Mock Trial team goes 1-1, two matches left

OWL team learns finer points of the legal system

Aalen Kulseth

Three weeks ago, renowned ACL surgeon Dr. Ardi Ramidus successfully won a civil suit against a former University of Minnesota swimmer. Dr. Ramidus was ruled not negligent thanks to the help of the OWL Mock Trial team's excellent attorney, Isaac Stender, Lucy Kerman, and yours truly Aalen Kulseth. This trial was not real, but rather a part of Minnesota's Mock Trial organization. So what is Mock Trial? As stated by the Minnesota Bar Association, "Mock Trial is a law-related program that introduces students to the legal system through competition." Essentially it's a competitive format in which teams are pitted against each other, each representing different sides of a court case. The case is formulated to be balanced for both sides. Larger teams split up their full team in order to master both sides, while smaller teams like OWL have some students performing roles for both plaintiff and defense. Students have the choice of being an attorney, witness, timekeeper, or bailiff. Each side has three attorneys and three witnesses, and one bailiff and timekeeper each as well. Attorneys have to fully understand the case and prove a point through questioning and argument, and on the other hand, witnesses have to act and respond to questions. Witnesses have to fully grasp their character's knowledge.

In scenes from the Solitude and Reflection series, Damon prepares for lethal combat (left), Clara and Nora as Success and Failure (right).

Mock Trial 3

February 17th, 2023

Volume #23, Issue #4

Solitude & Reflection: origin story

The second installment of the story behind the Davengers videos that have swept OWL

Solitude and Reflection, 2

In scenes from the Solitude and Reflection series, Damon prepares for lethal combat (left), Clara and Nora as Success and Failure (right).
Those new to the game and superfans alike found united excitement over the soccer tournament. Qatar's summer climaxed in mid-July but this year that was different from previous years. November 20th to December 18th, the World Cup took place, and fans and players couldn't get enough of it. Luke said, "It was actually the reality by which two students, Damon and Luke, met. Damon told me you should switch out of Jeff and Luke, and instead help me work on these Solitude & Reflection videos and 'we've got a plan.' Gideon helped out with the filming of the videos (which he says is in favorite part of the process), but he also helps to edit the videos. He'll edit them during his TA hour, then send them off to Damon to get everything looked over and finished up. Sometimes Gideon has to stay after school to help with filming the videos, but he says 'I have the creative genius behind it all' and Luke said, 'He's super accommodating, super patient, he's obviously funny, and he has a gift for screenwriting. I knew Jeff and Luke were going to do, and no matter what it is, Luke is always like 'okay, I'll do this.' He's always on board and willing to give up his time, which sometimes Gideon has to do. Luke also has a lot of praise for Jeff. 'Jeff is great. I think we call him the creative genius behind it all.'

Seeing the evolution of the videos from simple 'I'm going to go with Jeff and Luke to a huge operation involving tons of teachers and students and stuff.'

"The videos have also helped to bring Jeff and Damon and Luke's voices to the world. We went from being coworkers to best friends. Damon said, "I hung out outside of work all the time now. We just have a great relationship.""
Fraquetball stakes are high

Marshall Wasmund  
Staff Writer

There was some intense Fraquetball action in the hall- 
way in January. It was the third final lunch for high school: 
Alpha Numericals VS 1145 Randolph Ave. The 1145 Ran-
dolph boys scored first with an ace from 10th grader 
Arthur Madsen. Then the Alpha Nu-
mericals scored a point with a 
shot from math teacher Tom 
Tottushek which tied the game 
1-1.

Then 1145 Randolph Ave 
pulled ahead with a point scored by Arthur making the 
score 2-1. After going back 
and forth for a while, 1145 Randolph Ave scored again 
with a shot from 10th grader 
Mikko Liimatta making the 
score 3-1. Then the Alpha Nu-
mericals tied the game 3-3. Then 
1145 Randolph Ave scored with an excellent shot from 
Arthur making the score 4-3.

The Randolph boys scored 
yet another point with a shot 
from Arthur making the score 
5-3. Then again 1145 Ran-
dolph Ave scored again mak-
ing the score 6-3. Next the Alpha Numericals scored with a shot 
from Tom. To win the 
game 1145 Randolph Ave 
scored the final point from a shot by 
Arthur to make the final score

4-3.

One key to the game was 
that 1145 Randolph was able to 
keep math teacher Damon 
Liberatore from his usual bank 
serve that wins his team the 
ball back on serve. 
Fraquetball was invented 
by OWL students in 2002 and 
has been played by both teach-
ers and students ever since. “I 
have really enjoyed playing 
Fraquetball all three years I have played,” said 9th grader Wyatt Kessler.

Many different strategies for 
offense and defense have been 
created throughout the history of 
Fraquetball. “One popular 
defensive strategy is the 
front player to block shots on 
one side while the back player 
blocks them on the other,” said 
12th grader Ian Brooks. “My 
strategy is to throw myself at 
the ball and hope that I block it, ” said 10th grader Antonio 
Cervantes.

The 1145 Randolph Ave 
won a big upset because the 
Alpha Numericals have won 
the championship two 
times. The Gentle Giants (Sean 
Keith/Cameron Bettler) and 
Lou Gezer (Tim Leone-Cet-
ter/Lee Buckelhaupt) are tied 
for the most championships 
with three wins. The 2022-
2023 winter season there were 
five teams that won every 
game before the playoffs. 
Those teams were Los 
Gezer, Bald m/s/m, Alpha Nu-
mericals, Rubys, and the Fine 
Pumpkins. These teams were

What pronouns do you use? 
She/Her.

How long have you been at OWL? 
7 years.

What are your plans for next year? 
College . . . anywhere in Washington.

What’s been your favorite class in high school? 
Any of Lukè’s classes.

What extracurriculars are you involved in? 
Dance and theater.

Favorite field work experience or school trip and why? 
The Outward Bound ninth grade hiking trip, because it was a lot of 
fun and I made a lot of friends.

If you had a walk up song, what would it be? 
Get to Be Real by Cheryl Lynn.

That One Little Kid

Jasper Balian

Mock Trial, 1 
and work with their side’s at-
torneys to win.

“It’s fun playing a part and 
remembering your lines. It can 
be hard sometimes, being in 
the spotlight sitting at the 
witness stand, everyone is 
looking at you, but actually I 
like it,” said 10th grader Gal-
drial Barrett.

The case this year is about 
medical malpractice. A swim-
center, Ardi Ramidus, made a 
mistake and is claiming that their doctor, 
Dr. Coo, did not do the 
correct surgery. A medical 
expert, and of course, both 
their physical therapist, a med-
ician, Ardi Ramidus, made a 
mistake and is claiming that their doctor, 
Dr. Coo, did not do the 
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cor
The high school team placed third at tournament last month
Wyatt Kessler Staff Writer
As senior Ian Rosenberg-Scholl stepped up and took his final shots at the LILA Dragon Lair 300 archery tournament in Forest Lake, hesolidified his place as third overall for all high school boys and first among senior boys.
As archery comes back in season, the OWL archers are aspiring towards big things. Especially after three middle school archers (Moss Windigstad, Middle Listent, and Claire Hulson) move into high school. “The high school team looks to be very competitive this year,” said math teacher and coach of the archery team Tom Totushek.
This year’s theme is regional. Each archer competes with subteams chosen by team cap-
tains at their practices. The archer’s ranking last year very closely to making it into the pro-
dium at the state tournament, which was shot in six points, so they believe placing in state is a reasonable goal.
Although the season is relatively young, some OWL archers have already made some noticeable placements. The high school team earned a trophy for placing third at the LILA Dragon Tournament, and the middle school finish-
ners last March. Ian Daniel finished first for high school boys but third in boys overall.
Claire finished second of 8th grade girls, and up-
and-coming archer 7th grade student Olivia Jamieson finished fourth of 16th for middle school boys and first for 7th-grade boys.
Another OWL archer, Benji Diaz, finished second for 7th-grade girls, 4th grader Maggie Jones finished 3rd for 7th grade girls, and 8th grader Oscar Marks finished 3rd for 8th grade boys.
The team looks like it’s meeting its own expectations. Things seem in line for placing at state as some are al-
ready placing high at meets. “There’s a consid-
erable amount of great mid-
dle school archers on the team. Based on these placements, this season and seasons in the near future seem to be looking good.”
The response to the posts were “I’m going to use you as an example of this year students will get to go to the University of MaryLand for nationals. "I think in-person con-
tests are awesome," said OWL social studies teacher Katie Craven. "Seeing stu-
dents check out their com-
petition, support their class-
mates, and hang out together on a Saturday is fun to see."
"It’s definitely an incentive," 11th graders Tess and Wil-
la Campion also commented. "I think in-person national is good for students. In person, the same outfit everyday was just so normal. It’s been really hard to get the experience of ‘it’s a good day for a good day’ "
"I’ve been struggling to live in the moment and not just jump to what’s happening with Kanye, "said Ian. "And I’ve been trying to apply that in the moment not just for a whole day, but over time, more people be-
gin to notice."
For those of you that are wondering how he got to the same outfit everyday without
smelling bad, Daniel has five identical pairs of shirts and socks, and three pairs of pants. "I wanted to be where every picture that was taken was clean," Daniel said.
This year students will get to go to the University of Maryland for nationals being in person. "The times we went, it was virtual so we haven’t really gotten the experience of ‘it’s a good day for a good day’".

Archery team looks to state

1 outfit, 165 days

Daniel has worn ‘A good day for a good day’ shirt all year

Aria Kulshe and Claire Ales Staff Writers
Many people worry about what they’re going to wear each day, but for 12th and 4th grade, Daniel Merken, it’s not a problem. Why? Because he wears the exact outfit every-
thing single day.
If you’ve seen Daniel in the halls you might have noticed he’s wearing a navy blue shirt with the phrase “It’s a good day for a good day” on it. That’s the shirt he’s been wear-
ing for this entire school year.
Daniel first came up with the idea while at a camp about a month before school started. He put his plan into full action when he went to find the per-
fected shirt at a Target. The main idea of wearing the same outfit every day was just to be funny, he said. But over time, more people be-
gin to notice.
For those that are wondering how he could possibly wear the same outfit everyday without-
smelling bad, Daniel has five identical pairs of shirts and socks, and three pairs of pants. "I wanted to be where every picture that was taken was clean," Daniel said.
This year students will get to go to the University of Maryland for nationals being in person. "The times we went, it was virtual so we haven’t really gotten the experience of ‘it’s a good day for a good day’"

History Day returns to in person

Students in all grades will present their projects at the school competition on February 22nd
Alva Healy Staff Writer
Since late autumn, students have been preparing for the upcoming National History Day competition in February. This year’s theme is Fron-
tiers in History: People, Plac-
es, Ideas. It focuses on mo-
ments in history where people placed, or ideas were at the dividing line of what people thought or did, which can cre-
ate a place for a range of topics.
This year’s theme has been a bit tougher than last year’s topic, Debate and Diplomacy. Competitions start in Jan-
uary and February, with the school level competition at OWL. The school competition is held on February 22. After the school level competition, the students that move on to regionals must have their projects submitted virtual-
ly by March 14. About 4,500 students will participate in re-
ionals from Minnesota and other states. Following region-
als, the state competition in Minnesota will take place on April 22, and then finally Na-
tionals, taking place between June 11-15. Minnesota will take 60 students to Nationals. 6th, 7th, and 11th grad-
ers are the only grades re-
quired to do History Day; but many students still par-
cipate in History Day for their love of the competition. Since the pandemic started Nationals has been virtual, but this year students will get to go to the University of MaryLand for nationals.
"I think in-person con-
tests are awesome," said OWL social studies teacher Katie Craven. "Seeing stu-
dents check out their com-
petition, support their class-
mates, and hang out together on a Saturday is fun to see."
"It’s definitely an incentive," 11th graders Tess and Wil-
la Campion also commented. "I think in-person national is good for students. In person, the same outfit everyday was just so normal. It’s been really hard to get the experience of ‘it’s a good day for a good day’"

Moss Windigstad shoots at a meet last year (left) assistant coach Donald Post provides advice (right).

Day to Day

Thursday, February 16th: NAAAPD Family Event (6:00 pm)
Friday, February 17th: Winter Dance (MS: 5:30, HS: 7:30)
Monday, February 20th: Presidents Day (No School)
Tuesday, February 21st: PTO Community Meeting (6:30 pm)
Wednesday, February 22nd: History Day
Wednesday, March 1st: Mid Quarter
Wednesday, March 1st: History Day Research Field Trip (Wilson Library, U of MN)
Tuesday, March 7th: ACT Test Day (11th grade only)
Friday, March 10th: Staff PD Day (No School)
Saturday, March 14th: PTO Community Meet-
ing (6:30 pm)

Upcoming Events
**Trans Healthcare in America**

The U.S. healthcare system marginalizes transgender people

Michael Ryan  
Staff Writer  

The healthcare system in the United States is not kind to transgender individuals. Not just in terms of care assessment, treatment, or reimbursement, but also in terms of public perception and societal acceptance. It has been noted in past years that transgender individuals are more likely to experience discrimination in healthcare settings, with many transgender individuals reporting feeling unsafe, or even physically threatened, during medical appointments. This is a pressing issue in the United States, where transgender individuals are often denied access to appropriate medical care.

**Brazil riots mirror Jan. 6th**

Claire Hulson  
Staff Writer  

Freedom in Brazil has finally come, in part. As the former president Jair Bolsonaro's diehard followers and other key buildings in Brazil's capital, Bolsonaro's supporters were chased into the streets, where they were met by a wall of police, armed with tear gas, rubber bullets, and tear gas grenades. The demonstrations were sparked by Bolsonaro's four year term, which ended with his loss to the leftist candidate Luiz Lula da Silva or "Lula" in the elections.

Bolsonaro's supporters had their almost concession debated on the streets, with demonstrations and protests filling the streets of Brazil. The demonstrations were met with police brutality, as the police unleashed tear gas, rubber bullets, and tear gas grenades on the protesters. The demonstrations were a response to Bolsonaro's government, which had been accused of corruption, and murder, Brazil's first taste of freedom for about two days before Bolsonaro had his almost concession debate on the streets, where he was met with police brutality, as the police unleashed tear gas, rubber bullets, and tear gas grenades on the protesters.

In the past, Brazilian police have been known to use tear gas, rubber bullets, and tear gas grenades on protesters, as a way to quell demonstrations. This has been a pattern in Brazil, where the police have been known to use tear gas, rubber bullets, and tear gas grenades on protesters.

However, this year's demonstrations have been different, with the police using tear gas, rubber bullets, and tear gas grenades on protesters, as a way to quell demonstrations. This has been a pattern in Brazil, where the police have been known to use tear gas, rubber bullets, and tear gas grenades on protesters.

**Affordable housing policies**

US government officials have been slow to tackle homelessness

Serena Meier  
Staff Writer  

It breaks my heart to see people living on the streets with no home. Affordable housing should be a right, not a privilege, in the richest country in the world. There is not enough action by the government to fix the situation. We need to change the policies. I can visualize more money and help from the government to help poor people who are struggling to at least have a basic place to live, get employment, and to be able to afford good education for their children. Affordable housing has been a problem for a few decades according to Joseph Bauman, a writer for the Economic Policy Institute.

The problem is one of the richest countries in the world, but over 37 million people live in poverty according to the 2021 census. The government spends about 1.5 trillion on the defense budget, but only 1.6 billion to provide health care. How can we make housing affordable? According to a report by the Urban Institute, the government needs to invest more in affordable housing. The report states that the government needs to invest more in affordable housing in order to reduce poverty and increase access to affordable housing.

However, the report also notes that the government needs to invest more in affordable housing in order to reduce poverty and increase access to affordable housing. The report states that the government needs to invest more in affordable housing in order to reduce poverty and increase access to affordable housing. The report states that the government needs to invest more in affordable housing in order to reduce poverty and increase access to affordable housing.

**ChatGPT writes essays for students**

The new AI has raised concerns about academic integrity

Nick Strong  
Staff Writer  

Humorously explored as a fictional idea in the past, the concept of getting a robot to do your homework or write an essay has always seemed like a silly thing that only happens in children’s books - but ChatGPT has made it reality. What is ChatGPT, you ask? Great question! Let me go ask it... No, seriously! ChatGPT, a research question focused on artificial intelligence, trained on a massive set of data, it has advanced Natural Language Processing (NLP), which enables it to generate text that looks like it was written by a human, and generate accurate responses to questions based on a wide variety of patterns in the data set it is given. The responses are generated quickly in real-time, and the NLP allows for the ability to understand context and the intent behind a question. So to make a long story short - it’s an AI that you can ask to do almost anything.

When using ChatGPT, it’s almost as if you’re texting with someone - except it’s a very one-sided conversation with a robot. Through written messages, the user is able to ask the language model to answer questions, whether they be math problems, explanations of a certain topic, or a prompt for an essay (foranchoring). Essentially, the program scours the internet and its internal database, and spits out the most relevant information to answer the question. The user is then able to follow the “conversation” up with corrections or changes to alter or improve the response to their liking. And rather than just proving to be quite accurate - and fairly human-sounding. It reached the point where I could essentially interview the AI about itself and receive all the information I needed for this article.

However, the program is not flawless. Despite the size of its dataset, false information can still be unintentionally generated, particularly when it comes to questions about more obscure topics. Harmful or biased information is also not picture out of the note, given that the internet is chock-full of such material, and its reach of knowledge is limited when it comes to any subject after the year 2021. And perhaps most importantly, it’s rather difficult to generate an answer without realizing that the AI is not a human, and the presentation and structure was very stiff and unengaging, and many times I automatically noted that it ended its conclusion with “in conclusion,” which as many know is a death trap when it comes to writing essays. Any instance of originality has to come from the user, as OpenAI, senior Jack Chastain discovered when he made ChatGPT write a scene from the movie The Hangover that didn’t exist. Jack explained that he put all the details of the fake scene in his request, and “then it came up with random (false) information to fill the gaps.”

As the use of language models like ChatGPT becomes increasingly widespread, there have been growing concerns over their impact in society. Some experts have raised questions about the potential for these models to perpetuate and amplify harmful biases, as well as their ability to generate fake news and manipulative public opinion. There are also concerns about the ethics of using AI systems that generate text that can be mistaken for human writing, particularly in areas where confusion and misinformation can arise. While the technology behind ChatGPT and other
MURDER MYSTERY MANIA
A Good Girl’s Guide to Murder is suspenseful

Connie Van Genderen
Staff Writer

Five years, two families, death, two cases. On April 14, 2014, Andie Bell was reported missing. 3 days later her boyfriend Sal was found dead in the forest with a bag over his head, and crippling pills in his system. Everyone thinks Sal killed Andie, but you won’t believe when you question that.

Holly Jackson’s debut novel A Good Girl’s Guide to Murder is the first book of three. The novel, a classic, came out in 2015 and is gaining popularity. A dead case that Pippa “Pip” Fitz-Amobi, high school senior that investigates the case of the murder of Sal and Andie, as well as the suicide of Sal’s Singh in a school project, similar to a paper for graduation. The book is nearly 400 pages of goodness.

The book is written in a combination of third person perspective, and the project she’s writing to draw their conclusion. Pip is convinced that Sal is innocent, and that there is something fishy going on. With the help of Sal’s brother Ravi, Pip investigates the murder to find the true killer, supposedly still at large five years later. With the help of Ravi, Pip slowly uncovers a different version of the perfect Andie and her family. Pip interviews her friends, who people who covered the case, and Sal’s friends as the story doesn’t make any sense. Whoever covered up the murder couldn’t change what type of person Sal is – a sweet, selfless person. The more she investigates, the more the suspects appear, and Pip finally defines every story is less believable.

And as you would suspect, the investigation starts to become more and more dangerous, involving threats, drugs, and illegal operations. At a glance A Good Girl’s Guide to Murder might seem light-hearted and a fun adventure, but it quickly gets dark and serious. Pip learns how it can be hard to balance a life of relationships with people, while investigating a murder on the side. When you can’t tell the difference between victim and suspect, you lose sight of the idea of every one, or yourself. In the end it kind of feels like a puzzle piece, fitting in perfectly with another piece in a flat color. The end has a very quick turnaround and it is very exciting, so you don’t really realize that you’ve finished the book. I recommend this book to people who love mysteries, and would like to read a more realistic mystery.

The only way they write and tell the story, it varies between reports, interviews, and mysteries. A Good Girl’s Guide gets more dangerous as throughout the book Pippa faces down hurdles and problems, willing to do anything. She also doubts herself, wondering if she’s gone too far, and has only ended up hurting people, and running in a circle. That really works for the story, it seems like a battle between reality and an illusion; it makes the story very captivating, and pulls you back in. I found myself making little Post-It Notes of my own theories, and found it very exciting just thinking about the story.

The start of the book is also very captivating. The story starts to get a little interesting, then it gets more interesting, and before you know it, you’ve finished the book. The only cric- tique I have is that the words to second ratio in the book was a little bit in the end, but that could have just been me reading so fast when it got exciting. I will definitely be reading the second book very soon.

That 90's Show is a quality reboot

Lucy Amos-Barcier
Staff Writer

"Another day, another bad reboot?" is what I would have said before watching That 90’s Show, but this revival has re- minded me of why reboots are, in general, quite fun.

Yes, you could argue that they are just cash grabs that take advantage of the success of the original in hopes of rep- licating its prosperity. But viewership-wise, I believe people are drawn to the idea of experiencing their favorite mov- ies and TV shows for the first time again. Reboots are a real hit-or-miss and they have to be done in a way that captures the same charm of the original while allowing room to develop and expand into its own thing. Making a spin-off of a beloved TV show or movie has to be done with very thoughtfully and if done the right way, it gives people the chance to relive the magic and see what its famous characters have been up to. I would say that this sequel-series That 90’s Show does this very well.

After the announcement in 2021 saying That 90’s Show was going to be returning nearly 20 years later as a 10-episode Netflix original titled That 90’s Show, I was excited but also nervous because I didn’t want one of my favorite TV shows’ legacy to be ruined by a disappoint- ing reboot. It was filmed in a multi-cam format like the original, which is what you see on sitcoms. The show casts a fresh face of young ac- tresses to play the That 90’s Show characters. There are cameos from nearly the entire original cast but the only recurring charac- ters are Kitty (Debra Jo Rupp) and Red (Kurtwood Smith), who played the main character Eric’s parents in the original. I believe this was a good choice for the “come into its own” ingredient to a decent reboot because it allows for the new characters to shine and make up for the original cast. That 90’s Show had a lot of potentials in the That 90’s Show world.

“Times change, teenagers don’t.” That was the message behind this nostalgic sitcom and I think it describes the essence of this revival very well. The first ep- isode reveals Kitty and Red in the same house 15 years later getting ready for their daughter’s wedding. The movie follows a Chi- nese American immigrant mother, Evelyn, who is played by Michelle Yeoh. She runs a laundromat named Deirdre (Jamie Lee Curtis) and has only ended up hurting people, and running in a circle. It really works for the story, it seems like a battle between reality and an illusion; it makes the story very captivating, and pulls you back in. I found myself making little Post-It Notes of my own theories, and found it very exciting just thinking about the story.

The start of the book is also very captivating. The story starts to get a little interesting, then it gets more interesting, and before you know it, you’ve finished the book. The only cri- tique I have is that the words to second ratio in the book was a little bit in the end, but that could have just been me reading so fast when it got exciting. I will definitely be reading the second book very soon.

Everything Everywhere all at Once

The movie has earned multiple awards, is an Oscar contender

Gideon Zupfer
Staff Writer

Everything Everywhere All at Once is a bizarre, charac- ter, mind bending, existential, multi-genre masterpiece. It’s an emotional and action-packed mix of strange bits of comedy and emotional scenes that make you ponder what really mat- ters in life. The film was writ- ten and directed by Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert, produced by A24 Films, and released on March 25, 2022.

The movie follows a Chi- nese American immigrant mother, Evelyn, who is played by Michelle Yeoh. She runs a laundromat with her husband, Waymond (Ke Huy Quan). Waymond is preparing to tell Evelyn about his plan to di- vorce her, since he feels that the two of them have grown too distant from each other. Evelyn’s laundromat is being audited by the IRS, and her disapproving father Gong Gong (James Hong), is visiting from China. Evelyn’s daughter Joy (Stephanie Hsu) is looking for acceptances from her moth- er, since she is Italian and has a girlfriend named Becky (Tal- lie Mede). Evelyn is having a difficult time paying attention to her family since she is over- whelmed with her job and ev- ery aspect of her life. Evelyn’s overwhelming life only becomes more complicated when she is introduced to the multiverse.

Evelyn and Waymond make their way to a meeting with the IRS. In an elevator, Waymond transforms when he mind is entered by a different version of himself from another alter- native dimension. He quickly exits the elevator and tries to enter the multiverse and leaves a piece of paper with his name. His mind switches to his original Waymond, and Ev- elyn leaves the elevator with her family.

Evelyn and Waymond sit down to talk with an IRS agent named Drudge (Jamie Lee Curtis). She talks to the cou- l

ALEC helps corporations stay afloat

Behind closed doors, they work to advance a conservative agenda

Lillie Eiken
Staff Writer

There is an organization of powerful people operating behind the scenes in our political process, and the public doesn’t know who they all are or exactly what they’ve done. The American Legislative Executive Council, or ALEC, is a group made up of state legislators, who are elected officials in the state house and Senate, and corporations that join ALEC in order to influence elected officials. It claims to be the largest organization of state legislators in the nation, and connects them with corporations such as Eli Lilly, a pharmaceutical company, who want to stop things like universal healthcare and lower prices for prescription drugs. Eli Lilly has been known to donate to ALEC in the past, in order to promote conservative political ideology nationwide.

ALEC produces model legislation (bills written to be passed in legislatures) behind closed doors that are often introduced word for word in state legislatures. No members of the press are admitted into the places in their conferences where decision-making hap- pens. Most of their legislative members are probably Republic- licans, judging by the legisla- tive leaders in states that are shown on their website, but we don’t know how many legisla- tive members there are, or who they are. Some of their policies contributed to mass incar- ceration, which is the hugely disproportionate amount of prisoners (especially prisoners of color) in the United States, compared to other countries. Others helped block responses to climate change. Generally, ALEC acts to protect corpo- rate interests, and both mass incarcerations and a limited re- sponse to climate change are in corporate interests.

ALEC was founded in 1973 by the former Republican Il- linois representative Henry Hyde, conservative activist Paul Weyrich, and Lou Bar- nett (who worked on Reagan’s 1968 presidential campaign). During the 1980s, ALEC cre- ated task forces that became more like think tanks as corpo- rate members became more involved. These task forces work on model legislation that states can use. In the early 2010s, ALEC files were released to the press. These files, which newspaper The Guardian released to the public, include descriptions of policies that came under fire after the killing of Tray- von Martin. This is why many companies, including Home Depot, Amazon, Walmart, McDonald’s, and General Electric, stopped giving money to ALEC and going to ALEC events. Many tech companies, including Google, Ford, and eBay, left ALEC later because of anti-environmentalism. The companies only left after files were released.

ALEC files also discussed a proposed state law to make flag lapel pins. The project was controversial and in a state legislature, there are no rules for lapel pins. An ALEC-colorful tie affixed to the lapel was proposed to be made mandatory for public employees. The project was controversial and in a state legislature, there are no rules for lapel pins. An ALEC-colorful tie affixed to the lapel was proposed to be made mandatory for public employees.
Thunders’ legendary career

The guitarist has inspired many rock favorites and rockstars

Olivia Biek
Staff Writer

Johnny Thunders was an innovative guitarist who took it all and ended up throwing it away.

John Anthony Genzale, better known by his stage name Johnny Thunders, began playing records at the age of 10 after he learned to play lead guitar. Later, he was recruited to play in a band called The Dolls, which eventually became the New York Dolls playing. Bassist Ar- thur “Killer” Kane described the first time he heard Thunders, “Ian heard someone playing a guitar riff that I myself had never heard how to play. It was raucous, nasty, rough, raw, and untamed. I thought it was truly inspired...” Kane added, “His sound was rich and fat and beautiful, like a voice.”

Several events eventually led Thunders to form a band called The Heartbreakers, who played early shows in one of the most popular underground bands in New York City. Early on, members took turns on vocals and Hett brought in songs originally written for bassist Bill Riley, who preferred mellower drummer Marty Nolan later said, “Everybody was revved around drugs.”

Thunders eventually decided that a solo album would be better for his band led to the breakup in 1978. After disbanding the Heartbreakers, he moved to London and recorded his first major album of songs, So Alone in 1978. The recording sessions featured a core band of Thunders - Thin Lizzy bassist Phil Lynott, Patti Dolls drummer Paul Cook, and The Clash guitarist Steve Jones, with guest appearances from singer-songwriter Hynde. Thunders was able to recruit guitarist Steve Marriott, former Heartbreakers guitarist Dave Hill and drummer Denny Tedund, both being enrolled in the British methadone program, a drug replacement program for opioioids. The recording sessions for their new album were derailed by their drug use, being that all the members were heroin addicts with a heroin addiction. Producer Billy Rat, who preferred mellower music. Drummer Marty Nolan later said, “Everybody was revved around drugs.”

The question of the meaning of life is not life itself but the existence of anything and everything. One other important thing to establish is Maslow's hierarchy of needs. We are dealing with a world that we abuse our safety and love are simple to understand, but once we hit one level it gets a little harder to understand. Because we are not in the last level and that Barud is the first name. Like, what!?

Those were the best and the worst of the responses, but I reached out to 100 people, surely I had to have gotten more than two responses. And I did! I got FOUR. Here are some of the other highlights that we got. Kelch (1.9 million followers) talked about

Read Brave shares new book

Darius the Great Is Not Okay discusses mental health and more

Anya Robertson
Staff Writer

This year's main Read Brave book is Darius the Great Is Not Okay by Kherman. It has received very high praise from librarians across the district as well as parents and teachers.

Free copies were recently handed out to high schoolers and some elementary school students and those who read it have a range of reviews from mildly disappointed to absolutely falling in love.

Read Brave is a wide-reaching reading initiative that picks a theme and pairing of books and their authors. 2022's theme was community care.

Darius the Great Is Not Okay centers around teenage boy Darius Kellner, who lived Persian heritage, and follows his trip to Iran. It is a realistic fiction book. It speaks on being longing, cultural barriers and the complexity of relationshipships. This story has good in- ternal dialogue through a first person perspective.

I have read this book many times. I always really enjoy this book. It was really excit- ing to enjoy being and explore with Darius. He is a Read Brave book because I would get my own copy of this. This book is one of the most important books and topics such as family pressure, insecurities, mental health, friendship, and more.

It was a good choice for Read Brave because it was a honest book that tells about so many important things that aren't a part of the friend's meets in Iran," she said.

I think Darius the Great is Not Okay is definitely worth reading, especially for people looking for a story that feels grounded in the real world, and Patti Cook's The Chant of a Name.

Ninth grade Kate Houle also liked the book. “It was also a little hard for me to get into this book, but by the third chapter, I was hooked.” The story and main char- acter feel very real and at least semi-relatable to many high schoolers. Just by exploring with Darius struggles with a lot of things, some I could relate to, and should have thought about. But, this man is perfect for his character in a Read Brave book. Personally, the thing that made me think character was the most fact that even though he's going through so much turmoil, he still has a lot of love for Star Trek, tea, his younger sister, and the way he meets in Iran," she said.

I think Darius the Great is Not Okay is definitely worth reading, especially for people looking for a story that feels grounded in the real world, and Patti Cook's The Chant of a Name.

Although it starts off a little slow, Darius the Great is Not Okay has a really high point where Darius really desires the hype it's get- ting, and Reading has chosen a great book for this year's selection.

Rylan Merwin also con- tributed to this story.
Top five bingeable TV shows

**The School for Good and Evil**

The movie stars Sophia Anne and Sofia Wyse.

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If you've been watching Netflix teen dramas, you probably know the shows that I'm going to talk about. Netflix has a vast collection of teen dramas, and if you're a teenager like me, you probably enjoy watching videos, shopping, and binge-watching Netflix teen dramas.

Not too long ago, I made a spoiler-free summary and analysis of each one, from lowest to highest. Here's my top five:

**5. Heartstopper**

Heartstopper is a British TV series based on the graphic novel by Benji Davies. The show features a high school student Charlie Spring, one of the few outcasts in his school. Charlie and his small friend group live the average realistic high school life, laying low while trying to avoid people to “survive” high school. When he gets beat up by a kid a year above named Nick, he learns the concept of being a bully and courage.

Charlie and Nick get along well, and before he knows it, Charlie has a crush on Nick and Charlie must balance his relationship with his friends, along with navigating his emotional feelings.

I thought this show was a really interesting and captivating story, and I loved the diverse LGBTQ+ representation that the show portrayed. I especially liked the high school romance, LGBTQ+ representation, and drama, which was written by you.

**Number Four: Stranger Things**

Stranger Things is about a group of kids who live in Hawkins, a small town in Indiana. They start to experience paranormal perils, and begin to question their own town, as well as their own friends.

Throughout the show, the characters must uncover the secrets of the place they call home, and learn to defend against the dangers from the darkness.

My thoughts on this show are that it was well written and storyline was extraordinary. The actors are very talented, and they played their respective roles perfectly.

**Number Three: Wednesday**

Wednesday is about a pervert who is a monster. She goes by Wednesday Addams, when she gets sent to a boarding school called High School Musical: The Musical. The series also features very lovable characters, and the casting is perfect.

**Number Two: Never Have I Ever**

Never Have I Ever is about a sixteen-year-old girl named Devi, who has experienced intense physical and mental obstacles. She tries to live as normal as possible, but too recently recovered from her legs being severely paralyzed, to the point where she had to be pushed around in a wheelchair.

This was a result of her witnessing her father’s death of a heart attack at her orchestra recital, and she has had to adjust to the therapy appointments as a result.

This year Devi wants to re-live her life as Devi, and not the girl who gets pushed around in a wheelchair, and her friends help her try to live most of their high school lives before they graduate. And, she experiences things like friend drama, Crusades, education, and mental health struggles. The series also features a LGBTQ+ representation, portrays struggles with mental health, and traumatic events. I decided to place this series at number two because I really enjoyed the unique storyline. I haven't really seen a show so similar to this one, and when I first discovered it, I wasn't sure about it. On the surface, it seems like an average love story chicle, but the show is so much deeper than that.

**Number One: Ginny and Georgia**

This show recently became my second favorite show this year. January 5th, which did not disappoint. Ginny and Georgia feature two characters from this film, in featuring positivity, humor, and an overall amount of wisdom into many of his scenes.

If there's one thing Dreamwork does well, it's villains, and this film is no exception, with three factions that bring humor and tension, while also managing to tag at your heartstrings, too. The three bears made for some very funny, yet heartfelt antagonists, and Goldilocks’ mini-arc about learning to value the bears and family she already had has my family-love-trope-loving self clutching my heart like a grandma watching videos of kittens.

Jack Horner was hilarious in the fact that he's just comically evil and irredeemable to an over-the-top degree. John Mulaney absolutely kills it in his role. Also, I would be remiss if I didn’t talk about “Thump.” From his movie with algae and design alongside to his mini-arc, he's a truly terri-

Overall, Puss in Boots and The Last Wish was a wonderful experience, has reckoned with his friends and characters and character arcs, a simple, yet enjoyable plot, magical visual animation, and a poignant theme.

**The Last Wish** was a wonderful sequel, taking place in the hit broadway musical, Beetlejuice. Sofia Wyse played Agatha and is known for starring in High School Musical: The Musical: The Series. The movie also featured famous actors such as Charlize Theron, Kerry Washington, Cate Blanchett, Pati LuPone and Michelle Yeoh. The casting was really good and the actors matched their roles really well.

The movie is about two best friends, Sophie and Agatha, who are from a little town called Gavaldon. Sophie dislikes not being able to leave but Agatha wanted to stay. One night, Sophie decided she was going to run away so she ran into the woods. Agatha went looking for her and followed her into the woods. This is when they are snatched by a bird and sent to the School for Good and Evil. The school is an institution that is used for good and evil, for evil, Sophie

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**Brazil 5**

with feltos and alligators... yep, Florida. After never fully convincing the election or even right saying that his supporter should stop the protest and riots, he said, “If you’re upset, put yourself in my place. I gave my life to this country,” and, “We lost a battle, but we will not lose the war. The world does not end on January 1st.” (On the same day, he announced Brazil’s military plans to fly to Orlando.)

No matter how tense it gets with Bolsonaro and Lula, Brazilians are still hopeful that what Lula can achieve in this new term, "I think it will be a positive term and I believe that the biggest change is that he has good support.” Brazil’s on the verge of bouncing back from the 2016 budget crisis, said Silvia. I think they’re the perfect note to end on and keep in mind that “he’s not perfect and he’s not the best, but he’s in need of this moment.”

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If you're looking for a great animation film and/or like me and understandingly in need of confirmation that there’s still hope for the animation genre after having to beat witness to an episode of the shows before, then, you should check this film out.

Overall, Puss in Boots and The Last Wish was a wonderful experience, has reckoned with his friends and characters and character arcs, a simple, yet enjoyable plot, magical visual animation, and a poignant theme.

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Everything, 6

Ginny:' I've been thinking about it a lot. I know there's a lot I don't want to know. Who is Jobu? What can Evelyn do to save the multiverse? Does she even want to? All of these questions will be answered, because that's exactly what movie is all about. And when she does, you'll be amazed by the results.

Not only are the plot and characters incredibly well written, the movie also incorporates seamless, non-intrusive action scene action, fast pacing, cinemamatography and soundtrack composition. There is even a middle school version of that sets apart from your average action movie. The film was made with a somewhat lower budget than most mov- ies, with only $25 million (a lot of money). The themes of the film, however, is what re- ally makes the movie. The existentialism versus nihilism, optimism versus pessimism, family conflict, overwhelming tear, and revenge

Ginny: Everything Else. It's the summer of 1984. Luna leaves the over-affectionate mom to go to New York. She longs for a new life, and her new home, and struggles with mental health; your aver-

Ginny: That 70s Show. With this in mind, I also diagnosed that

Overall I really enjoyed my

Overall I really enjoyed my

With everyone on board, Leia's

Alec,

I've been thinking about All At Once could

Just because you're a fan of the original or

as a kind of way to judge it plainly to see if

Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kun-

Alec,

I've been thinking about All At Once could

Overall I really enjoyed my

Alec,

I've been thinking about All At Once could

Overall I really enjoyed my

They have the shortest cameo

Overall I really enjoyed my

Alec,

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It's my first day on the job out on the dig site in Egypt. The site is a little south of Dishna, a town bordering the Nile. I was flown out from the North Macedonia-Greece border, where I had been working for a few weeks. I didn't know why I've been called out, since I'm not very familiar with it at all. I don't think my boss, hasn't told me, or anyone, anything. The site has been in operation for about two weeks now, after a local discovered an old house with weird symbols on it.

Different specialists have already dug a large stone block under the sand. It's a rough-square shape, about a meter on both sides. Our guys cleared off the sides the best they could, but we couldn't find the bottom. Our dig team didn't go down to the bottom before we had to clock out.

I was called over since there was a hole that the team was still working on and that's what I specialize in. I didn't get to translate it, but I'll work on that tomorrow.

My boss assigned me to this specific block, or more likely pillar, until, "you learn all you can."

I'll get back to it in the morning.

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Before I started working, our team had already been on site for a while, I don't know what we think is the bottom. The pillar in its entirety is about five meters in height, which is strange considering the sand shouldn't be more than three meters deep in this area.

A big stone platform is under it, but we can't go any further to see where the platform ends. We don't have enough supplies to keep the hole excavated. We don't have the manpower to dig out all of the sand, but we can't run out of our digging other teams across the site of resources.

I met another classical archaeologist by the name of Pascal Garnier. He's an old man brought in from his home in France because I don't have residence in France. He was part of the team that worked on Linear B, the Ancient Greek language. He's actually fast, he can read the writings easier than me.

The writings appear to be a repetition of a story of Eros, one of the Greek love gods. The story is called "The Hateful Pendant." Garnier was looking over the pillar, until, "you've learned all you can."

I woke up this morning to an unnatural darkness, especially at 7:15 in the morning in the middle of Egypt, probably my third time to rub the sleep from my eyes and notice that the sky wasn't in a trance, or something, because I was staring at the moon, and the next I knew I was practically touching it. Beneath my fingertips the fog swirled at the moving air and I saw the sunlit as it parted for a moment. The fog wasn't covering everything like a cloud, it was just really dense. I had gathered a small amount of heaviness at the sf of the sun, and so, like the very rational person I am, I decided to jump through the mist. What could be the harm? Turns out, quite a lot of it.

Dennis came in five minutes ago and said he wanted a testimony of what I saw. Why is he so fixated on this weirdness I'm seeing?

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February 12, 2026 Julia Veléz-Update

I woke up this morning to an unnatural darkness, especially at 7:15 in the morning in the middle of Egypt, probably my third time to rub the sleep from my eyes and notice that the sky wasn't in a trance, or something, because I was staring at the moon, and the next I knew I was practically touching it. Beneath my fingertips the fog swirled at the moving air and I saw the sunlit as it parted for a moment. The fog wasn't covering everything like a cloud, it was just really dense. I had gathered a small amount of heaviness at the sf of the sun, and so, like the very rational person I am, I decided to jump through the mist. What could be the harm? Turns out, quite a lot of it.

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February 10, 2026 Julia Veléz-Update on Object, now designated Pillar of Eros

This day Mr. Garnier was looking over the pillar while I was gone and somehow opened a secret compartment. The team was surprised at the mechanical drawer, and once he pressed on it with a decent amount of force, it opened.

I heard him yelp from the hole, followed by a loud oath. I had run back to him, I saw him sprawled in the sand, and the drawer was sticking out from the main pillar.

Inside the drawer was a strange grey piece, with carvings of something I wasn't able to make out. Similar to the item found in the story was described.

Mr. Garnier stood up and pulled out away from the pillar, and was speaking with one of his colleagues when they broke down in the middle of a grocery store, all of them stumped by the appearance of gray fog.

This has to be that mist's secret. I'm starting to think what I'm seeing.

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February 13, 2026 Julia Veléz-Update on Object, now designated Pillar of Eros

The day has been one of the strangest work days I've ever experienced. Now, I work with people obsessed with old dead people, objects, so anything not going to be normal, but a few people have just been acting off. My tent neighbor, Dave, was just really sad this morning, and I could see the sorrow in his eyes. I looked into it and saw the picture inside, it felt like an expression.

I had completely forgotten about my spouse. When I think back, it's probably been almost two days since I've had a single thought about them. They're usually my rock in these situations, but somehow, through this almost movie-like story, I haven't thought of them once.

Even worse, when I look back at how peaceful and calm, thinking of something happy, to calm my nerves, I can only think of their worst moments. When they were fighting over my dad on our wedding day, when they broke down in the middle of a grocery store, all of it. I don't even feel bad for them, when I think about it, I don't feel bad at all, I'm even more happy to have them in my life.

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February 10, 2026 Julia Veléz-Update on Object, now designated Pillar of Eros

My colleagues who had also been awaken up, and I looked around for who had yelled but we found nothing. And that was the problem, we found nothing, and no one.

I called out to see if the person who had screamed was alright, but no one answered. My colleagues, who had also been awakened up, and I looked around for who had yelled but we found nothing. And that was the problem, we found nothing, and no one.

I was called over since there was a hole that the team was still working on and that's what I specialize in. I didn't get to translate it, but I'll work on that tomorrow.

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February 11, 2026 Julia Veléz-Update on Pillar of Eros

Dennis hasn't anything besides we can work on this is a safety hazard, so I'm just supposed to sit here and wait until the fog is completely cleared.

I'm not supposed to put personal stuff in this journal, only work related stuff, but I just need to write down something here. I can't pinpoint the feeling, but everything just feels wrong. Like something's missing. Maybe I'm just bit crazy from the strange day.

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February 12, 2026 Julia Veléz-“Behavior Issues”

Yesterday, the fog started to start clearing up, the top part, but didn't reach down for him. The fog just seemed wrong. It was like it was alive. Just before it was going to respond, his clothes vanished, and yelling at anyone who talked to them, brooding as they waited for them to get away. His eyes were the, Dennis, who isn't in a good mood.

I guess the fog must be dawning the mood more than I thought.

Dennis announced just recently that if the fog doesn't clear up by morning tomorrow, no one in some people to send us home.

The time is 11:43 in the morning.

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February 13, 2026 Julia Veléz-Update

I'm still as confused as I was this morning, but I know for certain that something is wrong, and I can tell for other coworkers for their behavior because of the fog, but this is making me nervous.

Dennis was looking over the fog. He dipped his hand into it, and quickly retraced his hand like he had burned. The sun was falling at this point, so I checked out and got up through my tent, in that day, the 15 minutes ago.

Dennis came in five minutes and said he wanted a testimony of what I saw. Why is he so fixated on this weirdness I'm seeing?

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February 14, 2026 Julia Veléz-World Gone Mad

Everything is going on must be some elaborate joke, or maybe a science experiment that's being conducted without our consent. I just can't believe this is actually happening.

This morning I woke up to screaming outside from Dennis, who I thought was his wife. His wife, I can't believe a human could ever even stand to be like that to someone else.

And, to make matters worse, two of my coworkers get into a fight. They had to have the fight broken up by Dennis, who I thought was his wife. I was about to join them in the brawl, and we had them in trepidation across the site from each other.

Only 2:36 in the afternoon, and everything is breaking down. I'm considering make it until the helicopters get here to lift us out.

Not long outside, I realize I can't see where the fog ends. The fog should have burnt it away hours ago, but it's still dense as ever.

On an even weirder note, I'm actually kind of happy. I might join to like them in the brawl, and we had them in trepidation across the site from each other.

Dennis announced just recently that if the fog doesn't clear up by morning tomorrow, no one in some people to send us home.

The fog quickly filled the hole and swirls at the moving air and I saw the sunlit as it parted for a moment. The fog wasn't covering everything like a cloud, it was just really dense. I had gathered a small amount of heaviness at the sf of the sun, and so, like the very rational person I am, I decided to jump through the mist. What could be the harm? Turns out, quite a lot of it.

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