

# Applause

Volume 23, Number 7 School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC March 2022



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**Thank you for your support!**

**From the Editor**

Dear Readers,

Exactly two years ago *Applause* was forced to cancel the March print edition due to the increasing spread of the coronavirus, which had recently found its way into South Carolina. Our schools were closed on March 16, and for the first time *Applause* assumed a digital-only format for the months of March and April, returning to print in June, just in time to commemorate the graduating class of 2020.

Two years later, as we lament the tragic worldwide loss of more than six million due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we remain hopeful and resilient. Now, as the pandemic relents somewhat, a senseless, devastating war rages in Eastern Europe. More than ever, we need to maintain the optimism, bravery, generosity, and solidarity that have sustained us over the past two years, as we unite in support of the courageous Ukrainian people, standing up with the rest of the free world to overcome this latest adversary.

As always, this issue of *Applause* celebrates the achievements of our student artists, whose music, literature, drama, artwork, fashion design, and dance continue to inspire us! Checkout our centerfold for photos from our extraordinary March fashion show. Also flip to page 16 to see our impressive list of Scholastic Writing Award winners and page 18 to see our outstanding All-State Orchestra performers. Spring is here!

Your Editor-in-Chief,

*Peter O'Malley*



**Applause**

since 1999, the official student publication of

**School of the Arts**

*Founded in 1995 by Rose Maree Myers*

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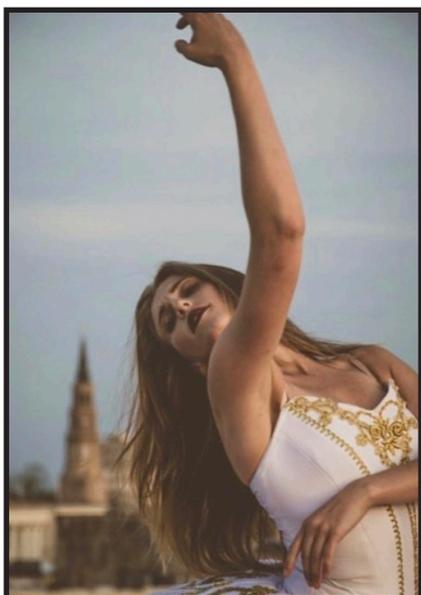
**soa-applause.com**

**Cover by Kayla Herrman  
and Lauren Holladay**

**SOA Calendar**

- March 11:** E-Learning Day
- March 14-15:** 6th Grade Showcases, 4:00 and 6:30 p.m., Black Box
- March 17:** St. Patrick's Day
- March 17-18:** 9th Grade- *Clown Love*, 4:00 and 6:30 p.m., Black Box
- March 18:** Classical Piano Recital, 6:00-8:00 p.m., RMMT
- March 19:** Prom, 7:00-11:00 p.m., Charles

- Towne Landing, Founder's Hall
- March 22:** End of Third Quarter
- March 23:** Teacher Workday- No School
- March 28:** Report Cards
- March 28-29:** HS- *Smack Down*, 4:00 and 6:30 p.m., Black Box
- April 7:** MS String Orchestra Spring Concert, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., RMMT
- April 11-15:** Spring Break



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Timothy Greenfield-Sanders



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**In This Issue**

**Where Are They Now?**  
by Carl Macklin

**Applause Meets Legendary Violinist Midori**  
by Peter O'Malley

**Highlights from the 2022 SOA Fashion Show**  
by Judith Hamrick, Peter O'Malley, and Julia Dubay



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## SOA Athletes Begin Spring Seasons

by Giovanni Cusatis

Applause met with **Austin Walton**, **Griffin Hargett**, and **Will Marchant** to see what's happening in their Spring sports season.

Junior Band major Austin Walton is starting his second season playing lacrosse for Lucy Beckham. Walton has played lacrosse since elementary school, and in his freshman year, he played for Wando High School. Currently, he plays for the Sweetlax Loggerheads.

His goals this season are to “maintain playing time, put up good numbers, and help Lucy Beckham become a top team in the state.” Austin says that his coach has a positive attitude, but does not hesitate to discipline with heavy conditioning: “While the practices might seem rigorous, they're only making us better.” His team is 3-0 so far, and their most recent game against Bishop England was on March 2nd.

Griffin Hargett, a Senior Vocal major, is beginning his first season playing varsity soccer for West Ashley High School. He started playing at the age of four and has played every spring and fall season since then, including playing on two club state championship teams. His first club team was Charleston United, whom he played with from ages eight to fourteen. Since then, he has played for Cainhoy Athletic Soccer Club under his former elementary school teacher CJ Rozzi. His goals for this season are to “beat some of the local competition, notably James Island and Wando, and to work hard in training to help [his team] get as far as [they] can.” Practices are intense and are about two hours a day. Some days they do technical work, and other days they run full team 11v11 scrimmages. His team is 4-1 on the season so far. Their most recent game was against Academic Magnet on March 2nd.

Will Marchant, a Freshman Vocal major, plays varsity soccer for West Ashley High School. He grew up playing a variety of sports, but soccer was his favorite. This is his first year playing high school soccer, as he's only ever played on club teams previously. Will plays center-back and a few other defensive positions, and his goal for the season is to become a starter. “Being a freshman on varsity, I'm not expecting a lot of playing time, so I hope to start a few games.” Practices are intense, but fun. “Everyone's always focused and brings high intensity, so when we win, it makes it much more rewarding.” His team is 4-1 in the season so far.



Austin Walton



Griffin Hargett



Will Marchant

Provided

Provided

Provided

## Read Across America Celebrated as Part of a Literary Tradition

Aryana Chinn

The SOA Media Center recently celebrated Read Across America, to help revitalize students' passion for literature. The event ran from February 28 to March 4, encompassing the birthday of Dr. Seuss, March 2. Middle school English teachers, along with **Ms. Kramer**, **Mr. Gibson** and others helped to make this project a success.

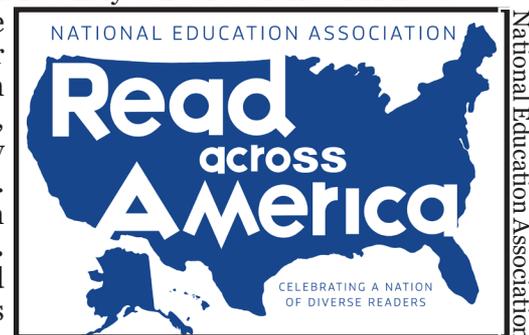
Read Across America was created by the National Education Association in 1998, making this the 24th celebration. This year, there is an emphasis on black voices, which Jason Reynolds, the author of *Ghost* and *All American Boys*, advocates for. In an interview on the Read Across America website, he explains the importance of representing the whole black experience in literature: the highs and lows, the boring bits, and the “sauce.” Some of the books featured for Read Across America this year that fill this role are *Loretta Little Looks Back: Three Voices Go Tell It* by Andrea Davis Pickney, and *The Cost of Knowing* by Brittney Morris.

This year Ms. Kramer helped teachers celebrate Read Across America by having students read selected titles as a class, such as *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Great Gatsby*.

Other events for this year's celebration included a book checkout competition held in the Media Center, and English teachers keeping record of the amount of books their students read. This tally happens every month, but it was extra special during this week. The previous January winners were **Ms. Healy's** 1A class, who conquered ninety books total. They celebrated with cookies and bragging rights. We await the winners of the March competition, which will be decided later this month. Also, 260 new books are on display in the Media Center, including *The Cost of Knowing*, *Voices: The Final Hours of Joan of Arc* by David Elliot, *Don't Ask Me Where I'm From* by Jennifer De Leon, and *Rolling Warrior: The Incredible, Sometimes Awkward, True Story of a Rebel Girl on Wheels Who Helped Spark a Revolution* by Judith Heumann and Kristen Joiner. Yeesh, that's a mouthful!

While we are celebrating Read Across America with hundreds of new books in the Media Center, it feels almost illegal to pass this week without reading anything by Dr. Seuss. However, some people view his work as controversial; in the time he was writing, he was prioritizing children's literature, but he also had a penchant for political messaging in stories. Some found that he was not properly representing children of all backgrounds in his books and embedded political ideas into work made for children. This history may be worth learning about and discussing, as Seuss's name is brought to light once more.

Whether you've just finished reading a banger of a novel or you haven't read for leisure since third grade, there's bound to be something for you with all the new additions to the Media Center. Take a trip to the library and get yourself something nice to celebrate the enjoyment of reading. To those who are doing the class book record contest, good luck!



National Education Association

## Ms. Bednarczyk Ties Arts to French IV Class

by Norah Bernstein

With the language's close association to the arts, French was the first language to be offered at SOA, and the French program has been preparing students since 1995. While Mrs. Bednarczyk, known to her students as Madame B., has been teaching French I, II, and III to high school students for more than fifteen years, she is excited for the return of French IV.

"It's a small class, but so fun," Madame B. says. "I get to be more creative and watch what my students can do!"

While French I, II, and III focus on the basics of the language, French IV immerses students into the culture of France, while encouraging each student to get creative. As a French IV student, I can say that my fourth year has been the most enriching. Once you get past the grammar and constant conjugating that all language students must endure, Mme B's French IV class is the reward for three years of hard work.

She encourages creativity in all aspects of the class through the study of French politics, press, and art history. Recently, all five of our French IV students completed a study of the art periods, with a chance to become an artist ourselves. We each selected an art period and an artist from that time, and after researching and preparing a presentation, we spent three days creating a masterpiece of our own that reflected the works of our chosen artist.

"The level of vocabulary the students used...amazing! These wonderful young ladies are already working at a college level, all thanks to their hard work and willingness to practice and speak French. Félicitations!" Mme. B. says. For the next unit, we will be creating our own news articles and compiling a small newspaper.

Mme B prepares students for AP and collegiate French. Her encouragement of a "French only" environment forces you to check your English at the door. While this proves to be difficult daily, the level of comfort that most of us feel with the language would be non-existent without that push. While French has been one of the more difficult classes that I have taken, I have grown to love the language, and the teacher behind it all, greatly. Mme. B. shares her enthusiasm and passion with her students.

"All that you put into it makes a difference and pays off!"

## Both Hands Full: The History of Pockets in Fashion

by Aryana Chinn

I feel quite excited to talk about this subject of art history. My Fashion major friend (which basically makes me a Fashion major, ha ha), **Anna Garziera**, told me about this, and it is pretty interesting. But, before I get into this, I want you to take a minute to feel around on your clothing. Do you have pockets? And if so, are they functioning? If you're not sure what I mean by that, test it by seeing if you can put



French IV students with their artwork

Christine Bednarczyk

your phone in there without it falling out. This may be an odd request to some students, but to others, lack of adequate pockets is often an annoyance. What many don't realize is that the lack of pockets in feminine clothing is a footprint of misogyny in the history of fashion.

Pockets found their place in the world in the 1600s, with both men and women carrying pouches (called "pouques" in French). They were made to tie on to one's belt, and the difference between men's and women's was practicality. Men's pouques were made to carry more, and to be durable and ready for hard labor. Women's pouques were decorative, and ooh! They matched their skirts! They could carry some coins, a handkerchief, and maybe a fan. I am all for coordination of a good outfit, but this was just the beginning. Pockets started to appear on clothes during the 1700s, but only for men. Women still had their tie-ons under the layers of fabric that was appropriate for the time, which made them difficult to access.

There came a time in the 1800s when France was going through a revolution, and no one wanted to look like those aristocrats and rulers anymore. They were staining the then-current fashion with the guillotine, so there was a shift in what was popular. Women dropped their large heavy skirts for slimmer, cotton dresses adopted from Greece, partially due to the Industrial Revolution's more accessible supply of cotton. Nobody had space for a chunky pocket anymore, and paranoid French people were worried that women would hide their revolutionary materials in those pockets.

Real change began to hit toward the end of the 1890s with the emergence of suffragettes and the Rational Dress Society of London, who advocated for a more practical women's garb, including the removal and renovation of corsets, and the addition of FUNCTIONING pockets. This, along with the Great War, challenged gender roles and fashion exponentially. With men away shooting at each other, women had an opportunity to seep into the workforce, where pants and pockets were much more desirable. Women running the working class got what they wanted up until the end of the war when men returned and there was a push for women to go back to traditional feminine roles.

For quite a while, pockets have been a political symbol for women, conveying ideas of confidence and purpose, but it could also be perceived as a symbol of secrecy. Politician Hillary Clinton's wardrobe staple of a pocketless suffragette suit was meant to symbolize transparency and progress. Alas, current fashion industries still haven't fully caught on due to the popularity of handbags and the trends of the past century. All we can do is continue to buy clothes with good pockets where we can find them, and leave it up to our rising Fashion students to spearhead better designs. It's up to you guys!

## Iconic Female Heroines in Literature

by Judith Hamrick and Carsyn Smith

For Women's History Month, **Judith Hamrick** and **Carsyn Smith** discuss some of their favorite female literary characters.

**Elizabeth Bennet - *Pride and Prejudice***



A 17th-century woman's pouque

medium.com

Arguably one of the best written characters in literature, Lizzie lives in a world against independent women, but lets nothing stop her from speaking her mind. Even if it means staying single forever, an unheard of thought at the time, she is determined to stay true to herself. Lizzie is intelligent, strong, ambitious, and everything a powerful girl strives to be.

**Jo March - Little Women**

At just fifteen years old, Jo March has become the definition of impulsive and argumentative in this classic novel. She's an outspoken writer willing to do anything to help her family. Jo defies the 19th century expectations of how girls should behave and creates an excellent example of tenacity for every young girl with a dream to follow.

**Hermione Granger - Harry Potter Series**

Hermione Granger became one of this series' most beloved characters the moment she introduced herself to her soon-to-be best friends on the Hogwarts Express. Though she is primarily praised for her smarts, she is much more than a stagnant book nerd. Her incredible memory and fiery intellect are always visible, and through the course of the seven book saga, Hermione transforms from a bookish eleven year old girl to a confident and courageous role model.

**Jude Duarte - The Cruel Prince**

Jude Duarte is absolutely one of the best female protagonists in the fantasy book genre. Throughout her journey in this three book saga, she persists through the obstacles of being different from those around her due to circumstances that she was not able to control. While being told to hold back from the people she was closest to, she pushes through to achieve her dreams. Her perseverance is the most magical thing about her.

**Evelyn Hugo - The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo**

Evelyn Hugo is a mysterious, yet well known, powerful woman who will do almost anything to achieve the stardom she's always dreamed of. Even though she's deemed as controversial in her opinion, she stays true to what she thinks is best. Her ability to adapt to change in almost any situation and proceed to excel is an amazing characteristic that is rarely portrayed in female protagonists. Along with this, she grows throughout the book with her understanding of meaningful and complex subjects, such as love and generosity.

**Nikki Maxwell - Dork Diaries Series**

Nikki Maxwell is every stereotypical middle school girl done right. The way that she presents herself, with sassiness that can radiate for miles, is something that easily bounces off of her character and onto the reader. While she may not seem cool under pressure, she gains a quick sense of wittiness after facing her enemies. Along with her dream fashion sense that replicates almost every preteen girl's fantasy, she is the moment.

**Class of 2023 presented with Junior Rings**

By Grace Baker

A tradition held since the first Junior class received their rings in 2000, the Class of 2023 Junior Ring Ceremony was held in the Rose



Vocal majors sing SOA's Alma Mater

Grace Baker

Maree Myers Theater on February 28th. The Juniors chose any presenter, whether it was a teacher, a family member, or a sports coach, to present them with a ring or personal memento. Following the Junior Vocal major's presentation of the Alma Mater and the opening speech given by Junior Class President Sydney Lee and Representative Aiden Penna, Mrs. Ann-Marie Fairchild presented the first rings. She proceeded to share a "secret" with the audience: "Did you realize that when your teachers speak about you to friends and family, that we refer to you as our kids?" Subsequent presenters couldn't agree more with her description of the unique relationship teachers have formed with specific students.

It would be impossible to look across the audience and not see a family member tearing up in the presence of their loved one receiving a ring from their most appreciable mentor. Bonds that will last a lifetime received the spotlight during the ceremony, and Juniors went home with smiles and tears to carry them through the rest of their time at SOA.



Ira Banks presents to his son, Caleb Banks

Grace Baker

**Thrifting in Charleston**

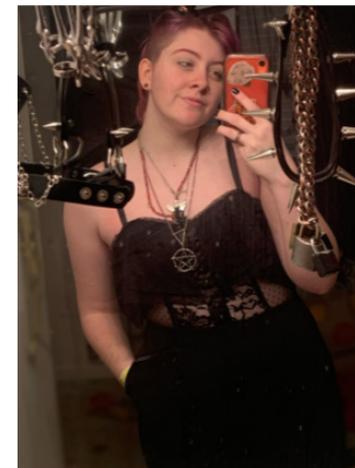
by Kingsley Gainey

Great, strange, and interesting things can all be found at thrift stores. I've been thrifting my whole life, and have always found such amazing things; however, the best part about it is that it is so cheap! I've found things like patch pants, corset tops, funny shirts, and even my book bag I use everyday!

I thrift in a way that works for me. I look for colors I like and wear a lot, such as blacks, reds, greens, and pinks. I always go to the pajama section to find slip tops and slip dresses, and I look for fabrics I like or can use when I shop for them as well. I also make sure to look in the knick-knack section for little things; you can find some really interesting and surprising things there!

One place I like to look is Exchange Factor (5128 Rivers Ave.), which always has so many nice clothing options available. It's more on the expensive side, but I'd say it's worth it. The thrift store at 5300 Rivers Avenue is my favorite one; I always find so many cute and different things here, and it's huge! Closet Case (1801 Reynolds Ave.) is another one of my favorites. It has such a nice environment and I have known and worked with the We Are Family staff for years. They have great energy, and create a safe and fun environment for shoppers. They even have tons of pride merch you can buy, like pins, stickers, flags, and so much more. All of these places have so much to offer, and every day there's something new.

You can also thrift online! Sites such as Depop, thredUP, and



Kingsley's completely thrifted outfit, consisting of black jeans and a lace top

Kingsley Gainey

Poshmark sell just as many great things as physical thrift stores! It's an easy way to sell and buy from home, while still being cost effective. The best part about thrifting from home is that you can contact the sellers themselves to know exactly what you're getting, and even who you're getting it from.

There are a few problems with thrifting, though. The act of thrifting and donating is great by itself, but if you buy too much at thrift stores, it can take away from the people who need to thrift, like those who don't have the privilege of buying from first hand stores.

Also, thrifting has become very popular on social media sites, like TikTok, causing a surge in second hand shopping. Some thrift stores are even raising their prices because of the newfound popularity.

Another problem with thrifting is that some people only thrift to resell, which is another reason as to why thrifting is becoming so much more expensive. This, in turn, is actively taking away from people in low-income communities who rely on thrift stores for their clothing needs.

When thrifting, don't forget about donating too! Lots of people tend to thrift without donating their older clothes to make room for the clothes they just thrifted; I would recommend that if you go thrifting and buy a lot, donate a lot back!

## Paint the Town Red and Gold!

by Judith Hamrick

*What's going on around town this month?*

### Black Pearl Sings!

Mar. 9 - 27 (assigned days/times)

Dock Street Theater

Charleston Stage presents the story of Pearl, a Gullah woman from South Carolina, and Susannah, a white musicologist, as they find they must work together to fulfill both of their goals. (Tickets start at \$32).

### The Legend of Georgia McBride

Mar. 11 - 27 (assigned days/times)

Queen Street Playhouse

Footlight Players presents the story of Casey, a young Elvis impersonator, as he finds his own path to prosperity. It is filled with music, laughter, and lots of sequins, and follows his journey becoming a drag queen to support his struggling family.

### Festival of Houses and Gardens

Mar. 16 - Apr. 9

In & Around the Old & Historic District of Charleston

Celebrating its 75th year, this celebration of the architecture and

landscaping of Charleston features many exciting things to do in the next month, ranging from historic site tours to concerts.

### St. Patrick's Day Parade

Mar. 17 (10am - 11am)

Downtown Charleston

The parade begins after an 8 am mass at St. Patrick's Catholic Church. It will follow a route down King St. to Broad St., and ends at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. There will be fire trucks, Irish step dancers marching bands, mascots, and more!

### Charleston Bluegrass Festival

Mar. 18th & 19th

The Woodlands Nature Reserve

The Charleston Bluegrass Festival is making its glorious return with another weekend of celebration, spotlighting some of the finest names in bluegrass across three main stages.

### Tyler, the Creator

Mar. 23 (7pm - 9pm)

North Charleston Coliseum & Performing Arts Center

*Call Me If You Get Lost* tour show with Vince Staples, Kali Uchis, and Teezo Touchdown.

### Sunday Brunch Farmers Market

Every Sunday (11am - 3pm)

The Pour House

100% local market featuring dozens of farmers and artisans, as well as live music and delicious food!

### Vinyl Saturday

First Saturday of every month

Monster Music and Movies

20% off of all vinyl, new and used.

## Culture Shock: Adapting to an American High School

by Guest Writer Anna Garziera

First day and I am already displeased because it's August. Why am I in the classroom already? I brush off the pessimism and try not to think of the good old days in Italy when school started in late September. Suspicion grows on me as I walk down the deserted hallways. Why is everything so new? Why is everywhere so empty?

After meandering up and down the stairs again, I finally found my classroom. It seems



Anna Garziera

Provided



# Taskforce

unlikely that there are really more than one thousand classrooms, but of course, they're numbered by floors like hotels. After dispersing Chromebooks like confetti, the teacher hands out our schedules. My day looks a little scarce, with only four classes each day when I am used to nine or ten. Maybe this is a good sign if these American kids have a concentration span of more than twenty-five minutes. The dates and weekdays in my agenda are in the wrong order, and the lined paper is the wrong size, but I can manage. Phew. This much I can manage.

“GOOD MORNING SOA” resounds from the sky and echoes in the classroom. I looked around me, startled, wondering whether that was God. But it's not God.

My knowledge of American High Schools was limited to *iCarly* and *High School Musical*, but somewhat accurate at the same time. The lockers are tall and uniform, the dress code is strict and largely disrespected, and the school buses are yellow (and the kids riding them are wild). This much, I knew. What I was missing is the ideology from which each policy stems.

It's inconceivable to me how grades are determined in this broken system, edging more and more into forced uniformity. I know the British school system best: one that is strict, rewards effort, and does not tolerate defiance of any kind. When the teacher asks his students to complete a worksheet, it is completed with no questions asked. There is no such thing as grading on “completion” because completion is expected. Grading is only on performance. This said, not every grade is launched into the grade book like a cannonball without cause. In fact, the only grades that count are test grades scribed into record untouched, uncurved, and averaged to give a realistic prediction of the future performance on the final exam. Grades are brutal.

I was eleven when my parents dropped me off at a traditional British Secondary School for Girls, only five days after telling me we would not go back home to Italy after this month-long trip to England. I attended an elementary school in Milan, Italy where only five percent of the population speaks respectable English, so mine was not. I was given a deserved twenty-three percent on the essay for my final exam that year, and I was truly proud of it.

Loi•ter: to stand or wait around idly or without apparent purpose. I had not heard this curious word before and have been guilty of this offense many times, whether it was observing the nature, the buildings, or the people, simply out of boredom.

“NO LOITERING IN THE HALLWAYS.” Must my presence always have a purpose? Unfortunately, the problem runs deeper than this. Loitering is fully excused by a “pass” to certify that the child is not skipping class and not lying. This mistrust can only come from years of abusing the privilege of freedom just to end up with a generation of students that would rather not learn, and a generation of adults that would rather not trust.

Instead, roaming in these hallways is a constant sense of fear, that the danger is closer than it may appear, that the impossible might just happen, even at our school. Disconcerting is the only way to describe the way the doors lock from the outside, the way there's lockdown drills and fire drills and guards roaming the school grounds. This heightened level of security is understandable, but disappointing. The same way the square under the Torre Eiffel in Paris is barred and circled with metal detectors and X-ray machines instead of being the same hangout spot of forty years ago. We are safe, but fear consumes us.

At the end of the day, all this mindless picking at the flaws of the education system in the United States boils down to nothing, especially considering that I feel somewhat indifferent about these flaws, and often gain from the system rather than lose out from it.

Sure, the hallways are too wide, the food is too unhealthy, and

it still feels funny seeing microwaves at every corner, but the truth is, I have rarely enjoyed school this much, be it for the environment or for the people.

## Carsyn's Take: The Intricacy of Kanye West

by Carsyn Smith

Kanye West; someone who, when brought up within miles of me, can bring a twitch to my eye. West is best known for his music career and relationship with Kim Kardashian, but it is hard to think of “Ye” without recognizing all of his controversial actions from what feels like the last thousand years.

Billie Eilish vs Kanye West is not something that I thought would happen. However, I am not surprised. Eilish has been back on tour for her second album, *Happier Than Ever*, and has been doing exceptionally well for herself these past couple of weeks, but West just had to jump in and insert himself like he always does.

At a recent show, Eilish stopped her performance to make sure that one of her fans in the audience was taken care of and had her inhaler after having an asthma attack. Eilish followed with a quick remark about stopping the show everytime to make sure that everyone is okay and could have the experience that they had paid for. What a cute, sweet, and simple situation that showed a genuine relationship between fan and artist, right? Well, West seems to disagree.

West took to Instagram and vented in the caption of a now deleted post. He mentioned that he was disappointed in Eilish for dissing Travis Scott, and that he would not perform until Billie had apologized. I think the world already knows about what happened to Scott, but just as a reminder, Scott hosted a festival called AstroWorld where he and other artists performed. During Scott's performance, the large amount of people in the crowd resulted in many injuries and some fatalities, even though it is known that the fans were reaching out to Scott to get help. He was informed that ambulances and assistance were needed in the crowd, and still continued the show. Billie responded in the comment section by simply saying that she had not made any remarks about the AstroWorld situation, and was just helping a fan out.

This is just one example of how Kanye needs to stick his head out of people's business—especially young women! Ever since the height of West's career, it seems as though women, including his now ex-wife Kim Kardashian, singer-songwriter Taylor Swift, and others, are his main targets. He has been known for having a “strange way of words” towards young ladies, but at the same time, I think it is just his repressed misogyny.

After his and Kim's divorce, not only did it take him a couple months, if that, to get a new girlfriend, but then he posted on his Instagram about how he really wants his family back together. The undertone of his unexpected post is basically, “Oh, he just wants his family back together, but big mean Kim is hoarding the kids from him!” No! That's not how that works. Kim is trying her best to raise her children in a stable, loving environment, while trying to guard them from West whenever he decides to lash out and act like that.

West's mental health has been on a rollercoaster. Phrases like “Kanye needs to take his meds!” and “He truly has bipolar disorder!” have been thrown around left and right. It is important to note that he has been diagnosed with BPD and other mental health issues. However, this doesn't give him the right to take things out on other people, especially



Carsyn Smith

Provided

a specific group, and is not representative of those who also have mental health issues. West, at this point, is in a lane of his own, not in his music, but in his perspectives on life.

## Opinion: Promposals

by Judith Hamrick

Since the turn of the 21st century, high school students all across the country have either been dreaming or dreading what is arguably one the most important events in their young adult life...prom. The perfect excuse to splurge and treat yourself as royalty for the night while commemorating the memories you've made and the hard work you've done in these last three or four years.

The return of SOA's prom is just around the corner and preparations are in full swing. Dresses are flying off the shelves left and right, tuxes are being rented, party buses and beach houses are standing by, but the one thing SOA simply does not have enough of is extravagant proposals, or rather, promposals.

The term "promposal" was supposedly coined in the spring of 2001 by the Dallas Morning News in Texas after kids attending local schools were asking each other out to prom in quirky and elaborate ways. They've become a nationally treasured trend for the last two decades and appear in many different shapes and sizes. Promposals can be as simple as a casual question, or as complex as a choreographed flash mob accompanied by Bonnie Tyler's "Holding Out for a Hero."

These bizarre gestures hit peak popularity through social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram in 2016, or as some have called it, "the year of the absurd." And if there is anything I've learned in my two years at SOA, it's to embrace the unusual. Between the musical telegrams on Valentine's Day and Ms. Orchard's yearly World War I trench warfare reenactments, it's hard not to find yourself smiling through the strange happenings that might not be considered normal at another school. So what's one more song?

Though they are entertaining, it is important to remember that they're not obligatory, and the question of "how much is too much" must be asked before following through. The knight in shining armor holding a pizza with "PROM?" spelled out in pepperoni will never be required. At the end of the day, it's all about what's fun for you and what you think is best.

So, if you're still contemplating how to ask out your special someone, here's a piece of advice from a not-so-humble observer: Do it, and do it big...preferably in a sentimental way that can embarrass you both just the right amount, while still ensuring others find it adorable. (Just be sure not to disrupt any school happenings or valuable class time!)

In classic SOA fashion, go big or go home. Happy prom season everyone!



Provided

Judith Hamrick

## SOA Volunteers at the Charleston Parks Conservancy's 2022 Teddy Bear Picnic at Hampton Park



Kayla Herrman

Dr. Cusatis and Giovanni Cusatis entertain families Sunday, March 6, at the annual Teddy Bear Picnic



Giovanni Cusatis

Applause staff members Kayla Herrman and Lauren Holladay volunteer at the arts and crafts station.

**Applause Presents**  
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**Songs of the 1970s**  
**Tuesday, May 17th, 6:30 pm**  
**Rose Maree Myers Theater**



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## The Five Stages of Prom Dress Shopping

by Guest Writer Anna Garziera

It's here. The night remembered by every generation is finally yours: the long awaited High School Prom. The best part? The hunt for the perfect dress.

**Stage One: Denial.** Denial of your unrealistic expectations, that is. After seeing how easily Cinderella's dress won Prince Charming's heart (because it really was the dress), your mind was made. Your dress must be the prettiest in the kingdom, and that is not too much to ask. Nowadays, the search most often begins with online inspiration, where self-claimed models and influencers pose for perfect pictures in perfect places. And without fail, you will attempt the same.

**Stage Two: Anger.** Anger, because a distant promise to your mother seals your fate. Her only wish is now fulfilled, and she will come prom dress shopping with you. The nightmare begins immediately, with clashing visions of silhouettes, cuts, lengths, and shades of green. The dress she sees black and blue, you see white and gold, but that doesn't matter; she will get the final say regardless. A group of young girls giggle as they pass you by, all holding identical Chanel shopping bags, and all you feel is envy. If only your mother were as cool as theirs! Instead, here you are, in a dim dressing room, wearing a funeral gown.

**Stage Three: Bargaining.** Bargaining with yourself, because your hope still flickers, even as it goes down the drain. You flick through a rack you've already flicked through before. Your fingers graze its velvet collar, and your heart skips a beat. In your hands, you hold a blood red masterpiece. The tag is neatly marked with your size. There is one more detail, one crucial detail, that is the fine line between life and death. One detail that has your adrenaline pumping in unpremeditated directions. You slowly lift the price tag. Three hundred dollars over budget, your dream is crushed.

**Stage Four: Depression.** Depression surfacing from the ashes that was your beauty of a dress, now out of reach. Varying levels of desperation follow depending on the availability of your second picks and the time you have left to choose said prom dress. Your options are truly meager and unsatisfactory, but there never will be a dress as good as that.

**Stage Five: Acceptance.** Acceptance that The Dress is already some other girl's. You sit on your bed, staring past the second hand dress that hangs on your dresser: the one your parents assured you looks "lovely" on you. The worst part is that you don't even hate it. You'll wear it tomorrow, and have as much fun as everyone else.

Looking back, that dress was perfect, because it was the one you wore to the prom of '22, and that in itself makes it special.



Anna Garziera

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As of March 9, upwards of 500 Ukrainian civilians were reported dead due to this conflict, with an unimaginable amount to come. The unspeakable, sinister audacity of Putin to destroy people's homes, families, and lives for a chunk of land and a nation that proved peaceful and harmless to the powerful Russia, has been acknowledged throughout the world, as allies and enemies have responded to his unrelenting intentions of cruelty towards the people of Ukraine with anger and resistance. This is not a military operation: this is war.

The prediction of a third world war has been debated since the 1980s, and the evidence of this possibility has only piled up since. Growing international hostility and political polarization surrounding climate change, foreign policy, and nuclear policy have caused increased uncertainty among people from all corners of the world. Add COVID-19 and a newfound distrust of proven scientific research by credible professionals, and in retrospect, it now seems like the world has been snowballing into this all along.

As for Ukraine, it seemed on February 24th that barring international interference, Ukraine would be Russia's within days. Weeks later, we can only imagine how much Putin regrets invading Ukraine. The worst-ever sanctions have been imposed against Russia from organizations like the UN to nations such as the United States. On February 24th, the Ruble (Russia's currency) was eighty-four per US Dollar. On March 6th, it was 121. This inflation has caused many Russians to debate fleeing the country, but Russian flights have been banned in over thirty-five countries, including the US. Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter are banned in Russia, as well as Netflix and other large streaming services. Sports cancellations and bans have halted Russia into an athletic standstill.

However, deterring Russia economically and politically is not enough, as there are human lives that need protection throughout Ukraine, and the effort to help has been unbelievable. It seems as if the entire world has come to help the forty-four million people that inhabit Ukraine. On March 3rd, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky announced that over 16,000 foreigners had volunteered to join the Ukrainian forces, with over 3,000 coming from America. Elon Musk delivered a truckload of Starlink terminals after Ukraine's internet was nearly wiped out. Groups of Russian soldiers have surrendered without a fight with signs of low morale. Switzerland, remarkably, backed Ukraine after staying neutral in every international conflict of its existence. Massive protests have erupted in virtually every country in the European Union, and over 3,000 protest-related arrests have been reported in Moscow. On March 8, President Biden banned imports of Russian oil.

It is unfortunate that it often takes a crisis to unite us. Yet in the wake of the past two years, the world was ready to come together to combat the forces of evil on this Earth. As this war rages on, we must not forget the will of the Ukrainians and their unwavering passion and love for their homeland as they fight for their country, and we must come together to aid in the worldwide struggle for peace, kinship, and social prosperity throughout the world. Ukraine is a catalyst for this movement.

## Opinion: The Russian-Ukrainian War

On March 11th, 2020, the world was propelled into a state of unrivaled uncertainty through a pandemic of a magnitude not experienced since 1919, though the subsequent eye wouldn't begin to anticipate what has occurred over the past month. On February 24th, much to the shock of Russian officials and citizens, Vladimir Putin announced a "special military operation" in the nearby country of Ukraine, the home of Chernobyl, the largest nuclear facility in Europe, and land that once belonged to the Soviet Union.

## Spring Fashion

by Kenya Hines

Spring is finally here, and though I may hate the string of allergies coming my way, I'm definitely not opposed to the outfits.

It's time to bring out what some administrators think men are distracted by: shoulders. I still think we haven't reached tank top weather, but I believe it's time for cold cut shoulders. This was peak 2015 Tumblr fashion, and I think it's about time we bring it back.

Jeans are a year round go-to, but do you know what's better than jeans? Overalls. If I could marry a pair of overalls, I would; they've treated me better than any man has. Whether you want to feel like a cowboy, farmer, or the comedic relief in a 90's romcom, you'll want to snag yourself a pair from Old Navy. Also, try mixing up your colors! Whether it's white, yellow, or your classic light blue denim, it's perfect for that picnic you might be planning. Another good clothing piece for your picnic adventures are maxi dresses. Everytime I wear one, I feel like I'm in a music video for the local band. There are still a few chilly days ahead of us, so I recommend wearing a nice cardigan or denim jacket over it.

If you're not feeling any of the clothes I'm talking about, no worries because, like I always say, accessories can play a bigger role in an outfit than you think. In my opinion, I think spring is all about the hair accessories! Hair clips will always be the one I fall back on. If you want to spice up a casual outfit, add a big clip with some pearls or sparkles.

Another hair accessory that you will never go wrong with is a snapback! The denim, blinged out hats are making a comeback, and I couldn't be happier. Lastly, I love incorporating scarves in my outfits. If I'm having a bad hair day or decide not to finish my hair the night before school, I can always wrap a silk scarf on top and let the back of my hair fall out. But, who says scarves are just for hair? If you have one that's long enough, try wearing it as a belt!

As the saying goes "April showers bring May flowers." Make sure you throw some flower print into those outfits; it doesn't matter if it's on a jacket, the back of your jeans pocket, or even on your socks. Spring would be nothing without flowers, so I think it's time y'all pay its due. Now that you've got your outfits ready, go take a nice walk out at the park, watch the sunset with your friends, and make sure you take your allergy medicine.

### Sass Attack: February Heat

by Madelynne Burt

It's finally that time of year again; even though it's March, the Charleston air is turning warm, the sunlight is beginning to roast our skin, and sweat pools on our foreheads.

It's essentially summer on the coast of South Carolina, and everyone has an opinion on the weather. The regulars at the local bar think it's atrocious that it's seventy degrees in February. Your friends are excited to run to the beach for a summer photo-op when it's definitely still too cold to touch the water. Your neighbor is warning everyone about their fears of global warming. It's hard to consider how you feel about the weather.

When you wake up in the morning, the dew is drizzled across the lawn, nearly frozen from the cold night air. By noon, you have to peel off the layers of clothing you stacked on just a few hours ago. The



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Kenya rocks a red beret and overalls

most frustrating part is selecting a comfortable outfit that can somehow transcend the seasons and work for the winter of the morning, the spring of noon, summer of the afternoon, and the return to winter at night.

You're stuck with the inevitable questions of shorts or pants and tank top or long-sleeve. It's impossible to choose, because although you don't want to pair shorts with a tank when it's freezing, you're perfectly comfortable by lunch. If you decide on the warmer clothing, your morning may be nice, but the afternoon is hell.

In reality, I appreciate the sunkissed glow that the summery weather of February brings, but I simply cannot stand the unpredictability of it all. One day, you could be lying out on the beach in a bathing suit, and the next, you have to bundle up in a puffer because of the winter breeze.

Although I'm excited for the stable weather of summer, I can't say I look forward to the imminent smoldering heat. There are probably two weeks in the entire year where the weather is "perfect" in Charleston.

### SOA Visual Artist Wins First Place in Mural Competition for The Pour House

by Kayla Herrman

Eighth grade visual artist Amelia Counts tied for first place in the 2022 Charleston Pour House Mural Competition with her mural of Kurt Cobain. There was no theme to the competition, but Amelia wanted to incorporate music in her design, as The Pour House is known for their live music. Amelia used a reference photo taken by well-known photographer Ken Friedman, and she found that asking for permission was a bit daunting. However, he ended up responding to Amelia, and allowed her to use his photo.



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Amelia Counts with her winning mural

Amelia's mother teaches yoga at the Pour House every Sunday



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morning, and her family goes to the farmers market often, so she was familiar with the annual competition. While she knew about the contest, she didn't gain the confidence to enter the competition until this year. The artists were given a week to complete their murals. As one of the youngest muralists, Amelia could only work for five days on her piece, as school enabled her to do so. She took a few days off from class in order to dedicate more time and detail to her mural. Amelia said that it was very difficult to stay warm, so it took a bit longer to complete. She wore lots of layers and her mom made her some hot tea to keep her moving.

After completion, public voting was available for a full week. Winning the public vote, her prizes consisted of a \$500 cash prize, free concerts at the Pour House for a year, and a free screen printing class at Redux, a non profit contemporary art center. Amelia is proud of putting herself and her art out there and getting recognized. She comments that the motivation and art instruction that she gets from SOA has helped her find love for art again, not only in school, but outside of school as well. If you ever find yourself by the Pour House, be sure to stop by and check out Amelia's incredible mural!

## Where Are They Now?

**Carl Macklin** reached out to former SOA Dance Student and recent Middle School Dance guest instructor **Christina Slaton** to learn about her time after SOA and in the Dance residency.

**Carl Macklin: In what ways has your time at SOA helped you in your career?**

**Christina Slaton:** Even before high school, I knew I wanted to be a professional dancer. The School of the Arts helped to nurture that passion. By the beginning of my senior year, I was training with a professional ballet company in the morning (Charleston Ballet Theatre), arriving at school to choreograph my thesis and take necessary credits, teaching after school, then attending my usual evening dance classes after that. It was very special to attend a school that understood my needs as an artist.

While researching for my recent residency with the SOA dance department, I realized my first performance in a musical was in the 2009 production of SOA's *The Wiz*. I performed as The Yellow Brick Road. I believe Mrs. Cline still has the costume!

**CM: Where did you go to college and how did you continue to pursue your dance career while you were there?**

**CS:** Immediately after graduation in 2010, I moved to New York City. I attended a four semester, musical theater conservatory known as The American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA). Before moving, I had only ever considered myself a dancer. During my first year in the city, I not only learned how to act and sing, but also learned how to sew all three together. It was a hard adjustment. Aside from training, I had to learn how to function in New York. I was seventeen when I moved...the sense of awareness and wit I had to gain and maintain was detrimental to survival.

**CM: Were there teachers, mentors, or other sources of inspiration along the way?**



Recent headshot photographed by Mickey Busch, professional makeup artist in Atlanta

Provided

**CS:** Of course! I grew up in the dance studio. My mother is a dancer and studio owner. I learned a lot about the business from her, which is so important, especially at this point in my career. I'm a dance history NERD! A lot of my immediate inspiration comes from research. I've been educating more frequently, so I'm constantly digging into musicals, new and old. I'm also grateful for my intense training in ballet. It taught me discipline that I still carry with me today.

**CM: Where did you get your start dancing professionally?**

**CS:** I booked my first professional show in December of 2013. Oddly enough, my audition in New York led me right back to the South in a production of *Anything Goes* at the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina, a union theater on Hilton Head Island. I performed as a featured ensemble dancer, and I understudied the supporting role of Erma.

**CM: What have been some highlights of your career so far?**

**CS:** The biggest highlight, so far, has been traveling on tour with Broadway's 42nd Street National Tour. I could dance that show every day for the rest of my life. Another was traveling the world on Holland America Line cruises as Dance Captain. I was in charge of keeping six shows clean, re-staging, and being in contact with our managers in Los Angeles. I was twenty-two years old.

**CM: What have been some of the challenges and rewards of a professional dance career?**

**CS:** Personally, the biggest challenge has always been living in limbo. Nothing is permanent. When you have the gig, you're always searching for the next one. The cycle can really eat at you. The biggest reward is the friends that I've made all over the planet. I feel like I can travel anywhere and see someone I know, and I love it!

**CM: What do you do when you feel like giving up?**

**CS:** It's taken me a very long time to develop a healthy relationship with Musical Theatre. Auditions alone can take a toll on your mental health, and there is definitely a sense of defeat when you don't book the gig, but I always remind myself that showing up is the majority of the job. I've felt like giving up A LOT. The busier I am, the happier...when I have a lull in the chaos is when I start to question my worth.

**CM: What led to your returning to SOA to work with our middle schoolers?**

**CS:** I always reach out to a few places when I know I'm going to be in the area. Mrs. Cline, Ms. T, and I had been in contact for a few months. My first residency took place in February 2020, right before COVID. I worked with the high school dancers and set a six minute piece on the sophomore class called "Crunchy Granola Suite," originally choreographed by Bob Fosse. Summer 2021 is when Mrs. Cline invited me back to work with the middle school dancers.

**CM: What are you working on with these younger dancers?**

**CS:** Opposite of the high school dancers, I kept the knowledge current.



Christina Slaton's New York rooftop improvisation

Provided

We focused on new musicals and representation. In class, technique was important, but the way you represented yourself was the main purpose. I saw these young artists go from zero to one thousand in five days. I received the opportunity to choreograph on the sixth grade dancers, and honestly, was a little lost on how to approach choreography on eighteen people that I had never met. It wasn't until I realized that SOA's production of *The Wiz* was my first musical that I got inspired to choreograph a four minute piece to "Ease On Down The Road." I worked with them like I'd work with any professional cast; they are talented rockstars, and I can't wait for you to see the number.

**CM: What career goals do you have for the future?**

**CS:** I've recently made a transition to Atlanta. The commercial versus theater world has definitely been an adjustment. My short term goals are to work in film. I've been deep in education, but I'm ready to start training and performing again. I can't wait.

**CM: Any advice to SOA students who plan on continuing to remain active in their major after high school?**

**CS:** Show up for yourself.

## Where Were They Then?

*Giovanni Cusatis interviewed Fashion teacher Ms. Donna Chesborough about her life before SOA.*

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

**Donna Chesborough:** I grew up in Rochester, New York, which is on Lake Ontario. I was the middle child between two brothers in a very tight knit family. We often cooked dinner together, played games like *Scrabble* and poker, and traveled the country, camping during summer vacations. Some of my happiest memories were shopping for fabric and creating dresses for school with my mom. At Christmas, we had large family get togethers, and my Italian mom's relatives would all be there. Many were accomplished musicians, writers, linguists, dancers, singers, and teachers.

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

**DC:** I studied fashion design in high school and went to college at the Fashion Institute of Technology in Manhattan. My father did not support my decision to go into fashion design, but I was determined! I worked during the day and attended classes at night.

**GC: Where did you work before SOA?**

**DC:** At the young age of twenty, while still in school, I got my first job as a clothing designer for a small company in New York designing sleepwear and lingerie. From there, I worked my way up and had a long and happy career as a designer and fashion industry executive. In 2000, I moved to Charleston and became an entrepreneur, launching my own business, DSCdesigns, Inc. ([www.DSCdesigns.com](http://www.DSCdesigns.com))

**GC: What made you want to become a teacher?**

**DC:** This is my first year as a teacher. At this point in my life, I have a lot of experience and knowledge that could be valuable to anyone interested in learning to design and create garments or in pursuing a career in fashion.

**GC: Do you have any advice for aspiring designers or students in general?**

**DC:** As a professional designer, you need to stay true to your aesthetic, but you also have to make sure others like your designs enough to buy them. Designing without selling is a hobby, not a profession. Never stop learning new things, always strive to be a valuable employee, and continually ask for more responsibility and more money. If there is no opportunity for growth where you are, change jobs!



A young Ms. Chesborough and her older brother, Steve.

Provided

## Seniors Share College Plans

by Lauren Holladay

Applause staff writer **Lauren Holladay** talked with two seniors, **Madelynne Burt** and **Sofia Lathbury**, about their plans after graduating from SOA.

After a long first half of the school year, SOA students are getting more and more excited for the time after the last day of classes: summer. Following the summer months, most of School of the Arts' students will walk back on campus for another year of learning. The seniors, however, will begin a new journey: college.

Madelynne Burt, a senior Creative Writing major, finishes off her seventh and last year at SOA eager to start the next phase of her life. Madelynne applied to a vast number of colleges, all scattered in different cities and environments. She wanted to be sure to keep her options open, so she applied to schools in and out of state, including Clemson University, Transylvania University, and the University of San Francisco. While she previously aspired to attend Vanderbilt University, the variety in location of her school choices gives Madelynne many great options. She has yet to decide where she will attend next year, but she is leaning towards Transylvania University, located in Lexington, Kentucky: "Their staff has been the most communicative with me, leading me to believe that they are the most involved in their students lives, but I am still waiting to hear from a few schools," she states.

During her time at SOA, Madelynne ran through numerous possible career choices. In her years, she looked at careers in advertising, interior design, and real estate, but she recently decided to major in Political Science or Politics, and she is considering a minor in English or Journalism: "Over the past few years, I have realized the influence politics have on all aspects of my life, and want to learn more about



Ms. Chesborough and her dog, Satchmo

Provided



Madelynne Burt

Provided

government and politics,” Madelynne expresses. She hopes to attend law school after studying as an undergraduate, but her plans are not set in stone, as she recognizes the fact that they could change any day.

As she starts to prepare for the next chapter of her life, Madelynne reflects on her middle and high school years at SOA. She is grateful for all of her past teachers at SOA, but she recognizes her Creative Writing teachers especially, since they helped put her on track to achieving her goals and provided guidance when it came to college. While she will miss her friends, teachers, and her Creative Writing classes here at School of the Arts, Madelynne is ready to leave high school and is excited for college and the opportunities it presents for her future: “Although I love SOA, I am tired of driving that seventeen mile commute every day,” she admits.

Nearing the end of her senior year at School of the Arts, Madelynne leaves some inspiring words for future SOA students. Madelynne encourages students not to stress the minor things in life, and to spend high school living life to the fullest. “Just try to live in the present (but also do your homework),” she emphasizes.

Another senior at SOA, Vocal major Sofia Lathbury, is excited to pursue further education in college as well. Sofia applied to multiple colleges, including Furman University, the University of Southern California, and Wofford College. Sofia’s schools, similar to Madelynne’s, also range in location. She applied to a total of eight schools, and made sure to keep her options open by applying to some near and far. She realized when applying that she would miss home, so she ended up applying to more in-state schools than she had originally planned.

While Sofia previously thought she would attend Belmont University, located in downtown Nashville, she has decided that she will be studying at Wofford College in the fall. When choosing her college, Sofia was drawn to the close-knit student community offered at Wofford. Along with the beautiful campus, Sofia is also excited to enjoy the multitudes of activities and extracurriculars available at Wofford: “They offer a huge array of clubs, sports, and extracurriculars, which I will be taking advantage of,” she explains.

As a middle and high schooler at SOA, Sofia was unsure what she wanted to major in during college, and she spent a lot of time choosing a path to follow. In the end, she decided to pursue law, and she aspires to someday become an attorney. “I think that equal justice is really important, especially in today’s society. So, I hope that by becoming an attorney, I can help represent those who need it most,” Sofia declares. While she admires all of the great things about Wofford, she acknowledges that it doesn’t offer as many majors as other schools. After a little bit of research to figure out which major best fit her, Sofia is planning on majoring in Sociology & Anthropology on the Pre-Law track, and she is leaning towards a career in civil rights.

After attending SOA as a vocalist for seven years, Sofia appreciates all of the amazing opportunities and experiences that she got to take part in. Unable to choose a favorite moment, Sofia highlights one of her most memorable times during her years at School of the Arts: a trip to New York City with the rest of the Vocal majors. “I loved being in the city with all of my friends, seeing Broadway shows, and singing at Carnegie Hall with everyone,” she says. While she is not majoring



Provided

Sofia Lathbury

in music or vocal performance in college, Sofia believes that attending SOA as a vocalist was immensely beneficial to discovering herself and her ambitions for the future, and she feels that “having an arts or music background can help in finding your passions.”

Excited for the next step of her life, Sofia is eager to graduate. “The future is so open for me, so I’m really excited to see how things turn out,” she states. As a part of the graduating class in 2022, Sofia leaves future students with some encouraging words about their lives after high school: “Take your time and consider all of your options when it comes to your future. This is the time to be selfish and make decisions that will benefit you.”

While the fourth quarter of the school year slowly draws near, seniors at School of the Arts slowly bring their time in high school to a close. After spending years creating great memories with teachers, classmates, and friends, the Class of 2022 will soon leave campus to begin the next journey of their lives, where they will be able to craft their own futures and follow their own dreams.

## This Month in Women’s History

by Madelynne Burt

**March 4, 1933-** Frances Perkins becomes the first woman appointed to a cabinet post. She was sworn in as U.S. Secretary of Labor in the FDR administration.

**March 7, 2010-** American director Kathryn Bigelow becomes the first woman to win an Academy Award for best director, for *The Hurt Locker* (2008).

**March 10, 2017-** South Korean politician Park Geun-Hye's presidency ends as the country's Constitutional Court upheld her impeachment, making her South Korea's first democratically elected president to be removed from office.

**March 11, 2006-** Chilean politician Michelle Bachelet becomes the first woman to serve as the country's president as she was sworn into office.

**March 12, 1993-** American lawyer and public official Janet Reno is sworn in as U.S. attorney general, becoming the first woman to hold the office.

**March 15, 1933-** Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the second woman to serve on the Supreme Court, is born in Brooklyn, New York.

**March 19, 1911-** The first International Women's Day is celebrated.

**March 22, 1972-** The U.S. Senate approves the Equal Rights Amendment, created to provide legal equality of the sexes and prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex. However, it failed to be ratified by the requisite majority of thirty-eight states before the deadline.

**March 26, 1944-** American pop singer and actress Diana Ross—who achieved international stardom, first as leader of the vocal group the Supremes and later as a solo artist—is born.

**March 31, 1888-** The National Council of Women of the U.S. is organized by Susan B. Anthony, Clara Barton, Julia Ward Howe, and Sojourner Truth.



francesperkinscenter.org

Frances Perkins, the first woman Secretary of Labor

## Congrats to SOA's Scholastic Writing Award Winners

**Amy Adyaeva-** Honorable Mention, Silver Key  
**R. A. J. Anderson-** 6 Honorable Mentions, 3 Silver Keys, 3 Gold Keys  
**Elle Baker-** 1 Honorable Mention, 1 Gold Key  
**Elena Barber-** 1 Honorable Mention  
**Riley Brockman-** 1 Honorable Mention, 3 Silver Keys  
**Madelynne Burt-** 1 Honorable Mention, 1

Silver Key  
**Niamh Carmichael-** 3 Honorable Mentions  
**Lauren Center-** Portfolio Honorable Mention, 1 Honorable Mention, 1 Silver Key  
**Elle Cooper-** 2 Honorable Mentions, 2 Silver Keys, 6 Gold Keys  
**Bella Cosentino-** 1 Honorable Mention, 2 Silver Keys, 1 Gold Key  
**Sophia Cosentino-** 1 Honorable Mention, 1 Silver Key, Portfolio Silver Key  
**Eliza Eckert-** 1 Honorable Mention, 3 Silver Keys  
**James Fauerbach-** 3 Honorable Mentions  
**Alison Fletcher-** 2 Honorable Mentions,

1 Silver Key, 1 Gold Key, and an American Voices Nomination  
**Raily Fogle-** 1 Honorable Mention  
**Ella Fritz-** 4 Honorable Mentions, 3 Silver Keys, 2 Gold Keys, and an American Voices Nomination  
**Linda Garziera-** 1 Honorable Mention  
**Nora Green-** 1 Honorable Mention, 1 Silver Key  
**Timothy Griffin-** 1 Silver Key  
**Charlotte Griggs-** 1 Honorable Mention  
**Simon Hamrick-** Portfolio Honorable Mention, 1 Silver Key, 1 Gold Key  
**Isis Hanna-** 1 Honorable Mention, 1 Silver Key

**Winslow Hastie-** 1 Silver Key, 1 Gold Key  
**Lillian Hughes-** 1 Honorable Mention, 1 Gold Key  
**Lily Jensen-** 1 Silver Key, 2 Gold Keys, and an American Voices Nomination  
**Jessie Johnson-** 3 Honorable Mentions, 3 Silver Keys, 3 Gold Keys  
**Zoe Jones-** 1 Honorable Mention, 2 Silver Keys  
**Noelle Junge-** 2 Honorable Mentions, 1 Silver Key, 1 Gold Key  
**Zackeus Kynard-** 1 Honorable Mention  
**Katherine Largent-** 2 Honorable Mentions  
**Sydney Lee-** 3 Honorable Mentions,

2 Silver Keys, 1 Gold Key  
**Cassidy Lewis-** 1 Honorable Mention, 1 Gold Key  
**Jack Lindsay-** 1 Honorable Mention  
**Reegan Magee-** 1 Honorable Mention  
**Brooklyn Mayberry-** 1 Honorable Mention  
**Madison McDonald-** 1 Silver Key, 2 Gold Keys  
**Sophia Milner-** 1 Honorable Mention, 1 Silver Key, 2 Gold Keys  
**Je'an Moore-** 1 Honorable Mention  
**Lorelei Morgane-** 1 Honorable Mention, 1 Silver Key, 1 Gold Key  
**Kiran Narula-** 3 Silver Keys, 5 Gold Keys, Portfolio Silver

Key, Portfolio Gold Key  
**Zion Palmer-** 1 Honorable Mention  
**Aidan Penna-** 2 Honorable Mentions, 1 Gold Key  
**Reagan Perrett-** 1 Honorable Mention, 1 Silver Key  
**Ezra Perrine-** 5 Honorable Mentions, 1 Silver Key, 2 Gold Keys  
**Avem Polon-** 1 Honorable Mention  
**Kaia Reed-** 1 Silver Key  
**Acadia Reynolds-** 2 Honorable Mentions, 2 Gold Keys  
**Adam Rosendary-** 1 Honorable Mention  
**William Ross-** 1 Gold Key  
**Caitlin Sandifer-** 1 Gold Key

**Emily Shelor-** 1 Honorable Mention  
**Olivia Stone-** 1 Honorable Mention  
**Gweny Svendsen-** 1 Honorable Mention, 2 Silver Keys  
**Catherine Traywick-** 1 Honorable Mention, 1 Gold Key  
**Sophie Turansky-** 2 Honorable Mentions, 1 Gold Key  
**Gus Varallo-** 1 Honorable Mention  
**Ruby Varallo-** 1 Honorable Mention, 1 Silver Key, 1 Gold Key  
**Anne Wilson Varnado-** 2 Honorable Mentions  
**Violet Wall-** 1 Honorable Mention, 1 Silver Key  
**Rachel Wheelon-** 3 Honorable Mentions

## Student Artwork



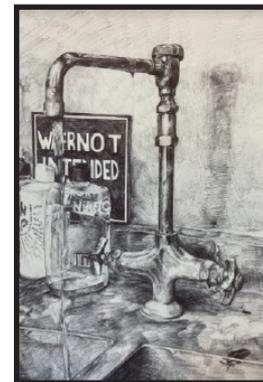
by Reyna Roblero Morales, 10th Grade



by Philia Walker, 12th Grade



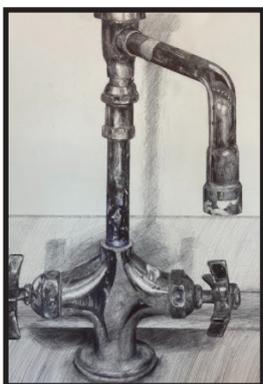
by Alma Lutas, 12th grade



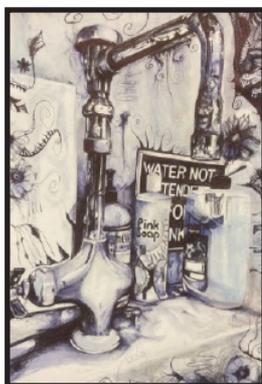
by Jaidon Richardson, 8th Grade



by Eliza Valero, 12th Grade



by Elaine Chen, 8th Grade



by Audra Elm, 8th grade



by Amelia Counts, 10th Grade



by Alma Lutas, 12th grade



by Michelle Barrios Aguilar, 8th Grade



by Abby Short, 11th Grade

## Eighth Grader Wins Reelin' In the Years T-Shirt Design Contest

SOA Eighth Grader Audra Elms was awarded a \$100 gift card for her Reelin' In the Years design, which will be featured on t-shirts at the event on April 5th and May 17th.



## Mr. Martin Speaks Up for Teachers



On Tuesday, March 1st, SOA High School English teacher Mr. Martin spoke at the State House about the prohibition of classroom discussion on controversial issues, specifically racism. “I think students deserve a voice in what their education looks like. Since most students are in school during these hearings, I wanted to try to voice some of the thoughts I have heard from my students.”



GaffneyLewis is a Proud Sponsor of the Charleston County School of the Arts and wishes all the Pegasus Community an Exciting and Healthy 2021-2022 School Year!

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## Mr. Naas Quote of the Month



“The quality of a person’s life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor.”  
– Vince Lombardi

“Desire is the key to motivation, but it’s determination and commitment to an unrelenting pursuit of your goal – a commitment to excellence – that will enable you to attain the success you seek.” – Mario Andretti

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.

March is a pinnacle month. Here in the south, we are at the end of winter. As March unfolds, the intrinsic hope of spring with the awakening of our plants from the winter dormancy brightens one’s spirits. I have selected two quotes on commitment. Now is the time for some internal retrospection. The third quarter draws to a close, and the last quarter opens. Now is the time to re-evaluate your academic and personal goals. Have you made the commitment necessary to fulfill the goals? If not, NOW is the time. This is your time! Analyze the goals you set and the plans you made. Weed out plans and goals that no longer make sense. Renew your commitment to your remaining goals and plans for a strong finish!

Mr. Naas is accepting any questions from readers through his email address, joenaas@hotmail.com.

## SOA Middle and High School Perform at SCMEA All-State Orchestra Concert



From the 11-12 Orchestra: Elaina Gable, concertmaster and Senior at SOA, with conductor Gary Lewis



From the 9-10 Orchestra: Alex Lim, concertmaster and Freshman at SOA, and the orchestra



From the 6-8 Orchestra: Cello section (in this photo: SOA Cellists John Stuckey, Myles Owens-Walker, and Luciano Cusatis, )

## The Applause Interview: Midori

by Peter O'Malley

Renowned violinist **Midori** is visiting Charleston on March 12th for a recital, hosted by Chamber Music Charleston, and March 13th at 8:00 a.m. for a masterclass with CMC Two chamber ensembles. After the early masterclass, she will leave for a flight to play at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. **Peter O'Malley** spoke with her about her career as a musician and experiences juggling her work as a student while growing her career as a performer.

John Cusatis

**Peter O'Malley:** You started playing at a very young age. What did you find advantageous to starting so early in your life?

**Midori Gotō:** I started to take lessons when I was four years old. I used to watch my mother play her violin, and I just wanted to try the same instrument that she was always practicing and spending so much time with. And, even though I was encouraged to try other instruments as well, such as the piano, I always came back to the violin because that is the instrument that I saw my mother play all the time. I think that when I started to play, I just enjoyed it so much. I wasn't thinking about anything else except for the fact that I could actually produce sounds myself, play a melody I liked so much that I thought was so beautiful on my own from my violin, and that was really special.

Provided



Timothy Greenfield-Sanders

The celebrated violinist, photographed with her 1734 Guarneri "ex-Huberman" violin.

**PO:** As a young musician, what experiences or practices did you find most fundamental to your success?

**MG:** The answer to this question may not be exactly violin-related, but it's more of a general life support. I think what I found so helpful in my life, and in my life as a musician, as a professional, is my ability to concentrate, my ability to switch gears very quickly, my ability to organize my time, and also to be able to sleep anywhere. I'm able to rest anywhere and catch up on sleep, or gain a little bit of energy by having a power nap. These are the skills that I find are so helpful, not necessarily for playing the violin or having a career as a violinist, but in general as a professional musician. I think this is also something that would help in any profession.

John Cusatis

**PO:** In 1986, you premiered Leonard Bernstein's Serenade for Violin and String Orchestra, famously breaking your E string and swapping instruments with the concertmaster and later the assistant concertmaster. What do you remember from that performance? How did you keep your concentration after

**that happened?**

**MG:** I remember about the concert in which I broke two strings when I was playing with Leonard Bernstein in 1986, partly because it's reminded to me so often from the press, from the questions that I get, and in interviews. So, without these reminders, I don't think I'd think so much about it. I think that, as a performer, by fourteen, I had been around for a while already and was seeing what some of my colleagues did when things such as strings broke. So it was very much clear to me what I should do when my violin string broke, and that was to just switch with the concertmaster's violin. To me, it wasn't so much of a surprise, and my desire to continue playing on without stopping, and without just ending the performance there was very strong. In order to continue, I needed to switch violins, and that's exactly what I did. I think, in those moments you're so into it that you don't really think about anything else. I guess you can call that good concentration.

**PO: Having played so much repertoire throughout your career, do you have any favorite works? Are there any composers who really speak to you?**

**MG:** I don't really have a favorite piece of music because it's really the variety, the contrast, the differences, that I get from being able to play many different works.

**PO: As a member of the Curtis Institute of Music violin faculty, what have you found gives one student an edge over another in an audition?**

**MG:** I think every school has a group of judges that sit on an audition panel, and then there's a vote. That vote is what actually decides the admissibility of the applicant that comes by. It's not my opinion alone; I have one vote, along with all my colleagues who also have one vote. And sometimes there's a discussion, but usually the discussion doesn't change the results. It's just a discussion about possible studio placement, or repertoire choices such as that. It's not about the decision of who will be admitted to the school. I enjoy working with students who enjoy music, who have a passion for music, who are curious, who are able to ask questions, who are eager to learn, and to own that learning. I've always thought of teaching as a partnership. It's conveying the information, but it's really building something together, and sharing in that action to be able to work with a young artist, and a young musician. So, it's always a partnership. It's not just simply teaching in terms of giving out the information and expecting that student to just memorize that.

**PO: You have degrees in Psychology and Gender Studies. What drew you to those fields, and how did you balance your studies with your playing?**

**MG:** As an undergrad, pursuing Psychology and Gender Studies, and at the same time concertizing, learning, and practicing, I was certainly very busy. I think many people fall into that category of being very, very busy. We somehow manage, as I said earlier, the ability to be able to concentrate, to be able to switch gears very quickly. They are very helpful when you are trying to balance so many different things. I think that I've always enjoyed my studies, and I didn't particularly study these fields because I thought that they would be better for my music. I studied them because I enjoyed them, just as I learned music because I enjoyed it, and it gave meaning to my life. It's also something that I felt I could really make a contribution to the community with. I'm really glad to have had this experience of going to college and grad school, and to learn to be in the environment, in the academic environment, to engage in learning, to really be a part of an academic institution. I enjoyed being able to do research. I enjoyed being able to do it at the library, and to look for information to be fully approved, to ask questions, make inquiries, to be curious, and to do my best to broaden my horizons.

**PO: What advice would you give high schoolers looking to**



Timothy Greenfield-Sanders

"I learned music because I enjoyed it, and it gave meaning to my life."

**pursue a career in music?**

**MG:** It's very difficult to give general advice, because everyone's different. In whatever field, I think one needs to be passionate about it. It's a calling that I think one has to have, and it's very important to have exactly the reasons why you want to do it. Hopefully that reason is because you feel passionate about that field, and passionate about the work you will get to do in that field. Usually it's not about, "Well, because it seems like what everyone else thinks that I should do," or "It seems like it's going to make me look good," but it's something that we feel really, really passionate about, and want to do. And that also means that one has to actually be prepared to occasionally make choices, and that preparedness to make choices is important for any field. I think that I feel passionate about sharing music with others. I love music, of course, and that I'm able to play a part in bringing people together through music. This is why I'm doing music.

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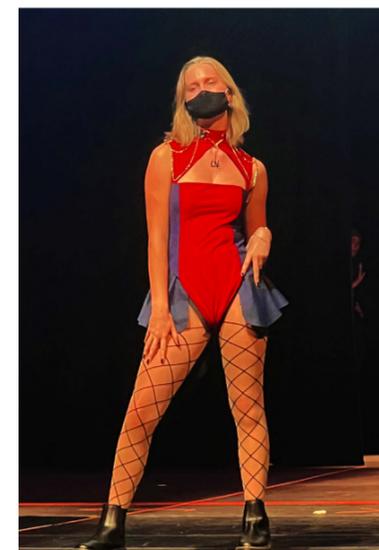
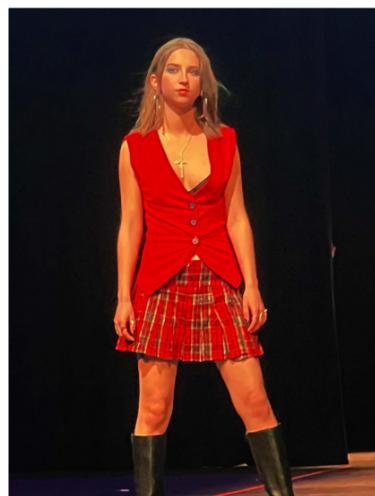
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# The 2022 SOA Fashion Show

*On Friday, March 4th, 2022, SOA Fashion majors showcased their theses and work from the past year. Models shined in Met Gala worthy outfits inspired by many themes and people, including The Gray Wolf, Stan Lee, Chernobyl, Stephen King, and more!*

Photographs by Judith Hamrick and Peter O'Malley. Layout by Julia Dubay





John Cusatis

Vocal Majors (from left to right, standing) Tripp Carrington, Ryan Hinske, Lauren Huser, Norah Bernstein, and Marin Sinclair, along with several other Vocal Majors, delivered singing telegrams on Valentine's Day.



Linnea Ransford

Vocal Majors on stage at their senior thesis performances on January 26th.

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## Applause Meets with SOA Fashion Majors

Applause Staff writers *Julia Dubay, Grace Baker, Kenya Hines, and Madelynne Burt* interviewed several Fashion majors on their collections for the annual fashion show.

### Abby Benton

by Julia Dubay

**Julia Dubay: What made you want to pursue fashion?**

**Abby Benton:** I used to hate fashion and was not interested in it because I thought that it only had to be ball gowns and ruffles. I found out that fashion can be so much more than that, and loved playing with alternative styles and pieces.

**JD: In what ways has SOA helped you grow in fashion design?**

**AB:** SOA has helped me grow so much, both constructionally and helping me become more outgoing and confident.

**JD: What part of Fashion has been your favorite?**

**AB:** I love all things about Fashion, but my favorite part of the class is when we do “good things” on Mondays (or whenever we feel like it). The girls go around the room and say something positive that happened recently or something that they’re looking forward to. It really helped us connect; these girls are like my family.

**JD: Do you have a favorite clothing item that you always look forward to making?**

**AB:** I absolutely love jackets and outerwear. They can add so much to a look by broadening shoulders to provoke confidence or adding another layer of dimension to a fit.

**JD: How do you think Fashion is unique from the other majors? What do you wish more people knew about?**

**AB:** Fashion is definitely unique because we are using professional tactics and making industry-standard collections as sixteen and eighteen-year-olds. Most designers don’t get to that stage until college. I wish people knew that some of us make our own patterns! We sketch designs in 2D on paper, drape them in 3D on dress forms, create a paper pattern (back to 2D), and then create the final garment for the runway.



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**JD: Do you remember a certain time when a major teacher said something that impacted you and the way you work on your projects today?**

**AB:** Absolutely, Mrs. Baker once told me, “If you wouldn’t buy it in a store, it’s not done yet.” She really set the standard for the garments we make in class.

**JD: What are your current plans after high school?**

**AB:** I’m planning to attend design school as a Fashion Design major, and thanks to the curriculum at SOA, I am very much ahead of most incoming students.

**JD: Which piece/pieces are you most proud of?**

**AB:** I’m very proud of the embossed leather jacket I made for this year’s collection. It has seven functional zippers and four pockets. I’m also really happy with how my formal wear turned out this year.

**JD: Is there something you’ve always wanted to make that you haven’t gotten around to or want to learn in the future?**

**AB:** I would love to make more avant-garde pieces in the future. I like to mix traditional clothes with more unconventional silhouettes; it makes for an interesting look.

**JD: Do you have any dreams in the fashion department that you want to come true?**

**AB:** Absolutely! I wish that plus size and minorities were represented on high fashion runways more often. The modeling and fashion industry it’s packed with tall, skinny, blonde girls, but where is the representation? The garments that I’ve made for plus size, petite, or curvy women have been some of the ones I’m most proud of. Even industry-standard fashion illustrations are tall, skinny, and not proportional, and one day I’d love to see that change.

**JD: Do you have any advice for incoming freshmen or current SOA students about being a Fashion major?**

**AB:** Fashion is stressful, don’t get me wrong, but seeing your looks put together on the runway is so worth the stress. The feeling of knowing you created something that other people would buy and wear is crazy to think about.

**JD: What are you bringing to the fashion show this year, and what’s your inspiration?**

**AB:** This year’s show’s theme was “Rebound,” so we had to choose a person, place, thing, or animal that had some sort of redemption story. I chose the American Grey Wolf, mainly for the color story and power that the animal exudes. The collection has a range of garments, from

streetwear denim and leather jackets to velvet gowns with fur collars.

**JD: What is your favorite part about the fashion show?**

**AB:** The photos! I tell my models as long as they look hot for photos, they could fall down the runway for all I care (no one ever actually falls, don’t worry). The photos themselves show off the garments, and the models are so much fun to work with!

**JD: What things are you looking forward to as a senior this year?**

**AB:** I’m looking forward to seeing all my friend’s pieces come to life on the runway. They’ve all been working so hard, and it’s amazing to see the work pay off.

### Evie Wells

by Grace Baker

**Grace Baker: How has your preparation process for the fashion show changed since you came to SOA?**

**Evie Wells:** Preparing for the fashion show has always been an ordeal, but I haven’t really had the same consistency

that other seniors have had throughout the year because of COVID. I’ve prepped for fashion shows differently than they have. I think we all do. But, the design process is easier now than it was when I was first starting, which is nice. It changes every year with learning something new, such as how to prepare for a virtual fashion show, which none of us knew how to do and was very confusing, to be honest, and preparing patterns and models. It’s kind of a battle every year that you have to learn again.

**GB: What has been your biggest obstacle?**

**EW:** COVID, honestly. It made everything super difficult, especially when it came to finding models and preparing everything. We still have issues with models now... If you’d like to model, please, haha. We had a bunch of models who were in Vocal, and now they can’t model because of All-State. We found that out in January, and it was still hard to find new models.

**GB: Describe your thesis and inspiration.**

**EW:** My theme is based on Chernobyl. There are a lot of bright colors and silky fabrics, but I also have upholstery fabric and brown neutral tones. That’s because you have the buildings



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with Soviet murals that I wanted to highlight, and you also have the signs posted around Chernobyl, but you have the forest as well.

**GB: What's your favorite piece in your collection?**

**EW:** It's my yellow toxic-waste dress with a deep plunging neckline, black and red piping on the main princess seams, and two high slits in the front. It took forever because I had to sew the entire outside of it and serge it, and seem to rip all of that to put in the piping so that it lined up. I spent a whole day literally doing that.

**GB: Are you planning on pursuing fashion and design after graduation?**

**EW:** No, not really. I want to be a teacher. But I want to be an elementary school teacher, and having the edge that I have in costume and fashion will give me creative abilities in my teaching. If we're starting a new unit, I can make a dress for that unit and basically be Ms. Frizzle, and I'm obsessed with that idea. I am going to keep doing it throughout my life just because I love fashion and making clothes, but I could never do it as a career.

**GB: Do you have any advice for rising Seniors when completing their thesis next year?**

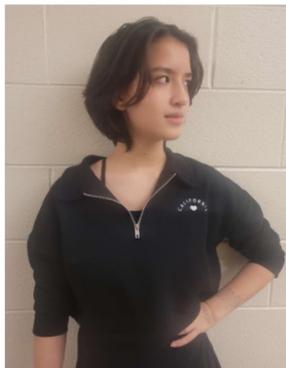
**EW:** Start early. Work during the summer. I didn't and I hate myself for it. Also, it's okay to redo things, just make sure you give yourself time, because I know a lot of people in this major are terrible at time management, which is bad. This is a major where you need really good time management, and a lot of us just don't have it. Don't be afraid to do things out of your comfort zone; work with fabrics you've never worked with before. It's okay to cry, it's just going to happen, and don't be afraid to ask for help, because your teacher and your fellow classmates are your biggest asset.

## Mayson Dillard

by Kenya Hines

**Kenya Hines: How did you decide to interpret this year's theme for the fashion show?**

**Mayson Dillard:** I interpreted it as a rebound in the population of a specific animal which is the California Condor. I researched animals that rebounded in population and the vulture caught my eye. I really liked the colors and how it looked, and I



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thought that I could take it somewhere.

**KH: Is there a fashion icon that inspired you to be a designer?**

**MD:** I'm inspired by Isis Van Herten because her designs are very intricate and futuristic. I once had an assignment where I had to draw something she might have designed, and I enjoyed putting the detail into it. It let me think about what colors were going to work with the specific garments.

**KH: Can you recall the first piece of clothing you made?**

**MD:** Yes! It was a two-piece inspired by a drawing I made for my fashion audition into SOA. It was made out of an old curtain. The top was a simple crop top with two straps. The bottom was harder to make. It was a bunch of scrap fabric I put together to make a skirt.

**KH: How do you manage to balance your school work and fashion?**

**MD:** It's really difficult, but I sew mostly on the weekends and in the short class time I have. At night I do my school work.

**KH: What's your favorite piece you made for the show?**

**MD:** I love the top for my second look that will be modeled by Bailey Boucher. It was the first time I draped a look and designed the pattern myself. I made many mistakes, and it was hard to figure out, but it turned out just how I wanted it. Lillian Stackhouse is a senior who helped through making the top and draping the pattern, so she gets the credit for helping me with my design.

## Chapel Barker

by Madelynn Burt

**Madelynn Burt: Describe your thesis and inspiration for your collection.**

**Chapel Barker:** My thesis is themed around the work and life of Stephen King. I chose this theme for our show "Rebound" since King overcame his struggle with substance abuse. I took inspiration from the original covers of his novels, which mainly featured the colors black and red.

**MB: What is your favorite piece in your collection?**

**CB:** My favorite piece in this collection is a red sequined jumpsuit I made to represent the novel *Firestarter*. Cutting the fabric took me nearly three and a half hours, since each piece had to be individually laid out and cut in a certain way to preserve the sequins. The jumpsuit has an incredible shimmer, and is truly one of the most impressive pieces I've ever made.

**MB: What challenges did you face while**

**working on your pieces?**

**CB:** For my collection this year, I wanted to work with a variety of different textiles. Since all my pieces are black and red, I knew I would need a lot of fun texture and eye catching fabrics. This proved to be extremely difficult at times, since some of these fabrics were nearly impossible to tailor. In the end, it was 100% worth it and made my pieces stand out on the runway.

**MB: Do you have any advice for rising Seniors when completing their thesis next year?**

**CB:** Have a solid plan and stick with it. Time management is a huge part of this major and something I really struggled with before this year. I started designing this collection in July of 2021 and was able to have all my pieces completed a month before the deadline. So, buy your fabrics early and always keep your plan in mind.

## Beatrice Criscuolo

by Madelynn Burt

**Madelynn Burt: What was your inspiration and plan for your collection?**

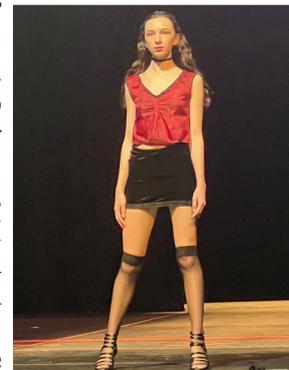
**Beatrice Criscuolo:** My collection this year was inspired by pro-surfer Bethany Hamilton. I decided to create swimwear that reflects her struggles as a surfer missing an arm, as well as all women's struggles to find well fitting and stylish bathing suits.

**MB: What were some challenges you faced while working on your pieces?**

**BC:** Everything was challenging! When working with swimwear fabric, you have to figure out how to sew and fit it using different techniques than regular fabric, something that I hadn't had any experience with in the past. However, after lots of trial and error, I figured out the best way to realize my ideas, and it began to be fun to piece together my looks.

**MB: What is your favorite piece in your collection?**

**BC:** I think my favorite piece is my third look, worn by Oceania Schaay. It is a purple and teal V-neck bikini top with interesting straps - they twist in the back. Over teal bikini bottoms, there is a dark purple pair of flowy, mesh pants, with a pop of color in the yellow drawstring. The look is simple, yet effective, and even elegant.



Provided

Definitely something I'm making for myself!

**MB: Have you considered continuing a career or education in fashion after graduation?**

**BC:** Absolutely. While I'm not entirely sure what I want to do for college, many of the top fashion schools in the US are on my college list!

**MB: Based on what you have seen from the seniors' theses, have you thought about what you might include in your thesis collection next year?**

**BC:** Oh my goodness! I don't even know where to start. I'm thinking mixing ready-to-wear with formal attire would be pretty cool; I loved juxtaposing some of the seniors' incredibly fancy evening wear with others' beautiful, less formal garments. I think manipulating the boundaries between those two extremes could create an interesting collection.



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## Lillian Stackhouse

by Jada Fickling

**Jada Fickling:** What is your theme and why did you choose it?

**Lillian Stackhouse:** My theme is Stan Lee (creator of a lot of Marvel characters). I picked him as my theme because I have a love of Marvel and thought it would be fun to create looks inspired by him and his characters.

**JF: Who or what inspired your passion for fashion?**

**LS:** My grandmother taught me to sew when I was little and I never stopped.

**JF: Do you have a favorite look from your collection?**

**LS:** The dress inspired by Black Widow is my favorite!

**JF: How has participating in the fashion show prepared you for your future endeavors (career, college, etc.)?**

**LS:** It has given me a lot of experience in managing time, models, and stress. Fashion is not for the weak. There will always be drama and things that go wrong and getting the opportunity to learn this at an early age before I'm doing this in college or professionally has been amazing.



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## SOA Slang

by Norah Bernstein and Madelynne Burt

**Babes-** a term of endearment for a friend.

(noun) "Hey, **babes!** You look so cute."

**Baefy-** the combination of BAE and wifey. Often used as a term of admiration for a friend or significant other.

(noun) "Omg, **Baefy**, you killed that."

**Bawdy-** an emphasized version of "body" to describe an attractive person.

(noun) "I can tell you've been working out! You're serving **bawdy.**"

**It's Giving-** a phrase to indicate what the vibe an action or look radiates.

(phrase) (To a person in an all black outfit) "**It's giving** supervillain."

**Left No Crumbs-** phrase insinuating a person popped off. They killed it.

(phrase) You ate that dance up and **left no crumbs.**"

**Love that for you-** expression happiness for a person and their accomplishments.

(phrase) "I'm so glad you finally ditched him...**love that for you.**"

**Male wife-** a man who acts submissive in a relationship and is bossed around by their partner.

(noun) "That guy is such a **male wife**. He does whatever she tells him to."

**Not me...-** a phrase to ridicule yourself for embarrassing or inappropriate behavior.

(phrase) "**Not me** getting back in a relationship with the guy who cheated on me."

**Pushin P-** P essentially stands for something positive. If something is P, it means it's good, and if something is not P, it's bad. It originated from Gunna and Future's new song, "pushin' P." In reality, nobody really knows what it means.

(verb) "Jumping into someone else's drama is not **P**, but being loyal is definitely **P.**"

**You're done-** A term used to end a conversation, monologue, or action in which a person has been excessively bothersome.

(phrase) (When you're joking with someone and they start to tickle you) "You're done. **You're done.** I'm not doing this."





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## Horoscopes

by Julia Dubai



**Aries (March 21 to April 19)**- Searching through Google, self-diagnosing yourself, will not get you closer to understanding why you keep spacing off during your math quizzes. Use your stubborn willfulness to drive yourself to a professional therapist. If you don't have the energy for that, join a Discord server.



**Taurus (April 20 to May 20)**- I know you didn't clean your depression room when I told you to two months ago. Pushing everything to the side of your room is not tidying up. Maybe closing your door is your only hope. Your friends are worried about you, so remember that you can talk to them and that your mental health is not a burden.



**Gemini (May 21 to June 20)**- Your judgment can be used for so much better than worrying about what the Fashion majors are wearing. The moon herself told me to tell you that being less nosy will definitely benefit you this week. Having to know what everyone is doing at all times is not worth your time. Show people that you aren't just your sign's stereotype.



**Cancer (June 21 to July 22)**- In earlier issues, I've said how all your problems stem from never having a cupcake party for your birthday in elementary school. A good place to start is to let your funny side show more. You have a serious resting face and identify too much with your major. If that's a lot for you, crying it out may help. I know you are very good at that.



**Leo (July 23 to August 22)**- People appreciate your style. Continue to embrace it. Remember not to use your style to hide that you aren't taking care of yourself. Before you leave for school, grab a water bottle, put on deodorant, brush your hair, and come in with a boss attitude. Your lively and fun personality is something we are all thankful for. Keep killing it.



**Virgo (August 23 to September 22)**- A gentle reminder that when you hear yourself saying your quirky catchphrases in a Snapchat memory two years from today, you will cringe. Don't worry though, your practicality adds to your sense of humor in class. Try not to miss the opportunity to comment aloud, adding some laughter to the atmosphere.



**Libra (September 23 to October 22)**- You've just started settling into a new style. Whether it is comfy or casual, it is adding a new sense of control in your uncontrollable-feeling life. When I say your life is going haywire, I mean the people around you have noticed and think you need help. At least you put the "hot" in a hot mess.



**Scorpio (October 23 to November 21)**- Whatever you have your heart set on right now, you need to pursue. Stop procrastinating and show the people around you what you can accomplish. Remember that you can expand your comfort circle. There are so many people here that you would get along with, and it doesn't have to be your group from the 8th grade. I'd work on that.



**Sagittarius (November 22 to December 21)**- Take a break. Your mental health is so fragile right now, you need to start loving yourself a little more. You are incredible, do not compare

yourself to others. One thing you should work on, though, is your patience. I know everyone around you is annoying and not as smart as you are, but they don't know any better. Deep breaths.



**Capricorn (December 22 to January 19)**- The other signs and I have been wanting to talk to you about how sometimes we misinterpret your humor with bullying. Everything is fine, we just wanted to have an intervention to make sure you are okay. People have a lot of respect for you and they get kind of scared when they don't know when you're joking. Also, great job on your last accomplishment! Try not to put too much on your plate. We are so proud of you.



**Aquarius (January 20 to February 18)**- I know no one understands how much work you've put in lately, but taking it out on them will not solve the problem. Try not to burden yourself with any more jobs, you are going to overwhelm yourself. I think right now you just need to take a break from relationships that are causing you stress. Focus on what you love. Even though it's kind of weird, it makes you happy. So go for it.



**Pisces (February 19 to March 20)**- Your empathy allows you to connect to others in ways they haven't been cared about before. Remind yourself to not carry other people's burdens or allow others to affect how you see yourself. I know you've got a lot going on and you are incredibly strong. One way you cope is by trying to escape reality, but remember that your homework grades will add up soon and you have to get it done.



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## Concert Review: ATEEZ

by Kenya Hines

Mix McDonald's sprite, cayenne pepper, and amethyst on a plate, and you've got yourself the recipe for an ATEEZ concert. For anyone who does not know, ATEEZ is a heavily performance-based eight-member boy group from South Korea. Everyone who is friends with me knows that I had been counting down the days before tickets even went on sale, and nothing could've prepared me for what I would experience. The concert started at 7:30pm, but I arrived at the venue at 2:30. Any normal person would think, "Maybe this is a little bit absurd." Maybe it was, but I had to get in line to pick up my VIP wristband early.

I was nervous at first because this was technically my first concert, and I only knew one person who would be attending. That nervousness quickly subsided when I arrived at the venue. The atmosphere was so comfortable, and I didn't think I would connect with other people I didn't know so fast. I got to trade photocards, bracelets, and stickers with other fans, participate in games, and jam out to music. Waiting around and standing in line for the venue to open might've seemed like the most boring part to others, but it was very enjoyable. After a lot of waiting, the doors opened and we were allowed inside at 6:00.

When I walked inside, I felt like I was dreaming. Like stated before, this was technically my first concert, so I had never experienced anything like it before. The reality started to hit me: I was finally going to see my favorite group live. At this point, I was shaking with anticipation while waiting for them to come on stage. When they finally did, I could've sworn I passed out for two seconds. They came on stage with a fierce presence from the start, immediately having everyone stand and jump on their feet. If I thought they were amazing on screen, they were ten times better on stage. You could see every last facial expression, and every dance move was sharp and in sync. With the way they were singing, you would think they went through three divorces, didn't get custody of the kids, rent was due, and the landlord was



two seconds away from banging down their front door. If ATEEZ is going to do one thing, they will sing their hearts out.

The songs that didn't contain heavy choreography were so entertaining as well. You could tell they were genuinely having fun on stage and loved interacting with fans closer to the front. I already knew I would enjoy myself, but I ended up having much more fun than expected. I had to reapply my lashes halfway through the concert because I was having a blast. I ended up crying my heart out during the last two songs, and their goodbyes and thank you notes to us were so sentimental.

When the concert was over, I briefly got to meet them, and I was overwhelmed with joy. By the next day, my throat was so sore from screaming and I had to speak in a whisper, but it was nothing that a cup of hot tea couldn't fix. Overall, this is an event I would love to experience again, and it was honestly the best night of my life.

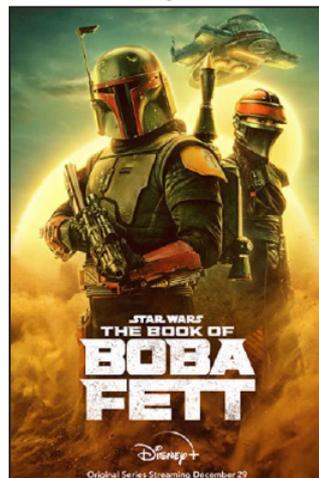


## Contemporary TV Show Review: *The Book of Boba Fett*

by Sullivan Eppes

Pretty much all *Star Wars* fans got in 2021 was the second season of the animated TV series *The Mandalorian*, along with a new series called *The Bad Batch*. But now, in 2022, we're well-fed with new content, including the *Obi-Wan Kenobi* series that will be released on May 25th, and currently another show: *The Book of Boba Fett*. This show is an incredible look at not only the character of Boba Fett, but the *Star Wars* universe we've all come to know (and, at times, tolerate).

The show does a perfect job of blending the space-western aesthetic that *Star Wars* should be and the space politics of the prequel



trilogy. This is the first time space politics have been entertaining since *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*. The story consists of two halves; how Boba escaped the Sarlacc Pit and survived on the Dune Sea of Tatooine, and Boba's current life as he becomes the head of Jabba the Hutt's criminal empire and deals with the emanate war against the Pikes, a criminal organization selling illegal spice on the desert planet. The show manages to capture that same nostalgic feeling I get when I watch the original trilogy.

The sad thing about this show is that the best moments happen when the main character is off-screen. Episodes five and six feature the return of the Mandalorian and Grogu (don't get me wrong, I loved these episodes, but it just felt weird because *The Book of Boba Fett* is not *The Mandalorian* season three). I liked the last episode, and though how they resolved the conflict with the Pikes was anticlimactic, at least we got cute baby Yoda (Grogu) content! The writers put everything that the fans love into a nice thirty-minute fight sequence; we even got Boba Fett riding a Rancor into battle!

*The Book of Boba Fett* is a good show. It allows a better look at a character who has always looked cool, but never did anything to merit the hype he got. It's nowhere near as good as *The Mandalorian*, but it's better than *Solo*, so that's a win in my book. 7/10.

## Contemporary TV Show Review: *Julie and the Phantoms*

by Kenya Hines

When I first was recommended the show *Julie and the Phantoms* and decided to watch the trailer, I already didn't have high expectations. I thought it was going to be very corny. Was I right? Definitely. The thing about it is that I unexpectedly enjoyed the corniness. Before I go on a rant about how I feel, let me give a SparkNotes summary of the show. The main character, Julie, has been struggling with the death of her mom and has fallen out of touch with music. Then, this random ghost band appears in the basement of her house, and they manage to get her to express her musical abilities again. It's a very interesting show to say the least! I do, however, think it has its pros and cons. So, let's start off with the pros.

The first thing is that it's very heartwarming, and I'm a sucker for heartwarming shows. It's a good break from the bloody mystery shows I tend to watch. There's also a good bit of drama, and drama is something I will never turn down. There's relationships, heartbreak, and revenge, so

it's great to satisfy your nose needs. Another thing I enjoyed about the show is that there is a good bit of humor. Did most of it make me cringe? Yes. Although, there were times I found myself belly laughing because it was so funny. The last thing is that Luke is hot. I don't need to go into further detail and I refuse to explain myself, but he is a very attractive man. Case closed.

As for the cons, I do have a couple of things on my list. Yes, this may technically be a kids show, but some of these people cannot act to save their life. It may seem a little harsh, but I'm just telling the truth! I'm not going to say who, so you'll just have to find out yourselves. Also, I think some episodes should've been longer, because it moves pretty fast and I feel like there were major things that could've been added to the storyline to make things more clear. The last con I want to discuss is the unbelievably weird age gap between two of the actors. They put these two characters in a relationship on the show because they're around the same age, but in reality, one is seventeen (sixteen when the show was filmed), and the other is currently twenty-three. They don't kiss (thankfully), but I still think it's odd. I don't know why they didn't hire two actors around the same age as each other, but I digress.

Overall, I think it's an enjoyable show to binge over the weekend if you need to clear your head from everything that's happened in *Euphoria*. Sadly, the show got canceled, so there will not be a second season, but maybe it's for the best. In all honesty, I don't know how much more could've been done with the storyline, but if Netflix has a crazy epiphany and decides to film season two, I will be watching! I would give this a solid 7.5/10.

## Classic Movie Review: *Napoleon Dynamite*

by Peter O'Malley

*Napoleon Dynamite*, written and directed by Jared Hess, follows sixteen-year-old Napoleon Dynamite, an awkward high school student in rural Idaho. Since its release in 2004, the film has gained a



divided reputation, with many saying it's a masterpiece of American cinema, and just as many saying it's slow and hard-to-follow.

Set in a random town in Idaho and featuring an unusual kid who eats tater tots from his cargo pant pockets, *Napoleon Dynamite* boldly manages to take a bland concept and turn it into something unique. And it's not like there's a crazy conflict, where the main character has to save the President from an assassination or something; the film simply centers upon Napoleon's best friend's run for Class President, and the campaign leading up to it. Pedro Sanchez, the titular character's best friend, runs against a popular and snobby student at the school, and Napoleon puts all of his energy in an effort for him to win. In Napoleon and Pedro's effort to win this election, pins, t-shirts, and posters are distributed around Preston High School, all with the three-word slogan, "Vote for Pedro." On student body election day, an event which requires a speech and skit by each Class President candidate, Napoleon dances to Jamiroquai's "Canned Heat," and the crowd goes absolutely wild. Shortly after the standing ovation for Napoleon's extraordinary performance, Pedro wins the election, and the film resolves.

A common criticism for this film is that it is too slow, which is a very fair argument. A major part of *Napoleon Dynamite's* style is its slow pace, an artistic choice rarely seen in film, and it's something you become adjusted to throughout the eighty-minute runtime. If you're going into this film expecting *Mad Max: Fury Road*, you'll be disappointed. But if you approach it the same way as you would visiting a museum, I'm sure you'd really like it. This is not a blockbuster, and it was not designed to be a blockbuster. It's an art gallery of Americana; a display of life in early 2000s Idaho. You wouldn't expect Idaho to be anything crazy, and *Napoleon Dynamite* proves that notion. It isn't.

I understand that I haven't reviewed many films outside of the R rating (apologies, middle school parents). However, as I write this, I've realized that *Napoleon Dynamite*, rated PG, manages to hold excellence without displaying the common qualifications for a PG-13 or R-rated film: violence, language, or drug abuse.



The reason I point this out is because it's one of few movies not closed off from viewers because of its rating. It's not *Kill Bill*, and it's certainly not *Wolf of Wall Street*, so I say, go ahead, watch the film, and decide for yourself if you like it.

*Napoleon Dynamite* is an excellent and unique depiction of life in the American Midwest, and stands independently as a rare piece of modern cinema. I recommend you see it, and if you enjoy it, let me know!

## Contemporary Album Review: *LM5*

By Carsyn Smith

Little Mix has been around for more than a decade, and has served hits with seven different albums. Since they became a group on the X Factor in 2011, Little Mix has preached the message of female empowerment and incorporated it in most of their music. With each album, they include a cohesive theme that loops all of the songs together with the message, usually including feminism. *LM5* is undoubtedly the women's empowerment album in their discography and of the century. My favorite tracks from this project include "Joan of Arc," "Woman's World," "Wasabi," and "The National Manthem."

"The National Manthem" is, in my personal opinion, one of the best intros to an album to ever exist. Yes, you heard that right. "The National Manthem" is not a typo. In these thirty seconds, Little Mix serves a four part harmony that could make the gates of heaven open. Although this intro is very short, it quickly sets the tone for the album with lyrics that pertain to women running the planet while not being an accessory to their male counterparts.

"Joan of Arc" was the song that stuck out to me and was my favorite on the first listen. Little Mix is known for being based in pop. Even though it isn't unusual for them to play with different genres like R&B and reggaeton, pop is usually their best seller. However, this song is definitely one of their best "different songs." This song has hints of rap and a club beat that immediately makes you want to get up and dance. It also incorporates a message that Little Mix is known for, besides feminism:



self-love. On all seven albums that they have released, there are multiple self-love anthems that unknowingly make you smile from ear to ear. With lyrics like, "I feel like Cleopatra / Joan of Arc, Queen of Hearts, yeah / Tonight it's only me that matters," the theme of self-love radiates in this song. I can't count how many times I have felt out of breath from dancing to this tune.

"Wasabi." The song that never got the justice that it truly deserves. Although Little Mix fans and drag clubs truly understood how good this tune is, it never gained the attention that it is worthy of. This song is filled with self-love and the theme of not letting others talk about you, and includes strong lyrics like, "Wake up, change your mind and drop me / Love to hate me, crazy, shady / Spit me out like hot wasabi." When sung on tour, you can find this song performed with fan choreography, vibrant outfits, and make up that truly match the vibe of this song.

In my opinion, "Woman's World" is the standout ballad of the album. This song encapsulates the hardships of being a woman in society. Not only do I get emotional listening to this song, the live version has made me sob. In this song, Little Mix addresses the stereotypes that are put against women on a daily basis, while also calling out their male counterparts. In the tour film, they highlighted the songs that were performed; when it finally got to this masterpiece, the whole arena was silent. Little Mix has experienced a fair share of sexism during their time as a girl group, and this song addresses these issues perfectly. From them not having support from the producers on the X Factor to them facing controversy about the outfits they wear, it seems like Little Mix can never escape misogyny. While this theme was apparent throughout the *LM5* era and tour, they positively capitalized off of their performances and turned others' harsh words into a way to bring women together through music.

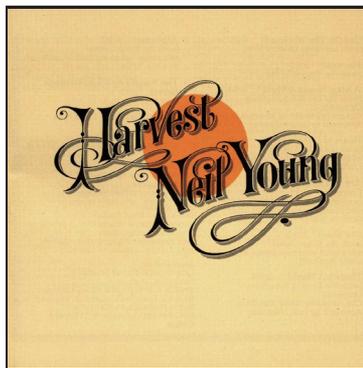
If you believe that I am biased since everywhere I go I am obviously the number one "Mixer" in the building, the statistics and chart records that Little Mix gained through this album are nothing short of insane! The girls have a 98% like rate from Google users, earned over \$22,400,000 on tour, created a tour film that premiered in cinemas worldwide, and more. They are a very prominent girl group in our generation and have been named the number one girl group in the world, with statistics from streaming platforms and tour revenue exceeding any other. An artist who can make enjoyable music while conveying a message of love and unity is a special gem. Luckily for the world and I, we have three.

## Classic Album Review: *Harvest* by Grace Baker

A two-time inductee of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Neil Young is a staple of classic rock music. Following his split from Crosby, Stills, Nash, & Young in 1970, and a severe back injury, Young accumulated eighteen months of studio recording to produce the best-selling album of 1972, and the first album to reach #1 in the US from a Canadian singer. Although his career resided in the Golden Age of music, his name recently returned to headlines when he pulled his music from Spotify, which also hosts Joe Rogan's podcast that released false information on coronavirus. Other musicians such as Joni Mitchell and Graham Nash subsequently boycotted the platform in support of Young, displaying the lasting effects he's had on fans and artists alike.

Kicking off the album with possibly my favorite track of all time, "Out on the Weekend" features a slow lyrical rhythm with a satisfying meter, tied together by a harmonica solo in the center of the track. There is something about this song that makes me close my eyes and picture my ideal weekend on the beach with a slight breeze and no one to bother me, much like another track: "Are You Ready for the Country." The lyrics are misconstrued as melancholy, but when Young sings, "Can't relate to joy / He tries to speak and / Can't begin to say," he actually means that he's so happy that he has no words for that feeling, much like the feeling I get when listening to this song.

Its nearly identical track on this album, and one of his most popular songs of all time, "Heart of Gold" recounts dwindling time and the desire for someone who will cherish him unconditionally, spending his life as a "miner for a heart of gold." This track was recorded in only two takes, and Young rewards its fame, as well as the title track "Harvest," to drummer Kenny Buttrey; he ironically mentioned that it's one of his least favorite songs. "Old Man" also portrays old age with a young person seeking guidance from a man his elder, as well as the twenty-four-year-old's longing for sentiments



that last a lifetime, like a "coin that won't get tossed."

A few of the tracks house a more somber tone, one being Young's most vulnerable track about his struggle with a friend's death from heroin addiction: "Needle and the Damage Done." Gentle and sentimental, he recalls the drug's destruction of relationships and the results of addiction that many artists were familiar with at the time. However, I believe Young missed the mark on "There's a World," since it sounds out of place and proves that Young is a better songwriter than an experimentalist. The intro features a heavy symphony, and with a country-rock signature that is unmatched, I don't think he needed to perform out of character, since his music never results in boredom. The only track on this album that works with an orchestra is "A Man Needs a Maid," which also incorporates piano. When I hear this song, I hear a man who relies on the woman for happiness, which was untraditional at the time, seeing as women usually relied on the man.

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As definitive and genuine as his music, Neil Young remains an acoustic guitar legend with chart-topping albums, despite some famous backlash about the track “Alabama” (my second favorite) from Lynyrd Skynyrd, in the lyrics of their classic “Sweet Home Alabama.” Though he removed his music from Spotify in protest, you can hear the perfect road trip, feel-good, classic country-rock tunes of *Harvest* on other platforms.

## Theater Review: *Pippin*

by Guest Writer Tripp Carrington

For the first time in five years, SOA had a school musical, but it might not be what one would expect. In a typical high school, it is rare to divert from the usual musical rotation of *High School Musical*, *Grease*, *Oklahoma!*, *Mamma Mia!*, and a handful of different Disney musicals. That is why it was surprising to some that our school-wide return to the stage is accompanied by the music of *Pippin*, a 1970s era musical about a youthful prince’s search for the meaning of life. Unlike the aforementioned canon of worn-out school musicals, *Pippin* offers an unfamiliar story that keeps audiences guessing. The excitement of the unpredictability of the show partnered with the overwhelming talent of our school meets—even exceeds—the lofty standards that come with the SOA name.

Of course, that all starts with the leading performances, and the fact that the show was double casted means that most roles were brought to life by two different actors. Director Mr. Pickens did a wonderful job casting for chemistry, so much so that the two casts often expressed widely varying interpretations of the characters and themes of the show. The best example of this is in the show’s name: *Pippin*. Tyler Caplea capitalized on the youthful angst of the impatient prince, taking every opportunity to build motivation through comedic outbursts of anger and ambition. On the other hand, Justin Feater’s Pippin leans into the character’s intelligence and subtle confidence, not to mention an angelic tenor voice that had me simultaneously in awe and jealous during each of Pippin’s many solos.

In the second act, Pippin meets a struggling widow, Catherine, who offers him new perspectives on his purpose. When Sophie Sinor portrays Catherine, there is an undertone of self-awareness in the delivery of each line (along with unparalleled comedic timing). Norah Bernstein’s Catherine, while still funny, heavily focuses on the emotional

Bernstein’s songs, specifically “I Guess I’ll Miss the Man,” are Broadway-level standouts of the show and—even my fourth time seeing the show-- had me misty-eyed.

Throughout the show, a unique, narrator-type character called Leading Player will show up to offer Pippin advice, sing extremely difficult solos, and break the fourth wall to add another dimension to the show. Both Tai’la Wilson and Meredith Layne vocally and theatrically impress in the role to a degree that should not be possible for high school students.

Different portrayals of double-casted roles can keep things interesting, but leads who were not double-casted were consistently excellent in each performance. Sammy Oronce portrays Pippin’s father, King Charles, with an exuberant amount of commitment that clearly spreads throughout the cast and infects the show with energy. The other full-time actor, Morgan Schatmeyer, who plays Pippin’s grandmother, truly steals the show. Schatmeyer is as funny as they come, and her song had the audience singing along and laughing harder than any other point in the show.

Since *Pippin* is not as well known as other school musicals, it felt as though each actor was inventing the characters and the story on the stage. Credit goes to Mr. Pickens for taking that risk and believing in his actors. Without hesitation, I can say that as long as a musical has SOA attached to it, I will be in the audience, even years after I graduate.

## Food Review: SOA Lunch

by Kenya Hines

**10/10- Beef and Queso Nachos:** Out of the three years I’ve attended SOA, this might be one of the best things they have ever served. Call me crazy, but it’s true.

**9 / 10 - Charleston Chicken Sandwich:** You can’t go wrong with a classic chicken sandwich topped off with ketchup, mustard, and hot sauce.

**8/10- Chipotle Chicken Wrap:** Absolutely love these. Probably the one lunch I would buy outside of school. My only critique is the little carrots they throw in every now and then (that’s just my personal preference).



SOA cafeteria’s beef and queso nachos. 10/10.

**7/10- Cheese Pizza:** Whenever I’m not feeling the regular lunch, the pizza is my go-to. Sometimes it’s burnt, but I gotta make do with what I have.

**6/10- General Tso’s Chicken:** Either really amazing or really crunchy to the point where I can’t eat it. Most of the time, it’s good! I like the rice and broccoli that comes along with it.

**5/10- Chicken Bites:** I do like the buffalo flavored ones! This is another personal preference thing, but it’s alright! I only eat this every once in a while.

**4/10- Cheeseburger:** The burger itself tastes good, but the cheese is... questionable. Is it real? Who knows.

**3/10- Mashed Potato Bowl:** This is like the one food someone brings to the potluck that no one touches.

**2/10- Chicken Tenders:** I don’t think these are edible, if I’m being honest, because I couldn’t even bite into them.

**1/10- Fried Chicken and Mac and Cheese:** Someone’s not seasoning this right! Fried chicken is kind of dry, and the mac and cheese tastes like chac and meese. Would not take this to the cookout.

## What fashion trend do you like, that a lot of people don’t seem to appreciate?

*Kenya Hines asked the Applause staff about their favorite controversial fashion trends.*

**Carsyn Smith:** Those sleeves/gloves with only a thumb hole

**Judith Hamrick:** Casual pajamas

**Kinglsey Gainey:** Obnoxious shoes

**Jada Fickling:** Cargo pants

**Emma Brubaker:** Crocs and slides

**Aryana Chinn:** Those graphic cat/aggressive gaming tees that say something like “I’d sell my sister for a slice of pizza”

**Madelynne Burt:** Low rise jeans

**Giovanni Cusatis:** The elementary school Nike neon yellow shirts and high socks

**Sully Eppes:** Shorts and fun socks

**Kenya Hines:** Clear pants and shirts that say “Best mom ever”

**Ryan Hinske:** Elven robes forged by Dwarven craftsmen

**Peter O’Malley:** My glow in the dark Ninjago t-shirts from first grade

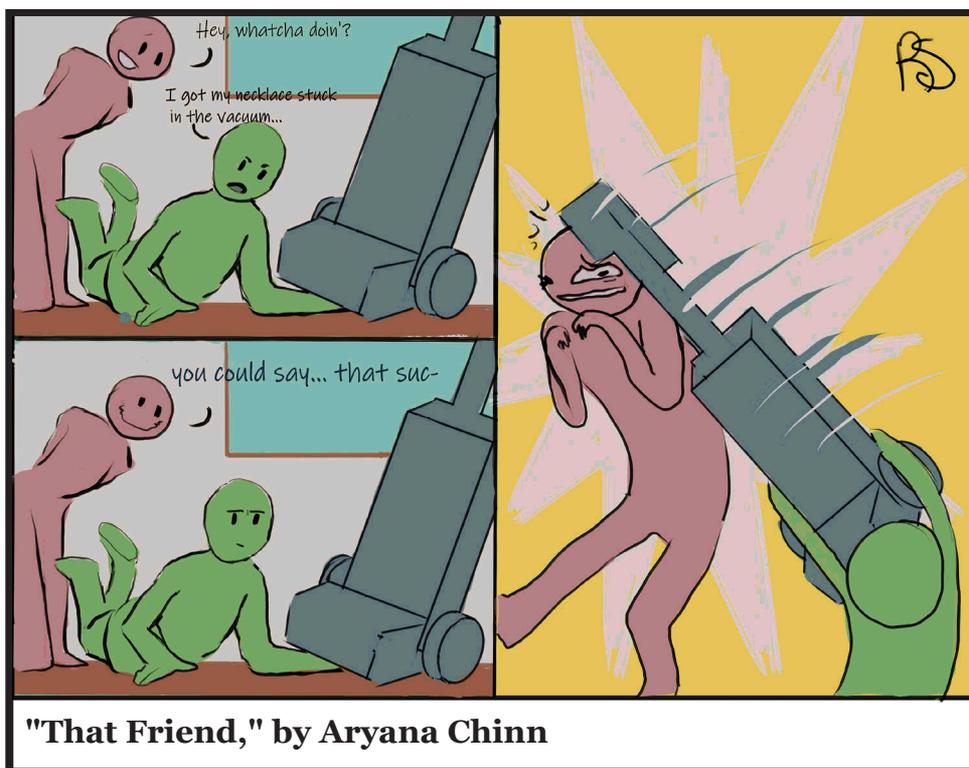
**Julia Dubay:** Camp counselor core / socks and Chacos

**Kayla Herrman:** Shoelace belts

**Lauren Holladay:** Patterned socks

**Carl Macklin:** Sunglasses inside

**Norah Bernstein:** Low rise jeans



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## SOA Piano Students Win Charleston Music Teachers Louise Mathis Scholarship

Division I: 2nd Place Scholarship: Daniel Huang



Division I: Honorable Mention: Vanessa Nguyen



Division II: Honorable Mention: John Lapolla



# Shaundrea's 18th Celebration

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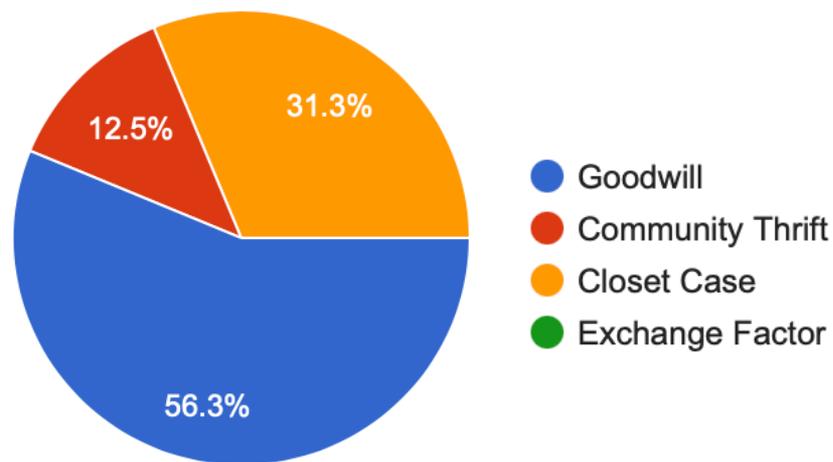
**Sign of the Month:**  
**“Green is your Color!”**  
 by Aryana Chinn

Demonstrated by Brandon Driggers, 11th  
 Grade ASL & Deaf Culture



- 1. Green-** Make the sign for green, holding your pointer finger and thumb out so they are parallel. Starting close to your body, move your hand away from your body and back again twice.
- 2. Your-** Palm facing out, move your hand out, gesturing to who you are talking to.
- 3. Color-** Bring your fingertips toward your chin and wiggle them.

**Where’s the best place to thrift  
 in Charleston?**



Visit soa-applause on Instagram to participate in future polls!



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## Fashion Trivia

by Jada Fickling

### Questions:

1. What decade did women start wearing mini-skirts?
2. What is the slogan of sports brand Nike?
3. Which fashion designer popularized the phrase "little black dress"?
4. Which designer is associated with red bottom shoes?
5. Which celebrity wore a black jumpsuit covering her head-to-toe at the 2021 Met Gala?
6. Which fashion icon is credited as the inventor of the modern pencil skirt?
7. Whose Grammy dress led to the creation of Google Images in 2000 (Hint: Music Artist)?
8. Name the famous fashion brand that has a polo player as its logo.
9. What year was Converse founded?
10. In the film *The Devil Wears Prada*, who is the character of Miranda Priestly thought to be based upon?

### Spotify Playlist

by Carsyn Smith and Judith Hamrick

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



### Jaci Dinkins, Senior Piano Major



Jada Fickling

7/10

### Amelia Walker Senior Visual Arts Major



Jada Fickling

/10

### Answers

1. The sixties
2. "Just do it"
3. Chanel
4. Louboutin
5. Kim Kardashian
6. Calvin Klein
7. Beyonce
8. Ralph Lauren
9. 1910
10. Anna Wintour

10. Ann Wintour
9. 1908
8. Ralph Lauren
7. Jennifer Lopez
6. Christian Dior
5. Kim Kardashian

1. 1950s
2. "Just do it"
3. Dior
4. Louboutin
5. Kim Kardashian
6. Christian Dior
7. Rhianna
8. Ralph Lauren
9. 1908
10. IDK

4. Christian Louboutin
3. Coco Chanel
2. "Just Do It"
1. 1960s

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## January Origami - Fortune Teller

by Julia Dubay

*Who says fortune tellers are only for elementary school? Let's start the trend again. Forgot how to make one? I've got you!*

1. You will need a square sheet of paper.
2. Fold in half.
3. Unfold and fold in half in the other direction.
4. Unfold and fold from the bottom right corner to the top left corner.
5. Unfold and fold from the top right corner to the bottom left corner.
6. Fold each point towards the center.
7. Flip over and repeat with your new points.
8. Fold in half.
9. Carefully pull open the flaps, and now you have a fortune teller! What's your luck?



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.

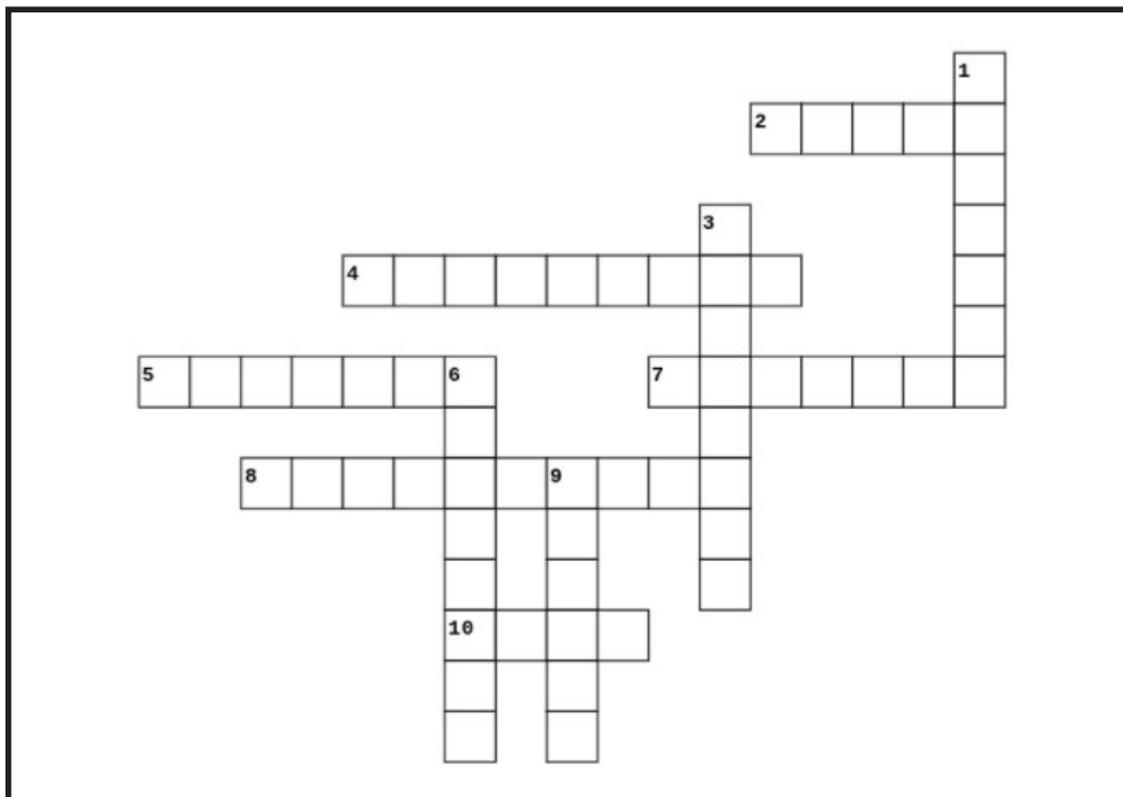


8.



9.

# Fashion Crossword



**Across**

- 2. The title of a popular fashion magazine.
- 4. An upright figure of a person to display clothing.
- 5. French for "fashionable."
- 7. An older piece of clothing.
- 8. Also known as a railroad stripe.
- 10. A strip of rigid material set into the center front of a corset to make it flat and straight.

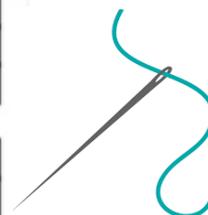
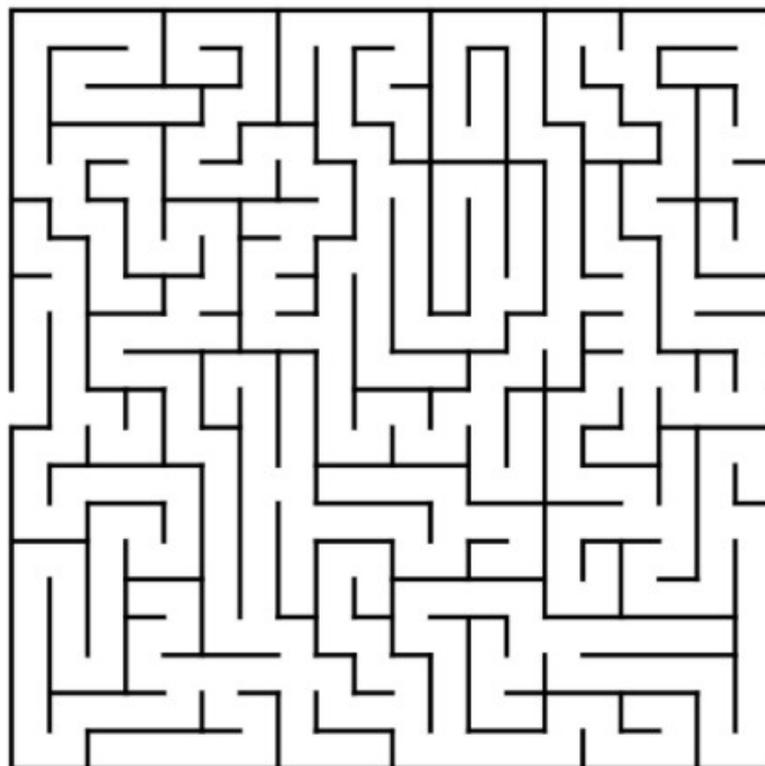
**Down**

- 1. The lower edge of a garment, such as a skirt, dress, or coat.
- 3. Ornamental work of fine (typically gold or silver) wire manipulated into delicate designs.
- 6. An outfit completed with accessories.
- 9. Clothing piece created by Roxey Ann Caplin.

**Help Ms. Chesborough find her sewing needle!**

# SOA Sudoku

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





*“My mom and dad weren’t home, so my brother and I went on the roof... a lady caught us and told my grandma.”*  
Peyton Simmons, 6th Grade Band



*“My brother and I were playing in a jump castle, and I dragged him across it and gave him a really bad rug burn on his back.”*  
Georgia Brown, 7th Grade Visual Arts



*“I was always stealing paper from the printer to write and draw on.”*  
Kate Largent, 8th Grade Creative Writing



*“I got my first C, and I signed my dad’s name on the paper because I was too embarrassed to show it to my parents. It looked messy, and I lied to my teacher telling her that my dad was on a construction site and his wrist was broken. She called my dad.”*  
Mrs. Kathryn Sullivan, Middle School Math Teacher



*“I scared my mom when she was naked in the bathroom.”*  
Mr. George Younts, High School Theater Teacher

# What was the worst thing you did as a kid?

by Kayla Herrman,  
Lauren Holladay, and Julia Dubay



*“My sister and I got up in the middle of the night on Christmas. We both had gotten bikes and we were super excited, so we went outside to ride them. We ended up riding the wrong bikes.”*  
Ms. Lorraine Roof, Administrator



*“I stole fruit snacks at an after school program.”*  
Kate Selby, 9th grade Strings



*“I got a brush stuck in my hair and I had to cut it out.”*  
Ivy Braly, 10th Grade Vocal



*“I stole over 300 dollars from my mom’s boyfriend.”*  
Georgia Stewart, 11th Grade Fashion



*“I peed on my brother’s bed after he made me mad.”*  
Daniel DeLeon, 12th Grade Strings