

Applause

Volume 23, Number 4 School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC December 2021



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Thank you for your support!

From the Editor

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the December edition of *Applause*, the twenty-second anniversary issue! This issue focuses on the Strings major at SOA, with features on Strings grads and a review of the Christmas Spectacular at the Gaillard Center, featuring SOA's Strings, Band, Vocal, and Deaf programs. Check out Grace Baker's review of the Christmas Spectacular on page __!

December's always a busy month for students and teachers. This last week before break was full of tests, and the week before that, the orchestra and choir spent hours both in and outside of school for the Christmas Spectacular! So bring it down a gear and relax over break.

Speaking of break, if you go anywhere cool, message us on Instagram (soaapplause) for a chance to be featured in the next issue of *Applause*. It's always really cool to see what people did with their three weeks off. And I guess we have a TikTok account now (soa_applause), courtesy of our Business Manager, Madelynne Burt.

See you next year, SOA!

Your Editor-In-Chief,
Peter O'Malley

Peter O'Malley



Applause

since 1999, the official student publication of

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SOA Calendar

by Remy Looper

December 17: Half-Day for Students
(Teacher Workday)

December 20 - January 2: Winter Break

December 31: New Year's Eve

December 31: Deadline for Juniors
ordering Rings

January 1: New Year's Day

January 3: Schools Closed (Teacher
Workday)

January 4-6: Junior Dance Composition
Performance

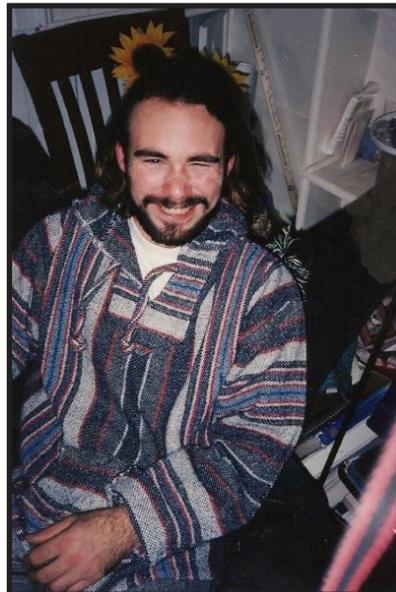
January 13: Dance Senior Thesis

January 14: End of First Semester

January 17: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
(Schools Closed)



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Florida State University**

by Peter O'Malley

**Where Were They Then: Mr.
Colie**

by Giovanni Cusatis

**SOA Symphony and Vocal
Perform at Gaillard**

by Grace Baker



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Sports at an Arts School

by Giovanni Cusatis

While SOA sets the example for the rest of the state in the arts and academics, one thing we lack is sports. Sports and their absence at SOA has always been a matter of debate. Many think sports aren't present at SOA because it's an art school, and there isn't a desire in students to compete for their school. Contrary to those beliefs, the main reason there isn't a sports program at SOA is due to the rigorous performance schedule of SOA students. If one team joins the South Carolina High School League, no student can continue to compete for their home school teams.

SOA has had sports before, notably the basketball team and volleyball team, but they are exclusively middle school teams that don't compete against other high schools. If SOA formed a high school basketball team they would compete against schools such as James Island and West Ashley and no other SOA students could swim for JI, play football for Wando, or run track for Stall because SOA is now its own school for sports. This allows most students to play for their home schools, the school they would have gone to by default if not getting into SOA.

Not all students can play for their home school due to zoning issues and schedule conflicts. This affects many SOA students as they would then not have the opportunity to have the high school sports experience they desire. However, new sports programs have emerged to give homeschoolers and art school students a chance to compete against other school teams. One example of those teams is the Lowcountry Wildcats, a team many SOA students have played for. The Wildcats have junior varsity and varsity baseball, basketball, soccer, and volleyball teams. They are a part of the Trident League with fourteen other teams. They compete against other home school athletic teams and high school teams in a twenty game season that ends in a state tournament. Junior Theater Major Ryan Dickerson is playing varsity basketball for the Wildcats this season. He decided to play for the Wildcats because it was more convenient and he wanted to join a friend's team. They have had a tough schedule their first seven games of the season and are 2-5. "The season is going well, but we've only been playing really hard teams, so it's okay." This is his third year playing for the Wildcats and his first playing varsity. His favorite thing about the team is "the sense of community and how [they] play together." His personal goals are to win the state tournament. His next game is against Providence Homeschool on 12/18.

Sports programs like the Wildcats are great for students from SOA who can't compete for their home school because they provide the high school sports experience many arts students desire.

HS Visual Arts Teacher Paints "Pawtraits" as Tribute to Pets

By Lauren Holladay

Ms. Cimballa has always felt a connection to animals, as



Ryan (#20) takes a 3-Pointer

Provided

she grew up with pets from a young age. This connection led her to begin her own small business, Lowcountry Pawtraits, specializing in creating the perfect portrait to honor pets. She has found that her customers, along with herself, love to have tributes to their pets in their homes: "When I receive portraits of my pets from my students, those are always my favorite kind of gifts." Knowing how special it is to receive one of these amazing portraits gives her an indication of their significance when making them for others. She feels that "pets are an important part of the family, and being able to honor them through [her] art only makes it more meaningful to [her]."

Over the past few years, Mrs. Cimballa has taken time away from creating Pawtraits to focus on art for herself and what she was more interested in personally. She worked on many different pieces including a series of storm paintings, and even a series of nontraditional landscapes that featured places in the Charleston area. After this time away, Mrs. Cimballa has found her way back to painting Pawtraits.

Mrs. Cimballa's Pawtraits take an average of a week to complete. She starts the process off by requesting multiple different photos of the customer's pet to capture the pet's personality in her painting. She has found that if she has not met the pet, it is harder to recreate their true character on canvas, so a surplus of pictures help. Mrs. Cimballa has created Pawtraits in many different mediums such as acrylic and oil paints, but her favorite is watercolor since the fluidity and spontaneity of the paint give the piece more energy. Her ability to recreate a pet's personality on canvas shines through the paint in these Pawtraits, and serves as a meaningful tribute to pets for all pet owners.

If you are interested in a Lowcountry Pawtrait, you can email Ms. Cimballa at anne_cimballa@charleston.k12.sc.us or message her on Instagram @cimballa.

Art History: Modernism, a Musical Rebellion

by Aryana Chinn

If I'm being entirely honest, this was a hard one to write. I went through at least four different options to see what I could write about before I discovered a topic relating to this month's major, Strings, that I could understand. I'm sure if you happen to be a musician, you're probably rolling your eyes, but for the rest of us, Modernism is going to be the most interesting and easy era to comprehend. I love it! It is strange, thought-provoking, and diverse. It was a time for artists to decide they weren't going to follow the rules, but instead to make them themselves.

This musical change started in the first half of the twentieth century, and the world was going crazy. Many major events were happening around the world, specifically in Europe and North America. Some of these included the Franco-Prussian war, the Spanish-American War, the Russian Revolution, WWI, the Great Depression, and WWII. Artists in all different mediums were finding ways to cope with the darkness of the world that never seemed to end,



Ms. Cimballa's most recent Pawtrait

Anne Cimballa



Alban Berg, a prominent 20th Century composer and leading figure in the Second Viennese School

so they decided to experiment.

Think of modernism like an umbrella; Musicians started to branch off and try new things such as Impressionism (Remember that from the September issue?) and Primitivism, a response to European Nationalism. Some key characteristics of this era were a rejection of tonality (the arrangement of pitches in a certain key), and meter. The revolutionary concept of atonality asks the question, “What if this piece isn’t given a set key?” Through atonality comes the twelve-tone method of writing. There are twelve steps in an octave, and the twelve-tone method uses a random order of these steps to create a row. Composers including Arnold Schoenberg, Alban Berg, and Anton Webern adopted this method and were prominent figures within the Second Viennese School. A great example of twelve-tone writing is Berg’s violin concerto, perhaps one of the most popular atonal works. The real impressive thing about this technique is that it becomes a great puzzle, both for the composer and for the listener, to create and find the twelve-tone row. Notes that correspond with each other have to be carefully placed to create balance within the piece.

Also making moves in this era was Igor Stravinsky, who wrote *The Rite of Spring*, *Petrushka*, and *Firebird*. *The Rite of Spring* is considered one of the most influential musical pieces of the twentieth century. Its plot is controversial, centering around Pagan mythology. In its premiere, the crowd was so loud with disgust that the dancers couldn’t hear the music! The performance continued on nonetheless, helping to build the energetic and brash feel the dancers needed.

Modernism is an acquired taste. It is entirely diverse, and there are so many genres within to explore. Some works from the twentieth century could be described as a cat walking on the piano, and others tell stories people could understand without any prior knowledge of the piece. The musicians and creators that participated in this revolution of art took the world by storm, and though initially enraged, the public eventually accepted it. That said, don’t be afraid to experiment or do something weird in your major. The weirdos make history.

Strings Student Perspective: Tyson Gallerani

by Emma Brubaker

Each issue, Applause staff writer Emma Brubaker interviews a student from one of SOA’s eight majors. This month, she reached out to 9th grade Strings Major Tyson Gallerani.

Emma Brubaker: What would you like to accomplish before you graduate from SOA?

Tyson Gallerani: To make some lifelong friends. Right now the people you know you won’t even be thinking about in ten years, so I want to find some people who I know I can trust later on in life. I also want to learn how to do a backflip, because if you can play bass, electric guitar, and you can do a backflip, you’d be the coolest guy in the world. I hope one day I will have a career where I can do what I love, and I think SOA is a great way for me to achieve that. I hope to accomplish staying out of trouble, playing bass is the easy part. I just need to focus on my career and not get distracted by silly things. I hope to accomplish making high school better for everyone and to set a good example to my peers.



EB: What was it like auditioning for your major?

TG: Auditioning for my major was easy. I love playing bass, so whenever I have an audition I get excited. When I practice bass I don’t consider it practice. I just play it because it’s fun. Bass came easy to me because I have big fingers. If I could give advice for an audition it would be to love your instrument and you won’t have to worry about messing up. If you love bass, bass will love you back and I love bass a lot. To some things up, an audition should be fun because if you don’t find it fun why are you doing it. Do what you love, and you’ll be successful at it.

Winter Fashion Advice

by Kenya Hines

It’s finally Winter, aka, my second favorite season (after Fall, of course.) This is for two reasons. Reason one: Christmas. Who doesn’t love seeing the shimmering lights, drinking hot cocoa, and having to stop your cousins from fighting over who gets to play on the Nintendo Switch next? Reason two: clothes. Yes, it may be freezing cold but that just gives me an excuse to layer up without anyone questioning why I’m wearing earmuffs in Summer. So, this month I will be recommending comfortable, cozy, and cute clothes for this holiday season!

To start off, you can’t go wrong with a classic turtleneck. If you want to look like you just won the lottery, pair it with a trench coat, or if you want to look like The Rock, you can wear one of your favorite necklaces and a fanny pack. I also want to mention a new favorite clothing combo of mine: tank tops over long sleeves. This looks really good if you pull the tank top neckline down a bit, and I recommend lace tank tops. You can find a pack of these at Walmart for just a few dollars. I mentioned collared shirts in the last issue, but I want to mention it again because they’re the absolute best. I like wearing them under tacky holiday sweaters and thick pullovers this time of year. An item I’ve been wearing a lot recently is arm and leg warmers. They look so cute and are perfect to wear if you want to look boujee while holiday shopping. If you plan on wearing those, I recommend wearing a matching pair of earmuffs or a fuzzy headband! You can’t wear one without the other!

As for a more obvious item, boots are essential for the winter. They’re great for keeping your calves warm (duh), but they’re also great at making you taller than you actually are, which makes me gleam with joy. Jackets are also an item you can’t go wrong with. If you’re still riding on the Y2K wave, wear a velvet zip-up hoodie and really seal the deal with matching pants or bootcut jeans. Like stated earlier, trench coats are a staple of fashion and will never go out of style, along with leather jackets. On the topic of leather, this is the perfect time to mention leather pants! They’re much more comfortable to wear in the winter because sweat won’t be dripping down every nook and cranny.

A few prints that I will advise are zebra print, stars, snowflakes, and zig zag. Don’t ask me what zig-zag has to do with winter (stan Aespa), it just fits. Lastly, white, black, forest green and bright red will



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be your go-to colors this season. The items I listed can all be found on Amazon, Shein, H&M, and Forever 21!

The Holiday Festival of Lights Provides Holiday Cheer

by Grace Baker and Norah Bernstein

Since 1989, the Holiday Festival of Lights at James Island County Park has been a staple event in our community. With a line to get in that can be miles long, everyone looks forward to piling in the car to see those creative light displays. The 2-mile loop contains displays of pictures from fairy tales and bedtime stories, classic Christmas characters, Hanukkah representation, and recognizable attractions of Charleston.

Perfect for all ages, the Festival of Lights integrates childhood favorites beginning with Sea World. This decorated display features beloved sea creatures such as sharks, turtles, and if you're lucky, you can spot Santa shredding some waves! Toyland looks as if Santa brought everything that you ever wished for as a child. Finally, Candyland is a childhood dream. Displays of ice cream, candy, and all of Santa's favorite desserts surround you.

Some of the most famous nursery rhymes are also featured throughout the lights to pertain to the young ones along for the ride and to bring back memories for those who heard the rhymes years before. Little Miss Muffet is portrayed with a young girl spooked by a spider slowly descending on a string, adding fun theatrics to the old tale. If you see a large family tumbling onto a large, old shoe, don't be alarmed! That

is just the old lady who lives in a shoe trying to herd her children inside for supper. The lights beautifully capture these delightful childhood stories and they manage to catch the eye of every passerby.

Of course Santa has to take time off as well, so he can be seen partaking in different activities all over the park. As you enter, he is seen making a hole in one repeatedly. Next to the campground, Santa has his own RV parked outside, as he roasts marshmallows with Rudolph. Catch him fishing close to Sea World! He mounts his motorcycle close to the end of the lights to bid you farewell.

After being stuck in the car with your friends and family for what feels like an eternity, make a stop at Santa's Village or Winter Wonderland for some hot cocoa and gifts. It is here that you can make smores over one of the three huge fire pits, and take a stroll past the Christmas boards created by many local elementary schools. And for all those children at heart, don't miss your turn on the carousel. Gifts are also available for purchase like stuffed animals and custom ornaments. Ellie Garner, a Senior Band major, works at Santa's Attic, one of the most popular gift shops on the grounds. It gets pretty busy even on weekdays, customizing "over 50 ornaments on one Tuesday night." She's been going to the lights as long as she can remember, along with many of the attendants that drive through year

after year. To finish your visit to Santa's Village, stop by Santa himself and say hello.

For those of you who want to hold onto the holiday spirit, you can attend until the first of the year. Don't miss out on the event of the season. Happy Holidays!

December Slang Dictionary

by Norah Bernstein and Madelynne Burt

Curve: to lead someone on just to ghost them

(verb) "After months of leading him on, she curved the poor guy."

Emo: to be 'in your feels'

(adj.) "I've been feeling emo since listening to 'All Too Well (Sad Girl Autumn Version)'."

Ghost: to avoid talking to someone until they take a hint and leave you alone.

(verb) "I don't know what happened. I thought things were going well, but we haven't talked since our last date. I think they are ghosting me."

Hear me out: a pretext to saying something out of pocket.

(phrase) "Hear me out, I'm not into older guys, but your grandpa..."

In your feels: to be emotional; feelings of happiness, excitement, gratefulness, anger, embarrassment, disgust, and especially sadness.

(phrase) "She's been in her feels since he ghosted her."

Mid: something that is average; used as an insult to something that is of poor quality

(adj.) "Her new album was pretty mid. I was excited for nothing."

Out of pocket: something that is inappropriate and shouldn't have been said in conversation

(phrase) "She was acting so rude at my birthday, saying some totally out of pocket things."

Skinty: used to describe someone who is looking very skinny

(adj.) "Yas! That dress makes you look so skinty."

Soy: an over-exaggeration of "so," popularized by SOA Senior Raily Fogle

(adv.) "You look soy cute today."

Yassify: to make someone or something more glam.

(verb) "If you think I'm not cute, just wait until I get dressed, put on makeup, and become yassified."



Mr. Naas Quote of the Month



Former SOA Computer Science teacher, Mr. Naas, has shared his wisdom with Applause for many years, and we would like to continue that tradition after his retirement.

"Watch your thoughts; they become words. Watch your words; they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habits. Watch your habits; they become character. Watch your character; it becomes your destiny."— Lao-Tze

We all look forward to spending time with family and friends, enjoying special food, and the company of family and friends during this holiday season. Many of us also see this as a time for reflection and making resolutions as we contemplate the upcoming new year. This is a moment to gather your thoughts. Then take these thoughts and put them into words. Write them down as your New Year's resolutions. As you start the new year, prepare to put these words into action. If you are intentional, the actions will become good habits that enhance and expand your character as you create your destiny.

Sass Attack: The Canvas Controversy

*“Sass Attack” was started in 2007 by Applause writer David Sass and has been an Applause column for fourteen years. Our senior Creative Writer, **Madelynne Burt**, has decided to continue the tradition.*

Before quarantine, our school days were limited to seven hours, with a few homework assignments a night to keep us from forgetting everything, but still, we had minimal outside work. Because all of our classes have been digitized since the pandemic, we have to be on-call for school 24/7.

Imagine this: you’re chilling in your backyard with your dog on a Saturday afternoon, homework complete, enjoying your weekend, when suddenly you get a notification on your phone. “Who could it be?” you wonder. Your mom asking you to come in for a snack? A friend asking to hang out? The person you have a crush on finally reaching out? No, no, and no. It’s the dreaded Canvas app. A teacher posted a new assignment due Monday, and you’re suddenly filled with panic.

You worry you won’t be able to make it to your Sunday plans: brunch and shopping or hanging out at a friend’s house or a visit to the beach. Whatever it is you had planned is at risk. You have a choice: rush to get it done today, stay up late to be tired all of tomorrow, or cancel your plans and do it tomorrow. Either way, you lose your weekend and are burdened with hours of homework.

If an assignment is incomplete by the end of class, it is not pushed off until the next class anymore; it is now homework on top of your already hefty to-do list. You are punished with exponential assignments because you don’t write essays or complete worksheets with super speed.

As you work at your after-school job, all that races through your head is, “how will I get it all done?” You struggle to adequately complete your tasks because the list in your mind is growing with every notification buzz.

When you finally leave, the sun has been long set, and your mind is racing. You blast your music on your drive home to hold onto your last few moments of freedom. Pulling into your driveway only fills you with more anxiety. You hope to complete five hours of homework in two. It’s been at least three days of staying up past midnight, trying to keep your eyes open as you finish typing.

It’s worrisome that someday soon, it will snow, or we’ll have



to evacuate for a hurricane, and they’ll expect us to stay on top of the Canvas assignments- no more free weekends. Even our holiday breaks are filled with upcoming deadlines.

It’s all just a lot to handle for a bunch of anxious teens. Even though schools plead us to get at least seven hours of sleep and eat a well-balanced breakfast, they trample us with tests to study for, books to read, homework to finish, and extra assignments on Canvas. On top of our many extracurriculars, part-time jobs, personal responsibilities, volunteering, and college applications for Seniors, we barely get a chance to catch our breath.

Unusual Pets: Rats

by Remy Looper

Let’s talk rats. No, not snitches, and no, not giant, rabid NYC subway critters that bite your toes and steal your McRibs. I’m talking about *Rattus Norvegicus F. Domestica*. That’s a mouthful for pretty much anyone, so these critters are more commonly referred to as the Fancy Rat or as the Domestic Rat. “But mysterious disambiguated voice,” you might ask, “Why would anyone ever want a rat for a pet?” Oh, boy howdy, let me tell you why.

Contrary to the popular belief that rats are filthy street animals, rats are actually incredibly clean. They groom themselves constantly, arguably more than cats do, and cats can be seen cleaning themselves almost all the time. They can be litter trained, and even if they aren’t, they’re also easy to clean up after if you have the right tools. Unless their cage isn’t kept clean, they have no smell, and very rarely require any sort of bathing.

Rats are, let’s face it, downright cute. With their pink ears, small stature, tiny, grabby paws, and adorable beady eyes, it can be hard not to fall in love with them. Unfortunately, most people only see the rabid street variant, so they never get to understand the pure bliss that is a baby rat staring at you from its nest.

If the former two points haven’t convinced you of their worth as a housepet, they are incredibly smart, ranking alongside - and above! - many dog breeds that are known for their intelligence. They can be taught to recognize their name and come when called, and absolutely adore any kind of play that requires problem-solving skills. They’re highly trainable, and rat obstacle courses are not uncommon in the slightest. This can be a minor inconvenience when they’ve learned just the right way to steal your



One of Remy’s rats

Remy Looper



Taskforce

food right from under your nose, but it's hard to be angry when they're snuggled up next to you eating your french fries.

Lastly, let's talk about rat care. I'd be lying if I said they were low maintenance pets. They require a variety of food every day, including both block pellets alongside a mixture of leafy greens and proteins such as nuts or eggs. Their cage requires at least a cubic foot of space per rat and room to climb. They need many toys to keep them mentally stimulated. They require bedding to burrow, hutches to hide in, ladders, bridges, hammocks... the list goes on. They also need a minimum of one hour of free roam time outside of the cage every day. Cage cleaning is required once or twice a week to avoid smell, and it's recommended you shuffle their cage layout to keep them from getting bored. Rats only live 3-4 years, which can be difficult for people who need long-term companions or have a long grieving process.

Sounds like a lot, right? While at times taking care of them can seem like a constant job, over time, the work gets easier and more rewarding, and soon caring for your ratties will become routine.

If you're looking to adopt a rat at any time, only purchase from a reputable breeder such as White Wolf Rattery (<https://whitewolfrattery.com/>) and Evolution Rattery (<https://evolutionrattery.com/>) to ensure you're receiving happy, healthy rats. You'll soon discover a new kind of joy that only comes from rats.

Carsyn's Take: The Fall of Jake Gyllenhaal

by Carsyn Smith

I have never really been in a bunch of fandoms, besides Little Mix obviously, and I am by no means a "Swiftie," however this drama has somehow reached me and I am thoroughly interested. Looking at this whole situation from a fan's perspective, it seems like a majority of people believe that Taylor was in the right. However, when looking at this from an outsider's perspective, it seems like she is being a little over dramatic and is letting her emotions make some of the decisions for her. Now, before you attack me, here are the facts. On November 12, 2021, Taylor Swift released her album "Red (Taylor's Version)" which is in a series of re-releases of her projects that she has been doing since she does not have the rights to her first six original albums and is not earning revenue. One of the songs on this album is called "All Too Well (10 Minute Version)." Yes, you heard it right when I say it is ten minutes long! However, I don't really mind how long it is because of the story telling Swift does throughout the piece.

Along with this song came a short film uploaded to Youtube featuring actor Dylan O'Brien and actress Sadie Sink. Sink depicts Swift while O'Brien depicts ... duh duh duh Jake Gyllenhaal. Gyllenhaal and Swift started dating in 2010 and broke up in 2011. With this relationship came quite a bit of talk for the age difference between the two which, when they first began dating, Taylor was 20 and Jake was 29. Personally, I believe that it is okay to have age gaps later on in life where it may not matter as much, but for early on life, it can become controversial. Seeing as Swift was barely an adult, and Gyllenhaal was in the peak of his adult stage, there were many obstacles that had faced the two, which we get a peek at in the short film. From the visuals of Gyllenhaal, played by O'Brien, he would gaslight Taylor into not believing that he was acting differently around his friends and ignoring her. Along with not showing



up to her 21st birthday and the aftermath of him still having her now iconic red scarf and his history of having age gaps in his relationships, Gyllenhaal was called out. To be honest, I can see exactly where Swift is coming from with this whole situation, however there is a little part of me who is confused since Swift has also had her fair share of age gap romances as well. She had also been with actor Tom Hiddleston with an 8-9 year age gap in 2016 and has also dated a 17 year old at age 20. But, again, we will never know what happened in those relationships and if it was as hard on Taylor as the relationships just mentioned. So, does Gyllenhaal deserve all this hate? I think he should be held accountable, however, I don't think that it is as big of an issue as everyone is making it seem. Either way, thanks for this masterpiece of a song, Taylor!

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Daughter of Holocaust Survivors Speaks on Daffodil Project

by Grace Baker

On Friday, December 10th, Regina “Reggie” Guigui, the daughter of Polish and Czechoslovakian Holocaust survivors visited SOA to speak about the hardships that victims faced throughout this infamous event. She also spoke on the Daffodil Project and its goal: to create a Living Holocaust Memorial to honor the 1.5 million children who were murdered by planting 1.5 million daffodils across the globe. The yellow pigment symbolizes the yellow Stars of David that the Jewish population had to wear during the Holocaust and the daffodils’ ability to revitalize every spring reminds us that these stories are immortal and still relevant today. As of now, over 660,000 have been planted in memoriam at 266 various locations.

Senior Madelynne Burt, cohort leader of The Remember Project, hosted the event on Friday. She joined the effort two years ago to passionately spread awareness about the Holocaust and put a stop to antisemitism in the Charleston community. Through the project, she has met many children of Holocaust survivors and graciously brought Regina to the Bonds Wilson Campus to share her stories of growing up in a survivors’ household and speaking on behalf of children like her throughout the world.

Although this event happened nearly 77 years ago, the effects of antisemitism are still prominent in today’s society. The youngest generation of Jews are facing some of the same prejudice their ancestors experienced during the Holocaust. To emphasize just how many children were lost, Reggie expressed that if she were to be “silent for one minute for each victim, that silence would last eleven years and nine months.” She explained the common misconceptions Nazi Germany portrayed during their creation of the “Aryan” race. They believed Judaism was an inferior race when it is not a race in the slightest. It is a religion shared by Asians, Caucasians, Indians, and many other races that share similar beliefs under the large umbrella of Judaism. Reggie spoke on common misconceptions like these, translating the core objectives of the Remember Project.

The event in the library attracted a substantial amount of students and teachers interested in listening to her perspective and in the spring, the project will create a beautiful arrangement of daffodils to remind us of the children who lost their lives in the Holocaust.

Christmas in a Big Family

by Sullivan Eppes

If you don’t already know, my family is big; not from distant relatives, but from siblings. I have seven siblings, eight if you count my sister-in-law. And I’m pretty sure this has something to do with how we celebrate Christmas. Obviously, I have only one family so I got another point of view from fellow staff writer, Carsyn Smith on what Christmas



From left to right: Amelia Burt, Madelynne Burt, Reggie Guigui, and Dr. Cook

Madelynne Burt

is like in her house of four people.

My family always begins the season on Thanksgiving, when we draw names for our family Secret Santa. Some of my fondest Christmas memories come from Secret Santa like those last-minute Walmart present runs that we would do on December 23. Carsyn’s

family traditions are much more akin to a typical portrayal of Christmas. “On Christmas, we all get up in the morning and have to wait for our parents to wake up,” says Smith. “Then we go down the stairs to see our stockings while my mom stops us at every three steps to say her famous line, ‘Hold it.’ My dad films this interaction while we finally get down the stairs to open our stockings.” I think this tradition is really fun and frankly less chaotic than Secret Santa.

Another thing my family of eleven probably does differently is decorations. During Christmas, our house will be filled with various nutcrackers and maybe a garland or two. Outside you will find a singular strand of lights that lines our porch; kinda sad. On the other end of the spectrum, “We are serious Christmas decorators. We usually have an average of seven trees in our house around that time of year, which includes different sizes, a real one that goes in the dining room, three big fake trees, trees in both my brother and I’s rooms, and others around the house. Not to mention the outside of our house with fairy Christmas lights and more,” Smith says.

Though our two families of different sizes celebrate Christmas differently, The Smiths and the Eppes both share the true meaning of Christmas: presents. Just kidding... or am I?

Poet Ron Rash Offers Unique Perspective on Literature to AP Class

by Ryan Hinske

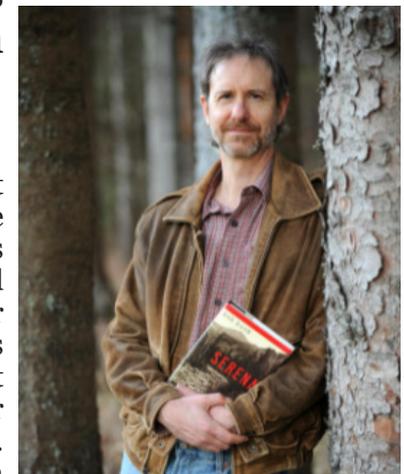
Information is thrown at us every day in school, but in the mind of Ron Rash, poetry gives us skills of creativity, imagination, and wonder that are not taught, but rather discovered on our own. “Sometimes literature can help us see a place that we’ve never been to or would never go to without it,” Rash says. To Dr. Cusatis’s AP Literature class, Ron Rash’s poetry opened that door.

Inspired by the Welsh poetic methods of internal rhyme, consonance, and assonance, Ron Rash has developed his poetry into a world full of sound. He uses tight lines with few words and endless sound devices: “We settled as well, let straw /



Sullivan and his family on Christmas, 2020

Sullivan Eppes



Ron Rash

Blue Ridge Public Radio

pillow our heads as rain tucked / Its loud hush tighter around us” from “In The Barn,” which he read to the class. “I think poetry is a net for catching sound. The subject matter of poetry tends to be more prose-like, but I needed some kind of intensity, so I thought that a tight line would accomplish that.”

One of Rash’s focuses over his career has been “preserving awareness of the past.” “Particularly in the Appalachian mountains are disappearing. I think for a lot of writers that what you’re trying to do is keep something from being lost.” Over the course of his career, Rash has led the way for modern Appalachian poetry as a means to connect the stories and folklore of the mountains to the wider world. “It’s like a farmer drilling for water; if you go deep enough you’re going to hit the universe.”

To dive into his work on Appalachia, Rash mentioned his inspiration from the story of Lake Jocassee, a South Carolina reservoir that formed after the construction of a nearby dam, which had flooded the local town and leaving it to rot on the floor of the lake. “I’ve always been fascinated with what’s below the surface. Very often, dams have been built and people are displaced. I think that ends up turning into the mystery of existence. There’s so much in the world that we really don’t see.”

A notable aspect of Rash’s career is that he has written poems,

short stories, and novels. His poem, “Three A.M. And The Stars Were Out,” was later transformed into a short story by Rash. “Sometimes the image [wouldn’t] leave me; there’s more to be told. I knew there was more. I wanted to know what happened in a broader way than in the poem, so I wrote it as a short story. It’s very different and the reader reacts to it in a very different way.”

Ron Rash has developed an impressive literary career: He has received New York Times Bestseller status for a novel, a Frank O’Connor International Short Story Award for a short story collection, and an Academy of American Poets Prize for a poetry collection. He has succeeded at every level of literature and continues to spread his incredible stories and sourceful knowledge at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina. His creative and contagious perspective on writing continues to guide students to their ultimate self-discovery of the unteachable lessons that poetry unveils.

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Student Artwork



by Adam Maierle,
12th Grade



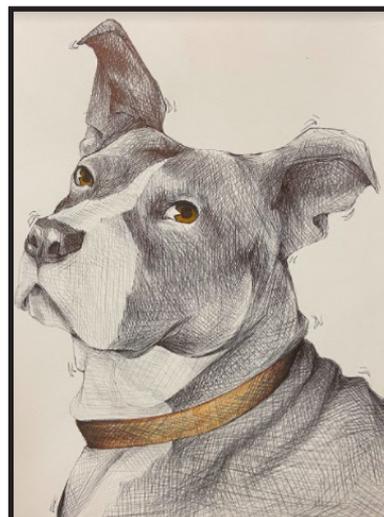
by Grace Baker,
12th Grade



by Eliza Valero,
12th Grade



by Alma Lutas,
12th Grade



by Kaija Tetrav,
12th Grade



by Maya Drake,
12th Grade



by Schenayda Salido,
12th Grade

Where Are They Now

Katie Jo Gelasco

Applause staff writer **Norah Bernstein** reached out to 2020 SOA Strings grad **Katie Jo Gelasco**, to learn about her time as a cellist at Florida State University.

Norah Bernstein: Where are you currently attending college, and what is your major?

Katie Jo Gelasco: I am currently attending Florida State University and double majoring in biochemistry and music. Go Noles!

NB: How did SOA prepare you for college?

KG: I knew I wanted to pursue both music and STEM in college for pretty much my whole time at SOA. SOA taught me valuable time management skills and how to balance academics with a passion, even if I didn't want to pursue music as a career.

NB: What sparked your interest in the cello, and how long have you been playing? Do you still play currently in college?

KG: According to my parents, I begged them to let me play an instrument when I turned six and they decided I should start the cello, mostly because they did not want to hear a struggling violinist practicing every night (less preferable range). So I got a cello for my sixth birthday and have been playing ever since! I knew I still wanted to pursue music at a high level in college (Dr. Selby prepared me for nothing less) so I made sure I went to a top program that also allowed for double majors. I currently play in the music major undergraduate orchestra called the University Philharmonic and take lessons with my cello professor, Greg Sauer.

NB: What are your plans after graduation?

KG: I hope to go to graduate school and get my PhD in biochemistry or a related field to do medical research in a lab. This summer I had the opportunity to do research at University of Tennessee at Chattanooga researching heavy metal contamination in hemp products and I really loved my first experience doing research. The career talk gets very scary



Katie Jo (middle) with fellow 2020 SOA graduates

and very real fast in college but I still like to keep the future open. Of course, I always plan on taking my cello wherever I go.

NB: What do you miss the most about SOA?

KG: I miss the people the most! The opportunities I was offered there were unique and unforgettable. I miss Dr. Cusatis, Dr. Selby, and Mr. Short who all were so influential in my decision to attend Florida State and are definitely the reason I'm where I am today. I also miss hanging out and performing with my friends too. SOA is amazing at creating these distinctive experiences with people that really build lifelong bonds.

NB: Any advice for seniors about entering college?

KG: Learn to manage time now! College is a lot of fun but also extremely stressful during critical times of the semester so it's important to get a grasp of your classes and any extracurriculars as soon as possible. Also, do not feel as if you have to have your entire career and life planned out the second you pick a school. Explore and take a variety of classes to see what you liked. Also, have fun and get involved! And as my dad always told me "the school you end up at is the school where you were meant to be," so don't stress too much about it and enjoy senior year.

Erica Kremer

Peter O'Malley reached out to 2018 SOA Strings graduate Erica Kremer, now at Florida State University, to catch up on her time and experiences at FSU.

Peter O'Malley: You're a Senior at Florida State University. How have these past four years heightened your ability as a cellist?

Erica Kremer: I would say that playing with and listening to my peers here at FSU has made me a much stronger cellist. Over the past four years, I have tried to place myself in as many chamber groups and situations that both take me out of my comfort zone, and hold my playing accountable as possible. Each semester, I have been in at least one, and as many as four chamber groups. Playing with all those different and wonderful musicians holds me to a higher standard, as I not only owe it to myself to work my hardest but to them. The size of and variety in the College of Music has also taught me so much about music. I have been lucky enough to solo with choirs, take jazz improv classes, guitar lessons, and even ballet. Getting out of my strings/classical music bubble has benefited my cello playing in ways I never thought possible.

PO: What repertoire have you learned during your time in college?

EK: I have learned so much solo, chamber, and orchestral repertoire that it is difficult to remember. However, I can recount some of the most memorable pieces. The Rachmaninov Sonata in G minor for Cello and Piano, Op. 19 and the Dvořák Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104, B. 191 were a big deal for me to learn because they are the pieces that I had been

listening to on repeat ever since I started the cello. Finally being able to work on the pieces you love is so exciting, and makes me feel lucky



"The cello studio at FSU is like a family, and has always been so supportive. Having a section like that makes orchestra such a fun experience, even when we're playing music as hard as Mahler 2," says Katie Jo.

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every time I get to practice and perform them.

PO: What do you feel your biggest accomplishments have been at FSU?

EK: My biggest accomplishment at FSU is bringing classical music to people who have not had access to it before. I am a part of a string quartet that creates engaging and interactive concerts, and we are sent to perform in elementary, middle, and high schools throughout the panhandle of Florida. We have done around 20 shows this semester, and each one is so rewarding and different from the one before. One of the most memorable moments was a child coming up to us and saying that “it was even better than the movies!”

PO: Are there any good restaurants or activities around FSU?

EK: It may be difficult to believe, but I think Tallahassee comes close to rivaling Charleston in terms of restaurants. There are so many local food trucks/restaurants, and the foodie in me never gets tired of any of it. If you ever find yourself in the area, definitely hit up Jeri’s for breakfast, the Iron Daisy for lunch, and Backwoods Crossing for dinner. You’ll thank me when you’ve recovered from the food coma. Tallahassee also has lots of amazing parks, thrift stores, and venues for live music that can fill the rest of your time.

PO: What do you miss most about SOA?

EK: I definitely miss my friends the most. There is something special about high school friendships that you can never recreate, so take advantage of them while you can.

PO: What schools are you applying to for your Graduate degree?



“One of the hardest things I have done in college is preparing for and putting on my own Junior recital. The almost 60 minutes of repertoire, combined with months of practicing is something that I will always be very proud of. Here is my dog Maggie still somehow being the star of the show.”

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PO: What do you miss most about SOA?

EK: I definitely miss my friends the most. There is something special about high school friendships that you can never recreate, so take advantage of them while you can.

PO: What schools are you applying to for your Graduate degree?

EK: I have a pretty long grad school list, which is both a good and bad thing. Good in terms of casting a large net and having options, but very bad in terms of having any free time during the week everything is due. Here it is: DePaul University, University of Michigan, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Florida State University, Manhattan School of Music, Rice University, Longy School of Music, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and Northwestern University.

PO: Do you have any tips



“I will treasure the new (and old, shoutout to Elliott!) friends I have made over the past four years so much. Here is a picture from when we all traveled from different states to be together for one weekend over the summer, and what better to do than put on a last minute outdoor chamber concert for the neighborhood.”

for picking colleges and teachers?

EK: The best way to pick teachers is by taking as many trial lessons as

you can. It is easier now than ever, as Covid has taught us how efficient it is to do these virtually. As long as you send the professor a very nice email and give them plenty of notice, most will be willing and happy to meet with you. However, if virtual lessons are not an option, try to look up the teacher on YouTube. Usually you will find at least a couple videos of them performing, and even better if you can find a video of them talking. This gives you a sense of their personality, and possible teaching style.

PO: What are your plans for the rest of the year?

EK: My plans for the next year are to try to enjoy my last semester as much as possible. It is going to be a tough semester in terms of scheduling travel plans for live auditions around classes, and after that I need to work on music for my senior recital. However, I can’t put those things in front of making memories, because when I look back on this time in five years it will be the moments I take for myself and my friends that I’ll remember the most.

Emma Joyce

Peter O’Malley interviewed 2021 SOA Strings alum and Freshman at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory Emma Joyce to learn about her time so far as a student at CCM.

Peter O’Malley: As a Freshman at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, what have you accomplished so far, and what are your plans for the rest of the 2021-2022 school year?

Emma Joyce: As a freshman who just got through her first semester of college, I have not accomplished much besides going to classes, especially making it to my 8-am’s! I have also made lots of friends here and have cheered on our football team at all their home games!

PO: What ensembles do you play in at CCM, and what have you played so far this year?

EJ: This year I am playing in the CCM Concert Orchestra as Concertmaster. We just finished our last concert which was a Christmas special, but besides that we have done a range of works from a few world premiers to larger works like Beethoven’s 3rd Symphony, “Eroica.”

PO: What are some restaurants and activities you enjoy around CCM?

EJ: My favorite restaurant is right outside of campus, called Izen’s Drunken Bento, where they sell amazing sushi. We also enjoy going to Findlay Market which is about a twenty minute walk away, where there are cute little shops set up that sell a variety of fun things.

PO: What solo repertoire are you currently working on?

EJ: Right now, I am finishing up the Barber Violin Concerto as well as starting Wieniawski’s 2nd Violin Concerto in d minor. On top of this, I am working on the Bach Sonata No. 1 in g minor, Paganini Caprice No. 9, Beethoven Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 1 in D Major, Mozart’s 5th Violin Concerto 1st Movement, and a handful of excerpts.



“One of the great things about Cincinnati is the fall season is so pretty! This is a picture with my dorm, Siddall Hall, in the background.”

PO: How is orchestra different at CCM than SOA?

EJ: Something very different about the CCM orchestra is that we have a concert every month. Even though that is a lot of work, that is more close to how the real world works. I am very grateful to be having these high expectations of me so early on. The level of music is also a lot higher, which is not very surprising because it is a conservatory, but it again helps prepare us for what jobs in this field would be like.

PO: What do you miss most about SOA?

EJ: One thing I really miss about SOA is the orchestra trips we would take. It was always fun to have a break from school where you went somewhere cool and could spend it with friends. Also, I really miss working with Dr. Selby as he taught me so much about how to play in and lead an orchestra.

PO: What are your plans for the summer?

EJ: Right now I am applying to summer camps so I do not know where I will end up, but I will hopefully be attending a music festival this summer (fingers crossed!)



“After my concert with Erin and Cate (my roommate who is viola performance and music education major).”

Where Were They Then

Applause writer **Giovanni Cusatis** interviewed **Mr. Dayton Colie**, SOA's new Visual Arts teacher, to learn about his time before SOA.

Giovanni Cusatis: Where did you grow up, and what are some of your favorite childhood memories?

Mr. Dayton Colie: I grew up in two places really. I lived on a small farm in a town called Swansea (South Carolina). My parents were part of the whole “back to the earth” philosophy in the 1970s. Cool memories from there: I raced BMX, and so did my dad so we built a practice BMX track in one of our fields, and changed it every year based on where nationals were. Also, every kid I knew had a motorcycle by the age of 10. My best Christmas ever was when my parents gave me mine. It was awesome - it was a little Yamaha, and it was fun! When I was ten my parents had enough of rural SC, so we moved to Lake Murray. My favorite memories there involved sailboat racing and sailing. I love Lake Murray - that's usually my answer when people ask where I grew up.

GC: What was life like after high school? Where did you go to college?



Mr. Colie in his teenage years

DC: I went to the College of Charleston for sailing (I was on the team for a couple of years) and had no idea what I was going to major in when I arrived. Post high-school was pretty much dedicated to learning, surfing, sailing, and working with horses.

GC: Where did you work before SOA?

DC: Stall High School

GC: What made you want to become a teacher?

DC: Two things: 1) I worked in the movie industry and doing freelance work right out of college. I did a lot of awesome projects for some really interesting people, and the money was good. It was also sporadic - I'd make \$15k in a month working on a film, then not have a film to work on for six months. I didn't like the insecurity, and didn't feel like traveling. I still wanted to make art, and knew I needed the bottom of my Maslo's pyramid filled in so I could focus on making art in my spare time. 2) I really like the whole Jimmy Buffett vibe, but knew I didn't have the millions to live it. I wanted to play during the summer when the water was warm, and teaching enables me to do that. I love taking my boat out on Tuesdays, and surfing in the middle of the week is pretty rad as well (less people).

GC: Do you have any advice for aspiring student artists?

DC: Go for it before you can't. If you get to the point where you need to stabilize things - like I did - find a career that supports and enables you to stay creative. If you get stuck in a creative rut, simplify your life.

GC: In what way have you been involved in visual arts outside of school?

DC: My last solo exhibit was in 2019, and it was called Shared Circles. It was funded entirely by grants, and was nominated for Best Exhibit by *Charleston City Paper* in 2019. Currently I'm working on an exhibit titled “Face to Face” dedicated to educators who were brave enough to teach in person at the onset of the pandemic. From February until November I created 100 portraits of teachers in masks. People actually



Mr. Colie and his wife on their wedding day

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thought we weren't working last year (showing up in person) so I decided to fill a room with masked educators who were here every day, and brave enough to face the unknown for the benefit of those who wanted to learn. I'm currently torn between creating a series of canalscapes of Burano Italy or re-visiting a shelved series titled Resilience.

GC: I've heard you have a musical background, can you explain what it's like?

DC: I play a lot of instruments. Go on Spotify, look up Dayton Colie Chill Music for Chillin'. It's my latest album - it dropped in January. I was inspired by the Youtube channel Lofi hip hop beats for chillin' (something like that), so I made an entire album with that vibe. I wrote it and played everything. If you dig that, try Instrumentals for Where Water Meets Sand (2017)- it's an all acoustic album inspired by Lowcountry Waterways. I currently play upright bass for Triangle Bluegrass, electric bass for Sidewalk Zydeco, and have recently started filling in on drums for some bands as well. In my 20s I fronted a notoriously wild bar band - I played rhythm guitar, wrote the music, and was the lead vocalist. I'm currently learning Ableton live so I can dial up stuff and jam along on my guitar.

SOA Strings, Band, Vocal, and Deaf Programs Perform at Gaillard Center

by Grace Baker

Serving as one of SOA's first live performances in two years, the School of the Arts Symphony Orchestra and Vocal presented "A Holiday Spectacular" on December 9th at the Charleston Gaillard Center. The staple holiday concert featured a classic festive program consisting of pieces including "Joy To the World" and "The First Noel" prior to intermission and the subsequent half of the concert spotlighting talented soloists and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing department. Directed by Ms. Caffarel, Ms. Fairchild, Mr. Rogers, and Dr. Selby, with Dr. Cook acting as a collaborative pianist, the event was a great success with almost every seat occupied at the venue.

The orchestra commenced the concert with an instrumental piece titled "A Christmas Festival," performed as a synthesis of all things festive, followed by the first inclusion of Vocal in the second piece, "Joy To the World." Though the arrangement was originally written for the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, a renowned professional chorus, these extremely talented high school performers with no hesitation. The program also featured "Mi Y'maleil" from the Hanukkah Cantata by David Ludwig. Before resuming the performance, Dr. Selby intervened to explain the significance of this piece: "The Hebrew is honoring the courage and bravery of past heroes, and also calling upon the listener to draw upon that courage so that we can face our own challenges." The Vocal students' canonized voices added layer upon layer of emotion and solidity to the lyrics that resonated even after the its conclusion.

After a brief intermission, everyone was ear-to-ear when hearing the whimsical production of "Sleigh Ride" with the wonderful addition of Eli Bundy, cracking two pieces of wood together to simulate a whip used on a sleigh. In the rendition of "Noel! Mary's Boy Child," theatrics were involved with six male vocal majors who stood on opposite ends in the upper tier of the seats to sing the deepest parts of this song. One of which was Senior Griffin Hargett, singing bass, along with Benjamin Ball and William White. Hargett explained that preparation was difficult at times with actual rehearsals totaling about 15 hours, and "with time spent in class, it's well over 100 hours." Portions of the songs "I'll be Home for Christmas" and "White Christmas" were performed solely by Tripp Carrington, tenor and Ryan Hinske, baritone. The difficulty

of these songs proved no issue for these Seniors since their vocal ranges could uncannily be matched to some of the greatest holiday vocalists of all time such as Frank Sinatra and Bing Crosby.

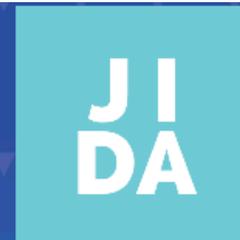
One of the most significant aspects of the

concert was the inclusion of the Deaf program in "Silent Night." I would say at least half of the Gaillard was in tears when all the music halted and the only sound heard for the remainder of the song was the swift hand movements of the Deaf students, the vocalists, and the symphony signing the lyrics in this beautiful gesture to the hearing impaired. Dean Walters, a teacher of SOA's Deaf program for many years, was gracious to be included in the event as they have been in past performances with SOA, acknowledging that "being a part of *the* premier holiday event in Charleston was a true gift."

Closing out with a stunning execution of "O Holy Night" by Junior soloist Meredith Layne Hungerford and an encore of Hallelujah from Handel's *Messiah*, this year's "A Holiday Spectacular" performance was nothing short of extraordinary. It served as the perfect commencement to the holiday season and, once again, a round of applause for the unbelievably talented performers who made this show the best one in years.



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Junior Melanie Gaillard stayed at Biltmore in Asheville, NC with her family over Thanksgiving break.



Senior Sofia Lathbury went ziplining!



Sophomore Sully Eppes and his family attended the Clemson-Carolina football game.



Sophomore Emma Brubaker went to Lewis Barbeque in downtown Charleston with her brother Jacob and family.

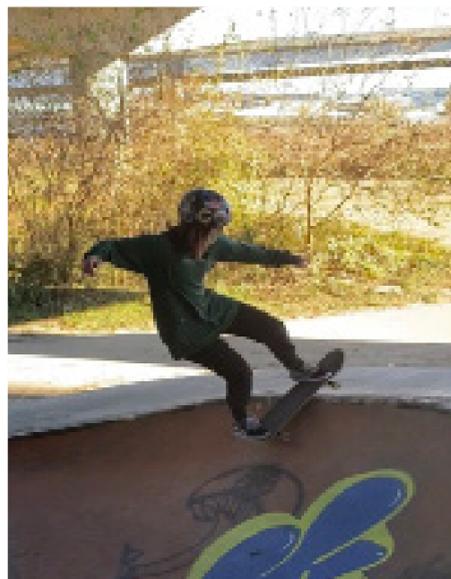


Casey Curtis and Julia Zimmerman visited the Blue Ridge Mountains of Highlands, North Carolina.



Peter O'Malley visited Cincinnati College-Conservatory and DePaul University School of Music.

What did SOA do over Fall break?



Kayla Herrman went skateboarding during fall break at the DIY skatepark in downtown Charleston.



Senior Ellie Garner (second from right) visited her cousins for the Thanksgiving holiday.



Brandon Morgan at the Macy's Day Parade with his family.



Going clockwise from 9:00 - Emma Ladd, Marin Sinclair, Sophia Sinor, Hayes Martini, Devon Brunson, Griffin Hargett, Tripp Carrington, Brett Hunter, Molly Scholer, Lauren Huser, Ryan Hinske, and Jack Hinske at Friendsgiving.



Margeaux Burkhardt, Ariana Lane, Griffin Culp, Angel Magaña Alfaro, Aryana Chinn, Eliana Gross, and Emily Apostolico (Emily has been edited in since she was taking the photo) held a Friendsgiving party!



Sixth grader Annabella, Junior Giovanni, and eighth grader Luciano Cusatis visited the Chattooga National Forest in the mountains of western North Carolina.

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Seniors Tripp Carrington and Ryan Hinske enthusiastically MC the event, hyping the elementary schoolers up for their SOA auditions.

Some time in December 1999...



December Cultural Calendar

by Kenya Hines

Holiday Festival of Lights Nov 12th - Dec 31st / 5:30 pm - 12 pm

Where: 871 Riverland Drive

Christmas Fashion Party Hosted by ENDYMOS Boutique Dec 18th / 2 pm - 3 pm

Where: Barre Nation - Summerville

Ugly Sweater Party DIY Workshop Dec 18th / 6 pm - 9 pm

Where: Board & Brush Creative Studio - Charleston

Palmetto City Ballet - "The Snow Queen" Dec 18th - 19th

Where: Sottile Theatre

Charleston Holiday Market Dec 4th - Dec 19th / 9 am - 2 pm

Where: Marion Square

6th Annual Clearview Christmas Parade Dec 19th / 4:30 pm

Where: 706 Clearview Dr, Charleston

Candlelight Christmas Orchestra Concert Dec 19th / 5 pm - 6 pm

Where: South Carolina Society Hall

South Carolina Stingrays Holiday Festival Dec 19th / 3:05 pm

Where: North Charleston Coliseum & Performing Arts Center

Christmas at BLU Dec 25th / 12 pm - 6 pm

Where: BLU Beach Bar and Grill

The SOA Prom on Saturday, March 19 will be at Founder's Hall at Charles Towne Landing. The special early-bird (reduced price) Fall fees for Prom end on Friday, December 31 at midnight. Use the link on the SOA homepage website to pay the Prom fees before prices rise on January 1.

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Here Comes SantApplause!

by Kenya Hines

Applause staff members were asked by one of SantApplause's elves what they want for Christmas.

- Carsyn Smith:** Little Mix to tour US
Judith Hamrick: A hug fr
Kayla Herrman: An A in this class
Julia Dubai: A new collarbone
Sullivan Eppes: "Beans, Rice, Jesus Christ, and Byron."
Lauren Holladay: Question of the Month ideas
Remy Looper: Mental Stability
Emma Brubaker: To pass my computer science class
Madelynne Burt: A break
Norah Bernstein: Hanukkah
Grace Baker: A tree taller than 5 feet
Lawson Adams: Any transformer
Aryana Chinn: Snow :)
Peter O'Malley: Each December article turned in on time
Kenya Hines: A relationship (hmu if you're interested)
Ryan Hinske: Scholarship money >0<
Carl Macklin: ADHD meds
Kingsley Gainey: To think of a funny answer to this
Jada Fickling: College acceptance letters :(
Giovanni Cusatis: Baseball season to be back



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Masked Menace on the Big Screen

by Sullivan Eppes and J. Jonah Jameson*, *Daily Bugle*

“I love a good film as much as the next guy, but why in God’s name are they making one about Spider-Man? And I thought the film industry couldn’t get any worse. After they made *Thor 2* I thought there was nowhere to go but up, I guess I was wrong. And it gets worse folks, rumors say that there will be not one, but three spider men. And I thought one was too much. The actor playing Spider-Man, Tom Holland, has yet to comment if the Spider-Man in the movie is special effects or just him using his superpowers I’m willing

to bet that Holland is the real Menace or that he is working with him. And now he’s in *Fortnite*, what will they think of next?”

**J. Jonah Jameson is a fictional character in the Spider-Man universe.*

See *Spider-Man: No Way Home* in theaters on Friday, December 17.



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by Aryana Chinn

Demonstrated by Alfonso White
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Horoscopes

by Remy Looper



Leo- Even when you have just found your footing and an understanding of what you need to do, there will always be those who covet your position. Defensiveness is not always a good trait to have, but sometimes it is necessary to protect what you have achieved.



Virgo- Drive and motivation may be things that come to you naturally, or you may have to work to find those things in yourself. Regardless of how they come to you, reach out and work for them. You may find that they are closer to you than you think.



Libra- Hard work almost always pays off, and now is the time to receive the rewards of what you have been pushing yourself to achieve. You deserve recognition for your accomplishments. Don't shy away when it comes.



Scorpio- If a fire can spark in the dead of winter, you can find your passions in difficult times such as these. You are capable of creation even in your darker hours. There is more to you than you give yourself credit for.



Sagittarius- Unity, joy, and community are some of the finest pleasures in life. It is human nature to crave connection, and now is that time to indulge in your humanity by spending time with those around you. These gentle moments with those you love are ones to remember.



Capricorn- The best part of surprises is that they are just that; an unexpected surprise. While these may be unwelcome at times, now is a time you may need some unanticipated joy. Keep your eyes open; it will find you when you may least expect it.



Aquarius- Shortcomings are a part of life, and even if you have worked yourself to the bone, sometimes your cup will still be empty. It is not wrong to rely on others when you're in need.



Pisces- Love comes in many shapes and sizes; though it may not feel like it at times, love will find you in your exact size. Find peace in knowing those around you cherish you for who and what you are. You are held.



Aries- The concept of wealth is entirely subjective, but regardless of your personal definition, wealth has come to you after you have put the effort in to receive it. Revel in what you have knowing that you have earned it through hard, honest work.



Taurus- Even if you have spent hours meticulously planning and preparing for every possible scenario, things may not always turn out how you anticipated. This can be a bitter, unfair feeling, but it is also a lesson; you cannot prepare for everything. Life happens, and you must happen with it.



Gemini- Despite Taurus' message, planning is not always something that will end in failure. It is better to try and fail than give up before starting. Don't be afraid to turn your dreams into plans, and those plans into action. Good things are more likely to come than not.



Cancer- Sometimes, it takes letting go of what you have and accepting surrender in order to find clarity and understanding of what is going on around you. They say a falling man finds peace in the plummet. Find peace in your own fall, and soon you will discover that there is something soft awaiting you to break that fall.

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SOA Performance Review: *Shadow Box*

by Sullivan Eppes

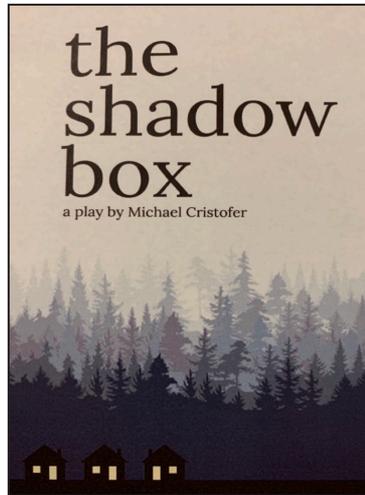
The Shadow Box, a drama by Michael Cristofer, was directed by high school theatre teacher Shannon Horn and performed at SOA by 10th grade Theatre majors. This drama is

fantastic, with outstanding performances from every cast member.

However, this is not the play you'd want to see if you are in the mood to laugh, as it deals with many heavy themes such as acceptance of death and the consequences of not telling the truth. This

play beautifully portrays the five stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance, each character going through them in their own ways.

The overall premise is that there are three cottages, each taking care of a person who is terminally ill. One house is in a state of denial, and the sick person, Phil, refuses to accept not only his death, but how he dies. Phil, played by Jessie Price, has two children: August, played by Parker Legette, and Claire. After the death of her mother, Claire ran away and was killed in a car accident. After one of Phil's surgeries, he forgets that Claire died and writes her a letter. August, not wanting to make his father's condition any worse, writes a letter as if it were a reply from Claire, and the cycle continues. We eventually find out that Phil is determined not to die until he sees Claire again, and August is in a state of fear and regret and doesn't know how to tell his father the truth. In another house, Brian, played by Andrew Jones, is going to die, and he has fully accepted this. He sold most of his belongings and his house. It is his friend, Mark, and ex-wife Beverly who have not come to grips with Brian's situation. Beverly, played by Payton Thrasher, is in a state of denial throughout the play, drinking and having a good time with Brian; thus completely ignoring the current situation. However, Mark, played by Law Fox, is in a state of anger throughout the play, constantly snapping at Beverly.



In the third house, Joe, played by Ramere Kelly, is being visited by his wife Maggie, played by Jasmine Young, and his daughter Steph, played by Isobel Foggon. Steph is oblivious to the fact that Joe is going to die, and throughout the show Maggie and Joe are debating telling Steph the truth. Joe and Maggie are in a state of depression throughout the play.

The entire cast is incredible in their roles. Each actor shows such great emotion that audiences can feel how they feel, which is, in my opinion, the mark of a truly great actor/actress. Out of ten, this play is an eleven.

Contemporary Movie Review: *King Richard*

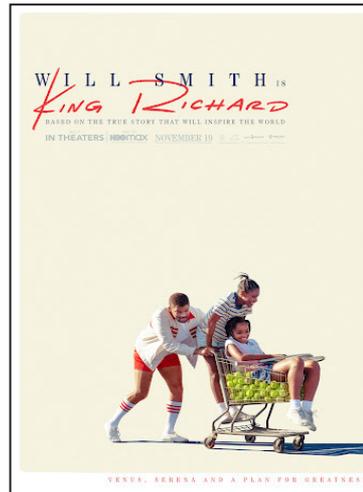
by Ryan Hinske

Compton, California. A once-gentrified white community abandoned by threats of the nearby Black Panther activist group was now (in the 1980s) one of the most impoverished and crime-ridden suburbs in the United States where those cast aside by systematic racism were forced to live. The crack-cocaine epidemic had just taken the streets and was already engulfing the west coast. Gang warfare ensued between rival neighborhoods fighting to protect their "turf" against each other. Racism in America was at a high as the white world continued to strip any opportunity the black community had left. Within all of this noise and fear lived an ambitious father meticulously planning the lives of his two youngest daughters before they were even born.

King Richard is an impeccably designed embodiment of the harmonious connection between sports and culture.

The plot of this movie follows the lives of Serena and Venus Williams through the eyes of their father Richard Williams - played by the two-time Oscar nominee Will Smith.

A family of two parents and five girls in a small house was no easy life, so Richard had to work night shifts as a security guard at a mall along with his day "job" of training Venus and Serena, to provide for his family.



Throughout the early stages of the movie, they were harassed by gangs resulting in the beating of Richard in his attempt to protect his daughters. They struggled through the hardest years of Compton's history, using Richard's camera to document their success. Eventually, Richard is able to put together a tape recording of his daughters' training, but due to the standards of the time, the tennis world (of about 99% white participation) did not accept Venus and Serena's tape.

However, Richard forced himself into a relationship with a local scout, who reluctantly began training Venus before realizing how incredible her talent was.

From that point on, the impoverished and divided Compton community began to unite over Venus and Serena's game. Locals began showing up at the tennis courts to watch the girls play, and a gang even approached Richard promising to protect him and his daughters from hostile threats.

Beyond the plot of this inspirational sports journey lies a deeper story that is reflective of the black community as a whole. In her juniors championship, Venus - the older of the two sisters - represented not only black people, but also women in a sports world that undercut their influence.

Saniyya Sidney played the role of young Venus incredibly, painting a picture of the progression that Venus took over the years as pressure mounted. Saying she went through adversity would be an understatement, but the way the Williams family endured all of it was nothing short of amazing.

The most interesting character in this movie was Richard himself. From a very early point in the movie, he made it clear that the Williams family was going to follow his plan without straying off the path that he envisioned for the decade before. His parental flaws began to expose themselves when decisions were being made about Venus's career. Richard was unshaken by her requests to compete in Junior Tournaments, pressing the issue that she needed to finish school before she could become competitive. Venus felt that these tournaments were her window of opportunity to break into the professional competition.

Finally, after years of stubbornness, Richard was convinced by his wife, Brandi, to change his ways and give up his grip on his daughter's career. He allowed her to choose her own path instead of sticking to his specific pre-daughters plan.

King Richard is unique in the way that a sports-centered movie has almost nothing to do with sports. The best aspect of professional

competition is that the greatest athletes are almost always the ones that experienced dramatic hardship and adversity in the most extreme levels.

In the case of Venus and Serena Williams, they were attempting to enter one of the only American sports composed completely of white women. There was double the pressure on them and less margin for error, but as we see today, Venus and Serena have achieved everything they and their father dreamed of. Venus has won seven grand-slam titles while Serena has won twenty-three.

While *King Richard* focuses on Venus's young career, Richard tells Serena at the end of the movie that he believes she will follow her sister's path, learn from being the younger sibling, and end up being the "the greatest ever." This has come to fruition, as Serena is widely accepted as the greatest female athlete in history.

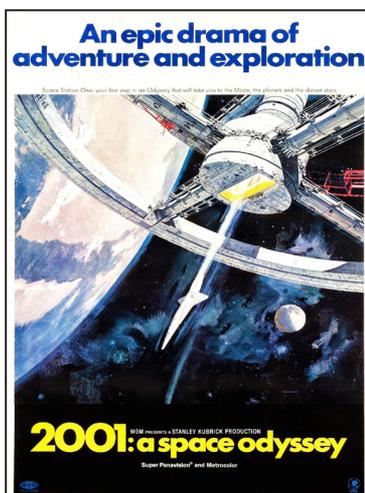
Almost everything Richard predicted in the 1990's has come true, and it goes to show how passionate parenting and unrelenting support for his daughters outweighed his shortcomings as a parent in the end. His realization in the final stages of the movie changed his perspective as a parent and opened the world to his daughters. I highly recommend *King Richard* to literally every movie watcher out there. It's a great sports movie, an important cultural movie, and a perfect family movie. It is highly educational for the younger generations that may not have a grasp of the systematic racism that freely flowed in the 20th century.

To experience an emotional and inspirational story that has changed American history, catch *King Richard* on HBO Max and in theaters today.

Classic Movie Review: *2001: A Space Odyssey* (G)

by Peter O'Malley

Stanley Kubrick's 1968 space epic, *2001: A Space Odyssey*, follows a crew of five on route to the planet Jupiter. Only two are actually conscious, while the other three are in "suspended animation,"



similar to *Star Wars*' carbonite freezing. The fifth Beatle of this crew is HAL, a computer with artificial intelligence, given a mysterious mission objective discovered at the end of the film. The film's plot, minimal use of dialogue, and soundtrack are what make it the renowned part of cinema history it is today.

2001's antagonist, HAL, shows the danger of intelligent technology, and the fear of humanity's eventual obsolescence. Even fifty years after the film's premiere, the fear of artificial intelligence is still a very real one, and the concept of machines like HAL gaining too much power is still a concern many of us have today. Many films have taken different approaches to this theme: the Terminator franchise with Skynet, X-Men with the Sentinels, AI: Artificial Intelligence with its main character.

It seems obvious that 2001 is centered upon the eventual battle between man and machine, but I believe it to be deeper than that. The film starts not with the protagonist but with two tribes of hominids, or prehistoric apes, millions of years ago, fighting over an oasis. Eventually, one tribe takes the oasis, leaving the others without a source of water, likely set out to die. This prologue of sorts foreshadows events that happen within the film between HAL and the protagonist, and later between the protagonist and extra-terrestrial

entities. Similar to the two tribes of apes, the pilot has to fight against HAL to survive.

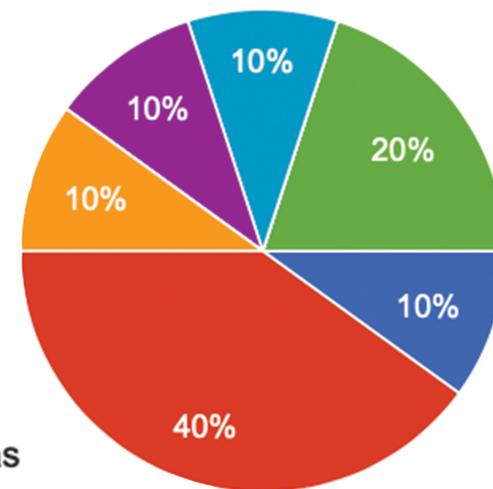
Another curious and interpretable aspect of 2001 is the monolith, which is found by the hominids at the start of the film, then by humans on the Moon, and finally by the pilot outside of Jupiter. I perceive the monolith as a device used by extraterrestrial entities to bring forth evolution. It's responsible for the change from ape to man, and finally man to, well, you'll really just have to watch the film to see.

Much of the film is very subtle, with long scenes and minimal dialogue. Kubrick does a fantastic job of telling a story visually, leaving important aspects of the film up to interpretation, similarly to the monolith and its mysterious purpose. In some places it's hard to follow, and I'd imagine many find the film boring.

Music was of huge importance in 2001. The film starts with four minutes of a black screen, accompanied by Richard Strauss' Also Sprach Zarathustra. Zarathustra's brass fanfare portrays breathtaking power and force, pairing with a remarkable visual pan through the universe, planet by planet. Not only does Also Sprach Zarathustra fit extraordinarily well with the visual aspects of the film; its theme, based on Friedrich Nietzsche's Thus Spoke Zarathustra, ties to 2001's. Both 2001 and Thus Spoke Zarathustra deal with concepts of evolution and

What's the most overplayed Christmas song?

Visit our Instagram to participate in future polls!



inferiority to the products of evolution. Later in the film, Johann Strauss' (not related to Richard Strauss) most popular waltz, The Blue Danube, serves as a motif for events in space. Kubrick clearly put a great deal of thought into the bond between the film and its soundtrack.

2001: A Space Odyssey is a masterpiece of cinema history. Unlike many films, 2001 relies not on dialogue, but a tie between its visuals and music. It's complex and means something different to each viewer. I strongly recommend 2001 to anyone up for a stunning, thrilling visual and auditory adventure.

TV-Show Review: *Dash and Lily* (TV-14)

by Kenya Hines

Have you ever wondered what a Hallmark Christmas movie would look like as a TV show? I personally never have but this is the exact vibe the show *Dash and Lily* exudes. The eight-episode Netflix series is about a teenager named Dash who absolutely hates the holidays.



This changes when he meets a girl named Lily. By "meet" I don't mean in person, but more so through a red notebook. The two converse through said notebook and leave clues for each other throughout NYC.

As for my opinions on the show, it was mid. As stated earlier, it was practically every last Hallmark movie in history as a TV show. I will admit, I did think it was cute but it got to a point where it was straight snoozefest.com. The plot was good at times, but I think it was just stretched out too much. The idea was definitely there but it should have been developed as a movie. I did find myself really engaged during certain parts but in others, I was trying to keep my body from physically recoiling when it got too cringey or mushy.

Characterwise, I love Lily. She loves Christmas, is very crafty, and is kind of a loser, just like me. As for Dash, I have never wanted to punch a person more. He's just very annoying and pessimistic and it makes me want to rip my hair out. Plus, his whole character gives "I'm a lone wolf no one understands me." Baby, this is not 4th grade, you don't read *Warriors* behind

the slide during recess anymore, grow up. Thankfully his best friend, Boomer, does what I can't do and tells him to get himself together. If anything, Boomer carried this show on his back. I know he was supposed to be solely comic relief but I wish I got more of a look into his story because he's such an interesting character.

Some people are mad that the show won't be returning for a second season, but I think it's for the best! Better to stop where it is before it develops into something as horrid as *Riverdale*. To summarize, I'd give this a 6/10. This is only because I've seen worse and I was able to get through the full season without turning off Netflix halfway through. Would I watch this again? Probably not.

Classic Album Review: *Some Girls*, by The Rolling Stones

by Grace Baker

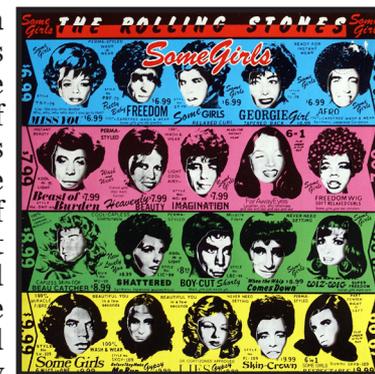
In the last years of the 1970s, disco was on its way out, and you're faced with a band used to playing for the groovy early '70s America when the late '70s and early '80s are busting the door down with punk rock and flair. The Rolling Stones, the world-renowned British rock group founded in the early '60s, had already been in the game for a couple of decades and with bands like Aerosmith and Guns N' Roses on the rise, they needed to release an album to grasp the attention of the younger American rock generation. *Some Girls* captures the fleeting moments of their classic folk and Chicago blues sound before the new generation of rock and electricity dominated in the '80s, and these were beautifully integrated to create one of the most unique albums of their career. Released in 1978, *Some Girls* came out amidst internal band struggles as well as backlash from celebrities whose hair was mimicked in the cover art. In the previous year, secondary vocalist and guitarist Keith Richards was arrested in Toronto with enough drugs for an "intent to traffic" charge, and Ronnie Wood, previously the guitarist for *The Faces*, replaced Mick Taylor after his sudden walk-out on the band during a party in 1974. However, even with a compromised roster, this veteran band has always known how to roll with the punches and as a result, a diamond album was formed under pressure.

Starting off strong and sticking to their traditional sound, "Miss You" contains enough rhythm shifts to satisfy all ears. The intro is quickly fused with a synthesis of snare drum

and harmonica and carries throughout the remainder of the song. This song takes the good parts of disco without the bells and whistles of the typically frowned upon genre by adding the A

minor guitar riff to its tempo. Mick Jagger lives up to his name as one of the best lead vocalists in American rock with his notes reaching an extremely high pitch in some parts and quickly switching to his raw, raspy voice talking about psychosis in the streets of New York City. I especially love this song because of its instrumental break: it slows down about halfway through the song to emphasize the narrator's mental breaking point where he "walks through Central Park, singing after dark." Immediately followed by a beautifully executed tenor saxophone solo from Mel Collins, "Miss You" encapsulates The Stones' image as a band ready to make a splash in the upcoming generation of listeners. Their original folk sound is maintained in the songs "Beast of Burden" and "Far Away Eyes" along with a hint of country undertones if you prefer their more consistent rhythm and tamed Jagger vocals.

However, don't be fooled by thinking the entire album is like the first song, since the second song, "When The Whip Comes Down," quickly picks up and has heads turned toward the future of rock and roll. Similarly, other songs like "Lies" and "Respectable" on the album feature an electric sound beyond their time, and it seems timely that the band chose to end the album with their song, "Shattered." I like to think the title refers to the boundaries the band obliterated between '70s grooviness and the hard rock seeping into American culture. In an interview with Jagger after its release, he said the only lyric they started with was "shattered," and somehow they successfully repeated this one word at least 50 times without it getting old, speaking to New York City at the time and the hustle and bustle the lyricists wrote amongst. This song places you in the streets of Manhattan with lyrics like "Life's just a cocktail party on the street" and referencing "all the chitter-chatter, chitter-chatter, chitter-chatter" on 7th Avenue. This is just another example of something unorthodox that works because it's The Rolling Stones executing it and not another band that would



have totally butchered that same approach.

Reigned as their redemption album after a decade of hit and misses, *Some Girls* provided a lifeline for the band into the 80s and added years to their popularity and legacy as one of the most ingenious bands in music history.

Contemporary Album Review: *An Evening With Silk Sonic*

by Carsyn Smith

An Evening With Silk Sonic is the world's first whole album from Silk Sonic, and it's nothing short of a groovy ride. When paired together, Bruno Mars and Anderson Paak create a disco/soul train sensation that just makes you want to dance. My personal favorites from this project are "Smokin out the Window," "Silk Sonic Intro," "Fly as Me," and "Skate."

"Silk Sonic Intro" starts the project, with great vocals and production that makes you feel like you are in front of a live band. I love the talking part towards the end of "Master of the Universe" that makes you laugh while also jamming. I wouldn't necessarily call this a song since it is only a minute long and most of it is regularly spoken, however I do think the reason I had to mention this intro is because it is an unforgettable part of this project that truly ties it together.

"Smokin' out the Window" is the second single from this project, released a week before their album came out, which I am so glad they did, because it is what encouraged me to listen to the album once it was released. Unlike the other songs on this project, this one talks about the aftermath of a relationship where the woman they loved was taking advantage of them. Mars shows off his upper register with high notes that make you shake with excitement, and Paak does a little more singing in this song than others, which I truly enjoy, since it gives us a sneak peek into his vocals instead of just Mars. But, even with this, Paak truly shines when doing his speaking parts in the bridge which gives off theatrics that makes Silk Sonic truly unique.

"Fly as Me" is the best song on this album, and I will not let anyone debate me on this fact. "Fly as Me" can be depicted as the "confidence" song of the album. When it first



starts, you're met with a funky bassline and drums along with a couple of horns, which has you bobbing your head. Throughout the song, you can hear Paak rap/converse with a lady that he is trying to pursue by trying to impress her with things that he has and how special he is. From lyrics such as, "Don't need a spatula, everything catered" and "Hollerin at you from a 1977 Monte Carlo," Paak's delivery and word play gives you the confidence of a million. Mars, however, really shines through what I believe is the catchiest chorus on the planet. His vocals show off his raspy tone when hitting higher notes and truly encompass the funk feel as a whole.

This album is an amazing introduction to the presentation of a lifetime that is Silk Sonic. Paak and Mars have truly brought back the popularity of funk music and added their own modern day spin on it, and it makes you ask yourself whether to sit in your chair and analyze all of the breathtaking production or to get up and dance like nobody's watching. I absolutely cannot wait to hear future Silk Sonic projects and I will be waiting everyday until they announce their tour!

Classic Book Review: *Little Women*

by Judith Hamrick

Widely known as the novel to cement Louisa May Alcott in her place as one of the foremost authors of the last few centuries, *Little Women* is nothing short of astonishing. It has influenced generation after generation all over the globe since its first release in 1868 when it was originally published in a series of short stories. The novel surrounds the four March sisters struggling in poverty during the American Civil War in a New England community while they rely on each other for support as they grow up. The first half explores their navigating adolescence and the second half explores their navigating adulthood, all filled with values of love, trust, and sisterhood.

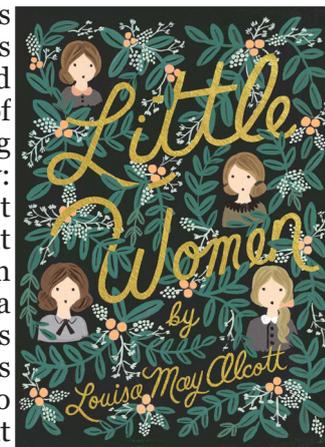
Considering the time of its release, this book really was groundbreaking.

The classic features so many elements that were considered taboo and out of the ordinary during the 19th century: a heroine who not only writes but makes a profit from it, or a portrayal of a marriage that proves it cannot always be the solution to everything. Alcott

was among the very few writers to spotlight young girls and their aspirations in a story so everyone could see through that lens of a maturing woman in the 1800s, even going as far as to outline the main character after herself. Each sister develops different ambitions and finds themselves drawn to new ones as they grow out of or more feverish for the things they were once passionate about (i.e. theater, music, writing, or painting). The four girls ebb and flow together as they move through the hardships of life, creating a reader's own yearning for a family that might not be around.

It can get tragic, people die, the war goes on, complicated and varying relationships with religion are present. On the outside, it may seem there is far too much content packed inside what presents as an 800-page brick, but it's not as heavy-handed as one would expect. The historical linguistics can be challenging to decipher at times, however, it's still easy to just keep turning the pages as you eagerly wait for each new line of dialogue, discovering which character you identify with or love the most at that moment.

One of the most wonderful things about this book is the character development and



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relatability. Every single one of them is flawed and human to the point they almost feel real. Finding a reflection of oneself inside any one of these imperfect personalities is not a challenge once you see through to their ambitions. Jo is a passionate writer who refuses to settle, Amy is a well-mannered artist with a realistic worldview, Meg is a dutiful actress that keeps her sisters in line, and Beth is a quiet musician who serves as the glue of the March house. Each one is their own unique person with endearing (or annoying) quirks that readers can find a way to relate to and grow with as they reread the book throughout their lives.

By now, most have certainly had an experience with at least one of the many stage, screen, or literary adaptations. But if you haven't already, be sure to jump on the bandwagon over the holiday break and give their origin a read, as it is the perfect vacay book for this time of year. Featuring a friends-to-lovers love triangle and a classic Christmas feel, *Little Women* should undoubtedly be pushed to the top of everyone's TBR this season.

Restaurant Review: Billy's Burger Joint

by Carsyn Smith

Before I get into the magic and absolute joy of Billy's Burgers' food, I would just like to say that this is now officially the new teen coming-of-age movie hang-out spot for the 11th-grade Theatre majors, because it's just that cool. If you are looking for a good old-fashioned American meal, Big Billy's Burger Joint is the spot to be. From their fries, to their milkshakes, to their famous burgers, this place is nothing short of fun. When walking into the Joint, I was met with loa seats themed like they are under the awning of straw huts. Not only do they make the seating comfortable, but there is also a little book nook where you can pick out a book and read it in the cushioned seats! The staff is super friendly and make you feel like it is your one-hundredth time coming to the restaurant. When you get seated, you are met with a menu of delights and delicacies that make you sweat trying to pick out what to eat. My personal favorite section of the menu is the milkshakes. Not only do they have the originals like chocolate, vanilla, and strawberry, but they also have more complex shakes like my personal favorite, the peanut butter brownie shake! Now for the part that everyone has been waiting for... the burgers. My choice of burger is the bacon cheeseburger, which has just the right amount of juiciness. Also, we can't forget about the crunchy yet soft fries, absolutely delectable when hot. If you go as much as I've been going, you would understand that this place is a huge gem. If you go at the right time, you might meet Billy himself (like how I did)! Overall, this is definitely one of the best burger places I've been to in a while, so eat up!



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Food Review: Cookies Around Town

by Kenya Hines

In continuation to her November chicken sandwich reviews, staff writer Kenya Hines visited multiple Charleston restaurants and tried their cookies, creating a hierarchy from best to worst.

Subway: 11/10

Literally the best cookie in existence, especially the raspberry cheesecake cookie. It doesn't get any better than these.



Subway's impressive selection of cookies

Panera: 10/10

I had the lemon drop cookie and when I tell you it tasted like I was eating unicorn dust, I'm not lying.

Insomnia Cookies: 9/10

These had my mouth watering fr. Y'all don't understand!

Mcdonald's: 8/10

Very soft and they come out warm too. Plus they're super cheap!

Wendy's: 6/10

It was alright... I willingly wouldn't get it unless I was craving it.

Starbucks: 5.5/10

Cake pops >>> cookies. I don't know, they're a little dry for me.

Zaxby's: 5/10

I didn't hate it, but I didn't love it, it was mid.

Moe's: 3/10

It was a bit soft but hard as well? It also tasted very dry, not a fan.

Chick-Fil-A: 2/10

For someone who loves Chick-Fil-A I absolutely hate this cookie. Way too much chocolate but that might just be me.



Chick-Fil-A's less impressive cookie

Burger King: 1/10

The first red flag was seeing 10 nuggets for \$1 so I don't know why I expected the cookie to be any better.

Arby's: -5/10

I mean, what else can you expect from Arby's? I bit into it and half of the cookie broke. I'm pretty sure it expired in 2015.

Optometrist
Dr. Joe Pitcavage
Dr. Wes Shealy

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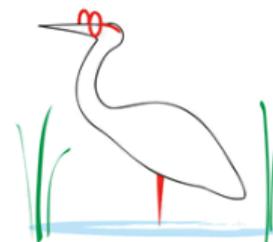


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Christmas Trivia

by Jada Fickling

Questions:

1. How many ghosts appear in *A Christmas Carol*?
2. What made Frosty the Snowman come to life?
3. How many days is Kwanzaa celebrated?
4. Hanukkah is often also referred to as the _____?
5. Which film holds the record for the highest grossing Christmas movie?
6. According to the song, what did my true love give to me on the third day of Christmas?
7. What is the best selling Christmas single of all time?
8. Which Hollywood actor played five different roles in *The Polar Express*?
9. What is the most covered Christmas song of all time?
10. What popular Christmas song was actually written for Thanksgiving?

Spotify Playlist

by Carsyn Smith and Judith Hamrick

Visit "SOA Applause" on Spotify or scan the code below to listen.



December Origami - Christmas Tree

by Julia Dubay - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TZAsOQiZMEs>

1. You'll need a square sheet of paper.
2. Fold from corner to corner making a triangle and crease, turn and repeat.
3. Now crease to make a rectangle, turn and repeat.
4. Unfold and fold inward the two symmetrical creases to make a square.
5. Fold in the two corners,
6. Flip and repeat on the opposite side.
7. Cut the remaining triangle off the bottom.
8. Fold in each crease to create the shape of the tree.
9. Flatten both sides of the tree and add 3 small cuts on each side.
10. They should look like this.
11. Fold-down each cut made.
12. Spread out the folds and sit the tree upright. Now your tree is up in time for the holidays!



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.



10.



11.



12.

Miranda Hartnett Senior Piano Major



By Tumbleston Photography

6/10

Amelia Walker Senior Visual Arts Major



By Jada Fickling

7/10

1. Four
2. Magic Hat
3. Seven
4. The Festival of Lights
5. *Home Alone*
6. 3 French Hens
7. "We Wish You a Merry Christmas"
8. Jim Carrey
9. "The First Noel"
10. "Frosty the Snowman"

1. Four
2. Hat
3. Seven
4. Festival of Lights
5. *Home Alone*
6. Turtle Doves
7. I don't know
8. Tom Hanks
9. "Mary Did You Know"
10. "Jingle Bells"

Answers

10. "Jingle Bells"
9. "Silent Night"
8. Tom Hanks
7. "White Christmas"
6. 3 French Hens
5. *Home Alone*
4. Festival of Lights
3. Seven
2. Magical hat
1. Four

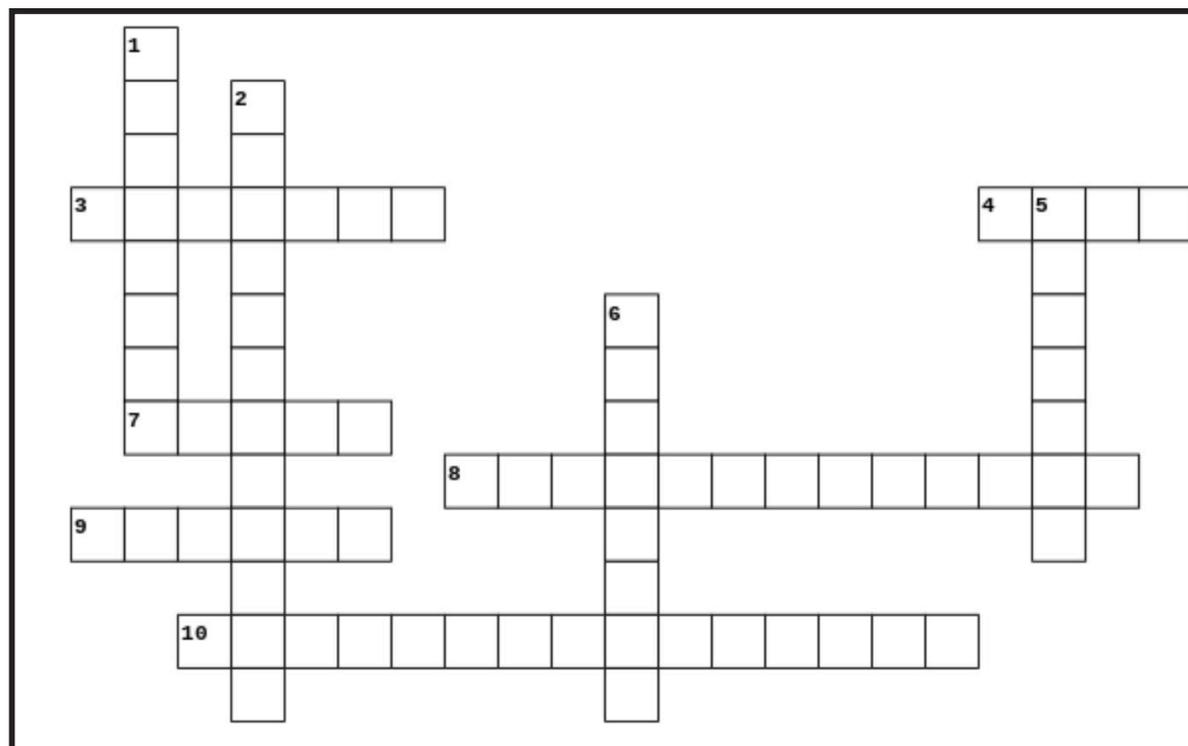
Strings Crossword

Across

3. The two bow directions
4. Famous composer of the Baroque Era
7. A loud or strong dynamic
8. Indication of meter, found after the clef.
9. The top, or head, of a string instrument
10. Popular violinist who plays violin while dancing

Down

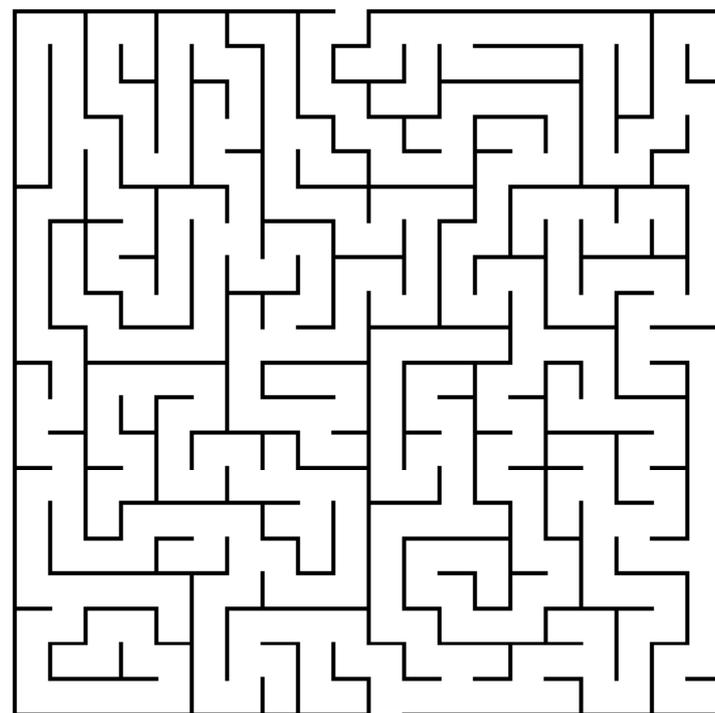
1. A clef played by violists
2. The Berlin _
5. Cheerful, brisk tempo
6. Moderate, not fast tempo



**Help Mr. Colie find
his bass!**

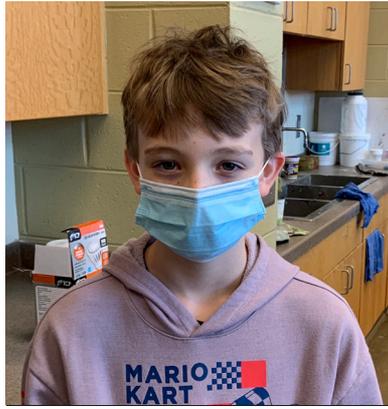
SOA Sudoku

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





"Socks."
Mariana Becerra,
6th Grade Vocal Major



"A pair of underwear."
Sam Meyer, 7th Grade
Visual Arts Major



"Mens aftershave from my grandfather."
Ayla Hollar, 8th Grade
Theater Major



"Size large Granny Panties (in high school... when I weighed 90 pounds)"
Ms. Richardson, High School
Visual Arts Teacher

What is the worst holiday gift you have ever received?

by Kayla Herrman,
Lauren Holladay, and Julia Dubay



"I don't know... but the best one was my plunger."
Mr. Southwick, 7th Grade
Science Teacher



"A digital scale."
Ms. Cindy Phillips,
Bookkeeper



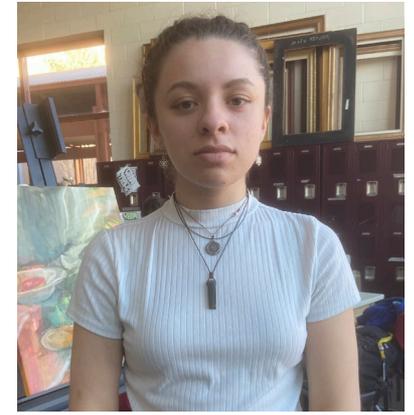
"A book about composers... I don't really like to read."
Emma Ladd, 9th Grade
Vocal Major



"Chocolate that I'm allergic to."
Susan White, 10th Grade
Vocal Major



"Baby clothes when I was 12."
Adrienne Rogers, 11th Grade
Theater Major



"A gorilla."
Eliza Valero, 12th Grade
Visual Arts Major