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Seniors share their future plans

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HAWK STUDENTS WALK OUT TO PROTEST AREA KILLING



Photo by TARNUE DAVID

The protest, which took place April 19 at the Cooper stadium during seventh period, attracted hundreds of students.

By SANDY VUE
Quill staff writer

Cooper students participated in a school walk-out on April 19 in recognition of Daunte Wright, a 20-year-old man who was killed by a police officer in Brooklyn Center on April 11. The walkout was planned by the school's Student Council and Spirit Committee.

"We have been seeing all these lives lost due to

police brutality, and once it was so close to our community, we wanted to be able to give students a chance to have their voices heard and to let them know we are behind them as a community," Jace Herman (11), a member of Student Council, said.

The organizers of the walkout established a schedule for the event, which started with interested students leaving their seventh period classes for

the Cooper stadium at 1:20 p.m. Once at the stadium, organizers welcomed participants, covered COVID protocols and discussed the reasons for the walkout. Following this welcome, there was a moment of silence for Wright and other victims of police violence, followed by comments by student speakers Andrea Tribble (12), Cyrus Jarjay (12), Romel Clarke (12) and Amber Scott (10).

"We wanted to give

students the space to be together as a student group to voice concerns and give support to everyone affected by police violence," Herman said.

Cooper's walkout was parallel to a number of similar walkouts throughout the Twin Cities metro area on the same date. Robbinsdale School District Interim Superintendent Ms. Burrage said in a statement that she was supportive of the students and their decision

The shooting of Daunte Wright by Brooklyn Center police officer prompts protests across the Twin Cities

to take action.

"Our school board-adopted equity policy states in part, 'we commit to ensuring fairness, equity and inclusion as essential principles of our district.' I am proud that we celebrate our diversity, promote justice and respect all people and students. Our Unified District Vision empowers students to amplify their voice. We support the First Amendment rights of students and their desire to peacefully demonstrate in their efforts to affect change," Burrage said.

In order to ensure district and building support for the walkout, student organizers worked with Cooper administrators on the protocols for the event.

"The leadership from our Student Council approached me about having a student walkout given the recent events and how it is affecting our community," Cooper Head Principal Mr. Herman said. "While this was completely student planned and led, we suggested times that may work in order to get the most students interested in participating as well as reviewing the use of school items such as sound, access to the stadium and staff support to ensure the safety of all our students and staff."

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Middle school shooting results in no injuries

A sixth grader at Plymouth Middle School was apprehended after firing a handgun in a hallway near one of the school bathrooms

By MAX REKELA-JASPER
Quill staff writer

A shooting incident at Plymouth Middle School on April 26 resulted in no injuries and the arrest of a sixth grade student.

At approximately 8:44 a.m. on April 26, the Plymouth Police Department was called to Plymouth Middle School after a report of shots being fired. The shots were fired by a sixth grade student, according to multiple news sources.

The student fired multiple shots in a hallway outside of one of the bathrooms. According to an article by the *Star Tribune*, the student took a handgun from his father's bedroom and brought it to school that day. According to a press release from the district, Plymouth Middle School Assistant Principal Ms. Royston was the first administrator in the area. The Plymouth Police Department and other staff encountered the student, who was unarmed and compliant, according to officials. The student was then taken into police custody without deployment of any lethal or nonlethal measures. Students at Plymouth Middle School were put into lockdown for the rest of the morning. According to Robbinsdale Area School officials, all of the students in the building were safe during that time period.

"No injuries have been reported," Plymouth Public Safety Director Erik Fadden told CCX Media.

Immediately after the incident, false rumors spread that the student yelled "black lives don't matter" during the shooting. However, the district later confirmed that the shooting was not racially motivated.

"[This rumor] is totally false information according to eyewitnesses and those investigating the incident," Robbinsdale Interim Su-



Photo by MR. ZUCCOLA

The school was placed on lockdown once the incident took place.

perintendent Ms. Burrage said in an email.

According to 5 Eyewitness News, the student's father said he was "unsure" why his son decided to bring his handgun to school and then proceed to fire multiple rounds into the ceiling. However, the student's father guessed it had something to do with the isolation students have

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Robbinsdale school board selects new superintendent

David Engstrom, a former teacher in Champlin Park and current administrator in Colorado Springs, will start in June

By SANDY VUE
Quill staff writer

Robbinsdale Area Schools announced on April 16 that David Engstrom has been selected as the district's next superintendent.

"We had two great finalists to choose from and we are excited to announce that Mr. Engstrom will be the next leader of District 281," David Boone, chair of the district's school board, said in a statement. "We are proud to bring Mr. Engstrom back home to Minnesota and to the Robbinsdale Area School District."

Engstrom was one of two finalists the board selected to continue conversations with following several rounds of interviews

involving seven candidates. The other finalist was Dr. Kim Hiel, who is the current superintendent of Fridley Public Schools and a former educator in the Robbinsdale district.

"It will be exciting to have someone new come in to assess what we are doing well and what areas we can improve on," Cooper Head Principal Mr. Herman said. "My hope is the new superintendent will continue to collaborate with stakeholders to drive the improvement process so that we can better serve our students while ensuring that Robbinsdale retains and attracts the best staff."

Engstrom is currently the Deputy Superintendent of Achievement, Learning and Leadership of Colorado Springs District 11 in Colorado, a position he has held for three years. Prior to that

post, he was a teacher, assistant principal, principal, senior principal, executive director and assistant superintendent for that same district.

While he has been in Colorado for many years, Engstrom has connections to Minnesota as well. He taught business and marketing for seven years at Champlin Park High School. Additionally, he earned a Master's Degree in Marketing Education from the University of Minnesota. His other credentials include a Bachelor of Science Degree in Broadcast Communications from John Brown University in Arkansas; a degree in Career and Technical Education Leadership from Colorado State

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Variety



Blade Runner is sci-fi masterpiece

Director Ridley Scott's 1982 film is noteworthy not only for what happens on screen, but also for what took place behind the scenes

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Sports



Twins struggling to find balance

The team cannot seem to generate strong offense and defense during the same game, leading to a growing number of losses

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WALKOUT

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One important aspect of planning the event was being cautious about the threat of COVID. Organizers did a number of things to offset any health risks, including making masks and hand sanitizer available, and having participants maintain social distancing while in the school stadium.

“Because we wanted to have speakers heard, the Hawks stadium was our best option and that could also allow students to follow COVID protocols,” Jace Herman said. “A plan had to be made for how we were going to follow COVID protocols, so then we were going to be able to use the stadium and the microphone.”

Due to the fact that the walkout organizers put together a plan that was endorsed by Cooper administrators, students who chose to take part in the event were excused from missing class.

“Students who participated will not be considered absent from their missed class,” Burrage said.

During the event itself, volunteer student speakers played a central role. Student speaker Andrea Tribble (12) said she felt it was important to play a role in the walkout.

“Black and brown communities have been subjected to this terrorism from police departments for decades,” she said. “Innocent people continue to be unjustifiably murdered by the police. I have an obligation to use my voice for those who have been silenced and for future generations to have the right to live while black.”

Tribble said she wrote her speech so that her listeners at the walkout would be motivated to do something.

“I talked about what we can do as a community to better our reality and encouraged everyone to be consistent in their efforts to create change,” Tribble said. “My intended message seemed to get across and it was even able to reach people from other schools who reached out and shared their thoughts with me.”

Organizers of the walkout said they felt the event was a successful one. Student Council member Isabella Grandbois (12) said she was proud of her involvement in the walkout.

“Everyone was super respectful of all of the speakers and everyone enjoyed the art, posters and everything we had planned. It felt very good for all us on Student Council after the event ended,” she said.

Agreeing with her was Jace Herman, who pointed out that the event’s turnout was good despite the cold weather on April 19.

“The weather conditions were not in our favor, but our speakers were strong and we’re glad students were able to be a part of it,” she said.

From the perspective of the staff members involved in the student walkout, the event was an important one that allowed students to express themselves in a productive way.

“I felt this was a great opportunity to allow time and a space for our students to come together to share out about things that are happening around us and how this affects us here at Cooper,” Mr. Herman said. “I feel it was also a chance for our student leadership to learn how to organize an event that will hopefully make an impact on what they want to see happen.”

Echoing Herman’s reaction was Ms. Geise, the advisor of Student Council. She said that the student walkout was an important reminder about the ways in which people can learn about and get involved with the larger society outside of school.

“It is important to remember that we should not simply accept injustice that exists in the world,” she said. “Most importantly, I want [students] to remember that the work is not done. While what they did was a beautiful thing, they should take that passion and continue to fight against injustice.”

Seniors tackle tasks to prep for graduation

From wrapping up their credits to turning in their Chromebooks, twelfth graders must complete many items prior to commencement



Photo by LOU VANG

Ms. Thurston in the Activities Office can help with seniors who need to drop off uniforms or fees related to sports.

By MAKAYLA HOTT
Quill staff writer

There are a few tasks seniors have to complete in order to get their diploma on June 10. These tasks include such requirements as making sure you have all your credits to graduate, paying all your fines and fees, and turning in school materials like computers, books and sports uniforms. For seniors who are having a hard time figuring out what to do prior to graduation, the following is a guide to most of the things that need to be done before the commencement ceremony.

Making sure you have your credits

If seniors are unsure about whether or not they have the needed credits to graduate, then it is necessary for those seniors to check with their counselor, Ms. Burkholder.

“If students are unsure about their credit status, they should email me or see me in person to discuss ASAP,” she said. “Students who are not on track to graduate or who are at risk have been contacted by either myself or a 12th grade team member.”

Students can also figure out their credit status themselves because there are a total of 46 credits needed to graduate. These credits are divided up so that each student should have eight credits of English; eight credits of social studies; six credits of math including, Algebra 2 or higher; six credits of science, including two credits in Biology and two credits in either Chemistry or Physics; two credits of physical education; two credits of fine arts; one credit of health; and 13 credits of electives.

“If students don’t verify needed credits, they may be in danger of not graduating or receiving their diploma in June,” Burkholder said.

Paying fines and fees

Some seniors may have accumulated various unpaid fines and fees during their time in high school. These fines and fees may be related to areas such as the athletic department, nutrition services, the Media Center, the music department, the bookkeeper, or a group or organization that students were involved in that had required a fee, such as DECA or AVID. According to

school bookkeeper Ms. Rucker, these fines and fees are typically paid for by going to the department in question as opposed to going to the bookkeeper.

“Money needs to be turned in to those departments,” Rucker said. “I just do the deposit.”

Taking care of print materials and electronics

Seniors need to turn in their textbooks, library books and Chromebooks once they are done with them at the end of the school year. Typically, senior classes will go down to the Media Center in an organized fashion to do so. Senior Chromebooks are due on their last day of school, June 4.

“Seniors can, and should, turn in any textbooks or library books they are finished with whenever it’s convenient,” Media Specialist Mr. King said. “They don’t have to wait until the last week. If they are attending school in person, they will be turning in any remaining textbooks and their Chromebooks, with case and charger, on their final day of class, Friday, June 4. If they have chosen distance learning, there will be a drop-

off date and location to be announced.”

When it comes to paying fines and fees at the Media Center, King noted that they can only take cash or checks at the desk. However, students can also pay fines online with a credit card by going to <https://robbinsdale-area-schools-281.square.site/>, clicking on “Library Book/Textbook Fine,” and then entering the information for online payment.

Saving information from Google accounts

Another technology issue relates to student Google accounts. Seniors should transfer ownership of all of their Google materials to their own, private Google accounts.

“All seniors should save their Google Drives using the instructions Arden Leali-Broberg will be sending out. Every single year, I’m contacted by former students who want to retrieve things they created while they were at Cooper, but they can’t. Once seniors have graduated, their files are all deleted forever,” King said.

Turning in late sports uniforms and fees

Seniors who participated in any sports activities this year need to make sure all uniforms, equipment and fees are turned in to be cleared to graduate. All equipment and uniforms should be turned in to Ms. Thurston in the Activities Office.

“Seniors should check with the Activities Office, on the first floor by the main gym, to see what their outstanding amounts owed are for activities fees. Uniforms can be turned in to the Activities Office,” Thurston said.

Thurston said it is especially important that uniforms are turned in because of the impact it has on Cooper sports teams.

“There is a limited amount of dollars available each year to purchase uniforms for sports,” she said. “If uniforms are not returned from previous years, then replacements have to be

SENIORS

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Relay for Life deemed a success despite obstacles

After the 2020 event became virtual due to the pandemic, the 2021 Relay for Life cancer fundraiser had an in-person format

By CHRISTOPHER NGUYEN
Quill staff writer

The 2021 Relay for Life event took place on May 15 from 7 p.m. to 12 a.m. at the Cooper stadium. Eleven teams consisting of a total of 128 students and staff from Cooper and Armstrong took part in the event. As of May 15, participants raised \$20,287.18 for cancer research.

According to social studies teacher Mr. Moore, who helped coordinate the event, Relay for Life is an important way for students to get involved in their community.

“I think [this] event shows [students] that they can have an impact and they are able to contribute to something positive that is bigger than themselves,” Moore said. “To add to this, it can be a powerful thing for students whose lives have been impacted by cancer in different forms. I know for me, I participated as a Cooper student, and had

an impact on me to participate in memory of my grandmother who passed from cancer some years ago. It’s really a positive event that pulls everyone together.”

Relay For Life is a nationwide fundraising event that partners with the American Cancer Society to raise money for cancer research, patient aid and other issues. The main difference between this year’s Relay for Life event versus past ones was the planning process that needed to take place due to COVID.

“The planning process this year was very challenging compared to past years, as we had to plan around COVID,” Libby Karol (11), Relay For Life chair, said. “This year, we worked with the high school and district COVID teams to get approval and ensure that all of our guests stayed safe.”

While past Relay for Life events have gone all night, and last year’s event became virtual due to

the pandemic, this year’s event was in person but with a reduced running time and teams limited to six people.

“We worked with the district COVID team to modify our event to fit the state safety guidelines,” Karol said. “All participants were required to complete our Relay for Life COVID Self-Screening Form to ensure that we got everyone’s information to allow for contact tracing if necessary. Additionally, all guests had to wear masks and maintain social distancing amongst their pods of six.”

Despite the safety restrictions, many of the activities seen in past Relay for Life events were able to occur this year in modified forms. The evening started at 7 p.m. with a check-in process during which participants completed a COVID screening and teams found their spots on the Cooper stadium bleachers.

At 7:30 p.m., the opening ceremony started. During this portion

of the program, event leaders welcomed the teams, stories of survivors and caregivers were shared, and the mission of the event was discussed.

From 8-9 p.m., the event featured unstructured free time during which participants could play games like corn hole and giant pong. Then, at 9 p.m., the Luminaria ceremony took place, during which teams walked a silent lap around the track to honor survivors and loved ones lost to cancer.

Beginning at 9:30 p.m., a round of structured activities kicked off, including limbo dancing at 9:45 p.m., Zumba at 10 p.m. and the naming of Relay Royalty at 10:30 p.m. This was followed at 11:15 p.m. by a closing ceremony and clean up.

To participate in the event, students and staff needed to raise a minimum of \$50 by May 12. People can still make donations online at www.relay.org/rdalehsmn until June 15.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SHOOTING continued from page 1

been facing due to COVID-19.

“He didn’t keep in contact with friends from elementary school,” the student’s father told 5 Eyewitness News. “These kids are getting depressed. They have no friends. They don’t know what to do. They’re sitting on their computers. It’s starting to fry their brains.”

The student’s father is convinced that his son was not targeting anyone.

“He was not intending to harm anyone,” said the student’s father. “[The shots] were into

the ceiling and he was waiting for the officer to fire on him.”

According to Burrage, many students witnessed the shooting.

“[For] any child who has to witness that at school, it’s a challenging day,” Burrage said.

Once news of the shooting was made public, hundreds of parents gathered in the east parking lot of nearby Armstrong High School and waited for their children to be released.

The mother of one of the students at Plymouth Middle

School, Breanna Moore, said she would be switching her son to distance learning for the remainder of the school year following the shooting.

“Not once have I had a problem at this school,” Moore told MPR News.

In order to prevent these types of incidents at Cooper, Cooper’s building crisis team reviews and updates Cooper’s safety plans throughout the year.

“We do have procedures in place such as locked doors, only one entrance open during

the day as well as police and security personnel that will follow up with any information should a concern arise,” Cooper Head Principal Mr. Herman said. “As members of a community, we are all collectively responsible to report any suspicious activity.”

If students are in need of any mental health help at Cooper, they can contact the school’s social workers, Ms. Mersy and Ms. Willis, or the school’s psychologists, Ms. Weier and Ms. Warner, by email.

Taking the next steps

Members of the Class of 2021 share their post-graduation plans



Photo by MR. ZUCCOLA

Akala, Angel	Strayer University	Irons, Lamiaha	Florida Memorial University	Reliford, Jayla	Gilbert Park University
Al-Kayali, Aya	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	Jarjay, Cyrus	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	Rogers, LaNyah	Aveda
Allen, Korissa	University of Northwestern, St. Paul	Johnson, Branayia	Undecided	Ruppert-Kan, Davis	University of Minnesota, Duluth
Anderson, Carter	St. Cloud State University	Johnson, Hareena	University of Tampa	Saddler, Jordyn	Northern Illinois University
Arrington, Ramon	Mayville State University	Jones, Kamiah	Winona State University	Sandvig, Madison	North Hennepin Community College
Asher, Ian	Undecided	Judge, Chloe	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	Schaefer, Mark	Undecided
Bediye, Abel	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	Kauder, Christopher	Work	Scheveck, Sophia	Winona State University
Bellfield, LaNiya	Aveda	Kenney-Lillejord, D.	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	Schlotthauer, Amarelis	Gap Year
Berg, Olivia	North Hennepin Community College	King, Abigail	Buena Vista University	Semenh, Alemayhu	North Hennepin Community College
Bergeson, Tabitha	Two-year college	Kisor, Anna	Nomandale Community College	Shelby, Lamya	North Hennepin Community College
Borden, Kalil	University of Wisconsin, Stout	Kleinsasser, Mikayel	Undecided	Shima, John	Military
Camara, Alama	Four-year college	Kroftus, Lynk-Arie	North Carolina Central University	Shindano, Deo	Augsburg University
Campbell, Jylah	Georgia State University	Lee, Sulia	North Dakota State University	Sodd, Grace	University of North Dakota
Chang, Ethan	St. Cloud State University	Lehnertz, Sarah	University of Minnesota, Duluth	Sorby, Dylan	Military
Chau, Thanh	Hennepin Technical College	Lewis, Ceccee	North Dakota State University	Sorenson, Alesha	Minnesota State University, Mankato
Clair, Aireyonna	Undecided	Lindstrom, Ava	University of Wisconsin, Madison	Spears, Jordyn	Southwest Minnesota State University
Collier, Jemaine	University of Jamestown	McAdory, Derrick	Hennepin Technical College	Stadie, Hannah	Tagore
Dahir, Suhayb	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	Mentoe, Trophina	North Carolina A&T State University	Steady, Mason	North Hennepin Community College
David, Kolpre	Undecided	Metzger, Othello	North Hennepin Community College	Struve, Emilia	Undecided
Dennis, Sam	Military	Mohamud, Najma	Minneapolis Community Technical College	Suah, Henry	Indiana University Bloomington
Dougan, Nikki	Transition Center	Mokoro, Matthew	North Hennepin Community College	Tolbert, Cymon	Aveda
Drinkwine, Arianna	University of St. Thomas	Montgomery, Jaliyah	North Hennepin Community College	Tribble, Andrea	Seward County Community College
Enna, Isiah	Hennepin Technical College	Moua, Hmong	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	Vang, Calista	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Gobematz, Mason	University of New Mexico, Albuquerque	Murphy, Majay	Two-year college	Vasquez Gonzalez, I.	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Gongora Reyes, D.	North Hennepin Community College	Mwata, Daphine	North Hennepin Community College	Villalobos, Amalia	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Grandbois, Isabella	North Dakota State University	Nguyen, Andy	North Hennepin Community College	Vue, Chai	Apprenticeship Program
Griggs, Trinity	Saint Leo University	Nguyen, Christina	North Hennepin Community College	Vue, Doua	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Hambike, Grace	University of Minnesota, Morris	Nguyen, Christopher	North Hennepin Community College	Vuong, Son	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Hams, Natalie	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	Nickens, Damin	Albany State University	Walker Jr., Jeremiah	Gap Year
Hams, Piper	Hennepin Technical College	Niebuhr, Spencer	Kansas State University	Washington, Chyna	Undecided
Hassan, Aaliyah	North Hennepin Community College	Ocampo Valencia, D.	Augsburg University	West, William	Hennepin Technical College
Hennen, Paige	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	Okoraeor, Timothy	University of Minnesota, Duluth	Whiting, Q'alissa	Bethune Cookman University
Hernandez Ochoa, A.	North Hennepin Community College	Panora, Maria	St. Olaf College	Winters, Alayzia	Paul Quinn College
Hirsi, Abdirashid	Metropolitan State University	Parr Jr., CaVon	Dakota County Technical College	Wright-Holmes, E.	University of Minnesota, Duluth
Hoffer, Sylvanus	North Hennepin Community College	Peterson, Isabelle	Hamline University	Xiong, Pazong	Concordia University, St. Paul
Hoffstrom, Hannah	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	Ramirez, Consuelo	Work	Young, Allison	University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire
Hollander, Zoe	University of the Arts	Ratliff, Jaxson	Gap Year	Zarate, Rocio	Gap Year
Horns, James	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	Reeves, Christian	Finlandia University	Zieska, Anna	Ryerson University
Hulett, Kylee	University of Illinois at Chicago	Rekela-Jasper, Max	University of Wisconsin, River Falls	Thank you to Ms. Warndahl for compiling this list	

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From the Editors

Social media's benefits matched by its drawbacks

The ability to stay connected also makes it possible for people to bully one another virtually

Social media consists of websites and other online means of communication that are used worldwide to share information and to develop social and professional contacts. Of course, social media is also a tool used by malicious people who try to harm other people they do or do not know. Clearly, there are pros and cons to social media that one must be aware of in order to use it responsibly.

Parents worry that exposure to social media and technology will negatively affect children. Social media and text messages have become so integral to teenage life that they are promoting anxiety and lowering people's self-esteem. Many teens, students and adults are changing as social media evolves, and not necessarily in a good way. Social media can be damaging to the mental health of teens. While online conversations with people or groups can be beneficial, they can also cause anxiety in a person's life.

One of the pros is that social media can spread information and messages faster than any other media. Social media is used by many people: the elderly, teenagers and adults alike. Social media can even be used to help people do their jobs. For example, business people can use it to collaborate with coworkers to complete projects.

Another pro is that social media allows for rapid communication during crisis events. For example, it can be used to notify the public of emergencies or disasters that may occur. This can help people react quickly if there is a weather-related emergency like a tornado or snowstorm.

Another pro is that social media helps those people who are socially isolated or shy connect with other people. For example, Facebook, Snapchat, Wechat, WhatsApp and Instagram are all means to communicate with friends and strangers alike. People can make new acquaintances using those platforms, in addition to communicating with family and friends.

Social media is also good for today's economy. Companies related to social media have created thousands of jobs in recent years. For example, according to CNN, "Facebook added \$227 billion and 4.5 million jobs to the global economy in 2014 alone."

Social media also offers teachers a platform for collaboration with other teachers. They can share ideas for lessons and strategies for teaching students. They can also communicate with students outside of the classroom about important assignments, which was key during distance learning.

On the other hand, there are many cons to social media. For one, social media can enable the spread of false information. It has been demonstrated, for example, that Russian programmers used various social media application to influence the 2016 U.S. elections.

Social media can also be used for cyberbullying. According to Socialnetworking.com, 52 percent of students have reported being the victim of cyberbullying with 84.2 percent naming Facebook as the site through which they have been bullied. People who get bullied on social media can be affected emotionally and sometimes physically.

Another con is when criminals use social media to promote and commit crimes. For example, sex offenders use social media sites to find potential victims of sexual exploitation.

Overall, social media can be used for both good and bad intentions. People should be aware of this when they make use of social media. This will help people avoid causing harm to themselves or other people.

Saying farewell to Cooper High School

Senior Hawks are getting ready to move on from the place where they spent the last four years of their lives



Photo by LOU VANG

The rite of passage known as graduation is a time for students to reflect on their high school careers.

By MAKAYLA HOTT
Quill staff writer

It took me a while to figure out how I wanted to start saying goodbye to Cooper and the Class of 2021. Our whole lives up until this point have been a preparation for the moment when we will graduate and become an adult. However, most of us have been adults before now. I know that is sad for me to say, but it's true: a lot of teenagers had to grow up faster than what we wanted to or even had to due to the challenges life has given us. Despite this, graduating from high school is still an important step into the future.

High school taught me so

much. These past four years have been filled with life lessons. High school taught me that you could start freshman year with all your middle school friends and end with none of them around you. Many people tend to outgrow all of the so-called childhood friends that they thought they would be close to for the rest of their lives. At the same time, even if those old friends are not still close to you, high school helps you learn that everyone you meet is there for a reason, whether it is to show you something or to teach you something.

At the start of freshman year at my old school, I was

a social butterfly who always wanted to be friends with everyone. Then, life hit and showed me everyone is not your friend and that there are a lot of fake people in the world. Toward the end of that school year, I decided to switch to Cooper. It was a big transition, but it was the right one given the fact that those old friends eventually showed their true colors and we all stopped being friends. This was an important life lesson that high school taught me.

Junior year was another time during high school when I learned some important lessons. During this year, I lost my mom, which led to me losing myself. I wanted to give up

on school so many times as a junior because I was so depressed. However, I kept fighting and chose to continue pursuing greatness. My ability to make it through this time period showed me that I am strong and my motivation to make my mom and myself proud keeps me going. A year ago, I was a whole different person than I am now. This is another way in which high school has taught me important lessons.

Senior year has been a time when the entire Class of 2021 has been forced to learn some life lessons thanks to three quarters of distance learning. I was in a mindset where I did not want to log in for school. Then, I found that my family was turning against me. It was at this point that my life flashed before my eyes and I realized how important it was for me to get back to work and make sure I graduate. I am guessing many other seniors have had similar struggles with school during the pandemic.

The Class of 2021 is now just about to graduate. I don't think I actually started realizing until recently how big this transition will be. I suspect graduating will feel a bit unreal for me because it's the only thing I've been focused on ever since my dad told me I wasn't going to graduate. My high school experience really showed me a lot about life, as I am sure it did for all graduating seniors. I want to say thank you to all the teachers who made graduation happen for me and helped me grow as a person. All the staff at Cooper really played a big role in my life and the lives of the other graduating seniors.

Hawks should take advantage of new weight room

Whether you are a member of a Cooper team or just looking to get fit, the redesigned weight room has something for everyone

By MAJAY MURPHY
Quill staff writer

Students returning to in-person learning or involved in spring sports have probably noticed the upgrades to the Cooper weight room on the first floor by the Activities Office. Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Howard, Cooper assistant principal and head football coach, the school received grants to completely overhaul the room, getting brand new equipment, new furnishings and a new paint job. Whether it is through a gym class, a sports team or the after-school weight room program, all Cooper students should try to make responsible use of this great new facility.

The new weight room is awesome, especially in comparison to the old weight room. As a basketball player, I used the old weight room frequently. While it was nice enough, the new room is a complete upgrade that can really help you during sports, during school



Photo by MR. ZUCCOLA

The room is open to all students immediately after school on weekdays.

classes like weight training, and during after-school fitness sessions. I have worked out in the new room a couple times and I broke a sweat on every occasion.

One group that will clearly benefit from the new weight room is current Cooper athletes. As a member of the basketball team, I know personally that the new weight room

helped me and my teammates be the players we were during 2021. We had a good basketball season thanks to our ability to get stronger in the new weight room after it opened. For those of us graduating seniors who hope to play sports in college, the weight room will also help us get ready for college if we take advantage of working out in there as summer approaches.

While the weight room is helpful for members of Cooper sports teams, other people can benefit from it as well. Students can access the room during the day through classes like weight training and after school through the daily strength training sessions offered in the room. The weight room is also open to Cooper staff members before and after school hours so they can work on their own fitness. The school administration deserves credit for making this room accessible to everyone.

Overall, anybody who goes to Cooper and wants to get stronger or get a good workout in should make use of the new weight room. Thanks to Howard's hard work, we have a professional-looking facility that reflects well on Cooper. The weight room has everything in there that you might need. If students and staff are careful about using the room responsibly, it should be an important asset to our school for years to come.

Student support day should be a permanent part of schedule

The Wednesday support day was introduced this school year in light of the challenges associated with distance learning

By ERIN CHUNN
Quill staff writer

Cooper has made Wednesday an academic support day with no live classes during the 2020-2021 school year in order to help students with the learning challenges caused by COVID. I think this day has been essential to academic success this year. The teachers offer one-on-one support, students get a mental health day, and, as someone who works on weekends, it's nice to have a day where I don't have to be somewhere. Of course, with the

vaccine being distributed and the current school year ending, the question is whether we should keep Wednesdays as an academic support day for the

al assignments. Cooper offers space for students to be able to come in and do work in addition to the ability for students to get help virtually from

send them emails in order to get help. I think the space and freedom given to the students on this day really helped keep us from being overwhelmed by school during a global pandemic. My guess is that we would also benefit from this once things return to normal next year.

Wednesdays have also been important for the mental health of students. During this global pandemic, people have been losing family members and friends to COVID. Al-

Support days are great for work since it's a day you can catch up with your classes without receiving additional assignments. Cooper offers space for students to be able to come in and do work in addition to the ability for students to get help virtually.

coming school year. I believe we should.

Support days are great for work since it's a day you can catch up with your classes without receiving addition-

teachers using Zoom or Google Meet. What is more, if you really don't want to see a teacher from whom you need help, but they're still on the clock during a Wednesday, you can

STUDENT SUPPORT continues on page 5

Daunte Wright is yet another victim of police

The 20-year-old man was killed during a traffic stop by a Brooklyn Center officer who claimed she meant to use her taser



Photo courtesy of GETTY IMAGES

Protests against the killing of Daunte Wright on April 11 broke out in Brooklyn Center and other cities across the United States.

By ERIN CHUNN
Quill staff writer

Police brutality has always been a large issue for people of color and the black community specifically. But, lately, this plague of hate has been taking the Twin Cities by storm. The most recent victim is Daunte Wright, a father and son who became yet another black man killed by police. The murderer this time is a veteran police officer who claimed she thought her gun was a taser.

Just as the trial was underway for former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin in the murder of George Floyd, Daunte Wright, a 20-year-old black man, and his girlfriend were pulled over for a traffic stop in Brooklyn Center. It was Wright's first car and he just got it two weeks earlier. When the police officer asked

him about his insurance, he attempted to call his mother. "Mom, they're asking about insurance" was the last thing Katie Wright would ever hear her son say.

The police officers on the scene started showing aggression. They grabbed the phone and hung up while attempting to arrest Daunte Wright due to an old warrant that only existed because the court sent the notice to the wrong house.

As Wright was being jumped, he stumbled into the car, and that's when Kimberly Potter, one of the police on the scene, threatened to tase him. Instead, she pulled out a gun, took it off of safety, aimed and shot Wright. The 26-year veteran officer claimed she thought her 1.38-pound black glock was her .45-pound bright yellow taser.

After Wright was shot,

the car started moving forward until crashing, hitting another car. Meanwhile, Wright was bleeding to death. When they finally got Wright out of the car, they left his dead body on the ground for hours. Wright's girlfriend, who witnessed this all, called his mother and said, "Daunte was shot." Katie Wright then rushed to the scene to see her son dead on the cold ground.

Not so long after the incident, more and more people gathered at the scene to see what the police had done. At this point, tensions grew. The longer the police kept his body on the ground, the angrier the crowd got. That's when the rioting began.

In the aftermath of this murder, the officer who shot Wright resigned, was arrested and then released on bail. During the protests that oc-

curred each night after Wright's killing, many locals became unhappy with rioters who raided family-owned stores and other establishments, not to mention those who disrupted the lives of people living in nearby apartment complexes. Still, these protests were understandable and may be having a positive impact. For instance, a big part of me feels like Derek Chauvin would not have been found guilty of three counts of murder if people did not make as much noise about Wright.

As was the case last year with George Floyd, Daunte Wright's life was much more valuable than anything looted or disrupted in the subsequent protests in Brooklyn Center. It is my hope that protests continue. We are going to keep screaming for justice for Daunte Wright until it is served.

Treating trauma is essential for mental health

Between the pandemic and racial conflict, the last 14 months have been filled with trauma

By TIONA EDWARDS-WALKER
Quill staff writer

Trauma comes in many different forms and people deal with trauma in different ways. Sometimes people hide and ignore their trauma in order to block out their emotional issues and not deal with their mental health. Given the difficulties of living life, it can be tough to face trauma. However, people dealing with trauma should know that there is help out there, there is hope and better days are coming.

The statistics surrounding the dangers of trauma are troubling. According to the North Dakota Department of Human Services, people who have experienced trauma are 15 times more likely to attempt suicide, four times more likely to become an alcoholic, four times more likely to develop a sexually transmitted disease, four times more likely to inject drugs, three times more likely to use antidepressant medications and three times more likely to experience depression. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration reports that approximately five million children in the U.S. experience some form of traumatic event each year

The statistics surrounding the dangers of trauma are troubling. According to the North Dakota Department of Human Services, people who have experienced trauma are 15 times more likely to attempt suicide and four times more likely to become an alcoholic.

and more than two million children in the U.S. are victims of sexual and/or physical abuse. The main sources of trauma are rape, domestic violence, natural disasters, death of a loved one and severe illness or injury.

Although trauma can be hard to talk about, it does need to be addressed. I understand from personal experience that trauma can affect one's everyday life. I grew up in a broken home and it took me 12 years to open up and talk about my situation and actually seek help. As I get older, I hope to share my story with the world and raise awareness about surviving trauma so that kids and teens experiencing situations similar to mine can see that it is possible to make it through. I want people to know that there is help out there and that nothing will be the same forever. You can get better and live on.

There are many hotlines for situations related to trauma. The National Hotline for Sexual Assault is 1-800-656-4673, while the National Suicide Prevention Hotline is 1-888-628-9454. There is also a National Teen Dating Abuse Hotline at 1-866-331-9474. Of course, whenever your life is at stake or in danger in real time, it is highly suggested that you just dial 911.

Ultimately, teens experiencing trauma should never hesitate to seek help. Even in the hardest times, you have to remember that nothing is worth more than your life. Mental health is highly important, regardless of what society tries to put into your head. It is okay to be affected by something, so anyone dealing with trauma should not downplay their situation or let others make you feel like you should just get over it. Instead, you need to get the help that will lead to you actually healing from the trauma.

Police killing of Chicago teen adds to shameful list of deaths

Thirteen-year-old Adam Toledo was gunned down in an alley in the Little Village neighborhood on March 29

By ANDREA TRIBBLE
Quill staff writer

I would love to be writing a piece about the upcoming graduation ceremony. Instead, I'm writing a eulogy for 13-year-old Adam Toledo who was murdered by police on March 29 in Chicago's Little Village neighborhood. More than two weeks after the murder, the body cam footage of the incident was finally released. In the graphic video, Toledo is chased down a dark alley by officer Eric Stillman, who orders him to stop, show his hands and "drop it." The boy then appears to toss a handgun over a fence before raising his hands. Less than a second later, Stillman fatally shoots the seventh-grade boy in the chest.

There has been a disproportionate focus in the media on the circumstances around the shoot-

ing rather than the fact a police officer killed a child. Toledo's death can serve as testimony to both this country's inadequate gun laws, which make it easy for a 13-year-old boy to get access to a gun, and the "warrior mentality" that police often have, which makes them think of themselves as soldiers in a battle with the public rather than as guardians of public safety. Adam Toledo was a boy with a whole life ahead of him, a life that was taken away prematurely by a system that does not believe he matters.

With former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin re-

cently receiving a guilty verdict, a lot of out-of-touch Americans believe that all faith in the justice system has been restored and that the balance and trust between police and the public has been reset. Unfortunately, this is nothing close to reality for minority populations. The list of people who fall victim to police violence continues to grow and new hashtags are produced daily to mourn the lives lost. Meanwhile, the police continue to brutalize and dehumanize people in these communities.

The only way out is through. We cannot continue to briefly address these issues, we have

to face them head on and push our elected officials to make decisions that will keep our people safe. Also, we cannot solely rely on these officials to be the makers of change. They are still pawns in the system and as the public we have the responsibility to speak up for our community.

It's going to take continuous action and continuous involvement to create change in this society to make sure that there are no more Adam Toledos. No more Breonna Taylors. No more Philando Castilles. No more Trayvon Martins. No more Eric Gardners. No more Ma'Khia Bryants. No more Sandra Blands. No more innocent blood shed by police. We should not have to constantly exclaim that we matter to achieve liberation. We won't continue to lay down and let the system suffocate us. We have nothing to lose but our chains.

It's going to take continuous action and continuous involvement to create change in this society to make sure that there are no more Adam Toledos. No more Breonna Taylors. No more Philando Castilles. No more Trayvon Martins.

STUDENT SUPPORT DAYS SHOULD BE A PERMANENT PART OF SCHEDULE continued from page 4

though school is important, it definitely did add to the list of things to worry about beyond the safety and health of your family. As a result, a lot of students fell behind in school due to the stress of the pandemic or just because they lost the motivation to keep going. Personally, I felt like being able to stay home for a day to catch up on work or get extra help if needed was a great privilege that we can hopefully continue with going forward.

In addition to Wednesday serving as a mental health day, it has also been one day when many students can try to relax. Although it's not a full day off, Wednesday is the only day of the week I don't have to be at school or at my job. This means that Wednesdays have brought me relaxation and peace this school year. It's the only day I can meet with my study group or go work in my local library or Starbucks. Due to the fact that

I work the closing shift every weekend, getting school work done on those days is extremely tricky, especially when it comes to studying for tests. Therefore, having a full day to myself has only positively impacted my schedule.

In conclusion, the pandemic has brought with it the necessity of an academic support day like Wednesday and it is my hope this new addition to the schedule will continue next year. I feel like Wednesdays

are necessary to replenish positivity in whatever way a given student thinks is suitable. Whether you're at school getting help or working alone at home, I think Wednesdays can prove to be very helpful when your time is used correctly. If you agree that Wednesdays are important, please make sure your voice is heard when the student surveys come out and the school seeks our input about what next year's schedule might look like.

Premier Performers

The story of the musicians and artists who bring their talents to Cooper

Rex Unzicker

By FAITH KING
Quill staff writer

Rex Unzicker (12) participates in Concert Choir, Symphony Orchestra, school musicals, Cooper improv, Chambers Orchestra, Cooper Cantante choir group and Marching Band. He has been involved in these activities for varying amounts of time, first joining school musicals and choirs in ninth grade, improv in tenth grade, and Marching Band and orchestra in eleventh grade.

Unzicker pointed out many different aspects he has enjoyed during his time in these arts activities. When it comes to choir, he has enjoyed the music and “the amazing friends” he has been able to make. For Symphony and Chambers orchestras, he has liked “the challenge of learning difficult pieces.” A highlight of his work in musicals and improv has been



Photo by LIFETOUGH

the ability to put on a “good-looking show in time.” As for Marching Band, he said he enjoyed the hard physical work.

“I enjoyed each hot and tiring day because, no matter what happened, I could leave the practice and know that I got a good workout in,” he said.

Unzicker has been asked to fill various leadership roles in the arts. This year, he is a captain of the Hawks improv squad.

“It is hard coming up with ideas to do over Zoom, but we are getting the hang of it,” he said. “I really love being one of the four captains and I love our lovely troupe.”

Outside of school, Unzicker enjoys biking, working on his car, playing video games and spending time with his family and friends.

Next fall, Unzicker will go to Luther College in Decorah, Iowa as a chemistry, pre-veterinary or music studies major.

Jax Vanhees

By FAITH KING
Quill staff writer

Jax Vanhees (12) has excelled in a wide variety of arts classes at Cooper, including drawing, digital arts, painting and photography.

“I’ve been drawing for about eight years and I actually started because of my friend of 10 years,” Vanhees said. “She drew and I thought it was so cool so, of course, I had to do it too.”

In addition to the fine arts, Vanhees also enjoys creative writing, which he has been doing for five years.

“I love writing so much because you can write and create any world you want. The only thing holding you back is your mind and, maybe, punctuation,” Vanhees said.

It is through his work in the arts



Photo by LIFETOUGH

that Vanhees has developed connections with the people around him.

“I think my favorite memories are not only finding friends with the same hobbies but creating stories with them and seeing them drawing my characters and vice versa,” he said.

In addition to his arts-related classes, Vanhees likes working on independent art projects.

“I do plan on hopefully starting a web comic on a story I’ve been writing and writing out in novel form another one of my stories,” he said.

Outside of his artistic pursuits, Vanhees enjoys gardening, playing video games and watching YouTube.

Vanhees is still deciding on what he will do immediately after high school. However, he said his “high-end goal is to make [his] own video game.”

Laela Payne

By FAITH KING
Quill staff writer

Laela Payne (12) has taken part in a diverse collection of arts-related activities during high school, ranging from music to art to cheerleading.

“I was in orchestra my freshman year, where I played violin. I’ve been in multiple art classes, such as mixed media, painting and drawing. I also have been a varsity cheerleader since my freshman year,” she said.

Although Payne said she did not stick with orchestra after taking part in it from middle school through ninth grade, art classes have been a focus throughout high school.

“I’ve always liked art so I chose to be in a lot of art classes,” she said.

In fact, Payne said art classes have been among the best courses she has



Photo by LIFETOUGH

taken at Cooper.

“Those were my favorite because I could express myself the most there,” she said.

Another way Payne enjoys expressing herself is through cheerleading.

“What I have enjoyed most about being a cheerleader is that, over the years, I came out of my shell,” she said.

When it comes to cheerleading, Payne said her favorite memories revolve around game nights.

“I love cheering at the home games on Friday nights,” she said.

Outside of the school day, Payne said she likes doing hair, which connects to her post-high school plan.

“I plan to go to cosmetology school in the fall of 2021,” she said. “After I complete that, I will be going to school for my business degree.”

Dylan Sorby

By FAITH KING
Quill staff writer

Dylan Sorby (12) has been playing the cello for nine years.

“At first, it was because I wanted to get out of class every now and then in fourth grade, but over time, it evolved to be something much more meaningful and enjoyable in my life,” he said.

Once he joined orchestra in high school, Sorby was able to make many good friends and take part in many music-related activities.

“Going to Orchestra Hall junior year was by far the most fun I’ve ever had,” he said. “Everything from practicing the pieces in class and going out to eat before the performance to the performance itself. Every last moment was enjoyable and filled with fun experiences and memories.”



Photo by DYLAN SORBY

Sorby said that orchestra remains one of his favorite subjects at school. Another course he enjoyed was engineering with Mr. Fitze.

“His classroom was different from the rest so it had a refreshing feeling. The topics he taught in and of themselves were some of the only topics I actually enjoyed and wanted to learn in school,” Sorby said.

Sorby’s interest in engineering and mechanics exists outside of school as well.

“One thing I like to do is work on my car. I recently bought a 2006 Dodge Charger that is somewhat of a fixer-upper,” he said.

After high school, Sorby will enter the military.

“I plan on enlisting into the Marine Corps right after graduation. Serving for four years will allow me time to mature and learn important leadership skills needed in the adult world,” he said.

Beware of returning to this *Jedi*

While *Return of the Jedi* has its moments, it is ultimately a flawed entry in the *Star Wars* saga

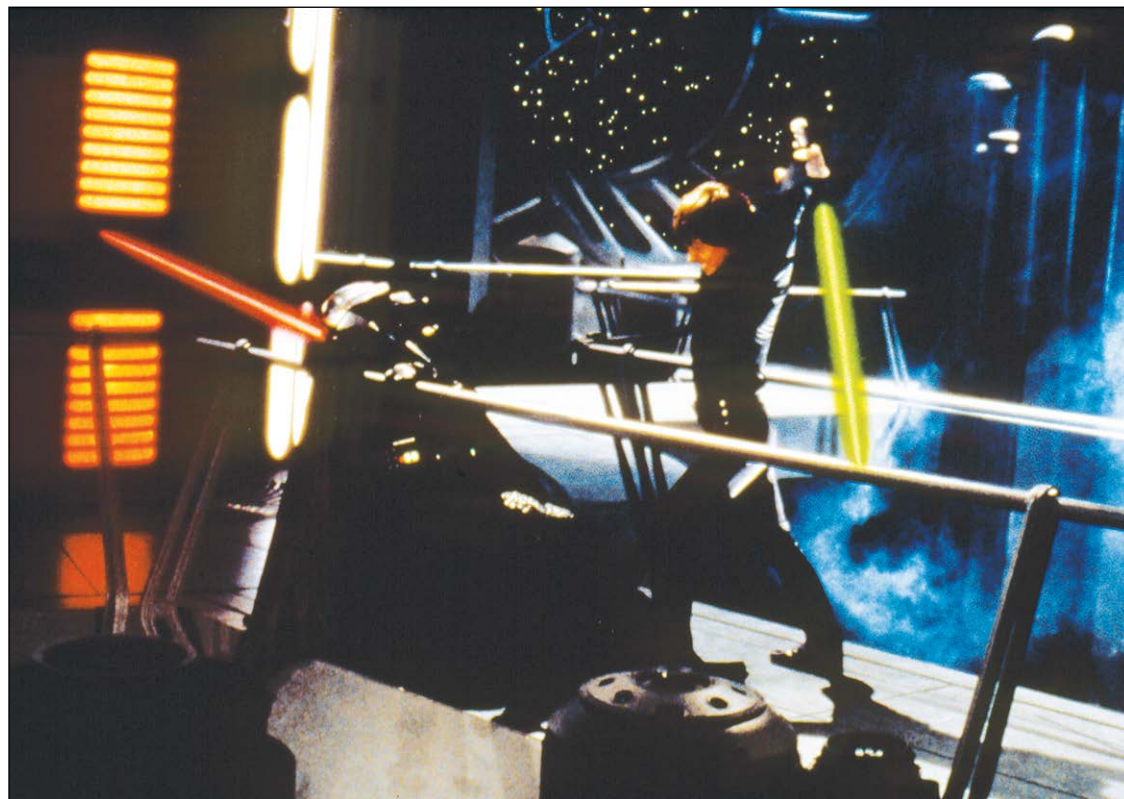


Photo courtesy of LUCASFILM

The father-son showdown between Darth Vader and Luke Skywalker is an undeniable highlight of the movie.

By LUKE REKELA-JASPER
Quill staff writer

Star Wars is probably the most beloved film series ever made. Starting with a surprising smash hit in 1977 and then following up with one of the greatest sequels ever made in 1980, the *Star Wars* franchise was at its peak in the early 1980s. While I think that *Star Wars* (1977) and *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980) are some of the best things to come from the *Star Wars* franchise, the third installment in the original trilogy, *Return of the Jedi* (1983), has always been the black sheep of the three original films. There are many good reasons for this take on *Return of the Jedi*.

Before I get into the review, I should set the stage for *Return of the Jedi*. The previous film in the trilogy ended in losses for our protagonists: Luke Skywalker got his hand sliced off after learning that his biological father was an evil tyrant, while Han Solo got frozen in an ugly piece of modern art. Given this set up, what *Return of the Jedi* needed to accomplish was to focus on Luke’s relationship with Darth Vader, determine Han Solo’s fate at the hands of the gangster Jabba the Hutt, explain how Princess Leia knew how to find Luke while he was hanging from an antenna in the clouds above Bespin, and effectively end the civil war between the Rebel Alliance and Galactic Empire. While the final film we got in 1983 accomplished those goals, it’s execution is what I’ll be discussing in this review.

My first issue with *Return of the Jedi* is its pacing. The first 30 or 40 minutes of the film has one intention: to show how Han is saved. Even though the first scene in the movie reveals that the Empire has built a new Death Star and that The Emperor will be showing up, the entire “saving Han from Jabba’s palace” sequence has no real effect on the overall main story between the Rebels and Empire. Personally, I think Han should have been used as a plot device to develop other characters, such as Luke, Leia, or even

Lando Calrissian, but I’ll dive deeper into Han later in this review.

What is more, Luke’s plan to rescue Han makes no sense. First, he sends in the droids, offers to trade them for Han’s life, but after that fails, he has Leia, disguised as a bounty hunter, get Chewbacca imprisoned in the palace. Meanwhile, he has Lando disguised as a palace guard the entire time. This elaborate set up culminates in Luke confronting Jabba without his new lightsaber, and after Jabba says no to freeing his friends, Luke unsuccessfully tries to kill him with a blaster.

Although I do enjoy the eventual sequence above the Sarlacc Pit, during which Luke goes full samurai on Jabba’s boys, the build up makes zero sense. If it was Luke’s plan to raise hell on Jabba and his buddies, why didn’t he and his allies just sneak into the palace while Jabba slept, free Han, throw a few explosive devices around the place and leave?

Although I do enjoy the sequence above the Sarlacc Pit, during which Luke goes full samurai on Jabba’s boys, the build up makes zero sense. If it was Luke’s plan to raise hell on Jabba and his buddies, why didn’t he and his allies just sneak into the palace while Jabba slept, free Han, throw a few explosive devices around the place and leave?

ace while Jabba slept, free Han, throw a few explosive devices around the place and leave? So, yeah, the “saving Han from Jabba’s palace” sequence makes no sense and is pointless to the overall story, except for rescuing Han, who has basically nothing to do in this film.

When people think of who their favorite *Star Wars* character is, I’d guess half or even more would say Han Solo. Han is the character who is given the best treatment in the original trilogy, especially in *The Empire Strikes Back*. In that film, Han has a great closing arc to his character, where he finally realizes that he loves his friends and is willing to sacrifice himself for their well-being. Harrison Ford has famously said in the past that he wishes Han Solo died at the end of

The Empire Strikes Back. His belief is evident when watching *Return of the Jedi*. Han acts like a completely different person. Instead of being this chill, rogue bad boy, Han is this baffling goofball who is always smiling like he’s a rubber-faced clown.

In *Return of the Jedi*, Han has no character arc. His main purpose is to destroy the thing that will help other people destroy another thing. Since Han really doesn’t need any more character development in this film, I think he should have been used as a plot device or motivator to support the development of other characters. For example, maybe Han could have been kidnapped by the Empire to force Luke or Leia to do something in favor of The Emperor. Regardless, yeah, Han is pretty bad in *Return of the Jedi*.

My third problem with *Return of the Jedi* is the dialogue. While I don’t necessarily want to fault the actors in this film, a lot of the line deliveries are really, really bad. I don’t expect *Star Wars* to have *Pulp Fiction* levels of dialogue, but I think this film needs better writing and direction, which is pretty evident when you realize that George Lucas basically ghost directed this movie, having hired someone he could boss around, Richard Marquand, to officially sit in the director’s chair. I’ve always felt that the dialogue and writing in

Return of the Jedi is bland and vacant, lacking the previous qualities that make watching these characters tolerable.

While these are some big issues that plague *Return of the Jedi*, there are also some smaller elements I don’t love about this movie. First, I think adding another Death Star is kind of lame. At the same time, its use in the narrative provides an explosive and intense finale, so I’m kind of cool with it. As for the Ewoks, if they were used a little better, I think I would be fine with them as well. On the other hand, I cannot buy into the fact that three-foot teddy bears can easily defeat armored Imperial soldiers with sticks and rocks.

JEDI
continues on page 10

Quill Comics Corner

Uhhh...Working Title

By Davis Ruppert-Kan

I didn't know there was another issue uhhmmm here's a final farewell/filler thing

Favorite artwork made for the comic:

Media I consumed over Covid but didn't review;

Angela Davis - Are Prisons Obsolete? 4.5/5 Timely, to say the least	Her (2014) 4.5/5	Otoboke Beaver - ITEKOMA HITS 4.5/5
Frantz Fanon - The Wretched of the Earth 7/5 Philosophical vocab too complex for me	Barwig and the Witch 2/5	Fiona Apple - Fetch the Bolt Cutters 4/5
Charlotte Gilman - The Yellow Wallpaper and Selected Writings 4.5/5 I've call it phenomenal but that goes without saying	NSFW/violent media: Martyrs 3.5/5	Jessie Ware - What's Your Pleasure? 5/5
Peter Kropothin - The Conquest of Bread 1/5 Takes him 200+ pages to say "capitalism and authoritarianism bad," way less boring than Marx's Kapital at least	Severe gore/body horror warning	The Weeknd - After Hours 4.5/5
	Shoujo Tsukaki 3/5	Phoebe Bridgers - Punisher 3.5/5
	Animated body horror/animal abuse warning	Lianne La Havas - Self Titled 4.5/5

I was gonna start this off with a “long spring break” joke, but figured it was a bit poor taste, considering we're still undergoing the tail end of the plague. That being said, I hope you're all doing well, that you've managed to keep it together over a year of quarantining, and ESPECIALLY that you have NOT peaked in high school. The highlight of your twenties better not be our hypothetical class reunion. Make whatever you can of yourself, and know that none of us have any better of a plan for the future than you, or knowledge of what to do for the rest of our lives, and take whatever morbid solace you can from that. My condolences go out to any of you who've lost someone over the last year. Take care, everyone.

Original Spider-Man trilogy ends well

Spider-Man 3 does a solid job of concluding the Sam Raimi trilogy even if the film is not as great as its predecessors



Photo courtesy of COLUMBIA PICTURES

Tobey Maguire's performance as Peter Parker is the web that holds the complicated story together.

By MAX REKELA-JASPER
Quill staff writer

Spider-Man 3 is the third installment in the trilogy of Spider-Man movies released in the early 2000s. *Spider-Man 3* was directed by Sam Raimi and released into theaters on May 4, 2007. While this film is considered the weakest of Sam Raimi's Spider-Man trilogy, I wanted to highlight some aspects that make the movie good, although not as good as the first two movies in the trilogy. Much like the first two movies in the trilogy the musical score, the costume design and the theme all have a big impact on the audience and make this movie memorable.

The musical score for *Spider-Man 3*, composed by Danny Elfman, remains iconic to this day. One scene in particular where it shines is when one of the main an-

tagonists of this film, Flint Marko, is being transformed into the villain, Sandman. The music is somber and sad, which I believe is a perfect choice to show Marko's transformation into Sandman. The music in this scene shows the struggle Marko is having, both internally and exter-

wouldn't shine as brightly as it does and wouldn't give Sandman's birth the justice it deserves.

Like with any good superhero movie, costume design plays an important role in *Spider-Man 3*. When Peter is corrupted by the symbiote, not only does his Spider-Man cos-

rupted by the symbiote, he wears a black dress shirt and puts down his hair as he struts around the streets of New York like a fourth-grader who just got light-up shoes for Christmas. Overall, the change in wardrobe that occurs once he is corrupted by the symbiote represents Peter's newfound darkness and how he's using his powers for his own personal gain.

Lastly, the theme of *Spider-Man 3* is what I believe makes this movie shine. The main theme of *Spider-Man 3* is forgiveness. As Peter finds out Flint Marko is the one who really killed his beloved Uncle Ben, he struggles to accept the reality that his uncle's killer is still at large, so he goes and looks for Marko. Once he finds Marko, Peter's agenda has changed. Rather than wanting to stop Marko to keep the people of New York safe, he tries to kill Marko to avenge his uncle's death. Peter nearly succeeds at this and goes and tells his aunt that Spider-Man killed Marko. Expecting his aunt to be happy, she isn't. In fact, she is worried about Spider-Man and tells Peter that Marko didn't deserve to die and revenge isn't the right way to go about solving things. At the end of the movie, when fighting Marko, Marko tells Peter the truth about what happened the night his uncle died and how it was simply an accident caused by peer pressure. Peter forgives Marko

for what he did, as he sees that Marko is ashamed of his actions, much like Peter is ashamed for letting the symbiote corrupt him.

Overall, I believe *Spider-Man 3* is an underrated superhero film that has a solid soundtrack, great costume design and an excellent theme. Despite the

excessive number of villains in this movie, pacing issues and Peter's awkward strut around New York, I still give *Spider-Man 3* four out of five stars. While I don't think it is as good as the first two entries in the trilogy, it is definitely rewatchable for a variety of reasons.

The main theme of *Spider-Man 3* is forgiveness. As Peter finds out Flint Marko is the one who really killed his beloved Uncle Ben, he struggles to accept the reality that his uncle's killer is still at large, so he goes and looks for Marko. Once he finds Marko, Peter's agenda has changed. Rather than wanting to stop Marko to keep the people of New York safe, he tries to kill Marko to avenge his uncle's death.

nally, as he transforms into Sandman. As the scene progresses, the tone of the music increases to more of a villainous and evil tone, showing how the human in Flint Marko is gone, and the wicked Sandman is born. Overall, without Elfman's amazing musical score, this scene

change from a light color to a dark color, his wardrobe does as well. At the beginning of the movie, Peter is seen wearing a light-colored shirt underneath his suit coat, which represents the good inside him and how he's using his powers for the greater good. Later, when he is cor-

Groundbreaking *Akira* still holds up three decades later

This animated film is essential viewing for fans of science fiction thanks to its story, art design and action

By CHRISTOPHER NGUYEN
Quill staff writer

TMS Entertainment is one of the oldest and most famous anime studios in Japan. They have produced such classics as *Detective Conan*, *Anpanman*, *Hamtaro* and *Lupin the Third*. Back in the 1980s, they joined forces with Katsuhiro Otomo, a Japanese manga artist, screenwriter, animator and film director who is responsible for creating the entire *Akira* franchise. With one of the biggest production companies and one of the greatest writers behind it, the film *Akira* was destined to be the critical and financial hit that it is. More than 30 years after its initial release, it is a great time to check out, or watch for the first time, *Akira*.

Akira takes place in the year 2019. In 1988, Tokyo was caught in a massive explosion that obliterated the city and sparked World War III. Thirty-one years after the explosion, Tokyo has now become a dystopian neo-city. As the film begins, Shotaro Kaneda, a bike gang leader, tries to save his friend Tetsuo Shima from a secret



Photo courtesy of TOKYO MOVIE SHINSHA

Akira takes place in 2019 after World War III has ravaged the globe.

government project. He fights against anti-government activists, greedy politicians, evil scientists and a powerful military leader with the fate of the world in his hands.

The first elements that makes *Akira* a classic is its combination of animation, artistic style and setting. If you are into the 1980s anime aesthetic, *Akira* is a perfect fit for you. I

think the film has a nostalgic and cool cyberpunk feel. For those of you who might be skeptical about the time period-specific art, I highly recommend that you push that aside and give the film a chance. The artists do a great job of displaying the dystopian neo-Tokyo and the visuals are amazing. The recurring visual motif revolves around destruction and the artists and animators

deliver that in *Akira*. This helped the film win the "Silver Screen Award" in 1992 at the Amsterdam Fantastic Film Festival.

The pacing of the film is also good. For a film that lasts nearly two hours, I feel as if there was enough content for the entire running time. There is also enough action to make sure the dialogue-to-action ratio seems right. *Akira* provides plenty of action-packed sequences featuring high-speed motorbike chases, explosions and large-scale destruction, while not overlooking the value of some moments of comedic relief to break the tension. Finally, the story tracks well throughout the film and the ending gives sufficient closure to the story and its characters.

In conclusion, if you are into seeing an action-packed, cyberpunk, 1980s anime movie, then *Akira* is for you. With the best production company of its time and a great writer behind it, *Akira* lives up to its hype and has rightfully earned its spot as not just a classic anime film, but a classic film in general. You can watch this five-star movie through streaming services such as Hulu, Funimation and Tubi.

Mortal Kombat stays alive with latest installment

Mortal Kombat 11 picks up immediately after the events of *Mortal Kombat X*



Photo courtesy of NETHERREALM STUDIOS

One highlight of *Mortal Kombat 11* is the ability to customize its characters.

By ZACARI WATSON
Quill staff writer

Mortal Kombat 11 is the latest installment of the *Mortal Kombat* franchise. The games were designed by John Tobias, Ed Boon, Paulo Garcia and John Edwards. *Mortal Kombat 11* was developed by NetherRealm studios, published by Warner Bros., and released on April 23, 2019. If you can handle an action-filled video game with a lot of violence, this would be a great title to check out.

The game's story takes place following the defeat of Shinnok in *Mortal Kombat X*. After being beheaded by the thunder god, Raiden, Shinnok is retrieved by his mother, Kronika, master of time. She plans to restart the timeline and bring a balance of light and dark to the realms. She allies with the bad guys, the revenants, who are dead versions of former heroes, and some of the bad guys from the past. She also (for some unknown reason) brings back heroes from the past, who try to stop her. The heroes from the past and present then try to stop Kronika's plan.

Mortal Kombat 11 reintroduces characters, like Johnny Cage, Sonya Blade, Liu Kang, Kitana, Scorpion and Sub Zero, who have been in every game since the first *Mortal Kombat*, along with a few characters first introduced in *Mortal Kombat X*, such as Cassie Cage, Jacqui Briggs, Kotal Kahn and D'vorah. A few characters that weren't in *Mortal Kombat X* are brought back in *11* as well, including Jade, Shao Kahn, Noob and Skarlet. *Mortal Kombat 11* also introduces two new characters, Geras and Cetrion.

One highlight of *Mortal Kombat 11* is that the game has customizable characters. You can unlock different gear, whether it be weapons, masks or items unique to certain characters. You can also unlock skins, which are different costumes. The ability to customize helps keep the game fresh after multiple plays.

Mortal Kombat 11 also has downloadable content (DLC) to add to the gaming experience. You can

MORTAL KOMBAT 11
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Cinderella gets update in *Cinder*

Cinder is part of the Lunar Chronicles series of books

By CECILIA NICHOLS
Quill staff writer

There are plenty of young adult books out there, but none are like *Cinder*. The book was first published on January 3, 2012. It is the debut young adult science fiction novel for its author, Marissa Meyer. This is the first book in a series of books known as the Lunar Chronicles. Each book in the series is loosely based on a classic fairytale, with *Cinder* using *Cinderella* as its source material. If you enjoy books with romance, science fiction and some dystopian aspects, *Cinder* is a great novel to read.

In the text, humans and androids crowd the streets of New Beijing. A deadly plague known as Letumosis ravages the population. From space, the lunar people watch; ruled by Queen Levana, they are waiting to make their move. No one knows that the fate of the Earth hinges on one girl, Cinder, a gifted mechanic who is also a cyborg.

Cinder is a second-class citizen

CINDER
continues on page 10

The Four Agreements is a self-help book that truly does its job

Writer Don Miguel Ruiz has organized his tips for personal, spiritual growth around traditional Toltec wisdom

By ANDREA TRIBBLE
Quill staff writer

The Four Agreements by Don Miguel Ruiz is a must-read for anyone looking to elevate themselves personally and spiritually. The book includes ancient Toltec wisdom revolving around four agreements that, when studied and carried out, can bring readers into a world of personal freedom.

The first agreement is "Be Impeccable with Your Word." The

chapter explains how your word is your power to create and also destroy if you misuse it. Your word is not only what you speak, but also what you think. As Ruiz writes, "every human mind is fertile, but only for those kinds of seeds it is prepared for" (28). This agreement goes on to say that we should use words of love, encouragement and hopefulness when dealing with ourselves and those around us. Ruiz also urges us to make "changes first in the way you deal

with yourself and later in the way you deal with other people" (42).

The second agreement is "Don't Take Anything Personally." This agreement's main idea is that "nothing other people do is because of you. It is because of themselves" (48). When people are rude, when people are hurtful, it is because they are dealing with their own emotional poison and attempting to send it to you. If you take it personally, "then you take that poison and it becomes yours"

(49). This chapter teaches readers the ways in which we can live amongst other human beings, who are all dealing with their own realities, and not take anything these individuals do personally. After all, "there is a huge amount of freedom that comes to you when you take nothing personally" (59).

The third agreement is "Don't Make Assumptions." We all have

FOUR AGREEMENTS
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SUPERINTENDENT

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University; and superintendent and principal credentials from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.

The school board began its nationwide search for the district's next leader in February. Various stakeholders from the district and community were involved in the process through surveys and focus groups. This process resulted in the selection of seven candidates for the first round of interviews, which were conducted publicly on April 12 and 13 using Zoom.

Following the first round of interviews, the school board narrowed the number of candidates to the two finalists. On April 14 and 15, these two candidates had a chance to meet with community members through a Zoom webinar and went through another public interview session with the school board using Zoom.

"Those interviews happened on a very public stage and it meant that those very fine leaders had to be willing to open up their lives during this process," Boone said in a statement. "We heard really great things from all of them."

Engstrom will be replacing the district's current interim superintendent, Ms. Burrage, who took over the top post when the former superintendent, Mr. Jenkins, left Robbinsdale after five years to become the superintendent of the Madison school district in Wisconsin. Burrage will continue to serve as superintendent until she assumes her new job as the Deputy Education Commissioner for the Minnesota Department of Education on June 23.

Given these many transitions in district leadership over the past two years, and the additional challenges raised during the pandemic and distance learning, Herman said he is hopeful that Engstrom's hiring will have a positive impact on Cooper.

"The new superintendent has both a teaching and private sector background," he said. "I feel this will benefit Cooper in how we look at creating pathways for our students around college and career preparation. He also seems to have exposure to IB and the benefits this has for our students. Along with this, he has experience as a student in athletics and the fine arts."

SENIORS

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purchased the following year. When we continue to purchase replacements, it makes it hard to be able to purchase an entire set of uniforms. Some teams like to have a warm-up jacket or pants. Unfortunately, when those don't get returned, then there are not enough for the team the next year, so no one can wear them as a team. It's really important that students clean out their closets and drawers and return any Cooper uniforms they have."

Ordering caps and gowns

The last piece of the puzzle for seniors is ordering caps and gowns. Caps and gowns can be ordered online from Jostens through a link posted on the Cooper website at the following address: chs.rdale.org/families/information-for-seniors. According to Jostens, measurements for caps and gowns are determined by height and weight. Height is measured in feet and inches and determines your gown length, while weight is measured in pounds and determines the fullness of the gown.

Students will be able to pick up the caps and gowns they ordered at Cooper in late May and early June. Distance learning students can pick up their caps and gowns on May 26 and June 2 from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. In-person students can pick up their caps and gowns on June 3 and 4 during lunch, which runs from 10:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Finally, all seniors have an evening pickup option on June 1 from 3-6 p.m.

Blade Runner takes on compelling topics

Ridley Scott's 1982 masterpiece is noteworthy not only for what happens on screen, but also for what took place behind the scenes

By LUKE REKELA-JASPER
Quill staff writer

Blade Runner is widely considered by moviegoers today to be the greatest science fiction film ever put to screen. It evokes a sense of hypnosis, similar to films such as *Taxi Driver* or *The Shining*, pulling the viewer into its ambiguous and thought-provoking universe. What many also know of *Blade Runner* is that it has many different cuts, three of which have been released to the public: the theatrical cut in 1982, the director's cut in 1992 and the final cut in 2007.

Internet film critic Chris Stuckmann describes *Blade Runner* as a "flawed masterpiece" and he insists multiple viewings of the film are required in order to fully understand *Blade Runner*. As is the case with films like *Pulp Fiction*, I think multiple viewings are warranted to help the viewer achieve a better understanding of what they have seen. Given the three cuts of *Blade Runner*, I think this movie totally deserves four or potentially five viewings. In this review, I will be discussing my overall thoughts on the film, explaining what I think works and what I think does not.

Blade Runner takes place in a dystopian Los Angeles in 2019. There are synthetic humans called "replicants," who are designed to provide slave labor in space colonies, but when some of these replicants go rogue, the Los Angeles Police Department dispatches officers to kill, or "retire," these rogue replicants. These officers are known as "*Blade Runners*." In the film, *Blade Runner* Rick Deckard (Harrison Ford) comes out of retirement to track down and "retire" a few replicants that have gone rogue and are somewhere in Los Angeles.

The first thing I'd like to discuss about *Blade Runner* is its world and atmosphere. For a movie made in 1982, it still remains one of the most visually impressive movies ever made. Accompanied by an excellent score by composer Vangelis, the world of *Blade Runner* feels lived in, and can be described as both beautiful and disgusting at the same time. It is kind of like the real world today.

The second element that I'll discuss is this movie's characters. During my first viewing of *Blade Runner*, I did not like Deckard. He just seemed like this lazy, bland and annoyed beat cop who was more similar to a robot than a human being. But after realizing what *Blade Runner* is really all about, I fully accepted Deckard's attitude; he lacks anything that someone with a personality has. Deckard is a perfect contrast to this film's antagonist, Roy Batty (Rutger Hauer). I think without the inclusion of Roy Batty, *Blade Runner* would be a disaster. Rutger Hauer gives the best performance in the film, adding a beautiful sense of weirdness and also sadness.



Photo courtesy of WARNER BROS.

The cutting-edge special effects and art direction still look convincing without the aid of CGI.

The third primary character is Rachael (Sean Young), who is the only character in the film that I feel falls flat. Rachael is a replicant that believes she is a human being. I've seen *Blade Runner* six times, and not once have I been able to figure out what Rachael's contribution to the story is other than being Deckard's love interest. Additionally, I think that Deckard and Rachael's romance in this film is pretty bad. It makes sense when you know that during the production of *Blade Runner*, Harrison Ford and Sean Young kind of hated each other. Also, the film's director, Ridley Scott, had problems with Ford, so it's a miracle that this movie works at all.

Besides that, I think *Blade Runner* also has some solid secondary characters. One in particular is Gaff (Edward James Olmos), whose mysteriousness and sometimes ridiculousness adds an interesting sense of humanity to the film. So, while the Deckard and Rachael relationship may fall flat for me, I think the remaining ensemble of characters in the film is excellent.

Now onto what really matters about *Blade Runner*: the story. During my first viewing, I almost immediately thought the story of *Blade Runner* was really weird. I just thought that it is about Deckard going around hunting a few stray replicants, while the lead replicant, Roy Batty, is just trying to find a way to live forever before giving up when he finds out he can't. However, after watching this movie and its various cuts a few more times, I better understood that *Blade Runner* is a deep and mysterious movie primarily about one thing: humanity. Deckard, who at the start

of the film lacks any human qualities, starts to accept the ideals of humanity after his encounter with the replicants and primarily Roy Batty, whose entire arc in the film is that he is trying to live longer because he and the other replicants are dying. I feel like, nowadays, a main villain's primary goal would never be something as simple as just wanting not to die. It is an innocent and relatable human motivation.

While I think the story is good, my primary issue with *Blade Runner* absolutely has to be its pacing. I understand that die-hard fans of the film will hate me for saying this, but I think *Blade Runner* is kind of boring. Not to say that slow-paced films cannot be good. Ironically, I think that the 2017 sequel to this film, *Blade Runner 2049*, is an excellent film with a slow pace, due to the film constantly introducing the viewer to interesting concepts or ideas. A lot of *Blade Runner* happens to be just Deckard being a detective, trying to find out where some of these replicants are. I think the slow pace is mainly a problem in the first two acts of the film, but it really works in its final act, which brings me to my next section of this review: the finale.

I think the final confrontation between Deckard and Roy in the film is everything that *Blade Runner* is about. It's visually impressive, thrilling, intense, slow (in a good way), and weird. The film also kind of flips its script in the third act, making Deckard the one that is hunted by the replicant. The final act is also when Rutger Hauer's weirdness as Roy Batty goes up to level 11, with him stripping down to nothing but a pair of bike

shorts and running around an abandoned building, kind of like my grandma's old neighbor. But I think what makes *Blade Runner*'s final act incredible is its ending. Despite Roy taunting and terrorizing Deckard, he goes out of his way to save his life and then delivers his memorable "tears in rain" monologue before his death. Like I said before, I think *Blade Runner* is a movie that does what no movie today and likely in the future will do: flip the script. *Blade Runner* makes its villain the most sympathetic character and completely subverts the viewer's expectations.

In conclusion, *Blade Runner* is one of the most important movies ever made. While I may strongly dislike the forced romance between Deckard and Rachael and the pacing of the first two acts, I think *Blade Runner* is a great film about the ideals and motivations of humanity. I'd give *Blade Runner* a solid four of five stars. I'd also like to mention that my preferred version of the film is the final cut, being that I don't necessarily like the theatrical cut, which features Deckard narrating through most of the film, which I think can detract from scenes.

As a side note, the most debated topic about *Blade Runner* is the question of whether or not Deckard is a replicant. While the director, Ridley Scott, has said many times that he believes so, my answer to that almost 40-year-long debate is, "Who cares?" Whether he is or he isn't, *Blade Runner* is not a movie about determining whether this LAPD cop is a robot. It's a film about a man that lives a robotic lifestyle accepting the ideals of what it means to be a human being.

Hitman dramedy Barry is a great showcase for Bill Hader

The former *Saturday Night Live* performer shows off his skills as an actor, writer and producer on this HBO series

By LUKE REKELA-JASPER
Quill staff writer

Barry is a dark comedy crime series created by Alec Berg and Bill Hader that airs on HBO. Hader stars as the central character, Barry Berkman, who is a hitman from Cleveland that travels to Los Angeles to kill someone. Instead, he decides to participate in an acting class, which makes him contemplate his life choices and the future of his life in crime. I'd always heard pretty positive things about *Barry* and knew the basic premise of the show, but what sold me on finally watching it (besides now having the HBO Max streaming service) was finding out that Bill Hader was actually one of the creators, main directors and writers of the show. In this review, I'll be discussing what I enjoy about the show and covering the two seasons that have been released so far.

Like I said before, *Barry* follows a character of the same name, who, at the beginning of the story, lives a comical and boring life in Cleveland, beside the fact that his way of earning income is murdering people. Barry's life only starts to change after he is paid off by a Chechen mob boss to kill a member of an acting class, which leads to Barry being mistaken for an actor and having to do a scene. Despite how poorly it goes, Barry begins hanging out with the members of the acting class, who are all unique and different than the type of people he is typically around. Some of the characters he meets in the acting

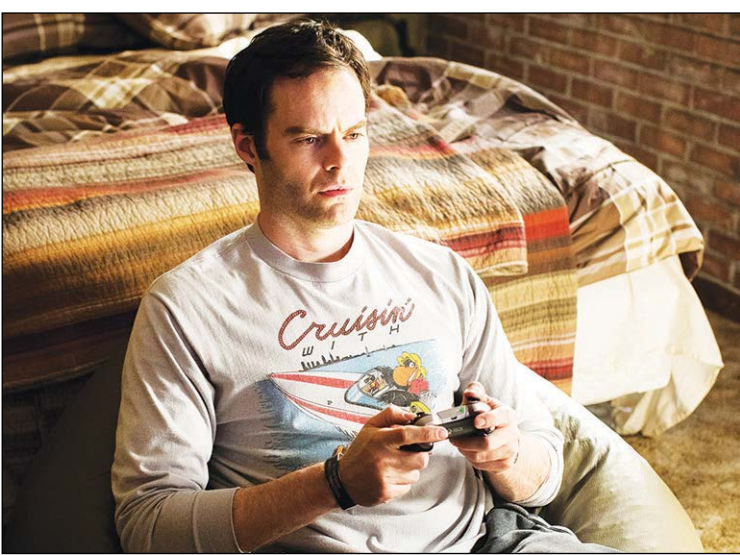


Photo courtesy of HBO

The show's titular character is an assassin who longs to be an actor.

class include Sally, played by Sarah Goldberg, and Mr. Cousineau, played by Henry Winkler. On the other front, Barry does work for the Chechen mafia alongside his partner-in-crime, Fuches, played by Stephen Root, and a mafia henchman named NoHo Hank, played by Anthony Carrigan.

One of my favorite aspects of *Barry* is its characters and how well they are written and played by the actors. I was a little skeptical about Bill Hader's performance as Barry, but toward the end of episode one, he gives a great little monologue that gave me the boost to watch the rest of the series.

Besides Barry, my two other favorite characters have to be Mr. Cousineau and NoHo Hank. Although I probably

wouldn't like Mr. Cousineau if I knew him in real life, Winkler gives a subtle but very absurd performance that works for both the first and second season, which is definitely surprising, especially knowing what his character goes through in the second season.

As for NoHo Hank, Anthony Carrigan is the funniest and most ridiculous character on this show and maybe on any show right now. Carrigan's mannerisms, voice and writing all add to making NoHo Hank a great character.

My second favorite aspect of the show is how it balances the drama and comedy. I'd say that 90 percent of the time, *Barry*'s comedic moments land for me, and even though comedy is subjective, I'm sure anybody can follow

Barry's tune and go along for the ride once they get there.

Also, to my surprise, *Barry* deals with some pretty heavy things, such as post-traumatic stress, which is an issue related to Barry's past as a former member of the United States Marine Corps, which was where he (allegedly) began killing people. Episode seven of the first season features an incredible scene related to this issue that features a great performance by Hader and a small dose of comedy by Winkler.

My third favorite element of the show is its tone. Once you get to season two, episode five, *Barry* becomes the weirdest yet most fantastic show on TV. Without any spoilers or plot details, I'll say that season two, episode five of *Barry*, which was written and directed by Hader, is probably my favorite episode of TV ever made. As for the tone, the (mostly) well-placed and oftentimes ridiculous comedy, blended with the seriousness of Barry's life as a criminal, makes a well-constructed world for Barry to exist in that is engaging to watch.

Both seasons of *Barry* add up to 16 episodes and are each about 30 minutes long, but I managed to binge the entire series in less than four days. So, yeah, it's a pretty good show. *Barry* is one of the most unique, creative and well-written TV shows out there, and if you have HBO Max, I'd give this thing a try by watching at least the first episode. I give both seasons of *Barry* five out of five stars.

Wild poised for playoff success

For the first time in franchise history, Minnesota looks like it will make a deep run in the postseason



Photo courtesy of GETTY IMAGES

The Minnesota Wild beat the San Jose Sharks 6-3 on April 24, a victory that helped push them to a playoff berth.

By ANDREW HAGGE
Quill staff writer

The Wild managed to clinch a playoff berth with nine games left in regular season play. This is huge for the Wild as it allowed them to approach the final games of the regular season cautiously when it came to the health of their star players. At the same time, with a higher seed in sight, the Wild were also able to work toward taking over one of the top spots in the division heading into the postseason.

Early into the 2020-2021 season, the Wild were making headlines for how terrible and unreliable their power play was. They struggled endlessly to get their first power play goal of the season. In fact, after 39 attempts with the man advantage, they had only capitalized twice. This became the coaching staff's number-one priority while studying film and practicing on the ice.

After troubleshooting the team's issues with power plays, Dean Evason, head coach of the Wild, started rolling with the normal lines during power plays instead of stacking the team's lineup during those opportunities. Since the players and team had been scoring significantly during even-strength

hockey, it made sense to keep things the way they were. After trying out this new method that most other coaches don't utilize, the team began to score on the power play, which got the wheels moving.

Also helping turn things around for the Wild has been the leadership of specific players. Perhaps the strongest of these players has been Kirill Kaprizov, who has turned in an outstanding performance with respect to both goals and assists. With his accuracy and insane speed, Kaprizov has been dusting goaltenders and their defensive lines throughout every game. As he brings something new to the table that the Wild haven't seen for a long time, if ever, Kaprizov is proving that he is one of the best players in the league. In fact, during his first NHL game, this Russian player scored a hat trick.

Another central player this season has been Jordan Greenway. In addition to his many assists, Greenway is top on the team in penalty minutes. Greenway is a very big, very strong enforcer who, like Kaprizov, was picked up a few years ago and has shown himself to be creative as a player and consistently useful to the team. In effect, he and Kaprizov make a deadly pair: Greenway uses his

body to get the puck to the net and to his teammates, while Kaprizov uses speed, agility and accuracy to blow past everyone else on the ice.

As the Wild neared the end of the regular season, they tried taking a higher spot in the division to gain a better seed in the Western playoffs. The Vegas Golden Knights seemed to have the top spot locked down, but both the Wild and Colorado Avalanche were not far behind. Ultimately, it was the Avalanche that managed to catch up and take the top spot within the last few days of the season. This turn of events actually helped the Wild because the Avalanche are red hot right now and on a five-game win streak, which leaves the Golden Knights and Wild to duke it out in the first round while the St. Louis Blues go up against Colorado.

Even though the last few games of the season looked grim for the Wild, one has to remember they benched most of their starters, leaving the Blues to take advantage and win by four goals in the final two games. While this may not look promising, be sure to watch as the Wild bring back starters like Kaprizov and Greenway for the playoffs. The team looks poised to make one of the deepest runs in the finals in Wild history.

Vikings execs make good choices during draft

The team made a number of acquisitions to bolster offensive, defensive weaknesses

By ANDREW HAGGE
Quill staff writer

The Vikings made some interesting moves during the 2021 draft that will hopefully pay off for many seasons to come. Some of the moves involved shifting their position in the draft, while others involved the new talent the team picked up with their draft choices.

With the number 14 pick in the first round, the Vikings decided to trade down. The Jets got the Vikings' first-round pick and a fourth rounder, while the Jets gave the Vikings their first round and two round-three picks. At first, this move didn't look too good, but as it turned out, the Vikings managed to draft who they wanted in the first round with their pick of Christian Darrisaw, a tackle from Virginia Tech.

The other results of this trade with the Jets also look like genius moves. One of the third-round picks they received was only the second pick into the third round. In this case, the Vikings

selected Kellen Mond, who played quarterback for Texas A&M. With their next selection, the Vikings took linebacker Chazz Suratt from North Carolina. After last season's failure of a defense, this move was expected. It will not only beef up the offensive line, but be of benefit back on the other side of

At first, the Vikings' decision to trade down with the Jets didn't look too good, but as it turned out, the Vikings managed to draft who they wanted in the first round with their pick of Christian Darrisaw, a tackle from Virginia Tech.

the field as well.

Moving along to the third round, the Vikings picked up both guard Wyatt Davis and defensive end Patrick Jones II, two solid choices that should help the team right away. Next, during the fourth round, the Vikings got multiple picks, including running back Kene Nwang-

wu, safety Camryn Bynum and another defensive end, Janarius Robinson.

The later rounds also saw the Vikings addressing both offensive and defensive needs. Minnesota started off round five with the selection of wide receiver Ihmir Smith-Marsette, who could be vital in strengthening the wide receiver core. The team then added tight end Zach Davidson and defensive tackle Jaylen Twyman in the sixth round.

These Vikings picks look like they can help turn a solid team into something more impressive. The team's first-round gamble helped them get a player who could prove to be quite vital in the future. Even though the Vikings didn't

have any second-round picks, they made great use of the third and fourth rounds, with each of their seven selections clearly targeting areas of need for the team. With the offense and defense each getting the boost they needed, fans should look forward to a new and revamped Vikings this fall.

your life intensely. As Ruiz writes, "you are going to be productive, you are going to be good to yourself, because you will be giving yourself to your family, to your community, to everything" (78).

It is easy to walk away after reading this book feeling motivated to instill these agreements into your everyday life. Following these agreements will not only uplift your mental and spiritual state, but transcend you into a world of alignment and peace. *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz deserves five out of five stars.

THE FOUR AGREEMENTS continued from page 7

the tendency to make assumptions about everything. When we make assumptions about what others are doing or thinking, we go against the prior agreements because "we take it personally, then we blame them and react by sending emotional poison with our words" (64). We make an assumption, we misunderstand, we take it personally and we end up creating a whole big drama for nothing. This chapter urges us to understand that "all the sadness and drama you have lived in your life was rooted in making assumptions and

taking things personally" (64).

The final agreement is "Always Do Your Best." This is the agreement that allows the other three agreements to become deeply ingrained habits. The most important takeaway from this chapter is to "always do your best, no more and no less. But keep in mind that your best is never going to be the same from one moment to the next" (75). In giving your best effort, you can make these agreements a way of life for yourself. When you do your best, you are going to live

Cooper Competitors

The story of the athletes who strive for success in Cooper sports

Autumn Olson

By FAITH KING
Quill staff writer

Autumn Olson (12) plays volleyball in the fall and lacrosse in the spring. Olson started playing lacrosse when she was in sixth grade.

"I was very hesitant at first to play but got the final push to start because I had a friend that was joining," she said.

What Olson has enjoyed most about lacrosse is the "physical work you have to put in and the growth of working hard at something you love."

"I also enjoy my teammates and the bond we grow over the season," she said.

As a fourth-year senior on the team, Olson has a strong presence on and off the lacrosse field.

"I feel as this being my senior year I have an obligation to be a good influence and be a strong support system for

the younger girls who are first timers that just joined lacrosse," Olson said.

When it comes to her fall sport, Olson said that COVID made it unclear whether they would even have a volleyball season, but they were able to play.

"To say I was proud of all the girls this season would be an understatement," she said.

Olson's favorite subject in school is sociology because she enjoys "learning about human relations and how society has an impact on all of us." Outside of school, Olson enjoys hanging out with friends.

"My friends and I are always trying to get together, even if that means a group Facetime call," she said.

After high school, Olson will attend the University of Northern Michigan for nursing and the study of women's health.



Photo by LIFETOUGH

Chloe Judge

By FAITH KING
Quill staff writer

Chloe Judge (12) plays lacrosse at Cooper in the spring. Judge has been playing lacrosse since she was in sixth grade and has played varsity for four years at Cooper.

"I picked lacrosse just to try something new and do something totally different than my siblings," she said.

What Judge enjoys most about lacrosse is the feeling of belonging.

"Everyone is so close during the season and it's welcoming and comforting," she said.

Judge's favorite memory from the sport was when the team traveled to Duluth to play a game.

"It's a fun, whole-day team experience and the bus ride is especially fun," Judge said.

Outside of sports, Some of Judge's favorite classes in school have been Introduction to Human Services and Introduction to Sociology, which she took at North Hennepin Community College as a PSEO student.

"Taking classes through the college gives me more opportunity to take classes I'm interested in as there are more options. I like those classes because they are related to the career I intend to go into and I got to do some pretty cool things," she said.

After graduation, Judge plans to attend the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities and get a degree in social work.

"I was accepted into the College of Education and Human Development," she said. "[I] also plan to pursue a couple of minors which I haven't decided yet. There's so many to choose from."



Photo by CHLOE JUDGE

Kevin Teibowei

By FAITH KING
Quill staff writer

Kevin Teibowei (12) plays soccer in the fall and runs track in the spring. Teibowei first joined track his sophomore year.

"Honestly, what convinced me to do this sport is the diversity and comfort. I fit in right away. No one was judging me but uplifting me and wanting to see me get better," he said.

Teibowei has enjoyed being able to work hard and see the results from all the work he has put in rapidly pay off. His favorite track memory was winning "Athlete of the Week" during his first week of competing.

"I was not the best in the conference or heats, but the work you

do and put in always gets recognized eventually," he said.

Though he does not actively have any leadership roles on the team, Teibowei's status as a senior prompts him to act like a leader to the underclassmen and to always be open to help.

In the fall, Teibowei plays soccer. He said his 2020 season went well and he has continued to put in work training with his soccer friends to keep fit.

Teibowei's favorite subjects in school are English and science. Outside of school, he enjoys gaming, hanging out with friends and playing sports.

As for his college plans, Teibowei said he is looking to stay in school in Minnesota to study "some type of science or engineering."



Photo by K. TEIBOWEI

Ramon Arrington

By FAITH KING
Quill staff writer

Ramon Arrington (12) runs track in the spring and plays football in the fall.

"This is my second year doing track," he said. "I tried it out my freshman year, but could not continue due to injury."

Arrington said he has especially been enjoying the current track season after the 2020 season was cancelled. Working hard during practice is one of the highlights of the 2021 season.

"When the whole team is suffering on conditioning days, I feel like it is team bonding and it brings everyone together," he said.

Arrington also enjoyed his football season in the fall. In addition to getting All-District Honorable Mention recognition for his play with the Hawks, he had a chance to play for a second team as well.

"Since the season got pushed back all of the way to October, for the beginning of the fall, I was also playing on an AAU, seven-on-seven football team," he said.

When it comes to school, Arrington said his interests are in the area of science, specifically biology.

"I just enjoy learning about nature," he said. "I love being outside, enjoying nature. I go fishing a lot during the summer."

Another interest of Arrington's is cars. He said he is "a car enthusiast."

As for the future, Arrington said his plan is to go to college next fall, although he has not yet chosen his school. He said he will be majoring in biology with the hopes of "getting into the wildlife field." Additionally, he wants to continue with football.

"Since I was young, I always had dreams of playing college football, and now I have the opportunity to," he said.



Photo by LIFETOUGH

CINDER

continued from page 7

with a mysterious past. She has been denounced by her stepmother and blamed for her stepsister's illness. But when her life becomes intertwined with the handsome Prince Kai, Cinder unexpectedly finds herself in the middle of an intergalactic struggle and a forbidden attraction.

As a retelling of *Cinderella*, the novel does a good job at keeping some aspects of the original tale while having its own take. In *Cinder*, you still have the stepmother and stepsisters, but one of the sisters, Peony, is actually kind to Cinder, unlike the original tale, in which the stepmother and stepsisters all hate Cinderella.

Then you have the character of the prince, who is named Prince Kai in *Cinder*. While he is similar to the *Cinderella* character in that they both have the "prince" title, Kai is much more fleshed out and relatable than the prince in the original tale. You can see the struggles he goes through as the future ruler of New Beijing, especially when he has to take the title at such a young age.

And, of course, there is a ball for Cinder to attend with her prince, much like the ball in *Cinderella*. However, Cinder's reason for attending is to warn Kai about a threat rather than to simply dance with the man of her dreams. This gives *Cinder* a much more intense plot. The changes from the original story are welcome and they make the story of *Cinder* fresh.

The characters in *Cinder* are well written and fleshed out. The story is told through the point of view of two characters, Cinder and Kai. The main character, Linh Cinder, is headstrong, doing what she thinks is right. She is portrayed as a realistic, 16-year-old girl.

A prime example of this is her relationship with Kai. As Meyer writes, "He was the fantasy of every girl in the country. He was so far out of her realm, her world, that she should have stopped thinking about him the second the door had closed. Should stop thinking about him immediately. Should never think about him again, except maybe as a client, and her prince. And yet, the memory of his fingers against her skin refused to fade." Cinder knows that she probably can't have Kai, yet she can't help but have a small crush on him.

The main theme of the book is discrimination. Throughout the novel, the two main groups discriminated against are cyborgs and Lunars. This theme is most prominently seen in the main protagonist, Cinder, who is discriminated against for being a cyborg, a group that is seen as below human in the novel.

One of the main people that delivers this discrimination to Cinder is her stepmother, Linh Adri. This can be clearly seen when she states, "Do your kind even know what love is? Can you feel anything at all, or is it just... programmed?" She doesn't believe that Cinder is at all capable of feeling real emotions due to her being a cyborg.

Overall, *Cinder* is an enjoyable read. If you enjoy this book, I highly recommend reading the other books in the series. You're sure to enjoy the other installments as well. I give the book five out of five stars.

MORTAL KOMBAT 11

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buy special character skins and bring in other characters like Nightwolf, Rain, Fujin and Shang Tsung. Along with DLC, the game has what are known as "guest characters," which are characters from other video game or movie franchises. *Mortal Kombat 11* has characters like Robocop, The Joker and The Terminator to keep the game interesting.

Another selling point of the game is its online features. For example, the Kombat League allows gamers to play *Mortal Kombat 11* competitively. Even better, if you score enough points, you can earn special gear, skins and other rewards.

The last, but not least, highlight of the game is its epic violence. One of the most well-known features of the *Mortal Kombat* series is its depiction of fatalities. After you win a fight, you have the option to kill your opponent in the most gruesome ways. While grim, it does give you a chance to bring in your creative side as a player.

So, if you can handle the violence, then, by all means, try out *Mortal Kombat 11*. However, if you have a weak stomach, then I wouldn't recommend this game. Overall, I give *Mortal Kombat 11* five out of five stars.

Struggling Twins try to correct shortcomings

The team cannot seem to generate strong offense and defense during the same game, leading to a growing number of losses

By NOLAN ANDLER
Quill staff writer

The Twins' 2021 season has started off as up and down as you could possibly imagine. There have been flashes when the team's offense dominates in games, but the defense does not. At other times, the reverse of this is true. Overall, while there have been some positives to the team's play as of the end of April, there clearly have been some negatives as well.

The 2021 season kicked off with a three-game series in Milwaukee. On opening day, the Twins looked great as they went into the ninth inning with a 5-2 lead thanks to a two-run homer from Byron Buxton. However, reliever Alex Colome, who the Twins signed in the offseason, couldn't close the deal as Milwaukee players Kolten Wong, Keston Hiura, Christian Yelich and Travis Shaw all contributed to tying the game up and getting it into the 10th inning. It was in the 10th that Brewers player Orlando Arcia hit a chopper into center that provided just enough time for Lorenzo Cain, who was on third base, to reach the plate for the 6-5 Brewers win. While this was a disappointing loss for the Twins, they rebounded by winning the next two games against the Brewers 2-0 and 8-2.

After the big series in Milwaukee, the Twins traveled to Detroit and had another good series. The first game had a rain delay, but after it ended, the Twins' bats exploded and the team scored 15 total runs, giving the team a 15-1 lead. However, Twins pitcher Randy Dobnak struggled to close out the game, eventually allowing five runs, including a homer by Detroit's Victor Reyes and a grand slam by Detroit's Akil Baddoo, which made it a 15-6 game at the end. After this Twins win, the Tigers won the next game 4-3 in extra innings thanks to an Akil Baddoo walk-off base hit. During the final game of the series, the Twins had a 3-2 victory to take the series.

After two series wins on the road to start the season, the Twins came back to Minnesota for their home opener against the Seattle Mariners on April 8. This was the first game at Target Field with fans since game three in the American League Division Series against the Yankees on October 9, 2019. The Twins opened up Target Field well by winning 10-2 thanks to home runs by catcher Mitch



Photo courtesy of MLB

Cleveland defeated Minnesota 5-3 on April 26 despite Brent Rooker hitting his first homerun of the season.

Garver, centerfielder Byron Buxton and third baseman Luis Arraez. However, the next game was taken into extra innings yet again, and the Mariners survived with a 4-3 win. In the finale of the series, the Twins built up a 6-0 lead, but Minnesota pitchers Matt Shoemaker and reliever Alex Colome couldn't contribute on the other end, allowing the Mariners to come back and win 8-6 thanks to a three-run homer by Kyle Seager in the top of the ninth inning.

The Twins next had a four-game home series against the Boston Red Sox. The first game in this series was postponed in response to the shooting of Daunte Wright the day before on April 11. On the day after the postponement, both teams basically just had the lineups that they were supposed to have on April 12 play on April 13. In this game, the Twins gave up a 2-0 lead and lost 4-2.

The next day was a doubleheader for both teams with the first game making up for Monday's postponed game. The Red Sox won both games that day by scores of 3-2 and 7-1. In the series finale on April 15, the Twins played well, accumulating a 3-0 lead. However, reliever Alex Colome had another bad outing, letting the Red

Sox tie it up heading into the ninth. It took a Max Kepler walk-off hit to win the game for the Twins with a final score of 4-3.

After this rough homestand, the Twins took a road trip to California to play the Los Angeles Angels and the Oakland A's. The Angels won the first game of their series with the Twins 10-3 after Minnesota just collapsed. Making matters worse, the rest of the series got postponed due to COVID cases on the Twins team.

The Twins were able to complete the series against the A's by having a doubleheader for the first two games. However, it was the same song for the Twins as the A's won the games 7-0 and 1-0. The thing that made it worse that day was that the Twins played 14 total innings and couldn't score a single run.

On the next day, the Twins offense showed up but the pitching didn't. The Twins offense was able to get a 10-7 lead over the A's in the sixth, but after pitcher Hansel Robles struggled, the A's scored twice to make it a 10-9 game. After Twins reliever Taylor Rogers was brought in, it looked like they were going to hold on. However, Alex Colome was brought in to close out the game for the Twins and he blew the save in the ninth inning,

letting the A's tie the game and get into extra innings.

During extra innings, the Twins' Byron Buxton, who is an MVP candidate, blasted a two-run homer into center field to give the Twins a 12-10 lead. However, that lead didn't last as Colome blew it again. First, he allowed the bases to get loaded, and then he allowed one run to score, making it 12-11. After this, Twins third baseman Luis Arraez overthrew a ball to first baseman Williams Astudillo, which allowed the tying and winning runners to come home. The A's won the game 13-12.

As of the end of April, the Twins were 6-11. The story of this team so far is simple: batting shows up but pitching doesn't, pitching shows up but batting doesn't, or neither shows up and it's a blowout loss. This team hasn't had a perfect game yet in 2021. On the offensive side, designated hitter Nelson Cruz and centerfielder Byron Buxton are leading the team with six home runs each, while on the defensive side, reliever Taylor Rogers, who struggled last year, has been on fire with a 0.00 ERA. Overall, this Twins team has potential, but they have yet to show it. This stretch from May to June will be huge for the team's 2021 prospects.

Timberwolves finally showing some life at season's end

Although it may cost them a top spot in the upcoming NBA draft, the Wolves have found ways to win some games

By MAJAY MURPHY
Quill staff writer

The Timberwolves are nearing the end of a disappointing 2020-2021 season. As of the start of May, the team was ranked 14th in the Western Conference with 20 wins and 45 losses. The team's struggles this season led to the firing of coach Ryan Saunders, who was replaced on February 22 by Chris Finch. While the primary issue this season has been defense, the team's offense has also been an occasional problem.

The statistics show the issues the Timberwolves have on defense. According to *Zone Coverage*, the Wolves gave up 112.4 points per 100 possessions during the 31 games this season under Saunders, which ranked them 23rd in the league. After Finch took over on February 22, the Wolves then became the worst defensive team in the NBA with a rating of 117.7. Finch is known to be a coach who focuses more on offense, but it can be hard to win if your defense isn't



Photo courtesy of GETTY IMAGES

The Wolves barely squeaked by the Jazz 105-104 on April 26.

stopping the opponent from scoring.

When it comes to the Wolves' offense, there are several negatives and a few positives. On the negative side, if you watch film and look at how the team is playing, you will notice that some players seem to just focus on scoring instead of focusing on winning. One way to correct this would be for the players to

slow the ball down on offense and move to their positions correctly.

At the same time, there have been some glimmers of hope on the offensive side. Since March 31, the team has been playing well enough on offense to have some small winning streaks. In fact, between March 31 and April 29, the team went 8-8, beating Utah twice along with Mi-

ami and Sacramento. Credit for this can go to Finch for using Ricky Rubio to get the team in a rhythm early and then using D'Angelo Russell to close out games. Also playing consistently are Jaden McDaniels, Jarred Vanderbilt and Juancho Hernangomez.

The only downside to the team's better play in recent weeks is that they might jeopardize their shot at the top draft pick for next season. A top prospect like Jalen Suggs or Evan Mobley could be a great addition to the young team and help set them up for future success. However, some of these potential players may be out of our reach depending on the Wolves' final season record.

Overall, the Timberwolves have ranked as one of the worst teams in the NBA this season, but there have also been some positives. It goes without saying that the team should have more wins, but they will continue to need to work harder to make that possible. If the Timberwolves will just play to the end of every game, better results will hopefully come in the future.

BEWARE OF RETURNING TO THIS JEDI

continued from page 6

Finally, I think making Princess Leia Luke's biological sister makes sense based on the ending of *The Empire Strikes Back*, but it's kind of strange having seen the make-out session that happened between them on Hoth in that film.

Besides my cons with the film, there is a lot of stuff I enjoy in *Return of the Jedi*. First off, I think Luke Skywalker, besides having the stupidest rescue mission plan, is pretty good in this movie. You can really tell by Mark Hamill's performance that he wants

Luke to come across as wiser and more focused, showing that he has changed from being a whining farm boy to a wise Jedi Knight. Second, everything with Luke, Vader and The Emperor is pretty great. Ian McDiarmid embraces the fact he is playing a truly evil character with no redeeming qualities, which is a great contrast to Luke. I love the fact that Luke's entire motivation in facing The Emperor is to turn Darth Vader back into Anakin Skywalker, not just to destroy The Emperor, even if that is a part of the mission. I also

think that, for a 1980s film, the action and visual effects are great. The final space battle with the Rebels and the Empire is more exciting and intense than any other space battle in any later *Star Wars* films, even the ones with updated visual effects and CGI.

While these positive elements help the film, I don't think they necessarily make *Return of the Jedi* a good movie due to its poor pacing, terrible dialogue and plot turns that make no sense logically or narratively. Overall, although I give *Return of the Jedi* two

out of five stars, it is important to note that I don't think the film ruins the original *Star Wars* trilogy. However, it can make you think differently about some scenes from the previous films. I know how much people like to trash the *Star Wars* sequel trilogy for not being planned, but after watching *Return of the Jedi* and comparing it to the previous two films, it's clear that George Lucas didn't fully map out his story even during the original trilogy. Either that or he is just into some weird things.