

Students in IB art course learn new ways to express themselves

Page 6

The Quill

Thur., Dec. 22, 2022

Vol. 59, No. 3

Cooper wrestlers start '22-'23 season by welcoming new coach

Page 7



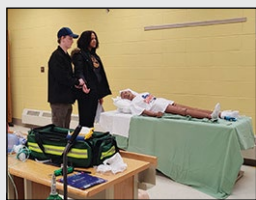
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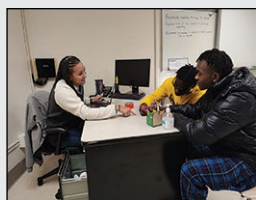


Class puts Hawks on path to career

The EMS course, which is offered through a partnership with Hennepin Technical College, helps students earn medical certifications

Page 2

Opinion



Relationships key to student success

The ability of high school students to feel connected to teachers, staff members can improve their academic performance

Page 3

Variety

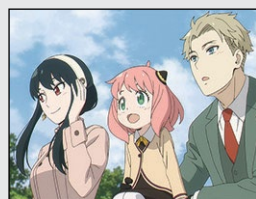


Fighters sequel a series highpoint

Gaming company SNK makes a clear effort to appeal to existing fans while attracting players new to the franchise

Page 4

Variety



Animated Spy is a triumph

The series, which is streaming on Netflix, is a collaboration between author Tatsuya Endo and producers Studio Wit and CloverWorks

Page 4

Sports



Athletes adjust to new schedule

The 3:25 p.m. end time to the school day has caused some academic, personal challenges for Cooper competitors this year

Page 8

NEW TUTORING PROGRAM PROMOTES HAWK SUCCESS

Catch Up and Succeed pairs students who need academic help with peers who volunteer to provide it

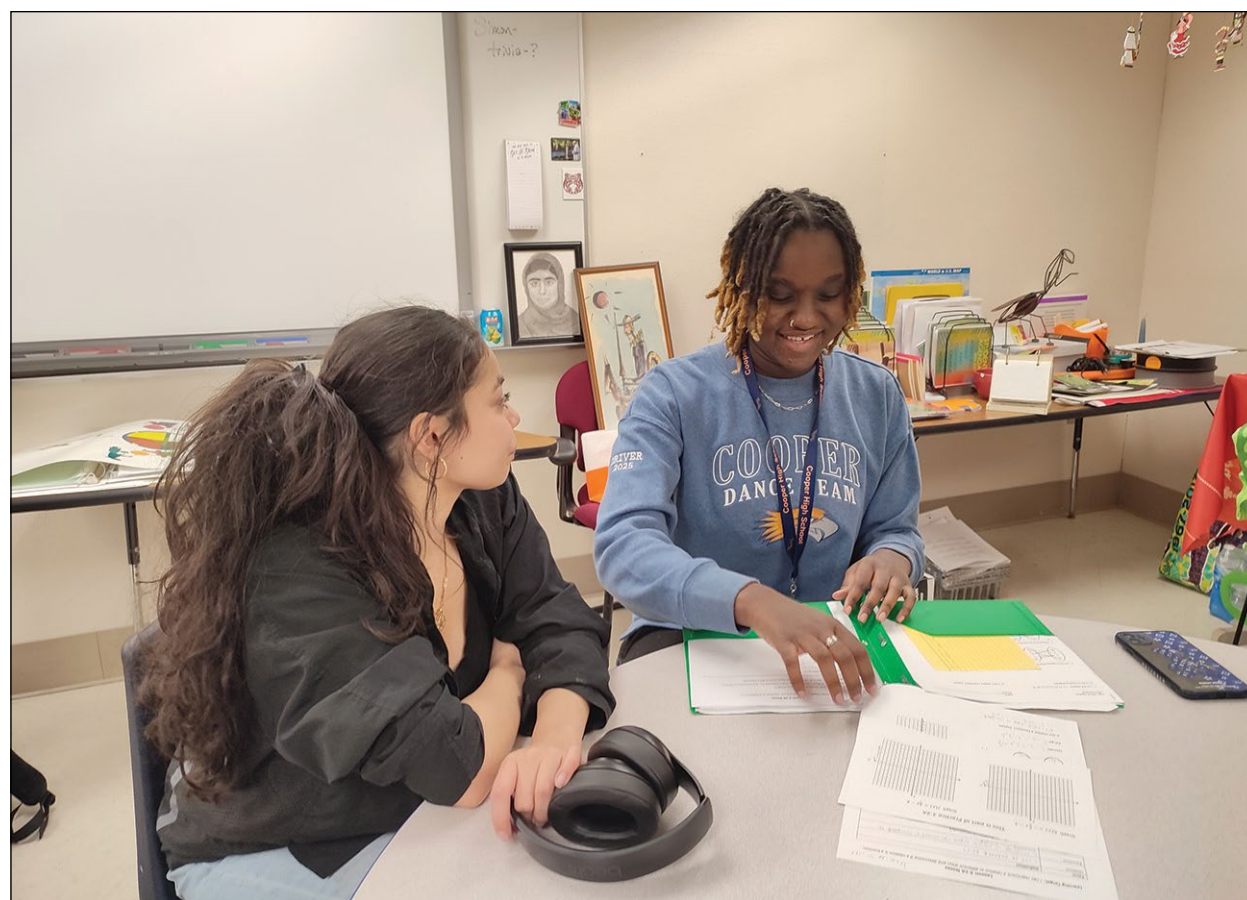


Photo by SHENG VANG

The program is housed in room 397, where students can go with teacher permission to get academic assistance.

By SHENG VANG
Quill staff writer

The Catch Up and Succeed program aims to push Cooper students who are starting to fall behind in their academic studies above the 60 percent mark in order to help them pass their classes.

Mr. Hoffman, the Catch Up and Succeed coordinator, said the main focus of this program is to give students who need assistance as much support as possible so they

can get “away from frustration and stress” and improve their grades “from 50 percent to 70 percent before the end of the semester.” The other goal is to build a strong network of tutors and support systems.

Catch Up and Succeed is open to all students. They can come to room 397 during their open hours, like study hall or Hawk Lunch and Learn (HLL), for academic support. On certain days, the program is available to all students who need help in English or social

studies at any period of the day in the Media Center. Some of these dates include November 17-18, December 14-16 and January 10-20, 2023, the nine days before the first semester ends. Students only have to get a pass from their teacher during the period they will come in for support.

In addition to Hoffman, the people who make up the Catch Up and Succeed support system include Cooper senior, junior and sophomore students who serve as tutors. Accord-

ing to Hoffman, students who need assistance learn best from those who have gone through similar experiences.

“I’m not a tutor because I have not had these classes for a while. I can help students with specific subject matter, but to really help them with what’s going on in those classrooms now would be those students who have already been in those classes and know what Cooper’s like,” Hoffman said.

Furthermore, tutors are not limited to only students

with straight As. Anyone who is willing to help or has an interest in giving others assistance is welcome. Hoffman said he believes the various strengths student tutors bring into the program will make it successful. Thus, he continues to find new tutors and tries not to eliminate anybody.

As of right now, Hoffman has gathered approximately 80 tutors. One of those tutors is Andrew Nourie (12). Nourie said he got involved with the Catch Up and Succeed program because he believes the experience “could prove useful, both as teaching in general, and communicative skills.” He also mentioned how the program gave him an opportunity to “reconnect” with Hoffman, who was his eighth-grade teacher at FAIR School.

As a tutor, Nourie provides students with math, algebra, modern chemistry and English help during his third hour. He said the most important part of the program is “seeing the growth in students as they begin to grasp the concepts more.”

One student who has benefited from getting tutoring through this program is Kyle Vang (11). Vang said that, by joining the program, he has been able to improve his grade and turn his work in. Vang often does not need much assistance, but he continues to come to room 397. He said the differ-

TUTORING continues on page 2

Annual breakfast celebration honors area veterans

The third installment of the event, which took place November 11, featured food, speeches and various performances



Photo by NATALIE KINLER

This year’s event brought more than two dozen community members to Cooper.

By LLEWELLYN BOUTHIM
Quill staff writer

Cooper hosted its third annual Veterans’ Day breakfast celebration on November 11 to honor community members who have served in the armed forces. More than 25 community members and veterans attended the event along with dozens of people from Cooper.

The annual event is organized by members of student council and features the involvement of various students from different groups and organizations. According to student council advisor Ms. Geise, the breakfast is an effort to make sure veterans know that their sacrifices are appreciated.

“We want the veterans to feel honored for their service. All too often, veterans are forgotten. We want to ensure that today, and every day, we are taking time to thank the veterans for service and sacrifice,” Geise said.

Overseeing the organization of the celebration was student council member Natalie Kinler (12). Kinler said she tackled the background work that went into making the final event run smoothly.

“Some tasks I had to plan and do in advance were a poster with details, the food we ate, the decorations, the script, certificates and my speech,” she said.

During the event itself, Kinler was responsible for making sure the other student volunteers took care of their assigned tasks.

“I had to tell each student council member their role, check in with everyone throughout the event and follow my script,” she said.

The event started with all the participants having access to a continental breakfast, after which Kinler delivered opening remarks and an explanation of why this event is important. Next up were musical performances by Cooper’s Bella Voce, Chamber Strings and band ensembles.

Following the music, New Hope Mayor Ms. Hemken and Kinler both delivered speeches, after which the veterans in attendance were given recognition certificates. There was then an open mic sequence where the veterans and interested students were given a chance to speak. The event then ended with a concluding remark from Kinler.

In addition to the help of Geise, the members of student council and the

BREAKFAST CELEBRATION continues on page 2

Culture specialists work toward equitable school environment

Mr. Kek and Ms. Livingston, who are located in room 248, provide students with social-emotional support

By SHENG VANG
Quill staff writer

The climate and culture specialists are a part of the Robbinsdale District’s achievement and integration program, which strives to support students and ensure an equitable learning environment for all. Cooper welcomed two new climate and culture specialists this year, Mr. Kek and Ms. Livingston.

Kek and Livingston are located in room 248. Their doors are always open for students to stop by, or, if preferred, students can schedule a time to visit. One of the most frequent reasons students visit them is for social-emotional support associated with race and ethnicity or identity. Together with the students, Kek and Livingston work to

make sure everyone is “academically engaged and that social-emotional needs are being met,” according to Kek.

In addition, they also collaborate with staff and family members to help students’ voices be heard.

“We act as a consultant to teachers, admin and other staff regarding culture, heritage and background for students and families,” Kek said. “[We want] students’ identities to be seen, heard and, most importantly, valued.”

Similarly, Livingston said they collaborate with others on their team, the communications team and the building staff to “pursue initiatives to amplify students’ voices.”

As Kek and Livingston perform in their role, some challenges they face are “impacting and influencing systems and practices in place so that students

are afforded the access and support needed,” according to Livingston. To overcome some of these challenges, they offer time during Hawk Lunch and Learn (HLL) for students to collaborate. For example, Kek is the advisor for the Asian American Club and Livingston is the advisor for the Girl Group.

Though they both work for support students in equitable learning, both have different reasons as to why they chose their current role. Livingston said her reasons relate to her family.

“I chose to get into this position because I have a son and he will soon go through this school district. You never really understand how things operate until you are fully involved and change also

CULTURE SPECIALISTS continues on page 2

BREAKFAST

continued from page 1

musicians who performed, Kinler said additional contributions to the event were made by Cooper Head Principal Mr. Herman, the staff of Cooper's media center, members of the school's cheerleading team and children from the New Hope YMCA daycare, "who made the cutest decorations." Together, all these helpers made the event a special one for participating veterans.

"Events like these are important to veterans because it shows how thankful we are. It means more that it was created and hosted by youth who have a passion to thank service members. It also means a lot because it is more than just a thank you; it was an event to recognize them," Kinler said.

In addition to its value to the veterans who attended, the breakfast was of value to Kinler and the other people who helped put it together.

"Events like these are important to students because we had a huge turnout. It is also important because, in student council, we focus on thanking the community for their service and this is an event to do so. It is also important because it teaches history and it is a fun way to learn," Kinler said.

Echoing this sentiment was Geise, who cited the educational value of an event like the Veterans' Day breakfast.

"[Students] have the opportunity to sit and talk with the veterans and learn more about them and their experiences. They learn more about the sacrifices they made and gain a new perspective about what it means to serve the country," Geise said.

Also enjoying the learning opportunity the breakfast provided was Connor Brynteson (12), president of student council.

"It helps show students the heroes of our nation and show the hardships they go through. But also, it [allows us] to learn about new experiences from veterans," he said.

TUTORING

continued from page 1

ence in environment played a huge role in his achievement.

"During study hall, I usually would not work, but here, the space and atmosphere are different, so it's better for me to study," he said.

As the program continues to develop, Hoffman hopes for more students, teachers and administrators to get involved in the program and see it as a positive resource.

"I hope students who got support will come back and say they can help someone so that we can build the whole cohesiveness, and so Cooper students feel like they can support each other, get assistance and help others," he said. "[We want students to] 'catch up,' meaning to be able to move forward and feel empowered, and 'succeed,' to feel good about what they have done."

CULTURE

continued from page 1

starts from within. What better way to do that for my son, and others, than to be hands-on in the district," she said.

As for Kek, he said his motivation relates to this quote: "The value of identity, of course, is that so often with it comes purpose."

"Pairing that with armoring myself to be of service to others is how I arrived at this current station in life," he said.

EMS class is first step toward a career

The course, which is offered through a partnership with Hennepin Technical College, helps students earn medical certifications



Photo by SHENG VANG

One highlight of the new class is the hands-on learning opportunities it gives to interested students.

By LA'SHAYA TAYLOR
Quill staff writer

Have you ever thought about a career in the medical field after high school? If so, you should look into the new emergency medical services (EMS) college class that is being offered to high school students at Cooper. Through this class, students can be certified as an emergency medical responder (EMR) and an emergency medical technician (EMT).

The new course is being taught by M. Kulas through a partnership with Hennepin Technical College. Kulas said the course, which takes place at Cooper during periods three through seven over the course of one semester, can help set students up for life after graduation.

"Taking the EMR and EMT class will allow you to build the skills necessary to enter the emergency medical services. You will gain hands-on experience that prepares you for a career as an emergency medical responder and/or an emergency medical technician. This can be the start of a career that makes a real difference and it all begins with getting the real-world knowledge and skills needed to succeed," Kulas said.

Kulas pointed out that there is a difference between EMR and EMT. EMR refers to all firefighters and police

officers, who must be EMR certified in the state of Minnesota. This certification covers basic life support treatment and care that first responders can perform.

"EMR is a prerequisite to the EMT class," Kulas explained. "To move onto the EMT class, you must pass the EMR class with a C or higher."

Meanwhile, EMT certification allows people to work on an ambulance or in the emergency room. These individuals can provide further basic life support efforts and gain a deeper understanding of the human body.

"EMTs can also administer certain medications. EMT is a prerequisite to a paramedic course," Kulas said.

Successful completion of Cooper's EMT program will meet the requirements for certification as an EMT by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT).

"Certification by the NREMT is required by Minnesota as well as by most states to acquire a state license to practice the profession of EMT or for employment as a certified and licensed EMT," Kulas said.

When taking the course, students will experience formative and summative in a way that is different than a normal high school class

"Fifty percent of this course is made up of lecture days [and] 50 percent

of this course is made up of skills days. This course grade includes participation, attendance, weekly quizzes, one test per month, a written final and a hands-on final," Kulas said.

Moreover, Kulas added that even a typical day in the classroom is different compared to other high school classes.

"If it is a lecture day, PowerPoints over the assigned chapters will be presented. It is usually followed by a verbal scenario. For example, if the topic we are covering is bleeding, the students will be told, 'You are called to a 24-year-old male stating he is bleeding after falling off of a ladder.' The student will then be expected to go through assessment of this patient and how they would like to treat him," Kulas said.

Meanwhile, on skills day, Kulas said students form into small groups to learn hands-on skills.

"They will have the opportunity to apply pressure to a wound, apply a tourniquet to control the bleeding, etc. Everyone who teaches and helps with scenarios is actively working on an ambulance as an EMT or paramedic. This allows the students to get real-life situations and scenarios. This also allows students to have a better insight on what it is like being in the field," Kulas said.

Even though the course requires many hours of study and hard work,

Kulas said it has great benefits.

"It is a few thousand dollars for both the EMR and EMT class if you were to take it at a college, and Cooper High School students get it for free. Another benefit is that this course is offered on campus, so transportation restrictions do not hinder the students. These courses also allow you to graduate high school with a certification that will allow you to jump directly into the field," Kulas said.

After completing the EMR course with a C or higher as an overall grade, and a C or higher on the final, students will be able to walk away EMR certified. In addition, CPR certification is completed within the EMR course.

"After those requirements are met, clearance for the national examinations will be rewarded. You must pass the national written and psychomotor exams for your EMT certification," Kulas said.

Helping prepare students for the national exams is all the hands-on practice students get in the class.

"The benefit of hands-on learning and real-life scenarios will allow students to assist family members and serve their community for the better," Kulas said. "Every instructor wants this to be a fun course with hands-on learning. To make hands-on learning more fun, lectures and strict study habits have to be done. When we give a student a certification, it is not just a piece of paper. The certification is stating that the instructors trust the student with somebody else's life in extenuating and stressful circumstances."

Kulas added that the class can also be of benefit to students in their eventual journey through college.

"[Students in the class] will be registered with Hennepin Technical College and receive college credit. The EMR course is worth three college credits and the EMT course is worth six college credits," Klaus said.

It is the combination of learning real-life skills and earning college credits that prompted Cooper Head Principal Mr. Herman to establish the school's relationship with Hennepin Technical College to get this class off the ground.

"This benefits both the students and school in that offering these college level courses here on campus makes it easier for our students and provides an opportunity to get the skills needed," Herman said.

EMS CLASS
continues on page 5

Activity restrictions list designed to change behavior

Placement on the list can lead to students being unable to attend, participate in various school events

By JESSE GARCIA
Quill staff writer

Cooper administrators are now using an activity restrictions list that students are placed on for breaking rules such as skipping classes or fighting. Being on this list restricts the activities and school-sanctioned events that a student may participate in. The activities students on the list are prohibited from attending include sporting events and open lunch.

According to Assistant Principal Mr. Nelson, the main goal of this list is to give the students an incentive for following the rules.

"Our intentions with this list are to give students a reason to have good behavior and stay on the right track," Nelson said.

There are a wide array of reasons why a student may find themselves on the list, ranging from "bad behavior" like running in the halls to truancy. Depending on the severity of the problem, the student can find themselves placed on

the list immediately or they might gradually approach getting on the list through accumulating behavior issues.

"We use a system called progressive discipline," Nelson said. "This is a system where a student's punishment will start increasing in severity based on repetition and acts. This can range from the Coaches' Corner to the activity restrictions list."

Nelson emphasized that placement on the list is usually an "end-of-the-line punishment." As such, if a student finds themselves on the list, they might be stuck on the list for the entire school year. However, Nelson added that the student can possibly get off the list through some form of reformatory work, whether that be performing school service actions or "just good behavior at school."

According to Nelson, the list has been effective so far and it has left an impact on those students who are placed on it. This is shown through the lack of repeat offenders. Nelson said that, upon getting onto the list, most students have

done the reformatory work in order to get off the list so they can attend events such as prom.

With respect to district families, Nelson said they have tended to agree with the system and "haven't brought up any complaints." Rather, families have been the first to accept the reformatory work in order for their student to get off the list.

"Many parents have come to us looking for a way to allow their students to attend prom," Nelson said.

Enforcement of this list is handled by the school's scanning system. When entering a school event or activity, students typically have to scan their school ID or put in their ID number. The adult supervising the event or activity will then be prompted by the system that the student is on the list and, as such, will be unable to purchase their ticket or enter the event.

Since placement on the list is immediately updated in the school's record-keeping system, Nelson said it is

heavily recommended that students take corrective action after finding out they have gotten in trouble because, further down the line, it can lead to them getting on the list.

"This list isn't meant to be a punishment," Nelson said. "It's supposed to bring reform."

Many students voiced their wish to not get on the list and, as a result, they've avoided trouble so they can still attend the events that most students wish to attend. Starla Yang (9) said that being unable to take part in school activities is a good way to motivate students to do the right thing.

"It sucks to be missing the events because, who doesn't want to go to prom or the games?" Yang said.

Agreeing with Yang is Yusuf Hussein (10), who added that punishments are sometimes necessary for poor student behavior.

"It's a good thing because we need some sort of punishment for students being bad," Hussein said.

The Quill

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Relationships are key to student success

The ability of Hawks to feel connected to teachers, staff members can improve their academic performance

By DAMARIUS HAMILTON
Quill staff writer

Supportive relationships between students and their teachers are an important part of the learning process. I feel as if teacher-student relationships are just as, if not more, important than the content of a teacher's class. There are many reasons why teachers should have good bonds with their students. Not only should teachers have these strong relationships with students, but the school staff in general should have good relationships with as many students as they can.

The main reason relationships are important relates to the nature of school itself. As a student, I can say that school isn't something I love. It has even gotten to the point where the only reason I get up and come to Cooper is because I don't have much of a choice. Although coming to school might not be something I love, it's not something I hate because staff members and teachers throughout the building always make me and the other kids feel welcome. There are certain teachers in the building that I have never seen without a smile on their faces. A quick example I can think of would be Ms. Kope. She always seems to be happy and has a smile on her face when I see her. She always greets everyone and asks how their day is going. She even does this for students who are not in her class. Some people might think that is not a big deal, but keep in mind that some students don't get talked to at all, so seeing that someone cares can really put a smile on their faces.

The relationships between students and their teachers and staff members are also important because you never know what a student is going through at home. Maybe coming



Photo by SHENG VANG

Staff members like Ms. Livingston, a climate and culture specialist, work hard to connect with students.

to school makes some students forget about the bad stuff going on at home because they get to see or talk to their favorite teacher or staff member. Teachers and staff members might not understand how special it really is to be one of a student's favorite adults. I'm not going to say it's rare to have a favorite teacher or staff member, but it's not always common. Students love having a teacher or staff member they feel safe with and can talk to whenever they need to. This gives the student more motivation in that class because they want to get their work done to make that favorite adult happy since that adult has made that student happy.

Another important aspect of the relationship between students and the

adults at school is knowing when to focus on learning and when to focus on support. I feel like it's really cool to have a teacher who can teach you but who can still talk to you as if they are your friend. It seems that some teachers, staff members and even students believe that having a good bond between adults and students is bad, but I feel as if it's the opposite. I guarantee that the students who are most comfortable navigating the relationships they have with teachers are the same ones with good grades because they are not afraid to ask for help when they need it.

This brings up another important aspect of the student-teacher relationship: kindness. Sometimes, it is not that the teachers and staff members need to

be a student's best friend; they just need to act with kindness toward the student. Two teachers that instantly come to mind when I think of kindness are Ms. Mielke and Mr. Bruce. Although I don't have Mielke as a teacher, I hear nothing but great things about her and, having met her, I definitely understand why her students love her so much. She definitely treats her students with kindness and is a great teacher to have. Similarly, Bruce was someone I did not know a lot about until I got transferred into his class. Although I had only met him one time, he was welcoming and made me feel comfortable about being in his

RELATIONSHIPS
continues on page 8

Republicans need to heed lessons of '22 elections

Minnesota is now under Democratic control after this year's midterms

By OWEN SANDLUND
Quill staff writer

Midterms in the first term of a United States president are always a time of opportunity for the opposing party. In Minnesota, that was no different. The Minnesota Republican party hoped to capitalize on national issues and utilize Democratic incumbent Tim Walz's shaky track record on issues like crime, COVID and the economy in order to win a variety of offices in the state.

Although Republicans were optimistic, the margin for error in the election cycle significantly decreased following the U.S. Supreme Court's overturning of the Roe vs. Wade decision. Abortion was on Minnesota voters' minds more than the national average with 11 percent of respondents to an October *MinnPost* poll mentioning it as their number one issue. Quite simply, a lot of people took abortion into account when voting this fall.

In Minnesota, Democrats won on the abortion issue with more than 75 percent of Twin Cities residents being strongly pro-choice according to the same *MinnPost* poll. Meanwhile, Republican gubernatorial candidate Scott Jensen and attorney general candidate Jim Schultz were relentlessly attacked in ad campaigns for their hard pro-life stances before Roe vs. Wade's repeal. In my opinion, this wouldn't have been a problem if they had run a less negative campaign.

Now, you can still win a political race while losing on one issue catastrophically, but Scott Jensen did not really win any issues. Watching the debates and interviews, Jensen's economic policies were less like policies and more like ideas. I thought that changing Minnesota's tax system could be an interesting idea, but when moderators asked Jensen how he would change it during a question and answer session, he just lamented that he was simply encouraging a discussion. Meanwhile, ads continually attacked Jensen for his positions on issues like education, and instead of explaining his sensible concept of school funding money following the children, he let these negative ads define him. Instead of explaining his vision for Minnesota, he instead chose to slander Tim Walz and played defense on abortion.

By relentlessly attacking Tim Walz for his handling of crime, COVID and the economy, Jensen made his campaign a negative one. The issue with Jensen's strategy is, when you open the door to a negative campaign, the blows come low. Voters were thinking less about actual policies and making logical decisions. Instead, they were becoming increasing-

ELECTIONS
continues on page 7

Using TikTok too disruptive while at school

Although occasionally watching a video is fine, some students spend all day on the app

By DAMARIUS HAMILTON
Quill staff writer

Research has found that TikTok has more than one billion active users. While they probably aren't all active at the same time, the fact that there are more than a billion makes it safe to say that TikTok definitely is a big distraction to students during school and outside of school. Coming from someone who uses TikTok a lot, it definitely is addictive. Although you think you will only be on for a few minutes, when it comes to TikTok, minutes become hours, and you don't realize until you get off TikTok that you have gotten overly attached to it.

Teenagers use TikTok for a lot of reasons, some of which most adults wouldn't understand. Most people who use TikTok do so when motivated by any emotion, no matter if they are mad, sad or happy. TikTok's algorithm is set up

TIKTOK
continues on page 8

Phone use at school has its good, bad sides

While a phone can be helpful for class work when a Chromebook is not available, it can also be a major distraction

From the Editors

The use of phones at school is the norm at Cooper. Everywhere you look, people are on their phones, checking social media, watching videos and texting friends. People say they know the difference between when it is time for work and when it is time for play, but does more time on your phone adversely affect the amount of time you spend on your education? Clearly, it does. At the same time, can using your phone be beneficial for school? Actually, we think that it can be in certain situations.

There are times when being on your phone is useful when you are at school. If you are having issues with your Chromebook, being able to use your phone can be helpful. First, phones can be used to access Schoology. Through Schoology, students can get more information about due dates, their grades, the classes they have and the events that are upcoming during the year.

Students can also use their phones to access Google Drive. Through that resource, students can make use of their school email and work on their Google documents.

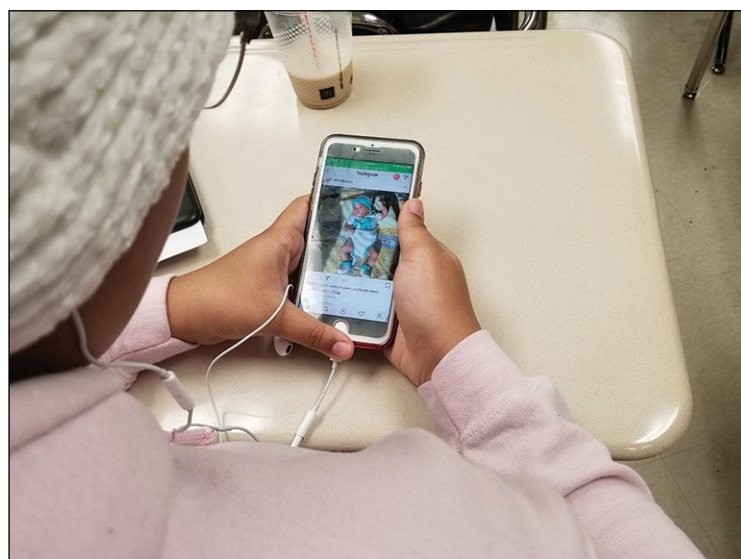


Photo by BRIGHT DEKU

Social media apps are perhaps the biggest obstacle to student attentiveness.

Much like getting into Schoology, getting into Google on one's phone can be helpful if a Chromebook is not working.

Of course, there are some who use their phones in a bad way at school. The most obvious example of this is when students spend class time on their phones accessing social media. The amount of drama social media ignites within our school is troubling. Fights occur mainly because of something that happens on social media. Even worse, those fights then get recorded and put on social media

sites, which can reinforce the negative stereotypes about the school we are trying to prevent.

Phone use can also be an obstacle to student learning. When teachers are lecturing to the class, students will occasionally be on their phones, not really listening to the teachers. They miss out on what they are being taught and that can cause a massive learning gap. While there are some students who say they can still do their work even if they are on their phones, they have to know that using phones in class is a form of disrespect

toward the teacher. To teachers, it looks like you're not paying attention. You're more focused on social media rather than the lecture being taught or the lesson being shared.

To all those students who use their phones to access social media on a daily basis, we ask you this: How many hours of the day do you spend on social media and how much do you spend on school work? Really take a step back and ask yourself whether or not texting someone in the middle of a lecture is more important than the lecture itself. It really makes you think about how much time people spend on their phones and how they can change that.

Ultimately, an outside force can't change an individual's choice about using their phones at school. It is an issue each person must face alone as they assess the personal impact that technology is having on their educational experience. However, we encourage all students to measure their own dependency on phone use. For just one day, we encourage you to go to school and avoid all use of phones and social media. Perhaps you will surprise yourself by being more productive and more focused. It's a lesson we are going to have to learn eventually if we want to be successful here at Cooper and beyond.

Elon Musk's Twitter takeover brings uncertainty to the popular app

The billionaire entrepreneur has had a tumultuous start to his tenure as the CEO of the influential social media platform

By CHIMUAL VANG
Quill staff writer

The world's richest technology entrepreneur, Elon Musk, was given the opportunity to change one of the world's most influential social media platforms, Twitter, when he officially purchased the company on October 28 and named himself its CEO.

After Musk had finalized his \$44 billion buyout plan to obtain Twitter, layoffs immediately followed as he decided to completely change the platform's inner workings and correct what he saw as its system errors. Executives and employees were fired left and right, and nearly 75 percent of the workforce was cut down as he decided to entirely reform the platform in hopes of the company making a turnaround in its status and

its finances. Not surprisingly, coming along with these dramatic changes was the rise of an increasingly poor financial situation as users started leaving the platform and fewer Twitter employees were left to work on the application's maintenance.

With Musk now in complete control of Twitter, the public has made many predictions and voiced many opinions about the platform's future. I believe his ownership may be an opportunity to positively change the platform despite the current chaos he is putting the company through. In effect, some things may need to be removed or changed for better things to come into place later down the road.

One concern about his takeover of Twitter is that it may influence how news is spread across the globe

since Twitter is one of the main ways news is shared in real time in today's society. In recent years, the spread of biased or fake news has been on the rise on Twitter and other social media sites. Perhaps Musk's purchase and reform of Twitter can change this distressing flaw.

Another change that has occurred on Twitter relates to advertising. Since Twitter runs on ads, and Musk owns other companies that need to run advertisements, Twitter will be a natural place to feature those ads. Already, Twitter's ad revenue is improving with the help of Musk running ads for his Tesla car company on the site. Musk's new guidance may help lead Twitter to improve itself financially.

Musk's purchase of Twitter might also help content creators on

the platform. Twitter is one of the most active social media platforms out there. If the platform is responsive and accurate in networking, this can help many content creators. With these new changes and Musk's influence, the platform may greatly improve by reaching out to smaller content creators who will in turn be able to reach out and connect to content creators all across the world.

While Twitter's changes may spark controversy, I believe Elon Musk's moves may change the platform in a good way. I believe he can fix the negativity on this social media site. At the same time, if Musk truly wants to reform Twitter for the greater good, he will need to stabilize the company's employment situation along with improving Twitter's current reputation.

Long biography expertly brings history to life

Story of former governor, senator Huey Long provides insight into political trends

By OWEN SANDLUND
Quill staff writer

A figure I find incredibly interesting in American history is former Louisiana Governor and Senator Huey Long. A divisive figure, he was at his time one of the most progressive individuals in national politics. To many on the left, the level of control and charisma he enjoyed in Louisiana was reminiscent of the powerful gangsters of the time or of fascist leaders. Meanwhile, to others on the right, he threatened a shift toward radical socialism. Long lived his life in the headlines, attracting millions of followers to his populist and progressive ideas during the depths of the great depression, and he was clearly capable of one day ascending to the presidency. However, this would not come to fruition. He was assassinated in 1935 at the young age of 42.

Still, Long's impact was felt for decades. In fact, the political organization he built, and the tremendous personal popularity he enjoyed in Louisiana, served to get many of his followers to state and national positions, and the infrastructure, education and level of the organization he helped bring to Louisiana had long-lasting benefits. His hate-free approach to governing, which saw him work with compassion and in the best interest of all of his constituents regardless of race, was rarely matched in the south for many years to come.

Although he was such an impactful and nuanced figure, many Americans today do not know much about him, especially members of the younger generations. I think people like Long are important for us to learn about because Long shows how governance can be used to better society and how there is a great capacity for change in our society even when it seems decadent and deadlocked. That's why I think the nonfiction, Pulitzer Prize-winning, 1969 book *Huey Long* by the distinguished historian Harry T. Williams is a great book to read. It serves not just as a biography of Long's life, but also as an examination of his ideas, work and achievements, all in a beautifully written package.

In this biography, Harry T. Williams chose to utilize the at-the-time new method of oral history, in which he made sound recordings of his interviews with friends and enemies of Huey Long. This technique allowed Williams to easily interview hundreds of people for the biography. As a result, the book offers a near-definitive level of insight. Huey Long's son, Senator Russel Long, endorsed the project to document his father's life and this encouraged his followers to be candid and open with Williams in interviews.

Throughout the book, Williams blends this oral history with traditional sources of insight such as newspapers, government documents and correspondence relevant to Long. The oral history aspect is incredibly interesting to me because it enables information to flow freely within the book and ensures a wide range of primary perspectives. While this technique is common today, it can still be appreciated for its successful implementation in Williams' work.

Although Williams' book is more than 800 pages long, it never got boring to me. Although I knew next to nothing about Louisiana in the early 20th century, this book introduced me to the political dimensions of the south at the time and much of the history of Louisiana itself. I learned about the northern "carpet-bagger" politicians who operated the state directly after the Civil War, the aristocratic plantation owners who dominated Louisiana politics for centuries and the conservative and powerful Democratic political machines in Louisiana. The book encompasses so much more than just Long and it does so in a natural and informative way. Every page is full of insightful and interesting information.

LONG BIOGRAPHY
continues on page 6

Fighters XV is a highpoint in ongoing series

Gaming company SNK makes a clear effort to appeal to existing fans while attracting players new to the franchise

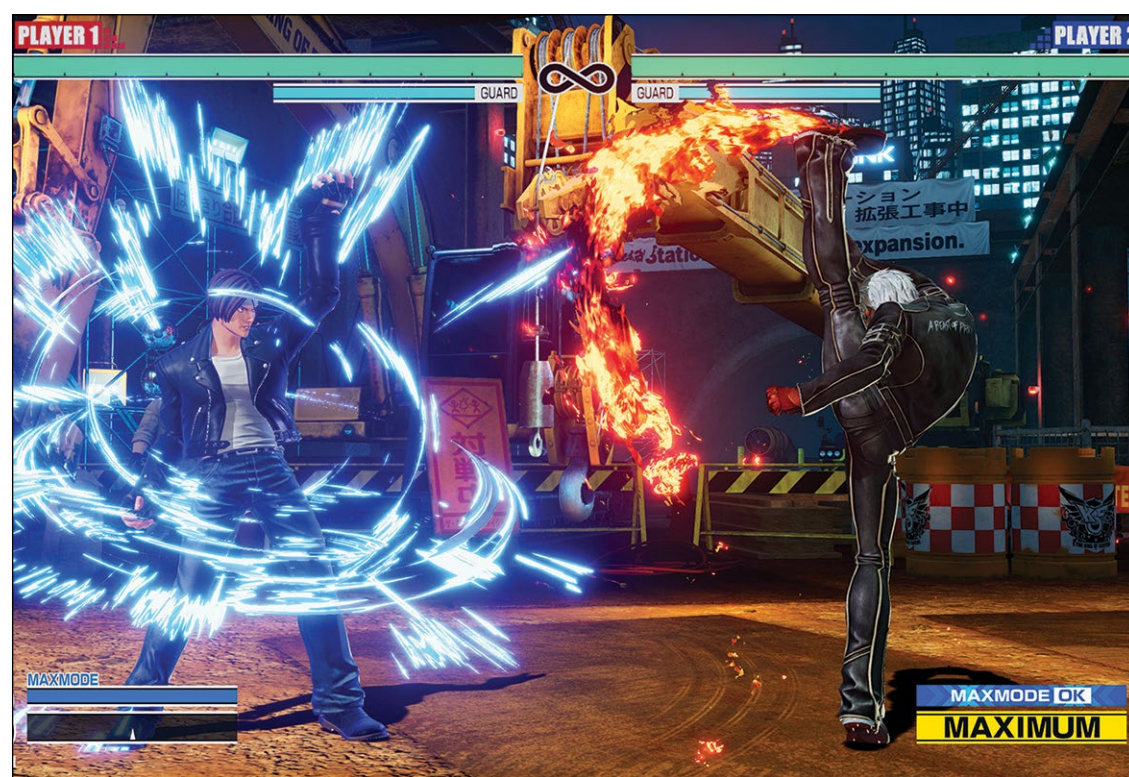


Photo by SNK

The King of Fighters XV features a large roster of characters and consistently excellent graphics.

By JESSE GARCIA
Quill staff writer

The King of Fighters XV is a 2-D fighting game made by the well-known fighting game company SNK that was released in February 2022. With a large amount of success in the fighting game community and growing interest in the *King of Fighters* series, SNK took this opportunity to release a new game with a massive roster and amazing graphics. Thanks to its roster size, new mechanics and graphics overhaul, *The King of Fighters XV* is an amazing experience for new players and old players alike. With the game developers recently announcing that cross-platform gaming will be available in 2023 so that everyone can play together on any console or computer, this is a great time to pick up *The King of Fighters XV*.

For the *King of Fighters* series, a "main character" has always been up to the player. In the story mode, the player gets to pick a team of three characters and follow a story path with unique outcomes for each team. The game follows their journey through the world's biggest fighting tournament, called The King of Fighters Tournament. In this tournament, the player will be put up against different teams of other characters in the series based on who they choose for their own team. The player's main goal is to win the tournament and be named The King of Fighters.

As it is the 15th game in the series, the new release comes with a revamped system that makes the gameplay stand out. With this installment of the game, it is a three-on-three-style game. Both players pick three charac-

ters to play, putting them in whatever order they'd like. The player will then battle as that character until that character is defeated. Once defeated, the player moves to the next character in the order they choose. The further in the line a character is, the more "Meter" they can have.

One of the newest systems in the game is the "Shatter Strike." This is done by the player using the [J], [K], [L], [HP] and [HK] keys. The player will also make use of one of their power gauges, also known as "Meter." With this, your character will perform a counter hit that can absorb an attack and stun the other player if it hits. This allows for unique and flashy counter attacks that help you out of a disadvantageous situation, further adding onto your defensive options.

Arguably, the most important new system involves "Max Mode" and "Quick Max Mode." In this system, the player's character starts to glow blue for "Max Mode" and purple for the quick variation. It is activated by pressing [LK] and [HP]. If you are attacking as you do this, you will activate the quick variation, resulting in less time but with the added bonuses of continuing your combo and allowing you to combo off of an attack, which you are normally not able to do. This gives you an attack strength increase, resulting in much more damage from combos and any form of hit.

During the limited time the character is in these modes, a bar can be seen above their power gauges in the bottom left and right, respectively. This bar shows the user how much time they have left. Additionally, it can be used for meter-enhanced specials and super attacks, which help you do more

damage and not use as much power gauge as you normally would. For example, the player's climax super usually takes three bars, but during "Max Mode," the user only uses one bar.

The final new system is one aimed toward new players: the "Rush" system. This system allows the player to press one button repeatedly to achieve a combo. This is for new players who don't understand the game yet. However, for those who think this is a game imbalance, it isn't the best combo. In fact, performing your own uniquely structured combos with the game's free-form combo styles, you can achieve much higher damage.

The most controversial of the changes to the new game is the graphics. The *King of Fighters* series is well-known for its amazing and revolutionary sprite work. In light of this, the switch to 3-D models and animations was met with a large amount of criticism. Compared to its competition, such as Capcom's *Street Fighter*, the models and visuals in *The King of Fighters XV* are bulkier and look strange to older players. This is mostly due to the fact that SNK has never made a game with these types of 3-D models outside of their other series, *Samurai Showdown*. In fact, the two games use a similar style, even though that clashes with the general thought of how the characters' visuals should be in *King of Fighters* games. While the character models are facing a fair bit of backlash, it's still enjoyable and won't turn someone away from the gameplay.

On the other end of the spectrum lies the game's attack animations and effects. This is one of the strongest aspects of the new game. Thanks to the

amazing and detailed effects from their previous sprite work, each and every character's attacks and animations are extremely detailed and vibrant. This is shown in a character's simple jabs, their specials and their "Climax Supers." At the end of every character's storyline or team victory, there is a cutscene or win animation that also shows the new game's great usage of the models.

The countless releases in the fighting game category have generally been known to have spectacular soundtracks. Every game from *Tekken* to *Super Smash Bros.* has been praised for its music. SNK's releases do not vary from this general trope and the company has many series and countless years of good music in their history. Thanks to this back catalog of music, SNK implemented the "DJ Station" in this installment of the game. Found on the main menu, this feature allows the player to access a large array of songs from the entirety of SNK's game library, not just *King of Fighters*.

In the "DJ Station" mode, players can listen to their favorite songs and put them into certain stages. You can even unlock more songs by completing challenges. Some of the most-loved soundtracks in the history of SNK have been recreated as well as incredibly implemented on *The King of Fighters XV*. This feature plays into the actual combat in the sense that the hitting sound effects alongside the announcer creates a great atmosphere. By putting meaningful, powerful and, most importantly, correct-sounding hits with the amazingly energetic announcer making funny and interesting remarks about the game, the gameplay and overall mood of *The King of Fighters XV* is enhanced to the highest level.

Overall, I believe *The King of Fighters XV* has made substantial leaps in the world of 2-D fighting games with its implementation of new and interesting systems for experienced and novice players alike. I believe this game is deserving of this year's Fighting Game of the Year trophy at the 2022 Games Awards. This game possesses an amazing soundtrack and general audio paired with great gameplay. Really, my only complaint is that the character models are lackluster. The game developers have given the playing community a large amount of attention so they can improve the game and make the experience as enjoyable as possible. With everything laid out in this game, I believe that anyone who has interest in this category of game will enjoy it. As a result, I encourage the mass majority of people to give this game a try. I give *The King of Fighters XV* five out of five stars.

Spy x Family is a stellar example of anime done right

The series, which is streaming on Netflix, is a collaboration between author Tatsuya Endo and producers Studio Wit and CloverWorks

By CHIMUAL VANG
Quill staff writer

Shonen Jump manga has been at the forefront in recent years as one of the top sources and generators for animated adaptations. One example of this is the *Spy x Family* series. After becoming a smash hit in season one, the long-awaited cour two was released this autumn. Written by author Tatsuya Endo, and produced through a collaboration between Studio Wit and CloverWorks, the new *Spy x Family* cour two continues to follow the mission of its central characters. In my opinion, *Spy x Family* is probably the greatest family friendly show any person can watch, even if you are not into animated series.

In the show, we follow a spy codenamed Twilight. This spy is working with W.I.S.E., an organization established by the Westalian Intelligence Services to prevent a cold war between them and the neighboring country, Ostania, from erupting again. In order to maintain peace between the two rival nations, Twilight's mission is to build a family and infiltrate the House of Desmond by enrolling a child into Eden Academy.

This brings us to Donovan Desmond, who is anticipated to be the source of the main conflict in the story. He is the infamous leader of the National Unity Party in Ostania. Cautious and highly skeptical, he almost never shows himself to the public eye. The only time he is seen is during special occasions,

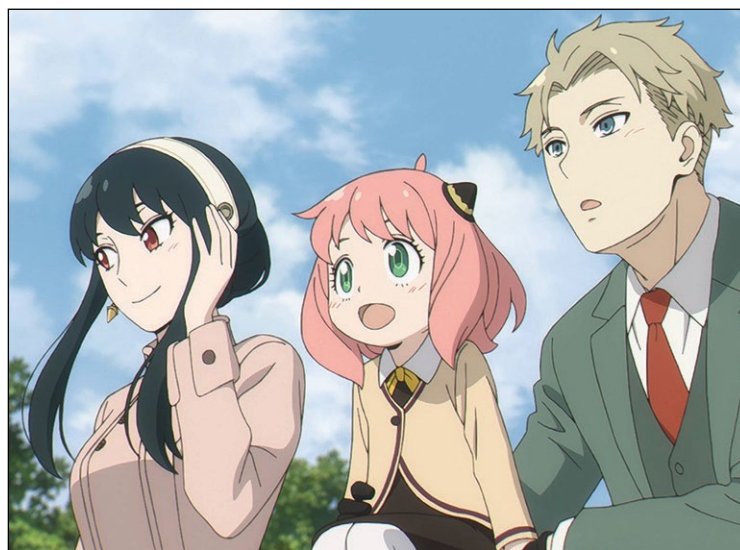


Photo by NETFLIX

The plot revolves around a pretend family of secret agents on a mission.

including meetings at his son's school, Eden Academy.

In order to come into contact with Donovan, Twilight is forced to execute the mission "Operation Strix," in which he will adopt a young girl, Anya. As it turns out, Anya is a telepathic psychic capable of reading minds. Meanwhile, the woman Twilight agrees to enter into a fake marriage with, Yor Briar, is a skilled assassin working as a contract killer. Unaware of the secrets being held by the family he has built, Twilight must learn to act like the perfect father and husband while carrying on his mission as an infamous spy.

Going back to re-watch the first season of *Spy x Family* in preparation

for cour two, I noticed one major thing that is intriguing about the main character's identity and how it might factor into how the story is going to end. In the show, Twilight is the code name for our main protagonist and Loid Forger is an alias that he uses in his daily life. Despite these "names," it is bluntly pointed out that our protagonist has no real name, identity or personal life beyond his job.

This identity issue makes the story much more interesting as very little is known about our protagonist and when he will succeed in his mission, at which point he will leave behind the fake family he has built and grown attached to before changing his name once more. Because the protagonist is trained to never stay at-

tached to the people surrounding his missions, one day he will have to leave. That also means the audience knows very little about the main character himself. In fact, we know just as much about him as his allies and enemies do.

Another thing I realized while re-watching the first season was that Loid Forger is known as a man with a thousand masks. This means the character is an amazing actor who is capable of talking his way out of any situation. However, despite being an amazing and overly talented man, he cannot raise a single daughter. I find it extremely compelling to know that the main character has a flaw despite being called perfect.

A final thing that I recognized going back to review season one is that, despite being told in the very beginning of his mission to start a family, Twilight goes out of his way to try and prevent any danger from affecting the lives of the citizens in Ostania, his supposed enemies. In fact, he even abandons his adopted daughter Anya early on to prevent her from facing any further danger. Despite this well-crafted adaptation of *Spy x Family* is that Twilight is a well-written and humanized protagonist.

SPY X FAMILY
continues on page 5

Netflix movie *Bright* occasionally shines

Under the direction of *Suicide Squad*'s David Ayers, *Bright* sometimes struggles with its narrative, villains, dialogue



Photo by NETFLIX

One positive element of *Bright* is an excellent cast that is led by its stars Will Smith (left) and Joel Edgerton (right).

By DYLAN HAJNASIEWICZ
Quill staff writer

Will Smith has been laying low for most of 2022 after slapping comedian Chris Rock at the Academy Awards ceremony early in the year. Now, with his new film *Emancipation* being released, Smith is again emerging into the spotlight in the hopes of reviving his career. This struck me as a good time to revisit a Smith movie from a few years back called *Bright*.

Bright is a 2017 Netflix original movie directed by David Ayer that stars Smith and Joel Edgerton. Prior to *Bright*, Ayer directed the DC franchise movie *Suicide Squad*. Much like *Suicide Squad*, *Bright* is an Ayer movie that, although entertaining for the most part, falls short in things such as a strong narrative, compelling villain and good dialogue.

Bright is a fantasy film about two cops, a human and an orc, who are partners in Los Angeles. Orcs and the police are at odds while the elves live in a separate part of town where they aren't bothered by the poor. Scott Ward, the human cop portrayed by Will Smith, finds himself with an orc partner who he doesn't like very much after he let him get shot. As the film begins, the two cops are responding to a call when they encounter magic users. They then have to fight their way around the city protecting a magic wand and a young girl who is able to wield it named Tikka.

For the first half of the movie, it seems to be a buddy cop movie with some fantasy elements intertwined into the plot. However, as it goes on, you find yourself not really knowing how things work, which makes the viewer puzzled at times in the third act.

With a movie like this, it doesn't necessarily hurt the story to not have one cen-

tralized villain. However, every human, orc and elf that the cops stumble upon becomes a villain. This gets a little redundant in the middle of the film when they are on the run with the magic wand. I think that this movie would have benefited from having more of a centralized villain. At the same time, there are certain aspects I like about the cops having multiple enemies at a time. They just went a little overboard with that concept.

Will Smith yet again gives a great performance despite mediocre dialogue and a poor plot. He is the reason I would recommend this movie. Likewise, as the orc, Joel Edgerton was an amazing casting decision by the studio and I think that he nailed the part. The way he plays being both very intelligent, yet not quite being able to fully grasp human concepts, makes for a great pairing between him and Smith.

Also done tremendously well in the film were the prosthetic makeup, the art direction and the costume designs. The orcs feel and look very organic, as if they could be living with us in real life. Additionally, they depict the streets in the slums of the orc areas very well. Finally, the elves' fashion and makeup seems as if they had real-life designers make clothing for the movie.

However, these positive elements don't hide the fact that the movie feels like a low-budget money grab by Netflix to try and get people to subscribe to their service. There are many instances of clearly pushing agendas in the film and making many ties between events happening in the movie and things that are actually happening in real life. I can't really fault them for that as it works for part of the movie. However, this is somewhat forgotten as the movie goes on.

Although *Bright* is technically well crafted from the sets to the makeup, it is still plagued with a hard-to-follow plot, bad dialogue and a typical cop-movie ending. I give *Bright* two and a half out of five stars.

Ninth release from Eminem has solid tracks

While it doesn't always live up to his earlier albums, *Revival* is worth a listen

By ZACHARY WESTLING
Quill staff writer

Eminem has claimed the musical crown as one of the best-selling artists of the 2000s. Eminem debuted his talent with his first album, *Infinite*, in 1996, and his origin story can be seen in the award-winning movie *8 Mile*. Recently, Eminem was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame for his work as a performer.

The publicity surrounding his induction prompted me to revisit Eminem's ninth album, *Revival*. While not his best album, *Revival* was the first of three albums that were released between 2017 and 2020 that saw Eminem reclaiming his status as a top hip hop artist. Overall, I enjoy *Revival* because of Eminem's lyrics and the way he expresses his feelings.

Revival consists of 19 tracks and features eight different artists such as Pink and Alicia Keys. *Revival* has a lot more up-beat songs than his older albums, but they still have the taste of the old Eminem that everyone knows. While there are a few slow songs on this album, the lyrics make up for the lack of beats.

"Bad Husband," a song featuring X Ambassadors, tells a story about Eminem and his family. In a way, it sounds like an apology to his family for not being there and prioritizing fame over his own family. While the song is slow, Eminem still finds a way to use his words to make it an enjoyable one. X Ambassadors sings the chorus and does a great job of lightening up the song.

"Like Home" featuring Alicia Keys is a piano tune without much of a beat, which adds to the mood of the song. This is a diss track aimed at former President Donald Trump, featuring lyrics such as "This chump barely even sleeps. All he does is watch Fox News like a parrot and repeats" and "But you ain't ruinin' our country, punk, or takin' our pride from us. You won't define us." I like the song because it does speak truth about the former president and situations going on in America today. Also, the chorus has a catchy melody, which is sung by Alicia Keys.

"Framed," a throwback to Eminem's Slim Shady alter ego, is a slow, creepy tune. Although the song is not necessarily good, the vibe from his younger days still feels the same. "Framed" is about crime and it features a lot of vulgar imagery. I do enjoy the song because I am a fan of Slim Shady and enjoy listening to the creative lyrics in the songs that feature this character.

"Untouchable" is a song that compares African American life to Caucasian life. It shows many of the controversial issues in America today when it comes to race. As Eminem says, "Seems like the average lifespan of a white man is more than twice than a black life span." Unfortunately, while "Untouchable" may speak a lot of truth, it is still hard to listen to because of its slow pace.

Taken as a whole, I think this album is an enjoyable one to listen to despite some weak songs. As an Eminem fan, I'm happy that this release and the two that came out after it, 2018's *Kamikaze* and 2020's *Music to Be Murdered By*, helped bring him back into the spotlight. I give *Revival* three out of five stars because its many good songs compensate for the songs whose slow beats occasionally kill the vibe of the album.

SPY X FAMILY

continued from page 4

In conclusion, *Spy x Family* is one of the best and most sincere anime series in recent years. With such an original concept and the atmosphere of a family friendly show, I believe anyone can enjoy *Spy x Family*. Author Tatsuya Endo, along with Studios Wit and CloverWorks, knew how much potential this series would have if it was just given enough attention by the public eye. Overall, I rate this show five out of five stars. I would recommend it to anyone who is having a bad day. You can watch it and come out with a smile.

Fourth *Insidious* movie makes an impression

Insidious: The Last Key manages to manufacture many new scares out of a well-worn formula

By NICOLE SMITH
Quill staff writer

Insidious: The Last Key is the fourth movie in the *Insidious* series. Up until this year, I thought it was going to be the last movie in the series. However, it was recently announced that a fifth film in the franchise will be released in 2023 under the direction of Patrick Wilson, who is one of the main actors in the series. In preparation for the new movie, I decided to go back and watch the fourth installment.

At first, I was nervous about watching *The Last Key* because I had heard so many different views on the movie. Some people told me it wasn't worth my time, while others said it wasn't that bad. Fortunately, I was happy to see that this Blumhouse production had the perfect number of jump scares and thrills throughout the entire story.

The movie starts off as a flashback to the childhood of the main character, Elise. While Elise has been in previous *Insidious* movies, this is the first *Insidious* movie that is specifically about her. This movie is about how Elise's childhood home is being haunted by an unwanted spirit. Elise takes on this case due to the fact that it is in her childhood home. Elise has help from two brothers, Specs and Tucker, who are her sidekicks. When they go into the house, Elise can instantly tell



Photo by BLUMHOUSE PICTURES

The movie centers on Elise (left), who has been in previous installments.

that something isn't right and they start investigating right away. As the movie continues, they use flashbacks to address more of Elise's past and tie everything together.

One thing I really enjoyed about the movie is that there wasn't any time when I was confused. They did a really good job of making the transitions from the main character's past to present very clean. You could always tell when the events of the plot were happening.

Another thing I enjoyed about the movie was its use of jump scares.

Something about horror movies I pay attention to is how often jump scares occur. If there are too few jump scares, it does not really feel like a horror movie, but if there are too many, then it just starts to get overwhelming. *The Last Key* has just the right amount.

Another thing that stuck out to me is how they kept the same actors from the previous movies. I think the movies seem more connected because of that continuity.

Something else that is really cool is that you don't have to see the *Insidious*

movies all in a row to understand what is going on. Every movie has the same concept of fighting paranormal activities, but each story is different in its own way.

At the same time, there were a few things about the movie I didn't like. The biggest one was the ending, which was garbage. It ends with Elise having a dream about a boy being haunted. She then gets a call from Lorraine, a previous character from the series, saying that she believes her grandson is being possessed. Now, in a previous *Insidious* movie, Lorraine's son was possessed, so this is just repeating something that was already done. New content is what viewers want, and if the filmmakers just repeat the past, people are going to lose interest.

Another thing I didn't really like was how fake some of the demons looked. I think that they tried too hard to make the main demon with the key fingers look scary. Instead, it looked fake.

The last thing I didn't like was the funny-looking demon at the very end of the movie. In my opinion, it looked like a mask you would find at Party City. It feels like they just gave up.

Overall, the good aspects of the movie outweighed the bad. I would recommend it to anyone who is in the mood for a good horror film. I give *Insidious: The Last Key* three and a half out of five stars.

EMS CLASS IS FIRST STEP TOWARD A CAREER

continued from page 2

Echoing Herman's sentiments is one of the students in the class, Joshua Peterson (11). Peterson said the course has multiple benefits that should prompt all students to take it.

"I would absolutely encourage my friends who are interested to take this course because it's a great opportunity to learn different things that could save

a life, not to mention that completion of the course will result in a college credit, so it is absolutely worth taking this course," Peterson said.

Peterson added that this class is also good for students who sometimes struggle in the more traditional classes taught in a high school setting.

"I find it easier to keep up in this

class with the lectures and such, where in I struggle to keep up in some other classes that rely more on individual work. Despite seeming like a dreadful college course, it's actually not all too hard with some thought and attention, and that's what I like about the course," he said.

Ultimately, Kulas stressed that tak-

ing the EMS class is a great option for students who are interested in having their high school education feed into a career option right after graduating.

"This course is a great stepping stone into becoming a paramedic, nurse, physician assistant, physician, respiratory therapist and any other medical field position you may think of," Kulas said.

Premier Performers

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

Natalie Karnick

By ALEXIS WILLIAMS
Quill staff writer

Natalie Karnick (12) is in Concert Choir, Symphony Orchestra, Bella Voce, Chamber Singers and IB theater. While she has been in Concert Choir for two years, Symphony Orchestra for three years and Bella Voce for two years, this is her first year doing Chamber Singers and taking IB theater. Karnick said her interest in performance drove her participation in these activities.

"I got into all of these because of my love for music and performing," she said.

According to Karnick, the community of the performing arts and the friendships she has made have been the two best aspects of her involvement in the arts. As for her favorite arts memo-



Photo by BRIGHT DEKU

ries, Karnick said it is different in each of her music groups.

"My favorite choir memory so far was the spring concert last year when a lot of alumni came back to sing with us. My favorite orchestra memory was from freshman year when the cello player broke the clock by the cafeteria during the Halloween concert," Karnick said.

Karnick said she doesn't have any leadership roles in her arts groups because she "doesn't really have time" due to her participation in sports. However, she added that her favorite classes during the school day are performance-related, specifically Concert Choir, Symphony Orchestra and IB theater.

Next fall, Karnick will go to the Aveda Institute in Minneapolis to study cosmetology. She said she hopes to stay connected to the arts after graduating.

Amalia Ranstrom

By ALEXIS WILLIAMS
Quill staff writer

Amalia Ranstrom (12) plays harp in Symphony Orchestra; sings second soprano in Concert Choir, Chamber Singers and Bella Voce; and is in color guard in marching band.

Ranstrom has been playing harp since she was six and joined the school orchestra in fourth grade. She started in choir at the same time and has been in school choirs ever since. More recently, she joined marching band her junior year.

According to Ranstrom, her favorite part of orchestra is making good friends.

"It is fun to play and perform solo, but it is even more fun to play with people you like," she said.

In choir, Ranstrom's favorite thing is similar: "singing together is a bonding

experience with my friends," she said. She also said she loves the challenge of learning new and difficult pieces.

Meanwhile, she said marching band is fun because it is something new and she can "interact with even more people who love music but in a different way."

Currently, Ranstrom is the Concert Choir student director and Orchestra Leadership Council president. She likes these leadership roles because they allow her "to help make decisions that positively impact" the activities that she cares about.

When it comes to school, Ranstrom said she likes all of her classes. However, she said her favorite one right now is choir because she gets "to do [her] favorite thing right away in the morning with people [she] likes."

Next fall, Ranstrom is going to go to the University of Minnesota for music.



Photo by BRIGHT DEKU

Noemi Richardson

By BRIGHT DEKU
Quill staff writer

Noemi Richardson (12) is involved in theater and choir. While she has been doing theater for three years, she has been choir for nearly 13 years.

"I started first in kindergarten with choir and I have loved to sing ever since I can remember," she said.

An interest in theater came to Richardson in high school. She said she learned when she came to Cooper that she loves to act and dance.

"Honestly, theater made me feel so welcome. I felt like I belonged. I was able to find people with the same interests as me," she said.

Richardson said that one of her favorite aspects of performing occurs right before a show.

"We take a minute to calm ourselves down, looking back at all the progress we made to get there. It is a moment of pure appreciation for everyone involved," she said.

As a senior, Richardson said she tries to be a role model to the younger students.

"Since I know more, I try my best to make them feel included, hear them out or make them comfortable in this new environment they're not used to," she said.

When it comes to school, Richardson said she is enjoying her forensic science and psychology classes because "both teachers are amazing and genuinely want to help [her] understand the material."

For college, Richardson wants to be a musical theater major and maybe minor in creative writing.



Photo by BRIGHT DEKU

Francisco Torres

By BRIGHT DEKU
Quill staff writer

Francisco Torres (12) is involved in varsity choir at Cooper. He has been in choir for five years, having started in seventh grade. According to Torres, he first started in choir because of having a general interest in singing.

Eventually, he began to like it because of the experiences he has had and the friends he has made through his years in choir.

When it comes to his favorite aspects of choir, Torres said he has enjoyed practicing and preparing for concerts.

"Hearing it come all together gives that feeling that's unexplainable," he said.

As for Torres' favorite memory from choir, he said it would probably be his experience during freshman year.

"Spending time with his friends in choir has always been a blast and I had the most friends in there that year," he said.

While he doesn't have any leadership roles in choir, Torres said he is looking forward to spending the rest of his senior year taking part in the activity.

Outside of music, Torres' favorite subjects are math and chemistry.

"I am always good with numbers and problems, and with chemistry, doing hands-on stuff and labs is always fun," he said.

Some of Torres' hobbies outside of school are playing soccer and spending time with his family.

Next fall, Torres plans on going to college. While at school, he hopes to play soccer and study coding. However, he said he probably will not continue with choir after high school.

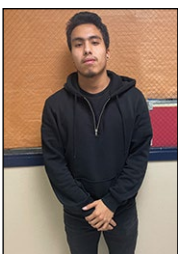


Photo by BRIGHT DEKU

IB art students learn new methods

People in the class have the potential to earn college credit based on their performance



Photo by SHENG VANG

Under the guidance of teacher Ms. Mielke, students work through multiple mediums of art.

By YUSEFF SHABAZZ
Quill staff writer

Cooper students who are artists or aspiring to be are encouraged to check out the International Baccalaureate (IB) art class. Through this advanced class, juniors and seniors get to make art while also learning more about the field.

According to art teacher Ms. Mielke, this college-level studio course "encourages students to challenge their own creative and cultural expectations and boundaries."

During the class, students earn formative grades based on "participating in art-making activities" and project preparation and planning, Mielke said. To help in this grading, each student has a sketchbook or journal in which they complete inspiration pages and project planning pages.

As for summatives, Mielke said they consist of "the big studio projects." According to Mielke, there are typically three big projects throughout the course. Mielke added that

students in the class will start the first one, "the comparative study," soon.

In order to prepare for the summatives, students will create a process portfolio. Mielke said this involves students creating an online portfolio from their art journal.

One example of the type of project students work on in IB art is a two-part assignment they started in December that asked students to create an alter ego. For this assignment, students take a photo portrait and then create a studio project based on it in the form of a painting, drawing or work in another medium. Students conclude the project by submitting both works.

One element that makes this art class unique is that it follows IB requirements. That means students complete IB assessments as part of taking this course. By taking this IB course, students have the opportunity to potentially earn college credit.

The advanced nature of the class is one reason why Emakay Dyson (11) takes IB art. She said she joined

the class because she knew it "would be different and a good experience."

"I like the class because I am around people who have a higher love for art," she said.

Meanwhile, Trynceston Lee (11) said he takes IB art because he likes "the environment in class" and the projects.

"I took the class because I really like art and wanted to learn different techniques and types," he said.

Lee added that his favorite project so far has been the alter ego project because it made him think about "more than the basics of art."

Beyond the remaining projects, Mielke said there are many upcoming events in the class. In January, students in the class will be going on a field trip to the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis.

"Students will go for free and be gone all day," Mielke said.

Another big event occurs near the end of the year when there will be an art show during which students in the class will present their art.

Outsider brought loads of laughs to Cooper

The fall play, which ran December 1-3, featured great performances, music, costuming

By BRIGHT DEKU
Quill staff writer

The Outsider is a comedy written by Paul Slade Smith that was performed by the Cooper theater department as this year's fall play in the school auditorium on December 1-3. I chose to attend and review opening night of the play because I know a

lot of people in the cast and the thought of seeing them in a political comedy piqued my interest. Although the run of the show has come to an end, I totally recommend that people go see future performances of this play because it is truly funny. Moreover, Cooper's production of it was excellent and the actors were really good at what they did. Although some of the actors skipped their lines on opening night, the show was still amazing.

The plot of *The Outsider* features a satirical look at politics. In the story, the governor of a state gets fired because he has sex with the runner-up in a beauty pageant. Trying to replace him as the new governor is Ned, who, despite being smart and competent, is also very shy. In addition to Ned, the main characters are Martha, Louise, DJ, David and Paige. Their goal is to

get Ned to win, even though he is just a regular guy.

A highlight of the December 1 performance was the acting, which was consistently amazing. Despite knowing more than half the cast, their acting made it seem like I was watching entirely different people. Especially impressive was cast member Joseph Metzger (12). He

A highlight of the December 1 performance was the acting, which was consistently amazing. Despite knowing more than half the cast, their acting made it seem like I was watching entirely different people. Especially impressive was cast member Joseph Metzger (12).

play, it also tied everything in the play together for the audience. I enjoyed the fact that the actors' performances and the transitions between scenes were well choreographed with the music. Finally, I liked the fact that the music was playing the whole time before the play started, which helped the audience prepare for the show.

The last element I enjoyed was the costuming. It shocked me how fast the actors were able to change their outfits from scene to scene. They would be gone for one minute and then come back looking like a whole new person. Many of the characters were dressed in suits given the political subject matter, while other characters had to look like "the common man." In all cases, the wardrobe department did a great job.

Overall, *The Outsider* is an amazing play and Cooper's production of it was a huge success. I enjoyed being able to see my classmates be a part of something that I found truly inspiring. I most definitely recommend that you see Cooper's winter musical since many of the same students will be involved in putting it on. I rate the December 1 performance of this play 4.5 out of five stars.

LONG BIOGRAPHY BRINGS HISTORY TO LIFE continued from page 4

I don't really feel you have to be a big history buff to appreciate the book, either. The comedy of the political shenanigans in Long's Louisiana made me laugh many times while reading the book. It's really great content that deserves the in-depth treatment it receives in this biography of Long.

This book was first published in 1969. At that time, the author lived in Long's Louisiana. Between that fact and the endorsement by Russel Long, a reader might be concerned about

bias in the author's analysis of Long. While there is a degree of bias toward him, this is offset by the fact that the book features a variety of perspectives. By today's standards, it is very objective in its presentation.

An aspect of the book I was surprised by was the elegance of the writing. Many times, it is absolutely beautiful. Moreover, the ending of the book is profound and thought-provoking. It effectively summarizes the work and nearly warrants a read on its own.

I hope books such as *Huey Long* by Harry T. Williams continue to be read and enjoyed for years to come. After more than half a century, it is still as relevant and interesting as ever. I believe it is an entertaining and incredibly educational book nearly everyone will enjoy. Moreover, it is just as topical as ever given the current discontent many Americans feel about the direction this country is taking. Overall, I give this book 4.99 out of five stars.

Wrestlers welcome Wong

The Hawks squad starts the 2022-2023 campaign with a well-experienced head coach



Photo by BRIGHT DEKU

Mr. Wong coached at Patrick Henry, Columbia Heights and Roseville high schools before coming to Cooper.

By YUSEFF SHABAZZ
Quill staff writer

There have been a couple changes this season to the Hawks wrestling team. Last year, long-time head coach and Cooper science teacher Mr. Stanton resigned from his coaching position. With the position open and Cooper looking for a new wrestling coach, Activities Director Mr. Howard hired Mr. Wong to lead the school's wrestling program.

With previous coaching experience at Patrick Henry, Columbia Heights and Roosevelt high schools, this won't be Wong's first time coaching. Additionally, Wong played multiple sports in high school, which has helped him develop his long-time personal philosophy and goal as a coach.

"I want to develop a culture in the wrestling program of accountability and personal responsibility," he said.

According to Wong, working toward that goal starts with the team's

approach to practice. He said a typical day of wrestling practice consists of a warm up, wrestling drills, working on technique, live wrestling, conditioning and a cool down.

Wrestling is a sport that can teach athletes many things. For example, Wong said it shows participants how to be accountable, it builds their self-confidence and it promotes hard work.

"Wrestling is one of the hardest sports both physically and mentally. It utilizes balance, strength and coordination, to name a few things," Wong said.

The response of the veteran wrestlers on the Cooper team to the new head coach has been positive. David Giron Leiva (12), who is a varsity captain, said he likes Wong's attitude and approach.

"I felt the way he installed himself in the team made me feel like he's always been there," he said.

Giron Leiva described coach

Wong's coaching style as "very tactical." He said Wong adds helpful "tweaks" to each wrestler's moves to make them better, in addition to introducing new moves. Giron Leiva said he is hopeful Wong will help him reach his personal goal this season, which is to compete for a state championship.

Another person with praise for Wong is Taten Shroyer (12), who is also a varsity captain. Shroyer said he likes that Wong is "all about work, work, work" and there are no games or slacking off. Shroyer added that Wong's style is different because he teaches "a lot more moves at once." Like Giron Leiva, Shroyer said his goal this season is to place in state.

Outside of coaching Hawks wrestling, Wong is a senior manager with Caribou Coffee, where he works in the business development department. Outside of working and coaching, Wong likes to play golf, go bowling and spend time with family and friends.

REPUBLICANS NEED TO HEED LESSONS OF ELECTIONS continued from page 3

ly polarized by political mud-slinging. That's not how you win independents, and certainly not how you win over moderate Democrats, which the GOP would have to do to succeed in such a blue state like Minnesota.

Choosing to attack Tim Walz on the economy, in particular, was a miscalculation by Jensen. As the *Mankato Free Press* wrote in July 2022: "Minnesota is growing jobs at a rate of 1.6 percent per year, higher than the national rate of 1.5 percent per year. So the state is on a solid track to recovery. And the good news is that a tighter labor market is pushing wages higher." Although the economy is not perfect, independents and swing voters around the Midwest rightfully appraised the economy to be comparatively healthy. Jensen did not really have any ways to improve the economy other than being in favor of the Northern Waters mining projects, which opened an entirely different can of environmental worms and served to alienate many swing voters.

The other two issues Scott Jensen focused on, crime and COVID, are areas where he may have had a slight advantage. Crime is a big issue in Minnesota, as it is nationally. In Minneapolis in particular, crime rates have fluctuated but nonetheless remain high. High-profile incidents like the "Fourth of July Mayhem" and the civil unrest of 2021 aided this high-crime narrative. Jensen was probably right: leadership did fail in those incidents. However, I think a lot of independents and people in general question what a governor can realistically do if the local government is not cooperative. I felt a lot of Jensen's ideas on crime

were solid, but instead of highlighting those ideas, the campaign chose to criticize Walz's record on the issue instead. If Jensen ran ads talking about his minimum sentencing reforms, his plans to better prosecute criminals and his across-the-isle approach to the justice system on issues like marijuana possession, I think he would have run up the scoreboard on the topic of crime. But, instead of building a positive narrative, he was only really successful in gaining the support of currently disenfranchised voters, which showed in the high voter turnout in rural Minnesota.

The second area where Jensen was strong was related to COVID. In fact, that is what sold me on Jensen. His medical experience and outspoken criticism of the handling of the pandemic resonated with me. I found him well-spoken and reasonable in his appearances on shows like *The Ingraham Angle*. I think a lot of people agreed that the damages done by our response to the pandemic will perhaps never be known. For instance, our students are worse off than ever, the nation's mental health epidemic has worsened and the economy is just not really ticking along in the same way it was before the pandemic. All of these problems can lead to a lot of anger and, potentially, a lot of support for a politician who opposed the policies that caused those problems.

Quite simply, though, COVID became a non-issue in this election cycle. Students are back in school, the majority of Minnesotans are vaccinated and the disease is on the back burner. While a small, mostly Republican fringe finds the handling of COVID unforgivable, a majority of people just want to move

on. I find it interesting that voters want to move on, but I suppose that's a symptom of a hyperactive political and media climate. It's clear Jensen was the strongest candidate on the COVID issue. It makes me wonder whether the outcome of the election would have been any different if it was held a year or two ago.

In summary, Scott Jensen ran a negative campaign and did not win on the biggest issues. Although he won on issues like crime and COVID, it was not in a way that was significant enough to swing important voting groups. At the same time, he was also being clobbered by voter outrage over the repeal of Roe vs. Wade. That issue mattered a lot and it dragged down the entire GOP docket in this election cycle.

In contrast to Jensen, Republican candidates like Jim Schultz had a real chance at winning their elections. Schultz, for instance, outperformed Jensen, earning around five percent more of the vote for attorney general than Jensen did for governor. It's hard to win a statewide election with a weak gubernatorial candidate from the same party. Although there were some cross-party ballots cast, it wasn't enough to push Schultz into the attorney general's office. The same story could be found in the state congress, where what was supposed to be a national "red wave" resulted instead in Republicans losing control of the Minnesota state senate, effectively turning Minnesota into a one-party state.

Minnesota's Republicans seem to be acknowledging this catastrophe,

ELECTIONS
continues on page 8

Cooper Competitors

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

Leo Garcia

By NEMO PONDER
Quill staff writer

Leo Garcia (12) is on the Hawks football team as a kicker, and he is a member of the school's soccer team. Garcia has been on both teams for quite some time.

"I've been playing soccer since my sophomore year simply because it's the sport I love to watch. I've been playing football longer than soccer, four years to be exact. Head Coach Mr. Howard just showed up to my lunch table at school and he and my friends convinced me to play and be the kicker on the team," he said.

Garcia said he has enjoyed both sports, especially soccer.

"I have enjoyed every bit of it because I have always played it since I was a baby," he said.

When it comes to favorite sports memories, Garcia said he has had some with soccer and football.

"In soccer, definitely learning how to be more of a leader to the young guys. I truly realized it my senior year," he said. "In football, it was definitely learning how to kick the ball. It was pretty hard at first, but with some practice, it became easy."



Photo by BRIGHT DEKU

While Garcia is not doing any winter sports, he did pick up an interest in taking photos of Cooper sports like basketball.

"I have been getting more involved with photography and I am looking forward to taking pictures," he said.

In fact, Garcia's love of photography has factored into his possible career path after school.

"I would love something with photography or videography," he said.

Martez Wise

By NEMO PONDER
Quill staff writer

Martez Wise (12) played football in the fall. As we now enter the winter sports season, he is currently playing basketball.

Wise has been playing football for some time now. He has several reasons why he started playing the sport.

"I've been playing football for five years. I started back in the eighth grade. What prompted me to play is the teammates I had and the fact that I made new bonds," he said.

Wise said he enjoys his fall sport because it allows him to improve as an athlete.

"I enjoy going out on the field every day to compete," he said.

While Wise likes football, he said his main sport is basketball. This will be

Wise's first year on the Cooper basketball team.

"The outlook is going to be so good, especially me being a transfer. I'm just trying to bring in a state title," he said.

Looking ahead, Wise said he wants to try out a new sport in the spring.

"I think I will be looking forward to doing baseball this year for the experience," he said.

When it comes to school, Wise said he is a hard-working student who likes all of his classes.

"My favorite class is English because I never used to be good at it, but I have a good English teacher now," Wise said.

Next fall, Wise plans to go to college to play sports and to pursue his education.

"My plan for college is to play basketball somewhere, and if that doesn't work out, I'll go to trade school," he said.



Photo by BRIGHT DEKU

Sharissa Ross

By ALEXIS WILLIAMS
Quill staff writer

Sharissa Ross (12) plays volleyball in the fall and is part of the winter cheer squad for basketball games.

Ross first joined the Hawks volleyball team as a sophomore.

"I started playing volleyball in seventh grade. It looked like a very interesting sport so I started playing and loved it ever since," she said.

Ross said the family atmosphere of the Cooper volleyball team was one highlight of being involved.

"I enjoyed the family we kind of built. It was almost always a good time when I was with my team," she said.

Of the many fond memories Ross has of volleyball, her favorite took place this year.

"My favorite memory was my se-

nior night. We had fun and came together at the end," Ross said.

With volleyball now finished, Ross has moved into winter cheerleading.

"I'm very excited because this is my first time doing it and I get to do it with my best friend," she said.

When it comes to school, Ross said AVID is her favorite class.

"I really love AVID because we have a family in that class that supports each other," Ross said. "Also, it helps me with college applications and the transition to college."

Outside of school, Ross spends her time working, hanging out with friends, doing her nails and shopping.

Next fall, Ross will attend school to become a nurse.

"I want to work at a children's hospital," Ross said.



Photo by BRIGHT DEKU

Hunter Olson

By ALEXIS WILLIAMS
Quill staff writer

Hunter Olson (12) runs cross country in the fall, plays hockey outside of school in the winter and hopes to run track this spring.

Olson first joined cross country during his sophomore year.

"The main reason I joined was because of the funny stories I'd hear my friends tell, so I didn't hesitate when I was asked to join," he said.

Olson said he enjoyed the many traditions of the cross country team, including the team's pre-meet gatherings for dinner.

"I have a lot of fond memories from cross country, but the best memory was probably playing baseball at a pizza party," Olson said.

Another thing Olson enjoyed

about cross country was becoming captain his senior year.

"I was always happy to give advice to the new runners that joined and show them the traditions," he said.

Now that the winter months have arrived, Olson is playing hockey. He noted that "the extra leg power" from running cross country will be helpful this season.

Running also plays a role in Olson's decision to join track this spring.

"I'm hoping to join the track team due to the fact that I want to run a marathon this summer," he said.

Outside of playing organized sports, Olson enjoys water skiing, wake boarding and downhill skiing.

After graduating, Olson said he will be attending college. He is thinking about pursuing a career in physical therapy.



Photo by BRIGHT DEKU

TIKTOK

continued from page 3

to show you videos based off your likes. As a result, TikTok always knows what to show you depending on how you are feeling. When you are happy, they show funny stuff, and when you are mad or sad and feel alone, they show videos to cheer you up and make you feel wanted. TikTok is always positive and it's really like a safe place for people when they just need a break from everything. As distracting as it is, the app definitely helps when you are struggling.

While watching TikToks can make you feel better, they can still be a distraction, especially at school. An even bigger distraction, though, is making TikToks. Most students can have TikTok videos playing in the background while doing their work and they can still get their work done. However, if a student is recording a TikTok, they can't do work because all their focus goes into performing whatever they are supposed to be doing in the TikTok. While I feel like students shouldn't really be on their phone in class at all, listening to a TikTok is clearly less distracting than making one. If a student is done with their work in class, I can see why a teacher might be more lenient with that student watching TikTok if they are not causing a problem for any of their peers, but there is no way they should be recording a TikTok during class time.

I completely understand the staff's frustration when it comes to phone use generally and TikTok use specifically. I have seen many students walk into my classrooms blasting TikToks with no headphones on. While that is already obnoxious, what is even worse is that, instead of putting the phone away when class starts, those students just turn the volume down but keep TikTok on. I know teachers like it when they can clearly see you are paying attention during class because it's a sign of being respectful and it saves them from having to repeat themselves for the people who are distracted by TikTok. If you are a student in high school who can't manage to turn off TikTok while the teacher gives instructions and at least act like you are paying attention, there is definitely a problem.

In the interest of full disclosure, I admit that I definitely got distracted by TikTok while writing this editorial. Occasionally, I would stop typing and pick my phone up to watch a TikTok and take a mental break. However, I never stayed on it too long and I managed to get this article written. That is the difference between being responsible about TikTok and being addicted to it. Perhaps the solution is that the school needs to get serious about punishments for TikTok use during class time. If a student is on TikTok while the teacher is talking or when they should be doing their classwork, then they should be sent to Coaches' Corner. This may be the best way to teach students when it's the right time and when it's the wrong time to use TikTok.

ELECTIONS

continued from page 7

with Jensen asking, "What can we learn from this?" in his concession speech after lamenting that what happened was a "blue wave." In my opinion, the Minnesota GOP has some clear lessons to be learned. First, do not make incredibly unpopular and broadly offensive statements on social issues to win primaries. (This is especially the case with abortion in Minnesota.) Also, do not emphasize your opponent's flaws over your own attributes. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, do not run on an issue like COVID that has been politically irrelevant for years at this point. That may be how you win in conservative strongholds like Florida or Texas, but that's not how you flip a state like Minnesota.

Maybe after an unprecedented four terms of Democratic governors, Minnesota Republicans will take these lessons to heart in 2026. Personally, I am starting to doubt it.

RELATIONSHIPS

continued from page 3

class instead of being confused and uncomfortable. His kindness helped me become a part of his class and I was grateful for that.

It is for these many reasons that the relationships between students and their teachers is important to me and the other people who go to Cooper. Overall, I feel like most teachers and staff members have good bonds with their students. However, there are still a select few adults who should try to reach out more to their students. If those adults see that a student seems alone or if it looks like they are feeling down, a supportive word can really help.

Athletes adjust to new school schedule

The 3:25 p.m. end time to the day has caused some academic, personal challenges for Cooper competitors



Photo by NEMO PONDER

Members of Cooper winter teams are now experiencing what fall athletes went through at the start of the year.

By NOAH PLAHN
Quill staff writer

This has been a year of adjustments for the students and staff at Cooper thanks to the change in school start and end times. With school starting at 8:35 a.m. and getting out at 3:25 p.m., student athletes have an even later end to their days. Instead of getting home when it is still light out, students are now getting home well after 6 p.m., which is after sunset in the winter months. This change heavily affects our Hawk athletes and how they live their everyday lives.

Corey DeLoach

Corey DeLoach (12) said the changes in the school and practice schedule made it an interesting fall fueled by the need for adaptation. According to DeLoach, he felt the difference in the time change and felt as if he "never had time to do anything." Additionally, he pointed out that getting out of football practice at around 6 p.m. made it impossible for players who have a job to work during the school week.

Another issue this year has been missing class time due to sports. In order to be ready for games, DeLoach said he would consistently miss his eighth-, seventh- and sometimes even sixth-period classes on game days. DeLoach's advice to winter athletes who

are facing similar challenges was to get better at time management "by setting alarms and scheduling when you are going to be out and when will you spend time to focus on your work."

DaNari Connors

Another football player who spent fall getting used to the schedule changes is DaNari Connors (12). He said the change in time this year was big and it made him feel as if he always was "at school or at football and that's it."

Connors said he enjoys feeling more rested in the morning with the later start time but added that he liked getting out of practice early in the day and actually getting more free time under the old schedule.

Much like DeLoach, Connors said that early releases for games meant that he missed summatives and classwork that he would have to catch up on later.

Connors advised other student athletes who are making the adjustment to the new schedule to work on their priorities. In Connors' case, he put his focus on football and school during the season and "did not go out that much."

Andrew Brooks

Andrew Brooks (10) is an athlete who takes part in cross country, swimming and track. Getting used to the new schedule during the fall cross

country season had an impact on his personal life outside of school.

"The later start time has given me less time for my studies in the evening and more in the morning, respectively. Because of sports, I have even less time in the evening to do my work and less time in general," he said.

In order to face this schedule change, Brooks said he had to adapt quickly in the fall.

"I have needed to learn how to work more thoroughly and hastily. It has worked, but I have needed to sacrifice precious time with my family to succeed in school," he said.

The impact of the schedule changes has also affected Brooks' classwork, especially on meet days.

"I have missed out on my Spanish class multiple times. I only needed to communicate that I was unable to attend my Spanish teacher's classes on specific days. I have been able to get extra time to do the assignments that I miss so I can do the work that I missed," he said.

Ultimately, Brooks said that getting through the fall adjustment period came down to prioritizing school.

"I have just realized the importance of my work and I get what work I have done," he said.

Malik Williams

Malik Williams (10) is another multi-sports athlete who takes part in

cross country, Nordic skiing and track. Williams said his life was affected this fall by the new schedule.

"The later school end time means that practice ends later, meaning even less time in the day for me to do anything I want to do before starting my night routine. The later end time also means that I have less time to focus on homework. After a long day of school and practice, the last thing anyone wants to do is homework," he said.

Much like Brooks, Williams pointed out that athletes are forced to leave school early and this can affect their success in the classroom.

"Leaving early is definitely a disadvantage in the classroom. For most of my cross country season, I'd have to leave eighth period at least once a week, meaning missing out on key lessons and schoolwork. The compensator for that is plenty of communication with my eighth period teacher," he said.

Julia Nordstrom

Julia Nordstrom (12) just wrapped up her final volleyball season. After becoming accustomed to the same school start and end times for the past three years, Nordstrom said this year's change had an impact on her.

"Due to the later end time of the school day and my volleyball practice being pushed later, I had very little time to do things I enjoyed outside of school. Most weekends were spent catching up with everything I missed during the week, so I had very little time to relax," she said.

Nordstrom pointed out that completing her homework was more challenging this year than it has been in the past.

"With school ending at 3:25, and my practice not being done until 6 or 7 p.m., it was very hard to make time in my evening for homework. By the time I was ready to do homework, it would already be about 8:30-9 p.m., and with the amount of homework teachers have been assigning this year, it was not enough time to get it all done and go to bed at a reasonable time," she said.

For student athletes who have not yet arrived at their sports season, Nordstrom had some advice on how to make the new schedule work.

"A strategy I used was doing other classes' work in classes I had free time in. I also did school work at my games before I played so I wouldn't have to do it late at night after my games," she said.

Timberwolves frustrate fans with uneven play

Although they have shown flashes of brilliance, the team is struggling to find itself so far in 2022

By NOAH PLAHN
Quill staff writer

The Timberwolves have been a lackluster team for a long period of time ever since the Kevin Garnett era. While they have struggled to be competitive, these past few years have rejuvenated the team thanks to the addition of young talent and new leadership. This has given fans hope and the team the opportunity for a strong future. As the 2022-2023 season gets underway, it is a good time to assess where the Timberwolves are at as a team.

Offense

The offense has been a consistently strong part of the team for a couple of years now. With all the offensive firepower the team has had, it's intriguing that they haven't been a top team for the last few years.

Leading the team is arguably the best center in the league, Karl Anthony Towns (KAT). He has been a consistent piece of the team for years. He's well-known and is already considered to be one of the best Timberwolves players of all time. KAT's stats speak for themselves. Since his rookie year, Towns has been a consistent 20-points-per-game scorer.

However, Towns has needed some help. During the 2020 off-season, KAT expressed his anger with the team and was possibly looking for a way out. However, when the 2020 draft rolled around, the team ended up with the first pick in the draft, and they chose young superstar Anthony Edwards, which provided KAT with some of the help he desired.

During that same season, the Tim-

berwolves traded away long-time Timberwolves player Andrew Wiggins. The team always tried to progress Wiggins' abilities and make him a star but were never able to put the pieces together. Although he struggled in Minnesota over his seasons, trading Wiggins was a shocking move.

The trade package ultimately included Andrew Wiggins and two 2021 draft picks. In return, we got two bench players, Jacob Evans and Omari Spellman, and long-time best friend of Towns, all-star point guard D'Angelo Russell. This gave the Timberwolves a solid pick-and-roll duo plus Anthony Edwards on the wing. This means the team is now set with one of the strongest starting lineups in the league offensively.

Defense

While the Timberwolves' offense is strong, the defense is shaky at times. D'Angelo Russell and Anthony Edwards are largely offense-heavy players. Likewise, Karl Anthony Towns is not a huge defensive piece in the paint. Additionally, in recent seasons, the team has struggled down low.

Fortunately, the Wolves have found their solution this year, and his name is Rudy Gobert. In the 2022 off-season, the team made a blockbuster trade that included Malik Beasley, Patrick Beverley, Leandro Bolmaro, Walker Kessler and Jared Vanderbilt. The trade also included the team's 2023 first-round pick, 2025 first-round pick, 2026 pick swap, 2027 first-round pick and 2029 first-round pick. This was obviously a massive trade for the team.

While many called this move an "overpay," Rudy Gobert is not just any

player. Gobert's accolades include being a three-time NBA All-Star, a three-time defensive player of the year, a six-time all-defensive first team, a three-time all-NBA second team, a one-time all-NBA second team, a two-time NBA blocks leader and a one-time NBA rebounds leader. Keep in mind that he has done all that in just nine years. Clearly, Gobert has already solidified himself as a future hall-of-fame player and now he is on the Timberwolves.

The Gobert pickup has allowed Towns to play the position he has wanted to play for years: power forward. It also puts the best defensive big man in the league at center.

Although Gobert is a great defensive player, the team doesn't have a whole lot of depth in this area as they traded away most of their top players off the bench in the Gobert trade. The main player they lost was Patrick Beverley, who is known as one of if not the best perimeter defenders in the whole NBA. He is known for his scrappiness, loyalty and love for his team. Although this hurt the team, there is a huge upside for Gobert. He now has a lot of pressure on him to perform on a huge level. If he doesn't, the team is going to be stuck with almost no picks and a lot of older players. The time is now for the Timberwolves to be competitive and Gobert has to be the difference-maker.

Coaching

In the 2018-2019 season, the Timberwolves made it to the playoffs for the first time in 13 years but with no success. In fact, they were the worst team in the playoffs and lost their series 4-1. While this was with a different coaching staff, it gave Minnesota hope for the future.

We once again made the playoffs in the 2021-2022 season under new head coach Chris Finch. Finch finally put the pieces together after having top players and going nowhere for two years.

Helping the team make the playoffs last year was the introduction of the play-in tournament. Last year, the team pulled off a huge upset by beating the Los Angeles Clippers and clinching the seventh seed in the playoffs. Although they didn't win the first-round matchup after winning the play-in tournament, they still put up a fight against one of the best teams in the NBA, the Grizzlies. In fact, some people called it the best series during the whole playoffs. Unfortunately, the team lost 4-2 after falling just short in game six at home.

Although they didn't do as well as fans wanted to last season, Finch led the team to the playoffs in his first year of coaching. That has locked his spot as the head coach of the team for the 2022-2023 season. However, the team's current record is not living up to his expectations. The Wolves are currently 13-15 as of December 15, which puts them at 11th in the western conference.

Although it's still early in the season, the Wolves need to improve their record if they are going to be serious finals contenders. Finch and his players have claimed that this is a "championship-or-bust season." That means if the Wolves are not one of the best teams in the NBA this year, they have failed.

These are high expectations, but for the first time in a long time, the Timberwolves have the chance to do it. The Wolves finally have the pieces they need. It will be interesting to see how the 2022-2023 season plays out.