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Purple Press

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Sorcha a 2023 finalist for MN TOY OWL science teacher was nominated by social worker Paige

Meara Gunderson
Staff Writer

Science teacher Sorcha Nix has been nominated for the 2023 Minnesota Teacher of the Year Award, and is one of 33 semi finalists.

The Minnesota Teacher of the Year Award is a prestigious award, given to one teacher in Minnesota every year for their excellence in teaching.

The Minnesota Teacher of the Year program has been running for 58 years, with last year's winner being Sarah Lancaster, a first grade teacher at Onamia Elementary School in Onamia. The award can be won by pre-kindergarten to 12th grade teachers, but all candidates must have at least a bachelor's degree, a license to teach in Minnesota, have taught at least five years, and

intend to keep teaching after the award. Anyone can submit a nomination for a teacher, including colleagues, parents, or students. In Sorcha's case, she was nominated by social worker Paige Geck.

To enter the state program, nominees must submit an entry portfolio that includes their teaching philosophy, professional accomplishments, and letters of recommendation.

This year 134 teachers submitted portfolios. A group of 20 to 25 community leaders selects honorees from the portfolios, then chooses semi finalists. Since Sorcha is now a semi finalist, she will have to submit a short video and at the end of March 10 to 12 finalists are chosen.

Minnesota has had four Minnesota Teachers of the Year go on to become National

Teachers of the Year the next year; Mary Beth Blegen, Worthington, 1996; Guy Doud, Brainerd, 1986; Robert Heyer, Mounds View, 1975; and Roger Tenney, Owatonna, 1966. OWL has had one teacher win Minnesota Teacher of the year: science teacher Megan Hall in 2013.

"When I found out I was nominated, the MN Teacher Sorcha, 2



Photo Courtesy of Sorcha Nix
Teacher of the Year is an award for educators.

NAAPID night highlights culture



10th grader Yusuf Irad serves food at the event (left), OWL students apart of the African drum residency finish a performance (right).

The event included student performances, keynote speakers, and a community dinner

Gabby Govrik
Staff Writer

The NAAPID event at OWL on Thursday February 16th was a huge hit highlighted by a visit from Mayor Melvin Carter, soul food and a variety of performances.

The lively event took place in the auditorium with dancing, singing, speakers, and

African Drumming. Assistant principal Ma'lene Walker and seniors Maleah Anderson, Krista Hines, Ayub Irad, and Calvin Defoster collaborated to plan this year's event. Along with the performances and speaking in the auditorium, there was a showcase of books, art, and live music along with catered food and crafts in the

cafeteria.

A big part of NAAPID is student involvement within the night. 10th grader Shalimar Watkins read a poem titled A Mirrored Reflection and Concert Choir sung Lift Every Voice and Sing along with African Drumming from Brother Ghana and OWL students. "I was really proud

of the students who took part in the African Drumming," said Miss Ma'lene "they were super hardworking and determined even with only eight practices." Along with OWL student performances were events such as dancing from Dance With Purpose Dance Company and TU Dance Center. There was also

speaking from VocalEssence, Author Mercedes Yarbrough, Marie Chante and Grant West, Mental Health & Wellness speaker Kasim AbdurRazzaq, and Keynote Speaker Donald Walker.

Soon after, arts and crafts such as jewelry making, bookmark making, African

NAAPID, 2_

History of OWL buildings

From Linwood to University OWL has been located many places

Constance Van Genderen
Staff Writer

Today OWL is situated at 640 Humboldt Avenue, but where was it before? What many people may not know is that OWL has moved multiple times before finding its home on the West Side.

OWL has been in six buildings total, and there are stories about every single building and why we were there and why we moved. The most buildings any current OWL staff member has worked in is three, but Lisa Crocker and Jesse Buetow can tell us more. Lisa Crocker was a student at Open from 1996 to 2002, (seventh through twelfth grade) who now works for the district in community education. Jesse Buetow was a student at Open from 1982-1995 for K-12 and now works as a teacher at Randolph Heights Elementary.

University Avenue

But before we bring in the big guns, let's go back 52 years to when OWL was created and renovated by the teachers and families in 1971. The school was called Saint Paul Open School and it was located at 1885 University Avenue, where the Sejong Academy

Singing grams bring joy to staff, students



Purple Press staff photo
Jazz choir members serenade Marshall Wasmund during journalism class while students look on. Singing grams were part of Valentine's Day celebrations at OWL.

Lizzie Dreher and Alva Healy
Staff Writers

The singing grams are a well known tradition at OWL, and every Valentine's Day the school buzzes with anticipation - and anxiety - of the Singing Grams. Receiving a Singing Gram is an experience filled with laughter, spirit, and, occasionally tears.

This year, in addition to serenading various students and a few teachers, the Jazz Choir decided to sing to lunch lady Brenda. 11th grader Elena

Davis was credited with the idea.

"Brenda has been really close to me. We've been really tight since 6th grade, when I started school," Elena says, "And I just knew she was having a really hard day, and I wanted to do something to brighten it."

Elena recounts that during the second hour, she and the Jazz Choir went down to sing to Brenda. Elena says she asked Brenda to sit on the stool, while smiling with the choir. The choir then sang

Bruno Mars' song, Just The Way You Are.

"Because we love her just the way she is," said Elena. The moment was so heartwarming to Brenda that she broke down in tears.

"The lunch ladies, they do so much, they deserve our love," stated Elena.

Singing Grams are available to purchase a week before Valentine's Day. You address it to a specific person and choose a song, and the Jazz Choir

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The Purple Press

OWL's longest-running student newspaper was founded in 1995. This is the 24th year of the Purple Press.

Adult to Blame
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Mikko Liimatta
Liam Nowatzki
Mi Paw
Remy Short
Nick Streng
Constance Van Genderen
Hiroko Zeleke

HUMWOW thrives on positivity

OWL participation on the team increased with eight new members grades 8-12

Tess Campion
Staff Writer

A group of HUMWOW swimmers crowd around the edge of the pool to cheer on OWL middle schooler Noah Linstad in the 100 breaststroke. To encourage him, all the swimmers yell “pull!” at each one of his breaths, a common tradition.

Their encouragement though, to its opposite intended effect, seemed to slow down Noah, who couldn’t stop laughing in response to their screams. Swimmer Henry Plaman reflected on the moment stating, “This really made me feel like our team was something special, and I am super proud of how supportive we are.”

OWL, who co-ops with Humboldt and Washington under the name HUMWOW for both boys and girls swimming, has never had a very large turnout for boys swimming. However, the team saw

a large increase in OWL swimmers this year, many of whom didn’t have much competitive swimming experience. Despite this, returning and new swimmers were welcomed for a successful season, with a fourth place conference finish. “I really like how supportive everyone is for new and returning swimmers...this is my first year on a competitive swim team so everything I know has been taught to me by the team,” said Henry.

Starting in November and going until the end of February, the team competes in a combination of head-to-head and invitational meets, practicing Monday through Friday. The swimmers learn a range of skills including multiple strokes, how to dive off blocks, and time transitions such as flip and open turns, all of these coming together in a successful race. Many of the OWL participants were drawn to the sport because of its combination of physical and mental

demand.

Eighth grader Kai Walker, who is one of the top mountain bikers in the state, likes the challenge. “Swimming is a really hard sport and it takes a perfection mindset, just one little adjustment can change your stroke dramatically.” In the conference meet on February 16, a majority of swimmers got PRs (personal records), and the team placed 4th overall, an improvement from last year. HUMWOW had two medal finishes, with OWL senior Joe Gorton placing 3rd in the 200 medley and a Washington swimmer placing 1st in diving.

The team environment is a big part of the team’s success. “I really like the team spirit and the welcoming nature of the team,” said 11th grade swimmer Oliver Plaman. Eli Stende builds on that, saying, “The team atmosphere we have is one of support, encouragement, and fun.” Being a co-op team, the swimmers are

able to build a wider sense of community. “The Washington swimmers are super great people and they push me to finish my sets and get higher personal records,” said Henry.

As the athletes look to next season, many are excited to see more OWL students involved as the program continues to evolve.



Photo courtesy of Humwow

The HUMWOW swimmers competing in a meet this year.



Photo courtesy of Elena Davis

Elena Davis, Danile Meekin, and Ted Dobbins performed at the All State choir concert at Orchestra Hall in late February.

Sorcha, 1

of the Year organization sent me an email. I got to read what my nominator wrote about me and received information for how to continue in the TOY process. I was required to submit a portfolio that included two essays, letters of recommendation, a professional resume, and

a fancy headshot,” said Sorcha.

Many students love Sorcha, and when 9th grader Maddie Linstad was asked her reaction when she found out that Sorcha was nominated, she said, “I was really excited. My first thought was to congratulate her the next time I had her class.”

NAAPID, 1

Mandala prints, and buttons were available to create with others. The cafeteria was filled with art from students at OWL, Donald Walker, and Ky Robinson as well as music from Walker West Music Academy and information tables from many of the performers and speakers. Along with all of these activities was catered soul food from NAAJ’s cafe with some of the foods including baked and fried chicken, mac and cheese, and desserts. “I enjoyed a lot of the

event, especially the desserts.” said 6th grader Lucy Hulson.

Next year, Miss Ma’lene is hoping to have a residency for African Drumming as well as a residency from TU dance center but due to time and funding that was not possible this year. “I’m hoping to bring some new opportunities to OWL for next year’s event.”

Robotics team: it’s more than just robots

Team focuses on diversity, representing the school as a whole

Claire Ales
Staff Writer

The OWL robotics team has better gender representation than most teams.

“Most robotics teams are mostly male with maybe 1 or 2 female members. Over half of our team is either female or non binary. So that means that we are representing the OWL student body in terms of gender on our team,” said science teacher Megan Hall.

Even though the team is already doing great on diversity they are currently working on having more racial/ethnic representation on the team.

The current coaches of the robotics team are science teacher Megan Hall and Math teacher Tom Totushek. Megan has been coaching the team for 4 years while this is Tom’s first year coaching the team.

The Robotics season officially started on January 7th

but OWL’s team has been practicing since September. Last week they competed at their first tournament in Duluth.

When you think of robotics the first thing you’re probably going to think of is “robots”. Robots are a part of robotics but they aren’t the only thing. For example 10th grader Ani Moore works on fundraising for the robotics team. Ani and other members of the team sell things like hats, and jewelry while at lunches to fundraise for the team. 9th grader Lily Eiken focuses on grant writing and outreach to also help fundraise for the team.

In addition to fundraising there are many other things that you can do on the robotics team. There is a building team that works on building the robot with wood and other materials, a team that works on the electronics for the robot and makes sure that they

all work correctly, lastly there is a programming team that programs code for the robot to make it run and be controlled by a joystick.

One of the most important roles on the team while at competition is the spirit captain. This year the spirit captain is 11th grader Cooper Peterson-Antin. The spirit captain keeps the morale up while at competitions and also talks to other teams.

The roles on the team are not limited to the ones I have listed above. The roles vary from year to year because different people on the team have different interests.

“Robotics competitions are normally loud, busy, and intense,” said Megan. The robotics competitions are normally held in a big gym area. In the gym there is a course set up for the robots. The robot will have to maneuver around obstacles

and throw objects in order to gain points.

There are a few things that are really important in robotics, teamwork and inclusion. While at robotics competitions teams form alliances with four other teams that are at the competition. The teams then work together on the courses to gain points. The individual teams with the most points then move on to the final round.

During the final round the top teams will pick lower ranking teams to bring into their alliances. This is where the spirit captain comes into play. It’s important that teams walk around the competition and talk to other teams. This helps with still getting into the final rounds even if you don’t score very high. Some teams make pins to bring to the competition so that they can trade

Robots, 3



Megan Hall

The OWL robotics team gathers to work on their robot between game matches at a tournament in Duluth last week.

Senior Spotlight

Ian Brooks



What pronouns do you use?
He/him.

How long have you been at OWL?
Seven years.

What are your plans for next year?
Majoring in stats at the U of MN.

What’s been your favorite class in high school?
AP Stats.

What extracurriculars are you involved in?
Ultimate frisbee and archery.

Favorite field work experience or school trip and why?
Ninth grade Superior Hiking trail trip. I had a lot of fun and funny experiences with close friends, and it was beautiful.

If you had a walk up song, what would it be?
Get into it (Yuh) by Doja Cat

What pronouns do you use?
He/him.

How tall are you?
About 5’ 2”

What’s your favorite book, movie or tv show?
Cinder

Who’s your favorite senior?
Isaac Stender

What is your favorite video game?
Legend of Zelda, Breath of the Wild.

What extracurriculars do you plan on getting involved in at OWL?
Archery

That One Little Kid

Luca LaFerla



Crew profile: meet the Narwhals

Megan’s crew iconic mascot has an even better backstory

Aria Kulseth & Claire Ales
Staff Writer

Every crew has a unique name and origin story. The Narwhals are one of these crews.

Science teacher Megan Hall’s Crew the Narwhals have had their crew name for over a decade and they have never changed it!

They picked it back when there weren’t many crews that had a specific name. “Tim’s crew, the hawks, would go around the school and say ‘Go Hawks’ acting like they were better than everyone,” said Megan. “We did some research and found that the only natu-

ral predator to a hawk is another hawk, so we had to use our imaginations.

Megan’s crew ended up determining that a Basilisk could defeat a hawk, but they also decided that if the habitats of a hawk and a Narwhal ever crossed, then a Narwhal would be able to take out a hawk.

They voted and it was a tie between The Basilisks and the Narwhals, but Megan broke the tie for the Narwhals. “I thought that a narwhale was more positive,” said Megan. “I really like being a Narwhal and the story behind the name makes it all the better,” said 8th grader Constance Van Gen-

deren.

Over time Megan’s crew has really embraced their name. They have had many students draw Narwhals which they sometimes use for their crew shirts. They also went as far as collecting donations during Long Crew day to sponsor a Narwhal and protect its habitat.



Claire Ales
The Narwhals gather for a crew circle in Megan’s room.

Robots, 2

them with other teams there.

Many members of the robotics team were on a Lego League team previously. 12th grader Isaac Stender is the mentor for Megan’s Lego League team the Brick Birds. The mentors will help the Lego league team with coding and working on their innovation project. They also give advice



Megan Hall

on how to do well at competitions.

One of their goals is to score well at competitions, but equally important is their desire to work well as a team, build friendships, and have fun! Moving forward the OWL robotics team hopes to grow in members and continue being a team that has gender diversity and a positive environment.



Elena Davis

Jazz Choir sings to Principal Dave.

Singing grams, 1

will come into their class and sing the song of your choice. Your singing gram may be anonymous, if you choose.

A lot of the time, Singing Grams are met with mixed responses. You either hate them, you love them, or you’re

impartial. This is especially true when it comes to students, though, standing in front of your class. Being sung to isn’t everyone’s cup of tea, but the Jazz Choir won’t forget the day they sang to the Lunch Lady.



Tanya Sturm

11th grader Endale Witt puts up a shot against Washington.

Boys hoops looks to build

New coach focuses on gradual improvement

Theo Kimball
Staff Writer

This year the Humboldt basketball team got a new coach and a new approach.

Last year the team faced a lot of adversity, only winning two games during the season, but their struggles brought them together, improved their teamwork, and prepared them for the next year. So how is the team doing this year? And what has changed?

The new coach, Sam Esboldt, is very focused on gradual improvement. Tenth grader Danny Hobday said, “The coach this year came in and made it more about building the team up brick by brick, laying a brick every game.” Esboldt has a lot of experience, coaching college teams like Des Moines University, as well as high school teams like Morris Area High school. Due to his experience, he knows exactly how to bring a team together.

One of the ways he’s done this is by implementing mandatory study time. In the past, the team has lost players

due to academic struggles, but ever since this change, not a single player has dropped out of the team due to academic reasons. His approach seems to have worked so far; the team has won a lot more games than last year, and even though they’ve still lost more than they’ve won, gradual improvement is important.

Eleventh grader Endale Witt also talked about Esboldt’s team building abilities, saying, “He brings more energy into it, we’re not showing up just to be there, but to push each other and get better.” Esboldt’s new approach seems to be working so far; the Hawks finished conference play with an 82-78 victory against Washington, a big sign of improvement for the team.

As for the future, they’re only losing one starter next year, but that player is the team’s top player Jorge Irizarry. He will be difficult to replace, but eleventh grader Mintesinot Sturm sees it as an opportunity for everybody else to improve and challenge themselves.

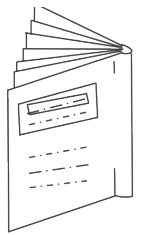


Tanya Sturm

Humboldt senior Jorge Irizarry dribbles the ball.



Reviews ‘n’ stuff



Pajamas pants are most students go-to

They’re affordable and comfortable, so why not?

Remy Short
Staff Writer

I’m sure you’ve seen lots of your fellow classmates around school wearing the iconic plaid pajama pants. I myself am guilty of this fashion trend. But, seeing so many people around wearing pajama pants really begs the question. Why incorporate pajama pants into everyday fashion?

This question was sparked into me at the start of Spirit Week, in which Monday was pajama day. That day many of my classmates, including me, wore pajama pants. But it wasn’t just the start of spirit week that got me wondering about the fashion trend. I noticed myself and others sporting the comfortable bottoms around the beginning of the school year.

Naturally, I began researching the trend. And through the research, I discovered that pajama pants are becoming a staple in teenager fashion. As if they are becoming the same as sweat pants. As it turns out, many describe the trend as the new sweatpants. Also as it turns out, this trend is fairly recent. I personally started seeing the pants sported about

1-3 years ago. Also through research, this trend is way more common throughout teenagers and youth, as it seems teenagers started the trend.

For example, eighth grader Lizzie Dreher described the pants as “simply easier to wear daily, rather than other pants like jeans.” The fact that the pajamas are easier to wear more often and are more comfortable seems to be the main reason why they are popular. People would prefer something more comfortable that still looks trendy as opposed to less uncomfortable trendy pants like jeans.

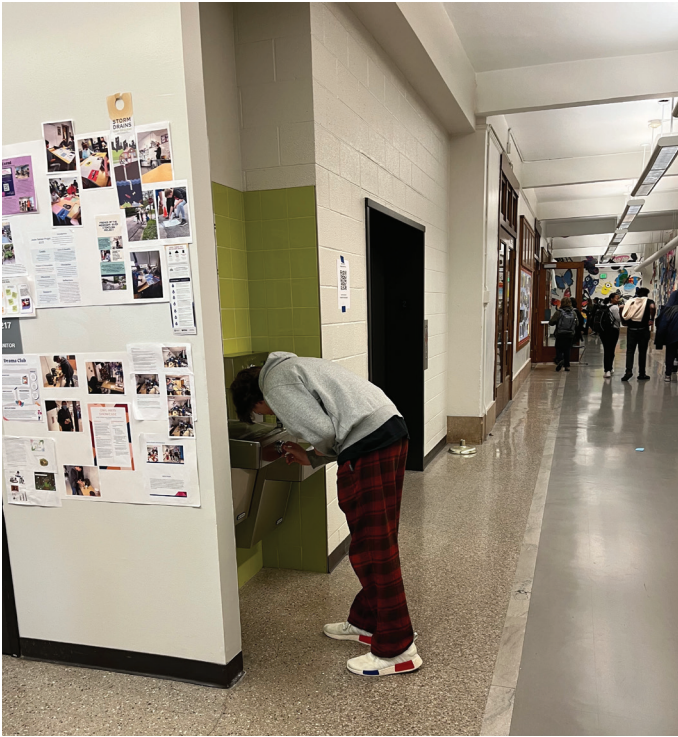
I am sure many other students in OWL can relate to this as well. I know that I can relate to these reasons, and I notice many students sporting pajama pants just about everyday. For me, I most often wear them when I can’t really decide what to wear, as they are an easy choice. They can help easily make a comfortable outfit to wear.

In addition to the comfort factor and how effortless they are, pajama pants are also generally less costly than the average pair of jeans and/or sweatpants. While jeans have

varying prices that could get high, and sweatpants are generally more expensive. From online research, I looked at retailer websites like Walmart and Kohls. I noticed Kohls seems to price them higher, but on the Walmart website they can be sold for as low as 7\$ and the main price point being 15\$. That price range is generally cheaper than an av-

erage pair of jeans or sweatpants, but it really depends on the retailer.

Pajamas have also been part of the fashion industry for a while. Fashion companies often dress up models in expensive designer pajamas, such as bathrobes and full sets of pajamas. This fact makes me conclude that pajamas have evolved into pajama pants.



Purple Press staff photo

Yet another OWL student sporting pajama pants at school.

Another interesting thing I discovered through my research is that the pajama pants trend was generally populated by the fact that most peers in kids school were wearing them, which seemed to make them cool in a way. And through other sources, like my peers for example, I discovered that many of them think that the pants are a great addition to their outfits, and help make it more effortless to create an outfit.

It’s difficult to determine when the trend originated, but it is obvious that teenagers started the pajama pants trend. And as I said before, it seems that it was a fashion trend that evolved from fashion in fashion shows to comfortable pants.

And while the craze hasn’t really had much opposition from peers, there were some opinions about the trend from adults. They described the pants as sloppy and lazy. Some even stated that the pajamas were disrespectful and did not help to promote a serious learning environment.

I wondered what teachers at our school thought about pajama pants, so I asked a few. Science teacher Megan Hall said, “In my opinion, paja-

ma pants are not the same as regular pants and don’t really belong at work or school. That said, I know it’s important for young people to express themselves through their clothing, even when adults don’t understand or approve.” I’ve noticed that through the research I’ve done, this type of opinion seems common throughout teachers and parents.

Even though some adults have this opinion, others do not have much of an opinion. Social studies teacher Katie Craven said “I have no problem with pajama pants. If I could get away with wearing them to school I would.” This shows that not all adults have much of an opinion over pajama pants, and it also shows that some would also follow the trend.

In conclusion, pajama pants are definitely more popular throughout the younger generation. They also originated from teenagers as well, and are becoming alike to sweatpants. Although there isn’t much opposition, there are some adults who find them to be not the equivalent of sweatpants as most teenagers think.



Telegraph India

Oscars 2023

The movie award season finale approaches

Kate Houle
Staff Writer

“And the academy award goes too...”

This phrase, uttered onstage at the Dolby Theater in Hollywood over three thousand times, has granted an Oscar to 1,239 movies for going above and beyond in categories like Best Picture, Best Actor/Actress, Best Original/Adapted Screenplay, Best Production Design, and Best Sound. People who work in the film industry collaborate with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), and use a preferential voting system to decide which films should be nominated, and which should win. The 95th Oscars will be held on March 12th, 2023 and will be hosted by Jimmy Kimmel. This year, 54 movies (including short films) have been nominated in 24 categories. Full of surprises, snubs, and a whole slew

of over two hour long movies; this is everything you need to know about the 2023 Oscars.

Before we talk about what’s nominated, we have to recognize the “snubs”, or the films that everyone was expecting to get a mention, but didn’t quite make the cut. This year the biggest snubs have something in common: strong diversity. AMPAS is a historically discriminatory organization, and only recently have started nominating films that weren’t made by or don’t focus on cishet white men. This year’s nominees are pretty diverse, including many of the first Asian nominees in multiple categories, but films like The Women King, Till, or Decision To Leave (all starring primarily casts of color) were left out. Perhaps the biggest snub of the year was Jordan Peele’s Nope, which was one of the highest grossing movies of the year,

Oscars, 8

M3GAN movie doesn’t dissappoint

New horror film is a commercial and critical success

Alex Cowles
Staff Writer

M3GAN shouldn’t have worked. Everything was pointing to it being a mass-produced, derivative, forgettable, post-holidays horror flick. Yet somehow M3GAN was a hit, commercially successful and rocking a 94% on Rotten Tomatoes. M3GAN goes to show how well a movie can do when it’s aware of its silliness.

M3GAN stars Allison Williams, best known for starring in Jordan Peele’s Get Out. She also happens to be the daughter of news anchor Brian Williams. That isn’t relevant to the movie, but I thought it was interesting enough to mention.

M3GAN is voiced by Jenna Davis (known for the viral “penny nickel dime” TikTok video, again not relevant but weird enough to mention.) The screenplay was written by Akela Cooper, best known for writing Malignant, a 2021 horror movie with a similar reputation for being off-the-walls and bonkers.

After her parents’ death, Cady goes to live with her aunt, Gemma. Gemma, a brilliant robot designer, is awkward and unsure about raising a child. She can’t get her mind off her work, and despite her best intentions, adds more stress to the poor grieving child. Despite her clueless-

ness, Gemma is sincerely trying to help Cady. At one point, Gemma shows Cady a basic mechanical human she built, and the two discuss robotics. It’s a strong scene that shows the two bonding. However, instead of learning to raise the kid, when she sees Cady’s reaction to her robot, she finishes a project she has been working on, a lifelike doll robot. She calls it M3GAN and allows it to bond with Cady. M3GAN is extremely advanced and becomes the primary caregiver and best friend to Cady. As Cady grieves her parents, she starts leaning on M3GAN more and more. While Cady becomes more reliant on

M3GAN, M3GAN becomes more protective of Cady and sinister to anything she feels threatens Cady. Gemma then has to decide if her project has gone too far and if it’s too late to stop an increasingly violent M3GAN.

The whole thing plays out as a well-done, if heavy-handed, metaphor for screen time and kids. Parents and teachers will probably appreciate the parallels in Cady getting aggressive when M3GAN is taken away, refusing to leave her at the dinner table or school. This could have easily been too goofy, but at points, it is a genuinely realistic portrayal of

M3GAN, 7

How to improve your social skills

Kid lingo will save you time so you can fit in with cool people

Mikko Liimatta
Staff Writer

“Kid Lingo” is the art of using an acronym (an abbreviation created by the first letter of the words), to portray what you want to say. This is a massive timesave, saving two seconds of your time and often causing a long pause, as well as the termination of the conversation. I see this in my day-to-day life, like when OWL senior Nick Streng came up to me and said that

I’m a “SAHHFG,” super awesome ha-ha funny guy. For me to be a functioning member of society, “kid lingo,” the plural of kid lingo, is a quintessential part of my day to day life, and should be for you as well.

So I used some of this “Kid Lingo” in my last story (TikTok an overview) that not many people understood, such as “smh” and “lmk.” I realize for some of your PLEBEIAN minds, this might prove difficult to understand, and I

acknowledged my grievous mistake to Leo Bickelhaupt, my journalism teacher, and vowed to fix my mistakes. Here I am writing for the first time, not about other people and their merits or lack of, but rather how to better your life, by saving time, while improving social skills.

Here are some of the common “Lingy” that are used.

LMK - Let Me Know. This is one of the “Lingy” that I used in my story. I felt like my story was getting too long, so I decided to abbreviate. I did not consider the dire consequences for my actions.

SMH - Shaking My Head. I find myself using SMH far too often, especially when professional leprechaun Theo Kimball starts talking about how Saint Patrick’s Day should have a bigger celebration. This addiction has gotten me into some trouble.

LMAO - This is a relatively simple one related to llamas. It means, “Llama Magazines Are Overrated.” For me, an avid reader of llama magazines, LMAO holds a special place in my heart. It was my first and is also my most used “Lingy.”

Lingo, 7

His Dark Materials shows range

The book to TV series was released on HBO in 2019

Liam Nowatzki
Staff Writer

His Dark Materials is a book series by Philip Pullman following Lyra Belacqua and her friend Will Parry on their many adventures traveling through the multiverse. The first book of this trilogy is named Northern Lights. The book was published in America under the title The Golden Compass, as the book has a heavy focus around the Alethiometer, a device that can tell you the answer to any question if you know how to read it. In the books the Alethiometer also goes by the name The Golden Compass, thus the book title. The book was published in 1995 followed by The Subtle Knife in 1997 and The Amber Spyglass in 2000.

In 2007, a movie was

released under the name The Golden Compass. This was a movie adaption of the first book, Northern Lights. It had big name actors such as Nicole Kidman and Daniel Craig and a budget of 180 million dollars. The movie was directed by Chris Weitz and distributed by New Line Cinema.

On November 3rd, 2019, HBO aired the first episode of a TV version of the books using the name His Dark Materials. Season one contained eight episodes following the first book of the three part series and was later followed by a second season in late 2020 following the second book. The show starred Dafne Keen as Lyra and Amir Wilson as Will and other actors such as Lin Manuel Miranda and Ruth Wilson. Philip Pullman worked as an executive producer for the show making

sure fans knew the show was approved by the original author of the book. A season three was released late last year on December 18th following the third book, The Amber Spyglass. The show focuses on Lyra and Will, same as the books.

Normally an episode will start out with a scene that really hooks you into the show. After that it will go into a beautiful opening for the show. The opening shows

the different universe with a cinematic song composed by Lorne Balfe. A normal episode will follow Lyra, but some episodes are focused around other characters such as Will, Asriel, Coulter, etc. After the first episode of season three aired on December fifth the others followed after, releasing two episodes per week. The last two episodes aired on December 26th, bringing the

His dark,



HBO

Anti LGBTQ+ legislations build-up

In 2022, more than 100 new anti LGBTQ+ bills were enacted

Galadrial Barrett
Staff Writer

2022 was a record year for the amount of anti LGBTQ+ bills that were introduced, with over 100 bills introduced in comparison to about 40 in 2018. Then in 2020 there were 76 bills considered, and in 2021 there were double with 151 bills considered.

Here is a brief history of LGBTQ+ discrimination in the United States. Starting in 1943, the US banned gay and lesbian people from serving in the armed forces, then banned gay and lesbian people from federal employment 11 years later. This was called Executive Order 10450. Basically, the government considered LGBTQ+ people to be a

threat to national security, and therefore not fit for roles in the government. Executive Order 10450 led to what was known as the Lavender Scare; because of the order over 7,000 federal employees were fired under suspicion of homosexuality. On November 30th, 1993, the military policy directive called “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” was signed by President Bill Clinton. This directive prohibited people from discussing same-sex relationships and from disclosing their sexual orientation while they were serving in the military. Then in September of 2011, the bill was repealed, ending the ban on openly LGBTQ+ people from serving in the military. On September 21st, 1996, the

DOMA (Defense Of Marriages Act) was signed, which banned federal recognition of same-sex marriages and denied them the benefits that other married couples had. The act also defined marriage as “a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife.” Specifically on a state by state basis, in 1977 Florida forbade adoption by gay and lesbian people and families. Just recently in March of 2022, Florida signed the “Don’t Say Gay” bill. Formerly known as the “Parental Rights in Education” law, this bill prohibits classroom discussion on sexual orientation or gender identity in classrooms up to 3rd grade.

There is a history of notable

protests and national gatherings that have been held to support the LGBTQ+ community. In 1966 Compton’s Riot occurred at Compton’s cafeteria in San Francisco against the police, and marked an important part of the fight for transgender rights. Then on June 28th, 1969, the Stonewall Rebellion became a notable event in the LGBTQ+ rights movement when patrons of Stonewall Inn, a gay bar, fought back against a police raid in NYC. A year later, in 1970 on the one year anniversary of the Stonewall uprising, the first gay pride parade occurred in NYC, Los Angeles, and Chicago. Another important gathering is the march on Washington, a

LGBTQ+, 7

Animated film isn’t just for kids

The medium has more range than people give it credit for

Hiroko Zeleke
Staff Writer

There’s a common notion that animation is childish or just a genre for kids, that it’s something that’s silly and that it’s something you’ll grow out of. But as someone who loves animation, I’m here to tell you that this is not the case.

Now look, I get those claims. A lot of major animated movies that come out are from Disney, Pixar, DreamWorks, etc. which are typically family friendly, and then you have shows on networks like Disney Channel, Nickelodeon, Cartoon Network, etc. I could see how those contribute to the idea of animation being “for kids”. But let me say, there are a lot of animated shows and movies where the target audience are clearly not kids, some I’ve watched more recently include Arcane and Cowboy Bebop.

When I brought it up in journalism class, a lot of my classmates agreed with me (although OWL is kind of a nerd school) and seemed outraged at a clip from the 2022

Oscars that made it seem that adults can’t enjoy animation, despite one of the films nominated that year, Flee, being an adult animated documentary. Only three animated movies have ever been nominated for Best Picture - which I’ll be honest, is three more than I thought, I’m truly amazed that there have been animated films nominated before - at the Academy, the first being Beauty and the Beast at the 1992 Oscars, back when the category only held five nominees, and back when there wasn’t even a Best Animated Feature category, and later Up, and Toy Story 3. But it’s rare to see animated films be nominated outside of the animation category, with maybe some exceptions for the musical categories, and it makes it so apparent that animation isn’t taken as seriously as their live-action counterparts or seen as true cinema.

To say that an animated piece of media can’t be as complex, or mature, or whatever people say to reinforce the “childish” perception on the medium also completely

disregards the efforts put into animation. “A lot of people put a lot of effort into animating, storyboarding, voice acting, editing, all of that,” commented 10th grader Lucy Keenan. “There are teams and teams of people putting so much effort and you can really see that when you watch it, so I think, it shouldn’t just be for kids because once you get older, you really begin to appreciate how much work was put into something.” Lucy also mentioned that she got into cartoons more recently rather than when she was a little kid.

Some of the most complex emotions I’ve felt watching something were animated. While I personally watch more animation than live-action,

this isn’t to say that animation is better than live-action. “I’ve loved shows made in both styles and I think each has its place because some stories just work better in one or the other,” said 11th grader Aidan Jewell. “For example, Avatar: The Last Airbender, the animated show was estimated to cost about \$61 million for the entire show while the live action adaptation the Last Airbender cost \$150 million for a definitively worse product.”

I’m not saying you have to like animation or that you need to watch animated media. But animation is not a “genre for kids.” It’s a medium. An art form. And it’s time that people start treating it as such.



Amazon

Cowboy Bebop is an example of an animated film intended for mature audiences.



This K-Drama is heartfelt

New TV show follows a lawyer with autism

Mi Paw
Staff Writer

Looking for a legal drama and want something new or something that will tug at your heart strings? Then how about the heartfelt K-Drama show Extraordinary Attorney Woo?

Found on Netflix, this show follows a main character who has autism but doesn’t allow that to stop her from pursuing her dreams and proving others wrong.

Extraordinary Attorney Woo is directed by Yoo-In-shik, who directed the series Dr. Romantic, Giant, Vagabond, and You’re All Surrounded. The cast includes Park Eun-bin, Kang Tae-oh, Kang Ki-young, Jeon Bae-soo, Joo Jong-hyuk, Joo Hyun-young and Baek Ji-won. The filming took place in Seoul, South Korea.

Park Eun-Bin plays Woo Young-woo, the female lead. She was interviewed about the show and her role as Young-woo. When asked what was difficult about playing the role of Young-woo, she said, “Young-woo has autism, which means that she has some unique behaviors and characteristics.” For her, it was difficult to decide to what extent she should express that part of her character, having to express her weak points and strong points. For her role she received advice from university professors who are experts on the autism spectrum disorder. The screenwriter and directors also did their research, taking their time to craft the character.

Young-woo, an autistic lawyer, works at the Hanbada law firm. Before she was a lawyer, she studied at Seoul National University. With a high IQ and photographic memory, she graduated as the top student in law school. In the beginning of the show, her peers and co-workers viewed her as unfit to be a lawyer because of her autism. This leads to her intelligence being unrecognized, as they underestimate her. As the series progresses, her supervising lawyer Jung Myung-seok, her law school classmate Choi-Su-yeon, and legal support staffer Lee Jun-Ho adjust to her. But she also encounters people who are prejudiced against her. In every episode there is a case introduced and Woo Young-woo takes a unique approach to those cases.

My first impression of this show was good. I liked this

K-Drama. I like how the show and actress portrayed Woo Young-woo, someone who has autism. She portrayed her character in a way that wouldn’t be offensive or inconsiderate and I think the character was a refreshing and new take on a main character in K-Drama. She is a character with a disability but is portrayed as a genius, with really good photographic memory and a strong fascination and interest in whales. I also like how the show goes about her relationships and interactions with other characters.

I enjoyed the friendship dynamic between Woo Young-woo and Dong Geurami, played by Joo Hyun-young. Their best friend dynamic will leave you with warmth. Her relationship with other characters, such as Lee Jun-ho played by Kang Tae-oh, is interesting. The chemistry between these two is unique and well-developed. Lee Jun-ho is kind, compassionate and ready to help Woo-Young-Woo in any way he can, making him a fan favorite in the show.

Another character I enjoyed watching is Jung Myung-seok, played by Kang Ki-young, who is a senior attorney and Woo Young-woo’s boss. In the beginning he was unsure and a bit prejudiced against Young-woo’s ability to perform as a lawyer because of her disability. But as the series progressed and he watched Young-woo’s performance, he became one of her supporters. Jeon Bae-su, who played Woo Young-woo’s father Woo Gwang-ho, was a character that I thought was commendable. He was a single parent who was always supportive of his daughter and would do anything for her. He encouraged his daughter to study law after witnessing her gift.

What I enjoyed the most about this series is the well-developed characters. I can tell that the writers, producers, and actresses and actors put effort into bringing these characters to life. Each character has their own charm which you can fall in love with and I like how despite it being a TV show/K-Drama, it has an element of being realistic. I also enjoyed Woo Young-woo’s fascination with whales being put to use in her cases. I would recommend this K-Drama to anyone who likes shows that have a mix of legal justice, drama, and romance.

Can a divided government work?

Currently, Republicans control the House of Representatives and Democrats control the Senate

Ted Dobbins
Staff Writer

The House of Representatives has been in the news quite a bit in the past couple months, with the start of the 118th congress on January 3rd and the bizarre election of Kevin McCarthy as Speaker of the House. But what will congress look like for the next two years? What exactly happened with the Speaker election? And what does it mean now that the House is majority republican? What is this gonna mean for the next two years of Biden's presidency?

But first let's cover the makeup of the 118th congress and the changes from the 117th, as well as how The House of Representatives passes legislation. After a bill has been presented and the House proceeds to vote, there needs to be a majority of at least 218 votes out of the 435 representatives that make up the house. Then the bill would pass along to the senate, where the bill would need a majority of 51 out of 100 votes and then—following presidential

signing—the legislation would be passed.

The midterm elections of 2022 brought great change to congress, with republicans narrowly gaining majority in the house (with 222 republican seats to the democrats 212) after two years of both the house and senate being majority democrat. This means that republicans hold the majority of 218+, and have the ability to stop any legislation that is presented by democrats.

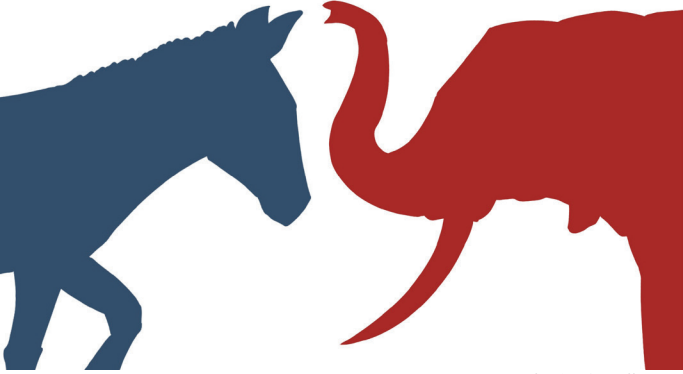
This is considered political “gridlock” in congress, when legislation has an extremely hard time passing through congress due to opposing majorities in the senate and the

house of representatives. This is quite the change from the first two years of Biden's presidency, when both the House and the Senate were democrat majority and legislation could be easily passed. However now with the gridlock, democratic legislation will be very hard to make it through the house to the senate and might make the next two years very slow.

However this won't be the only thing impeding on congress' ability to function in the next two years, there's also the uncertain future of Kevin McCarthy as Speaker of the House—via more goofy republican shenanigans. With Kevin McCarthy being elected

as speaker after 15 rounds of voting, which saw McCarthy plead with republican hold-outs and agree to many terms and changes to achieve his speakership. Many of these terms that McCarthy agreed to, such as the new ability for any one representative to call a vote to remove McCarthy as speaker, have placed McCarthy in a corner where he will have to comply with many wants of the Republican Party.

So what exactly do these things mean for the rest of 2023 and the rest of the 118th Congress? It means that, due to the current gridlocked state of the House & Senate, house democrats will struggle in passing legislation through the house. And that democrats will have an even harder time trying to work with Speaker Kevin McCarthy when he is overly susceptible to giving into what other republican representatives want. In other words; Congress is gonna be quite the headache in 2023 and legislation is gonna move a lot more slowly.



Elizabeth Hallanger

80's for Brady: A 98 minute ad

Tom Brady may have talents, but acting isn't one of them

Nick Streng
Staff Writer

So I don't know the first thing about football (and don't care about it either), but I have heard that there's this guy named Tom Brady who's really good at the game. And I also know there was a Super Bowl recently. I'm sure all you football fans enjoyed watching a bunch of sweaty people wrestle each other on a field in between watching capitalist commercials, but I spent that Sunday night watching a movie that gave me the REAL Super Bowl experience: 80 for Brady. And now, finally, I can talk about the biggest cinematic event of 2023. Buckle up, everyone!

Released in theaters February 3rd, 2023 by Paramount Pictures, 80 for Brady stars Lily Tomlin, Rita Moreno, Jane Fonda, and Sally Field as a friend group of elderly women who decide to go to the Super Bowl to see Tom Brady (appearing as himself), getting into a boatload of trouble and wacky hijinks along the way. The film is “based on a true story,” however the only true part of the story is that there were indeed four elderly women who were fans of Tom Brady, and the rest of the story is

entirely fictional. Now as I just said, I've never been a fan of football or Tom Brady, but after watching this movie I've got to say...I get it now. I have seen the error of my ways, and now I have a strong desire to go to the Super Bowl to see Tom Brady. I guess that's what happens when you decide to watch what's basically a 98-minute commercial disguised as a movie.

Wait, did I just say that? Well, I guess I should come clean now - I lied earlier about this being the biggest cinematic event of 2023, because 80 for Brady is not a movie. It's an ad. A feature-length ad for Tom Brady and the Super Bowl that was given a budget of \$98 million - and produced by Tom Brady. And what I say next may shock you - it's very bad.

80 for Brady is definitely



IMDb

one of those films where you know that it's not going to be good, but if you're an idiot like me, you'll still go and see it for the meme. I fully expected it to be bad, but it was at least hilariously bad, at least most of the time. It's difficult to describe the plot of this movie in detail because it's essentially nothing but “we're going to the Super Bowl to see Tom Brady.” None of the main characters have any distinct personality outside of “we want to go to the Super Bowl to see Tom Brady!” The solution to any problem or conflict that may arise in the story is simply, “don't worry, everything will be alright because we're going to the Super Bowl to see Tom Brady!” With all the Tom Brady worshiping, it's a miracle that this movie managed to pass the Bechdel test even though the four leads are all women.

On a positive note, the four leads do make this movie enjoyable sometimes; it's clear that all of them are having a

lot of fun with the script, as uninspired as it is. The movie also doesn't really take itself that seriously, which was a good choice given that trying to do so would have probably made it even worse. A lot of the jokes don't land, but there are a few exceptions, and the overall energetic mood can be quite infectious sometimes and give the movie a little bit of charm.

.....aaaand I can't even finish a whole paragraph about the positives of this movie. Any other good thing I can say about it stems primarily from ironic enjoyment, and not because the movie is actually good. Whenever it isn't being so terrible that you can't help but laugh at it, it's just boring and cliché. It checks off every scenario that's essential to the NFL experience (such as patriotic activities like going to the NFL Experience museum and competing in a spicy chicken wing-eating contest), with no unique presentation of any kind. The number of plot conveniences is through the roof and the directing is rather bland, and becomes incompetent in the climax when the movie switches constantly between news footage of the Super Bowl game and the actual movie, to a very distracting degree. As for any character development

Brady, 8

I'm not gonna say much about it as it would be spoiling the whole show but I will say it's very bittersweet. I highly recommend the show to anyone who wants to watch a beautiful show with awesome characters and I recommend the books to heavy readers who enjoy long, interesting books.



ABC

Abbott Elementary follows the teaching staff at an underfunded public school in Philadelphia.

Top 5 sitcoms from 2013-23

The last decade has brought many favorites

Lucy Annis-Bercier
Staff Writer

One of the most enjoyable forms of television is sitcoms. Whether you need a laugh or need something that requires minimal mental exertion, sitcoms have been there to satisfy these wishes since the 1940s. Although they may lack in depth, this isn't necessarily a requirement for a “good” tv show. Over this near century, a variety of sitcoms have been released with a wide range of plots and characters. I could write about the brilliance of my personal favorites such as The Office, Parks and Recreation, New Girl, and Arrested Development. I could even write about the legacy of classics such as Seinfeld, The Golden Girls, Full House, and Cheers. All of these have received enough high praise for a lifetime and some of them might even be classified as outdated. This is why I have curated a list focusing on the top 5 best sitcoms from the past decade starting from 2013.

5. Superstore (2015-2021)

There is more to working retail than meets the eye as shown by this six-season series which follows a group of employees working at the superstore known as Cloud 9 who are just trying to get through the day. Dealing with annoying customers and juggling workplace relationships can make the day-to-day grind difficult for this team. The story mostly centers around Amy (America Ferrera) who has been working at Cloud 9 for over ten years and is beginning to feel trapped. She then meets new hire Jonah (Ben Feldman) who allows her to remember the joyous parts of the world around her. Jonah begins to develop a crush only to find out Amy is married and has a kid. The diverse Cloud 9 employees include strict Dina, optimistic Jonah, teen mom Cheyenne, easy-going Garrett, and competitive Mateo. Supervised by their clueless boss Glen, work is not usually the top priority for these employees but they still find ways to make the time pass.

Superstore is definitely an underrated sitcom. Each character has a huge and unique personality which makes for a very entertaining TV show. The way these employees handle day-to-day situations is extremely amusing. They get

themselves into a lot of sticky situations and things are never in their favor. They even tackle being essential workers during Covid-19 in season 6. Whether it's the slow-burn love trope (e.g Jim and Pam from The Office) exhibited between two of the characters or whether it's the humorous nature that each character exudes, there is something so lovable about Superstore. I would recommend this show to anyone who's looking for an honest TV show with absurd humor (and can pull it off). All seasons are streaming on Hulu and Peacock.

4. Brooklyn 99 (2013-2021)

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be a detective? Well this eight-season sitcom features the everyday life of Detective Jake Peralta (Andy Samberg) who works at Brooklyn's 99th police precinct along with his rival, overachieving Amy Santiago (Melissa Fumero), and six other cops under the new commanding officer Ray Holt. Jake is a skilled but carefree cop and when officer Holt arrives, he challenges Jake's everyday practices. The other cop colleagues include Jake's partner Boyle (Joe Lo Truglio) who idolizes him, family man Terry (Terry Crews), intimidating Rosa (Stephanie Beatriz), and self-absorbed Gina (Chelsea Peretti) who works as the civilian administrator. Together they collaborate to fight crime and serve justice to criminals which is all in a day's work for this precinct.

Brooklyn 99 has something for everyone, there is crime, mystery, comedy, and love. The characters' dynamics are some of the best parts of the show and they are very likable. If you're a fan of the enemies-to-lovers trope (e.g. Leslie and Ben from Parks and Rec), there is a great love story in this sitcom. Andy Samberg's character Jake is one of the most entertaining and fun people on television. You won't find any stereotypes in this TV show, each character is original and unique. Every episode takes the time to focus on the character's development which never leaves a dull moment. I would recommend this show to anyone who likes crime shows but wants something more light-hearted and uplift-

His Dark, 4

show to an end.

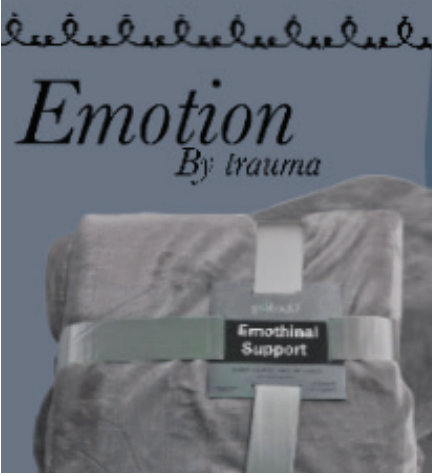
The show was beautiful and emotional. There was action, humor, love, and everything else you could want in a tv show. It has interdimensional travel and mythical creatures combined with the stories of two teens falling in love. The casting is great. The actors look how I imagined them

in the books and match the characters body language and personality really well. I think the show captured the magical elements pretty well visually. Everything mythical or magic was about how I expected it to look. From the portals to the creatures I think the visual team did really well.

Now as criticisms go some would say this show doesn't

follow the books, but I think that is on purpose. Those critics aren't wrong that there are quite a few differences between the show and the books, some being intentional changes and some being plot holes. Overall I think the show follows the books just enough but changes it in places where it needs to be changed. The ending of the show is beautiful.

The emotional support blanket is now here!



Moss Windingstad

M3GAN, 4

her addiction. It’s not subtle, but if you went into this movie expecting subtlety I truly don’t know what to tell you. The emotional core of this movie is pretty solid for what it is. I found myself connected to the characters. A lot of that can be credited to the performances of the leads. Allison Williams and the child actor playing Cady play their characters believably and naturally. That being said, I wish they hadn’t spent so much time on this, as it is a tad slow in the first act. I’m also not as crazy about the performances of some of the side actors. Ronny Chieng plays Gemma’s boss, pushing her to monetize M3GAN, and I find his portrayal of his character too directly comedic. He’s got some funny lines, but it clashes with the tone of the rest of the film. It works better when the movie is relatively grounded and deadpan finding the humor in the absurdity of the situations. A lot of the appeal is the character of M3GAN too. She’s wonder-

fully acted so that she feels like a real character with her own personality, while still being distinctly mechanical.

The marketing for this movie was frustratingly misleading. It seems to have given people a false impression of what this movie is. I would not consider M3GAN a horror movie as much as a satirical dark comedy. It’s an intelligent movie that is deliberate about its campiness. The tonal balance of M3GAN is its strong suit, how it mixes a grounded dead parents drama, with humorously over-the-top Child’s Play style horror. The two funniest subjects to this movie are dead parents and dead children, but to this movie’s credit, the stakes feel real enough to the two lead characters with the humor generally comedic. He’s got some funny lines, but it clashes with the tone of the rest of the film. It works better when the movie is relatively grounded and deadpan finding the humor in the absurdity of the situations. A lot of the appeal is the character of M3GAN too. She’s wonder-

comforts Cady after she realizes M3GAN is killing people. M3GAN puts her to sleep and starts singing Titanium by David Guetta and Sia as a lullaby. The heart of this movie is the relationship between Cady and Gemma, which is stronger in its writing and acting than I expected but still dragged at times. There are too many long stretches without any of the action and goofy moments that M3GAN does best.

With M3GAN Part 2 already planned (I still think it should have been called M4GAN), I’m hoping they will realize that these movies are better with more camp and less drama. This movie also needed an R-rating. It is obvious this was meant to be gorier, and the action/horror scenes are diluted with awkward cuts from when it was edited to be PG-13. If you are going for over the top you have to commit.

M3GAN might not be the greatest or scariest horror movie, but taken as a dark comedy it’s an absolute blast. 7/10

Buildings, 1

is currently located. At that time, the school was K-12, meaning that we had grades kindergarten to seniors in high school all tucked nicely into the same spot. Legend has it there were secret tunnels under the school.

Mechanic Arts Building

Next we moved into a really old building, built sometime in the 1800s. “It was super old, and really cool, and it was really close to the capital, it’s where the senate office building is, right behind the capital,” said Spanish teacher Tim Leone Getten, who didn’t work in that building, but has researched the topic. We were there for about six or seven years when it was decided that the space wasn’t right for a school. It eventually got torn down and it doesn’t exist anymore.

Linwood

Linwood was the location where we would stay for 15 years, the 80s and early 90s. “That was a good spot for it. You know, right in the neighborhood, not too far from Grand Avenue,” said Tim. Jesse has very fond memories of this building, including the lilacs that grew along the back fence, a student-run coffee shop, the

smell of the woodshop, and a now mythical place called the family room. “We could study, play ping pong, or just talk. It was the central hub of the whole school,” he said. The building is still there, although it has been remodeled numerous times. “I know if I went back in, so much would be different. But I can still walk along the back of the building and see the cracks in the retaining wall, just like old friends, right where I left them over 25 years ago,” said Jesse.

At that time OWL had this magical cart, a necessity to complete the move from building to building. But this was no ordinary cart, this was the one and only six rolls of paper cart. Believe it or not, but the door decorating contests have been a staple of the school experience and this cart made everything much easier.

90 Western Avenue South

In the early 90s there were some budget shifts, and the district began renovating some schools. One thing led to another and we ended up moving to the West 7th site in 1995. They brought the six-rolls cart along. “I loved the Open building and have fond memories of the hallways,

classrooms and ‘cafetorium,” said Lisa. The cafetorium doubled as a lunch room and stage/auditorium. This was the building where fraquetball was born, and several current teachers began their OWL tenure in that building.

“This was a really nice spot in many ways. We had an easy connection with downtown, the river, and Burger King (some kids would skip class just to go to Burger King) and we stayed there for about 15 more years. It was in a little residential neighborhood, but very close to West 7th, so we had the opportunity to do lots of walking field trips,” said Lisa.

Once we had moved out of the Linwood neighborhood, nobody knew about us; we had moved out of people’s conscience. Today you could ask any St. Paul family with kids in the school system and they would tell you about how they know all about OWL and all that. But back then nobody had heard about it, and they were all like, “what’s that?”

In 2011, the district stepped in and restructured OWL, converting it to a 6-12 school in an effort to better serve students in upper level grades. So we said goodbye to all of

LGBTQ+, 5

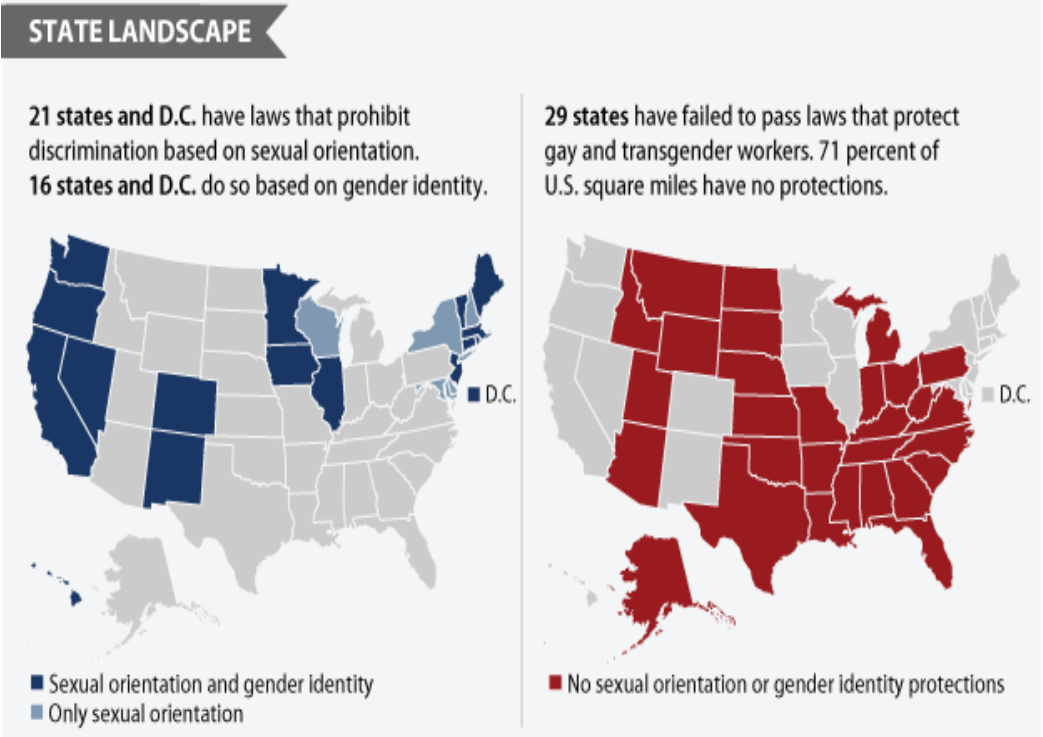
national gathering of people who marched on Washington to support LGBTQ+ rights. On October 14th, 1979, many LGBTQ+ people across the country began the first national march on Washington for gay and lesbian rights. Over 100,000 people participated in this march. Later in 1993 the march occurred again, now named the march on Washington for gay, lesbian and bi-equal rights and liberation. The main goal of this march was to focus on lifting the ban on LGBTQ+ people in the military. An estimated 300,000 people participated in the march.

There are many different types of restrictions that are being put on the LGBTQ+ community in different states. These can be broken up into two categories: all encompassing and specifically related to transgender adults and youth. In terms of all encompassing, there are bills restricting single sex facility use (restricting access to restrooms and facilities). In May of 2022, Oklahoma governor Kevin Stitt signed

into law a bill restricting students to using restrooms that corresponded with the sex listed on their birth certificate. There are many bills that are specifically aimed at transgender youths, such as restrictions around athletics and access to gender affirming care. Restrictions around sports and athletics include bills to exclude transgender youths in athletics; an example of this is Idaho’s “fairness in women’s sports” act, which bans transgender women and girls from participating in girls or women’s sports leagues affiliated with public schools and higher education. There are also bills prohibiting gender affirming care for transgender people, another of these restrictions that specifically affects transgender people in the US. In 2022, 15 states introduced restrictions on transgender access to gender affirming care that includes restrictions on access to hormones and surgery.

On the other hand, there are some positive changes in terms of legislation. Starting in 1962, Illinois became the first state to decriminalize same sex

relationships, but this did not include marriage. In 1973, the APA (American Psychological Association) removed homosexuality from its list of disorders, and in 1992 the World Health Organization removed homosexuality from its classification of illnesses. Then in 1994 the AMA (American Medical Association) removed sexual orientation-related disorders from its official list. The ban on federal employment of gay and lesbian people passed in 1954 was ended in 1975 and seven years later in 1982, Wisconsin became the first state to pass gay rights laws. In 2003 Massachusetts became the first state to legalize same-sex marriage. Now in 2022 the Respect for Marriages act has been passed to a mix of opinions, some people say that it’s good because states now have to recognize other states’ marriages and people are granted federal rights, but others have some problems with it. One of the problems people have with the act is that it doesn’t guarantee the right to marry.



the little kids and sent them off to other places; some students would later rejoin us for high and middle school. Fun fact: Pa Ying Lor, who is an education assistant at OWL, is one of the last students to have attended OWL from kindergarten through high school. After the elementary school was cut, OWL’s population was less than two hundred kids - imagine two of OWL’s grades now and that’s how many kids were there.

Downtown

As part of our restructuring, the district moved us into an eight story building in downtown Saint Paul in 2011, and we shared the site with Creative Arts High School. “We had a lot of confidence that it would work out, but nobody around us did,” said Tim. This was a bittersweet building because of all of the stairs -- it was eight stories high, with no on street parking space -- teachers received passes to park in a nearby ramp, and the random pillars in the middle of many classrooms. It was originally built to be a YMCA.

There were, however, many good things about the location, such as having easy connections to downtown,

and a great view. Yet in a move so happy and prosperous we had lost something very important, something very special: the six roles cart. It was a sad time, the entire school was in mourning. Tim himself said, “the move isn’t complete till we’ve found that cart.” He has made an effort to find that cart by visiting the old buildings and searching online for the perfect replacement. But those things are expensive, like thousands of dollars.

We only spent three years at that site, so what happened? It’s much more simple, you see - we grew. OWL had been gaining popularity and had an increasing number of students, but so had Creative Arts. We were reverting back to our original size of 500. “We were at first upset about this move, but they did redesign it for us so we decided it was a good deal,” said English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt. So the school district decided to move one school out and let the other expand into the building.

The Humboldt Complex

640 Humboldt Avenue was an underutilized building that needed renovating after the Humboldt middle school had moved to the high school side. The site we are in now

had been a high school, then a middle school, and there were some early education programs in here and some offices. So in 2014, the district hired a bunch of architects to come out and renovate the place. They took in a lot of students’ input of the project, everything from the common areas to the colors, and even the fraquetball court.

As one might expect, moving schools can be chaotic and messy - let’s just hope we aren’t moving anytime soon. You would think that when moving buildings, you would lose a lot of students, but OWL usually didn’t. Many students helped with the moves and some big corporations also volunteered, like when one student worked at Target they brought over a team of around 40 people to just pack boxes for an entire day.

As of press time, it seems like OWL won’t be moving for a while. The building we are currently in seems to fit OWL quite well and we have a lot of good history here. Barring unforeseen circumstances, we could be here until the ghost of Clara lurks the halls.

Oscars, 4
but was completely left out of the Oscars. And yet again, female filmmakers did not get any recognition in the best director category, a historically male dominated award.

In the actual nominations, the three categories that get overlooked the most are the short films. Ranging in length from eight minutes to forty, there's three awards dedicated to these shorts: Best Documentary Short, Best Short Film, and Best Animated Short, with five films nominated in each category. Nominated this year for shorts are; The Elephant Whisperers, Haulout, How Do You Measure a Year?, The Martha Mitchell Effect, Stranger at the Gate, An Irish Goodbye, Ivalu, Le Pupille, Night Ride, The Red Suitcase, The Boy the Mole the Fox and the Horse, The Flying Sailor, Ice Merchants, My Year of Dicks, and An Ostrich Told me the World is Fake and I Think I Believe It. Many of these short films are available to find on YouTube or popular streaming services, and are great categories to focus your attention on if you're

not quite ready to commit to the overwhelming number of feature films yet.

Some other films that don't get as much attention are the ones that are only nominated for one award. These films have done exceptionally in one thing, but might be lacking in other achievements. Some people might think these films aren't worth watching only to see one amazing actor or hear a good song, but some of the best performances or writing you'll ever see appear in these movies. They were nominated for a reason! Some nominees like this are Aftersun, To Leslie, Blonde, Causeway, Glass Onion: a Knives Out Mystery, Bardo, False Chronicle of a Handful of Truths, Empire of Light, Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris, Tell it Like a Woman, and RRR. Even if the Oscars aren't really your thing, the nominations, especially the ones like these, are a great reference to find some amazing movies that you might not have heard of before.

There are a few films who have gathered a handful of nominees. They're not quite

Best Picture material, but have done really well in multiple categories. These movies usually collect a lot of technical nominations, meaning their main area of success was with things like visual effects, sound, or costumes. 2022 films with this sort of nomination collection are Black Panther: Wakanda Forever, Babylon, The Batman, The Whale, and Living. These movies often get more attention, but are still not considered as important, mostly because they weren't nominated for bigger awards.

Speaking of bigger awards, the four fiercest competitions take place in categories that focus on a movie as a whole instead of specific skills. The first of these is Best International Feature, which focuses on movies made outside of the US. Nominees in this category are All Quiet on The Western Front, Argentina 1985, Close, EO, and The Quiet Girl. These films might be harder to find on streaming and are often in other languages, but showcase aspects of other countries' cultures and their approach to filmmaking.

The second of these categories is Best Documentary. Documentaries tell non-fiction or real life stories, often in an instructional way. The nominations for Best Documentary are All That Breathes, about endangered birds of prey in India, All the Beauty and the Bloodshed, about photographer Nan Goldin, Fire of Love, about a volcanologist couple, A House Made of Splinters, about a group of women caring for children who have been displaced from their homes, and Navalny, about an assassination attempt on a Russian opposition leader.

The third of these competitions is in the Best Animated Feature, which can be a fan favorite among younger audiences. This year the nominees are Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio, Marcel the Shell With Shoes On, Puss in Boots: the Last Wish, The Sea Beast, and Turning Red. This category is usually dominated by Disney and Pixar films, but interestingly this year two of the nominations are stop motion animated, which is a medium that's often been overlooked.

Top ten list of the best lists

If you like lists, read this list

Johnny Gorton
Staff Writer

1. This list
This list tells you what this list just told you. It is number one because no list is better than this list because this list is my list so no list is better than this list.
2. List of (anything you can list) list
This list can tell you almost anything. It is number 2 because I find it extremely amusing. But a more dignified answer is that it can be anything.
3. Wish list
The wish list is what you want to have. I put this list at number 3 because it helps you know what to get and what to save up for. I find it hard to fill out. Others do not have a similar problem.
4. Video game list
The video game list tells you what games to play next. The reason this is number 4 is because of reasons similar to number seven and five.
5. Book list
The book list tells you the next book to read. Well it still moves slowly, but it is more enjoyable as you get more entertainment from this list but it

is still really slow.

6. The bucket list
This list tells you what you want to do before you kick the bucket. This is number 6 because it is important to have goals to work for.
7. Movies list
The movie list is a list that tells you what movies you would like to watch next. I put this on the lower half of the list because it is a rather slow-moving list and takes a long time to finish.
8. Packing list
The packing list tells you what to bring on a trip. Although it is usually the Johprelude to a fun vacation it is still annoying to pack a bag and I always feel like I'm forgetting something.
9. Groceries list
The groceries list tells you what to buy at the grocery store. I put this near the bottom because shopping for groceries is a generally dull experience and rather boring.
10. Homework list
The homework list tells you what you have to do for homework. I put it at the bottom of the list because not many people like to have homework.



Brady, 6
or themes...forget it.

And finally, while Tom Brady may be a talented quarterback, the same cannot be said for his acting. I was in hysterics every time he appeared in this movie, not because his scenes had any funny jokes, but because his performance was as stiff as a block of wood. It's clear that he had no idea what to do whenever he was on camera, and the only times it felt like he was giving a convincing performance was when he wasn't actually acting and the

movie was just using old news footage of him playing football. His limited screen time is both a benefit and detriment to the movie; he makes it even worse than it already is with his bad acting, but also makes it much more enjoyable because of how hilariously awful it is.

So overall, while 80 for Brady can have a lot of ironic enjoyment value, it's really not worth checking out unless you watch it with a bunch of friends and make fun of it during the whole runtime. 3/10, at least it was better than Ant-Man 3.

Sitcoms, 6
ing. All seasons are streaming on Peacock.

3. The Good Place (2016-2020)
Imagine after you die you are placed into either the Good Place or the Bad Place based on the actions of your life. This is what happens to Eleanor Shellstrop (Kristen Bell) when she awakes in the afterlife and is greeted by the architect of the Good Place, Michael (Ted Danson) who tells Eleanor that she has earned her spot in the Good Place. This comes as a surprise to her because she has not led a charitable life and it leads her to believe she has been put there by accident. While Eleanor tries to keep a low profile she meets her two perfect neighbors, Tahani (Jameela Jamil) and Jason (Manny Jacinto). She also meets her given "soulmate" Chidi (William Jackson Harper), who helps her realize it's not too late to change. This afterlife seems like a dream come true but underlies dark secrets that hide in plain sight.

The Good Place is doubtlessly the most complex and improbable sitcom of the past decade which is why it's an interesting TV show. It's not your typical sitcom but still

has situational comedic qualities such as witty humor and charismatic characters. Unlike most sitcoms, this four-season series tells an engaging story with many twists and turns. It also teaches valuable lessons that people of all ages could benefit from. Counteracting what I stated before, The Good Place does not lack depth. Its usage of philosophy and ethics being infiltrated into the afterlife leaves you questioning your own morals all while being an incredibly funny and clever sitcom. All seasons are streaming on Netflix and Apple TV.

2. Schitt's Creek (2015-2020)
When a multimillionaire family becomes victims of fraud and goes broke overnight, they lose everything and are forced to move to a small town and live in a run down hotel. This six-season series tells the tale of Johnny (Eugene Levy), his wife Moira (Catherine O'Hara), their son David (Dan Levy, and their daughter Alexis (Annie Murphy) as they navigate this drastic change from extreme wealth to extreme poverty. They end up moving to a town where they bought the rights to years ago known as Schitt's Creek. Whether it's finding jobs or

adjusting to the culture and lifestyle of Schitt's Creek, each day brings on a new challenge for this once affluent family.

If you weren't intrigued by the plotline then I would be shocked because this is truly a great idea for a TV show and I fully understand why so many people like it. I myself have not watched the entirety of Schitt's Creek yet but the information I have gathered from friends and family who have seen it is that this is a delightful sitcom. The characters are over the top and funny which makes for an entertaining watch. They address many topics in a normalized way which is a component that sitcoms from past decades don't do as well. I would recommend this TV show to anyone who likes sarcastic humor and dysfunctional family comedies. All seasons are streaming on Amazon Prime Video, Hulu, and Philo.

1. Abbott Elementary (2021-)
Life as an elementary school teacher is more interesting than you might think. This mockumentary sitcom follows the dedicated teachers at Abbott Elementary as they showcase the highs and lows of working at an underfunded elementary school. There is Janine (Quinta Brunson) who is

extremely passionate about her job, substitute teacher Gregory (Tyler James Williams), Barbara (Sheryl Lee Ralph) who has the longest tenure at Abbott, Jacob (Chris Perfetti) the awkward history teacher, and Melissa (Lisa Ann Walter) who's got a guy for everything. You won't be able to forget the principal of Abbott Elementary, Ava Coleman, who everyone questions how she got the job in the first place. These teachers work together to take on each day with the same shared goal of helping their students succeed in life as best as they can. Season 1 is streaming on Hulu, HBO Max, and ABC. A new episode of Season 2 comes out every Wednesday at 8PM CT on Hulu.

I would highly recommend this show to everyone because it's very funny, current, and realistic. Every person I know who has watched Abbott Elementary has absolutely loved it. It's extremely funny while highlighting the serious issue of under-funding for schools in America. The cast is great and works very well together. Janelle James's character Ava Coleman has got to be my new favorite TV boss. This sitcom has very quickly become a fan-favorite and the praise doesn't seem to be stopping anytime soon.



Cash or Trash?



Crushes and shipping are some of the most important things there are in this world to a tender young middle schooler.

Titus: "It's disgusting. I yell when I see them."

Sorcha: "Crushes in middle schools are cash, but dating is trash."

Noah: "It's funny."

Dating in middle school



Volcanoes



"A volcano is a rupture in the crust of a planetary-mass object, such as Earth, that allows hot lava, volcanic ash, and gasses to escape from a magma chamber below the surface." - Wiki

Sorcha: "They make igneous rocks. End of story."

Violet: "They make nice gooey noises."

Luis: "You guys know Pompeii? Really bad."

Leo: "Volcanoes are cool. They have lava."