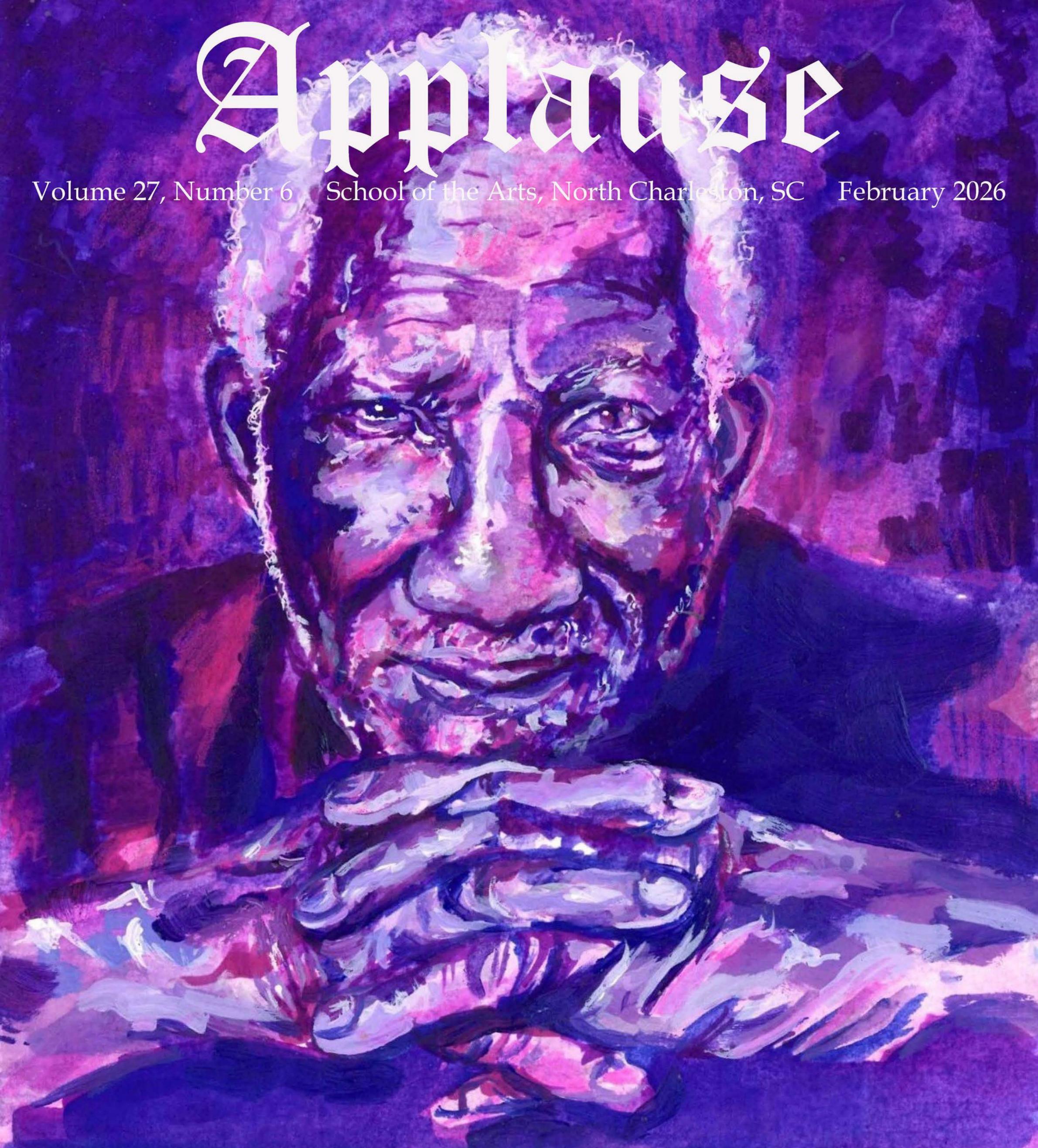


# Applause

Volume 27, Number 6 School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC February 2026



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## From the Editor

Dear Readers,

I'm proud to present the February issue of *Applause*!

This issue has many interesting features celebrating Black History Month. I recommend pages 18-19 to see students recognizing the black artists who inspire them, as well as page 10 to see what BSU has been up to.

Also, I would like to thank Cameron Hazel for her beautiful painting of Philip Simmons, one of so many historic black figures born in Charleston, which you see on the cover.

At the end of January, *Applause* put on *All You Need is Love: Songs of the 60s*, which I had a lot of fun being a part of. Check out page 5 for an article overview of the concert, and flip to the centerfold to see photos.

Finally, to get you in the spirit for Valentine's Day, go to page 13 to see the results of this year's matchmaker!

Your Editor,  
Luciano Cusatis




# 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 Cameron Hazel**

## SOA Calendar

by Trinity Collins

Tuesday, 2/17: HS Orchestra Pre-ASTA Concert, RMMT, 5:30-7 PM  
Wednesday, 2/18: Band Pre-JPA Concert, RMMT, 6-8 PM  
Thursday, 2/19: Theatre Competition One-Act Preview, RMMT, 5-6 PM  
Friday, 2/20: For the Culture Friday- Black History Month, Courtyard Breezeway, 11 AM- 2 PM  
Tuesday, 2/24: BSU- Black History Month

Jamboree, RMMT, 11 AM- 3:30 PM  
Wednesday, 2/25: MS Orchestra Concert Festival Preview Concert, RMMT, 5-5:30 PM  
Thursday, 2/26: Fashion Prom Dress Giveaway, Fashion room & hallway, 3:30-6:30 PM  
Thursday, 2/26: Piano Senior Thesis, RMMT, 6-8 PM  
Friday, 2/27: For the Culture Friday- Black History Month, Courtyard Breezeway, 11 AM- 2 PM  
Wednesday, 3/4: MS & HS Band Pre-CPA Concert, RMMT, 6-8

Wednesday, 3/4: 7th grade Theatre One-Act, BBT, 4-7:30 PM  
Thursday, 3/5: 7th grade Theatre One-Act, BBT, 4-7:30 PM  
Thursday, 3/5: HS Orchestra Pre-CPA and Concerto Concert, RMMT, 5:30-7 PM  
Friday, 3/6: Convocation #3, RMMT, 2-3:30 PM  
Monday, 3/9: Dance Senior Thesis Adjudication Spring, RMMT, 4-5:30 PM  
Tuesday, 3/10: Classical Piano Spring Concert, RMMT, 6-8 PM  
Wednesday, 3/11: Classical Piano Spring Concert, RMMT, 6-8 PM



**Page 6**



**Pages 16-17**



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## In This Issue

**Where Where They Then:  
Ms. Howard**

by Cannon Gibbs

***Applause* Presents *All You Need is Love: Songs of the 60s***

by Lila Hayes, Sheridan King, and Trinity Collins

**Second Convocation Was a Hit!**

by Lila Hayes

## Opinion: Do You Really Care About the Halftime Show?

by Lila Hayes

This past Sunday, Bad Bunny performed at the Super Bowl Halftime Show—and delivered with exquisite visual storytelling, dancing, and pure talent. Accompanying him were Lady Gaga and Ricky Martin, along with cameos from others like Pedro Pascal and Cardi B. The performance struck several political chords, from the island-wide blackout on Puerto Rico referenced in the utility poles on the field, to the sign in the back of the performance reading “the only thing more powerful than hate is love,” to the traditional Puerto Rican dress worn by Lady Gaga, casita, and pava straw hats used in the performance.

Bad Bunny’s political commentary isn’t new. He’s long been outspoken against the Trump administration and ICE deportations. However, he hasn’t before had such a wide range of people fighting against his music. When the halftime performer was announced, we collectively watched the Internet devolve into a battleground of those for and against his performance, saying that the performer should be a “true American” and that the performance should only be in English. But Bad Bunny is an American citizen, as of 1917 when residents of Puerto Rico were granted U.S. citizenship following the Treaty of Paris in 1898. The United States cannot both claim Puerto Rico as a territory and reject its culture.



Lila Hayes

Furthermore, there are real examples of non-American halftime performers: Paul McCartney, The Who, and The Rolling Stones, to name just a few. So what makes the miscategorizing of Bad Bunny as a non-American artist so provocative? It’s easy for those protesting his performance without evidence to chalk it up to the art of being truly patriotic. But when it’s clear that he’s American, what really stops the opposers from viewing Bad Bunny as the correct choice for the halftime show?

Many would rather watch Kid Rock headline the alternative halftime show put on by Turning Point USA, pitched as an “All-American” option. Kid Rock, who reportedly put on an extremely half-hearted show compared to the official one, has also been in the spotlight for re-emerged lyrics about underage girls. And yet, many consider him to be more patriotic than Bad Bunny, who included a strong “God Bless America” in his performance.

It is more difficult to explain this away as patriotic than it is to point out the blatant racist narrative in this line of reasoning. With the idea that Kid Rock is more American than Bad Bunny comes the push for white supremacy, because it carries the subtext that America is only truly for those who are white and speak English as their first language. This isn’t the upholding of American values; it’s racism hiding behind a thin veil of patriotism. Meanwhile, the real patriotism took place in the stadium while Bad Bunny held a football. Written on it were the words “Together, we are America.”



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## **All You Need is Love Rocks the RMMT!**

by Trinity Collins

On January 29th, *Applause* presented *All You Need is Love: Songs of the Sixties*, featuring thirty-one performers on twenty-three songs. Emceed by junior **Keller Fauerbach**, the show traced the history of one of rock's most powerful decades in front of a full, enthusiastic audience at the Rose Maree Myers Theater.

Having just performed *All You Need is Love: Unplugged* on December 16, **Dr. Cusatis** and his student performers had less than three weeks to learn the new material for the show, as only four songs were repeated from the December concert. Now that I made it sound scary, I can say it's really not. It's fun to watch the songs being learned and feel their energy.

*All You Need is Love* was more than just a concert; it created friendships, encouraged collaboration and offered learning opportunities. Musicians got a chance to hone their skills in new ways. **Callie Williams** explained, "This year, my inspiration for joining was to get better at improv, which I think I have!"

Students prepare for the show in a variety of ways. **Kendall King** said, "Before the show, I warm up my instrument, tune, and then go over any parts of the music that I am least comfortable with." **Madi Deaton** explained, "I always warm up my voice and go over my music before a show. I also like to talk with those I'm performing with to double-check song endings and interlude sections as well, just to always be prepared." **Zion Stanton** has a different approach. "I said a prayer for the performers and for their families." **Moses Blom** emphasized the importance of "making sure I know where everything is so I'm not scrambling around on stage."

Being backstage during a concert is such an amazing experience. It's not just waiting around for your turn to go on; it's also seeing your peers perform incredibly on stage, practicing your songs one more time, talking with your friends, singing along with the songs, and dancing with the music too. One of my favorite moments was during "Can't Take My Eyes Off You" when **Ellery Ketron** and **Quincy Christian** were singing to each other and to my digicam.

Being the professionals they are, students explained their techniques for avoiding mistakes and maintaining the show's momentum. **Madi Deaton** explained, "During one of the songs, I forgot some of the harmonies I was supposed to sing, but I just improvised some, and it sounded good with the other harmonies, so I didn't worry too much." **Kendall King** shared, "At All You Need Is Love (Unplugged), while performing the song "Slaughter of the Innocents," [a brass musical adaptation of a poem by local poet Eugene Platt] we got off track with

each other and didn't know where we were in the piece. To get back on track, we collectively went to the next section where everyone would then know where to resume." **Moses Blom** added, "my guitar went crazy out of tune during "Something," so I stopped playing guitar halfway through and **Lila** covered it."

Everybody enjoyed a chance to be on stage, but many played multiple roles on a variety of songs. **Moses Blom**, for example, sang, played guitar, piano, French horn, and bass. **M.K. Ammons** played percussion and trombone; **Beckett Carrington** sang and played piano, **Luciano Cusatis** played cello and sang, **Lila Elm** played violin and guitar, and **Madie Fletcher** sang and played flute.

Audience members were thoroughly pleased with the show, which began with the Shirelles "Will You Love Me Tomorrow," and ended with the audience singing along with the whole ensemble on the Beatles' "All You Need is Love." Other highlights included solo vocal performances by **Beckett Carrington** on the Beatles "Hey Jude" and "I Saw Her Standing There," and the Doors "Touch Me"; **Luciano Cusatis** on The Who's "My Generation," **Madi Deaton** on Jefferson Airplane's "White Rabbit"; **Moses Blom** on the Beatles' "Something," and **Kynisha Middleton-Gladden** on Sam Cooke's "A Change is Gonna Come" and **Stevie Wonder**'s "For Once in My Life." Other fantastic vocal performances came from **Kennedy Colie**, **Marley Mendes**, **Emma Norton**, **Kate Largent**, **Ellery Ketron**, **Maddie Leluc**, **Rachel Wheelon**, **Quincy Christian** and **Niko Palihan**.

The brass section, consisting of **M.K. Ammons**, **Parker Williams**, and **Calev Harrold**, was outstanding on everything from Sam Cooke to the Beatles, while **Audra Elm** and **Jack Leon** played awesome bass, and **Zion Stanton** and 2025 grad **Cam Barnett** held it all together with their pristine drumming. **Callie Williams**, **Luciano Cusatis**, **Lila Elm**, and I performed the strings parts and **Moses Blom**, **Lachlan Smith**, and **Sheridan King** masterfully handled most of the keyboard responsibilities. **Lila Elm** and AMHS senior **Cole McGowan** rocked the house on electric guitars. And **Kendall King**'s saxophone solos were unforgettable. Vocal harmonies were certainly a highlight as illustrated in songs such as the Beach Boys' "God Only Knows," the Mamas and Papas' "California Dreamin'" and the Shirelles' "Will You Love Me Tomorrow."

*All You Need Is Love* will be back for two off campus shows on May 1 and 2 at Commonhouse and the Charleston Convention Center.



**Madi Deaton** sings "White Rabbit" by Jefferson Airplane

Lila Hayes



**Kynisha Middleton-Gladden** performing Sam Cooke's "A Change is Gonna Come" with support from brass and strings

Lila Hayes



**Beckett Carrington** singing "Touch Me" by The Doors

Sheridan King



## Where Were They Then? Ms. Howard

by Cannon Gibbs

*Curious about her path to SOA, staff writer Cannon Gibbs interviewed with math teacher Ms. Keala Howard for this month's edition of "Where Were They Then?"*

**Cannon Gibbs:** Where did you grow up, and what were your interests as a kid?

**Keala Howard:** I grew up in Sumter, South Carolina, and as a kid I was always drawn to movement and expression. I loved gymnastics and theater.

**CG:** Was teaching always something you considered, or did you originally see yourself doing something else?

**KH:** Math was another love from the beginning. I was certain I'd become a CPA because numbers always made sense to me, and I loved the clarity they brought.

**CG:** Where did you go after high school, and what did you study?

**KH:** After high school, I moved to the DC area and studied at Prince George's Community College before transferring to the University of Maryland. Life took me even farther when I got married and lived in Great Britain for three years.

**CG:** What experiences or people influenced your decision to become a teacher, and what eventually brought you to SOA?

**KH:** While overseas, I worked in a Department of Defense Dependent School, and that experience stayed with me. I loved working with students by helping them learn, grow, and discover what they were capable of. Even then, teaching was already becoming part of who I was. No matter where I was, one thing remained consistent: *I was always teaching in some*

*form.* I've been a math tutor for years, and I've always deeply respected the impact teachers have. In fact, I was one of the first students in South Carolina's Teacher Cadet program when it was introduced. I officially entered the classroom during the 2001–2002 school year in Richland District One, and later, when I moved to Charleston, I began substituting in local schools. During my first year, I became a long-term substitute and found myself tutoring students outside of class, including those in my NJROTC program. That's when a principal encouraged me to apply for a full-time math teaching position — and that moment brought me back to the work I had always been drawn to. What brought me to the Charleston School of the Arts was simple: *I love the arts, I love creative students, and I wanted to teach in a space that felt aligned with who I am.* I still carry love for my former students, but SOA has been a place of renewal.



**Ms. Howard with her sons, who are both adults now**

**CG:** What have you learned most since you started teaching? Has your teaching style changed over time?

**KH:** The biggest lesson I've learned since becoming a teacher is to give myself grace. Teaching is demanding, and growth takes time. My teaching style is still evolving — but what's always been clear is my purpose: *to help students feel capable, confident, and supported as they learn to do hard things.*

## Where Are They Now? Dr. Tamara Butler

by Luciano Cusatis

*Dr. Tamara Butler graduated from SOA as a Creative Writing major in 2002, and now works as the Executive Director of the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture at the College of Charleston.*

**Luciano Cusatis:** After graduating from SOA, you earned a BS in Biochemistry from Xavier University of Louisiana. What led you to shift your focus to African American Studies and Education for your PhD and MA at Ohio State?

**Tamara Butler:** A conversation with (the late) Dr. Katie G. Cannon, the first Black woman ordained in the United Presbyterian Church. After I graduated from Xavier, I had lunch with Dr. Cannon and told her that I was interested in African American Studies. Although I was a Biochemistry major, I was also invested in my African American Studies classes at Xavier. I was fascinated to learn about Black politics, philosophy, literature, and all things that the Black Studies faculty covered in classes. Dr. Cannon was not a faculty member at Xavier, but a family friend. She suggested that I pursue graduate studies in the Midwest or on the West

Coast. I took her advice and applied to one program: African American & African Studies at The Ohio State University. During my 7 years at Ohio State, I earned 3 degrees, attended conferences across the United States, traveled to Ghana (West Africa), made friends with some of the most brilliant people, and met my lifetime mentor. I am truly grateful for (and miss) Dr. Cannon.

**LC:** Where did your career take you before you returned to Charleston and accepted the prestigious position as Executive Director of the Avery Research Center?

**TB:** I served as Assistant Professor of English Education and African American & African Studies at Michigan State University. I earned tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2020. I was responsible for training future English Language Arts teachers and Black Studies scholars.



**Dr. Butler**

**LC:** What would you consider to be a few of the highlights of your collections at the Research Center?

**TB:** Our collections focus on Black Education, Black organizations, Gullah Geechee Culture, and Black Charleston's influential families. I encourage students to listen to the Avery Messenger podcast (streaming on all platforms, including YouTube) to learn more about our collections. Follow us @averyarchives on Instagram to see highlights from our massive photograph collection.

**LC:** How do you recommend our students can make best use of the Avery Research Center?

**TB:** Also, you are welcome to check out some of our digital collections at the Lowcountry Digital Library. This will be especially helpful as you are working on projects or if you just want to be smarter about the Lowcountry. Students can follow us on Instagram (averyresearchcenter) and attend some of our events, which are usually free and open to the public. I recommend that graduating students apply for the Heritage Interpretation Field School, which includes a 4-week paid internship. Learn more at <https://libguides.charleston.edu/averyresearchcenter/>

**LC:** What are a few projects the Research Center is working on currently?

**TB:** The Avery Research Center turns 40 this year. Therefore, the team is organizing a multi-day conference in June, where we will host scholars on campus for 3 days to help us celebrate this milestone. We also hire undergraduate and graduate students at the College of Charleston who are working on various projects. Two first-year students are processing collections for the oldest AME churches in the Lowcountry: Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church (lovingly known as Mother Emanuel). Our sophomores and juniors are assisting researchers with archival research. Graduate students are helping us with our social media. All students are helping us develop an art exhibition at Avery featuring unique objects from our collections.

**LC:** As a creative writing major at SOA, can you name a few books (any genre) by African American Authors or studies in African American History and Culture on your list of must reads?

**TB:** Elizabeth Acevedo, *The Poet X*; *The Autobiography of Assata Shakur*; Toni Cade Bambara, "The Education of a Storyteller;" Frank Chapman, *The Damned Don't Cry*; Angela Davis, *If They Come in the Morning*; Nikki Giovanni, *Cotton Candy on a Rainy Day*; June Jordan, "Poem About My Rights;" Paule Marshall, *Praisesong for the Widow*; Gloria Naylor, *Mama Day*.



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## Writer Emily Van Duyne Visits SOA and Discusses the Work of Sylvia Plath

by Lila Hayes

*Author and Stockton University Associate Professor of Writing Emily Van Duyne recently came to SOA and spoke with the Creative Writing majors. Van Duyne recently published *Loving Sylvia Plath*, a book exploring the poet's complicated life and writing. Staff writer Lila Hayes sat down with her to talk about how this project came to be.*

**Lila Hayes:** How did your love of Sylvia Plath originate?

**Emily Van Duyne:** I read Plath for the first time when I was a freshman in high school— my English teacher told me to pick a novel from the shelf, and I instinctively chose it from a big stack of books. I liked it very much, but I missed a lot of the humor. The following year, I took creative writing with the same teacher, and he encouraged me to read Plath's poetry, which I loved, and then he lent me two biographies— one was "authorized" by Ted Hughes and the other wasn't. He told me to read the authorized biography first, then the unauthorized one, and come back and talk to him about my thoughts. My thoughts, it turned out, were a lot— I basically spent the next thirty years thinking about why we have these bad ideas about Plath's life, and those thoughts eventually became *Loving Sylvia Plath: A Reclamation* (it's dedicated to that English teacher, by the way).

**LH:** When did you know that Plath and her life were what you wanted to study further?

**EVD:** I think I always knew that, really, because I was always doing it in one way or the next. Anytime I had the opportunity, in college or grad school, to choose my subject to fulfill an assignment, I naturally gravitated to Plath. When, for instance, I read Helene Cixous's work for the first time as a junior in college (she's a literary theorist who writes about women's writing as an instinct toward life and survival, rather than misery and silence) it seemed to apply so clearly to Plath's life and work, so I wrote about that. I found a lot of joy in connecting Plath's work to the larger world of theory and criticism, because I found that she was often neglected in that regard, or else wildly misread (i.e., bad "authorized" biographies that deliberately peddled misinformation).

**LH:** You were awarded a Fulbright scholarship. How has that impacted your academic and personal life?

**EVD:** I would say that, besides the book coming out, it was the most profound professional experience of my life. It gave me a confidence in my work (and in people's reception to that work) that I didn't have, previously. It also connected me to the most brilliant and generous colleagues in Greece, a network of artists and scholars who I am in touch with all of the time, still. It showed me how differently academic systems work in Greece (spoiler alert: they work way better than they do in America). My students in Greece were mostly from very poor, rural backgrounds— they had worked their fingers to the bone to get to a research university in the city and they were not going to squander one moment of that opportunity. They were constantly translating



**Van Duyne near the 13th-century church ruins right by Plath's grave, in Heptonstall, in West Yorkshire.**

Provided

Plath's work into Greek, translating my work into Greek, working with me to help me understand Greek culture and language so that I could better understand their responses to Plath. It was just an absolute joy. Personally, it was equally wonderful. My husband grew up very poor and had never been abroad prior to our trip, so getting to experience that alongside him was beautiful and such a gift. We would sit at little cafes on the Aegean, downtown in Thessaloniki, and from where we sat, you could see Mt. Olympus. And I would pinch myself. I couldn't believe how lucky we were. And my children had the extraordinary privilege of attending a Greek school, learning the language, traveling all over mainland Greece and the islands, and also to Spain to see friends who live there. It was beautiful! If you are ever in the position to apply for a Fulbright— DO IT. Do not hesitate! If any of you have questions about it, have DeTib put you in touch with me— I am the Fulbright liaison for my university, so I can help you get whatever info you need.

**LH:** If you could correct one common misconception about Plath, what would it be?

**EVD:** She was not some kind of goth suicide girl. She was in many ways an average woman of her time with standard desires and needs— she wanted love, she wanted a family. She found those things. But she also had this extraordinary talent accompanied by an intense drive and organization— lots of people have talent, but she had a plan to make that talent work for her. She was not writing poetry and fiction (and diaries and criticism and letters) out of some drive toward death, she was writing them out of joy, and curiosity, and anger, and sorrow, and the wide range of emotions we all possess. We should honor her life and talent and drive, not obsess over the tragedy of her death. Because in the end, her death was avoidable. She should have been getting care and concern from the person who claimed to love her most (Hughes). Instead, he abandoned her at the worst possible moment, and she took her own life. To turn those circumstances into a mythology about how her suicide was "inevitable" is the worst way to dishonor her. She should have (and could have) lived. God, it still makes me angry, after all these years, reading and writing about it. My own kids are 17, 15, and 5 now; I'm 46. Plath deserved to see what I get to see— her kids growing up, falling in love, making art, making mistakes. Life is so rich and beautiful and she knew that better than anyone. If only she had hung on through that winter— I think she could have survived.

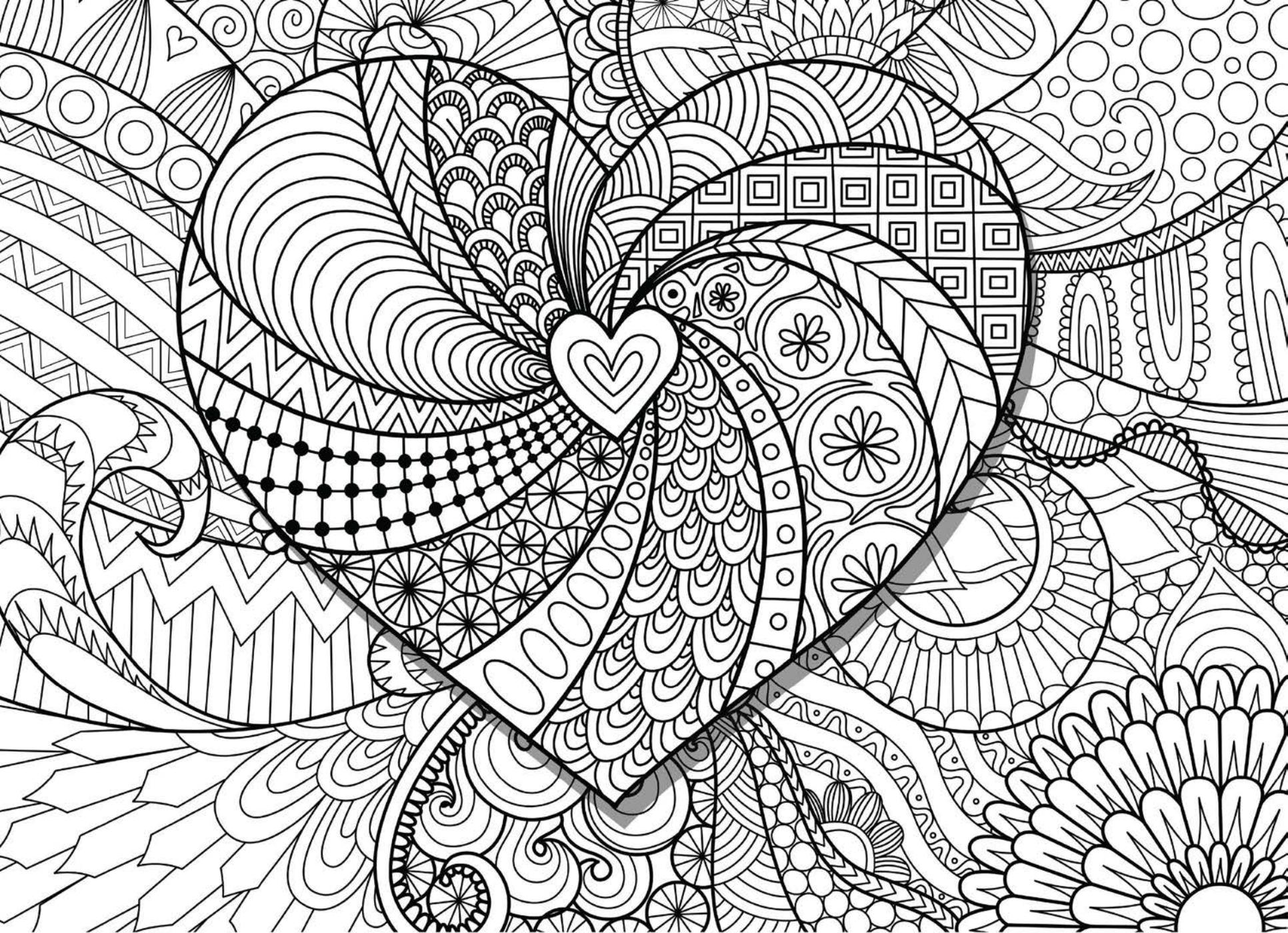
**LH:** Which of Plath's work stands out to you as a piece that you personally connect with?

**EVD:** Well. All of it? It's a tough question! I move from piece to piece with her, falling in love with different things at different times. At the moment, I've been reading through all of her annotations on classical texts (as in, from ancient Greece and Rome) for a chapter in an anthology that I'm working on. Plath studied the classics when she was doing her Fulbright in England, and Smith College has her editions. Actually! Here is a photograph from the archive of one of my favorite of Plath's annotations, from Euripides' play *Helen of Troy*, where Plath is being quite savage to Helen, lol. I've got a book on Plath, Hughes, and Greek tragedy brewing in me, but that's a few years down the line.



**Van Duyne with her friend and fellow Plath scholar Gail Crowther inside the library at Lumb Bank.**

Provided



**The only thing more powerful than hate is love. Choose love.**

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## The Black Student Union has brought in many great local speakers for its Black History Month celebrations so far!



On the left, Geno Jones, a Star 99.7 Radio personality & author, speaks to students in the media center.

Durel Butts



To the right, Live 5 News Anchor Raphael James with members of BSU.

Durel Butts



Left, Demetria McNeil, dancer, choreographer, and founder of the company PoorRichKidzz.

Durel Butts

Many more speakers will visit during lunch in addition to other events, as February continues. Don't miss "For the Culture Fridays" and the BHM Jamboree on February 24th, so stay tuned!

# Creative Writing Freshmen and Sophomores take a trip to Fripp Island

by Lila Hayes

Last week, SOA's Creative Writing set off on the annual Fripp Trip (or, more officially, the Sea Islands Retreat) for three days of learning about the Civil Rights Movement and Gullah history and storytelling. The first stop was McLeod Plantation, where we embarked on a thorough and unsensationalized tour of the plantation, one of the only in the South that doesn't gloss over its history. We ended the tour with a writing workshop and continued on to Fripp Island, where we first spent a rainy few hours on Hunting Island before returning to the beach house. We toured the Penn Center, one of the first schools for formerly enslaved people, and learned about the local Gullah history of St. Helena Island on the second day of the trip. On our third day, we reflected on everything we learned this trip before we headed to Beaufort for lunch and returned home to Charleston.



An old church they visited on St Helena Island

Lila Hayes



Freshmen and Sophomore Creative Writers brave the cold on Fripp Island



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## A Look at Deaf and Hard of Hearing's Collaborations with Fashion

by Sheridan King

*A continuation of a series highlighting what the Deaf program has accomplished through the years at SOA.*

Over the years, there have been so many different fashion trends. From the extravagant clothes in the 80s, to the fashion we have today, it's constantly changing. The skills that make this part of culture and art thrive -sewing- is a valuable skill to have in day-to-day life as well! Before the fashion and costume design major was officially established at SOA, Deaf students had the opportunity to enroll in fashion classes and learn to sew! With Ms. Nichols, the founding teacher of the fashion program, students learned different techniques and design skills.

Sewing as a skill is able to be used in many different ways, and it was emphasized as an employability skill, which they could apply to their jobs in the future. The Deaf students loved sewing and fashion design so much they sold SOA T-shirts during annual registration to raise funds for a six-needle embroidery machine. Their new machine expanded opportunities for their individual skills to continue developing after graduation.

"Some students even had the chance to walk the runway and showcase the clothing they designed and sewed themselves!" said Mrs. Duffy. With these skills, the students were able to start a business, named "Deaf Designs" where they offered custom embroidery on different clothes. "It reflected both creativity and real-world workforce preparation" Mrs. Duffy stated. Around Valentines Day, they made ILY pillows, embroidered candy bags, and more.

Fashion is also used in functional ways throughout the Deaf community, bringing creativity and new ideas into assistive technology. Disability fashion activist and writer Sinéad Burke said, "Representation and visibility are so important... but we need to acknowledge the systemic barriers that exist," and she could not be more right. SOA students have created many beautiful designs and have made so many people's day with the creations they put out into the world. As fashion evolves and continues in the world, more and more creativity with Deaf technology, and amazing things in the fashion world will take place. I know I look *forward* to seeing what's next with these amazing collaborations and I know that the *Applause* is as well.



**Deaf students learn to sew**



**A student shows off a pair of pants she made!**

## Sign of the Month:

### "Sweetheart"

by Sheridan King  
Demonstrated by  
Marquis Larry



1. Hold both thumbs up in front of your heart
2. Put your thumbs down into your hand and repeat

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## The Valentine's Day Matchmaker is Back!

by Luciano Cusatis and Dante Criscitiello

Every February, Applause helps out those still looking for their Valentine by finding one for them. This year, Luciano Cusatis and Dante Criscitiello took on this tall task, and students were able to fill out a Google form to enter the matchmaker, where the unique variety of questions helped these cupids put together some fantastic matches.

### Sara Francis and Bre Seitter:

Out of the infinite amount of words that exist, these two have the same exact favorite: Onomatopoeia! Ding Ding Ding! Sounds like a perfect match to me!

-or-

### Sara Francis and Camden Mande:

Sara seemed to express interest in her fellow Strings major, going so far as to even say that if she could swap lives with anyone for a day, it would be Camden! They did also show a shared interest in the teachings of Aristotle, so maybe this match also has some potential.

### Annabella Cusatis and Lila Elm:

These two were the only ones to pick the correct answer to the age-old question "\$500,000 or dinner w/ Jay-Z?" (the latter obviously) These financial geniuses will be very prosperous together!

### Audra Elm and MK Ammons:

This pair named their favorite sandwiches to be Nutella and Turkey, respectively. The intensive research we've put into this sandwich question has shown that opposites tend to attract, and I think that's the case here!

### Sheridan King and Trinity Collins:

Both of these students shared their fondness of the Leprechaun when asked about holiday mascots. This says a lot about their personalities, and I think they'll be a great fit together. Additionally, they are both members of the *Applause* Staff, so sparks may soon be flying in the newsroom!



Luciano Cusatis & Dante Criscitiello

### Samaree Promanee and Maisy McLeroy:

Speaking of Trinity, these two BOTH specifically requested to be matched with her. While we weren't able to fully grant their wish, hopefully they can bond over their shared interest.

### Collins Rabon and Lorelei Williams:

These two made it extremely clear that they wanted to be matched with each other, so this one was easy.

### Morgan Barron and Meredith Leake:

When asked to assign themselves to a Spongebob character, these two chose Spongebob and Sandy Cheeks, respectively. We've always believed those characters were in love so maybe their real-life counterparts will be too!

## The Next Applause Will Come out Wednesday, March 11th!

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## SOA Athletes Finish Winter Seasons Strong!

by Fletcher Seminaroti

Winter sports are coming to a close, and SOA students are finishing strong this season on the court and on the mat.

The Raptors Boys basketball team defeated the Woodland Wolverines, 49-44, in a tough battle on senior night, Feb 6th. Star SOA Junior **Omari Wynn-Ferrell** and The Raptors face off against Burke in their last regular-season game before proceeding to the playoffs.

Academic Magnet Raptors Lady Raptors tore up the court this season, holding an 8-12 record in the regular season. Star SOA players include Captain **Josie Barrineau** and **Sloane Bradley**. Bradley had an impressive 12 rebounds against Charleston Christian. Barrineau, on the other hand, had an impressive game against Bishop England with a career high count of 8 steals, securing 8 turnovers for the Raptors. On February 6th, the Lady Raptors fought tooth and claw against the Woodland Wolverines for Senior Night and came out on top 38-33. The Raptors face the Burke Bulldogs on Tuesday, Feb 10th, for their last regular-season game. The outcome of this game determines whether they advance into the playoffs, so stay tuned.



**Omari warming up before the Woodland game**

Raptor wrestling had a competitive season, going 2-6 in the regular season, where they dominated the Stall Warriors twice. Star standout and Junior Piano major **Dean Barnwell** finished the regular season with an impressive personal record of 17-4. Over the last couple of weeks Raptors have entered the road to states, where the top wrestlers from each division fight for the number one spot. Barnwell is on the hunt for the top spot after placing 7th last year in the state meet. Barnwell is on track to succeed after placing 2nd in the 175 weight class against a rival wrestler whom Barnwell has previously beaten. Over the next two weeks, Raptor wrestlers will advance on to the Lower State competition and then finally to States, where Barnwell is hungry for the championship.

## Dean Barnwell Discusses State Championships on the Horizon

by Fletcher Seminaroti

*As mentioned in the above article, Dean has had a great season with the AMHS Wrestling Team, so Fletcher sat down with him as he prepares for the upcoming State Championship Competition.*

**Fletcher Seminaroti:** One word I would use to describe you is “driven.” What motivates you to fight for that number one spot at states?

**Dean Barnwell:** This is my junior year, so I have the opportunity to be a two-time state champion, which is something I’m really shooting for.

**FS:** After wrestling in over twenty matches this season alone against similar schools, is there another rival wrestler who sticks out to you that

you hope to see in the later stages of this tournament?

**DB:** There’s many wrestlers who I’ve gotten to face multiple times throughout the season, but I specifically hope to see my Woodland opponent because I know we would have a very intense match.

**FS:** Some athletes have different routines or traditions that they do before a match, game, meet, etc. Do you have anything like that and if so what is it?

**DB:** Before matches, I just like to visualize my first move and setup, so that I’m well prepared once the match begins.

**FS:** You are a captain this year as a junior, does that create pressure in the sense that people look up to you? If so, how do you work to fulfill those expectations?

**DB:** Yes, being captain adds a ton of pressure to win my matches for the other wrestlers. However, that pressure has been a great motivator all season to work harder and represent my team well.

An advertisement for Park Circle Counseling. It features a white cat on the right side. On the left, there is a circular logo divided into six colored segments with the words "PARK CIRCLE" and "COUNSELING" written around it. A QR code is positioned in the center of the advertisement.

An advertisement for dental services. At the top, it shows the logos for "JAMES ISLAND DENTAL ASSOCIATES" and "JOHNS ISLAND DENTAL ASSOCIATES", both with the tagline "Restorative • Cosmetic • Implants". Below the logos, it says "TWO LOCATIONS" and "COMPLETE DENTAL CARE FOR ALL". The website "SmilesForCharleston.com" is prominently displayed. At the bottom, three dental professionals are shown standing in front of a wall with a logo and names: "Thomas Weir, DDS" and "James Thomas III, DMD".

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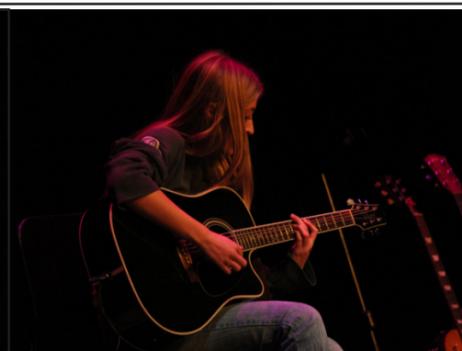
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# All You Need is Love Rocks the RMMT

by Trinity Collins, Lila Hayes, and Sheridan King



# Who is a Black artist in your field who inspires you?



"Edna Grace, she plays the clarinet, the same instrument as me, and she's a very valued and respected clinician in South Carolina"

Kaylee Simmons, 9th grade Band



"Florence Price, we're working on an incredible piece by her in the Sinfonetta right now"

Ali Wager, 11th grade Strings



"Stevie Wonder, he's one of the greatest musicians of all time. He's such a visionary and he got signed at just fourteen years old."

Landen Knight, 12th grade Piano



"Johnathan Green, he's local and he's fantastic. He has also been a great advocate for many social issues."

Mr. Colie, Visual Arts teacher



"Jimi Hendrix, he's amazing as a singer and a guitarist, and for someone who does both those things, he's a huge inspiration."

Owen Patterson, 8th grade Vocal



"Toni Morrison, I recently read her short story "Recitatif" to help prepare for my Senior Thesis and I loved it."

Nora Green, 12th grade Creative Writing

# Continued



"Nathaniel Green, he's so kind and supportive on top of being a great dancer, he's the best!"

Elena Criscitiello, 7th grade Dance



"Samuel L. Jackson, I grew up watching *Star Wars* and he's awesome as Mace Windu. I just really like him."

Leo West, 12th grade Theater



"Ann Lowe, in 1953 she designed Jackie Kennedy's wedding dress, one of the most famous wedding dresses in American history, yet did not receive full public credit at the time."



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## December Slang

by Fletcher Seminaroti

*Each issue, our resident language expert Fletcher Seminaroti researches the newest words around the halls of SOA, including some additional holiday slang for this month.*

**Tap In:** The action of focusing or paying attention to a person, place or thing.

Ex: *Dude you gotta tap in to class, you got a 50 on the last test!*

**Bet:** Exclaiming agreement to a statement.

Ex: *"Hey, you wanna go fishing on Saturday?" Bet.*

**Bop:** Used to describe someone who talks to a plentiful amount of romantic interests.

Ex: *"Oh I wouldn't date him, I heard he's a bop."*

**City Boy:** Taken from hit series *Gravity Falls*, it is used to express emotion when someone does something cool.

Ex: *CITY BOYY!!*

**Cortisol Spike:** A sudden, temporary increase in the level of cortisol—the primary stress hormone—in the bloodstream, typically triggered by physical or psychological stress, such as danger or intense emotion.

Ex: *Chill out, you're causing a cortisol spike.*

**Slop:** Something that lacks in value, often used to describe food.

Ex: *Don't get the chicken alfredo, it's slop.*

**AI Slop:** An elaboration on the previous term, used to criticize the use of Artificial Intelligence.

Ex: *That picture is complete AI Slop, you can do better.*

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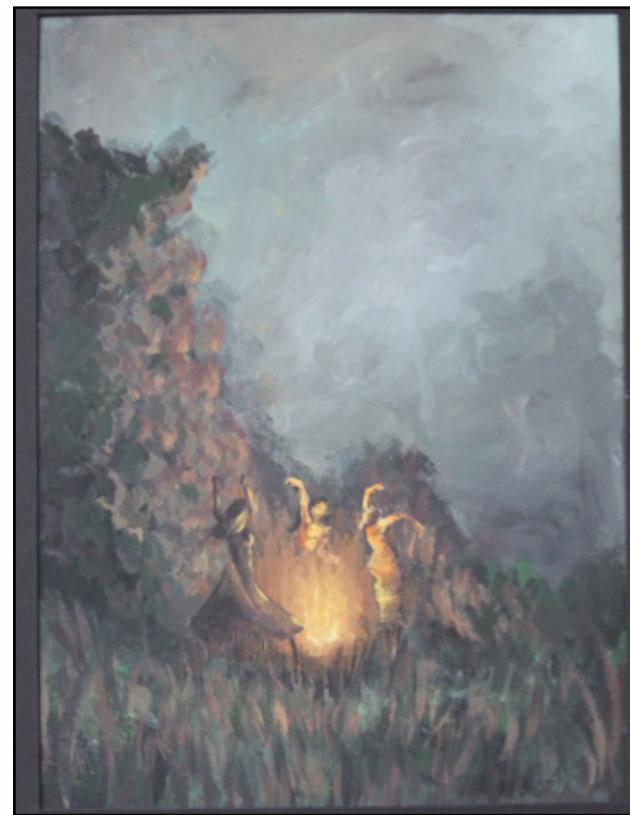
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**Isaiah Millman, 10th**



**Brooklyn Kleinschmidt, 11th**



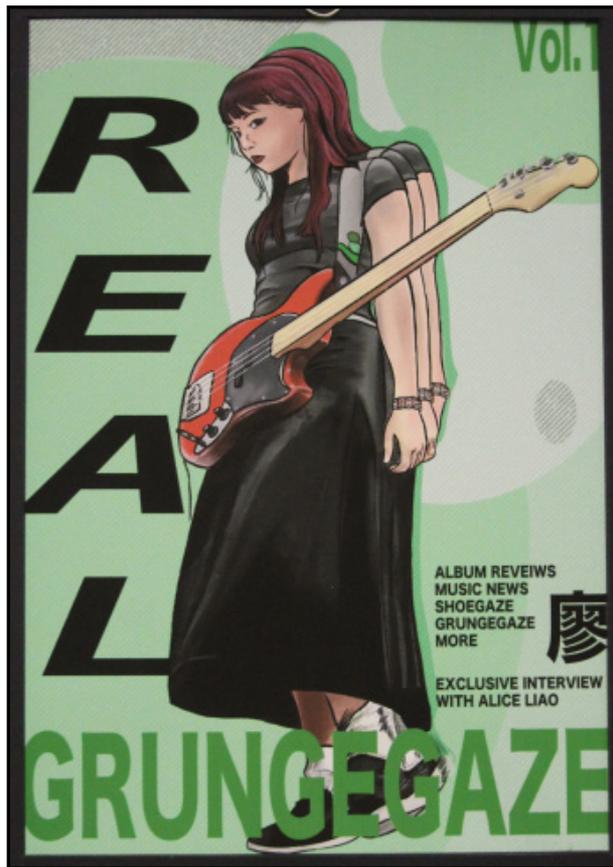
**Sophia Gauba, 11th**



**Giselle Gonzales, 11th**



**Ashley Yax, 11th**



Sean Curran, 11th



Violet McNamara, 10th

Photography by senior Creative Writing major Maddie Leluc



## Second Convocation Was a Hit!

Photos by Lila Hayes

SOA had its second Convocation of the year, with performances from the Symphony Orchestra, various piano majors, each grade level of dancers, and ending with Visual Artists using virtual reality to help paint a mural of Ms. Svendsen in just ten minutes!





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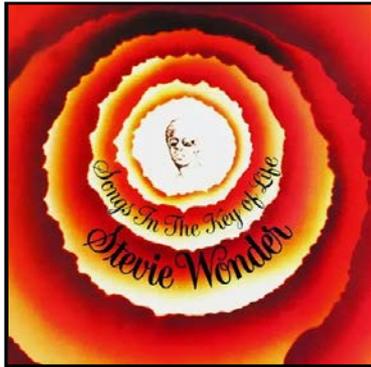
## Celebrating the Music of Black Artists

by Dante Criscitiello

Black artists have contributed so many amazing and influential albums, so for Black History Month, I decided to review four classics that I think everybody needs to listen to.

### ***Songs in the Key of Life* (1976)**

*Songs in the Key of Life* by Stevie Wonder is often regarded as one of the most influential albums in music history. It has always struck me as one of the most perfect albums because, at this point in Stevie's career, he had realized that, in a way, talking about being oppressed in his everyday life through music made the songs more heartfelt and passionate. Songs such as "As" showcase Wonder's lyrical depth and emotional warmth, while "Isn't She Lovely" stands out for its joyful, personal tone. The #1 hit "Sir Duke," pays tribute to Stevie's musical predecessors, Duke Ellington, as well as Count Basie, Ella Fitzgerald, and Louis Armstrong, while another #1, "I Wish" longs for childhood days.



***Songs in the Key of Life***

This album is also Stevie's longest, and it seamlessly blends soul, funk, jazz, and pop, making it a great album for picking up a vibe while also exploring themes such as love, identity, and social awareness throughout. With its rich instrumentation and meaningful messages, the album remains timeless and continues to resonate with listeners across generations.

### ***What's Going On* (1971)**

Marvin Gaye's *What's Going On* is one of the most influential soul albums of all time because it transformed both the subject matter and artistry of popular music. Released in 1971, the album moved beyond the love-song focus of earlier Motown records and addressed urgent social issues such as war, racial injustice, poverty, and



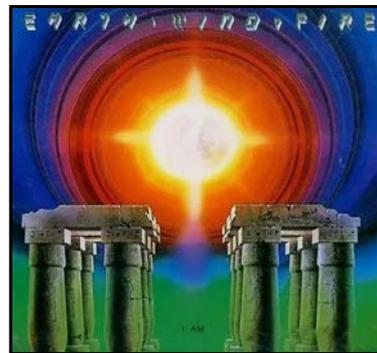
***What's Going On***

environmental destruction. Songs like "What's Going On" stand out for their calm, reflective tone, using smooth melodies and layered vocals to invite listeners into a conversation rather than confront them with anger. This approach made the message more powerful and helped the song resonate with a wide audience during a turbulent moment in American history.

Other tracks deepen the album's impact. "Mercy Mercy Me (The Ecology)" is especially notable for addressing environmental damage at a time when such concerns were rarely heard in mainstream music, pairing its warning with a beautiful, emotionally rich melody. "Inner City Blues (Make Me Wanna Holler)" closes the album with a raw depiction of economic struggle and systemic inequality, capturing the frustration of urban life through its dark groove and repeated refrain. Musically, the album's sophistication is seen in its flowing song transitions, lush orchestration, and expressive bass lines, which helped redefine what soul albums could sound like. Even small details from the recording process, such as the loose, organic way musicians like James Jamerson contributed to the sessions, reflect the album's depth and authenticity. By blending social consciousness with musical innovation, *What's Going On* set a new standard for soul music and influenced generations of artists to come.

### ***I Am* (1979)**

Earth, Wind & Fire's *I Am* is an album that feels both joyful and intentional, blending polished musicianship with messages of confidence, love, and unity. Released in 1979, the record shows the band at a creative peak, effortlessly mixing funk, soul, disco, and pop into a sound that is smooth without ever feeling shallow. Tracks like "Boogie Wonderland" bring an infectious energy that makes it impossible to sit still, while still showcasing the group's tight rhythms and layered vocals. On the other end of the spectrum, softer moments such as "After the Love Has Gone" highlight Earth, Wind & Fire's emotional depth, Musical versatility, and gentle melodies to explore heartbreak and reflection. The album consistently balances upbeat celebration with thoughtful restraint, which keeps it engaging from start to finish.



***I Am***

What makes *I Am* stand out is how confident and refined it sounds, as if the band fully

understood their strengths and leaned into them. Songs like "In the Stone" feel almost anthemic, emphasizing themes of connection and resilience, while tracks such as "Star" reinforce the group's optimistic worldview without sounding forced. The production is clean and vibrant, allowing each instrument and vocal line to shine without overwhelming the listener. Rather than chasing trends, *I Am* feels timeless, proving why Earth, Wind & Fire remain influential decades later. For both longtime fans and new listeners, the album serves as a strong reminder of how powerful music can be when technical skill, creativity, and purpose come together.

### ***Lady Soul* (1968)**

Aretha Franklin's *Lady Soul* makes it easy to understand why she is remembered as the "Queen of Soul." Released during the height of her career, the album blends gospel, R&B, and pop in a way that feels both powerful and deeply personal. Franklin's voice is the clear focus throughout, shifting effortlessly from strength to vulnerability while never losing its confidence.



***Lady Soul***

The album balances energy and emotion without feeling uneven. Tracks like "Chain of Fools" and "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman" naturally stand out, showing Franklin's ability to turn simple lyrics into something meaningful. Slower moments, including "People Get Ready" and "Ain't No Way," add depth and reflection, giving the album space to breathe and keeping it from becoming repetitive. Overall, *Lady Soul* feels less like a collection of individual songs and more like a complete artistic statement. For high school listeners discovering classic soul, the album is a strong example of how emotion, message, and talent can come together to create music that lasts well beyond its era.

## Contemporary Movie Review: ***Summer of Soul* (2021)**

by Lila Hayes

*Summer of Soul (...Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised)* is more than a documentary; it's a roaring, emotional recollection of Black history and culture in the previously uncelebrated Harlem Cultural Festival.

During the summer of 1969, the same year as Woodstock, Tony Lawrence set out to host the third Harlem Cultural Festival in Mount

Morris Park, and the one that would attract the most high-profile artists. Among the legendary acts were The Staple Singers, Sly and the Family Stone, Mahalia Jackson, Nina Simone, B.B. King, and Stevie Wonder. All of these and more made the summer-long festival a hotspot for culture and influence. However, it was also the last festival, and the one that would be thoroughly recorded and forgotten for fifty years.

In the wake of the deaths of Dr. King, Malcolm X, Robert F. Kennedy, and other Civil Rights leaders, the Black community in Harlem that summer turned to the Harlem Cultural Festival for their revolution and for hope. Barbara Bland-Acosta, one of the festival's attendees, said that 1969 "was a crazy, crazy, crazy period. We needed something to really reach out and touch us. We needed that music."

Through clips of news broadcasts, interviews, and videos of live performances, *Summer of Soul* artfully crafts a celebration of Black culture while simultaneously questioning the ease of its erasure. In an interview with the creators of the documentary, Stevie Wonder says that "the so-called powers that are or were didn't find it significant enough to keep it as a part of history. Because it is a part of history." Even Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson, the director of *Summer of Soul* and the drummer of The Roots, says that he had never heard of the festival before the producers contacted him and at first thought it was "some elaborate story" because no record existed of it.

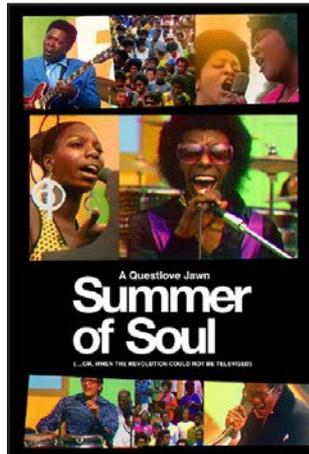
The emotion is high, and *Summer of Soul* shows just how much the Harlem Cultural Festival meant to its participants. Reverend Al Sharpton says in the documentary that "Gospel was the therapy for the stress and pressure of being Black in America" and that they "didn't know anything about therapists, but we knew Mahalia Jackson."

*Summer of Soul (...Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised)* challenges those who seek to erase Black culture and history by showing how important and moving experiences like those had at the Harlem Cultural Festival are, and is a necessary watch.

## Contemporary Book Review: *Long Way Down* (2008)

by Sage Stoner

*Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds is a novel-in-verse that holds a powerful message



*Summer of Soul*

about gun violence and revenge. The protagonist, William Holloman, whose brother was murdered on a community basketball court, seeks revenge against the person he believes murdered his brother. Jason Reynolds is an African American YA writer who won five awards for *Long Way Down* alone. He has written other novels, the most notable being *Miles Morales: Spider-Man*, which was a take on the original character by Marvel that presents a new story and inspired the story of *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*.

*Long Way Down* was inspired by Reynolds's visits to detention centers, where he would observe the cycles of violence in which children had been involved, and also by his own experience of having a close friend murdered. Reynolds and his buddies wanted to take revenge on the person who had murdered their friend. However, they decided not to because the person had not been identified, and killing an uninvolved person would only lead to more violence. Reynolds has stated how lucky it was that the perpetrator had not been identified.

*Long Way Down* uses the unique style of free-verse poetry to develop the narrator's powerful voice. Reynolds sometimes uses scribbles to represent William's mood while relating that passage. The catalyst for the novel's engaging plot is when William's brother Shawn is murdered, and William is sure he knows who it is, despite lacking any evidence, reasoning that he has always been good at mysteries. Will heads out of his house with his dead brother's gun to find the murderer, illustrating how grief and anger may drive one to commit a crime and continue the cycle of violence. Will must follow the unwritten "Rules" of his violent community, one of which is to always seek revenge. In another intense scene, William gets into an elevator, and the ghost of his uncle Buck, once a father figure to William and later murdered like Shawn, begins to talk to and physically interact with William. The protagonist is shocked when Buck appears. He starts to pinch himself, thinking it is all a dream. Shawn followed the same path that William is following now, we learn, but without the benefit of Buck's ghost talking to him. Other ghosts of men killed through the cycle of violence appear on each floor as the elevator drops and fills with fog, a clear symbol of the novel's message that grief and anger can cloud one's vision and lead to one's downfall. A visit from the ghost of Shawn himself will be the most significant of all as William maps the course he will take.

*Long Way Down* is a beautiful book. If you

have the chance, please read it; it is a short read, so you can most likely finish within an hour. 10/10.

## Restaurant Review: The Harlow

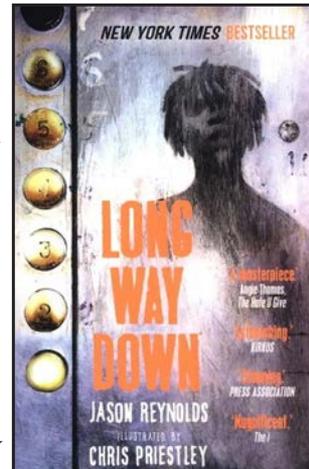
by Frankey Coakley

This restaurant is an undeniable 10 out of 10 that deserves its 4.9-star rating. I have been to The Harlow countless times by now, and it feels like every single time I go there, it gets better and better! The seafood and oyster platters are beautifully crafted right there at the bar and practically radiate with fresh and savory flavors! The burgers they make are juicy and thick with toppings and taste, and the fries are crispy and salty in all of the best ways.

The drinks are just phenomenal, in both presentation and in taste. Also, some of the food and drink options change from time to time to keep you interested and exploring! Plus, as far as I've seen, the quality of everything they make is extremely high, and the portions are just spectacular, making sure that you get what you paid for. And I cannot forget those flavors, the flavors are to die for, especially with those spicy garlic fries!

Other than the food, the atmosphere is such a vibe! On the way inside, there is a nice and colourful vine wall that automatically sets the mood as you arrive, plus they usually have live music playing in front of it. Then, on the inside, you walk into a fun and wholesome hangout spot that practically buzzes with life and energy, but also feels like a fancy night out the whole way through! On the outside, there's a dining area as well as the one inside, of course, and the bar even has an outside spot if you're feeling like taking a drink with the breeze. The bathrooms are also a spectacle to love; they are unbelievably fancy and kept cleaner than most other restaurants and bars.

The service at the Harlow is one of a kind; Going inside and greeting the staff is always a treat! Every waiter has such a great personality, and it really enhances the experience. Every staff member is kind and caring, and it actually feels like they mean it too! The bartenders are always great people and have a great sense of humor; they're also a blast to interact with, and they do your drinks right and well. But most importantly, they respect you and their staff. The way they do things really leaves the restaurant a nice, safe, and all-around chill place. I definitely recommend it!



*Long Way Down*



The Harlow



**KENNETH MILLER**  
ARCHITECTURE



WE ARE COMMITTED TO BEING A RESPONSIBLE STEWARD OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES AND, AS A LEADER IN ARCHITECTURE, INTEND TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IN DEVELOPING AN ETHIC OF SUSTAINABILITY IN ALL OF OUR PRACTICES. ATTENTION TO DETAILS, HELPING ESTABLISH THE BUDGET, AND PLANNING EACH PHASE OF THE DESIGN PROCESS HELPS US ACHIEVE YOUR TRUST AND SATISFACTION.

## February Horoscopes

by Ellis Richards <3

### Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)

Run a hand down the cold, starlit expanse outside your window and pinch the thread of clarity between each opaline tear upon space's flushed cheek- *Ahem*. Sorry, I would finish the rest of this overly verbose platitude but the budget cuts are absolutely whooping me. (P.S, can anyone spare a five? They haven't let us eat in weeks.)

### Pisces (February 19 - March 20)

This is the first time I've ever recommended someone go have a day at the spa, and soon this will be the first time I've ever *kidnapped* someone and taken them to a spa. Enough "buts"! No amount of Monster: Killer Brew Triple Shot is saving muscles that sore.

### Aries (March 29 - April 19)

February holds potential to be quite the personally challenging month dear aries; I would recommend box breathing when anxiety spikes, some lavender tea for when restlessness follows, and then to go to watch *The Pitt* cause that'll cure everything else.

### Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

It's a month of (decently) good luck for you Taurus! Coin flips will go in your favor, lights will always be green, and you'll even win extra cat food coupons in line at Target! True impossibilities will stay impossibilities though sadly, like pigs being able to fly or Rita Ora getting 100k retweets.

### Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

Eyes. On. The. Road. My forehead is about to punch a hole through the sun-window because you can't stop hitting potholes and sending me into the sky. Enroll in remedial classes before I end up on a PSA pretty please. (P.S the international space station is bigger in person).

### Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

Would a seafood boil be taboo for you considering the whole crab motif or- Because you're definitely due for some r'n'r and I'm currently surviving off a single Trader Joe's apple breakfast bar so that's the only thing I can think of.

### Leo (July 23 - August 22)

Procrastination isn't like you! Put down the controller and pick up the pen because I'm sure you'll still be hardstuck plat regardless of the grade you earn on this project. Ultimately, either go pro by the twenty-eighth or face the wrath (belt) of whoever monitors your powerschool.

### Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

You're a new type of financially illiterate because how do you even manage to find loan sharks in S.C and make them angry!?! Did we learn nothing from Squid Game or did you just happen to be in a cryogenic chamber all of 2021.

### Libra (September 23 - October 22)

The hounds of love are barking so why not throw them a bone? Spend some extra time with that special person and enjoy some yummy meals, good movies (at least not recently...), and funnier conversation! I'm also like totally watching the edit I made of yall in my head too.

### Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)

Grind time! February's an early shot of espresso and like five more paper clips away from being about as hectic as the New York stock exchange floor on a Tuesday afternoon. So unless you don't wanna fall under, it's time to hustle. You're getting to cosplay Jordan Belfort without the actually getting rich part!

### Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)

You know it's ok to visit a rage room right? I mean I can understand the fear of getting posted online looking like Hulk stuck in his human body, but I'm starting to worry about the jump-rope sized veins you're popping. Also, can I give you this mood ring I got from Claire's to see what color it turns? Pretty please?

### Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

Expect to (atleast pretend-) be able to spend like Kim K this month as bad vibes are down and money is UP! I mean so are grocery prices, unemployment, poverty, everything else and then some- But some spare Doordash funds definitely even things out.

## Black Musicians Trivia

by Luciano Cusatis

1. Stevie Wonder's classic "Sir Duke" is about what Jazz Legend?
2. Which Michael Jackson album contains "Beat It" and "Billie Jean"?
3. What is the name of the rap duo made up of Andre 3000 and Big Boi?
4. Who released the album "What's Going On" in 1971?
5. Which group of brothers released hits such as "That Lady" and "This Old Heart of Mine"?
6. Which artist dropped their iconic stage name and began going by a symbol in 1993?
7. Which rapper has won Record of the Year at the past two Grammys?
8. What instrument was played by John Coltrane?
9. What is the name of Kanye West's first album?
10. Who pioneered Rock n Roll with songs like "Johnny B. Goode"?

Cameron Lech,  
12th grade Band



Luciano Cusatis

5/10

1. Duke Ellington
2. *Bad*
3. Outkast
4. Prince
5. The Isley Brothers
6. Michael Jackson
7. Kendrick Lamar
8. Saxophone
9. *Donda*
10. I don't know

Beckett Carrington,  
11th grade Vocal



Luciano Cusatis

8/10

1. Duke Ellington
2. *Thriller*
3. Outkast
4. Marvin Gaye
5. The Isley Brothers
6. Metta World Peace
7. Kendrick Lamar
8. Trumpet
9. Kanye West
10. Chuck Berry

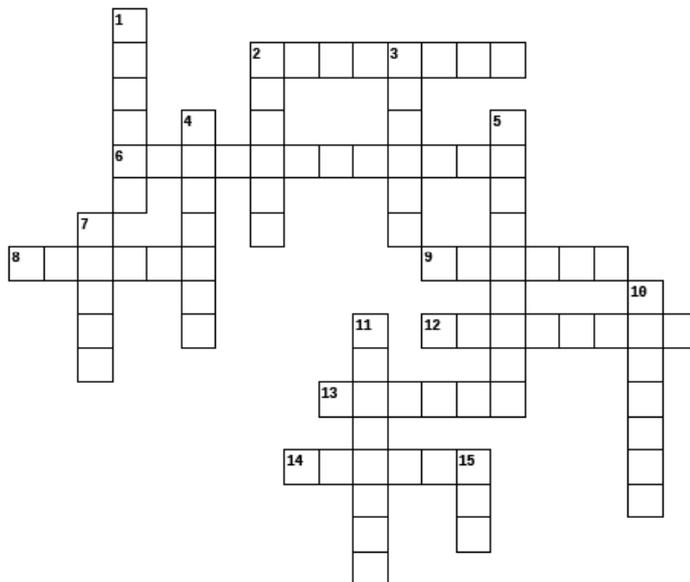
### Answer

*Dropout*, 10. Chuck Berry

1. Duke Ellington, 2. *Thriller*, 3. Outkast, 4. Marvin Gaye, 5. The Isley Brothers, 6. Prince, 7. Kendrick Lamar, 8. Trombone, 9. *The College*

## Black History Month Crossword

by Frankey Coakley



### Across

2. John Lewis, one of many leaders of the Civil Rights \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ Proclamation, issued by Abraham Lincon, 1863.
8. First black Vice President, Kamala \_\_\_\_\_.
9. You can learn lots at the \_\_\_\_\_ of African American History.
12. Famous baseball player, Jackie \_\_\_\_\_.
13. One of Beyoncé's most known songs, "All The \_\_\_\_\_ Ladies".
14. A famous novel written by Alice Walker, *The Color* \_\_\_\_\_.

### Down

1. Stevie \_\_\_\_\_, a musician whoes famous for songs like "Superstition."
2. The human rights activist \_\_\_\_\_ X.
3. The famous chant of many protests: Black Lives \_\_\_\_\_!
4. Famous singer labeled as "The King Of Pop," Michael \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Ralph Ellison, a novelist known for writing "*The \_\_\_\_\_ Man*".
7. Martin Luther King, Famous for his "I have a \_\_\_\_\_"
10. Rosa Parks, in refusing to give up her seat, contributed to the Montgomery Bus \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Harriet tubman, a woman famously known for the Underground \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Toni Morrison's: *The Bluest* \_\_\_\_\_.

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

# Valentine's Day Word Search

by Frankey Coakley

**Cuddles**  
**Cupid**  
**Decorations**  
**Dinner**  
**February**  
**Gifts**  
**Hearts**

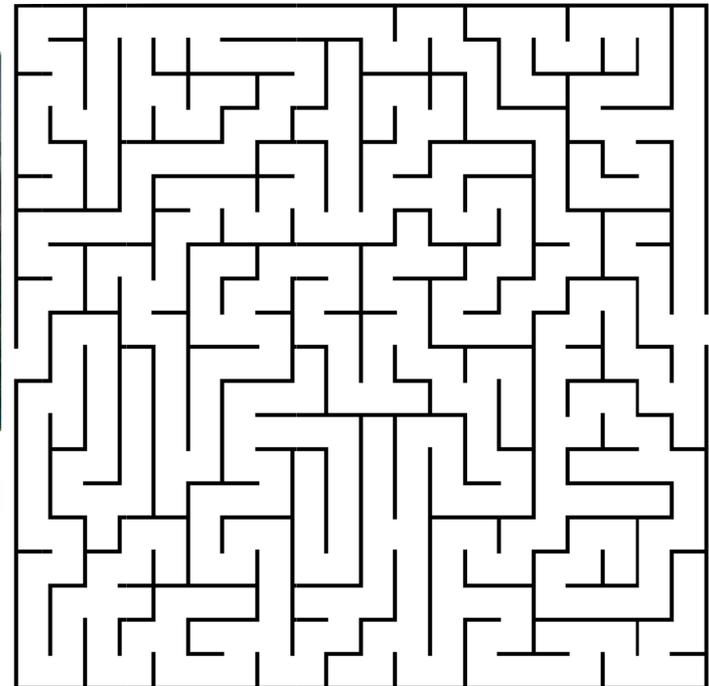
**Movies**  
**Picnic**  
**Romance**  
**Roses**  
**Sweets**  
**Valentines**

# SOA Sudoku

by Frankey Coakley

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

# Help Ms. Howard Get to Prom!





"Daniela from Katseye."

Langston Middleton, 6th grade  
Dance



"Messi."

Samuel Hobbs, 7th grade Vocal



"Ron Weasley."

Ellie Morgan, 8th grade Vocal



"Ryan Reynolds."

Ms. Horschel, 7th Grade English  
Teacher

## If you could choose any celebrity to be your Valentine, who would it be?

by Sheridan King, Trinity  
Collins, and Lila Hayes



"Jennifer Lawrence."

Mr. Morelli, English Teacher



"My wife, she's a superstar!"

Mr. Hammes, Creative Writing  
Teacher



"Want me to be honest? Elmo."

Moses Blom, 9th grade Band



"McKenna Grace."

Ellis Hare, 10th grade Band



"Dev Patel. Watch Monkey Man."

Aspen Ross, 11th grade Creative  
Writing



"Lil Boosie."

Paul Knox, 12th grade Strings