

Calming Room helps Cooper staff reduce their stress

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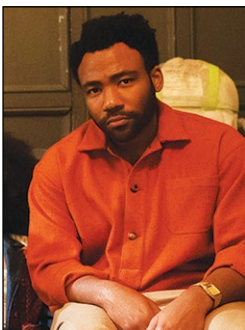
The Quill

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FX series *Atlanta* breaks new ground for television comedies

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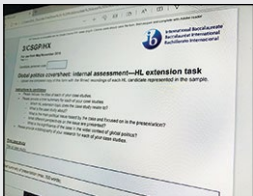
Robbinsdale Cooper High School

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SCHOOL TRIES NEW WAY TO HELP HAWKS CATCH UP



Photo by SHENG VANG

Students getting a C or better in their classes could take part in different activities, including playing basketball in the gym.

By SHENG VANG
Quill staff writer

Cooper transformed the week of January 10 to 13 into Catch Up and Relish Week for students to get caught up on work before the end of the first semester.

"As we are neared the end of the semester, we wanted to find time to support our students academically as well as provide the time for [them]

to have this happen during the day," Head Principal Mr. Herman said.

Due to the shortage of bus drivers and the increasing number of COVID cases, many students were missing school or missing assignments, resulting in an increase of incomplete grades. To address this, Herman sent out letters to families and staff members informing them of the change to that week.

At the beginning of the week, Herman reminded everyone that the expectation for the Catch Up and Relish Week was that teachers did not give any new lessons on the day their department was assigned and that student grades were up to date.

Each day of the week, three different departments were assigned to have their Catch Up and Relish day. On Monday, it was Math, Art and

AVID. On Tuesday, it was English, Physical Education, Health, Business and Family and Consumer Science. On Wednesday, it was Social Studies, Global Language and Special Education. On Thursday, it was Science, Music and English Language Learners.

Based on the students' grades, they were split into two groups: Catch Up Students and Relish Students. Catch Up Students were

Catch Up and Relish week was held January 10-13 before end of first semester

any student who had a D or NC. They had to stay in the classroom to work on missing or incomplete assignments. Relish Students were those who were passing their class with a grade of C or higher. These students were able to leave the classroom to go to any of the three available places: the cafeteria, the auditorium or the gym.

In the cafeteria, students were given the opportunity to have independent work time. For class periods one and six, the Media Center was open and students could also go there to study or check out books. According to Mr. King, who is the media specialist at Cooper, the Media Center gained "new fans" during this week.

"A bunch of students who never get to go to the center actually spent some time there, looked around at our collection and checked out some books," King said.

In the auditorium, there were movie and documentary options to watch. Attoria McDonald (10) said one of the movies she enjoyed watching in the auditorium was *Eternal*. She also remembers watching a documentary about the life of a blind

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District shares weather cancellation guidelines

School closures can be caused by extremes in temperature or issues related to snow and ice accumulation

By SHENG VANG
Quill staff writer

The Robbinsdale Area School District sometimes cancels school because of extreme weather related to snow and temperature. According to the Robbinsdale Area School District website, the reason for closing school is to ensure "the safety and well-being of students and staff."

Cooper Head Principal Mr. Herman said that weather-related school cancellations are sometimes necessary in order to ensure the safety of students and staff.

"Canceling school is not ideal but we always want to place the safety of our students and staff as a top priority," he said. "Whenever we need to shift to a different learning model, it can create a level of anxiety for many as it affects upcoming assessments, transportation, activities [and] athletics, new learning and more."

The decision to cancel school is closely looked at and discussed by the superintendent and other district staff members. There are two major causes for school cancellations: extreme temperature and snow.

Cancellation for extreme temperatures during the winter usually occurs when there is extreme cold or extreme wind chill due to a combination of cold temperatures and wind speed. During the spring or fall, cancellation for extreme temperatures may occur when there is extreme heat. According to the Robbinsdale Area School website, the extreme heat can cause a rapid increase in temperature in a building that doesn't have proper air conditioning.

When school is canceled because of extreme temperatures, most activities during the day and evening are canceled. This includes all pre-kindergarten through 12th grade classes and programs, including school-sponsored extracurriculars like field trips and early childhood programs. However, some programs still remain open. For example,



Photo by DAVINA BELLINGER

Excessive snowfall can lead to the district closing schools for the day.

the Adult Academic Program and community education classes usually remain in session.

Cancellations for snow days are due to heavy snow, ice or dangerous road conditions. Typically, all activities are canceled during the day and evening on snow days. However, some exceptions may include specialized tournaments or high school league events.

Depending on the cause of the cancellation, the time when the decision is made may differ. Decisions for cancellations due to ex-

WEATHER CANCELLATION continues on page 2

Cooper gets grant to become full-service community school

Planning is already underway for using the three-year grant to provide more support to students, families

By JACK ATKINSON
Quill staff writer

Cooper recently was named the recipient of a three-year grant to become a full-service community school.

"Being a full-service community school will help us create a framework for working collaboratively with building and community partners," Head Principal Mr. Herman said.

The announcement about the grant came in December 2021. Along with Cooper, Sandburg and Robbinsdale middle schools will also become full-service community schools.

According to the Minnesota Department of Education, the full-service community school model "is an evidence-based, school improvement strategy designed to help schools support students and their families so that they can fully engage in high-quality learning opportunities." As a full-service community school, Cooper will be able to offer integrated supports to students and their families, including mental health, oral health, vision screening, nutrition workshops and other social services.

"Ultimately, Cooper will be a resource hub for our students, their families and the surrounding community," Herman said.

With the grant now in place, the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year will be used to plan what the support services will look like and how they will be delivered to students and families.

"During this time, we will work with internal and external stakeholders [like] parents, students, community members, staff, administrators and [the Minnesota Department of Education] to assess needs and map out resources," Herman said.

One key part of implementing the new

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man and found it “pretty cool.”

In the gym, students got to play activities and release some energy. Christian Kabunangu (11) said he disliked the idea of having Catch Up and Relish week. However, he said he did enjoy going to the gym to play with his friends.

As Catch Up and Relish Week came to an end, students and staff members had many different thoughts about the effectiveness of the week. McDonald said Catch Up and Relish Week was nice and she would want to do it again. Similarly, Economics and U.S. History teacher Ms. Jacobsen said the week was useful.

“I like the idea of giving incentives to students who have earned good grades. I think it’s

“I like the idea of giving incentives to students who have earned good grades. I think it’s great to provide the relish opportunities. As stated by one of the seven economic principles, incentives matter,” Ms. Jacobsen said.

great to provide the relish opportunities. As stated by one of the seven economic principles, incentives matter,” she said.

Furthermore, Jacobsen also shared an idea she has for future Catch Up and Relish Weeks.

“I’m wondering if we could do some incentive by grade level on each day of the week during lunch time. Perhaps students could have the opportunity for an extended lunch, both A and B, and have the same relish opportunities without losing learning time. Students passing all classes could get a pass from their advisors instead of each teacher during class,” she said.

Agreeing with Jacobsen and McDonald, King also said the week seemed to be beneficial.

“Catch Up and Relish Week is a good idea. In fact, I think we should have one every quarter, instead of once a semester,” he said.

CANCELLATION
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treme temperatures is usually “made before 9:30 p.m. the evening before the impacted school day,” according to the Robbinsdale Area School website. As for canceling for a snow day, the decision is made usually by 5:30 a.m. on the day of school because “the event of slippery or excessive snow usually cannot be made until the conditions of roadways are assessed.”

After the decision is made, information is communicated to families and staff through multiple platforms. Families will receive robocalls, text messages and emails about the information. Additional information and notices will also be announced on school and district websites, social media and local media outlets.

“Minnesota weather can be difficult to predict, so be aware of the weather and be checking your Schoology, email and social media sites for updates,” Herman said.

GRANT
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program will be hiring a building coordinator and a family engagement outreach worker. The goal is to implement the program during the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years.

The grants for these programs add up to almost \$900,000. Herman said this money will help the school “support our students and families within our Cooper community.”

IB students start working on their IAs

Each diploma-level class requires a number of internal assessments for students seeking IB credit

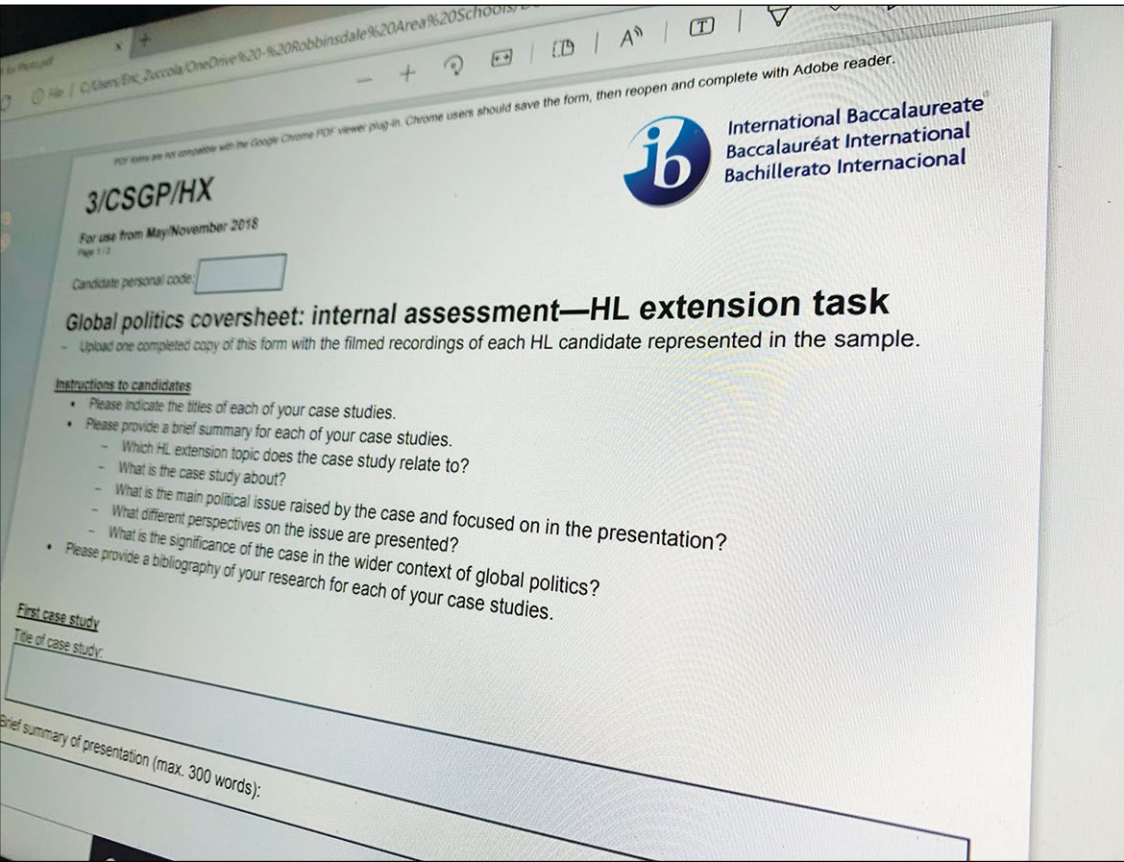


Photo by MR. ZUCCOLA

Most IAs include a digital form students must complete and upload along with their projects.

By NAIMA HUSSEN
Quill staff writer

Cooper students who are enrolled in International Baccalaureate (IB) courses are currently completing their internal assessments (IA). These assessments can vary from an individual oral to a written investigation of a topic.

“Teachers are asked to submit their IA deadlines to the IB office so that the IB staff can prepare an

IA calendar. The purpose of the calendar is to ensure that students are not bombarded with IA deadlines at any given moment,” Cooper’s IB Coordinator Ms. Christensen said.

IB designates one internal assessment for each diploma-level course, in addition to several external assessments.

“Each assessment component has a specific weighting, set by IBO. These weightings are then added together to come up with

a point value on a seven-point scale,” Christensen said.

Christensen added that students can receive college credit with a score of four or higher.

Each subject has a different type of IA. In English 11 Higher Level (HL), for example, students complete an oral commentary that takes place in the spring.

“Each student in the class will spend 10 minutes talking to me about two of the works that

Calming Room designed to help staff with stress

Staff members can access the first-floor facility during the school day by signing up for 15-minute slots

By DEVIN GRAY
Quill staff writer

Many staff members can get overwhelmed with day-to-day life at school or outside of school. However, not everyone has an opportunity to escape the stress and just calm down a bit. That’s why Cooper Head Principal Mr. Herman and Assistant Principal Mr. Howard helped create the Cooper Calming Room. This is a space where staff members can take some time to relax.

During the fundraising events that helped make the new Cooper weight room possible, there was a little extra money that Herman and Howard figured out they could use to benefit Cooper staff members because adults need healing just as much as students do. Howard said he and Herman felt like the creation of the Calming Room would provide “a quick get away” for Cooper staff during the school day.

Even though Cooper’s community partners loved this proposal, it was obvious that it would need to be funded by private investors. Once the room and the funding were approved, the Cooper team came up with a plan to allow teachers and staff to use the room on the first floor near the boys locker room



Photo by MR. ZUCCOLA

The Calming Room includes massage chairs and special lighting.

during the school day by signing up for 15-minute slots.

“Staff [are] given an opportunity to sign up for one, 15-minute session per week. With our schedule, this will give us an opportunity to get 160 sessions per week. I send out on Fridays the schedule sign up for the following week. Teachers are able

to schedule during prep time or lunch, not during PLC times or HLL supervision. Support staff may book during their 15-minute breaks,” Howard said.

In the room are two massage chairs, special lighting, a music player, an aromatherapy device and a coffee maker. It is recommended that staff members bring

their own coffee cups for the Keurig machine. Staff members are asked to clean up any mess they make and to refill the water in the coffee maker. Additionally, they are asked to sanitize their space in the room by using a spray bottle to avoid passing illness.

“[Staff is asked to] use hand sanitizer as your enter and leave room,” Howard said. “If you turn it on, please turn it off. If you make a mess, please clean it up. Please use the spray bottle provided as well as paper towels to wipe down any equipment after you are done using it for the day.”

In addition to the Calming Room, Herman and Howard are also encouraging staff members to make use of the new weight room if they want to do so for exercise, which can also reduce stress. Staff members have access to the weight room during the earlier hours of the school day, 6-7 a.m. If staff members want in any time earlier than that, they must see if the building is open by contacting a custodian. During the school day, staff wanting to use the weight room need to check with the physical education teachers.

“Staff wanting to go into

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Jefferson Awards celebrate individuals who help their community

Cooper's Student Council selects monthly recipients of the award, which is affiliated with a national group

By KEN WARD
Quill staff writer

Cooper’s Student Council is continuing its tradition of nominating people and groups for the monthly Jefferson Award. This award is designed to highlight individuals and organizations for their commitment to service.

“Student Council feels that it is important to recognize the good that is happening around us,” Student Council advisor Ms. Geise said. “By recognizing others, we feel as though we are multiplying good. We believe the more good we see, the more we do.”

The Jefferson Award is affiliated with the national organization Multiplying Good. Multiplying Good was founded in 1972 by Jacqueline Kennedy

Onassis, Senator Robert Taft, Jr. and Sam Beard as a group focused on extraordinary achievement in public service. They try to recognize individuals across the nation who build better communities and contribute to better the future for those around them. According to the organization’s website, the “Jefferson Awards puts the nominee among the most distinguished individuals in America and part of our national community of service.”

At the Cooper level, members of Student Council ask for nominations from students and staff. Once those nominations come in, the Student Council discusses the nominations and votes on who will receive the award.

“So many great things are happening that go unrecognized

and this prestigious award allows us to make a dent in noticing that greatness,” Geise said.

The Student Council has already awarded a number of Cooper students, staff members and groups during the 2021-2022 school year. One student recipient was Andrew Tran (12), who the Student Council described as a “model student” who has “been a good resource for his friends and classmates.”

Meanwhile, a staff member who received the award was choir teacher Ms. Rowan. The Student Council recognized Rowan for “being an amazing instructor” who “goes out of her way to make students comfortable and successful in class.”

Finally, an example of a student group that was recognized with this award is Cooper’s His-

panos Unidos group. The Student Council cited the hard work done by the organization to raise funds and support the group’s members.

“They have been a great example of cooperation and initiative,” the Student Council said in a released statement.

Geise said the Jefferson Award is largely designed to highlight and bring positive attention to the people who receive it. However, she added that the award may have some additional benefits as well.

“The recipients can benefit by using it on college and job applications,” Geise said. “It’s a great way to share stories and spark conversations.”

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School spirit benefits all students

Every member of the Cooper community has a role to play in promoting positive attitudes about the school

By ERIN CHUNN
Quill staff writer

School spirit is the desire to celebrate your school and all the people in it. Having school spirit activities is one way to build a sense of community and have fun. Activities like pep rallies or theme days like dressing up as twins or as your favorite character are school spirit activities that bond us together. Spreading school spirit and making sure everyone has a chance to be involved is simple. You can invite clubs and sports to participate in pep rallies; you can make sure teachers, staff and faculty show school spirit and make school a positive place to learn; and you can maintain the reputation of being a good school so people will feel spirited enough to want to participate.

One way to promote school spirit is through school groups and sports teams. Free promotion is easiest when you can get each person from each sport and club to participate in school events and promote them on social media. Giving each participating club and sport a role in the school spirit activities is key to getting the larger Cooper community involved. School spirit activities are brought to the next level when students share their creative ideas and memories on a platform. Promoting your school spirit will not only get the student body interested, but also inspire other schools, spreading all-around positivity.

Another way to help spread school spirit is through teacher



Photo courtesy of TALONS

Events like school pepfests provide a chance for Hawks to join together in celebration.

participation. Teachers can help by actively promoting school spirit. For example, during homecoming week at Cooper, the AVID teachers often excuse a single Cornell Note assignment for each day a student participates in the homecoming activities. This persuades AVID students to share the dates for spirit activities online, to tell other students about the events and to participate themselves. I know some teachers give candy and treats to promote school spirit. Rewards of this sort can give students something to look forward to and an additional reason to get

involved.

Finally, just being a great community worth celebrating is the best way to spread school spirit. Caring about school spirit activities is unlikely if the student body doesn't care about the school itself. Individually, it's easy to distance yourself from school, but when multiple students do it, noticeable changes need to be made. Cooper traditionally has great school spirit days like the '90s day and jersey days. We always go big, so it's fun to see everyone dress up. The more of us who take part and try to raise the school spirit, the more

school spirit will improve.

All in all, Cooper school spirit improves when students help promote events on social media, when the teachers and staff participate and when the student body feels positive about the school. Giving each club and sport time to shine is extremely important to show we as a community care about the talent at Cooper. The fact that our participation and excitement level is high during school spirit weeks proves that Cooper cares about its community. School spirit is strong at Cooper because of the contributions made by all the members of its community.

Daily fighting in our school is getting old

It is sad that the news of fights breaking out at Cooper has become so routine

By MARIAH RILEY
Quill staff writer

The number of fights we had at school during first semester was surprising. After being in distance learning for a full school year, it was sad to come back and see students attacking each other what seemed like every day. Although staff members would try to step in and stop these fights, at times it seemed like there were too many students fighting for the adults to really do something about it. It is clear that students need to step up and change their behavior before this gets out of control.

There does not seem to be a single reason why students get in fights at school. Sometimes, it is relationship issues that get out of hand, like two friends who suddenly have something happen that turns them into enemies. Sometimes, it starts with students posting things on social media that leads to physical confrontations.

My biggest concern about all of this is less about the fighting and more about people getting unnecessarily hurt. Not only are the fighting students putting themselves in danger, it becomes dangerous for every spectator who crowds around the fighters.

Sometimes, it is outside-of-school conflicts that end up coming into the school.

While there are many reasons why these fights get started at school, the moment they get started, we see the same issues that keep the fights going. First, if students fight in front of everybody else at school, that means they can prove in front of an audience that they not scared. Once this process starts, crowds of spectators start showing up, and many times this makes the fight escalate quickly. Also, these crowds make it harder for adults to try and stop the fight, especially when people in the crowd start filming the fight to post it to social media.

My biggest concern about all of this is less about the fighting and more about people getting unnecessarily hurt. Not only are the fighting students putting themselves in danger, it becomes dangerous for every spectator who crowds around the fighters and it becomes dangerous for the adults who put themselves in harm's way to deescalate the situation. If we want Cooper to be a safe school, students need to do their part to help maintain the peace and make sure their own actions do not instigate a fight or make one that is happening worse than it already is. I just do not want to see people get hurt anymore.

January 6 is a dark day in history of American democracy

Despite instigating an armed insurrection, many current and former political leaders have not be punished for their actions

By NAIMA HUSSEN
Quill staff writer

I woke up pretty late on January 6, 2021 because I was watching coverage of the Georgia senate election results the night before. These elections would decide who got to control Congress for the next two years. Also important was January 6 itself, on which a joint session of Congress would be happening at the U.S. Capitol to officially confirm that Joe Biden would be the next president of the United States. I wasn't interested in watching this session because it is a largely symbolic process that happens every four years. What could possibly go wrong?

The day started with then-President Donald Trump holding a rally near the White House for his supporters. At the rally, he called on then-Vice President Mike Pence to reject Biden's win and send the votes back to the states. Meanwhile, the joint session of Congress started. At the end of his speech, Trump said, "We are going to the Capitol. We're going try to give them the kind of pride and boldness that they need to take back our country."

Trump didn't go to the Capitol. Instead, he returned to the White House while his supporters headed toward the Capitol building. As this march unfolded, suspicious packages were found



Photo courtesy of WIKIMEDIA.ORG

The storming of the U.S. Capitol resulted in numerous fatalities.

at the offices of the Republican National Committee and the Democratic National Committee, which were later confirmed to be pipe bombs. Before long, the crowd arrived at the Capitol and an unprecedented attack started.

The attack on the Capitol led to the deaths of seven people: Ashli Babbitt, an Air Force veteran; Kevin Gresson, who died of a heart attack; Bosanne Boyland, who appeared to have been crushed in the stampede; Benjamin Philips, who died of a stroke; officer Brian Sicknick, who was attacked by the mob; and officers Jeffrey Smith and Howard Liebengood, who took their lives after this tragic insurrection.

One year later, a bipartisan

Senate investigation has found failures at every level of government. A joint probe by the Senate Homeland Security and Rules Committees found significant failures by federal intelligence agencies to warn of the potential for violence on that day and a lack of planning and preparation by the U.S Capitol Police. While I agree with the conclusions of this joint probe, I believe that the former president and members of Congress played a huge role as well.

Shockingly, the former president and his allies continue to play down the violence that occurred at the U.S. Capitol on January 6. For example, Florida Republican Matt Gaetz has even been voicing outright lies about the events of

that day, recently saying, "They were masquerading to be Trump supporters. In fact, they were members of the violent terrorist group Antifa." Obviously, this has been proven to be false.

Not to be outdone, the former president also continues to spread lies about January 6 and the legitimacy of the 2020 election. On September 16, 2021, Trump said, "Our hearts and minds are with the people being persecuted so unfairly relating to the January 6 protest concerning the rigged presidential election." Although these people are being prosecuted for crimes such as using deadly weapons or causing bodily injuries, the former president seems to think it's justified because they were protesting against "a rigged election," which is also demonstrably false.

The events of January 6, 2021 were tragic. People lost their lives due to the lies intentionally spread by the president and his allies about the 2020 election. The ongoing effort to downplay this event has been awful to watch and horribly disrespectful to the memories of the police officers who put their lives on the line that day. It is simply the case that the attack on the Capitol on January 6 was an insurrection and a threat to our democracy. All aspects of that day must be fully investigated so that the responsible parties, even those who have or had positions of political power, are punished for their actions.

The Quill

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Teen drug use can be curbed with support

Studies show an uptick in the number of high schoolers who have used chemicals

By PHILIP ROBERT
Quill staff writer

Teenage drug use is a problem at most high schools. The smoke from drugs being used is often one of the reasons the smoke alarm goes off at our school, which makes both the staff and the students angry. If you are student who uses the bathroom during class, it is not unusual to see people in the bathroom or in an area where the teacher can't see them trying to use drugs. This brings up the questions of why students do drugs and what can be done about it at the school level.

It is often peer pressure that first causes teens to try drugs. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), by the time individuals reach their senior year of high school, 70 percent will have tried alcohol, 50 percent will have abused an illicit drug, 40 percent will have smoked a cigarette and 20 percent will have used a prescription drug recreationally or for non-medical purposes. When you apply those percentages to the size of the student body at Cooper, it is clear that the number of students who have used drugs at some point is high.

Also complicating this issue are shifts in the drug devices used by today's teens. Thanks to vaping devices, chemicals are easier to use and hide. Teens can now vape elements of weed and other chemicals to get a high. The thing is that all these vaped chemicals are bad for you. According to Inverse, certain THC vape brands like Dank Vapes are sometimes filled with a thickener called Vitamin E acetate. This is thought to cause serious and sometimes deadly lung conditions. Also, a 2018 study of 3,826 teens found that when teenagers increased their cannabis use over the course of a year, their working memory skills declined. Clearly, there are many ways in which drug use can be bad for you.

Aside from the health issues, drug use at school obviously breaks the rules. How students are disciplined when caught using drugs can be different depending on the situation. One staff member who typically works with these students is chemical specialist Ms. Stout.

"Each school handles substance use violations differently. Some are referred to me and some handle it in other ways. It's usually left up to the administrative team how they want to respond," she said.

When a student has concerns that substance use is having a bad impact on their life, Stout can often step in to provide guidance and support.

"The school will have me meet with the students and explore the substance use. For example, what's being used, how long it's been used, in what ways is it impacting the student, etc. If during that conversation it is discovered that the student wants additional supports and it's more than can be given in the school setting, I can help the student explore programs and resources that might meet the need of addressing substance use more effectively," she said.

Some students face chemical struggles that might require them to get outside-of-school help. Cooper social worker Ms. Mersy said there are some resources she typically suggests to students.

"My go-tos are usually suggesting either Fairview or Hazelden depending on the family's insurance," she said.

According to Mersy, Fairview Recovery Services is a non-profit organization that helps treat addiction. Since it is linked up the University of Minnesota's medical division, the care tends to be quite professional.

Meanwhile, Hazelden is a treatment facility that has been saving lives and restoring families from substance abuse and addiction for 70 years. While they are more internationally known than Fairview, they more or less do the same job.

Ultimately, the problem of drug use in school will likely not go away, but the good news is that there are supports at Cooper and outside of the school for students who might need help. At the end of the day, students come to school to learn, not use drugs. Drugs are never going to solve the problems that might lead to teens using them. Before it comes to that point, students should remember that there are always counselors and other staff members at Cooper to help you with your issues.

All-gender restroom is essential

All Cooper students should be doing their part to make sure this bathroom is properly used and cared for



Photo by DAVINA BELLINGER

The all-gender bathroom, which is located in the second floor B circle by the English classrooms, is open to every student.

By ERIN CHUNN
Quill staff writer

Cooper's all-gender bathroom on the second floor has been a topic of concern because it's a room with no cameras that people of any gender can use. Of course, being comfortable in your everyday life is important, and the all-gender bathroom is essential for students in the LGBTQ+ community. At the same time, the all-gender bathroom isn't just for students who don't identify as male or female; some students use it because they just need to do their business in private. Whatever the reason is, Cooper's all-gender bathroom is necessary, especially since the other student bathrooms in the building are often closed.

Having access to the all-gender bathroom is important because it is sometimes the only open bathroom in the second-floor B circle. The reason the boys and girls bathrooms are often closed is because of students abusing them. Unfortunately, students have gotten the all-gender bathroom closed because of vandalism as well. With these facts in mind, it's easy to argue that stu-

dents aren't mature enough to have a all-gender bathroom. However, the people who genuinely need that bathroom would be the ones who are suffering. In a high school, there are some students who are fresh out of middle school and some who are entering their adult life, which means that maturity levels are all over the place and mischief is inevitable. The bathroom vandalism that has been happening is a problem

As mentioned before, the all-gender bathroom is located in the second floor B circle, which is also known as the English circle. The English circle is heavily populated, so attempting to conspicuously sneak into the all-gender bathroom to do something bad is a terrible plan. It's a single room, so keeping track of who's coming and going is easier than monitoring a multi-stall bathroom. With proper security and

place where people who can't focus on their own business can be alone and leave others alone so no one feels "uncomfortable." For anyone who needs the peace and isolation a single bathroom can provide for even just a few seconds, the all-gender bathroom is one of the safest spots in our very public building.

Overall, the all-gender bathroom is essential to protect the privacy of students, even though some students have abused this privacy in the past. Since every bathroom gets basically the same treatment from students, these issues are to be expected. However, the entrance to the all-gender bathroom is monitored, which should help ensure its proper use. As we

About three years ago, there was an opinion piece in *The Quill* in which the writer discussed wanting to use the bathroom but feeling "uncomfortable" because a transgender woman was also using the bathroom. This is another reason why all-gender bathrooms are so important. There needs to be a place where people who can't focus on their own business can be alone and leave others alone so no one feels "uncomfortable."

that makes the all-gender bathroom even more necessary, but also puts that bathroom at risk.

Besides the problem of vandalism, there have also been worries that students will abuse the all-gender bathroom by using it for inappropriate reasons. While this concern is definitely valid, the presence of cameras, hall monitors and a visible entrance helps keep the all-gender bathroom under some control.

largely respectful users, having a all-gender bathroom shouldn't be an issue at all.

About three years ago, there was an opinion piece in *The Quill* in which the writer discussed wanting to use the bathroom but feeling "uncomfortable" because a transgender woman was also using the bathroom. This is another reason why all-gender bathrooms are so important. There needs to be a

go toward being a much more accepting society, everyone should be able to do their business when they need to in a space that is safe. The all-gender bathroom is not for any specific group since it caters to anyone who needs a level of privacy. The all-gender bathroom is just as important as any other bathroom, so let's take care of it so the school can keep it open.

Climate change has become an existential threat to Earth

Although the problem seems daunting, mobilizing governments and citizens to take action is not impossible

From the Editors

Climate change is one of the most prevalent issues affecting our planet's future. Every day, we encounter new climate-related challenges that threaten our well-being as humans in the present and in the years to come.

Climate change simply defined is the rapid temperature growth in our world over the past 50 years. The people who deny climate change are choosing to ignore the fact that human-based carbon dioxide and other pollutants in the atmosphere are the main cause of the raise in temperature. Without careful and calculated efforts, climate change will remain a stark problem that will require us to address the negative effects of pollutants and the deniers of environmental science.

Pollutants are causing a variety of extremely negative repercussions that will affect our entire world. For example, there are an extreme number of glaciers that are being melted and destroyed by the rise in temperatures. This has

a negative impact on the wildlife in Antarctica and other polar areas. If tragic videos of polar bears dying in freezing water are not incentive enough to make a change, we do not know what is.

There is also an impact on humans by these melted glaciers. The estimated rise in sea level over the next 50 years with climate change remaining consistent could put New York City and Florida underwater. Other examples of climate change and its negative repercussions are the effects the change in weather will have on agriculture. With the constant rise in temperatures, there will be water shortages for farming, which will lead to drought, wildfires, increases in insects and disease, and flooding.

As a generation born in an age when climate change is affecting our lives, it is our responsibility to do what we can to help our earth. Because of the rise in temperatures, our world will continue to face major depletion to its wildlife and resources unless real change is enforced.

Climate change is denied by many people in the U.S. The

reason for this seems evident: ignorance. Climate change is when carbon dioxide and multiple other air pollutants and gases collect in the atmosphere, where they then consume sunlight and radiation from the sun. These pollutants get trapped in our atmosphere when they encounter heat, causing the earth to warm up rapidly, temperatures to fluctuate and storms to occur constantly. This is called the greenhouse effect.

These facts have been documented and supported. Why, then, does proven science get disregarded? One reason is that one of the most prominent people in the U.S., our former president, does not "believe" in climate change. This not only destroys the hope for a more sustainable planet, it creates division on an issue that should not even be debated.

There is clear evidence that the negative effects of climate change need to be addressed. It is not a hoax created by Chinese industries, which, in fact, produce some of the highest amounts of pollution worldwide. All in all, ignorance will be our pitfall in the future when it comes to cli-

mate change. We hope none of the intelligent and kind people we know stand by and watch this happen.

To create change as regular citizens, we need to start small. First, we should gather the facts so we know what is actually going on. Next, we must develop an argument, not for the purpose of arguing, but rather for making change through finding what is negatively affected by pollutants and addressing those problems. Lastly, we need to start getting involved. This might look like biking more in the summer, having hard conversations with certain relatives, or volunteering for environmental agencies. Whatever it looks like, remember that nothing is too small to create real change.

This earth is will only be as good as we let it be, so let us never forget what is causing it harm. Climate change and its negative effects both on the environment and people will not stop, and neither will ignorance. The hope is that we are strong and persevering people who can do something about this problem. Let us prove that we are.

Cobra kicks new life into *Karate* series

The Netflix show *Cobra Kai*, which is heading into its fifth season, focuses on characters from the original *Karate Kid* films

By LUKE REKELA-JASPER
Quill staff writer

Cobra Kai is a martial arts comedy-drama streaming TV series created by Josh Heald, Jon Hurwitz and Hayden Schlossberg. The show serves as a sequel to the *Karate Kid* film series. The story takes place 34 years after bullied teen Daniel LaRusso (Ralph Macchio) learned how to balance his life with help from mentor Mr. Miyagi (Pat Morita) and defeated All-Valley Karate champion Johnny Lawrence (William Zabka) and the dojo Cobra Kai. As the series starts, we get the point-of-view of Johnny Lawrence, whose rivalry with his teenage arch-enemy rekindles after he decides to reopen the Cobra Kai dojo to help his teenage neighbor, Miguel Diaz (Xolo Maridueña), face off against his own bullies.

The Karate Kid has always been one of those 1980s movies that just about everybody knows and can quote and reference even without seeing it. In late 2020, when I learned that *Cobra Kai* would have its third season premiering on Netflix on January 1, 2021, I decided to give the first episode of the series a shot. After only a few days, I was a *Cobra Kai* fan, having binged all 20 episodes and invested myself in the show's characters.

It's truly amazing to me how well the creators of this show redeem the character of Johnny Lawrence, who was the typical '80s bully in the original film. In the show, he's a 50-something, politically-incorrect drunk whose life has been on a downhill spiral ever since his defeat in the 1984 All-Valley Karate Tournament. While being an immediate underdog, Johnny's likability spikes to a high once he begins to act as a surrogate father and sensei to bullied teen Miguel Diaz. It's similar to the dynamic from the original film between Mr. Miyagi and Daniel, but what makes it work is that, while Mr. Miyagi aimed to teach Daniel karate to balance his life, Johnny is teaching Miguel karate to defend himself and gain confidence. Zabka and Maridueña's chemistry is unmatched, and their bond is definitely the heart of the show and my favorite aspect.

As for Daniel LaRusso, the writers perfectly position him as the antagonist to Johnny and their rivalry is easily another key part of what makes this show so good. Other supporting characters who did not appear in previous films include Daniel's daughter, Sa-



Photo courtesy of SONY PICTURES

Johnny and Daniel (left to right) still have a rivalry in the present day as *Cobra Kai* unfolds.

mantha LaRusso (Mary Mouser); Johnny's estranged son, Robby Keene (Tanner Buchanan); Daniel's wife, Amanda LaRusso (Courtney Hennebler); and Miguel's friends, Eli "Hawk" Moskowitz (Jacob Bertrand) and Demetri Alexopoulos (Gianna DeCenzo). Hawk is definitely the character I think most viewers will become the most emotionally involved in. His transformation from a quiet kid to a back-tattooed beast is easily one of the best character arcs I've seen on television in a long time. Additionally, the fourth and newest season reintroduces Terry Silver (Thomas Ian Griffith) from *The Karate Kid Part III*, who is easily my favorite villain on the show. I am excited to see where the fifth season will take his character.

While I think *Cobra Kai* excels at creating great heroes and villains, something else I think *Cobra Kai* excels at is exploring the gray area separating good and bad. The show does not necessarily want you to root for either Daniel or Johnny to beat one another. Instead, the characters are developed in a way that makes viewers want them to squash their stupid rivalry. Some of my favorite episodes of the show are ones that feature Daniel and Johnny both realizing how similar they are. The gray area is further explored in the transformations of the new characters, many of whom begin to lose themselves as they gain martial arts skills.

Much like the original *Karate Kid* films, balance remains a major theme in *Cobra Kai*. In

fact, this theme plays a part in just about every character's story. The fourth season, which is my favorite, primarily deals with balance. In it, Daniel and Johnny's karate dojos form a truce and begin learning each other's distinct styles. This storyline also further highlights the hilarious rivalry between these two senseis.

Another big theme in *Cobra Kai* is redemption, which becomes especially evident beginning in the third season. Even though it isn't necessarily realistic for people to just immediately change and be forgiven, I've found the redemptive arcs featured in the show to be satisfying, likely because of how charming the show is.

Josh Heald, Jon Hurwitz and Hayden Schlossberg have created a show that can be described with one word: fun. The writers know exactly what this show is and clearly have a lot of love for the *Karate Kid* film series. They manage to properly honor the original films while also appealing to new audiences and providing just the perfect amount of nostalgia. While there is some off-and-on-again cringey teenage dialogue to get through, I think that this criticism is absolutely passable because of how vibrant the writers make this world feel.

The writers also highlight a few social issues that are worth mentioning. Bullying plays a major role in motivating many of the younger characters into learning karate, and, especially in the fourth season, the show does not shy away from dealing with how awful being bullied

feels. Interestingly, the show offers both perspectives, that of the bully and the bullied. Even though it's always been obvious that bullying is awful, *Cobra Kai* really cements it as a disgusting behavior.

Another theme the show deals with is abandonment. This theme plays a major role for several characters. Perhaps the character this theme best applies to is Robby, the neglected son of Johnny. Robby's lack of a mentor leads him down a dark and familiar path. It is through this compelling character that the abandonment theme is effectively explored.

Lastly, I'd like to discuss the martial arts aspect of *Cobra Kai*. It's crazy to compare the season finales of the first and fourth seasons and see how much better the main cast has gotten at karate and martial arts. Even the returning cast members from the *Karate Kid* franchise are looking even better than they were in the '80s. I think the action is really well balanced and perfectly paced, and the fights primarily are emotionally motivated, which makes them more interesting.

In conclusion, despite the show sometimes bending the rules and logistics of the real world, I think *Cobra Kai* is a must-watch for anybody who has Netflix. I give the entirety of the show five stars out of five, purely because of how fun and watchable it is. Now that an official release date has been confirmed, *Cobra Kai*'s fifth season is my most-anticipated TV show of 2022.

Tekken 7 brings renewed energy to old franchise

Players who enjoy the fighting genre will find much to like in this game



Photo courtesy of BANDAI NAMCO

Tekken 7's chief attributes are a catchy soundtrack, strong character design and breathtaking gameplay.

By DEVIN GRAY
Quill staff writer

Tekken 7 is a fighting game produced and published by Bandai Namco Entertainment. It was released in 2015 for arcades and two years later in 2017 for consoles. I believe that *Tekken 7* is a great game for people who love a challenge. Also, it is a game I feel nostalgic about. I believe *Tekken 7* is a good game because it has great character design, intense gameplay and great music.

Tekken 7 takes place on a global scale. The game follows the feuds within the Mishima family tree. As a young boy, Kazuya Mishima was thrown off a cliff by his father, Heihachi. Twenty years later, Kazuya wants to exact his revenge when his father announces the King of Iron Fist Tournament. Little do they both know that they will be getting a surprise appearance by Gouki Akuma from *Street Fighter*, who has a mission to take them both down thanks to a request by Kazuya's mother, Kasumi Mishima. With bad blood in the air, the family feud surges throughout the game.

The first highlight of the game is the soundtrack. *Tekken* games have always had great soundtracks throughout the past. When *Tekken 7* was released, they took it a step further. Every track seems to bring you into the battle with the characters. Each song for each stage has a techno feel, while still bringing traditional music from the respective countries in which each stage takes place.

Much like the great music, the game's creators also took it a step further with character design. Each character's design says something key about that character. Two good examples of this are King and Armor King, two luchadores who have been feuding because one claims the other is an imposter. While both characters wear jaguar masks and wrestling attire, the Armor King is different thanks to his dark jaguar mask and the armor on his body. The character designs take a crazy turn when it comes to customization in *Tekken 7*, which can give you endless possibilities to dress up your characters in ways only you can.

The final highlight of *Tekken 7* is the breathtaking gameplay. At low levels, *Tekken 7* allows the player to execute devastating and brutal combos upon their opponents. There is a wide range of moves in characters. In fact, each character has more than 90 moves with specific animations, which can allow for complex mind games. Meanwhile, at a higher level, *Tekken 7* can also be played globally as an Esport. The game has a community that has created some of the greatest moments in competitive fighting game history.

Overall, you should definitely play *Tekken 7*. It is a great game thanks to the simple yet complex features of its gameplay, the great music and the unlimited character customization. *Tekken 7* is a four-star game out of five.

Time is super introduction to new rapper Supa

So Supa's laid-back delivery will remind music fans of other current performers like YoungBoy

By BRIGHT DEKU
Quill staff writer

So Supa has done it this time with his album *My Type of Time*, which was released in 2021. I think people should listen to this album because So Supa is not really well known at this point. Also, his excellent songs will give you some new things to add to your playlist. I think *My Type of Time* is an album that will get a mixed response from listeners because So Supa gives off a YoungBoy-type rapping flow, which some people like and some people don't. Although I like this album, your opinion will be based on your preferences about rapping style.

So Supa is a rapper that just recently started making music, which is why he's not known by many listeners. In fact, he just recently started uploading his music in 2020. Even after the release of *My Type of Time* in 2021, many music fans have not really looked into him or his music, largely because he doesn't have a good sponsorship deal or a major music label to support him. One thing that has helped him is TikTok, where his single, "Dumb



Photo courtesy of SO SUPA

So Supa has gained his fame through posting music to TikTok.

Crazy" [sic], became a popular song that got him some attention.

One of the best parts of *My Type of Time* is So Supa's beats. In fact, I would say that the beats are what carries all of his best songs. Supa is a chill rapper who doesn't yell like other rappers, which means his beats are im-

portant. His soft voice creates a tone that goes over his beats smoothly. This is especially noticeable on his song, "Dumb Crazy."

Although So Supa sounds the same on many of his songs, there are a few tracks where he completely changes his tone.

I like that decision because it stops the album from feeling like you're listening to the same thing over and over again. The song "Dead Walkin'," for example, starts out with a beat that sounds like heavy metal. Hearing a song like that from So Supa is surprising, which keeps the album interesting.

Another element of So Supa's music I really like is his lyrics. Sometimes, it just seems like he is saying random stuff that doesn't make sense. However, once you listen to the songs back to back, you will see that it all connects. The song "No Luck" is a good example of this. In this song, he raps, "But I've been working on myself. I'm just trying to improve me." I feel like a lot of people can relate to lyrics like that.

Overall, *My Type of Time* by So Supa isn't one of the best albums out there, but I think you should still listen to it. If you like songs made by YoungBoy, So Supa is an artist you will definitely enjoy. I feel like So Supa is inspired by YoungBoy and he makes songs that are similar to that artist. I give this album 3.5 out of five stars.

Teen fiction fans will find no fault in bright *Stars*

John Green's famous 2012 novel still has something to offer today's readers

By TAJANNEA JENKINS
Quill staff writer

The Fault in Our Stars was written by John Green and published in 2012 by Dutton Books. It is an amazing book that makes you think. Unlike other books, it has a somewhat surprising ending. As you read the book, you will fall in love with the characters and get lost in the story. As a result, you will never see the ending coming. This book is among my favorites simply because I love the characters and it's the most well-written book I've ever read. You should read this book because it's life-changing. Also, you should read it because of the plot and how amazingly quotable it is.

The Fault in Our Stars is a young adult novel about two kids with cancer who meet at a support group, become friends and, eventually, fall in love. The two main characters' names are Hazel Lancaster and Augustus Waters. Both of them have different backgrounds and different stories. The biggest difference between them is that Hazel has stage-four lung cancer while Augustus is in remission and has been for years. As they start to become friends and develop a connection, Hazel introduces Augustus to a book called *An Imperial Affliction*. Augustus then has the idea to email the author and try to visit him. This takes them both on an adventure that eventually changes their lives for the better.

One reason I love this novel is simply because I love Augustus Waters. The way he is written is simply amazing. He is relatable and consistently positive, even when there are moments during which he shouldn't be. While reading the book, I am able to picture exactly who he is. Even though he isn't the main focus of the novel, there are moments when you wish you lived in the world the way he sees it. His character is why I say that this book makes you think because he questions everything. You start the book thinking he's the side character but end it feeling like he's the main character.

Another reason this book is one of my favorites is the plot and how it is developed. When you first start the story, you don't really know what's going to happen. Eventually, you feel comfortable and assume this story is going to have a happy ending. However, once you see the hints foreshadowing future developments in the novel, you begin speculating, which makes you want to read all the way to the end. In fact, the conclusion features the last thing you would expect as a reader. I secretly think John Green's plan all along is to make you sob first and follow the plot second.

Perhaps the best thing about this book is the writing itself. *The Fault in Our Stars* is probably the most quotable book of all time. As you are reading the book, there are many quotes that stand out. One of my personal favorites is the one that actually leads to the title of the novel: "But it is the nature of stars to cross, and never was Shakespeare more wrong than when he has Cassius note, 'The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves.'" I like this quote because it captures in just a few words what the entire book is about.

The Fault in Our Stars is a book that can change everything about how the reader looks at life. It's a book that can't be skipped because every part of it has a deeper meaning. It's also a book that will make you cry so hard that your eyes will be sore for weeks. And, yes, I am speaking from experience. I give this book five out of five stars.

Performances lift musical to great *Heights*

Based on the Broadway musical, 2021 film *In the Heights* puts Latino characters front and center

By MYRA SINCHI
Quill staff writer

The original Broadway musical *In the Heights* was developed into a movie directed by John M. Chu. The film was released on June 4, 2021. This movie deals with important problems in the world, including immigration, racism and college tuition. People should watch this movie in order to get an insight into the struggles of being Latino. *In the Heights* is a good movie that delivers a powerful message.

In the Heights includes the main characters Usnavi (Anthony Ramos), Vanessa (Melissa Barrera), Nina Rosario (Leslie Grace) and Benny (Corey Hawkins). The story takes place in Washington Heights, New York. We start off with Usnavi telling a group of kids about a community that shares its hopes and dreams for the future. Every character has their own dream or, as Usnavi says, a "suenito." Usnavi dreams of taking over his dad's old bar in the Dominican Republic. Vanessa dreams of becoming a fashion designer and moving away from Washington Heights. Nina dreams of making it big at Stanford University.

One of the positive aspects I noticed about this movie is the music. Lin-Manuel Miranda started writing the musical when he was in high school. The music throughout the movie helps you understand the characters better and can help you relate to real-life problems. The music always shows insight into the future dreams the characters have. For example, the song "Breathe," sung by Leslie Grace, is about her pressure to succeed since she is the first one to get out of Washington Heights and fears disappointment. Meanwhile, the opening song "In The Heights," led by Anthony Ramos, introduces the characters and gives insight



Photo courtesy of WARNER BROS.

The original Broadway musical was written by Lin-Manuel Miranda, who is also known for *Hamilton*.

into Washington Heights. The song helps viewers see how all characters have their own problems and stresses the importance of going forward and moving through the day. The last song that delivers a powerful message is "Carnaval Del Barrio." This beautifully represents the Latino community and how it makes it through hard times.

Another aspect of the film I enjoy is the choreography. Christopher Scott, who is the choreographer for the film, does a great job. In fact, the original dancers from the Broadway musical are used in the film. The choreography for the song "96,000" takes place in the water. The dancers perform underwater and in the water itself. Some performers dance up the lockers by the side of the pool while others dive into the water. Another effective dance number is during the song "In the Club," which has a Latin, hip-hop vibe to it.

Melissa Barrera, who plays Vanessa, is the main focus of this dance. She definitely keeps up with the beat.

The last aspect of the film that works well is the screenplay. Overall, I think the story is good. It really keeps the viewers wondering what will happen next and where these characters will end up. The story is about a community in which the people all have their own hopes and dreams for the future. The dreams of all these characters are demonstrated in an interesting way during the film.

Another important aspect of the screenplay is the way in which it includes real-world problems like racism and the struggle of being undocumented. Racism is mostly brought up through Nina's storyline. She goes to Stanford and is searched due to her being Latina. At the same time, I feel the movie could have done more to express the racism experienced by other characters as well.

Another issue the movie deals with is citizenship. Sonny, who is Usnavi's cousin, is undocumented and struggles to be able to travel or go to college. This is a real-world problem. Every kid deserves to go to college, regardless of citizenship. This storyline is well written and I think it could help a lot of other people relate to this social issue.

Overall, the film version of the Broadway musical *In the Heights* is excellent. This movie does a great job of showing the Latino community. If you are someone who is big on musicals and enjoys learning about new cultures, this is the right movie for you. *In the Heights* will have you laughing, singing and crying over the course of two hours. I recommend watching this movie because it shows real-world issues and teaches you never to give up on your dreams no matter how long it takes. *In the Heights* deserves five out of five stars.

Washington makes *Equalizer* worth watching

The original 2014 action film, which is a re-imagining of a TV show from the 1980s, has started a franchise

By KEN WARD
Quill staff writer

The Equalizer is a 2014 action film directed by Antoine Fuqua. The movie is loosely based on the popular TV series of the same name that aired during the 1980s. Denzel Washington stars as Robert McCall, who is the main character in this film. It is Washington's great acting, along with the strong story and excellent action sequences, that make this film one worth watching for this first time or re-watching if you have already seen it.

In the film, Washington's character, Robert McCall, lives in Boston. He is currently working at a Home Mart hardware store. One of McCall's pastimes is reading late into the night at an area diner. It is there that he eventually becomes friends with Alina, a teenage prostitute who works under the pseudonym Teri for the Russian mafia. One night, Alina is hospitalized after being beaten by her pimp, Slavi. When McCall visits Alina's hospital room to see how she is doing, he speaks with her



Photo courtesy of COLUMBIA PICTURES

Denzel Washington plays a former Marine who faces off against the mob.

friend, Mandy. This sparks his decision to visit Slavi and offer to buy Alina's freedom. When Slavi refuses, McCall finds himself facing off against the Russian mob.

The performance of Academy Award-winner Denzel Washington is definitely the main reason to see this movie. Washington makes the McCall character seem like a person who would do anything to help somebody in need. As we learn

in the film, McCall is a former Marine and DIA operative, and Washington has the physical presence as an actor to make that backstory seem believable.

Also believable is the emotion Washington brings to the role. In the film, the McCall character is widowed, having made a promise to his wife before her death that he would leave his violent past behind him. Instead, he decides to use his skills to help people and to

take down the bad guys. Washington's performance helps capture the character's struggles with the decisions he is making in life.

In addition to the acting, the action sequences are another selling point of *The Equalizer*. McCall does battle with a number of foes over the course of the story and the movie does not shy away from filling these fights with a lot of violence and action. When combined with Washington's good performance, the action scenes make this movie even more entertaining.

If you are looking for a good action film to take your mind off of COVID and the winter months, *The Equalizer* is one to check out. The movie has great action and great storytelling. It also makes you think about the real world and wonder if people like this exist in the real world. Not only did this movie spark a 2018 sequel, Washington has recently indicated they are starting work on another sequel. That will come as little surprise once you have a chance to see this five-star movie.

Euphoria is a nontraditional look at the teen experience

HBO's popular series was renewed for a third season right after its second season dropped in January 2022

By MARIAH RILEY
Quill staff writer

Euphoria is a teen drama created and written by Sam Levinson for HBO. The show is based on an Israeli television miniseries of the same name created by Ron Leshem and Daphna Levin that aired in the early 2010s. The HBO series follows a group of largely unsupervised

high school students through their experiences with issues of identity, trauma, gangs, drugs, friendships and love. After the first season was well received when it was released in 2019, it was renewed for a second season, which just debuted on January 9. I think *Euphoria* is a good show, especially for the teenage viewers it is targeting.

The primary appeal of the

show is its mix of interesting characters played by a talented cast. The star of the show is Zendaya, who plays Rue Bennett, a teenage drug addict who is trying to find her place in the world after getting out of rehab. Next up is Maude Apatow, who plays Lexi Howard, Rue's childhood best friend. Another character with a close connection to Rue is Fezco, a drug dealer played

by Angus Cloud. Additional teen characters surrounding Rue are Nate Jacobs, a high school sports star played by Jacob Elordi; Maddy Perez, Nate's on-and-off girlfriend, who is played by Alexa Demie; and Kat Hernandez, a character played by Barbie Ferreira.

EUPHORIA
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Atlanta is a new kind of comedy

Donald Glover's award-winning series finds laughs in the most unexpected places



Photo courtesy of FX

The show follows the ongoing misadventures of Alfred, Darius, Earn and Van (left to right).

By LUKE REKELA-JASPER
Quill staff writer

Atlanta is a comedy-drama television series created by Donald Glover. The series centers around Princeton University dropout Earnest, or “Eam,” as he works as a music manager in the Atlanta rap scene alongside his rapper cousin, Alfred, or “Paper Boi.” From September of 2016 to May of 2018, *Atlanta* released two seasons on FX, both of which were critically acclaimed for their ambitious brand of humor, performances, directing, writing, social commentary and realism. Glover has described *Atlanta* as “[David Lynch’s] *Twin Peaks* with rappers” as it bends the rules of typical, grounded TV dramas by exploring elements that are considered surreal. Glover’s four-word premise was enough to get me interested in his show, and after learning that all 21 episodes are on Hulu, I binged the entire series in just a few days. Almost as soon as the second season’s finale went to credits, I came to the realization that *Atlanta* is a show unlike any other in today’s media landscape.

The series primarily follows the adventures of Earn (Donald Glover); his cousin, Alfred (Brian Tyree Henry); Earn’s on-again-off-again girlfriend, Van (Zazie Beetz); and Alfred’s sidekick, Darius (LaKeith Stanfield). I think it won’t be tough for first-time viewers to become invested in Earn as a character because of Glover’s performance, which comes off as very relatable and down-to-earth, while also capturing Earn’s hidden insecurities and cynicism. Earn’s story also almost comes in tune with what his daughter’s mother, Van, is up to, and her involvement offers a different and welcome perspective on who Earn really is. It’s also hard for me to imagine Earn and Van’s roller coaster of a relationship without Glover and Beetz’s emotionally driven performances.

While Earn’s story may be the main focus of the show, *Atlanta* doesn’t shy away from spending its time developing Alfred as well. Earn’s drama as the underdog music manager trying to prove himself is compelling. However, I find a lot of Alfred’s adventures to be the most memorable, mainly because they all connect to the overarching

storyline of Alfred figuring out how to embrace his rapper alias, which he constantly rejects in the faces of his fans.

Last but not least, there is Darius, Alfred’s eccentric roommate, who I’m sure will become the majority of viewers’ personal favorite character, purely because of how chill and brisk he is. Darius takes center stage in my favorite episode of the series, which is episode six of season two, titled “Teddy Perkins.” Without this episode, along with the amazing guest appearance by the legendary Teddy Perkins himself, I wouldn’t like Darius as much as I do.

Donald Glover’s *Atlanta* is an epic, but for all the reasons that a typical TV “epic” wouldn’t be. In most TV dramas, crime and action sequences are glorified and treated as spectacles. Even though it’s not a main aspect of

Donald Glover’s *Atlanta* is an epic, but for all the reasons that a typical TV “epic” wouldn’t be. In most TV dramas, crime and action sequences are glorified and treated as spectacles. Even though it’s not a main aspect of the show, *Atlanta*’s action scenes treat violence as it really is: vicious and ugly.

the show, *Atlanta*’s action scenes treat violence as it really is: vicious and ugly. One of my favorite cold openings is from the second season’s premiere episode, which depicts two teenagers robbing a fast food restaurant, which goes exactly how it sounds.

Another reason why *Atlanta* feels like a much grander show than most out there today is how it balances realism and surrealism. The realism aspect, which is much more prominent, helps make the characters and settings feel easier to grasp. However, the surrealistic elements help make these concepts much more engaging to experience.

Ultimately, what makes me consider *Atlanta* to be one of the most valuable TV shows of the late 2010s is that it is a brilliant social commentary on human beings that exist today. The first season’s Emmy-winning episode, titled “B.A.N.,” shocked me in its accurate portrayal of events that take place

in society today. Specifically, there is an animated segment that is closely connected to a tragic event that took place in Minneapolis back in 2020. Other social issues, such as racism, play vital roles in several episodes and are executed excellently, capturing everything from the skin-crawling uncomfortable nature of these situations to the hidden silliness of these subjects.

While the social commentary may be the best aspect of *Atlanta*, I think the story is worth mentioning, due to how different it feels from a typical TV drama. Every episode of each season leading up to their respective finales includes a layer of mystery, until it culminates in revealing what the show’s main story is all about. I appreciate this storytelling technique because it rewards those who rewatch the series to see how the writers subtly build up to the finale’s events.

What I took away from both season finales is that the main theme of *Atlanta* is survival. Earn’s mission to not be homeless comes from his fear of not being able to survive on his own. Meanwhile, Alfred doesn’t know how to properly thrive in the entertainment business since he does not want to glorify himself. Seeing that the second season’s finale wraps up the theme of survival really well, I’m very curious what the eventual third and fourth seasons will be about.

My only real criticism of *Atlanta* is that I find some episodes a little less interesting than others. I haven’t done a full rewatch of the show, but I have gone back and rewatched a few of my favorite episodes, since just about every episode can easily stand on its own. I suppose that’s the trouble with having a few episodes that feature either surrealistic or intense elements: it makes the quieter, character-centric episodes more easily forgotten.

In conclusion, Donald Glover’s *Atlanta* is a triumph and a TV show that I think nobody saw coming. I consider it a must-watch for anybody who subscribes to the network FX or the streaming service Hulu. I give the entirety of the show five stars out of five. I’m now anticipating the show’s third season, which will premiere on FX and Hulu on March 24, 2022.

which is something any listener can relate to. Listening to this song makes you think about your own exes. I always find it reassuring when I hear a song that makes me think that I am not the only person who feels a certain way. Walker is great at making these kind of connections with listeners and I think you will feel the same way when

SUMMER WALKER
continues on page 10

Premier Performers

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

Minzi Sahn

By KAPOZIA KORICH
Quill staff writer

Minzi Sahn (12) sings in Concert Choir, Bella Voce and Chamber Singers.

“I love music and it has been a very important part of my everyday life since before I can even remember. I was interested in the small ensemble groups here at Cooper because they are extracurricular activities,” she said.

Sahn is also active in theater. She is on the improv team and she has been in every theater show since her freshman year, including the one act plays.

“I’ve participated in theater in elementary school and middle school, so auditioning for my first show my freshman year was a no brainer,” she said.

Although her work in the arts takes many different forms, Sahn said one

thing they all have in common is the great people she gets to connect with.

“I’ve met the most amazing people, who are accepting of me and kind to me always,” she said.

Her choir experience has led to Sahn holding a leadership role in that group.

“I am the choir photographer,” she said. “I love getting to capture all of our fun choir memories.”

Not surprisingly, Sahn listed choir as her favorite class at school.

“Choir is my favorite class because I’m passionate about music and the teachers are really fun,” she said.

Although the arts play an important role in her life, Sahn said she plans on going in a different direction when it comes to her career.

“I plan on majoring in information technology and getting a certificate in cybersecurity,” she said.



Photo by R. BULLOCK

Carlos Quintanilla

By JACK ATKINSON
Quill staff writer

Carlos Quintanilla (12) has been involved with Cooper arts since he started high school.

“I am in band class,” he said. Quintanilla said there are a pair of reasons why he started doing band in the first place.

“I started doing band in the fifth grade. I wanted to get into it because some of my older friends were in it and it seemed like a fun class to take,” he said.

What Quintanilla has enjoyed most about band is the people.

“Sometimes the music may not be my type of thing, but some of the people in the band can be really fun if you know who to talk to,” he said.

Among his favorite memories from his work in band is the satisfaction

that comes after a show.

“Performing at concerts after practicing all the songs in it for literal months feels like a weight being taken off now that you finished and got it over with,” he said.

Outside of band, Quintanilla’s favorite subjects in school are math and French.

“Math because it can actually be really fun when you actually get what the lesson is asking of you and the French class because of the teacher and kids in the class,” he said.

Outside of school, Quintanilla said he enjoys playing video games and chatting with his friends.

As for next fall, Quintanilla said he will go to the University of Minnesota to study computer science.

“I really enjoy technology-based things,” he said.



Photo by R. BULLOCK

Seyeneh Worrobah

By DAMARIUS HAMILTON
Quill staff writer

Seyeneh Worrobah (12) is involved in choir at Cooper.

“I have been doing choir since I was in kindergarten,” she said. “It’s just been a part of who I am.”

Worrobah said there are many things she enjoys about being in choir.

“One thing I enjoy about being in choir is that you meet new people who enjoy hearing new music and learning from it and what it’s about and making new sounds within ourselves. It’s just so much fun doing that,” she said.

As for her favorite memory from choir, Worrobah cited a district event she enjoyed.

“My favorite memory from this year would have to be singing with the

fifth graders from all the district choirs,” she said. “It’s fun to inspire little kids for them to have something to look up to.”

When it comes to the rest of the year in choir, Worrobah said she looks forward to the World Culture Concert.

“My friend Jason Nyabuto (12) and I will be doing a duet at the World Culture Concert, which I am so excited for,” she said.

Although she enjoys music, Worrobah said her favorite class at Cooper is Forensic Science.

“Investigating crimes with your own mindset was so fun,” she said.

Outside of Cooper, Worrobah said she spends a lot of time at work. In her free time, she likes writing music.

Next fall, Worrobah will start her journey into college. She said she wants to major in nursing to become “a labor and delivery nurse.”

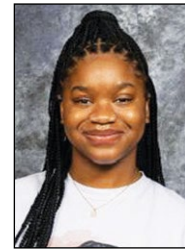


Photo by R. BULLOCK

Jesse Wu

By PHILIP ROBERT
Quill staff writer

Jessie Wu (12) is in Concert Choir, Bella Voce and Chamber Singers. She was also in the musical, *The Wiz*.

Wu has been in choir for six years, first starting when her elementary music teacher encouraged her to join. After that, her friends convinced her to stay involved.

“This year is my second time in Bella Voce and first in Chamber Singers. I joined those groups because I like singing and many of my friends were in them, too,” Wu said.

The best part of choir to Wu is making friends. In fact, she said the small ensembles have helped her make friends with people she “never imagined befriending.” During her time in choir, Wu said her favorite memory was performing at Orchestra Hall.

“The hall is absolutely breathtaking and exploring downtown Minneapolis is exciting,” she said.

Meanwhile, an important memory of her time in theater comes from interacting with her peers.

“The cast parties and dressing room shenanigans are the best part of the musical,” she said.

Given her involvement in the arts, Wu said it is not surprising that her favorite class is choir. After choir, she said her favorite subject is history because it is like “following a story rather than reading a textbook.”

Outside of school, Wu spends time with friends and family watching movies and shows, visiting places and eating.

Next fall, Wu will attend the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities as an accounting major.



Photo by R. BULLOCK

Summer Walker album is a triumph

Still Over It, released in late 2021, is a sequel to Walker’s successful debut album, 2019’s *Over It*

By MARIAH RILEY
Quill staff writer

Summer Walker released her second studio album, *Still Over It*, on November 5, 2021. The album is a sequel to Walker’s debut album, *Over It*, which came out in 2019. On the new album, Walker has collaborations with a number of different artists, including Cardi B, JT from City Girls, SZA, Ari Lennox, Lil Durk, Pharrell Williams, Omar-

ion and Ciara. The album also features production from famous producers like 9th Wonder and The Neptunes. I think the new album is good and the 20 tracks on the release feature something for every type of listener.

The songs on *Still Over It* deal with Walker’s relationship with music producer London on da Track, with whom she had a baby. On songs like “Unloyal,” Walker’s lyrics deal with the ups and downs of her relationship,

Classic *Sandlot* is perfect movie for start of spring

The coming-of-age film will make viewers nostalgic for their pre-teen years

By KAPOZIA KORICH
Quill staff writer

For those of you in the mood for a classic movie, I recommend *The Sandlot*, which is directed by David Mickey Evans and was first released to the public in 1993. I enjoy this movie because it's a great story about a group of boys playing a sport they love on a run-down field and having a good summer because of it. The film takes you through their adventures throughout that summer. People should watch this movie because it's a classic and has a good life lesson about baseball. I think this is a wonderful movie because of the adventures and challenges the group of boys faces.

As the movie begins, the main character, Scottie Smalls, moves to a new neighborhood. Once there, he ends up making friends with a group of boys who play baseball at a place called The Sandlot. Together, they experience many humorous adventures. The big challenge they face in the movie starts when Scottie borrows an important baseball from his stepdad and it ends up getting hit over a fence. Now, they must try all types of ways to get the ball back.

I love the acting in the film. Perhaps the best performance comes from Chauncey Leopardi, who plays the character Squints. His good performance can especially be seen during the swimming pool scene. In this sequence, he sets up a whole plan just to kiss the lifeguard. I think this scene is well acted and directed, which makes it funny to watch how it plays out.

The actor who plays Scottie Smalls also portrays his character well. I enjoy the fact that he comes out as this really shy boy who just wants to play baseball with his group of friends. However, he isn't good at it. Later, you get to see him go through all the challenges and character development, which leads to him finally fitting in the group, even though he is a little weird compared to the other boys.

Perhaps my favorite scene in the movie is when Benny faces The Beast, a dog that threatens the boys. As Benny is trying to recover the ball without being caught by the dog, the song "Wipeout" starts playing, which is a good choice for the pacing of this scene. As he runs through the town with the dog chasing him, the viewers anticipate what is going to happen to Benny. This is a well-directed sequence in the movie.

Overall, *The Sandlot* is great. Everyone will enjoy this story about a group of boys playing a sport they love on a run-down field and having a good summer. The adventures they experience throughout the movie are entertaining. You should watch this movie to experience what goes on at the neighborhood sandlot and to watch the kids face The Beast toward the end. I give this film five out of five stars.

JEFFERSON

continued from page 2

In addition to the Cooper recognition, award recipients can also be eligible for national awards from the Multiplying Good group.

"For 50 years, we've been honoring those who put others first because we've seen the power and importance of recognition," reads a statement on the Multiplying Good website. "Those receiving Jefferson Awards are empowered to do more, while their stories of extraordinary public service inspire others to action."

Figures shines light on hidden heroes

Hidden Figures is a historical drama about a group of Black women who worked at NASA during the space race



Photo courtesy of 20TH CENTURY FOX

Central to the effectiveness of the Academy Award-nominated movie are the excellent performances by each member of the cast.

By AALIYAH HALL
Quill staff writer

Hidden Figures is a 2016 biographical drama that is written and directed by Theodore Melfi. The film is based on the true story of Katherine G. Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson, three brilliant, African-American women working at NASA during the space race in the 1960s. Despite the racism they faced in the outside world and from some of their co-workers, this trio served as the brains behind the operation to launch astronaut John Glenn into space. *Hidden Figures* is an inspiring movie for audiences interested in a well-told story that touches on issues such as racism, sexism and segregation.

One highlight of the movie

is the great acting, which helps bring these historical figures to life. Perhaps the strongest performance is put in by Taraji P. Henson, who plays Katherine G. Johnson. As shown in the film, Johnson becomes known for her aeronautics work at NASA, where she develops calculations that eventually helps the U.S. launch its first astronaut into space in 1961. While she is working at NASA, she becomes known as the "computer" because of her mathematical gifts. Due to her race and gender, many of her colleagues do not believe in her work or think she has a right to work in their field. However, Henson's award-winning portrayal of Johnson makes it clear that Johnson never let these minor things stop her from pushing to achieve her goal. Viewers will

find this to be an inspirational performance.

Another great performance is put in by Academy Award-winner Kevin Costner, who plays Al Harrison, the head of the NASA operation to put a man in space. Throughout the film, we see this character learn more about the unfair conditions faced by the three central characters and the steps he takes to fix those problems. Costner's performance makes it clear that Harrison treats the women on his team as equals to the men and does not judge his co-workers by the color of their skin. Costner is also skilled at demonstrating how Harrison saw greatness in the work of our central trio, which eventually leads to them become the heads of their respective fields. The scenes when Harrison joins

forces with Johnson, Vaughan and Jackson give the audience a chance to see that there were people who saw black women as equals despite the many obstacles in their way in the 1960s.

Overall, *Hidden Figures* is a unique and inspirational movie that shows how the civil rights movement impacted the space race between Russia and America in the 1960s while also showing how African-Americans were mistreated in their day-to-day lives. What makes this movie so engaging is the representation of strength we see in the three central women. In the film and in real life, these three women demonstrate what it takes to make change in the world and what it means to believe in the work you do in life. I give this film five out of five stars.

TBS show takes viewers on a *Detour* to laughs

Created by comedians Jason Jones and Samantha Bee, *The Detour* is at its best when it is at its weirdest

By BRIGHT DEKU
Quill staff writer

The Detour is a TV show created by the husband-wife team of Jason Jones and Samantha Bee that aired on TBS for four seasons. I recently started watching it and find it to be a good way to pass the time. I think it's a consistently funny TV show that is never boring thanks to the perfect performances and the excellent production design.

The show revolves around the central characters of Nate Parker, played by Jason Jones, and Robin Parker, played by Natalie Zea. They are clearly inappropriate parents to two teen kids, Delilah, played by Ashley Gerasimovich, and Jared, played by Liam Carroll. The first season begins with the family taking a road trip, during which things never go right. Over time, we see that various authorities keep investigating them for a variety of reasons. As the four seasons progress, their idiotic actions and



Photo courtesy of TBS

The Detour focuses on the misadventures of the dysfunctional Parker family.

murky personal history come back to haunt them.

A primary selling point for the show is the acting. The four main performers of the show seem completely realistic, making it feel like they are not even acting. Their interactions make them feel like they are a real, dysfunctional family and the

performances of all four actors are completely in sync. Especially good are Jones and Zea, who I have not seen in any show before this one. These two are the highlights of a strong central cast.

Also good are the performances of the secondary and guest actors, especially the people playing the agents who are

pursuing the main characters. Even when the plot goes hilariously off track in the show, the performances of the people in smaller parts help keep things grounded and entertaining.

The Detour has good production design throughout the show. Due to the fact that the main characters are on a road trip, they are constantly in new places doing new things. Additionally, their conflicts with the agents who are pursuing them even leads to scenes involving special effects, like gun shots. When bullets are fired and go into walls during the show, it looks realistic. This realism is a good contrast to the exaggerated situations the main characters are facing.

If you are looking for a good comedy to binge watch, *The Detour* is one you should consider. It is a nice, perfectly chill series that is now streaming in its entirety on Hulu. It is an entertaining show that deserves five out of five stars.

Ice Cube comedy *Friday* holds up well after 25 years

Written by Ice Cube and directed by F. Gary Gray, this film kickstarted the Hollywood careers of many current stars

By BRIGHT DEKU
Quill staff writer

A classic comedy I encourage everyone to watch is *Friday*, written by and starring Ice Cube and directed by F. Gary Gray. Although the movie was released way back on April 26, 1995, it is still funny. I have enjoyed watching this movie recently as we have been moving back and forth between in-person classes

and distance learning because it helps me forget about personal stress. *Friday* is a movie any viewer will enjoy because it is consistently funny and you can relax while watching it. Helping make this movie as enjoyable as it is are the good performances, the nostalgic time period when it takes place and the strong direction.

As you can tell by the title, the movie takes place on

a Friday. The main character, who is played by Ice Cube, is Craig Jones. Recently fired from his job and still living at home with his family, Craig decides to spend the day with Smokey, a small-time drug dealer. Early on in the film, a deal Smokey has worked out with a big-time drug dealer named Big Worm goes bad, and Big Worm gives Smokey and Craig an ultimatum: they have until 10 p.m. to

pay the \$200 Smokey owes him or they will be killed. The rest of the film follows our main duo as they travel through the day trying to figure out ways to get out of this mess.

The acting in *Friday* is absolutely perfect. Although he did not have an acting background, Ice Cube is good as Craig.

FRIDAY

continues on page 10

Georgia takes football crown

An entertaining 2021-2022 college football season gave way to an equally fun playoffs



Photo courtesy of NCAA.COM

The Georgia Bulldogs soundly defeated the Alabama Crimson Tide 33-18 to take the national title.

By NOLAN ANDLER
Quill staff writer

This year's college football season was one to remember. Droughts broken, upsets galore, Cinderella runs and a way different Top 25 from preseason to postseason. When the season cycled itself out and the conference championships came, the drama didn't stop. The Big 12 came down to a Baylor goal-line stand against Oklahoma State, resulting in a 21-16 win. In the American, Cincinnati's 35-20 win over Houston locked them a spot in the College Football Playoffs (CFP). Then, in the Big Ten, Michigan avoided a letdown after their win over Ohio State by crushing Iowa 42-3.

Perhaps the biggest conference championship game was in the SEC, which saw #1 Georgia take on #3 Alabama. Georgia's success in the regular season looked like it was going to lock them in the CFP, win or lose. Meanwhile, Bama needed a win to stay in the hunt. The Tide ended up spanking Georgia in a 41-24 win. Once all this action was done, the four teams that made the CFP were Alabama, Michigan, Georgia and Cincinnati.

Semifinal Game One: The Cotton Bowl

#4 Cincinnati's 2021 season was one for the books. Not only did they go undefeated, they were the first Group of Five team in history to make the playoffs. However, the first test on their quest for college football glory was big bad #1 Alabama, led by head coach Nick Saban and Heisman-winning

quarterback Bryce Young. The Cincinnati defense actually played a pretty good game, but their struggles on offense killed them. The Tide won 27-6 and advanced to the National Championship Game.

Semifinal Game Two: The Orange Bowl

After such a breakthrough 2021 season for them, #2 Michigan made their first-ever CFP. However, their opponent was #3 Georgia, and after the SEC Championship embarrassment, the Dawgs were hungry and mad.

A big part of Georgia's win was the grittiness of quarterback Stetson Bennett. He wasn't the best in this game, but like he has done during his entire career, Bennett continued to fight. Ultimately, Bennett did just enough to win the game, just like the Georgia team as a whole.

Led by quarterback Stetson Bennett, Georgia dominated the Wolverines 34-11. Georgia pushed around Michigan in all phases of the game all night, helping them advance to the National Championship Game.

National Championship Game

The highly anticipated rematch of the SEC Championship game didn't disappoint. In the first half, both defenses shined. Bama went into half with a 9-6 lead as both teams were held to field goals.

In the second half, however,

it was Georgia's show. Late in the third, a big run by Georgia running back James Cook set up the Dawgs and the game's first touchdown, giving the Dawgs a 13-9 lead.

Early in the fourth, Alabama retook the lead 18-13 with a touchdown throw from Bryce Young to Cameron Latu. But this lead was brief. Shortly after an incredible throw and catch from quarterback Stetson Bennett to wide receiver Adonai Mitchell, the Dawgs got the lead back 19-18. Then, with just over three minutes left, a touchdown by tight end Brock Bowers extended the lead for Georgia to 26-18.

Not surprisingly, Bama wasn't done yet. All they needed was a touchdown and a two-point conversion to tie. The Tide had a pretty good drive going until defensive back Kelee Ringo made the play of the game, taking a Bryce Young pass the other way for a 76-yard pick six. The interception sealed a 33-18 win for Georgia, along with their first National Championship win since 1980.

Georgia's win not only avenged their SEC Championship loss this year, but it avenged the 2018 National Championship loss to Alabama when the Tide got the game-winning touchdown on second and 20 in overtime.

A big part of Georgia's win was the grittiness of quarterback Stetson Bennett. He wasn't the best in this game, but like he has done during his entire career, Bennett continued to fight. Ultimately, Bennett did just enough to win the game, just like the Georgia team as a whole.

IB STUDENTS START WORKING ON THEIR IAS continued from page 2

perimental procedure along with any errors or limitations that they discovered in their experimental process."

Students show their understanding of the classroom and IB concepts by connecting the theoretical chemical concepts to how chemistry works in the real world.

"Since students are designing their own experiment and choosing what they are studying, there is usually a higher interest from the students. They can learn cool things about something they are interested in," Hawkinson said.

In IB HL History of Africa and the Middle East (HAME), students complete a historical investigation. Students get to pick topics that have not occurred within the past 10 years.

"Students are guaranteed at

least 20 hours of class time to work on their IA," HAME teacher Ms. Kilsdonk said. "IB has a specific rubric for the History IA that assesses different aspects of the research process. There are three sections: identifications and evaluation of sources, investigation [and] reflection."

The IA in history teaches students how to select a topic and create a controversial research question.

"Students reinforce skills like citing their sources. The last section asks scholars to reflect on the process that they went through in order to complete the task. Overall, I think this activity helps students do papers in their first year of college," Kilsdonk said.

Fatima Koroma (12) is a student who has done four IAs at this

point in IB Chemistry, IB English, HAME and math.

"To a certain extent, I think the IAs show my understanding of the class content. In history, we did a historical investigation utilizing the methods of historians. In chemistry, we did a lab and completed a lab report, and through this, we demonstrated our ability to evaluate the extent of our knowledge on the content; in my case, acids and bases," Koroma said.

While they entailed a lot of work, Koroma said she enjoyed doing her IAs for several reasons.

"Completing these IAs has positively impacted my academic success. I've written so many different formal papers that I truly believe will make college easier since I already have experience," Koroma said.

CALMING ROOM DESIGNED TO HELP STAFF continued from page 2

the space must check with Ms. Rademacher and Mr. Connors to confirm there is no class in there," Howard said.

All in all, Herman and How-

ard worked hard to make the Calming Room and weight rooms accessible to everyone. They both agree that these are key pieces for the mental health of Cooper's

staff and a recognition of the hard work being done by adults in the building.

"Your hard work does not go unnoticed," Howard said.

Cooper Competitors

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

Aaliyah Newman

By LLEWELLYN BOUTHIM
Quill staff writer

Aaliyah Newman (12) plays basketball for her winter sport.

"I've been playing for nine years. I started playing in middle school my fourth-grade year. My mom encouraged me to play and got me into the sport," she said.

Newman said she enjoys basketball because she can see herself and her teammates improve.

"I've enjoyed the amount of talent I've seen throughout the years and watching myself grow each time I play ball," she said.

Newman said her favorite memories in basketball are from the traveling she gets to do while playing basketball with her AAU team in the summer. She also enjoys the chance to serve as a leader when she plays her sport.

"I am someone who leads the team on and off the court as well and encourages and shows someone how to better their talent," she said.

In addition to playing for Cooper and the summer league, Newman plays fall league basketball with other members of the high school basketball team.

When it comes to school, Newman said she enjoys her math class.

"My favorite class is probably my Functions, Stats and Trig math class. Even though it wasn't mandatory for me to take it this year, and assuming it was going to be hard, it's actually a class I enjoy and am glad I took," she said.

Next fall, Newman plans to go to college, most likely a HBCU.

"I want to major in criminal justice or pre-law because that's my main interest and focus," she said.

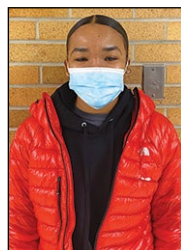


Photo by R. BULLOCK

Alexander Reynolds

By LLEWELLYN BOUTHIM
Quill staff writer

In the winter, Alexander Reynolds (12) wrestles for the Cooper wrestling team at the 195 pound weight class.

"Unfortunately, I don't play any sports in the fall or spring, although I'd like to do track and field this year," he said.

Reynolds has been wrestling since his sophomore year.

"I got partially bullied into it by my friend who was on the team before me," he said.

Reynolds said he enjoys wrestling due to the life lessons it teaches.

"The part I enjoy the most is seeing the growth in myself and the others on my team to achieve something big," he said.

The team element of wrestling is another part of the sport Reynolds enjoys.

"My favorite memories are hanging out with the guys and the general camaraderie that grows amongst a team of hard-working individuals," he said.

While he enjoys competing with his peers, Reynolds also pointed out the contributions made by his coaches as well.

"The leadership we have are our amazing coaches who constantly work with us and teach us how to get better and win," he said.

When it comes to school, Reynolds said his favorite class is drawing because he is able to relax and do something he enjoys. Meanwhile, his outside-of-school hobbies are drawing, playing video games and hanging out with friends.

After high school, Reynolds plans to go into the military. Although he will not likely wrestle in the future, he still wants to stay fit.



Photo by R. BULLOCK

Taylor Meyer

By NOLAN ANDLER
Quill staff writer

Taylor Meyer (12) is a fall and winter athlete. In the fall, he plays football, while in the winter, he is on the swim team. Meyer has been on the swim team since eighth grade.

"I started swimming when I was in eighth grade. I have been swimming since I was four years old, which prompted me to start swimming on teams," he said.

Meyer's favorite part about being on the swim team is that it allows him to work out, get out of the house and build relationships.

"I enjoy being in swimming because it gives me a chance to do a whole-body workout and just keep myself out of the house and moving around and also just being able to build relationships with people

I've never met before," Meyer said.

Meyer's favorite memory on the team was when he swam a lap in less than 26 seconds.

"It was a big milestone for me in swimming," he said.

Before getting in the pool this winter, Meyer spent fall on the football team. Meyer said the team's success this year "felt surreal."

Given his interest in sports, Meyer said his favorite class is weight training.

"I like being able to lift my stress from other classes in school or just stress in life," he said.

Meyer's plan for college is to attend North Hennepin Community College for two years then transfer to St. Cloud State. As of now, he is unsure of what he wants to major in, but he wants to play football when he gets to college.



Photo by R. BULLOCK

Jayden Hove

By NOLAN ANDLER
Quill staff writer

Jayden Hove (12) is a fall athlete for Cooper. In the fall, he plays for the boys soccer team. Outside of school, he still plays soccer, but it's for club teams.

"I've been in Park Valley United and Fusion FC over the years," he said.

Soccer has been Hove's top sport his whole childhood.

"I have played soccer since I was seven," he said.

Hove's favorite soccer memory with the Cooper team was the Duluth trip the team took this year. His favorite memory from club

played with in the past. The coach noticed the work I put in during the off-season and named me the starting goalie and captain of the team," he said.

Just like his premier team, Hove is a goalie and captain of the soccer team for Cooper in the fall. Although he is not in an official sport in spring, he is still in training for soccer.

"I use that season to make sure I am ready to play this summer and at college next fall," he said.

During the school day, Hove's favorite classes are English and anatomy.

"I find the subjects interesting and I have some friends in each class," he said.

Hove said his hobbies outside of school are playing basketball and football with his friends.

As of now, Hove is undecided on where he is going for college, but he said he will continue playing soccer.



Photo by R. BULLOCK

FRIDAY

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Of course, the actor playing Smokey, Craig’s sidekick, is the always entertaining Chris Tucker, who went on to many big roles after this one. While these two actors are great, there are a number of other stars who have small but memorable roles in this movie, including Anthony Johnson, Bernie Mac and Regina King.

Another element I enjoy about the movie is that it takes place in the 1990s. While some of the special effects in the film are not as good as they are now due to the time period and the low budget, I still enjoy how the movie looks and feels. It is hard not to like the music and the outfits of that time period.

Keeping all of these various elements together is the director. The movie is made by F. Gary Gray, who actually got his start as a music video director. In the years since *Friday* was first released, Gray has become an A-list director who has been responsible for some other good movies like *Straight Outta Compton* and *Men in Black: International*. You can see in *Friday* that this is a director who would go on to big things.

If you are looking for a chill, laid-back comedy that is actually going to make you laugh, *Friday* is the perfect pick. I would also recommend this movie to fans of Ice Cube, who started his successful acting career with this movie. Overall, I rate this movie of 4.5 out of five stars. I just couldn’t give it a full five stars because of the special effects.

EUPHORIA

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It is through this big cast of characters that *Euphoria* deals with some real-life issues faced by teens. The show deals with romantic relationships and the drama those relationships can cause for teenagers. Characters fall in and out of love, cheat on one another and look for love in the wrong places. We also see characters deal with drug use and the bad things that can lead to. As the show demonstrates, getting hooked on drugs can make it hard to keep your life on track, even if rehab might help in the short term. These are some of the topics dealt with in the show that teen viewers will relate to.

Whether it is the great acting of the talented cast or the show’s focus on real-world issues, *Euphoria* has a lot to offer to high school viewers looking for a good show. The characters on the show constantly remind me of people I know, and even though the experiences of the characters on the show might sometimes be extreme, they are always believable and relatable. I give *Euphoria* five out of five stars.

SUMMER WALKER

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you hear this song.

In addition to the lyrics, I also enjoy the range of sounds and genres on the album. While *Still Over It* primarily feels like contemporary R&B, it also has elements of neo soul and trap throughout the songs on the album. On the R&B end of things is the album’s lead single, “Ex for a Reason.” This is an uptempo song produced by Sean Garrett that listeners will definitely enjoy. Also noteworthy is the anthem “Dat Right There,” which features Pharrell Williams. The production on this song by The Neptunes makes it instantly appealing.

Whether or not you are familiar with Summer Walker, *Still Over It* is a good album. I think that more people should take the time to listen to her music. Walker is gifted at writing lyrics that will make you sad one moment and then make you feel good the next. Also, she is great at dealing with universal feelings that will connect to any listener. This album deserves five stars out of five.

Baseball season in doubt due to lockout

With opening day of the regular season drawing closer, fans are hopeful that their favorite teams will take the field



Photo courtesy of WIKIMEDIA.ORG

Central to the disagreement between baseball owners and athletes is the typical salary paid to younger players in the league.

By ANDREW HAGGE
Quill staff writer

The Major League Baseball Players Association (MLBPA) and representatives of MLB team owners could not come to an agreement on a new labor proposal on December 1, 2021. This resulted in the first MLB lockout since the 1990s.

The expiration of the collective bargaining agreement has sent the players association to work as they try to create a new one that the owners will have to agree upon. According to *The New York Times*, MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred said that the league and owners did this to “drive the process forward to an agreement.” Manfred also said that, the entire time, he had all own-

ers putting their support behind the lockout and negotiations.

One improvement that the union is looking to gain in a new contract is having younger players get paid more. They are typically paid less due to having less experience. Interestingly, the lower pay for younger players has led to fewer veteran players being signed because veteran base salaries are higher than rookies. The union is also looking to create more competition between the teams with a higher financial reward to individual players. The commissioner claims this will hurt smaller clubs more than benefit them.

Now, we aren’t sure how truthful either side has been with the public. However, each side has their

own points on many topics. Clearly, the MLBPA is focused on the benefits of players and reducing the profit difference between younger and more experienced players. Meanwhile, the owners are interested in keeping things as close to how they are currently organized as possible.

Some analysts have been speculating about what will happen if this lockout cuts into the regular season. Most likely, it won’t. Neither side wants to see the next season postponed or delayed due to this disagreement. However, the league may conclude that the union is using this move against them in order to hurt owners’ income, which might make them less inclined to give the MLBPA a better deal than they would have originally agreed

to. Of course, if the owners’ income takes a hit, that would also affect players’ contracts and income, resulting in a big loss for everyone in a new bargaining agreement.

With no meetings currently planned as of the start of February, each side has been hoping to come to an agreement through which each side can enjoy some benefits. Meanwhile, the fans just want to see this come to an end to stop the possibility that the next season will be affected. As of now, spring training is still supposed to begin in February and opening day is still scheduled for March 31. As those dates get closer, each group is sweating more and more as they hope for an opportunity to slide into a landmark deal for the future.

Vikings make major moves in football offseason

Adofo-Mensah and O’Connell take the reigns of the organization after Spielman and Zimmer get the axe

By ANDREW HAGGE
Quill staff writer

The Minnesota Vikings, on Wednesday, February 2, interviewed a big name for their open head coaching position: Jim Harbaugh. This interview, and many others like it, was made necessary by the release of both general manager (GM) Rick Spielman and head coach Mike Zimmer after the 2021-2022 season, which left the Vikings with big shoes to fill.

After multiple interviews, the Vikings first filled the badly needed shoes in the GM position. The vice president of football operations over at the Cleveland Browns, Kwesi Adofo-Mensah, officially got the Vikings job in late January. As one of the final two candidates, alongside Ryan Poles, Adofo-Mensah was handed the offer after multiple interviews and hours of discussion. He signed a four-year, \$12 million deal. In fact, the Chicago Bears hired Ryan Poles the same day that Adofo-Mensah had his final interview with the Vikings.

As a younger but quite experienced executive, Adofo-Mensah is seasoned in all sorts of roles in a football organization. He has experience working with player development and also has some experience in economics in his previous positions. By spending a few years as a manager in multiple organizations, Adofo-Mensah clearly gained valuable experience. Hopefully, this fresh set of eyes can give the Vikings what it has lacked in the past: an energetic, passionate leader whose enthusiasm will rub off on players. But before Adofo-Mensah could work on the team and players, he first had to find himself a head coach.

Interviews with many defensive and a few offensive coordinators got underway only days after



Photo courtesy of MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Kwesi Adofo-Mensah officially joined the Minnesota Vikings on January 27 after working with the Cleveland Browns.

Adofo-Mensah agreed to sign with the Vikings. Among the top candidates for the coaching position were the Rams offensive and defensive coordinators, and former NFL coach and current college football coach Jim Harbaugh. Minnesota fans were excited when it was announced he’d take an interview for the position after leading the Michigan Wolverines to a surprising victory over Ohio State and a trip to the Big Ten Championship in 2022. After giving the Wolverines what they’d been wanting for so long, Harbaugh’s success in college play got him the attention of NFL teams wanting that same culture of success in their locker rooms. The Vikings got an interview locked up with him and many experts said that it was his job to lose. While Harbaugh also thought the same thing, according to some sources in the Twin Cities sports media, there were a few Vi-

kings executives who were not sure about Harbaugh.

Unfortunately for Harbaugh, he didn’t manage to impress anyone, and Rams offensive coordinator, Kevin O’Connell, got the call that he was the last remaining candidate. O’Connell, of course, couldn’t be signed until after the Super Bowl since the Rams were playing in that game. O’Connell has experience working with Kirk Cousins as his quarterback coach in his last season at Washington. It’s assumed O’Connell will leave play calling up to his offensive coordinator (OC) since he never called plays as OC under head coach Sean McVay of the Rams.

It seems as if Minnesota professional sports are all going young at the same time. Currently, the Wild are showing up everyone with fresh talent, the Wolves are staying around if not above .500 with young players, and now the Vikings are hiring both a

young GM as well as a fresh but reasonably seasoned coach. Along with the news of the new head coach for the Vikings, a past OC for the Vikings, Klint Kubiak, is now headed to the Broncos for the 2022-2023 season. This also is a change for an organization that has typically gone toward a defensive approach over the past 10 years. Expect a shake up among the players to happen in Denver and, perhaps, in Minnesota as well.

With strong weapons on the offensive end, it seems like GM Adofo-Mensah and company are looking to take full advantage of many existing Vikings players. Cousins will have an old friend in the building, running back Dalvin Cook will have someone focusing on the offense more than the defense, and Adam Thielen and Justin Jefferson will have plenty of fun tearing up the field with O’Connell now in town.