9th



## CREATIVE WRITING &amp; VISUAL ARTS

My Grandmother Made Me Who I Am  
Jessie Johnson, 8th grade

so I list our traditions: the shaved smooth table caked with damp flour, wet whiteness tatted on my skin. “russian

tea cakes always use 1 1/2 cup of walnuts, no less, Jessica, they won't be crumbly enough—will you go get the 10x on the counter?”

dumping the powdered sugar on the cookies, coating the soft & domed dough & Grandmom Tat's

eyes crinkling like a candy wrapper, soft & proud & peaceful; at Holy Supper we read from the gospels and eat

twelve different courses. The first one raw garlic and honey, never liked it but I've grown to appreciate the bitterness of customs;

on Easter we greet with *Khristos voskrese*. I ask my mom what the response is because I always forget & she says *Vostinu voskrese* is Russian

for “indeed he has risen”; at 1400 Mahantongo Street, Grandmom Tat, Dad & I wake up before everyone else to eat

frosted mini-wheats & play cards. the kitchen is biting cold & we wear thick socks & pick apart Hershey kisses from a bowl on the heart of the table; Grandmom

has a special recipe for halupkies. she hand rolls fillings & wraps them in boiled cabbage. Jake can eat at least

17 in one meal, & usually I don't eat the cabbage. I peel aside salted green layers to get the meat. grease licked from the corners of our mouths,

savoring & devouring; under the counter Grandmom rolls meat for halupkies on is a cupboard I like to crawl into.

move the trash can & wiggle in. I try to fit Jake back here too, we're laughing & I'm six

& he's three & mom's worried we'll get splinters. little chips of memory & I always come back, even though

I'm probably too big to fit in that space. traditions like a description, who I am & who we are & home.

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## JANUARY EVENTS

### THEATRE & DANCE

FREE EVENT IN JANUARY

**1/31 Side Show 2020**

Short presentations by students as they prepare their design and stage work for competitions, conferences and festivals

### MUSIC

STUDENT DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

**1/14 INTERNATIONAL PIANO SERIES**  
Adam Golka

**1/24 & COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON OPERA**  
**1/26** La voix humaine by Francis Poulenc  
Gianni Schicchi by Giacomo Puccini

**1/30 JAZZ: MUSIC OF DAVE BRUBECK**  
Pianists John Salmon & Annie Jeng

### HALSEY INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

FREE UNLESS DENOTED  
STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE

**1/17-2/29 EXHIBITION**  
*Butch Anthony: Inside/Out and*  
*Coulter Fussell: The Raw Materials of Escape*

**1/18 GALLERY TALK: Coulter Fussell**

**1/23 CLOTHING SWAP**

**1/28 Discussion on crafts and their**  
*emerging presence in the art world*

**1/31 Coffee with the Curators**  
FREE FOR MEMBERS

### STUDIO ART

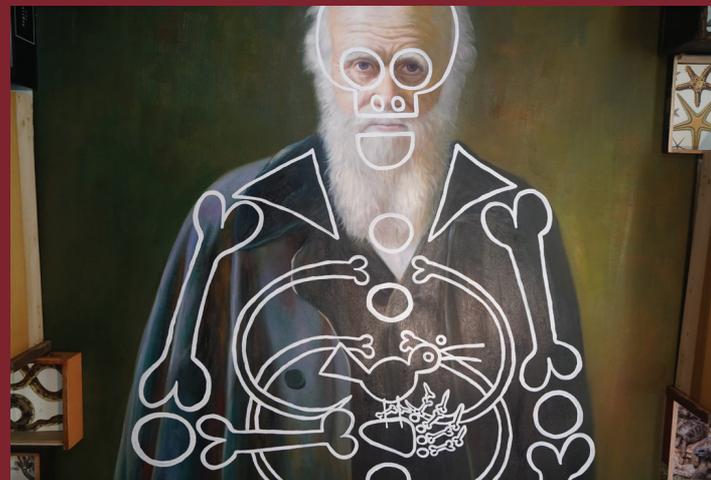
FREE

**Ongoing-Jan SENIOR THESIS**  
EXHIBITION  
Hill Gallery, Cato Center for the Arts

**Year round STUDENT EXHIBITIONS**  
Painting, drawing, photography,  
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BUTCH ANTHONY

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oppose our dear republic!

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



**THEATRE & DANCE**  
THEATRE.COFC.EDU



Theatre & Dance  
Scholarship Auditions  
Feb. 1, 2020  
TINYURL.COM/COFCTHEATREDANCE

## 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.*

At the time I am writing this we are barely even two weeks into the new decade, yet people continue to flood the internet with terrible memes.

For some reason, the internet responded to the unwarranted assassination of an Iranian Official with uninspired edits of every overdone meme format from the last decade, from distressed Steve Harvey to Mike Wazowski. There was also a fair number of Fortnite memes; one in particular was a map of Iran with a battle bus and a caption reading, “Where we dropping boys?”

I’m not opposed to memes. I liken them to the political cartoons by the likes of Thomas Nast that give us a window into the political perspectives of the time period they were created in. Similarly I’m sure historians of the future will use memes to understand the primitive minds of the early 21st century. A thousand years from now if, God-forbid, the AP College Board still exists I wouldn’t be surprised for students in 3020 saw Peppa Pig on their “Ancient American History” Exam with a stimulus based free response question of “How increased accessibility to the internet led to the deterioration of social stratification.” A truly terrifying future.

I am opposed, however, to the general ignorance of the surrounding conflict. The newly 18 year olds who fear being drafted are in fact the least in danger. It is highly unlikely that a draft would even occur. The population that will suffer the most loss of life if America chooses to bomb Iran would be Iranian civilians. Memes aren’t going anywhere anytime soon, but think about what you what you’re reading and if it’s taken the joke too far.



VS



## January Slang Dictionary

by Sam Clarke and Leo Cantrell

1. Sus- short for “suspicious”; questionable.  
i.e. “I don’t know if I trust this guy he seems a little sus.”
2. Throw shade- to say something indirectly with the intent of calling someone out.  
i.e. Girl 1: “At least my hair isn’t going to fall out when I’m 30.”  
Girl 2: “Did you just throw shade at me?!”
3. Snatched- a way to describe someone as especially good looking.  
i.e. “Girl, you look snatched today!”
4. Clout- social status; being popular.  
i.e. “They do anything for clout.”

5. Bop- an exceptionally good song; an upbeat song you can bop your head/dance to.  
i.e. “The Hoedown Throwdown by Hannah Montana is SUCH a bop.”
6. Straight up not having a good time- a meme phrase taken from the show Real Bros of Simi Valley. Used in reaction to a displeasurable situation.  
i.e. I drank two energy drinks and I’m super intolerant to caffeine so I’ve been throwing up non-stop and I haven’t slept in 24 hours. Also I have an AP Chemistry exam today and I’ve missed 16 of the last 18 classes. I am straight up not having a good time.
7. Wack- lame, subpar. Often used in reference to a video of Jamal Smith dissing another skateboarder, using the insult “wack.”  
i.e. “His hair, WACK. His gear, WACK. His jewelry, WACK. The way that he doesn’t even like to smile, WACK.”
8. Hit different- to experience something in an extraordinary way; for something to be way better than another of its kind.  
i.e. “Dang, Juice by Lizzo really hits different.”
9. And what about it- Coined by singer Ariana Grande. Basically means “so what?”  
i.e. Paparazzi: “Ariana, you’re not looking. Ariana, look up!”  
Ariana: “And what about it?”
10. Crackhead energy- wacky, erratic behavior resembling that of someone using crack cocaine, even if the person is sober. Often used by teen girls who think they’re quirky.  
i.e.: “Oops, sorry guys, I’m such a crackhead!”

## Shaping the Decade: What to Bring Back from the 1920s and What to Leave Behind

by Sam Clarke

### To Bring Back:

1. Fringe
2. Below-the-Knee dresses
3. Sport Coats
4. Swing dancing
5. Headpieces/Small hats
6. Ford Model Ts
7. The Jazz Age



### To Leave Behind:

1. Prohibition
2. Racism (oh wait)
3. Mascara cakes
4. Drawn on eyebrows
5. Women not being able to vote
6. Teaching Creationism in schools
7. Child labor



## What 2010s Meme Are You?

by Makayla Gonzalez and Aliza Reynolds

- What quote inspires you?
  - “Always forgive your enemies – nothing annoys them so much.” – Oscar Wilde
  - “But the fact that some geniuses were laughed at does not imply that all who are laughed at are geniuses. They laughed at Columbus, they laughed at Fulton, they laughed at the Wright Brothers. But they also laughed at Bozo the Clown.” – Carl Sagan
  - “The argument from intimidation is a confession of intellectual impotence” - Ayn Rand
  - “Don’t cry because it’s over. Smile because it happened.” – Dr. Seuss
  - “Keep your face always toward the sunshine—and shadows will fall behind you.” –Walt Whitman
  - “The best things about me...I’m a limited edition. There are no other copies! Bet you are thinking ‘thank the good lord!’” - Anonymous
  - “Whoever said money can’t buy happiness didn’t know where to shop.” – Gertrude Stein
- What’s a body part you would miss most?
  - Eyes
  - Brain
  - Hands
  - Calves
  - Feet
  - Tongue
  - Hair
- How do you want to impact the world?
  - Making people happy
  - Making people laugh
  - Educating others
  - Making a scene
  - Being a trendsetter
  - Creating something new
  - Being a celebrity
- What’s your perfect outfit?
  - Mom jeans and a comfy sweater
  - My mom picks it out for me.
  - A suit.
  - A band tee and ripped jeans.
  - An Adidas tracksuit
  - A classic tee shirt and jeans
  - .Cat ears, a crop top, and a pleated skirt with my white Filas
- Pick a deadly sin.
  - Sloth
  - Pride
  - Anger
  - Gluttony
  - Envy
  - Greed
  - Lust

6. You’re trapped in your friend’s mom’s closet, and no one is home.

What do you do?

- Cry
- Try and slip through the cracks.
- ...What?
- Try to break down the door.
- Steal anything designer.
- Sit there until someone opens the door
- Try on all the clothes and have a fashion show.

**Mostly As?** You are.....Doge!

Originating from early 2010, Doge is actually a Shiba named Kabosu belonging to a Japanese kindergarten teacher. She was popularized on Reddit after a picture was posted of her online, and has recently made a resurgence as a prominent meme.



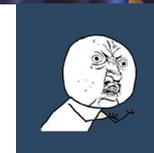
**Mostly Bs?** You are.....21!

21 was a popular Vine from 2014 posted by an anonymous user, wherein a man asks a child to solve a simple math equation, which the boy does incorrectly.



**Mostly Cs?** You are.....Y U NO!

Y U NO is a character used in memes originating from 2010 believed to be traced from the manga *Gantz*.



**Mostly Ds?** You are.....Harambe!

Harambe was a famous silverback gorilla from the Cincinnati zoo who inexplicably became a meme after... well...you know...



**Mostly Es?** You are..... D\$#n Daniel!

The phrase “D\$#n Daniel” came from a popular 2016 Twitter video where a man points out his friend’s white vans.



**Mostly Fs?** You are..... What does the fox say!

“What does the fox say?” is a song from the Norwegian comedy duo, Ylvis. It gained traction online after the release of its music video in September of 2013.



**Mostly Gs?** You are....Hit or Miss!

Hit or Miss was a TikTok trend synced to the disstrack “Mia Khalifa” by ILOVEFRIDAY.



Charlie Hastings

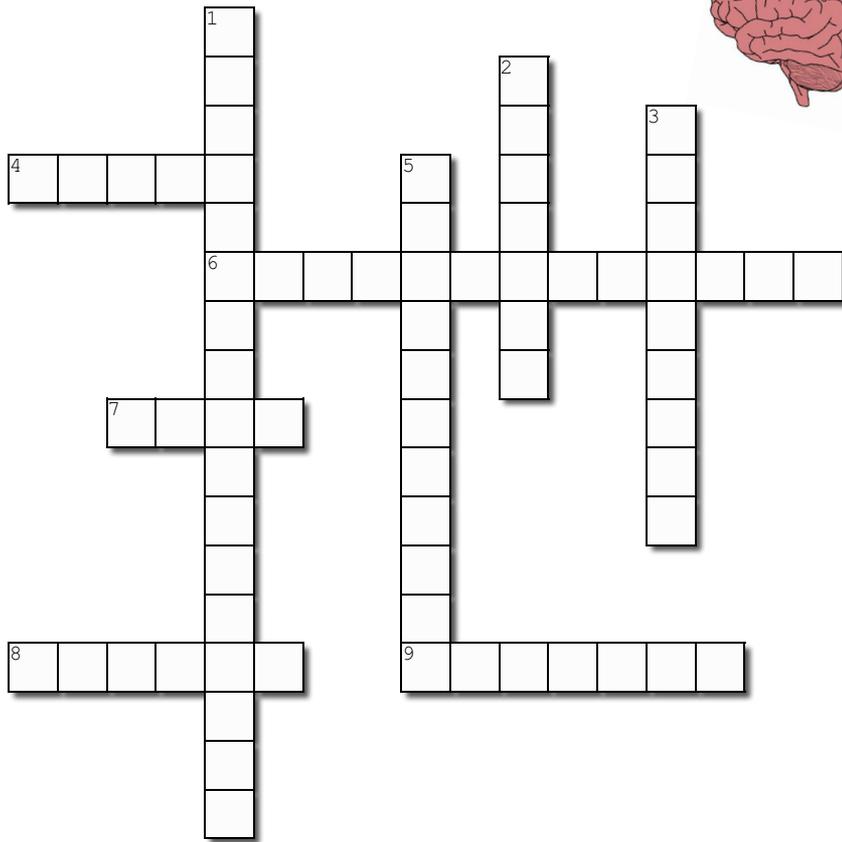


## Naas Quote of the Month

“Today’s trouble is enough for today.”

### Obscure Knowledge Crossword

by Leo Cantrell



**Across**

- 4. This fruit explodes when microwaved
- 6. The official bird of Redondo Beach, CA
- 7. This character from *The Wizard of Oz* was paid \$125/week
- 8. The dot above an i is called a
- 9. The inventor of the electric chair also worked as a

**Down**

- 1. The medical name for butt crack
- 2. Babe Ruth kept a piece of \_\_\_\_\_ under his cap to keep his head cool during games
- 3. This marine animal is 95% water
- 5. This 1992 comedy was filmed in two weeks

### Self Care Tip of the Month

by Sam Clarke



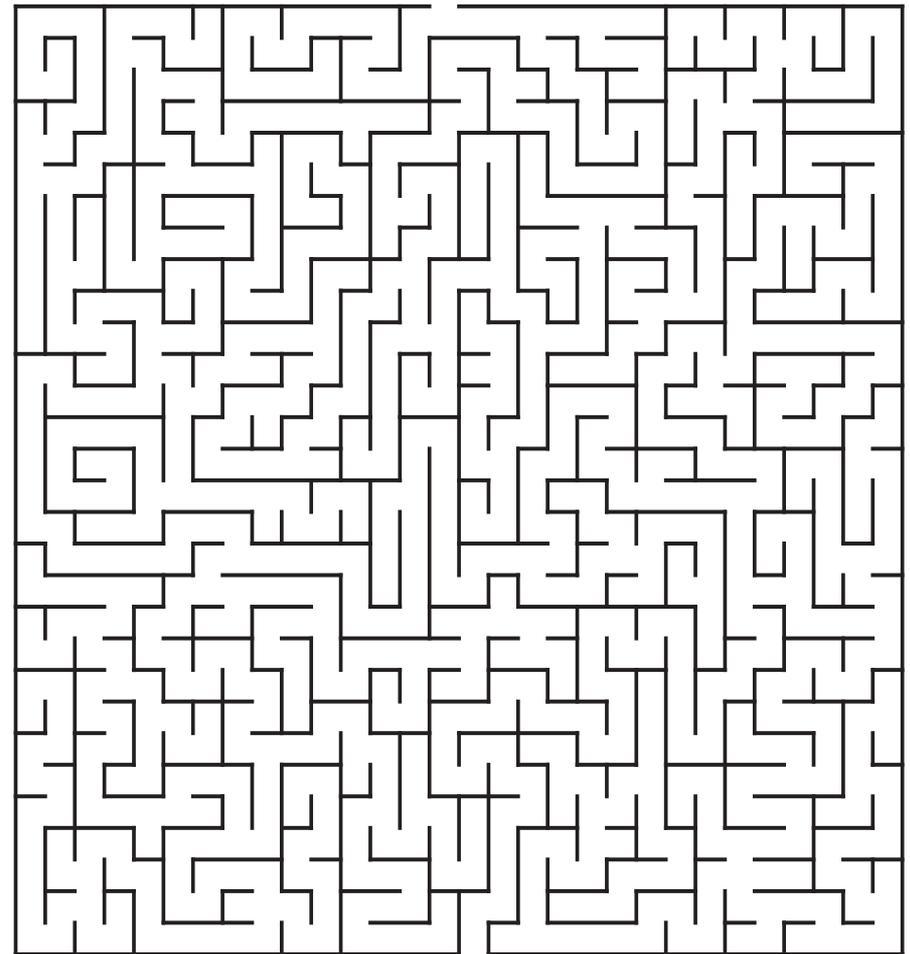
It's a new year, which means it's the perfect time to start good habits. Take this month to write down all those things you thought about doing in 2019, whether that's eating better, exercising, taking care of your skin, or something else. Writing these down will solidify them and inspire you to actually take on these good habits. Additionally, write down all the things you would like to stop doing such as: buying from fast fashion, vaping, or spending too much time on social media. Make this year YOUR year, and take care! :)

### January Cultural Calendar

by Logan Baker

Wed, Jan 1-Fri, Jan 31: **Museum Mile** (see website for details)  
 Thurs, Jan 23-Sun, Jan 26: **Charleston Jazz Festival** (7:30pm, Gaillard Center)  
 Sun, Jan 26: **Lowcountry Oyster Festival** (10am-5pm, Boone Hall Plantation)

**Carson Archie is on mile 90 of his 100 mile race! Help him reach the finish line!**  
 (isn't he amazing?)



**FINISH!!**

**Crossword Answers**

Down: 1. interglacial cleft 2. cabbage 3. jellyfish 5. Wayne's World  
 Across: 4. grape 6. Goodyear Blimp 7. toto 8. tiddle 9. dentist

## Horoscopes

by Carson Stehling



**Aquarius** (Jan. 20- Feb. 18): Just because it's Aquarius season doesn't mean you can be as weird as you want. Don't shave your head, don't hiss at people in the hall, and especially DO NOT keep talking about *Cats* like it was a good movie. It just wasn't.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19- Mar. 20): This month will mark the dawn of a new age for you Pisces. Say goodbye to emotional, sensitive Pisces and say hello to Bonecrusher: Nerves of Steel. Time to put down your teddy bear and get your bounty hunter's license. Eat nails for breakfast. Make your enemies cry.

**Aries** (Mar. 21- Apr. 19): Let me encourage you to access your inner zen this month. Your new mantra: I don't care. Lost your ID? You don't care. A friendly stranger needs directions? You don't care. Your friend is struggling with an ethical dilemma and wants your advice? You (say it with me) don't care.

**Taurus** (Apr. 20- May 20): Time to order takeout and stay in for a while. When people invite you out, you should just politely decline. You don't want to go out there. The world is cold and unforgiving. You're better off at home with a meatball sub binging an upsetting TV show about how the justice system is broken.

**Gemini** (May 21- Jun. 20): We've had just about enough of you. It's not "The Gemini Show" and we're all just characters on your wacky adventures. Although, now that I'm thinking about it, your adventures are pretty wacky; they'd make pretty good TV. But that's not the point.

**Cancer** (Jun 21- Jul. 22): If I know anything about astrology, (and I like to think I do) you have definitely been keeping up with The Bachelor and you definitely have opinions on the whole Kelsey vs. Hannah Ann debate. I don't know enough about astrology to know whose side you're on but you've for sure chosen sides.

**Leo** (Jul. 23- Aug. 22): This month will be a period of financial success for you, but not career success. It's unlikely you'll get a promotion or a pay raise, but maybe you'll find 10 dollars in the pockets of some jeans you haven't worn in a while or fall down the stairs at the public library and sue the city. In any case, cash is coming your way.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23- Sept. 22): Aquarius season will trigger a lot of spiritual growth for you, Virgo. Make sure to consult The Great Leader, because it may be time for you to ascend your corporeal form and join Zippy on Mars. You will make a beautiful, genderless, ageless space bride.

**Libra** (Sept. 23- Oct. 22): You've been coasting for too long, and now it's time to really buckle down and get to work. One more big job and then you can coast for the rest of your life. Your cut of the cash would get you a nice little place in Costa Rica, but it's the trickiest heist we've ever attempted and you've got to give it 100%.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Learn to break out of your shell this month, Scorpio. Keep in mind, however, that you only have a month. Next month, the stars will give you a new task, and

a new task the next month, and a new task the next month, and so on until the end of time! So get started on breaking out of your shell now; you don't want to get behind!

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22- Dec. 21): You're going to rule this month. It might be Aquarius season but it's YOUR moment. Blow out the candles on your friend's birthday cake. Invite yourself places you can tell you aren't wanted. Wear heels to school and clomp down the halls like you own them. It's all about you.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22- Jan.19): You sneaky little rat. You two-timing, back-stabbing, sweat-shirt-stealing ferret. I said you could BORROW my hoodie not keep it. And then you wear it to school like it's yours. Did you think I wouldn't notice? Well... you're busted.

## A Futuristic Playlist for the New Year

by Aliza Reynolds

Visit @soapplause on Spotify to listen.

- "Traveling at the Speed of Light" by Joywave
- "Something About Us" by Daft Punk
- "Sweet Love" by Junko Ohashi
- "Strange Magic" by Electric Light Orchestra
- "Celestial Bodies" by GHOST DATA
- "Mayonaka no Door / Stay With Me" by Miki Matsubara
- "Andromeda" by Gorillaz (feat. DRAM)
- "Space Song" by Beach House
- "Dripping with Fire" by Chaos Chaos
- "Endlessly" by Muse
- "Instant Crush" by Daft Punk
- "Magic City" by Gorillaz



Spotify



Jude says, "all the cool kids RECYCLE!"

Message Sponsored by the Eastlake Community Foundation

## The Trivia Challenge: Pop Culture of the 2010s

by Charlie Hastings

What's up SOA? It's been a decade since we've quizzed anybody, but since the 2010s are now history, let's see how well our Gen Z SOA students know the pop culture of their childhood decade.

### Questions:

1. How many iPhones have been released since 2010 (including the plus)?
2. The music video for what South Korean pop song became viral in 2012?
3. What was the meme of the decade as voted by social platform Reddit?
4. Super Bowl 50 was in 2016; what team won?
5. Brazil hosted the World Cup in 2014; who won?
6. Pokemon Go went viral when it hit the app stores. What year was it released?
7. What hit Cartoon Network show about a bluejay and his raccoon best friend ended in 2016?
8. What is considered the most used slang word of the 2010s?
9. What was the highest-grossing movie of the decade?
10. What popular meme depicting Bugs Bunny became 2018's most viral meme?

### Bojena Sabin 11th grade

1. 24
2. Gangnam style
3. F
4. Broncos
5. France?
6. 2016
7. Regular show
8. Lit
9. Endgame
10. Big chungus



6/10

### Grey Gaidies & Axel Gruber 7th grade

1. 13
2. Gangnam style
3. Free shavocado
4. The Patriots
5. Brazil
6. 2016
7. Adventure Time
8. No cap
9. Endgame
10. uh oh stinky



3/10

Even in the new decade, Bojena remains unbeatable. It's about time for someone to take her throne!

[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 Charlie Hastings

### Answers

1. 20
2. Gangnam Style
3. Doge
4. Broncos
5. Germany
6. 2016
7. Regular Show
8. Bruh
9. Avengers: Endgame
10. Big Chungus

## Sign of the Month: Year of the Rat Demonstrated by Arriona Conklin



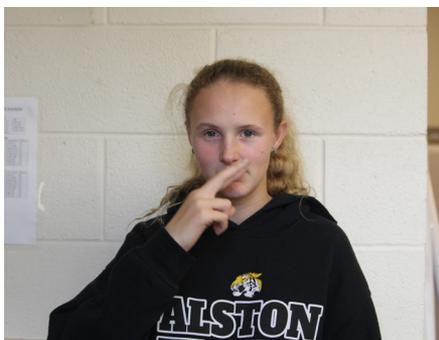
1. Holding your right fist steady, wind left fist around in a circle (towards chest and out).



2. Let left hand rest on top of right.



3. Cross your fingers and point to forehead.



4. Bring crossed fingers down in front of your mouth, brushing your nose in the process.

Photos by Luke Shaw



“Gymnastics.”

-Gray Gaidies, 7th grade  
Visual Arts



“Songwriting.”

-Mrs. Foster, High School  
English Teacher



“Jewelry Making.”

-Dakota Townsend, 6th  
grade Theatre



“Luxury Cooking. They can  
work in the cafeteria during  
3rd block and make all the  
food using free/child labor.”

-Nic Tuemler, 11th grade  
Piano



“Meme Appreciation and  
Composition.”

-Lila Carpenter, 8th grade  
Dance

# If you could add another major to SOA, what would it be?

## by Sophia Leonardi and Luke Shaw

Photos by Luke Shaw



“Film TV.”

-Mr. Hammes, Creative  
Writing Teacher



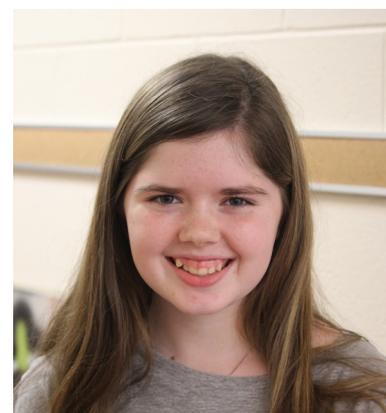
“Competitive Sleeping.”

-Jon Hendrickson, 10th  
grade Band



“Architecture and Interior  
Design.”

-Mrs. Greco, School  
Counselor



“Cosmetics.”

-Ellison Holland, 9th  
grade Fashion & Costume  
Design



“Exotic Dancing.”

-Dmitry Hackel, 12th grade  
Theatre