



Sophomores successful in completing their MYP Personal Projects
Page 3

Negative impact of pandemic still being felt in everyday life
Page 5



ALSO INSIDE

News



Seniors complete final requirements

From finishing credits to turning in sports uniforms, the Class of 2022 has some administrative items to take care of this week

Page 2

Graduation



Graduates share their future plans

Whether it is college, the military, work or a gap year, Cooper seniors are about to embark on a wide range of journeys next fall

Page 4

Opinion



Student summit a big success

The April 20 event demonstrated that Cooper administrators are interested in hearing student input about the school

Page 5

Variety



Strange sequel earns its name

Multiverse of Madness marks director Sam Raimi's first return to the Marvel universe since directing the original Spider-Man trilogy

Page 9

Sports



Oelfke retiring from Cooper

After decades of service as a teacher and activities director in the Robbinsdale School District, Mr. Oelfke is looking forward to what comes next

Page 11

PLANS FINALIZED FOR 2022 GRAD CEREMONY



Photo courtesy of TALONS

The 2022 graduation event will not feature any of the COVID restrictions seen during the last two years.

By NAIMA HUSSEN
Quill staff writer

The 2022 commencement ceremony will take place June 9 at 7 p.m. in the Cooper stadium. The annual ceremony is a time to celebrate high school completion for seniors. Echi Lee (12) said she is looking forward to ending her high school career.

"I'm ready to walk across that stage and get my diploma," Lee said.

Another member of the Class of 2022, Fatima Koroma (12), said she's ready to graduate. However, she also said she is sad that she will be leaving what she has "known for four years behind."

The number of guests a graduate can have at the event depends on the weather on that day. The number of guests is unlimited if the weather is good, but in the case of bad weather, students will receive four tickets to give to family members to

enter the Cooper gym for the ceremony.

Caps and gowns for the ceremony will be distributed June 1-3 during the Lunch and Learn period. There will be a mandatory rehearsal at 10 a.m. on the morning of the graduation ceremony.

The ceremony follows a similar format each year. As the audience and the graduates get seated, music is played by Cooper musicians. The ceremony then begins with a welcome by Head

Principal Mr. Herman, an address by the superintendent or a school board member, a speech by the student council president and an address by a teacher selected by the senior class.

Next up are speeches by selected seniors. These student speakers submitted speeches and tried out in order to be selected to speak at graduation. Between one and four of the graduates who wish to speak will be able to depending on how long their

Commencement will take place at 7 p.m. in the Cooper stadium on June 9

speeches are. These speakers will be named closer to the day of graduation.

"The speakers at the ceremony are Principal Herman, student speakers, honored teacher and members of the school board," Assistant Principal Ms. Smith said.

Following all of the speeches, each member of the Class of 2022 gets a chance to have their name announced, walk across the stage and receive their temporary diploma. Once this process is over, Herman will certify and congratulate the graduates, who then enter the school building to get their actual diplomas and return their caps and gowns if they choose to.

Teachers have many responsibilities during the ceremony. Twelfth grade advisory teachers attend rehearsal and assist students in the waiting room. They also read out the names of their advisory students at the ceremony.

All other teachers and staff members who do not have a senior advisory help behind the scenes to ensure the ceremony runs well.

"Every teacher and staff member in the building works together to make the graduation ceremony run as smoothly as possible," Assistant Principal Ms. Jefferson said.

After the commencement ceremony is over, participating graduates will attend the senior send-off celebration.

Cooper shifting its start, end times next year

The new district schedule will have high schools starting at 8:35 a.m., ending at 3:25 p.m. on a daily basis

By SHENG VANG
Quill staff writer

The Robbinsdale Area School District has voted for a change in school times that will officially take place next school year. This change will result in Cooper having a new start time of 8:35 a.m. and an end time of 3:25 p.m.

Since the 2017-2018 school year, the Robbinsdale District School Board has been investigating and analyzing the benefits of changing school times. After multiple reviews and ongoing research of scholarly articles on the issue, the board decided in 2019 to survey parents, staff and students who would be affected by this change. Afterward, the community and school board had multiple meetings about possible solutions and outcomes.

In early 2020, parents, staff and students in grades 6-11 were surveyed again about two solutions: scenario six, where all school levels have an adjustment in start time, and scenario seven, where only secondary schools have a change in start time.

In May 2020, the school board reviewed the data. The results for the parent survey were 31 percent for scenario six, 29 percent for scenario seven and 39 percent for keeping the start time the same. According to the school board, an observation made from the parents' data was that parents with at least one elementary student favored the option of no change in start time and believed that the change in all school levels would be difficult.

As for the students' data, scenario seven was the most favored approach, with a total of 41 percent supporting that option. Meanwhile, for staff, the most-favored option was scenario six, which a total of 40 percent of staff members supported.

After analyzing all of the data collected from all three demographics in November 2020, the school board further researched and evaluated the benefits and costs of scenarios six and seven. Then, in December 2020, they had a voting meeting for the two scenarios, with the final result being scenario six passing by a vote of 5-2.



Photo by SHENG VANG

Pickup and dropoff times for buses will shift along with the school schedule.

Finally, on April 19, 2021, the board voted to change the school start times starting at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year.

"Of course, [there will be] many implications that will affect people within [the] school with these new times," Cooper Head Principal Mr. Herman said.

Herman mentioned one of the biggest changes will be to after-school activities. "The school day will now start at 8:35 and end at 3:25 according to the most recent news. I think ending later in the afternoon will have the most impact. This, of course, means that some activities will have to go later than what we are used

START, END TIMES continues on page 2

Weekly support day designed to help Hawks raise grades

WIN Wednesday program, which was introduced April 20, gives students a chance to catch up on missing work

By JACK ATKINSON
Quill staff writer

Cooper introduced WIN Wednesday, an intervention program designed to help students get caught up on missing or late assignments, on April 20.

"WIN stands for 'what I need' and it will provide extra support for students who can benefit from it," Head Principal Mr. Herman said.

Through the new program, every Wednesday until the end of the school year is dedicated to students who are getting below a C- in one or more of their classes. These students are required by their classroom teachers to come to school to

get individual support to raise their grades. Also required to attend school are students who have an IEP so they can get the help they need to stay caught up in their classes.

Meanwhile, students with a C- or above in all of their classes have the choice to work from home or come into school on Wednesdays to complete any assignments they may be working on. No new curriculum is introduced on Wednesdays so that students can focus on finishing missing assignments.

"Students will receive academic support targeted to the subjects where they need it most," Herman said.

In addition to classroom help, WIN Wednesday makes other types of help possible. For instance, stu-

dents can access social and emotional support from staff. Students also can engage in extra study sessions for their various IB, AP and classroom exams.

Students who come to school on Wednesdays follow their normal class schedule throughout the day. Transportation to school runs the same routes at the same times like a normal school day. Additionally, breakfast and lunch are served to all students like they are on a typical day of school.

At the start of each week, teachers directly contact the students who they are requiring to attend WIN Wednesday. Attendance for those students is recorded

WEDNESDAY continues on page 2

START, END TIMES

continued from page 1

to but that may also allow for some to shift to the morning before school starts,” Herman said.

As for the impact on staff, chemistry teacher Ms. Hawkinson said that she understands the reason for the change to a new start time, but she is worried about the afternoon change and how that could impact many people’s personal lives.

“Later start times for high school students is supposedly beneficial to their learning based on data about brain development. I understand why people think having high school kids start later in the day makes sense. We will have better attendance and less tardiness in the morning. Maybe with kids more awake we will see better academic success for high school students. [However,] I worry that starting an hour later just means students will stay up later, therefore negating the benefit of the later start,” she said.

Hawkinson also pointed out that the later ending time could have an impact on what students experience after school.

“I am worried about students’ extracurricular activities and the later times they will be able to start those activities. What about students who are family caretakers of younger siblings? Now, those little kids will be home alone after school until the older kids get home. High school students sometimes have jobs. If they can’t get to work as early, they could lose hours. Would not being available until 4 p.m. make a student less desirable to an employer so it’s harder for our students to get jobs?” Hawkinson said.

Echoing Hawkinson’s concerns is Selena Yang (11).

“I don’t like the new time because some people work in the afternoon at 3 or 4 p.m. That doesn’t give people a lot of time to get ready for work. It’s also a lot of hassle to change their schedule just for the new start time,” Yang said.

Considering all the possible obstacles that come along with the new transition, Herman said planning ahead, keeping an open mind and slowly adapting to the change will be key.

“I look forward to seeing what impact this will have on student engagement and academic performance,” Herman said.

WEDNESDAY

continued from page 1

each Wednesday like it is on a normal day of school. If a student is required to be at school on Wednesday and does not attend, they are marked for an unexcused absence.

From the teacher perspective, WIN Wednesday provides another intervention they can use to help struggling students. English teacher Ms. Prillwitz said she has been using Wednesdays to help students revise past summatives, catch up on current formatives and work ahead in class.

“Most students seemed very focused on their work during WIN Wednesday and they used the time well to catch up or work ahead,” she said.

As the program moves forward, possibly into the 2022-2023 school year, Prillwitz said she hopes students who are not required to attend can be engaged in learning on Wednesdays.

“I would like to see more focus placed on providing enrichment opportunities for the students who are already caught up and doing well in their classes,” she said.

When it comes to Cooper students, the value of WIN Wednesday has been recognized as the weeks have gone by. One student, Andrew Brooks (9), said he has not been required to attend on Wednesdays, but has still come to school to get work done and prepare for his AP exams.

“I think the WIN Wednesdays are a good idea and a good chance to stay on top of [or] get caught up on work,” Brooks said.

Ultimately, Herman believes the ability students now have to get caught up in class on Wednesdays is important given the ongoing impact of the pandemic.

“The last two years have been tough. WIN Wednesdays are a great way to support our students in ways that are personalized just to them,” Herman said.

Seniors complete final tasks before leaving

From finishing credits to turning in sports uniforms, the Class of 2022 has some administrative items to take care of this week



Photo by SHENG VANG

Seniors celebrated the end of the school year with cake during a lunch event on May 3.

By JACK ATKINSON
Quill staff writer

There are many important things that seniors need to take care of before school ends in order to make sure that they are ready for graduation. From having all their credits completed to turning in school materials, seniors need to prepare for making the jump from high school to college, the military or work.

Earning your credits

School counselor Ms. Ritter said that seniors who are unsure about their credits and graduation status should send her an email.

“It is important that students verify that they have all of their credits because the district and school can’t allow the student to graduate if they don’t meet all of the credit requirements,” she said.

According to Ritter, seniors

have two important second semester classes they need to pass in order to graduate.

“Most seniors still have an English 12 credit and a social studies credit at a minimum that they must pass during the second semester in order to graduate,” she said. “Some students may have more. If a student fails a required second-semester class, they will have to take summer school to finish and may not be able to participate in the graduation ceremony.”

Ritter added that students who will be attending college need to make sure they end the school year strong because colleges will check on their final grades.

“It is critical that seniors still work hard and pass their classes for graduation. Additionally, final transcripts are sent to the college that the student is attending and colleges still want students to maintain strong

grades,” she said.

Getting your cap and gown

While most seniors have already ordered a cap and gown, those who have not yet done so should do it as soon as possible.

Seniors who need help ordering a cap and gown, or who have concerns about paying for them, should talk to Ritter or social worker Ms. Mersy in the Student Services Office. Cooper’s webpage also includes a link to order a cap and gown. This can be found using the “Information for Seniors” link under the “Families” tab.

“It is important that seniors order their cap and gown before graduation so they can have one that is fit for them. If a student doesn’t order one, we will have extras on hand, but it may not be quite the right size,” Ritter said.

If a senior has not yet ordered a cap and gown due to financial concerns, Ritter said

Cooper can help.

“If a student can’t afford to order one, we may be able to offer a scholarship,” she said.

Returning Media Center materials

Media Specialist Mr. King said that seniors can turn in any books they are finished with at any time. According to King, students are responsible for everything they’ve checked out since middle school.

“This somehow comes as a surprise to some kids, even though we regularly send overdue notices via email. The taxpayers of our district deserve to get back everything they’ve paid for,” he said.

Additionally, seniors will be returning their Chromebooks on their last day of school, June 3.

“If students have device or Chromebook fees even after graduation, we will continue sending notices home and to the Cooper administrators, even over the summer,” King said.

Securing your data

Students will be provided information in advisory and via Schoology about how to transfer their district Google Drives over to their personal drives. King said that students who don’t do this will lose everything in July when the district deletes their accounts.

“I can’t stress enough that every single fall, I’m contacted by seniors who want to know if we can restore their drives, because they’ve realized they need something from there. But we can’t. Once it’s gone, it’s gone forever,” King said.

Another tip King has is to make sure you have ownership of the files you want to keep.

“If it was a file shared by someone else, you may need to make a copy that’s yours. Once

SENIORS

continues on page 12

Exchange students reflect on year in America

Cooper played host to seven students from various parts of the world during the 2021-2022 school year

By NAIMA HUSSEN
Quill staff writer

Cooper hosted seven foreign exchange students in 2021-2022: Mel Albrecht Ribeiro (12), Bruno Coelho Carvalho (12), Melania Giacone (12), Silke Hebsgaard (12), Jan Losanto (12), Giana Nery (12) and Emanuele Porchetta (12). As the school year comes to a close, some of these students are sharing their reflections on their time in America and as Cooper Hawks.

Melania Giacone

Giacone is part of the Cooper foreign exchange student program. She is from Italy and she wanted to study abroad because, during the pandemic, she felt like she was missing out and wanted more experiences in the real world.

Giacone said she was nervous when she arrived in Minnesota.

“[The] weather was really cold, and after 13 hours of flight, I was really tired. My host family was waiting for me at the airport, and when I saw them, I was so happy and excited at the same moment,” Giacone said.

Giacone was nervous about living with strangers and being away from her family.

“They were immediately friendly and sweet with me, so I felt in a few weeks a member of their family,” Giacone said. “I’ll never be grateful enough for everything they are doing for me.”

Giacone noticed a few differences between her home country of Italy and America. She loves the fact that teenagers can work and be independent in the U.S.

When Giacone returns to Italy, she will finish her final year of high school. She wants to be-



Photo by NAIMA HUSSEN

The foreign exchange students took part in many group activities this year.

come a speech therapist for children.

“I’ll for sure come back to the states because, as I always say, a big part of my heart is here,” Giacone said.

Giovanna Nery

Nery is a student in the exchange program who is originally from Brazil. Nery decided to study abroad because she wanted to see if high school in America was really like *High School Musical*.

“I want to have a high school with lockers and people singing,” Nery said.

Nery lived with one family for the first three months. Later on, she went to live with a Cooper teammate’s family for the rest of the program.

Nery favorite memory in America so far was a trip to California. She always wanted to go to California and Nery and her host family went during spring break.

Nery favorite American food is Punch pizza. She said the biggest difference between her home

country and America is the food because Brazilian food isn’t accessible in Minnesota.

Nery was part of Cooper’s soccer, Nordic and softball teams. Nery found sports to be the best way to make friends at Cooper because everyone likes to stay in their circles. She said she especially liked her Nordic team because they weren’t too focused on winning but on having fun as a team.

This summer, Nery will return to Brazil and apply for college in Brazil and also the United States.

Sille Hebsgaard

Hebsgaard is a foreign exchange student who is from Denmark. She wanted to study abroad because she wanted to experience another culture firsthand. Coming off an eight-hour flight, Hebsgaard was nervous to meet her host family.

“They had a sign that said ‘Welcome to Minnesota’ for me at the airport,” Hebsgaard said.

Hebsgaard’s favorite memory in America so far was a visit

to Chicago with her host family after her birthday. Hebsgaard also loves the little things that she does with her host family like going to a diner to eat breakfast now and then.

Hebsgaard’s favorite American food is Chipotle because there aren’t any places like Chipotle in Denmark. Hebsgaard’s biggest shock was how populated the Twin Cities metro area is because she is from a small town in Denmark.

Talking to her family back home has been the hardest part about being abroad for Hebsgaard because they are seven hours ahead. She typically talks to them on the weekends.

Hebsgaard was a part of the Cooper dance team in the fall.

“It was fun being a part of dance because we had fun as a team,” Hebsgaard said.

Hebsgaard will return to Denmark this summer to finish her nursing degree. She eventually wants to work in a nursing home.

Bruno Coelho Carvalho

Coelho Carvalho is an exchange student who is from Brazil. He wanted to study abroad because his grandfather, uncle and dad all studied abroad when they were his age.

“They’ve always told me about their experience and how they were great and it was an amazing thing, so I was curious about it and thought it would be a great experience for me,” Coelho Carvalho said

Before coming to the U.S., Coelho Carvalho messaged and video called his host family to build a relationship before he ar-

EXCHANGE

continues on page 12

Yearbook students prepare to unveil *Talons*

After nearly 10 months of work, the yearbook staff will be distributing copies of the publication at the end of this week



Photo by SHENG VANG

Members of the yearbook staff worked on portions of the spring supplement to the annual publication during their sixth period class on May 3.

By AALIYAH HALL
Quill staff writer

The staff of *Talons*, Cooper's yearbook, are currently completing work on the publication's spring supplement after having finished the main yearbook on April 11.

Guiding the yearbook to its successful completion this spring has been Maddie Monner (12), Aaron Hyde (12), Asia Young (12), Ariyonna Logan (11), Melissa Truong (11) and Stephanie Diaz-Priego (11). According to yearbook advisor and English teacher Ms. Obranovich, who now has been overseeing the publication for six years, the chance to work with these six students and their other classmates has been rewarding.

"I love helping students tap into their creative and journalistic skills and being involved in making memories for students to keep forever," she said.

The process of putting together the yearbook starts when students sign up for the yearbook class during the winter of the previous school year.

"I usually get more students

signed up for the course than I can accommodate," Obranovich said. "I look through the list of students who have signed up, then select based on staff recommendations and past success in school."

Once the new school year begins, students are assigned a page or pages for each deadline. The students are then responsible for the graphic design of the page, writing the copy for the page and gathering the photographs for the page. According to Monner, the page creation process is time consuming but rewarding.

"To create a page, the first thing I usually do is lay out my template and pick colors for a theme that I want to go for. Then, I either take photos myself over the course of the whole season for sports or the time period the event occurs in and I usually end up asking others for photos and acquire them from other yearbook staff. After putting photos on the page and writing the copy, I have completed the rough draft and will most likely refine it and change a lot about the page until the deadline," Monner said.

While staff members have some

pages they work on independently, there are other pages that are completed in collaboration with other students. Truong said the collaboration process can sometimes be difficult, but that it can also produce good results.

"One challenge working on the yearbook was finding a good time to work with one of my page partners. Sometimes, my partners are busy with other school things, so it's harder to talk to them. Another challenge was agreeing on what we wanted the page to look like. There would be times when we had different ideas or no ideas at all," she said.

Although the publication process has its challenges, there are also moments of fun for the yearbook staff.

"One fun moment would be when we celebrated the completion of the yearbook with cake," Truong said. "We just relaxed and ate cake the whole week. Other fun moments consisted of talking with my friend during class while we worked."

For Monner, an enjoyable aspect of the yearbook experience came during her work gathering photographs for her pages.

"The most memorable and fun moments from creating the yearbook this year has definitely been taking photos," she said. "I enjoy getting to see all the action and individual smiles and friendships that can be captured."

Now that the end of the school year has arrived, plans for distributing the 2021-2022 yearbook are being finalized. Obranovich said yearbook distribution will take place on June 2. For students who did not order one in advance, there will be extra yearbooks available for purchase starting on distribution day. The cost of the book is \$80 and they can be purchased with cash or check.

Also being finalized are plans for sharing the spring supplement.

"Students who ordered a spring supplement will either receive it when they come back to Cooper in the fall or, if they have graduated, they can pick it up in the main office when school resumes," Obranovich said. "If the graduated senior has a younger sibling at Cooper, I will send it home with them, or someone else can pick it up from the main office for the graduated senior if they are unable to."

Final preparations now underway for senior party

The celebration will take place immediately after commencement on June 9

By DAMARIUS HAMILTON
Quill staff writer

Cooper parents are putting together the final details for the 2022 senior party, which will take place on June 9 immediately after the graduation ceremony. According to Ms. Snapko, who is on the planning committee for the event, the senior party is designed to "celebrate the Class of 2022."

The event will be held at Bowlero in Eden Prairie. It will go from approximately 9:30 p.m. to around 2:30 a.m. Graduating seniors taking part in the event will be bused from Cooper immediately after the commencement ceremony and returned to Cooper once the party is over.

Parents play a central role in both planning and running the senior party. They also make it possible for prizes to be available to win at the senior party. Snapko said this process begins in the fall of a given school year.

"Several parents begin discussing how we can celebrate students and their successes beginning in the fall of their senior year. We meet once a month as a group of 10-12 adults who work on organizing a location, fundraising and communication," Snapko said.

Since the parent group is external to the building, Snapko said they rely on the support of Cooper administrators and staff to make sure the party comes together. Additionally, they spend time at the school on Tuesdays and Thursdays to encourage seniors to sign up.

"We dedicate several hours to spending time in the school on Tuesday and Thursday during their lunch hour to talk to any seniors about senior send-off as well as being available to collect registration forms," Snapko said.

The cost of the event is \$50, which covers all of the entertainment and food available during the party. Included in the activities at Bowlero are bowling, laser tag and arcade games.

The party also features a raffle in which each attending senior is automatically entered. Among the prizes for the raffle are a TV, a mini fridge, a Keurig, an iPad, an Apple Watch, Beats headphones, a Bluetooth speaker, gift cards and more.

According to Snapko, it is the parent group that helps find and collect the various items available during the auction. Additionally, the parents work hard to keep the cost of the event low and to provide scholarships to qualifying students.

"We feel very strongly about having this opportunity open to all students so this committee works very hard to raise money to lessen the cost to the students as well as provide scholarships to students in need," Snapko said.

The senior party has been a tradition for more than 25 years. Snapko said it has been important to her to keep the tradition going for Cooper students.

"Several volunteers dedicate so much time to organize this activity with the idea in mind that it is one last time parents can help celebrate the amazing achievements the students have had before they move into the next stages of their lives. We also want to provide a safe environment for students as well as give them the opportunity to win some fun items," she said.

Seniors who are still interested in signing up for the party are encouraged to see student counselor Ms. Ritter. Ritter is also the person to contact for students interested in getting a scholarship to cover the cost of the event.

Sophomores finish their MYP Personal Projects

Eight Hawks submitted projects in 2022 after two years during which the pandemic hurt completion of the assignment

By DAMARIUS HAMILTON
Quill staff writer

Eight Cooper sophomores recently completed their International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Program (MYP) Personal Projects this spring. Through this project, students have a chance to explore an area of personal interest over an extended period.

"It provides them the opportunity to consolidate their learning and develop important skills they'll need in both further education and life beyond the classroom," IBMYP Coordinator Ms. Christensen said. "It also helps them develop confidence to become principled, lifelong learners."

The process of completing the project starts in the fall of a student's sophomore year, when those students taking part select a topic and a mentor.

"Students research their topic and complete a process journal. After the student has completed their process journal, they proceed to writing their process report. Almost all of the information for the report can be found in the student's completed process journal," Christensen said.

No matter what type of project they elect to do, students gain first-hand experience with time management while working their way through the process. Christensen said the challenges of hitting deadlines while working on the project are offset by the fact that students get to focus on something they find interesting.

"Students get to learn more about a topic that they are passionate about," she said. "It's kind of like having their own independent study opportunity."

One student who completed a project this year is Zach Allen (10), who made a "mini-scale house and a



Photo by MS. MEYER

Clara Niemann (10) displayed her finished project at the annual IB Fine Arts Expo on April 21.

blueprint that went with it." His decision to tackle that type of topic comes from his interest in architecture.

"I've been interested in architecture and engineering for a little while and thought this would be a good way to go about it," he said.

Allen said it was challenging keeping track of his steps during the process and finding good resources for the research elements of the assignment. However, he said the actual building of the final project was fun.

Another student who successfully completed a project is Clara Niemann (10). Due to her interest in fashion, Niemann decided to crochet a cardigan for her project.

"All of my life, I have always wanted to create clothing I can wear," she said. "That kind of sparked this idea for crocheting a cardigan."

Although she enjoyed having the sweater at the end of the process, Niemann mentioned that hitting her deadlines along the way was challenging.

"I definitely procrastinated, which, in the end, made me have to rush to finish it," she said.

Helping Niemann along the way was her chosen mentor, social studies teacher Ms. Kilsdonk. Having served as a Personal Project mentor on several occasions, Kilsdonk said she enjoyed the opportunity to work with Niemann.

"Clara is a wonderful person and

scholar. I have enjoyed speaking with her about what she was learning and how it was connecting her with her family. I also admire her for sticking with the project and finishing her amazing sweater," Kilsdonk said.

For current ninth graders who are considering whether or not they want to complete the Personal Project next year, Kilsdonk had some advice.

"Think about what you wish you could learn in school and then learn it following the process and you can earn an elective credit. But don't feel like you have to do this. If you have the time and drive, then it is a great opportunity to self-direct your learning," she said.

The end of the beginning

Members of the Class of 2022 share their post-graduation plans



Photo courtesy of TALONS

Abdulle, Sadaq	Augsburg University	Hagge, Andrew	University of Minnesota, Duluth	Omoke, Rachael	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Adams, Marcus	Gap year	Hang, Alex	Minnesota State University, Mankato	Omoke, Silvia	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Amara, Tenneh	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	Haywood, Owen	Bemidji State University	Omundson, J.	Apprenticeship
Appiah, Prince	Attend two-year college	Heigel, Peter	Bemidji State University	Otu, Mimi	Undecided
Arigo, Jasmine	Work	Holmes, LaMya	Minneapolis Community & Technical College	Palony, Anna	Concordia University, St. Paul
Bacon, Laila	Dougherty College	Horton, Symira	Southern University and A&M College	Peterson, J.	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Bah, Jonathan	North Hennepin Community College	Hove, Jayden	University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire	Pha, Muapengsue	Undecided
Baldwin, Elijah	Minnesota State University, Mankato	Huelskamp, S.	Montana State University	Phillips, K.	Xavier University of Louisiana
Barrett, Gabrielle	Aveda Institute	Hussen, Naima	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	Pinzon, C.	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Barsaloux, Pierre	North Hennepin Community College	Hyde, Aaron	Concordia University, St. Paul	Prowell, Janay	Realtor license
Bertossi, Greta	North Hennepin Community College	Jenkins, T.	University of Alaska, Fairbanks	Ramirez-Castaneda, M.	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Bett, Nana	Undecided	Jennings, Emma	Grand Canyon University	Robinson, Kylie	North Hennepin Community College
Borisevich, Emma	Texas Tech University	Jones, Connor	North Hennepin Community College	Rodriguez, Maritza	Gap year
Bracewell, Tasha	Bemidji State University	Jordan, J.	Augsburg University	Rosa-Angel, Joseline	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Brooks, Namyer	Gap year	Kak, Manuth	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	Ruhland, Aaliyah	Gap year
Bryant, Amir	Dunwoody Institute of Technology	Karol, Libby	San Diego State University	Sarabia-Flores, Emilio	Concordia College
Campbell, Katelyn	University of St. Thomas	Katzi, Divine Hannah	Augsburg University	Scott, Kylie	St. Cloud State University
Chang, Brooke	Minnesota State University, Mankato	Keita, Mahawa	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	Simmons, Amya	Mesabi Range Community College
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Summit let students use their voices

The April 20 event demonstrated that Cooper administrators are interested in hearing student input about the school



Photo by MIMI OTU

Participants in the student summit were randomly organized into groups to discuss various topics related to daily life at school.

By ERIN CHUNN
Quill staff writer

The student summit was held during the school day on April 20 for students to speak about their Cooper experience. The summit was held over third and fourth periods and all participating students were excused from class. Students did have to RSVP prior to the summit and there was a nice turnout. Students were given an assigned table where they sat next to other randomly placed students so they could make new connections while reviewing the quality of their high school experiences up to that point. Overall, I found the

experience to be a beneficial one. Cooper has always been a progressive and flexible school, and the staff has made efforts to give a voice to the student body. Students sharing ideas for school improvement and discussing past experiences during the summit were constructive ways to find what needs to be reformed. After distance learning and implementing WIN Wednesdays, the summit was an effective way of hearing the mindsets of, and level of motivation from, the students. Participation is the most essential part of supporting the community and, fortunately, most seats at the summit were filled with productive students.

The fact that the summit was in person sends a message of unity so students don't feel singled out. The organization of the summit was also admirable. There was minimal confusion about the topics being dealt with. It is important to point out that, although the Robbinsdale School District often sends out surveys to connect with the students and get feedback, the student summit was a new, innovative way of gathering volunteers and getting them to genuinely talk to one another. Cooper students have powerful voices and it's commendable that the district is willing to listen to them. Of course, all districts should be

reaching out to their student body, but not all do. That alone shows that our school and district care about what we have to say. All in all, the summit was an exceptional way for all willing students to connect with the administration and give them our honest opinions of procedures, schedules, teachers, mental health and everything in between. The summit shows the dedication of the administration to give all of us a better experience while still keeping us on the path to graduation. Again, participation is fundamental, which means everyone that attends Cooper should be trying to help out.

Negative impacts of the pandemic are still being felt

Whether it is the way in which people make plans or the shortages we see at stores, our lives are still being influenced by COVID

By DEVIN GRAY
Quill staff writer

The pandemic has changed folks for the better and for the worse. I have picked up new hobbies and even improved my physical health during the pandemic. Of course, not everyone can say that same thing about their experience during quarantine. For example, I know some students who suffer from chronic procrastination thanks to the pandemic and distance learning, including myself. The problems caused by the pandemic stretch to all parts of life, causing many ongoing issues that citizens of America and people across the world are still dealing with now. I believe the most obvious effect of the pandemic upon the public would be the transformation to introversion. Before the pandemic, it wouldn't be normal to avoid all social events for whatever reason. However, nowadays, you can reject almost every social outing and disguise your reasons by saying



Photo by SHENG VANG

Wearing masks to avoid illness is part of many people's pandemic routine. you are trying to avoid COVID. As a result, some folks have simply gotten too used to being alone. I know I feel like social events have now become more like a chore after being in isolation for two years. Another issue caused by the pandemic is the food shortages that have been running rampant in grocery stores since the middle of 2020. These supply problems are being caused by such things as farmers catching COVID after having interactions with transporters, and truck drivers at the warehouses getting COVID and not being able to drive to stores. As an employee of a grocery store, I can say from first-hand experience this can get a little annoy-

ing, especially when we run out of popular items customers ask for often. Sometimes, our most popular items are not in stock for weeks and even months at a time. Lastly, scheduling one's life during the pandemic has been a nightmare. Many plans have been modified, rescheduled or even flat-out canceled because of the public health guidelines and even just the disease itself. During the first year of the pandemic, I had to cancel many family events because someone in my house or I would catch COVID. Frankly, this was and continues to be an irritating experience. Overall, there are so many problems and issues associated with COVID that I don't have enough space in this article to list them all. However, the nightmares of event planning, the food shortages and the threat of introversion are three things that I have experienced the most trouble with. Hopefully, we will continue to get back to normal soon.

From the Editors

Keeping focused is important way to avoid lazy break

Relaxing is part of summer, but make sure you don't let the three months pass you by

Avoiding summer laziness is one of the hardest things to do. In the summer, there is no school to worry about and, for some of us, no part-time jobs to worry about either. As a result, a large number of us just think that it is a good idea to spend our summer unproductively by watching TV, playing video games or scrolling through social media. Overall, there are both good and bad aspects to being lazy in the summer that often depend on the situation.

The temptation to do nothing during the summer comes from a lot of sources. One big one is the summer heat. The temperature can be so unbearable that it makes you just want to stay inside and watch TV, play video games or look at social media all day.

Another source of summer laziness is the need to recuperate after a long, tough school year. The 7 a.m.-2:10 p.m. daily grind can be difficult, and if you are involved in sports or activities at school, that daily time span becomes longer. It is no wonder, then, that many students need to kick back during the summer months.

Of course, although it may be viewed as laziness, summer is meant to allow you to be at home and do nothing all day. You do not have to worry about school work or any other school commitments. You can just chill and focus on yourself. In effect, summer break is designed to be a mini vacation at home.

At the same time, there are many students who would disagree about the nature of summer. Having three months without school is a great opportunity to travel, earn money at a part-time job and work on projects you may have been putting off during the school year. Believe it or not, there are even some students who use summer to work ahead on school-related tasks, whether it is the process of looking into college applications or doing summer reading to be prepared for next year's classes.

Whether you embrace laziness or like to get things done, summer is the time to do it. Ultimately, it may be the case that the best plan of action is to do a little bit of both. If you are inclined to relax too much, maybe you could tackle a few tasks that would make your life easier once summer is done. On the flip side, if you are someone who is busy in the summer, it might be a good idea to kick back a bit and relax with friends and family members.

While it is important to have a good time, remember to use your summer months wisely. Soon enough, it will be time to return to school in the fall.

The Quill

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From the Editors

Change in school start times has good, bad sides

Better rest for students may be offset by negative impact on after-school events

It is Tuesday, September 6 and your alarm goes off at the usual 6 a.m. to get ready for school. You then realize you can shut it off and go back to bed for another hour. Why? That is because Cooper's start and end times will be changing next school year. The change means that first period starts at 8:35 a.m. each day and eighth period ends at 3:25 p.m. While the difference of one hour may not seem like a big deal, it will cause some pretty big shifts in the lives of students. Although it is not entirely clear what the impact of this new schedule will be, it is clear that there are potential upsides and downsides to the change.

One issue that is often used as a reason to have later start times for high school students relates to grades. The idea is that better-rested students will perform better in school. This theory was actually studied by the University of Minnesota when the Bloomington School District changed their start times. According to hechingerreport.org, the study found a small increase of .1 in student grade point averages after the time change was made. While this does not seem like a big improvement, an argument can be made that any increase is worthwhile.

A second issue that has led to districts changing start times relates to students getting proper sleep. In this case, studies indicate that later start times help. In fact, the same study of Bloomington schools found that students were 16 percent more likely to get the recommended amount of sleep, which is at least eight hours for high school students. While the concern that a later start time will just lead to students staying up later the night before is valid, the data does not seem to indicate that is the case. Perhaps the shift to a later start next year can result in healthier students, which could have other unforeseen positive impacts.

On the other hand, one major concern about the schedule change relates to its impact on after-school events. When it comes to activities and athletics, a later start time means a later end time, which will result in students having to miss larger chunks of the school day to make it to performances and sports competitions on time. Right now, students only occasionally have to miss eighth period to make it to a sporting event that has an early start; next year, it would be at least periods seven and eight that an athlete might have to miss, which means more work to make up.

Additionally, many Cooper students have after-school responsibilities related to part-time jobs and child-care. A later end time at school means that students cannot get to work as early as they currently can, which will not only shorten their shifts and reduce their income, it may also make them less likely to be hired in the first place. As for childcare, it is not unusual for Cooper students to be responsible for babysitting younger siblings or relatives right after school. If high school ends at a later time, that may leave some families in a tough spot when it comes to supervising younger children.

Given this combination of potential benefits and drawbacks, it is important to remember that our district is not the only one that has made this change. In the last 10 years, many area districts have moved to later high school start times, including Minneapolis, Wayzata, Burnsville, Richfield and Mounds View, and they have not reversed their decisions. That does not necessarily mean the change has been perfect at those schools, but it does mean that the schools have figured out how to make the new schedules work.

When it comes to Cooper, only time will tell how the time change will affect students. While there will definitely be some challenges as we all adjust to a new normal, it does seem right now that the possible advantages to moving to a new schedule outnumber the possible disadvantages.

Reflections on four years as a Hawk

Members of the Class of 2022 are bringing their long tenure as students at Cooper High School to a close

By MIMI OTU
Quill staff writer

I won't even lie to you: much like every other assignment I've received in high school, I definitely procrastinated on this one. We've come a long way. It's crazy to imagine that, once upon a time, we were the annoying freshmen running around the halls, yelling at 7 a.m. in the morning, starting fights in the cafeteria and, of course, setting off fire alarms. We definitely came around full circle with that one. (Karma?)

Graduation feels like such a distant dream. Even with it being a little over a month away from the time when I am writing this, graduation still feels so surreal. Most, if not all, of us have been waiting for this moment, impatiently might I add, and it's finally here.

As excited as I am to finally part ways with the drama-filled halls of Cooper, I'm going to miss it. The packed stands at the Friday night football games, the cheerleaders engaging with the crowd, being on the sidelines with my camera, the high-intensity basketball games, the Cooper/Armstrong rivalry, the late nights spent studying just to pass the test and then forgetting everything the next day. I will miss all of it, with the huge exception of the locked bathroom doors in every circle during class time.

I'm going to be very hon-



Photo by MIMI OTU

Saying goodbye to the familiar landmarks of the building will be difficult for some seniors.

est with you all: I think I might have learned more in the halls of Cooper than I did in the classrooms. (Does anybody even remember the quadratic formula?) I learned so many valuable life lessons in my four years here, not all of them pleasant. I'm so thankful for and appreciative of everybody that I met along the way. You're why high school was bearable, even if it was just for a season.

And, of course, I want to give a big shout-out to all the

students who worked behind the scenes to make Cooper shine. There are the members of Student Council, the Spirit Committee, *Talons* and *The Quill*, just to name a few. All of Cooper's seniors made some kind of mark here, whether they practiced and rehearsed every day after school, took pictures, spent their time with a pen and paper, or even just showed kindness to someone in need.

As we wrap up these last few weeks and prepare to re-

ceive our diplomas in June, it is now time to make as many memories as you can. A lot of us are going far away from our friends this fall. Not that I want to tell you what to do or anything, but it is important that we cherish every moment. Let's continue to leave our marks and ensure that the class of '22 will never be forgotten. We are the best class.

After four years of doing whatever it is we have been doing, the end is finally near. The future is ours. Good luck.

Legislation about trans athletes is a tough call

While the broader growth in anti-trans legislation is a concern, proposals related to sports are a bit more nuanced

By ERIN CHUNN
Quill staff writer

When it comes to other people's lives, other people's choices, other people's gender and other people's sexuality, as long as it doesn't affect me, then I genuinely couldn't care less. Since it's 2022, and society has largely evolved past old taboos, you would think more people would mind their own business. Unfortunately, in this election year, many politicians are using social issues as a way to attack people and earn votes. This can especially be seen with the anti-trans legislation that is popping up in many states. After reviewing some of these proposals, I find that my stance on this matter is divided, especially when it comes to the issue of trans athletes. However, no matter what, I feel like we should all be able to live our lives how we feel is most comfortable to us since we're here for a good time, not a long time.

Some of the proposed anti-trans laws are focused on sports and how mainly trans women (male to female) shouldn't be allowed to compete against other



Photo by SHENG VANG

The importance of trans rights is apparent during this election year.

women. In theory, this shouldn't even be a discussion since trans women are women regardless of surgery or hormones, so why shouldn't they be able to compete against other women? This argument completely contradicts itself when taking trans identity into consideration. If sports are separated based on gender, then there shouldn't be a problem letting trans people compete as the gender with which they identify.

With that being said, howev-

er, when you look objectively at the differences in physical ability between genders, you can't ignore the advantage that may be given to some trans athletes. Of course, no one chooses the body they're born in because life simply isn't fair. I can understand people wanting all athletes in general to compete based on the athletic ability of their gender. However, we are in a gray area now where the rules for trans athletes are being called into ques-

tion. Though I support everyone who is living their truth, it's only fair to the game that trans athletes are separated based on their ability instead of solely on their gender.

A lot of anti-trans legislation is clearly biased against the trans community when viewing it at the surface level. At the same time, when it comes to the issue of athletics, it is really important to give thought to both sides of the issue. If I identify as a woman, present myself as a woman, and base my identity on being a woman, then it's only obvious that I'd want to play sports as a woman against other women. Therefore, switching between playing sports as a male and then going home to live as a woman completely goes against what the LBGTQ+ community is fighting for.

However, males do have physical differences from females regardless of personal identity, and this becomes especially apparent in physical activities like sports. While some laws about trans athletes appear to make sense, we need to consider whether they are truly fair to the individual athletes in question.

Wednesday program is a clear WIN for all students

Cooper's recently unveiled academic support system is already having an impact on classroom performance at school

By AALIYAH HALL
Quill staff writer

Cooper students are being given a new opportunity to complete their missing work with a system called WIN Wednesday. WIN stands for "what I need," and the day allows students to get the support or the freedom they need depending on their individual situation. After the first few weeks of WIN Wednesday, I have mixed opinions about the new system, which definitely has its pros and cons.

One positive aspect of WIN Wednesday is that it is designed to meet students where they are at. The system rewards qualifying students by allowing them to stay home on Wednesdays if they are receiving a C- or higher in all their classes. Meanwhile,

it gives students who are falling below that mark the opportunity to come to school and catch up with fewer distractions and more personal attention from their teachers.

The new system is effective in its efforts to give students a second chance on things they may not have finished in class. Students who are behind can follow their regular schedule and get late work done during their normal class periods. More importantly, these students can get more personalized attention from their teachers because there will be fewer students in the classroom needing the teacher's time. This can help teachers figure out why their students may be struggling so that they can correct the situation.

The new system also pro-

vides motivation to all students. Those students who are falling behind are motivated to pull up their grades so they can earn a Wednesday filled with relaxation. Meanwhile, the students who are meeting expectations are rewarded with a chance to stay home. Along with this comes the additional motivation to keep doing well in their classes so they do not have to attend school on a future Wednesday.

On the other hand, there are some negative issues that come along with these new opportunities. First, it removes one day of new learning from each school week, which means that teachers have to jam more work into the other days of the week or eliminate entire lessons from their plans. Second, students who may only be getting a grade lower

than a C- in one class still have to attend the entire day, which means the day can be long and boring in their other classes.

Overall, I think the positive elements of WIN Wednesday outweigh the negative ones. From a personal perspective, I know that since this new system started, I have gained way more motivation to complete and turn in my work on time so that I do not have to attend school on Wednesdays. I now find myself proactively interacting with my teachers when I need help with my work, which has helped me raise my grades in many classes. Although it is still not known whether this system will be used next school year, there seems to be enough evidence at this point to support the argument that WIN Wednesday is working.

Nirvana classic lives up to hype

The group's landmark 1991 album *Nevermind* still holds up more than 30 years later



Photo courtesy of DGC RECORDS

The success of *Nevermind* catapulted Nirvana to international success and helped define a generation.

By LUKE REKELA-JASPER
Quill staff writer

Nevermind is rock band Nirvana's second studio album and it was released on September 24, 1991, by the label DGC Records. *Nevermind* was an unexpected critical and commercial hit, charting at number one on the U.S. Billboard 200 record charts and producing several successful hit singles. The most popular of their hit singles was "Smells Like Teen Spirit," which peaked at number six on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100. Nirvana is credited with defining a generation of rock music in the 1990s, bringing the alternative genre "grunge" to mainstream audiences.

Whether you love or hate them, Nirvana is undeniably one of the world's most popular bands. I can't remember exactly how old I was, but I remember downloading "Smells Like Teen Spirit" onto my classic iPod in the early 2010s. As the years went on, I would hear that song and many other Nirvana tunes either on the radio, in commercials, or in movies. The movie in particular that sparked my recent interest in Nirvana's music is *The Batman*, which heavily features the song "Something in the Way." After learning that song, along with "Smells Like Teen Spirit," came from Nirvana's sophomore album, *Nevermind*, I decided to start there.

One of the first aspects of *Nevermind* that caught my attention was the album's length. Including its secret 13th track, *Nevermind*'s runtime tallies up to about 49 minutes. Oftentimes this year, I had to make long drives to and from my brother's college campus, which usually takes about 50 minutes one way. The first time I listened to *Nevermind* in full was on one of these drives, and it has become an instant classic and my go-to music choice when on the road.

Another aspect of the album that became evident to me is its tone and variety of songs. In my opinion, the best tracks from the album are in the beginning, and they all flow very nicely together.

However, I do think *Nevermind*'s 13th and hidden track, "Endless Nameless," disrupts this flow. This song feels like a mid-or post-credits scene in a movie, since it's pretty out of place when comparing its bombastic and crazy energy to the somber or emotional steadiness of the other 12 tracks. In contrast, "Something in the Way" is the perfect way to conclude this album, and especially after seeing its use in the film *The Batman*, it provides a tragic, yet hopeful conclusion to an album jam-packed with great songs that cover various topics.

One aspect that negatively affects *Nevermind* is its pacing. Following the album's sixth track, "Polly," the next song, "Territorial Pissings," completely changes the tone and feels like the start of its own grunge album. In my opinion, this song's placement should have been a bit higher up, since it's more tonally consistent with those early tracks, such as "Breed."

I also think most of the album's tracks in its latter half don't hold as much weight as the tracks from the beginning. Not that they are bad songs, but the latter tracks are certainly less memorable. Besides those issues, I think *Nevermind*'s first half succeeds in being a consistent and enjoyable listening experience.

While the sequencing of the album might not be perfect, I have many favorite songs from the album. The first noteworthy one is "Breed," which is great from the start. This is definitely my go-to Nirvana song if I'm looking for something with a speedy pace and loud and fast drums.

Another favorite is "In

Bloom." This track bears a lot in common with classic rock songs while also containing the elements that make grunge rock such an engaging music genre. Also, I appreciate how this was Nirvana's response to some of their fans who thought they were just like every other Seattle rock band at the time. Cobain's lyrics on the chorus make this point especially evident.

Next, "Come as You Are" is definitely *Nevermind*'s best-paced song. This track strikes a good balance between low-to-loud volumes. I also really like the music video that accompanied this song.

"Polly," Nirvana's darkest song, is distinct from the other tracks on *Nevermind*, but works perfectly at the album's halfway point. The acoustic guitar strums, Cobain's softer and haunting vocals, and the tragic backstory behind the song's meaning makes "Polly" an unforgettable track on *Nevermind*.

Then there is "Something in the Way," which will probably go down as the *Nevermind* track I am most fond of, all because of *The Batman*, the film that led me to reviewing this album. Despite my issues with the movie, one of my favorite aspects was its usage of "Something in the Way," which is now branded in my mind as one of the Batman character's many anthems.

Last but not least, I can't forget about "Smells Like Teen Spirit." It's undeniably the most iconic song from the album. I bet if you were to cycle through rock radio stations right now, at least one of them would be playing this song.

Overall, despite my criticisms about the pacing of the latter half of the album, *Nevermind* is a must-listen for hardcore fans of alternative rock and grunge. This album definitely has some of Nirvana's best songs of all time. *Nevermind* earns four out of five stars.

Gamers should answer the call of *Vanguard*

The most recent installment of the *Call of Duty* series features a compelling story

By KAPOZIA KORICH
Quill staff writer

Call of Duty: Vanguard is the most recent of the many *Call of Duty* games. Designed by Mark Kevern Evan, *Vanguard* was originally released on November 5, 2021. I enjoy this game because of its well-put-together campaign. When compared to the other *Call of Duty* releases, *Vanguard* is one of the best next to *Call of Duty: WWII* and *Call of Duty: Cold War*. I think people should check out this game primarily because of its low recoil gameplay. Ultimately, *Vanguard* features the double-sprint, door and mount mechanics from *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare*, but the game's speed and shooting feel a lot more like *Call of Duty: Cold War*.

The plot of the game revolves around the rise of special forces. One of the first tasks is to uncover

a secret Nazi project and destroy it before they go through with it. The game allows you to take over plenty of characters, such as team leader and British Army Lieutenant Arthur Kingsley, his right-hand man Richard Webb, Red Army sniper Polina Petrova, American pilot Wade Jackson, Australian demolitionist Lucas Riggs and Czechoslovak partisan fighter Milos Novak. The game takes place at the end of World War II in 1945.

One of the great aspects of the game is the storyline. As you portray different characters, you get to play out the story of how they become who they are and how they all find each other in the game. This is different from other games, in which you never really get a backstory for each character.

The music in the game is also great. During the campaign, you get excellent songs that help portray what is going on in the scenes,

such as "Project Phoenix," which we hear when they finally get close to obtaining the plans, and "Wade into the Weeds," which plays when Wade's plane crashes and he has to battle his way out. The composer behind all the music included in the game is Bear McCreary, who also composes for TV and film.

One element of the game that is mediocre is the zombie option. While there have been some updates to this option when compared to other *Call of Duty* games, many of the classic zombies from the series are swapped out for new, half-baked ones.

Despite this issue, I still enjoy this game because of its campaign, which is comparable to other *Call of Duty* releases. I think fans of the *Call of Duty* series will enjoy *Vanguard* due to its gameplay features and its mechanics. Overall, *Call of Duty: Vanguard* earns four out of five stars.

Premier Performers

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

Max Nemesi

By SHENG VANG
Quill staff writer

"I have been drawing all my life," Max Nemesi (12) said. "I started painting around four years ago just before freshman year because I wanted to experience different fields of art."

Nemesi is currently involved in Painting 2 and Drawing 2. He said what he likes the most about art is that he gets "the freedom to draw whatever [he] wants." He added that the welcoming art community and environment is fun to be part of.

"I enjoy the environment the most. Ms. Mielke is a great teacher, so it's always fun being in class," Nemesi said.

Nemesi mentioned that some of his favorite memories from art class are completing his first realism drawing and completing his first painting piece.

According to Nemesi, there are not a lot of leadership roles due to art being more of an independent activity. However, when he gets the opportunity to, he tries to help others as best as he can.

Besides art, psychology is one of his favorite subjects.

"I think all the material for psychology is interesting. Plus, it is self-paced, so I can work on my own," he said.

In addition to his artwork, Nemesi also enjoys biking and playing basketball outside of school.

After high school, Nemesi plans to continue with his involvement in art by pursuing a graphic design degree at a technical college before continuing on at a university.

"I think that art has become ingrained in my life, so I will definitely continue to pursue it," Nemesi said.



Photo by MIMI OTU

Christopher Pinzon

By LLEWELLYN BOUTHIM
Quill staff writer

Christopher Pinzon-Medina (12) plays cello in Philharmonic Orchestra.

"I have played cello for five years now," he said. "I started off with the violin in fifth grade but switched in eighth grade after a switch in interest."

Pinzon-Medina said he first joined orchestra because "classical music has been an interest since [he] was younger." He said he has enjoyed the community aspect of his time in music.

"I have very much enjoyed being part of such a welcoming and caring community," he said. "Not only have I met so many amazing and talented people, but the experiences that come with it have been absolutely incredible."

A favorite orchestra memory for

Pinzon-Medina came during eighth grade when his group went to Orchestra Hall and competed with other schools in front of professional judges.

His long tenure in orchestra has led to Pinzon-Medina being named vice president for the Orchestra Leadership Council.

"This is very special to me as I get to be an example and a leader to underclassmen," he said.

In addition to orchestra, Pinzon-Medina said his favorite subject in school is physics because it is challenging. Outside of school, he said he enjoys "playing soccer, working out and spending time with family."

After graduating, Pinzon-Medina plans to major in international business at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. He also plans on staying involved with music.



Photo by MIMI OTU

Lauren Norful

By LLEWELLYN BOUTHIM
Quill staff writer

Lauren Norful (12) has made a name for herself as a performer at Cooper. She is a clarinet player in band, Marching Band and Wind Ensemble. She also sings in Concert Choir and her church choir. On top of that, she played Glenda in *The Wiz*.

While she has been in these many music-related activities throughout high school, her background in performance actually goes back to elementary school.

"I have been in my church choir since first grade," she said.

Norful cited many reasons why she enjoys being involved in her activities. She said she enjoys the chance to learn to play new instruments in band and she likes being able to sing with her friends in choir. As for her fa-

vorite memories across these many musical groups, Norful pointed out one in particular that involved Marching Band.

"In our Chippewa Falls show, we won top band in our division and we celebrated on the bus," she said. "It was definitely the highlight of my band season."

Her hard work in Marching Band resulted in Norful being named section leader for the clarinets this year. In light of that, it is not surprising that Norful said music is her favorite subject in school because it is "the most engaging." However, she also said she enjoys her Anatomy class because it forces her "to work on time management."

Next fall, Norful will be starting college at Norfolk State University. While she is undecided on a major, Norful said she will join the Marching Band at her school.



Photo by MIMI OTU

Chiashe Khang

By PHILIP ROBERT
Quill staff writer

Chiashe Khang (12) is involved with art-related hobbies and is enrolled in Cooper art classes.

Khang has been doing art ever since elementary school. She said she has always enjoyed the creative aspect of art.

"It has become a really therapeutic hobby of mine," she said.

The art classes Khang has had a chance to take at Cooper have allowed her to express herself in new ways.

"I enjoy seeing all the effort and time I put into something turn into an art piece that reflects my personality," she said.

One of her favorite memories related to art happened back when she was in second grade.

"I recall completing a self-portrait,

which every other student had also done. The portraits would then be hung up around the classroom and I would always find myself staring at my self-portrait, proud of my own work. This memory motivated me to keep pursuing art because art was something I've always enjoyed," she said.

Khang said her favorite classes in school are art-related.

"I enjoy doing activities that involve hands-on learning and a lot of creative thinking," she said.

Khang's outside-of-school hobbies are doing digital art, learning how to play musical instruments and playing video games.

Her plan for college is to attend a four-year university where she will major in graphic design and minor in computer science with the hope of one day working on video games.



Photo by MIMI OTU

Warcraft provides some excitement despite decline

The game's popularity has dropped dramatically since its peak in 2010

By LUKE REKELA-JASPER
Quill staff writer

World of Warcraft (WoW) is a massive-multiplayer-online-role-playing game (MMORPG) released by Blizzard Entertainment for Microsoft Windows and macOS. Set in the Warcraft universe, the game primarily takes place in the fantasy world of Azeroth and allows players to create their own characters that represent one of two warring factions: the Alliance or the Horde. Once character creation is complete, the player is given free rein to explore the various regions and zones, complete quests, and interact with other players.

Following the game's release in 2004, WoW has been the most popular MMORPG of all-time, and due to its success, eight major expansion packs have been released, with one currently in development. Additionally, there have been two vanilla remasters of the first two installments of the series.

For years, WoW was the king of MMORPGs and fantasy genre video games. However, the game drastically changed and declined as Blizzard made changes when they released new expansion packs through the years. In 2010, WoW had a peak of 12 million subscribers. By 2022, it has less than five million. In this review, I'll be discussing the major positives and negatives of WoW and why the game has progressively declined over the years.

The first key aspect of WoW is the gameplay. The controls for the game are basic and easy to understand because it is played with a mouse and keyboard. I first played WoW when I was five or six years old, and even then I knew what buttons I needed to press to move, jump and attack enemies.

What keeps the controls engaging are the animations your character makes when attacking. Early on, your attacks will be lackluster, but as you continue playing, your gear, weapons and main attacks will improve so combat will become much more fun. This is especially evident when participating in Dungeons, pre-designed level platforms with waves of enemies best engaged with a group of players.

Thanks to the newer updates to the game, WoW has become much more accessible to players who prefer to play the game solo. I can appreciate this aspect when creating a new character, but beyond that, the gameplay has become less challenging and is stale at times. If you played WoW back in 2004 or you enjoy the vanilla remaster, World of Warcraft Classic, then you know that soloing mobs of enemies is a definite challenge, often resulting in failure, and that teamwork with other players is necessary.

While I can appreciate Blizzard for making changes to the overall game to improve solo gameplay, what I cannot look past is Blizzard's inability to make overall gameplay engaging and fun. The problem is their lack of variety regarding Quests, objectives players will be doing to gain experience and improve their characters. However, I cannot properly discuss that aspect without first discussing WoW's massive open world.

In 2004, WoW had the largest open world map for MMORPGs. Even now, the game still has many vast and unique areas to explore and experience. However, the fatal flaw in WoW's open world is that many zones and areas are mere replicas of previous locations. This has an impact on the Quests in zones. For a lot of the newer zones following the 2014 WoW expansion Warlords of Draenor, leveling became repetitive and many Quests were just reskinned in different zones.

On the upside, each zone usually has its own unique music and NPCs (non-playable characters) that fit the environments. I appreciate Blizzard's attempt to make each zone feel distinct and unique from the others. What I cannot forgive is Blizzard continuously reskinning Quests and objectives and then acting like it is all new and exclusive content.

The third key aspect of WoW is

WARCRAFT
continues on page 10

Saul is stellar expansion of Bad universe

Better Call Saul, which is entering its sixth and final season, serves as a spin-off, prequel and sequel to Breaking Bad

By LUKE REKELA-JASPER
Quill staff writer

Better Call Saul is an American crime drama TV series created by Vince Gilligan and Peter Gould. It is a spin-off, prequel and sequel to the highly successful TV series Breaking Bad, and it follows the life of a former con-artist-turned-lawyer who eventually becomes the charismatic and egocentric criminal defense attorney known as Saul Goodman (Bob Odenkirk).

Viewers first got to meet the quick-with-his-mouth criminal lawyer Saul Goodman in the middle of Breaking Bad's second season, and he instantly became a favorite addition to the show's cast. However, since Saul was always positioned as a secondary character to Breaking Bad's main leads, I was intrigued to learn that, at the time of my first viewing of Breaking Bad, Saul actually had his own TV series that had recently finished its fifth season. Months later, after watching the entirety of Breaking Bad twice in a row, I decided to check out Better Call Saul, which has four seasons available on Netflix. I remember enjoying the first two episodes, but as I continued through the first season, for some reason, I remember falling out of touch with the show, due to it being far different and less exciting than Breaking Bad.

About a year later, in April 2022, I finally got back into Better Call Saul, with my intrigue about the show being revitalized when it was announced that Bryan Cranston and Aaron Paul, who were the two main leads of Breaking Bad, would be returning for Saul's sixth and final season. And boy, I'm glad I took my time and didn't rush to binge this show directly after viewing Breaking Bad. After watching all five seasons of Better Call Saul, my main takeaway from this series is that it is not Breaking Bad, but its own unique television drama.

First off, I'd like to go over Better Call Saul's characters. Being a prequel, the show's principle cast features many characters who first appeared on Breaking Bad, the most one obvious being Saul Goodman, the protagonist of the show. However, Better Call Saul doesn't start with him already shaped into the Saul Goodman from Breaking Bad. Instead, he is Jimmy McGill, a struggling public defender in Albuquerque, New Mexico, caring for his older brother Chuck (Michael McKean), who suffers from electromagnetic hypersensitivity. Jimmy idolizes Chuck and aims to impress him by becoming a successful lawyer, having previously been a low-level conman in Cicero, Illinois until Chuck bailed him out of a jam, leading Jimmy on a journey to redeem himself in the eyes of his older brother. The relationship between the McGill brothers is elevated by the emotionally charged



Photo courtesy of AMC

Bob Odenkirk stars as Saul Goodman, a popular supporting character from Breaking Bad.

performances of Odenkirk and McKean.

Another returning character from Breaking Bad is Mike Ehrmantraut (Jonathan Banks), a former Philadelphia-cop-turned-criminal, who moves to Albuquerque to support his daughter-in-law and granddaughter. Better Call Saul is just as much Mike's story as it is Jimmy's. The series focuses on the origin story of how Mike gets involved in Albuquerque's criminal underworld, in which he is fully immersed during Breaking Bad. There are many more returning characters from Breaking Bad, but I'll refrain from revealing their identities to allow Breaking Bad fans to be pleasantly surprised when their favorites appear on their TV screens.

As for new characters, Better Call Saul introduces us to Howard Hamlin (Patrick Fabian), Chuck's partner at their law firm and the occasional rival to Jimmy; Kim Wexler (Rhea Seehorn), a lawyer at Chuck and Howard's law firm and Jimmy's girlfriend; and Igancio "Nacho" Varga (Michael Mando), a drug dealer who often finds himself in the crosshairs of Jimmy, Mike and the Albuquerque drug scene. Saul's third season cements Nacho as one of my favorite characters, and his storylines often leave me on the edge of my seat since there is only a one-off reference to Nacho in Breaking Bad.

The first season of Better Call Saul shares a lot in common with the first season of Breaking Bad, but it is different enough to make it unique and enjoyable. I think audiences will be able to get invested in the show straight away, all due to Odenkirk's charismatic and sympathetic performance as the underdog lawyer Jimmy McGill. One of my favorite aspects of Saul's first season is the dysfunctional relationship between the McGill

brothers, whose struggle to understand each other creates much of this show's conflict. On the other end, this season slowly pours the breadcrumbs of Mike becoming a criminal in Albuquerque. While not as much time is given to Mike as it is Jimmy in the first season, I think the writers are wise to make Jimmy the main focus at the start. Season one is my favorite season of the show.

As for the second season, it does have a few things I don't love. A big chunk of Jimmy's story this season is devoted to him being involved with a new law firm. While I think this story arc has its fun gimmicks, I find it less enjoyable than seeing Jimmy go solo as a struggling pro-bono lawyer or as his con artist alter ego "Slippin' Jimmy." Thankfully, it doesn't take long for Jimmy's story to return to its roots, as his relationships with Chuck and Kim become more involved in the plot, and he falls back into bad habits. The best aspects of this season come from Mike's story. As is the case on Breaking Bad, seeing Mike use his intelligence to be an effective criminal is entertaining, and his various confrontations with a certain familiar face from Breaking Bad are a lot of fun.

The third season of the show has a strong start, building off of the conflict between Jimmy and Chuck that concluded the second season. Eventually, this dynamic culminates in one of my favorite episodes of the series. This season also shines a lot more light on Kim and Nacho, making them some of my favorite characters in the Bad-Saul shared universe. However, much like the second season, the third season has a stretch of episodes that really drag a bit, and the season finale is underwhelming because the climactic events are predictable.

However, season four takes

the show in a different-yet-needed direction. This season puts aside the legal aspect that is prominent in the previous seasons and, instead, makes the main focus on characters, which culminates in Jimmy's evolution into Saul Goodman. I also appreciate this season's move to put Mike back at the forefront. His storyline and friendship with German engineer Werner Ziegler (Rainer Bock) is a highlight of season four. Another highlight is getting to see Nacho's story become grittier and even more unpredictable. Additionally, the introduction of the wacky cartel criminal Lalo Salamanca (Tony Dalton) is promising. However, I think this season would be better if the intriguing plotline with Nacho was expanded upon more.

The fifth season wisely has the show's main cast members interact with one another more often and their storylines interconnect. The showrunners also raise the bar in terms of scope, scale and intensity, which makes season five one of Better Call Saul's best seasons.

Across all five seasons, what is undeniably amazing about Better Call Saul is the filmmaking. The clear and crisp cinematography, impressive camera moves and angles, and overall creativity make Saul one of the best-looking shows on television. Even if the overall plot line isn't the most interesting, the directors still know how to make Saul visually engaging at the very least.

While Saul may look great, I think what makes this show fall flat for me is the writing. While I didn't expect or want Better Call Saul to be just a replica or rehash of Breaking Bad, which delivered some of television's greatest dramatic story beats ever, I did hope Saul would

SAUL
continues on page 11

Super Metroid brings old-school fun to gamers

The game, which was originally released in 1994, can now be played through a new Nintendo Switch feature

By DEVIN GRAY
Quill staff writer

Super Metroid, also known as Metroid 3, is a video game developed by Nintendo for the Super Nintendo Entertainment System (SNES). First released in March 1994 in Japan, and April 1994 for American audiences, this is the third installment of the Metroid series. Personally, I think Metroid is one of my favorite gaming series ever. I believe that folks should play this game if they want to get a good feel for the best old games from Nintendo. I think this is a great game because of its excellent graphics, smooth gameplay and solid storyline.

Super Metroid starts off with the protagonist, Samus Aran, returning from her mission of exterminating the deadly alien species called the metroids in the previous game. However, one infant metroid remains, and it is her job to hunt down the alien to protect it from space pirate Ridley, who wants it for his own



Photo courtesy of NINTENDO

The quality of detail in the graphics holds up well despite the age of the game's evil use.

One thing is for certain: Super Metroid has mind-blowing graphics, especially when you consider the time period when it was released. With great pixel art and detailed backgrounds, Super Metroid has pretty environments for the audience

to look at. This same attention to detail applies to the enemies as well. The metroids are possibly the most detailed enemies I have seen, especially when compared to other video games from that time period. While the graphics may have limitations compared to today's games, they

are still well thought out and great overall.

The storyline of the game is pretty straightforward. However, the game has some of the same great storytelling aspects that some great literature has. In the story, Samus Aran arrives at planet Zebes to get the final metroid that she missed on her previous mission. Meanwhile, the space pirate Ridley is hunting it down as well, which means that whoever gets to the metroid first will decide the fate of the entire galaxy. It is a high-stakes plot that makes the player feel a sense of accomplishment upon completion. Additionally, the pacing of the plot works well and it is not at all confusing.

Finally, the gameplay of Super Metroid is smooth. With great run-and-gun tactics, and excellent audio queues for simple shooting and movement, Super Metroid absorbs the player in its gameplay. However,

SUPER METROID
continues on page 12

Raimi makes *Madness* worth checking out

The *Doctor Strange* sequel marks director Sam Raimi's first return to Marvel since directing the original Spider-Man trilogy

By LUKE REKELA-JASPER
Quill staff writer

Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness is the 28th film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) and is a sequel to the 2016 film *Doctor Strange*. Directed by Sam Raimi, written by Michael Waldron, and set after the events of the Disney+ limited series *WandaVision* and the 2021 film *Spider-Man: No Way Home*, the film sees Benedict Cumberbatch returning as the neurosurgeon-turned-Master-of-the-Mystic-Arts Stephen Strange to protect teenager America Chavez (Xochitl Gomez) from the former Avenger-turned-Scarlet-Witch Wanda Maximoff (Elizabeth Olsen), who aims to acquire Chavez's ability to travel throughout the multiverse.

If it weren't for my brother asking me if I wanted to come down to his college campus and see a movie after school, I likely would not have seen *Multiverse of Madness*. I could discuss all day how fatigued the MCU's familiar formula and lack of variety in their content has made me, but there was one aspect of the *Doctor Strange* sequel that gave me hope: director Sam Raimi. Raimi directed three Spider-Man movies in the early 2000s. Flaws and all, Raimi's Spider-Man trilogy has some of the best superhero filmmaking of all time because of Raimi's direction and style. Another appealing aspect of *Multiverse of Madness* is the smorgasbord of internet theories that there would be an exceptional number of cameos from other Marvel characters. At this point, I would not be surprised if Jesus himself makes a cameo in one of these Marvel movies, since the MCU seems to want to appeal to the massive majority of fans and heavily rely on nostalgia as their selling point.

With all that in mind, my hope for *Multiverse of Madness* was that it would be more similar to Raimi's Spider-Man trilogy, and would avoid the cookie-cutter, plain and predictable MCU movies that have plagued this franchise. While Raimi certainly is given some freedom, *Multiverse of Madness* unfortunately suffers from the fatal flaws that have caused my once spectacular interest in the MCU to completely fade away. In order to demonstrate why my interest has faded, this review will contain spoilers for both *Multiverse of Madness* and other films and TV shows in the MCU.

Much like the other MCU films, it is no surprise to me that the actors in *Multiverse of Madness* are doing a good job at making their superhero characters feel colorful and unique. To quote the fictional character Dutch van der Linde from the video game *Red Dead Redemption*: "They have to,



Photo courtesy of MARVEL STUDIOS

The dependably good performance of Benedict Cumberbatch helps anchor the often unwieldy plot.

because they have to justify their wages." My cynicism aside, all of the actors in *Multiverse of Madness* come across like they give a fig about making the majority of audiences understand and be captivated by their characters.

Elizabeth Olsen completely embraces her role as the antagonist of the film. At times, she feels like a full-fledged, unleashed Sith lord, which is fun. Olsen's character was established to exhibit villainous behaviors in the 2021 Disney+ miniseries *WandaVision*, so it is a pleasant surprise to see the Scarlet Witch switch from being a hero to a villain.

However, Maximoff's entire motivation happens to be a copy of another villain's plan from a different Marvel movie: The Kingpin from the animated film *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*. While Maximoff's motivation as the villain certainly makes sense considering the events of *WandaVision*, I cannot overlook how similar her character is to another existing Marvel villain from a different universe. The resolution to the conflict with the Scarlet Witch is also predictable and disappointing.

Xochitl Gomez is a new addition to the MCU and plays America Chavez, a teenage girl who can only travel to different universes when she is afraid. Why, you say? Because those are the movie's rules. Also, the question of how Chavez has her multiversal powers is never answered. While this doesn't detract from the overall message *Multiverse of Madness* is conveying, it is a jarring annoyance to me. Thankfully, Chavez's character and Cumberbatch's Doctor Strange have good chemistry with one another.

Speaking of Cumberbatch, he

doesn't disappoint in portraying the James Bond-esque warlock, along with a few alternate versions of Doctor Strange. While I think Cumberbatch's best performance as the Master of the Mystic Arts comes from the 2016 film, *Doctor Strange*, because that film is much more focused on him individually, Cumberbatch is still great when interacting with other characters in the new film.

One of the best returning characters from the original film is Karl Mordo (Chiwetel Ejiofor), who parted ways with Strange after a disagreement in the first film. In *Multiverse of Madness*, Ejiofor plays an alternate version of Mordo from Earth-838. Mordo's turn against Strange in *Doctor Strange* was promising, so to see the Mordo from the 2016 film not used at all in *Multiverse of Madness* is disappointing.

However, the variant Mordo's involvement in the new movie leads to the introduction of a superhero team known as the Illuminati. Even if their involvement is limited and their fates are disappointing, it is fun to see Mr. Fantastic make his debut in the MCU. He is played by John Krasinski, who many fans hoped would one day play the stretchy superhero. Other fun additions are Patrick Stewart reprising his role as Professor X from the X-Men film series, Hayley Atwell as the female Captain America, and to my surprise, Anson Mount as Black Bolt, a character from the botched and canceled Marvel TV series *Inhumans*.

Characters aside, *Multiverse of Madness* will enthrall audiences with its filmmaking and visuals. The amazing visual effects and Raimi's distinct directing style result in a good-looking MCU movie, even if the cinematography

is mostly the same as other MCU movies and shows. What is more, Raimi's frequent collaborator Danny Elfman does the score for this movie. Elfman, best known for his themes for 1989's *Batman*, the original Spider-Man trilogy and *The Simpsons*, delivers a score that fits the world of Doctor Strange, but it definitely doesn't live up to the bars he set with his previous anthems.

Ultimately, where *Multiverse of Madness* fails is in its script. While I do appreciate the film's focus on the lengths people will go in order to make themselves happy, the way the screenplay presents this lesson is too basic and obvious. The script also has too many MacGuffins, objects that are used for no other reason than to move the plot forward. A final aspect of the script that needs mentioning is the pacing. The movie goes by quickly, which means I likely missed a few throw-away lines of dialogue integral to the plot. Overall, I feel the script would have benefited from a more balanced pace.

In conclusion, *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness* is a definite crowd pleaser made for families with young children. This film is also made for 50-something neckbeards, like the hefty guy who sat a few seats away from me and commented out loud throughout the entire movie and obnoxiously laughed after every single joke. *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness* earns 2.5 out of five stars, for being a fun-yet-flawed entry in the MCU. On a positive note, I am glad I can wrap up my final arts review for *The Quill* with a Sam Raimi film since my first-ever review for the paper was on Raimi's *Spider-Man* back in November 2020.

Green's *Alaska* is a teen classic

The 2005 novel's focus on friendships still resonates

By TAJANNEA JENKINS
Quill staff writer

Looking for Alaska is a young adult novel written by John Green that was published in March 2005 by Dutton Juvenile. *Looking for Alaska*, which is Green's debut novel, tells a story that explores issues of death and mortality as well as the importance of self-discovery. While it has a compelling storyline that leaves you in awe of its amazing characters, the reason I love this novel is because of its main theme: the importance of friendship.

Looking for Alaska is about a young boy named Miles, who is later known as Pudge. Miles has an obsession with death and famous people's last words. He eventually gets an invitation to join a boarding school, where he believes he will find "The Great Perhaps."

When Miles starts at the school, he meets Chip, who is also known as "The Colonel." As the school year goes on, Miles and Chip meet more friends, including a girl named Alaska Young. Miles soon develops a secret-but-not-so-secret crush on her. Miles eventually tells his friends about his desire to find "The Great Perhaps," and once he does so, he begins finding his place in the world and developing deeper bonds.

Looking for Alaska is an interesting and compelling novel. One of my favorite things about it is the characters and how complex they are. One example of that is the character Alaska. When we first meet her, we think she is this beautiful, popular girl who has "weird" friends, but as the novel draws to a close, we see the deeper and darker parts of her and her past. The best thing about this book is that nothing and no one is as it seems. There is always a deeper meaning that is waiting to be discovered.

Another great thing about this novel is how realistic it is. The characters and the ways in which they interact in the novel are accurate to how a young friend group really is. The dialogue also realistically depicts the way young adults speak to one another. It is so realistic that readers can easily forget it is not real life. The characters make you feel at home. It is as if they are sending you an invitation to join their world. Before you know it, hours have passed and you've been reading the entire time.

The best thing about *Looking for Alaska* is its theme of friendship and finding where you belong. I feel like *Looking for Alaska* is a novel that opens conversations about grief and how to work through that experience. The novel also explores the importance of finding your people and how letting them into your life can save a person. Miles always felt like he was alone until he made his own family with his friends. This is something that is common among teens and young adults. This novel shows that family isn't always about blood.

Looking for Alaska is a novel that you should read to experience life through another lens. The novel delivers an important message about the value of experiencing friendship. It also takes readers on a journey of self-discovery as the characters find where they belong. I give this novel five out of five stars.

War takes players to Scandinavia

The eighth game in the *God of War* series may be the best

By BRIGHT DEKU
Quill staff writer

God of War is an action-adventure video game developed by Santa Monica Studio and published by Sony Interactive Entertainment that was first released for PlayStation 4 on April 20, 2018. The game, which is also known as *God of War IV*, is actually the eighth installment in the *God of War* series and it serves as a sequel to 2010's *God of War III*. Serious and casual gamers should play *God of War* because the action-adventure aspects of the game are consistently fun. It is also worth playing because it takes a decent amount of time to make it through the game.

GOD OF WAR
continues on page 10

Ice Age 3 is an overlooked gem in the franchise

While the reliance on scatological humor might wear thin for older viewers, the movie still has some great qualities

By PHILIP ROBERT
Quill staff writer

The *Ice Age* series is iconic to people from my generation. From Scrat to Sid, the characters in this movie are each classic in their way. Of the many movies in the series, 2009's *Ice Age 3: Dawn of the Dinosaurs* is the most underrated one and should be better appreciated. This movie is memorable for having dinosaurs and mammals interact and for introducing new characters like Peaches to the *Ice Age* universe. The movie is especially monumental for me because my mom and I went to the theaters to see this film when I was six years old, which is why I want everyone to appreciate this movie as much as I do.

The movie takes place in the period after a comet hits Earth and before the *Ice Age* ends. The story focuses on our usual main character, Manny, played again by Ray Romano (from *Everybody Loves Raymond*, a sitcom that I remember because of *Nick at Night*). Also featured in the film is the character El-



Photo courtesy of 20TH CENTURY STUDIOS

Manny and company are joined by some new characters in this sequel.

lie, played by Queen Latifah, who is now pregnant. The third central character in the film is Scrat, voiced by the director of the film, Chris Wedge.

While these characters are ones who were established in the earlier movies, *Ice Age 3* also introduces new worlds and new characters. One important new character is Buck, who is crazy but nice. Buck

plays an important part in the plot of the film as it unfolds.

The movie still holds up to this day thanks to the story. With a plot that deals with the mixing of dinosaurs with mammals, there are many interesting conflicts and plot twists. While you would think *Ice Age 3* is purely a kids' film, you would be wrong thanks to the plot and a collection of jokes that are not

just for the kids. I find the story to be more compelling and the jokes to be funnier now that I am older.

At the same time, the movie has a lot of flaws. I think the new world they are trying to show should be much wider. Additionally, some of the side stories they follow in *Ice Age 3* were already done in the preceding film, *Ice Age 2*. Eliminating some of these repetitive elements would have shortened the movie a bit, which would make for a better viewing experience.

Another issue with the movie is its overuse of poop jokes. While they are trying to appeal to kids, the movie shouldn't have to use so many poop jokes to be funny. There are so many other comedies I can name that don't need poop jokes to get an easy laugh.

Despite its over-reliance on dumb humor, I still give *Ice Age 3* 3.5 out of five stars. The overall story is well written and the vocal performances are good as usual. However, the poop jokes will make kids laugh more than they will make adults laugh.

WARCRAFT
continued from page 8

its story and characters. Even if you are unfamiliar with the extensive lore from the *Warcraft* franchise, I doubt it will be difficult for newcomers to get a hold on the overall conflict the Alliance and the Horde face. However, once the player starts adventuring through the many *WoW* expansions, storylines with chief leaders from the Alliance and the Horde become much more prevalent.

This may be my personal grievance, but I have found the main NPCs in the two most recent *WoW* expansions, *Battle for Azeroth* and *Shadowlands*, to be uninteresting and one dimensional. Anduin Wrynn, the human leader for the Alliance and son of fallen king Varian Wrynn, has the potential to be such a compelling character, like Paul Atreides from *Dune*, but the writing his character receives just makes him come across like an annoying and unprepared protege.

Then there's Sylvanas Windrunner, one of the leaders for the Horde. She has an extensive backstory with many characters in the Alliance and Horde, but she is almost always portrayed as a power-hungry antagonist without any real character.

WoW's focus on Anduin and Sylvanas has been one of its biggest downfalls, since the game once had interesting NPCs. A prime example of this is the Lich King, the main antagonist of *WoW*'s second expansion, *Wrath of the Lich King*. This character's fall from grace and backstory as a former human prince named Arthas Menethil is presented to the player through Dungeons and Raids, culminating in the player's final confrontation with the Lich King.

Speaking of expansions, once players have reached a certain level, they can now freely play through much of the content from every *WoW* expansion. This update came with the release of the eighth expansion, *Shadowlands*, in late 2020. As I mentioned earlier, this update is great for new players to experience the older content with ease, but it irks veteran *WoW* players who want new content and not just altered versions of expansions they played years ago.

Before *Shadowlands* and these updates were released, I dedicated much of my time to leveling a character the original way. While it did take a lot of time and effort, I did enjoy my experience playing *WoW* as it had been for years, from level one to 120. At the same time, I will acknowledge that *Shadowlands* does make getting characters to the new max level, 60, much easier.

I think playing *WoW* should not be a sprint, but a marathon. There are many zones, dungeons, raids and bosses to conquer in this MMORPG, and I think Blizzard now giving players the ability to rush over so many of these aspects is them basically admitting that so many of their systems and expansions are bad.

If Blizzard really wants to make *WoW* great again, then they need to focus on two things: fixing the mechanics of previous expansions and making improvements for future expansions. While soloing through some of my favorite expansions and zones may be fun, what made *WoW* special was the idea that you and some friends needed to go on a journey to finally achieve max level and be prepared for the next expansion. My favorite memories from playing *WoW* definitely came from when my brother, father, uncle and I would log on a few times a week and play on a vanilla *WoW* server up until we all hit max level.

Recently, after watching the cinematic trailer for the ninth and upcoming *WoW* expansion, *Dragonflight*, I had an epiphany of what my overall *WoW* experience has been like: the 1986 film *Stand by Me*. In this movie, audiences watch four kids go on an adventure to find a dead body, but the true point of their quest is that they learn more about themselves. In both *WoW* and *Stand By Me*, the objectives of hitting max level or of finding the dead body, respectively, are not actually the overall point. It is the journey that matters most.

While I don't hate *WoW* by any means, I cannot deny that it is now unrecognizable when compared to what it once was or what I thought it could be. *WoW* earns three out of five stars. I am unsure if I will continue my *WoW* journey in *Dragonflight*, but I am sure that I will look back fondly on the memories and inside jokes that were made when I played this game with my family.

Twins turn into the division's hottest team

After a mediocre showing in the 2021 season, Minnesota has gotten off to an excellent start in the 2022 campaign



Photo courtesy of MLB.COM

Pitcher Cole Sands' debut game against the Tampa Bay Rays on May 1 resulted in a 9-3 win by the Minnesota Twins.

By NOLAN ANDLER
Quill staff writer

The start of the 2022 season has been interesting for the Minnesota Twins. The Twins ended 2021 with a series win and went into the offseason with momentum, but as the offseason commenced, the lockout happened. Once the lockout ended and teams were able to operate, the Twins started 2022 with some big moves.

Having sent away key players, including veterans like Josh Donaldson and Mitch Garver, the Twins roster had some gaping holes in it. Then came the surprising move of signing the hottest free agent on the market, short stop Carlos Correa. All of a sudden, the Twins had promise again. After a few more changes within the roster, the season was ready to begin.

The Twins struggled early as the season got underway. Their first series of the year was also their first homestand of the season. The Twins opened the homestand with a four-game series against the Seattle Mariners. Opening day was a pitchers' duel between defending Cy Young-winner Robbie Ray for the Mariners and promising rookie Joe Ryan for the Twins. It was a low-scoring game the whole way, but the Mariners won after newly signed Twins catcher Gary Sanchez missed a walk-off home run by about six feet.

In game two, it was tight the whole way again. However, this time, it was a more heartbreaking loss. On a day when the Twins offense was struggling, Byron Buxton hit a go-ahead homer to give the Twins a 3-2 lead in the eighth, but in the ninth, pitcher Tyler Duffey couldn't hold on. Duffey's bad outing for the Twins allowed the Mariners to come back and win 4-3.

After the bad 0-2 start, the Twins were able to close out the series by winning the last two games. In game three, the Twins dominated 10-4 behind six total home runs. Two of those homers were by Byron Buxton and there was a grand slam by Gary Sanchez. In the last game of the series,

the Twins got a solid 4-0 win behind a gem from starting pitcher Dylan Bundy.

The Twins completed their homestand with a two-game series against the Los Angeles Dodgers. In game one, the Twins played tough behind starter Chris Archer's great outing on the mound. The game was at 1-1 almost the whole way, but in the eighth, everything went south for the Twins. A six-run eighth by the Dodgers, along with an 88-minute weather delay right after that, made it a night to forget for the Twins as they lost 7-2.

In the series finale the next day, the Twins had to face star Clayton Kershaw and it did not go well. Kershaw pitched a perfect game and the Dodgers got three home runs in a row en route to a 7-0 win and a series sweep over the Twins.

The Twins then went into their first road trip of the year against Boston and Kansas City with a 2-4 record, which meant the odds were definitely against them. In the Boston series, the Twins played well and the teams split the series 2-2. Boston won games two and three, while the Twins won the series opener and the series finale behind Joe Ryan and Dylan Bundy's big days behind the mound, with both only allowing one run each in their starts.

However, the most notable things about this series took place in games one and two. In game one, Byron Buxton who has had injury problems in the past, went down with right knee soreness. Meanwhile, in game two, newly signed pitcher Sonny Gray left with an injury.

The Kansas City series was even less bright. In game one, the Twins were able to jump out to a 3-1 lead, but in the sixth, with the score 3-2, Twins pitcher Tyler Duffey gave up two homers to Salvador Perez and Hunter Dozier and that gave the Royals a 4-3 win.

In game two, the Royals won 2-0. It wasn't that the Royals pitched a gem of a game because the Twins were getting hits. In-

stead, the issue was that nobody was able to reach home.

During game three, the Twins offense struggled again but they were able to eke out a 1-0 win behind Joe Ryan's two-hit, zero-earned-runs and five-strikeout day. All it took was a sacrifice fly in the second to win it for the Twins. It wasn't the best road trip for the Twins, but there were some notable moments.

Coming back to Target Field for a homestand against the Chicago White Sox and Detroit Tigers, the Twins were now sitting at 6-7. The Twins welcomed Chicago to Target Field for a three-game weekend series. During game one, the Twins won in a dramatic way. First, they got the lead in the eighth after the White Sox had two huge defensive blunders. Then, in the top of the ninth, with the bases loaded for the Sox, pitcher Emilio Pagan was able to get out of it for the Twins and they won 2-1.

Game two of the series was all Twins thanks to four-hit games from Buxton and Arraez along with a shutout game from Dylan Bundy. The Twins eventually rolled to a 9-2 win.

The Twins also won game three behind Byron Buxton. Buxton got the game-tying, two-run homer in the bottom of the seventh. Then, in the bottom of the 10th, with Chicago holding a 4-3 lead, Buxton hit a 469-foot, three-run, walk-off homer for the Twins. It gave the Twins a 6-4 win, a four-game win streak and, most importantly, the division lead.

The Detroit Tigers series also provided some great moments. In game one, the Twins were down 4-3 with two runners on base in the ninth. The Twins were able to get those runners in to win the game after a sequence of errors happened for the Tigers.

While game two wasn't as dramatic, it still had its notable moments. Behind a seven-innings-pitched, one-hit day by Joe Ryan, along with a multi-homer game by Max Kepler, the Twins won 5-0.

Finally, in game three, the

Twins won 7-1 behind three Tigers errors along with big games from Gilberto Celestino and Carlos Correa on offense and defense, respectively.

After the undefeated homestand, the Twins carried this momentum into a three-game series against the Tampa Bay Rays at Tampa. Unlike the series loss that the Twins took there last year, they won this year's series. Game one went to Tampa as Dylan Bundy had his first bad start of the year en route to a 6-1 Rays win. In games two and three, the hot bats of Carlos Correa and Kyle Garlick led the Twins. The Twins won game two 9-1 after blowing it open late, while in game three, the Twins blew it open early with a five-run first inning that eventually led to a 9-3 win.

As of May 3, the Twins were sitting at 14-9. Unlike the inconsistency of last year's team, the Twins are looking much better this season. The pitching staff has been off to a great start. The starting core has been great with pitchers Joe Ryan and Dylan Bundy putting up great numbers. Meanwhile, on the back end of the rotation, Chris Archer and Chris Paddack have been getting much better with every start they have.

With respect to the bullpen, there has been some inconsistency. Currently, the standout of the bullpen is rookie Jhoan Duran. Led by his 100-mile-per-hour-plus fastball, he has been dang near unhittable.

On the offensive side, everyone has been contributing. Byron Buxton has been leading the team with MVP-caliber numbers. However, players like Luis Arraez, Jorge Polanco and Gio Urshela have been getting hits as well. Some other notable players who have been starting to heat up are Max Kepler, Ryan Jeffers and the big signee, Carlos Correa. As long as the pitching can stay good and more players start heating up as the season approaches the summer months, fans should expect this team to make some serious noise.

GOD OF WAR TAKES PLAYERS TO SCANDINAVIA continued from page 9

While the other games in the *God of War* series are loosely based on Greek mythology, this game is more inspired by Norse mythology. The events of the game take place in ancient Scandinavia in the realm of Midgard. The game has two main characters: Kratos, the former Greek *God of War* who is the only playable character, and his son, Atreus. Following the death of Kratos' second wife, who was also Atreus' mother, Kratos and Atreus journey to fulfill her request that her ashes be spread at

the highest peak of the nine realms. Along their journey, they come into conflict with monsters and gods of the Norse world.

The graphics of the game are one major highlight. When I play *God of War*, it feels like I am watching a movie thanks to the game's visuals. The various monsters you face are rendered in great detail and all of the information that is conveyed to the player on screen is easy to see. The end result is that players truly feel like they are in the game.

Another aspect I like about

God of War is the use of cutscenes. The use of these scenes in *God of War* gives players a break so they are not constantly clicking buttons. Additionally, there are times after the player has completed an objective when a video will play in which your character automatically goes to where he needs to go next. However, players can also choose to control the character and take him to the next location themselves.

God of War is also appealing for its fighting mechanics. I enjoy the fact that the fighting is cho-

reographed with vibrations in the controller, which makes it feel like you are really fighting. I also like that the fights themselves are challenging. It often takes me at least five-to-10 tries to defeat the boss in *God of War*.

Overall, *God of War* is an entertaining game thanks to its graphics, its cutscenes and its fighting sequences. It took me about three weeks of casual playing to work through the game, which seems like a reasonable amount of time. *God of War* deserves four out of five stars.

Oelfke retiring from Cooper

After years of service as a teacher and activities director, Oelfke is looking forward to what comes next



Photo by SHENG VANG

Mr. Oelfke has helped guide the Activities Office through the challenges of the pandemic over the last two years.

By NOLAN ANDLER
Quill staff writer

Activities Director Mr. Oelfke will be retiring this spring after working at Cooper for 36 years. Before his current position, Oelfke was a physical education teacher and a coach for the Hawks.

Oelfke's time as teacher, coach

When Oelfke started at Cooper, he was a physical education teacher. He also eventually became head coach for multiple sports.

Oelfke said Cooper was a lot was different when he first started at the school. Three decades ago, the number of students at the school was much smaller than it is now.

"We went from a neighborhood community to an expanded community," Oelfke said.

Oelfke said the number of physical education classes was much higher in his earlier years. In addition, there were eight teachers in that department as opposed to the three physical education teachers currently at Cooper.

At the start of his career as a Cooper coach, Oelfke worked with the lower-level baseball and football teams starting in the late 1980s. In 1991, after former football head coach Mr. Jones retired, Oelfke applied for that position and got it.

Under Oelfke, the football team had success. In fact, he coached the team to its first state appearance in history in 1996.

Oelfke also coached the baseball team to success. During his 10 years with that squad, the baseball team went 18-2 against some of the most powerful teams in Minnesota. According to Mr. Palm, a former assistant baseball coach under Oelfke who currently teaches health at Cooper, Oelfke's success was related to the way he coached.

"He delegated almost everything to his assistants. He wasn't an 'I'm gonna do it all' coach. He had his coaches coach," Palm said.

Eventually, the workload of coaching two successful teams led late Cooper Activities Director Ms. Lehman to suggest that Oelfke focus on just one of the two teams.

"She sat me down and said, 'You gotta choose: baseball or football.' I chose to continue coaching football," Oelfke said.

Oelfke's time as Activities Director

After Lehman retired as Activities Director in 2001, and her replacement left just one year after

that, Oelfke was encouraged by his colleagues to apply for the interim Activities Director position, which he got. His success in that position led to Oelfke interviewing for becoming Activities Director on an ongoing basis and the rest is history.

When Oelfke started in his position in the early 2000s, the Cooper sports program was different. For example, the baseball program had enough players for four teams back then.

Although the overall student population at Cooper is now lower than it was in the past, and the student participation numbers for sports has also become smaller, there has been a lot of success in Cooper's athletic programs during the last 20 years under Oelfke's leadership. For instance, the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 girls basketball teams made back-to-back state appearances, with the '17-'18 team taking the title. Additionally, the Hawks football team recently made it to state last fall for the first time since Oelfke's involvement with the team in the

ple, former cross country and track coach Mr. DiSalvi credits Oelfke with helping him get comfortable as a first-time coach.

"It was my first time being a head coach, so naturally I was a little nervous about all I needed to do. Fortunately, he was very reassuring and always gave good advice on how to manage things related to coaching," DiSalvi said.

DiSalvi also mentioned that Oelfke is skilled at making sure every home sporting event feels like a "big game."

"One thing that students may notice is all the cool team photos as people walk in from the stadium entrance to the gym. He told me he was very intentional about where he placed that because he wanted fans to feel excited, like they were attending a big-time sporting event, when they went to the stadium," he said.

DiSalvi also stressed that Oelfke's work was always on behalf of the school and never about promoting himself.

"He never sought attention for himself as the Activities Director; rather, he always kept the focus on the students participating," DiSalvi said.

Another person who has witnessed Oelfke's impact on Cooper has been his administrative assistant Ms. Thurston. Thurston joined Oelfke's office when the former assistant, Ms. Schiebe, retired two years ago. Thurston

said Oelfke made her move into the position easy for her.

"He'd teach me and show me the various aspects of what Mary Schiebe left along with answering questions," she said. "He just made it easy."

What Thurston does on a normal day includes taking care of the transportation for sports teams and officials. Although the pandemic made it hard to get these tasks done, Thurston said Oelfke has been good at "keeping [her] sane."

"He just reminds me when we have good days and he makes me laugh," she said.

After working alongside him for two years, Thurston said she will be sad to see Oelfke leave despite being "very happy for him" as he begins his retirement. Thurston said she will miss the stories Oelfke tells her about his early days of working at Cooper. However, Thurston knows the legacy he established at the school will last long after he leaves the building.

"He built Cooper up as a family," she said.

"[Oelfke] never sought attention for himself as the Activities Director; rather, he always kept the focus on the students participating," former Cooper cross country and track coach Mr. DiSalvi said.

1990s. Oelfke credits the success of these programs to the coaches with whom he gets to work.

"They make my job easier," he said.

There has also been some adversity during Oelfke's recent years as Activities Director. The most notable issue has been the problems caused by the COVID pandemic. One of the impacts COVID has had is the constant shuffling of athletic schedules starting at the end of the 2019-2020 school year and continuing to the present day. Additional challenges this year have been the lack of bus drivers and the lack of referees for different sports. Oelfke said these issues have been hard for him and his administrative assistant to address.

"We needed to be really flexible and adapting all the time," he said.

Oelfke's impact on his colleagues

The many colleagues Oelfke has worked with over the years agree that his impact on Cooper will last for a long time. For exam-

ryline feel practical and realistic. One of my main grievances with a lot of big money entertainment today is that the stories don't properly follow the rules of logic. Thus, they are littered with plot holes that take me out of the experience. When watching *Better Call Saul*, I thankfully never have to worry about the plot not making sense,

which is a huge relief.

While it certainly is not nearly as good as *Breaking Bad*, *Better Call Saul* is an impressive television program that sticks to its guns as an intelligent and distinct legal drama. I rate *Better Call Saul* four out of five stars. I am looking forward to watching the sixth and final season this summer.

Cooper Competitors

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

Sieanna Huelskamp

By KAPOsia KORICH
Quill staff writer

Sieanna Huelskamp (12) plays lacrosse in the spring and skis with the Nordic team during the winter.

"I have been playing lacrosse since sixth grade and I started playing for Cooper in eighth grade," she said. "I was originally introduced to lacrosse by my friend and have played ever since."

Huelskamp cited the team atmosphere as a primary thing she enjoys about playing lacrosse.

"My favorite memories from lacrosse would be constantly cheering each other on in games no matter how good or bad we are doing," she said.

Due to her many years of experience in lacrosse, Huelskamp was named captain of the team starting in her

junior year.

"Being a captain has helped me to improve my leadership skills all while helping my teammates to improve and be successful with their lacrosse skills," she said.

During the winter months, Huelskamp competes on the Hawk Nordic team.

"Nordic is a great way of exercising and getting in shape while on a fun and supportive team," she said.

When it comes to school, Huelskamp said she enjoys her art, math and social studies classes. Outside of school, she enjoys spending time outdoors.

"I love to downhill ski and snowboard in the winter. Pretty much anything outdoors is a hobby or interest of mine," she said.

Next fall, Huelskamp will attend Montana State University.



Photo by MIMI OTU

Brenna Vierzba

By PHILIP ROBERT
Quill staff writer

Brenna Vierzba (12) is an athlete who has participated in lacrosse, wrestling and football. Currently, she is wrapping up her lacrosse season, a sport she has played since seventh grade. In fact, Vierzba said one of her favorite lacrosse experiences took place during a tournament in seventh grade.

"We had three games that day. After each game, we would head back to our tent and eat and drink water and hang out before we had to get ready for the next game. It was amazing being able to sit and laugh with my teammates," she said.

Prior to the lacrosse season, Vierzba took part in wrestling. Unfortunately, she said her season was cut short by a broken ankle.

"I made sure to stay in the loop to hear how my teammates did," she said. "I'm very proud of all of them."

During the fall season, Vierzba played on the football team as a lineman. She has been involved in football since sixth grade and has even played on a semi-pro team.

"I made history by being the first female football player at Cooper to win a section championship and to be in the state tournament," she said.

Outside of school, Vierzba competes in karate.

"I currently have five national titles and one state title under my belt. I'm currently qualified to go to the

world championships in October for two different fight divisions," she said.

Next fall, Vierzba plans to attend college, where she will double major in marine biology and paleontology.



Photo by MIMI OTU

Faith Flor

By BRIGHT DEKU
Quill staff writer

Hawk athlete Faith Flor (12) plays lacrosse in the spring. Flor has been on the squad since eighth grade. She said she first joined because two of her closest friends played and she "wanted to give it a try."

Flor said she has enjoyed playing with the group of girls that has been on the team in the past and during the current season. She said her favorite lacrosse memories are of the new girls joining the team each year.

"They know nothing about the sport at the beginning of the season, and by the end of the season, they are fantastic players," she said.

Flor is a captain of the lacrosse team. She said she has been impressed with how the season has gone so far.

"I am really enjoying being a team leader and looking forward to continuing to work with the girls," she said.

When it comes to school, Flor said Personal Finance is her favorite class. She enjoys this class the most because she is "learning important information that will help [her] in the future."

Outside of school, Flor's hobbies are "running, getting coffee, watching the sunset and spending time with friends and family."

Next fall, Flor will be attending the University of Minnesota, where she will be part of the Carlson School of Management. She plans on majoring in human resources to become a human resource manager.

As for sports next year, Flor doesn't believe she will continue playing lacrosse for her college team but will still play for fun.



Photo by MIMI OTU

Alex Suckerman

By NOLAN ANDLER
Quill staff writer

Alex Suckerman (12) is a spring athlete for Cooper.

"I play baseball during the spring and I train during the winter," Suckerman said.

Suckerman has been playing baseball since he was young.

"I have been playing baseball since I was five and have been playing at Cooper since I was in eighth grade," Suckerman said.

Suckerman's favorite memories of the team involve watching each player's development over the years.

"I've enjoyed watching myself getting better and better and my teammates also improve," Suckerman said. As a senior on the team, Suck-

erman tries to be a role model to help "the younger kids so they can continue to grow and improve as players and people." He also said he tries to "lead by example when [they] are practicing and playing."

During the school day, Suckerman's favorite class is English.

"My favorite class is probably English because I enjoy writing out papers and researching," he said.

Suckerman said his favorite hobbies are sports and traveling.

"I love to play different sports for fun and travel around to see cool views and explore nature," Suckerman said.

Suckerman said he is going to Mankato State University next fall for college and wants to get into the sports industry as a writer, statistician or analyst.



Photo by MIMI OTU

SAUL IS STELLAR EXPANSION OF *BAD* UNIVERSE continued from page 8

at least challenge *Breaking Bad*'s westernized setpieces with more intelligent and calculated moments. While the show certainly has some of those amazing moments and episodes, *Saul* unfortunately is not a show that I think will be all that memorable to me.

Despite this, what the writers continue to do is make every sto-

EXCHANGE
continued from page 2

rived.

“It really helped me to be more comfortable when I got here,” Coelho Carvalho said.

Coelho Carvalho said his whole experience in the U.S has been amazing so far. This summer, he plans to return to Brazil and take the test needed to enter university. He doesn’t know what he wants to study at university yet.

“I definitely plan on coming back to the United States. I just don’t know when,” Coelho Carvalho said.

Mel Albrecht Ribeiro

Albrecht Ribeiro is an exchange student from Brazil. She said she wanted to study abroad because she was curious about different cultures. Also, her brother studied abroad in 2016 and had an amazing experience.

“I wanted to meet new people and live a completely different life from what I’ve been living my whole life,” Albrecht Ribeiro said.

In fact, Albrecht Ribeiro is staying with the same host family that her brother stayed with.

“I knew they would be a great family. They are awesome people and warmly welcomed me,” Albrecht Ribeiro said.

The biggest difference Albrecht Ribeiro has noticed while in America is how different American food is compared to Brazilian food.

“In Brazil, we tend to eat more homemade and natural food, and here everyone eats more fast food or frozen meals,” Albrecht Ribeiro said.

Albrecht Ribeiro plans to study psychology at the University of São Paulo when she returns to Brazil.

“I plan to come back to visit my host family and friends, but I probably won’t live here again, because even though I had a great experience, I love Brazil too much,” Albrecht Ribeiro said.

SENIORS
continued from page 2

that student’s account is closed, you’ll no longer have access to shared files,” King said.

Closing out activity, sports accounts

Activities secretary Ms. Thurston said seniors need to take care of fees, fines and uniforms before they graduate.

“Check your closets, drawers, old backpacks and laundry room for any Cooper High School uniforms. These must be turned in before you graduate,” Thurston said.

According to Thurston, if Cooper does not get these items back, then the school will not have enough uniforms for the next season.

“Uniforms are expensive, about \$100-plus for a top and bottom depending on the sport, and with so many teams, we can’t always be buying uniforms,” Thurston said.

If you need to see if you have any outstanding activity or athletic fees, you can stop in the Activities Office and see Thurston, who can let you know how much you owe from your high school years. You can then arrange for payment with her.

SUPER METROID
continued from page 8

the biggest aspect of the gameplay that needs highlighting is the movement. *Super Metroid* has multiple types of movement that help the player feel more free as they explore the immersive map of planet Zebes. Wall jumps, screw attacks, morph ball and even grapple hooks are among the moves Samus Aran can make in the game. The gameplay of *Super Metroid* helps raise this release to the next level.

Overall, *Super Metroid* is truly a masterpiece in gaming. It is available to anyone who has a Nintendo Switch since you can play this game using the SNES feature. I believe that you should definitely play this game no matter what game genres you typically enjoy. I give *Super Metroid* five out of five stars.

Wild shows large improvement in '21-'22

Although they fell to St. Louis in the first round of the playoffs, Minnesota looked like a different team this season

By ANDREW HAGGE
Quill staff writer

The 2021-2022 Wild season brought some clear success to the team. During the preseason, head coach Dean Evason and general manager Bill Guerin both made it clear the team was taking a new approach to the game. Evason and Guerin also got busy making deals and trading out some older veterans for high-value, younger players.

By creating a team that was full of young and fresh players, the Wild were now full of energy and speed. Recent draft picks that showed signs of life such as Kirill Kaprizov and Jordan Greenway helped pave a new path toward a younger team.

Of course, the arrival of these players meant that many of the team’s most well-known players like Zach Parise and Mikko Koivu had to leave the team. While Parise went to the New York Islanders, Koivu ended up retiring. In fact, the Wild also retired his number, a first for the franchise. This took place during a game against the St. Louis Blues. While it was hard for some Wild fans to see these respected and long-time franchise players disappear from the roster, after watching the season unfold following these changes, it was a move that clearly paid off.

Early in the season, everyone was uncertain about what the outcome might be with the new coaching staff and the new approach. Things began to click right away with the team going on many point and win streaks, putting them on top of the central division. Although there were, and still are, issues with converting power plays, the rookies put in their fair share of work during five-on-five play. Overall, most of the team’s goals came from even play and not on the man advantage. In fact, near the end of the season, the Wild even failed to take advantage of a five-on-three when they needed it.

As the punches kept coming at them, the Wild always man-



Photo courtesy of NHL.COM

The Minnesota Wild ended the regular season with a 4-1 win over the Colorado Avalanche on April 29.

aged to pull through. When the playoff race started heating up this spring, the biggest obstacle the Wild was facing was the Blues. The Wild had yet to beat the Blues this season. The first of many notable matchups with the Blues was the Stadium Series game, which was a brutal one for fans and players alike due to the weather outdoors at Target Field on January 1, 2022.

However, the tough conditions stayed true to the spirit of Stadium Series games. The Wild went down early but fought back to make it close. However, as every game against the Blues has gone since this one, the Blues had the last say, winning 6-4.

Given the back and forth between the two teams this season, it seems fitting that the Wild and Blues faced off at the start of the playoffs. During the regular season, each team went on streaks of eight and nine wins over 10

games at various points. The primary reason both teams kept trying to finish out strong was not only for the fans, but also for the ice advantage, which typically plays a factor into who moves on in the playoffs. Minnesota proved to be a power house at home with a 29-7-2 record, so this is something that clearly helped them out heading into the playoffs.

After facing many injuries and losing top players, the Wild managed to put together a strong team all year. Although the Wild continued to face its special teams woes, they still kept other squads on their toes and put together a fantastic season full of celebration. Kaprizov and Kevin Fiala both showed off at the end of the season as they both cracked franchise records that have been held for years. The pairing led the team in points across the season.

There were other key player moves late in the season. For example, at the end of the trade deadline, Kaapo Kahkonen was dealt to the San Jose Sharks for Jacob Middleton to shore up the defense. Also during that time the Wild acquired three-time Stanley Cup winner Marc-Andrew Fleury. This further strengthened Geurin and Evason’s all-in tactic. Of course, it will also be the case that the Wild will be facing hard cap hits next year.

Overall, the regular season was a great success and showed much hope for the new head coach and general manager. Although the team did not prevail in its playoff matchup against the Blues, who ultimately won the series 4-2, all of the pieces are in place for a successful 2022-2023 and for the Wild to make a deeper run in the post-season.

Timberwolves fall in first playoff berth in seven years

After beating the L.A. Clippers to get into the postseason, the Wolves fell to the Grizzlies in six games

By ANDREW HAGGE
Quill staff writer

The Minnesota Timberwolves once again showed how young they are this season as they learned lessons and matured on their way to a playoff berth. It has been seven years since the team last saw postseason play. The squad seemed excited to end this drought, but by no means was it easy for them.

Play-In Round

The Wolves faced the L.A. Clippers during the play-in tournament, through which the lowest-seeded four teams in each conference had a chance to make it into the playoffs. Anthony Edwards and D’Angelo Russell led the team in scoring with a combined 59 points, just over half of the team’s total. The Wolves took down the Clippers 109-104 but lost Karl-Anthony Towns (KAT) late as he fouled out. Without their star player, the entire team had to rally to be up to the task of beating the Clippers. In fact, the Wolves outscored the Clippers by 11 in the final quarter to move on and face the Memphis Grizzlies in the first round of the playoffs.

Game One

Starting off strong, the Wolves put up a solid 41 points in the first quarter to the Grizzlies’ 33. Edwards carried the team alongside KAT, who scored a combined 65 of the team’s final 130 points. In addition to containing the Grizzlies’ Ja Morant, who won this season’s Most Improved Player award, the Wolves managed to

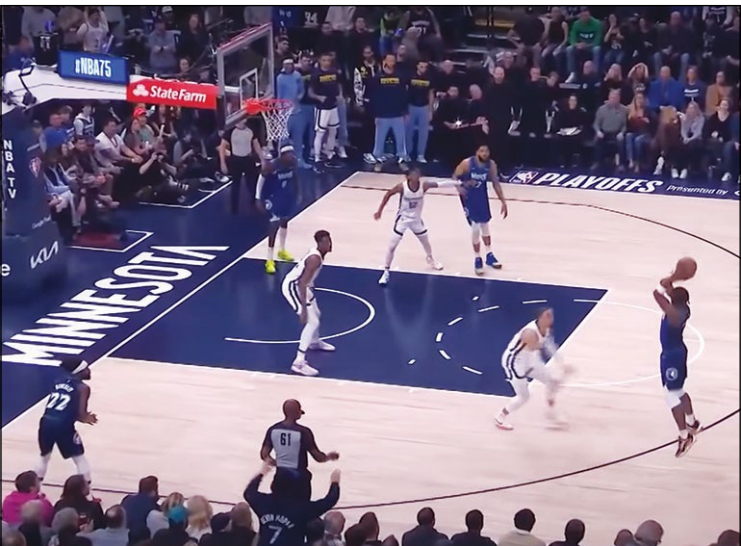


Photo courtesy of NBA.COM

The Wolves were eliminated in a 114-106 loss to the Grizzlies on April 29.

handle the rest of the team as well, winning the first game of the series 130-117.

Game Two

The Wolves failed to do in game two what they did against Memphis during game one. Morant punished the Wolves as they began to struggle, eventually leading the Grizzlies to a 124-96 win. Morant and the Grizzlies found the soft and immature side of the Wolves’ players. With emotions running high, the Wolves failed to control themselves and the game. Ultimately, no one stepped up to the challenge, and the Wolves fell.

Game Three

Game three saw the Wolves focusing again on their defense. In fact, they controlled the Grizzlies throughout and limited them to 20 fewer points than the previous game. Unfortunately, the Wolves’ offense struggled. KAT underperformed with a

measly eight points and the bench players put up a lackluster effort. Meanwhile, Morant once again dominated the board with 10 rebounds and assists, and his Memphis teammates managed to put up some points. With the Wolves only scoring 12 points in the second and fourth quarters, the Grizzlies had opportunities to come back and win, which they did, 104-95. This loss put the Wolves on edge, causing even more emotions to arise.

Game Four

Being down a game in the series definitely put pressure on the Wolves to tie it up. KAT got into gear in game four, scoring 33 points, while Edwards added 24 of his own. Even though the Grizzlies outscored the Wolves by five in the last quarter, the Wolves blocked eight shots to hold on for a 119-118 win

Game Five

Moving back to FedExFo-

rum in Memphis, the Wolves looked to once again lead the series with a crucial win. However, Morant, Desmond Bane and Brandon Clarke combined for 76 points to beat the Wolves in a close 111-109 game. Once again, the Wolves were not able to control Morant and he went crazy. While KAT and Edwards put in their best effort and led the Wolves in points, no one else seemed to show up. The Wolves’ struggles continued to show against Morant, who carried the Grizzlies one more step forward in their postseason run.

Game Six

In game six, the Grizzlies looked poised to put the series away. At one point, the Wolves had a somewhat comfortable lead, but once again Morant and the Grizzlies went to work, putting up 40 points in the final quarter. This gave the Grizzlies the 114-106 win over the Timberwolves and the opportunity to move on.

Overall, the Wolves’ starters tried their best but couldn’t keep up with the Grizzlies. One big factor in the series was the impact that emotions had on the Wolves’ players. While they were sometimes able to keep them in control, there were other times when the emotions of some Wolves players had a negative impact on how they played. The coming years will be interesting ones for the team now that they have some actual playoff experience and now that they will begin transitioning into having a new team co-owner, ex-baseball player Alex Rodriguez.