

A robot that writes your essays?  
-Page 5



Same shirt every day?  
-Page 4



Top 5 teen dramas  
-Page 8

# Purple Press

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## Lego League teams advance to state

*Brick Birds, BWL advance; Robo Raptors win design award*

**Meara Gunderson**  
Staff Writer

On January 28th, OWL had three teams competing at the Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) regional First LEGO League competition. The three teams, Sorcha's Robo Raptors, Clara's Better with LEGO, and Megan's Brick Birds, all won awards. The Brick Birds and Better with LEGO also

were among the eight SPPS teams to advance to the state championship, which took place on February 12.

The regional tournament, for 4th through 8th grade students, brings together around 50 teams from many different SPPS Elementary and Middle schools. The Robo Raptors won the Robot Design Award (only four winners in all of SPPS), Better with

LEGO won the Engineering Excellence Award (only one in all of SPPS), and the Brick Birds won the Core Values Award (also only four in all of SPPS).

The Core Values Award is something the Brick Birds coach Megan had been hoping to win. The core values of First LEGO League are well reflected on the Brick Birds, many of whom have been

doing LEGO League together since 6th grade.

The teams have had to overcome many challenges along the way since starting practices in October. Having to build and code robots, create a unique research project, and complete team building activities, the competitors all arrived at the competition well rounded, with a lot of hard work behind them. When

eighth grader Connie Van Genderen on the Brick Birds was asked about how she felt the competition went, she said, "It was good, it was fun. There were a lot of teams there, it was a little nerve racking. We had lost a player to COVID and another to a basketball tournament so we were down two players but that's okay."



Adriana Alejandro Osorio ...  
**Senior mentor Isaac Stender with Xander Gottfried.**

## Solitude & Reflection: origin story



Damon Liberatore

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

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

Read part one of Solitude & Reflection: origin story in issue three of the Purple Press, released on January 20th.

**Nick Christopherson**  
Staff Writer

After the success of the first video, Jeff and Damon knew that they had to make more, so the next year, they did. In

fact, Jeff and Damon are still producing the videos to this day. They work together to figure out where the story will go next and what funny movie references they could throw in along the way, and then Jeff goes off and writes the scripts for each of the videos at home. "When I get an idea or when I

start writing, I'll take that time right then and there to complete it," he said. "So sometimes I'll start writing a simple sketch that should take me maybe a half hour to do. Pretty soon I've thought of like five other ideas to attach to it and it's like three hours later." Even though Jeff takes a lot of time

and writes all the scripts by himself, he and Damon work very closely on each video. "It's a collaboration between Jeff and I completely," Damon said. Damon described himself as the studio overseeing the whole story, and Jeff as the guy who handles the episode-to-episode stuff.

After the script is written, then the actual filming of the videos happens, which is often the hardest part of production. All the teachers here at OWL are obviously very busy, so finding a time when they would be available to film can be pretty challenging. "The

Solitude and Reflection, 2

## Mock Trial team goes 1-1, two matches left

*OWL team learns finer points of the legal system*



Photo courtesy of Tom Totushek

OWL's mock trial team posed for a photo after a match.

**Aanen Kulseth**  
Staff Writer

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's Isaac Stender, Lucy Keenan, and yours truly Aanen Kulseth.

This trial of course was not real, but rather a part of Min-

nesota'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

Mock Trial, 3

## Kanye West's radicalization

**David Griffith**  
Staff Writer

On October 7, 2022, famed rapper Kanye West posted photos of himself at Yeezy Szn7, one of his events. In the photos he was wearing a White Lives Matter shirt alongside conservative commentator Candice Owens. This event sparked Kanye's most recent ongoing "conservative arc," starting a run of multiple media appearances and controversial comments that mostly contained his views on Jewish conspiracies. This led to the loss of sponsorships and money for West.

The comments Kanye made since his appearances on conservative platforms show another example of how anti-semitism is a big part of the Republican party and other fringe far-right groups. It also shows how conservatives are desperate to use celebrities as talking heads and "cancel culture" as an excuse for when things go wrong.

This is not Kanye's first run-in with controversy. In 2018 he made comments stating that slavery was a choice. This, alongside Kanye's support of former president Trump, made him a controversial figure before 2022. When Kanye wore the White Lives Matter shirt in early October, he received support from mainstream conservatives such as Tucker Carlson, Steven Crowder and Ben Shapiro. This was not seen as particularly unusual, as Kanye has made anti-Black statements

Kanye, 4



# Senior Spotlight

Sofia Maldonado



**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 Luke'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?**  
Got to be Real by Cheryl Lynn.

## That One Little Kid

Jasper Balian



**What pronouns do you use?**  
He/him.

**How tall are you?**  
5' 6"

**What's your favorite book, movie or tv show?**  
Heartstopper

**Who's your favorite senior?**  
Nox

**What is your favorite video game?**  
Beatsaber.

**What extracurriculars do you plan on getting involved in at OWL?**  
GSA.

## Fraquetball stakes are high

Winners from semester one lunches were crowned late January

**Marshall Wasmund**  
Staff Writer

There was some intense Fraquetball action in the hallway in January. It was the third lunch finals for high school: Alpha Numericals VS 1145 Randolph Ave. The 1145 Randolph boys scored first with an ace from 10th grader Arthur Madsen. Then the Alpha Numericals scored a point with a shot from math teacher Tom Totushek 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 Numericals scored with a shot from Tom making the score 3-2. Next the Alpha Numericals 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 Randolph Ave scored again making the score 6-3. Next 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

7-4. 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 serves.

Fraquetball was invented by OWL students in 2002 and has been played by both teachers and students ever since. "I have really enjoyed 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 for 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 Antonino Cervantes.

The 1145 Randolph Ave win was a big upset because the Alpha Numericals have won the championship two times. The Gentle Giants (Sean Keith/Cameron Beitler) and Los Geezers (Tim Leone-Getten/Leo Bickelhaupt) are tied for the most championships with three wins. The 2022-2023 winter season there were five teams that won every single game before the playoffs. Those teams were Los Geezers, Bald m+m's, Alpha Numericals, Rubys, and the Fine Pumpkins. These teams were

favoring going into their lunch finals.

This year there are 3 people running fraquetball: seniors Ian Brooks and Brodie Olmstead, and junior Cooper Peterson Antin. Next year Cooper will be head commissioner of fraquetball. The leaders of fraquetball have to do a lot of planning to make the playoffs and championship happen. "First we seed the teams based on win/loss records and strength of schedule, then find bracket formats that work for the different numbers of teams in each lunch. At the end of the year we use a format that finds the best few teams in each lunch so they can be put into an 8-team championship bracket," said Ian. But the spring playoffs are a little more complicated to set up. For the spring championship games, inter-lunch games have to be played during crew periods

and sometimes after school.

The three teams in the middle school bracket that won their lunch are Paddle Bros, who won the first lunch middle school bracket, Spiky Demons, who won the second lunch middle school bracket, and Purples, who won the third lunch middle school bracket. The three teams in the high school bracket that won their lunch are R6 Bots who won the first lunch high school bracket, Los Geezers who won the second lunch high school bracket, and 1145 Randolph Ave won the third lunch high school bracket.

The winner of the championship in the spring gets their team name on the wall by the fraquetball court next to all the other winners, which is a big deal because you will always be there even after you graduate.



A middle schooler prepares for an overhead smash

## Food production with a sustainable lens

Megan's class learns CTE skills while making everyday foods

**Violet Baer-Benson**  
Staff Writer

It is the second hour on a B day. 11th grader Mae Heeringa and 10th graders Gabby Govrik and Kiara Steiner walk through the halls, going from classroom to classroom handing out little bowls of wild rice soup to each teacher. "Rate it on a scale from 1-10," they ask.

These students were all a part of the Sustainable Food Production class, and just learned how to make wild rice soup. This all began this year when science teacher Megan Hall started teaching the Sustainable Food Production class. This class ran through quarter 1 and 2, although Megan said that she will continue to offer this class in the years to come, "if fate allows." In quarters 2 and 3, Megan will be teaching a class called Food Science, so make sure to sign up. In order to teach this class you have to have a CTE-Ag Education (Career and Technical Education Agricultural Education License). Students who participate in this class will receive a CTE credit.

On a typical day in this class there are both academic

and cooking activities. "Many students enjoy engaging in both," Megan said, "I have (also) noticed there are a couple of students from each class who excel at getting the kitchen sparkling, and safe." Some of Megan's favorite parts of teaching this class have been making the soups and latkes. In addition, Megan enjoyed the classes in which students began to bring in recipes from home, and reflect on how food traditions sustain their home cultures. A challenge that Megan experienced was adapting how to teach effectively in a shared space after teaching on the third floor for years.

Students seemed to enjoy all parts of this class as it consists of cooking, discussion, as well as work time. In this class students have enjoyed making pancakes, latkes, soups, pastas, and more. 10th grader Gabby Govrik said, "I loved cooking, eating, and getting the chance to collaborate with my classmates." This class ended after the first semester, although Megan plans on continuing to offer both of these classes in the future.

### Mock Trial, 1

and work with their side's attorneys to win.

"It's fun playing a part and memorizing things. It can be hard sometimes, being in the spotlight sitting at the witness stand. It's scary, everyone is looking at you, but actually I like it," said 10th grader Galadrial Barrett.

The case this year is about medical malpractice. A swimmer named Jamie Morton is claiming that their doctor, Ardi Ramidus, made a mistake in an ACL surgery that cost Jamie their career. There is testimony from one of Jamie's former teammates, their coach, their physical therapist, a medical expert, and of course, both Jamie and Dr. Ramidus.

The team is 1 - 1 so far. The first match was won fairly smoothly on defense. In the second match, they had significantly less preparation time, so the defeat is understandable.

The facts of the case are structured where either team could get the upper hand and it's not a forgone conclusion. A team will have to question both their own and their opponents' witnesses, as well as construct an opening and closing argument. Since it's not a real trial, the winner is determined by judges who give points for various actions. Things like properly objecting, or submitting exhibits will net points.

The team itself is closely tied together since everyone

depends on each other for the case to work. "I really like the community that we have, with our small group of people. It's a lot of fun being at competitions and the next day being able to talk about your favorite parts of it," said Galadrial.

This is the first year since the pandemic that Mock Trial will be done in-person. For the past couple of years, all matches took place on Zoom, rather than in a courtroom. In addition to technical problems, this posed an interesting change to the overall feeling of Mock Trial. "Both ways are stressful, but online you're more singled out. The first year we had online we were at our houses, and you couldn't talk to anybody before the trial. It was freaky. In person you're in the courtroom, so there's more of the actual etiquette and it's easier to have smaller movements. On Zoom it's like just staring at the screen, so it doesn't work as well," said Galadrial.

Mock Trial offers students the opportunity to work on a variety of skills. "[I'd recommend Mock Trial to] anybody who likes arguing or objecting. That's for if you wanna be a lawyer. For witnesses, I'd say someone who wants to get out of their comfort zone, or someone who likes acting, because that's a big part of it," said Galadrial.

As of writing this, the team still has two trials left to play, but if they do well enough they may end up making state and playing more.

# Archery team looks to state

*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, he solidified his place as third overall for 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 Wind-

ingstad, Maddie Linstad, 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.

The team competes with subteams chosen by team captains at their practices. The archery team last year was very close to making it onto the podium at the state tournament, where they were short by just six points, so they believe plac-

ing at 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 finished fourth. Ian RS not only finished first for high school boys but third in boys overall. Claire finished second of 22 for 9th-grade girls, and up-and-coming archer 7th grader Olli Liimata finished fourth of 106 for middle school boys and first for 7th-grade boys.

Another OWL archer in

middle school, Benji Diaz, finished second for 7th-grade boys. 7th grader Maggie Jansen finished 3rd for 7th grade girls, and 8th grader Oscar Mons finished 3rd for 8th grade boys.

The team looks like it's meeting its own expectations so far. Things seem in line for placing at state as some are already placing high at meets/tournaments. There are a considerable amount of great middle school archers on the team based on these placements, and this season and seasons in the near future seem to be looking good.



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



Purple Press file photos



Purple Press Staff Photo

## 1 outfit, 165 days Daniel has worn 'A good day for a good day' shirt all year

**Aria Kulseth and Claire Ales**  
Staff Writers

Many people worry about what they're going to wear each day, but for 12th grader Daniel Meekin, that's not a problem. Why? Because he wears the exact same outfit every single day!

If you've seen Daniel in the halls you might have noticed that 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 wearing 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 perfect shirt at a Target. The main idea of wearing the same outfit every day was just to be funny, but over time, more people began to notice.

For those of you that are wondering how he could wear the same outfit everyday without smelling bad, Daniel has five identical pairs of shirts and socks, and three pairs of pants. "I wanted it to be where every picture that was taken during the school day, I would look the exact same," said Daniel. When asked about whether or not people have commented on his outfit, Daniel said that a surprisingly small amount of people actually bring it up.

This actually isn't the first time that a member of the OWL community has worn the same outfit everyday. During the 2020-2021 school year, math teachers Tom Totushek and Clara Raineri would wear the same outfits on certain days of the week. Clara and Tom's situation was a little different though—their competition was to see whose students would say something about them wearing the same clothes first. In the end, neither of their students said anything about them wearing the same outfits, so it ended in a tie.

Daniel mentioned that the shirt wasn't supposed to mean anything significant, but to Daniel's friend, 12th grader Ian Brooks, it helped him put words to his goal. At the college march on December 9th, Ian gave a speech revolving around the message and the meaning of "it's a good day for a good day." "I've always struggled to live in the moment," said Ian. "And I've been trying to apply that in the moment mindset for a while, so Daniel's shirt was a really nice way of putting that into one phrase."

Daniel plans to continue his strange tradition and wear his outfit all the way to graduation. And if you were inspired by this story to try to wear the same outfit every day, Daniel would not recommend it.

# 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 Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas. It focuses on moments in history where people, places, or ideas were at the dividing line of what people thought or did, which can create 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 January 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 virtually by March 1st. About 4,500 students will participate in regionals from Minnesota and

other states. Following regionals, the state competition in Minnesota, will take place on April 22, and then finally Nationals, taking place between June 11-15. Minnesota will take 60 students to Nationals.

6th, 7th, and 11th graders are the only grades required to do History Day, but many students still participate 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, College Park for nationals.

"I think in-person contests are awesome," says OWL social studies teacher Katie Craven. "Seeing students check out their competition, support their classmates, and hang out together on a Saturday is fun to see."

"It's definitely an incentive," 11th graders Tess and Willa Champion also commented about Nationals being in person. "The times we went, it was virtual so we haven't really gotten the experience."

**Kanye, 1**  
before.

Only a few days after the White Lives Matter controversy Kanye posted a text thread on Instagram where he had messaged to rapper P-Diddy, "ima use you as an example to show the Jewish people that told you to call me that no one can threaten or influence me." The response to the posts were minimal and most people cast it aside as another weird thing Kanye said. After minor backlash to the post resulted in Instagram deleting it, Kanye went to Twitter to post a tweet saying, "I'm a bit sleepy tonight but when I wake up I'm going death con 3 on JEWISH PEOPLE." This whole rant was alleging that Jewish people were to blame for all his problems involving his music and businesses.

After the DEFCON 3 tweet, Kanye did an interview with Tucker Carlson to expand on his conservative views. On the surface the interview discussed Kanye's views on abortion and his other conservative values, but later leaked footage

showed Kanye's hardline antisemitic beliefs. When everything came out about Kanye's anti-semitism, he went on the Drink Champs podcast and spouted lies and conspiracies relating to George Floyd's death. He then went on to meet with former president Trump at Mar-a-Lago. Kanye kept going further down right wing circles, getting involved with fringe figures such as Milo Yiannopoulos, Hank Pecker, and Nick Fuentes, who openly spout their racist and antisemitic beliefs.

Kanye's media coverage mostly ended when he went on InfoWars with Alex Jones and Nick Fuentes. On the show Kanye continued his antisemitic rants, praising Hitler and the Nazis as well as spreading other harmful conspiracies. The response to this was largely critical but there were some right-wingers on Twitter who seemed to agree with Kanye's support of Nazis. This was considered Kanye's last big appearance as he had "gone too far," although he still appears on fringe right-wing platforms to this day.

Kanye's story is not an anomaly in conservative media. Especially in the past few years, conservatives want to use celebrities that have been "canceled" for controversial comments. These "canceled" celebrities will then appear on right-wing platforms to spread propaganda for conservatives. This often leads to the celebrities becoming more radical in their views.

An example of this is Gina Carano, an actress who was kicked off of the TV series The Mandalorian for making antisemitic tweets. She was then picked up by Ben Shapiro and the Daily Wire. She became more radical in her views, appearing on Daily Wire productions. The same exact thing happened when Kanye was canceled, but the only difference was that Kanye, unlike other celebrities, went beyond sanitized, pre-recorded conservative content. Kanye went on social media and live platforms where there were no restrictions on what he could say, and well... he said stuff.

Antisemitism has been embedded in the modern con-

servative movement since its inception. At mainstream conservative protests like January 6th and Charlottesville, there have been many examples of antisemitic sentiment and imagery such as the 'Jews will not replace us' chant at the Charlottesville rallies, and the constant fear of 'globalists.' While some right-wing pundits have tried to cover it up, antisemitism is still rising in right-wing movements, allowing for easier access to antisemitic conspiracies and content. This is how Kanye got radicalized, by consuming mainstream conservative content and getting pushed further right, finding a place in antisemitism conspiracy theories.

In the past few weeks, Kanye has been getting less and less media coverage, but similar stories with other celebrities are bound to happen. The idea of "cancel culture" is still being used to prop up far-right ideals and push those ideas on an audience of impressionable fans. Debates are still ongoing about how to respond to these problems.

## Upcoming Events

**Thursday, February 16th:** NAAPID 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)

**Tuesday, March 14th:** PTO Community Meeting (6:30 pm)

**Saturday, March 18th:** Regional History Day (Tentative)

**Friday, March 31st:** End of Quarter 3

**April 3rd - April 7th:** Spring Break

# Nation and World

## Trans Healthcare in America

*The US healthcare system marginalizes transgender people*

**Michael Ryan**  
Staff Writer

The healthcare system in the United States is not kind to transgender individuals. Not just that of the sex reassignment process, but health care in general as a whole. This is becoming a more prevalent thought than it has been in years past due to the growing necessity that comes along with the increasing number of trans people. If a society excludes people from those who are considered to be strange or different, then that is not a fair or just society and needs to be thoroughly re-examined.

In *Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey*, (2011) it was found that 19% of transgender individuals reported being refused medical service on account of their trans status. In the 2015

U.S. Transgender Survey by The National Center for Transgender Equality, 33% of trans people said they have had at least one negative experience, including being denied.

A large number of doctors—50% according to the aforementioned National Transgender Discrimination Survey—were reported as having to be taught about transgender care by their patients.

Because of experiences and stories like above, 28% reported postponing their medical care. In a poll on the NPR website in 2017, 22% of trans people said they avoided doctors for fear of discrimination, and in the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey, 23%.

The average percentage of the people who postponed medical care is 24%, according to the statistics above.

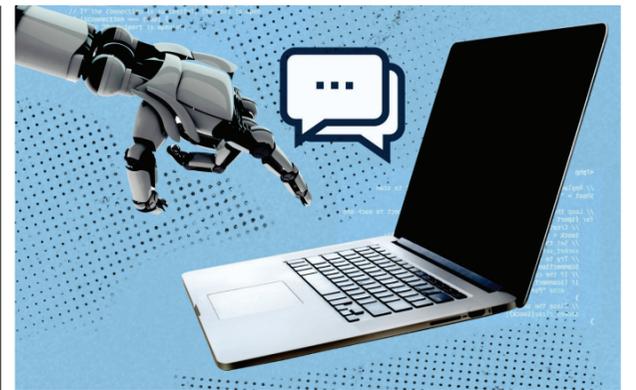
This may not seem like much, but when put into perspective against the 1.3 million transgender people in the United States, that is 312,000 people that have been too afraid to go get healthcare because of who they are.

The easiest and most obvious way to stop this discrimination is to get doctors and healthcare providers educated about the needs of trans people. Even if they don't specialize in it, they should at least know of it. The entire point of a doctor is to know what is happening in a person's body, and if they are willingly ignorant about an entire group of people and the processes they undergo, they have failed as a doctor.

As for small scale change in this school, I do not really see what could be changed, as this is a school and not a

doctor's office. I have not had the chance to meet the school nurse, but I am sure that they are doing a good job in respecting all those who need treating.

A large number of transgender individuals have reported being harassed or denied healthcare because of their trans status. Because of that, many have postponed visiting doctors. Though the state of things isn't great now, it used to be far, far worse. There have been massive changes in how society views trans people, and it is almost accepted in many places to be trans. However, this doesn't change the fact that the healthcare system needs to change the way it treats transgender people. The main way of change is through kindness and education.



Elizabeth Hallanger

ChatGPT has made it harder to detect plagiarism.

## ChatGPT writes essays for students

*The new AI has raised concerns around academic integrity*

**Nick Streng**  
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 (Generative Pre-Trained Transformer) is a language model developed by OpenAI, a research organization 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 questions. 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 (foreshadowing). Essentially, the program scours the internet and its database looking for information to smash together into a response that is automatically spit out in a responding message. 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 unsettlingly, it proved 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 out of the picture, given that the internet is chock-full of such material, and its reach of knowledge is limited when it comes to any subject after 2021. And perhaps most importantly, it's rather difficult to generate an answer containing imagination and any kind of personality behind the writing - it is still an AI, after all. While experimenting with ChatGPT, I asked it to write essays and paragraphs on a variety of topics, including old English assignments, and while the content of the responses was mostly accurate and detailed, the presentation and structure was very stiff and unengaging, and many times I amusingly 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 OWL senior Jack Cheatham 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 manipulate public opinion. There are also concerns about the ethical implications of having AI systems generate text that can be mistaken for human writing, potentially leading to confusion and misinformation. While the technology behind ChatGPT and other

## Brazil riots mirror Jan. 6th

*Hardcore Bolsonaro followers imitate our MAGA extremists*

**Claire Hulson**  
Staff Writer

Freedom in Brazil has finally come, in part. As the former president Jair Bolsonaro finished his term of deforestation, corruption, and murder, Brazil got its first taste of freedom for about two days before Bolsonaro had his almost concession where he said that he and his followers were "stronger than ever," causing protests, riots, and hold ups all over Brazil.

After Bolsonaro's four year term as president of Brazil, he lost to former leftist president Luiz Lula da Silva or "Lula" by .9% in the 2022 election. "I

was worried about the election a lot. He has a lot of followers despite everything," said Gabriel Silva, a Brazilian from São Paulo speaking about Bolsonaro's diehard followers and their need to always keep Bolsonaro in the spotlight whether it's claiming a fake election or going online and idolizing his sexist and racist views.

Worst of all, his supporters caused a truck hold up that stopped a woman from getting to the hospital, resulting in her death. "Lots of truck drivers that didn't want to stay were forced to, and there are reports of a person who died because she need-

ed a body organ that unfortunately did not arrive due to the manifestations," said Silva.

Unfortunately that's not the end of it because if no one's stopping them, why would they stop? Not unlike the January 6th attack on the US capital, Bolsonaro's supporters stormed their capital building and other key buildings in Brazil's capital Brasilia. Only three days after the anniversary of the US attack and eight days after Lula was sworn into office, Bolsonaro stans stormed, rioted, and attacked everything on their path to the capital claiming the double counted election as fake. It's what we all

expected but the similarities between Bolsonaro supporters and Trump supporters, as well as Trump and Bolsonaro themselves, are uncanny. So far Lula has signed an emergency decree putting federal authorities in charge of security in Brazil's capital, as well as making around 1,500 arrests, saying, "There is no precedent for what they did and these people need to be punished."

You might be wondering where the infamous Bolsonaro went after everything. Just think of the one state where all the worst people go to hide

Brazil, 8

## Affordable housing policies

*US government officials have been slow to tackle homelessness*

**Serenity 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 can change the policies. I can visualize more money and help from the government to help 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 Rubin, a writer for the Eisner Knowledge Center. In his report there are a number of reasons for the decline of affordable housing. He mentions the pandemic, the housing bubble crisis of 2007, decrease in affordability of housing,

rent, prices rising nearly 25% in the last few years, and the great demand for housing across the economic spectrum. Urban gentrification has taken what was affordable for low income people, and made it unaffordable for the people to stay in the area. What are people to do when a minimum wage job only pays a couple thousand a month, and a cheap one-bedroom apartment is at least a thousand a month?

America is one of the richest countries in the world, but over 37.9 million people live in poverty according to the 2021 census. The government spends about \$1.5 trillion on the defense budget, but only 1.692 billion to provide healthcare.

How can we make housing affordable? According to americanprogress.org they suggest a bunch of ideas to help the supply of affordable housing. Because the supply of afford-

able housing is so low, rent prices are going up very fast. They suggest building more affordable housing and slow rental inflation so prices don't get worse. It is also suggested that we incentivize new con-

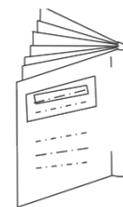
struction of affordable homes. It is also suggested that urban areas add more subsidized housing. And I believe that we need overall better jobs and opportunities to make money to afford a stable place to live.



Moss Windingstad



# Reviews 'n' stuff



Nox GebbenGreen

## ALEC helps corporations stay ahead

*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 it's the largest organization of state legislators in the nation, and connects them with corporations such as Eli Lilly, a pharmaceutical company, who wants 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 happens. Most of their legislative members are probably Republicans, judging by the legislative leaders in states that are shown on their website, but we don't know how many legislative members there are, or who they are. Some of their policies contributed to mass incarceration, 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 corporate interests, and both mass incarceration and a limited response to climate change are in corporate interests.

ALEC was founded in 1973 by the former Republican Illinois representative Henry Hyde, conservative activist Paul Weyrich, and Lou Barnett (who worked on Reagan's 1968 presidential campaign). During the 1980s, ALEC created task forces that became more like think tanks as corporate 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 Trayvon 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 proposal to make state leg-

ALEC, 9

## Murder mystery mania

*A Good Girl's Guide to Murder is suspenseful*

Connie Van Genderen  
Staff Writer

Five years, two families, two deaths, case closed. 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 sleeping pills in his system. Everyone thinks Sal killed Andie, but what happens 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 2019 and is gaining popularity. A dead case that Pippa "Pip" Fitz-Amobi, high school senior that investigates the case of the murder of Andie Bell, as well as the suicide of Salil "Sal" Singh in a school project, similar to a paper required 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 conclusions. 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, 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 suspects appear, nobody's safe, and the cover story is less believable.

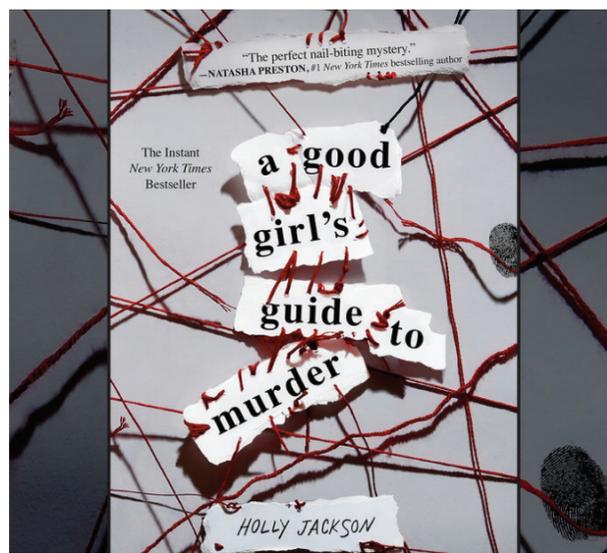
And as you would suspect, the investigation starts to become more and more dangerous, involving threats, drugs, and illegal op-

erations. At a glance *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* might seem lighthearted and a fun adventure, but it quickly gets dark and serious. Pippa 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'll lose something, someone, or yourself. In the end it kind of feels like a puzzle piece, fitting in perfectly with another in a flat color. The end has a very quick turnaround and it is very exciting so you don't re-

ally realize that you've finished the book. I recommend this book to people who like mysteries, and would like to read a more realistic mystery.

I really like the way they write and tell the story, it varies between reports, interviews, and dialogue. As the story progresses it gets more dangerous as throughout the book Pippa becomes more invested in the case, 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 critique I have is that the words to seconds ratio in the book was a little fast 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.



Penguin Random House

The book by Holly Jackson has become a NYT bestseller.

## That 90's Show is a quality reboot

*For those who never got quite enough of "That 70's show"*

Lucy Annis-Bercier  
Staff Writer

"Another day, another bad reboot," is what I would have said before watching *That 90's Show*, but this revival has reminded me of why reboots are, to put it plainly, so fun.

Yes, you could argue that they are just cash grabs that take advantage of the success of the original in hopes of replicating their prosperity. But viewership-wise, I believe people are drawn to the idea of experiencing their favorite movies 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 into its own thing. Making a spin-off of a beloved TV show or movie has to be dealt with very thoughtfully and if done the right way, it gives people the chance to relive the magic and see what their favorite 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 70's Show* would 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 disappointing reboot. It was filmed in a multi-cam format like the original, which is what you see on most sitcoms. The show casts a fresh face of young actors to play the *That 90's Show* gang. There are cameos from nearly the entire original cast but the only recurring characters 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 a name for themselves in the *That 70's Show* world.

"Times change, teenagers don't," is the tagline for this nostalgic sitcom and I think it describes the essence of this revival very well. The first episode reveals Kitty and Red in the same house 15 years later getting ready for their son Eric (Topher Grace), his wife Donna (Laura Prepon), and their 15-year-old daughter Leia (named after Princess Leia which is a homage to Eric's love for *Star Wars*) to visit them in Point Place Wisconsin for Fourth of July weekend in

90's Show, 9

## 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, chaotic, mind bending, existential, multi-genre masterpiece. It's a multiversal action film with strange bits of comedy and emotional scenes that make you ponder what really matters in life. The film was written and directed by Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert, produced by A24 Films, and

released on March 25, 2022.

The movie follows a Chinese 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 divorce 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 acceptance from her mother, since she is lesbian and has a girlfriend named Becky (Tallie Medel). Evelyn is having a difficult time paying attention to her family since she is overwhelmed with her job and every other 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 his mind is taken over by a different version of himself from an alternate dimension. He quickly informs Evelyn about how to enter the multiverse and leaves a piece of paper with her. His mind switches back to the original Waymond, and Evelyn leaves the elevator with confusion on her face.

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

Everything, 9

# Thunders' legendary career

The guitarist has inspired many famous rockstars and bassists

Olivia Bilek  
Staff Writer

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

John Anthony Genzale, better known by his stage name Johnny Thunders, began playing music in high school when he took up the bass guitar. His first band was Johnny and the Jaywalkers.

Thunders got his start when he was recruited to play bass for a band called The Dolls, before taking up lead guitar. Later, he was recruited to play in a band called Actress, which eventually became the New York Dolls. Dolls bassist Arthur "Killer" Kane described the first time he heard Thunders playing, "I heard someone playing a guitar riff that I myself didn't know how to play. It was raunchy, nasty, rough, raw, and untamed. I thought it was

truly inspired..." Kane added, "His sound was rich and fat and beautiful, like a voice."

A series of moves eventually led Thunders to form a band called The Heartbreakers, who soon became one of the most popular underground bands in New York City. Early on, the band members took turns on vocals and Hell brought in songs originally written for television, such as Blank Generation, as well as Thunders bringing in new material. Clem Burke of Blondie said, "You could call them the punk rock Beatles. Each person really stood out." The band remained in the UK throughout 1977, where they gained more popularity than in the US.

While in the UK, the Heartbreakers were signed to Track Records and released their first and only official studio album, L.A.M.F. By 1977 the band members' addictions were out of control, despite them being enrolled in the British

methadone program, a drug replacement program for opioid addicts. The recording sessions for their new album were derailed by their drug use, being that all the members were heroin addicts, besides bassist Billy Rath, who preferred meth. Drummer Jerry Nolan later said, "Everything we did revolved around drugs."

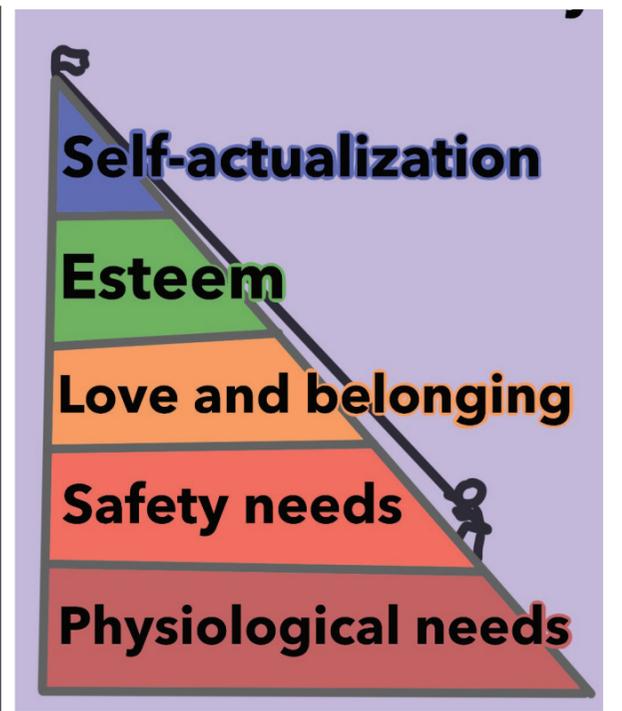
Thunders eventually decided to start a solo career, which led to the band's breakup in 1978. After disbanding the Heartbreakers, he remained in London and recorded his first of many solo albums, So Alone in 1978. The recording sessions featured a core band of Thunders - Thin Lizzy bassist Phil Lynott, Pistols drummer Paul Cook, and The Clash guitarist Steve Jones, with guest appearances from singer Chrissie Hynde, Humble Pie guitarist Steve Marriott, former Heartbreakers guitarist Walter Lure and bassist Billy Rath, singer Peter Perrett, and

Patti Palladin of Snatch with whom Thunders later recorded a duet album.

In 1979, Thunders moved to Detroit and began playing with a band called Gang War. The band disbanded in 1981. In the 1980s, Thunders lived in Paris and Stockholm with his wife, Julie, and daughter, Jamie. In 1985 Thunders released Que Sera Sera, a collection of new songs with his then band The Black Cats. The collection included the song "Crawfish", a duet with Palladin.

In 1988, Thunders and Palladin again teamed up and released Copy Cats, a cover album. The album included a variety of musicians to create the 1950s and 1960s sound of the original songs. The recording band included Alex Balanescu on violin, Bob Andrews on piano, The Only Ones, John Perry, and a number of others

Thunders, 9



Moss Windingstad

## Existential ponderings

A discussion of the meaning of life with a historical emphasis

Wyatt Hanson  
Staff Writer

What is the meaning of life? A question that many have pondered and some believe they have discovered. This question has created works of fiction, art and religion. But what is the meaning of life? To you, to me, what does this question even mean? Let's establish a rule for this question. 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. Now the first three layers - physiological, safety and love are simple to understand, but once we hit esteem it gets a little harder to understand. Esteem is respect and confidence, cognitive is creativity, foresight, curiosity, and meaning, ascetic is finding the beauty in life, self-actualization is the realization of one's true potential and transcendence is knowing your place in the beyond and in the world. We are dealing with a transcendent question here.

What is life? Life (to my definition) is anything that can manipulate the world around it to achieve a goal. This brings up some interesting questions, such as how to "achieve a goal." How can we tell if something has a goal or not, but this is intentional as that is the determining factor, it is up to researchers and even your own personal beliefs to determine if something acts with a goal or purpose.

Humans are strange beings in comparison to other forms of life we have discovered. We managed to surpass our animal minds and evolved to think differently. We figured out how to make tools and manipulate the world around us. As we developed we began to create our own habitats and fulfill our physiological needs. As time continued we began to fulfill our safety, love needs, and discover esteem needs. After this we finally discovered our aesthetic and self-actual-

ization needs.

Now we are trying to figure out transcendence, as we learn more about the universe itself it challenges our transcendent beliefs. As humans, we attempt to discover our place in the universe as we juggle all other needs in the process.

Some people try to quell that need by embracing hedonism, while others seek thrills through life-threatening experiences. In both examples they abuse one of their biological functions to try and overtake their transcendent need. This abuse of biology can often leave people depressed and dependent, as they have strayed so far from some of their non-physiology needs they are living off of highs.

Humans try to make things fair and to do this, currency was developed in all societies at a certain point. Many people take this as a calling and try to use currency as a sense of belonging. If one's purpose is to obtain wealth then the goal is clear. One's place in the universe will be discovered once one's safe in their wealth, in this way they abuse their safety needs.

As time progresses we often find ourselves without a purpose and if one acts without any purpose, are they alive? In the modern day people constantly abuse their safety and physiological needs to get by, missing the point in it all.

We often forget that we are a miracle, the existence of consciousness is incredible. It is not stated anywhere in the laws of the universe that you deserve existence, or that anything should exist at all.

The simple fact that you are something is the difference between something and nothing, which are infinitely different. The fact is we are, and what that entails does not really matter for the meaning of life, it's what we make it. Purpose is what we make it as anything is possible. If you exist you have reached the point of true freedom, for life is what you make it.

# A case study into TikTokers

The Purple Press's favorite satirical writer Mikko studies TikTok

Mikko Liimatta  
Staff Writer

TikTok is the fifth most popular social media site with over one billion unique monthly visitors, including people like Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Justin Bieber, and 10th grader Marshall Wasmund. TikTok rose into the limelight in 2018. Coincidentally, 2018 was also the year when human development started to plateau. TikTok is considered by many experts in the field to be the sequel to Vine, which was another place to share short videos. In the past five years TikTok has grown into a social media platform, whose intelligence can only be rivaled by the legendary Yahoo Answers.

A huge part of TikTok is the "TikTokers." TikTokers are a type of influencers. Influencers of the past resided on social

media platforms such as Facebook or Truth Social. These influencers often tried to give people advice to improve their life, or in Twitter and Truth Social's case, spurred toxicity in the community. Contrary to the influencers of the past, TikTokers are often categorized as "having no skill," or not being "haha funny people," or even "posting among us in the Discord venting channel." These stereotypes have risen as people have blown up for nothing other than doing a funny little dance in front of the camera. There are a few subcultures on the TikTok such as the dancers, the cooks, eGirls, and my personal favorite, eBoys. These show the progression of our society over the past few years.

After watching these folks do their thing on camera, I decided to try to unmask the

people behind the camera. To figure out what TikTokers really are like off the Tok (epic haha funny slang moment); we reached out to 100 TikTokers to ask them some important questions, like, "If you had 10 apples, how many cherry tomatoes would you end up with?" The responses that I got were surprising, both in the number I got and in their interesting takes. Often TikTokers are seen as having massive egos, this is true in some cases, but some TikTokers have decided to rise above the rest and reply to my plebeian DM's (yes I did slide into their DM's). The responses I got were interesting to say the least. For example, Esperborzoi, a TikToker with over 1.6 million followers on the platform, thinks that astronaut suits are made of cheese, which is a good answer and

one that I totally agree with. If you have seen the Wallace and Gromit episode A Grand Day Out, you would know that the moon is in fact made out of cheese. Not all takes were good, though, for example Kyle Young (1.8 million followers) is someone who claims to eat food the wrong way, when in fact eating pizza crust first is the right way, and had one of the most garbage takes I've ever heard: that Obama is the last name and that Barack 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. ItsItch (1.9 million followers) talked about

TikTok, 9

# 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 Adib Khorram. It has received very high praise from librarians across the district as well as from students at OWL.

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

Read Brave is a citywide reading initiative that picks a theme that connects to five books and their authors. 2022's theme was community care, 2023's is mental health.

Darius the Great Is Not Okay centers around teenage boy Darius Kellner, who had Persian heritage, and follows his trip to Iran. It is a realistic fiction book. It speaks on be-

longing, cultural barriers and the complexity of relationships. This story has good internal dialogue through a first person perspective. Darius

I have read this book many times. I always really enjoy this book. I was really excited when Caryl told me it was a Read Brave book because I would get my own copy. This book covers a lot of important topics such as family pressure, insecurities, mental illness, jealousy, friendship and much more.

This was a good choice for Read Brave because it's a very honest book that talks about so many important things that aren't always featured in books. It doesn't sugarcoat Darius's life or thoughts. I could understand Darius, his thought process and emotions. I would definitely recommend this, especially since a lot of people have their own copy.

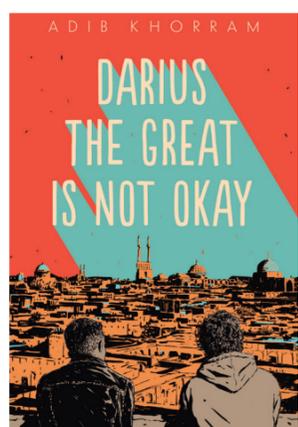
Ninth grader Kate Houle also liked the book. "It was also a little hard for me to get into this book, but by the third chapter I was hooked. Both the story and main character feel very real and at least semi-relatable to many high schoolers' experiences. Darius struggles with a lot of things, some I could relate to, and some I couldn't, which makes his story perfect for a Read Brave book. Personally, the thing that made me love his character the most was the fact that even though he's going through so much emotional turmoil, he still has a lot of love for Star Trek, tea, his younger sister, and the friend 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 I'll be looking forward to

Adib Khorram's visit in March. So, all in all, a great book that we both recommend.

Although it starts off a little slow, Darius the Great Is Not Okay deserves the hype it's getting, and Read Brave has chosen a great book for this year's selection.

Rylan Merwin also contributed to this story.



Goodreads

# Puss in Boots is a must see

## One of the best movies of the year along with new Avatar sequel

Elizabeth Hallanger  
Staff Writer

This winter, two very successful movies came out. One was a beautiful and long-awaited sequel, taking the viewer on a trip through a fantastical world with a heart-warming cast, beautiful visuals and animation, and a poignant message. The other was Avatar: The Way of Water.

Okay, jokes and mild roasts aside, when I chose to go see Puss in Boots: The Last Wish instead of ATWOW, I initially had a few regrets, even though admittedly the only emotional connection to the world of Pandora that I had was thinking that its Disney World equivalent and adjacent restaurant had some pretty good crispy tofu. However, I'm ultimately so glad that I chose to watch Puss in Boots, because I'd say this film is one of Dreamworks' best.

The plot follows the titular Puss in Boots, who, throughout his adventures, has recklessly lost eight of his nine lives, and is advised to abandon his life as a legendary hero, lest he lose his last life. He's initially determined to finally settle down and live as a normal cat, until he hears of a magical wishing star which could seemingly grant him his lives back. From then on, Puss in Boots, along with his previous partner, Kitty Softpaws, and a hyperactive, yet lovable

therapy dog, Perrito race to find the star, all while being pursued by the antagonistic Big Jack Horner, the slightly dysfunctional crime family of Goldilocks and the three bears, and death itself.

Puss himself is a wonderfully charismatic main character as always, and I really loved his character arc of learning to value his friends over his lives and the fame and fortune that his legend brought him. Kitty has a simple, yet sweet arc about learning to trust Puss again, and the two have some great chemistry. I also quite literally had to physically suppress my "awwws" in the theater at some of their scenes because you'd better believe this movie had me fully invested in the relationship of two fictional cats. Perrito was a character that I initially had doubts about, as I figured that he'd fall into the "hyperactive comic relief character who ultimately proves to be more annoying than anything" trope. However, luckily he turns out to be incredibly endearing, and is actually one of my favorite



IGN

characters from this film, injecting positivity, humor and a surprising amount of wisdom into many of his scenes.

If there's one thing Dreamworks does well, it's villains, and this film is no exception, with three factions that bring humor and tension, while also managing to tug 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 has had my found-family-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 Death. From his menacing dialogue and design to his ominous whistle, he's a truly terrifying presence and a fantastic and thematic primary villain for Puss to face off against. All and all, those Tik Tok edits

weren't lying, he does go incredibly hard.

Plus, the art direction in this movie is gorgeous. The whole thing has a very unique, painting-esque style to it, with visible brushstrokes on the character models, and fur and whisker textures that seem to have almost been made with a paintbrush. It all reminded me very much of a storybook, which is also very in-line with the characters and world around them. The animation in some of the scenes, especially the fights, is also incredible. It's fast-paced and smooth, while also taking on a resemblance to traditional frame-by-frame animation, creating a unique style that's very reminiscent of films like Into the Spider Verse, and is just plain fun to watch.

Overall, Puss in Boots and The Last Wish was a wonderfully solid film with great characters and character arcs, a simple, yet enjoyable plot, and beautiful visuals. A solid 10/10, plus this film had a Shrek cameo, which would automatically award it a 10/10 in my eyes, even without everything else.

If you're looking for a great animated film and/or were like me and understandably in need of confirmation that there's still hope for the animation genre after having to bear witness to an episode of the new Velma reboot, then you should check this film out.



CNN

The movie stars Sophia Anne and Sofia Wylie.

## Good and evil on the screen

### The school for Good and Evil is Netflix's latest book adaptation

Kmwee Hser and Wahwah Say  
Staff Writers

Up in the sky there's two schools. One that resembles a palace covered with flowers and pixies and the other is old, dirty, and filled with scary creatures. The School for Good teaches you how to be prince and princess-like, while the School for Evil teaches you how to be a villain. Now imagine you are placed into one based on if you're good or evil. Which one would you choose?

The movie "The School for Good and Evil" was based on the popular novel of the same name, written by Soman Chainani. The main actors are Sophia Anne and Sofia Wylie. Sophia Anne played the character Sophie, and is best known for her role as Lydia in the hit Broadway musical, Beetlejuice. Sofia Wylie 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, Patti 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 disliked this town and wanted 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 schools are cut into two schools, one for good and one for evil. Sophie

assumed that she would be placed in the School for Good and Agatha thought she would be placed in the School for Evil but to their surprise, they were placed in the opposite schools.

Sophie complains to the headmaster of the School for Good saying that they were put in the wrong schools but he told her this was no mistake. The headmaster tells her in order to switch schools she needs to have a true love's kiss with someone from the School for Good to prove she isn't evil. Sophie decides to go after a prince but when she learns that he likes Agatha instead, Sophie proves she might not have been placed in the wrong school after all.

The visuals of the movie were really aesthetically pleasing; the magic, dragons, and pixies made it look like something straight out of a fairytale. Another thing that made the movie look good was the scenery. The set was very cool and the characters' outfits looked amazing. The special effects didn't look fake and were one of the best parts of the movie.

"The School for Good and Evil" is worth watching because the visuals were great and the characters were entertaining. Our only critique is that the plot wasn't the most surprising. It was easy to predict what was going to happen next. Some of the scenes in general were just cringe and the acting seemed forced. Other than that, the movie was engaging. If you're into fantasy movies or if you read the book and want to see it come to life, it's good enough to give it a watch. Overall we rate this movie a 7/10.

## Top five bingeable TV shows

### The best teen dramas to stream on Netflix in the coming months

Remy Short  
Staff Writer

If you're a teenager like me, you probably enjoy video games, shopping, and bingeable Netflix teen dramas.

Netflix has a vast collection of shows like this. I will be going over some of my favorite teen dramas and providing a spoiler-free summary and analysis of each one, from lowest to highest. Here is my top five.

**Number five: Heartstopper.** This romance follows high school student Charlie Spring, one of the few outcasts in Truham. 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 seated by a kid a year above named Nick Nelson, things start to change. Charlie and Nick get along well, and before he knows it Charlie has a crush on Nick. Charlie must balance his relationship with his friends, along with Nick, while navigating his feelings.

I thought this show was a really interesting romance, and I loved the diverse LGBTQ+ representation that the show portrayed. If you like high school romance, LGBTQ+ representation, and drama, this is a show for 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 group must uncover the secrets of the place they call home, and learn to defend themselves from the dangers beneath.

My thoughts on this show were that the show's casting and storyline were extraordinary. The actors are very talented, and played their respective roles phenomenally, especially Millie Bobby Brown as the character of Eleven. I think this series would be most enjoyed by those who watch thrillers and horror media, and the show is very bingeable.

**Number three: Wednesday.** Wednesday is about a teenager named Wednesday Addams, when she gets sent to a boarding school called Nevermore, where she obtains quite the reputation. The town the boarding school is in, Jericho, has labeled the attendees for years as outcasts and for people to be wary of.

Meanwhile, Wednesday ar-

rives at the school and meets her roommate Enid Sinclair. As Wednesday slowly comes out of her shell throughout the series of episodes, she also attempts to discover secrets, while creating a legacy of her own avoiding the footsteps of her mother.

If I were to describe this show with one word, I would call it mysterious. There are multiple mysteries Wednesday is trying to discover at the same time, and all of which are quite interesting. Wednesday also features very lovable characters, and the casting is phenomenal, featuring iconic celebrities such as Jenna Ortega, Christina Ricci (who played Wednesday in the '91 movie), Catherine Zeta Jones, as well as many more upcoming stars.

**Number two: Never Have I Ever.** Never Have I Ever is about a sixteen year old girl named Devi Vishwakumar, who has experienced intense physical and mental obstacles throughout her life. Devi has 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 orchestral recital, and she has had to attend regular therapy appointments as a result.

This year Devi wants to regain her life, and to be known as Devi, and not the girl who gets pushed around in a wheelchair. Devi and her friends try to live most of their high school lives before they graduate, and all experience things like friend drama, crushes, education, and mental health struggles. The series also features 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 any show very 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 cliché, but the reality is when you get more into the show, the more the plot shines. You can't forget about the lovable characters either. I personally really enjoy those shows where you choose your favorite characters, and this one has a lot of choices.

**Number one: Ginny and Georgia.** This show recently released a second season on January 5th, which did not disappoint.

Ginny and Georgia fea-



Netflix has released multiple new shows this year.

Brazil, 5

with felons and alligators... yep, Florida. After never fully conceding the election or outright saying that his supporters should stop the protests and riots, he said things like, "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 1." (On the same January 1 he used Brazil's military plane to fly to Orlando.)

No matter how tense it gets with Bolsonaro and Lula,

Netflix, 9

## Netflix, 8

tures multiple storylines with different characters, including Georgia Miller's dark past, who has arrived to a small town called Wellsbury with her sixteen year old teenage daughter, and nine year old son. She longs for a new life, to start over after moving from state to state when things get difficult. Before long she starts working in Mayor Randolph's office, and she falls for him. Throughout the show we get to

## Everything, 6

ple about their finances with a stern voice, while Waymond tries to explain to her what is going on. Evelyn reads the piece of paper from the other Waymond, follows the instructions, and successfully enters the multiverse.

Evelyn arrives at an alternate dimension, in the same building. There, the alternate dimension version of Waymond tells her about a mysterious villain called Jobu Tupaki, who is threatening to destroy the entire multiverse. Suddenly, someone breaks through the door, and an intense action sequence unfolds. What happens next? I bet you want to know. Who is Jobu Tupaki? What can Evelyn do

## 90's Show, 6

1995. We see Eric and his parents have the same dynamic as they did when Eric was a teen. Red, the hard-ass dad, and Kitty, the over-affectionate mom play into these roles as grandparents to Leia as well.

Leia, who has a hard time fitting in back home, soon meets Gwen, the cool next-door neighbor. Gwen introduces Leia to her older brother Nate, his brainy girlfriend Nikki, their realist friend Ozzie, and charming Jay (played Dicky in the Nickelodeon show "Nicky, Ricky, Dicky, and Dawn") who takes a liking to Leia. After spending the day with Gwen and her friends, Leia feels like she belongs for the first time and doesn't want to leave when the weekend is over. Gwen convinces Leia to tell her parents that she wants to stay in Point Place for the summer with her grandparents. While Eric is not super happy with this idea because he is very protective of his

## Thunders, 7

on guitar, and a horn section. From 1988 until his death in spring of 1991, Thunders performed in the band The Oddballs, with Jamie Heath on saxophone, Alison Gordy on vocals, Chris Musto on drums, Stevie Klasson on guitar, and Jill Wisoff on bass. From April-May 1990, Thunders performed an acoustic tour of the UK and Ireland, occasionally joined by John Connor, Sam Steiger, and Peter O'Kennedy of The Golden Horde, who Thunders previously played with in 1984.

In Thunders' 1978 song "You Can't Put Your Arms Round a Memory" he sings about the lament of a man who is haunted by the loss of somebody/something. In Thunders' case, that loss was heroin. "...It doesn't pay to try, all the smart

see more about Georgia's past, her romances, and struggles in life.

Meanwhile, Ginny experiences difficulty adjusting to her new home, and struggles with mental health; your average teen drama throughout the series. Fortunately, she quickly finds friends with a group of girls, one of which is Maxine Baker. Max is the first to approach Ginny, and they hit it off. Before she knows it, Ginny is now a part of her friends' group, which is called MANG,

to save the multiverse? Does she even want to? All of these questions will be answered, and more. The movie only gets better from here.

Not only are the plot and characters incredibly well written and developed, but the action scenes, fast pacing, cinematography and soundtrack create a unique tone to the film that sets it apart from your average action movie. The film was made with a somewhat lower budget than most movies, with only \$25 million spent (which still sounds like a lot of money). The themes of the film, however, is what really brings it to life. It explores existentialism versus nihilism, optimism versus pessimism, family conflict, overwhelming

daughter, Donna reminds Eric of the amazing memories they made with their old friends in this house and eventually they let her stay.

Eric tells Leia to invite her friends to hang out in their basement as much as possible to annoy his teenager-hating dad. In That 70's Show, Eric and his friends were always causing trouble and it made Eric's dad Red furious. After years of peace and quiet, the thought of a teenager-riddled house again makes Red infuriated. His wife Kitty on the other hand, is ecstatic at the idea of having kids around the house again. She then opens up to Red about how she has been feeling quite sad because of the quietness in hopes that he will change his mind. Ultimately, Red's love for Kitty allows him to come around. With everyone on board, Leia is in for the summer of friendship, adventure, and romance that she's always dreamt of, all while knowing it will have to come to an end when the sum-

boys know why, it doesn't mean I didn't try, I just never know why. Feel so cold and all alone, cause baby, you're not at home. And when I'm home, big deal I'm still alone..." Thunders sings. The song has a powerful message about loneliness and the fear of absence, whatever the absence may be. "I used to think I had to take drugs to be happy and to play. I was so wrong," Thunders said in an interview with the Los Angeles Times in 1989.

Thunders struggled with drug addiction for the majority of his professional career. He was on the road to recovery and he enrolled in the methadone treatment program in the early 1980s. Thunders later became addicted to methadone, a synthetic opiate, leading up to his death.

Thunders' final recording was a version of his song "Born

each letter standing for each of the girls' names. But of course this contains teen romance, which each of them have to navigate.

I decided to place this show as number one because there is so much to watch unfold. It's very unique and contains very interesting characters and storylines, and interesting romance. It's really interesting to see different perspectives between characters, and learn more about Georgia's past and Ginny's life. I would rec-

fear, perseverance and love.

Everything Everywhere All At Once is intense, hysterical, thought-provoking and just an overall beautiful work of art. I highly recommend this movie to any high schooler, although since it is rated R for violence, swearing and inappropriate scenes, and I am obligated to say that middle schoolers are not allowed to watch it. However, I know that this review is so convincing that you won't be able to stop yourself from watching this amazing movie.

The world is also beginning to think that Everything Everywhere All At Once could be the best movie of 2022. It has been nominated for 10 Oscars, including Best Picture, Best Original Screenplay, Best

mer is over.

If you were planning on viewing only for the cameos, be warned that they are brief. Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kunis have the shortest cameo as their characters Kelso and Jackie. It is revealed that they are getting remarried for the second time, insinuating the trope of their relationship on That 70's Show where they are always off and on. This is all we see of Kelso and Jackie but we also get a glimpse of Wilmer Valderrama's character, Fez, all grown up. He is a successful hairstylist and also dating Gwen and Nate's mom Sherri, who is a recurring character. Other notable cameos include Don Stark as Donna's father (now known as Leia's Grandpa Bob) and Tommy Chong as his character, Leo, the local hippie.

This is a great reboot in my opinion. While it's nearly impossible to live up to the original, this TV show still does a great job capturing the humor and edge that we loved about That 70s Show. With this in

To Lose" with German punk rock band Die Toten Hosen, recorded 36 hours before his death.

On April 23, 1991, Thunders was found dead on the floor of his hotel room at the St. Peter Guest House in the French quarter of New Orleans. Thunders' death was said to be under mysterious circumstances. Thunders apparently died of drug related causes, but it was rumored that his death was the result of foul play.

There was conflicting information about the coroner's report. According to the coroner's office in New Orleans, tests found that there was a substantial amount of cocaine and methadone in Thunders' system. Other sources state that an autopsy was performed by the New Orleans coroner and the amount of drugs in his

ommend this show to anyone who is interested in thrillers, romances, and mysteries.

And with Ginny and Georgia taking first place, my list is over. I hope you found this interesting, and check out the Netflix shows I've mentioned. I really enjoyed these, and I think you will as well.

Original Score and Best Film Editing. Michelle Yeoh has been nominated for Best Actress and Ke Huy Kwan was nominated for Best Supporting Actor. Stephanie Hsu and Jamie Lee Curtis were both nominated for Best Supporting Actress.

I assure you, watching this movie is an experience like no other. It very well could be the best movie of all time, but I would have to watch all of the other movies in the world to be sure. I'm hoping this movie sweeps the Oscars, because the actors, writers and directors deserve it. It looks like there will be an Everything Everywhere All At Once sweep instead of a Morbius sweep. Sorry Morbius fans.

mind, I also recognize that its entire worth doesn't have to be based on if it's as good as the original. This is an unfair standard and while that might have been their goal in creating the show, I still think we should try to judge it plainly as That 90s Show and nothing more. The characters were likable and even though most of them were a little cliché, the young actors gave good performances and they really grew on me by the end of the show.

Overall I really enjoyed my time watching the first season of this show. While they do make many references to the original, I wouldn't say you have to watch That 70's Show in order to enjoy it but, like any reboot, it's probably gonna be more enjoyable if you have. I would like to see more of the That 90's Show gang so whether you're a fan of the original or looking for a feel-good laugh, you should give it a try because it deserves a second season to prove itself as more than the "That 70s Show Reboot."

system were not fatal. The autopsy also revealed Thunders was suffering from advanced leukemia which explained his decline in health in the years before his death.

I decided to write about Johnny Thunders because I've always liked his music and I sort of relate to him in a way. He is also one of the reasons I started playing bass. I've always liked his style. Johnny Thunders and the New York Dolls will live on in music history as influences of the punk rock genre that began in the mid 1970s. Thunders and the New York Dolls have gone on to influence musicians such as the Sex Pistols, Guns N' Roses, Debbie Harry of Blondie, The Ramones, KISS, Johnny Marr of The Smiths, The Damned, and many more.

## TikTok, 7

how he succeeded due to his "funny humor." I can relate to this as I'm often referred to as the "epic xD haha funny man." Thevibewithky (860k followers) knew where the sky was, which impressed me deeply as this is one of life's questions that I have not yet answered, the other ones are "what is the meaning of life?" and "what is it like to blow up a potato in the microwave?" Please reach out to me if you find out the answers to these ever important questions.

After searching the internet I noticed that TikTokers were at OWL and decided to check up on their opinion. OWL is a school dominated by ardent fans of TikTokers, like Marshall Wasmund, who has well over 2,000 hours collectively on the TikTok app. With the popularity of TikTokers in OWL also comes some wannabes. An example of this is fanatic Wyatt Kessler, who created a TikTok account because of his love for Kylie Jenner "When I started my TikTok, I was a huge fan of Kylie (Jenner), because of her I started making content. I blew up in 2021, (but) sadly I was banned due to my content being too good." With the popu-

## ChatGPT, 5

language models is advancing rapidly, it is important to ensure that they are used in a responsible and ethical manner.

What's most significant about ChatGPT is the fact that an AI system as advanced as this has never been able to operate at this capacity before. OWL students who have taken English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt's journalism class may recall an assessment in which they had to write a feature article about the "Mathmotron," a fictional machine that would do students' math homework for them. Emphasis on fictional. Touching on this, Leo called ChatGPT "an English Mathmotron," saying, "I've been thinking about how I'll need to change my assignments around to adjust to this. There's already tons of plagiarism on the internet."

The big question is up in the

## ALEC, 6

islature members swear to put what ALEC wants first in state legislatures, which ALEC denied. It also showed that ALEC set up a separate organization to handle donations, because as of now they are classified as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and as such, they would not be able to receive those types of donations. If they lose their 501(c) status by receiving those types of donations or by advocating specifically for certain causes instead of simply providing model legislation, they would be classified as a lobbying group (an outside group that advocates for or against within the government), would have to reveal their donors, and would no longer be tax exempt.

ALEC's influence is still significant. Just on December 23, 2022, its Criminal Justice Task Force finalized a resolution that opposes measures to defund the police, and issues

larity also comes doubt. Aanen Kulseth, a local TikTok hater, who despite adamantly refusing to use TikTok, still knows many TikTokers, showing the reach of the platform. Aanen shows his knowledge as he grudgingly admits, "Addison Rae is a taxpayer, that is on the TikTok platform."

When we see all of this information put in front of us, we can take away the conclusion that some TikTokers are smart, while others are not quite. I really enjoyed reading these responses and they left me with some hope in the world, the hope that humanity won't crash and burn in the near future. Despite having millions of followers on various social media platforms, TikTokers are sometimes outshined in their responses by the people that reside in this school, and they often give responses that are equal if not better than the responses given by the "professionals." In all seriousness though, thank you so much to all of the TikTokers that responded to me, and I would appreciate it if you all went out and followed them for being decent human beings, yes, even the guy who thinks that Obama's last name is Obama smh.

air right now - just how much will ChatGPT affect writing in general, and how much of a game-changer will it be? Many are already gearing up for the possibility of it having a huge impact on the future, notably Microsoft plans to invest billions for a partnership with OpenAI. There is, however, also the possibility that the opposite may be the case, as Jack pointed out. "I think it will not be a big issue for the foreseeable future. It's exciting for people right now, but it's not gonna be able to write everyone's dream essay," he said.

As of now, ChatGPT is available to use for free with an OpenAI account, and the concerns over its alarming accuracy are still present. To (hopefully) prove how convincing it is, one of the paragraphs of this article was written entirely by ChatGPT. Can you figure out which one?

a call to support police departments more so they can deal with mental health crises, something they are not strictly qualified for. This resolution will probably be signed by hundreds of state legislators across the country. ALEC also created model legislation in November 2022 that would forbid companies from doing "political boycotts," which are boycotts of companies for environmental or political concerns. This model legislation could be adopted word for word by state legislatures.

ALEC isn't a thing of the past. If it were, it would allow the press into their conferences. They wouldn't try to dodge being classified as a lobbying group. It would disclose which legislators went to their conferences. ALEC fights for dangerous policies that have real effects on the American people, and tries to drown out their voices.

# Monthly Scary Story: The Hateful Pendant

Joseph Schwartz

Staff Writer

C&R Archeology- Standard Issue Logbook

[February 9, 2026 Julia Veléz- Unidentified Object Found at 14:38, Eastern European Standard Time]

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 previously. I don't know why I've been called out, since I'm not very familiar with Egyptology, but Atlas, 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 identified Egyptian Hieroglyphs, Ancient Hebrew, Old Greek, Old Arabic, and Latin. These languages were found on the same buildings, but not the same blocks. The words were always on different blocks.

This morning, one of our diggers found a large stone block under the sand. It is 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 get to the bottom before we had to clock out.

I was called over since there was a lot of Old Greek on it, 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've learned all you can."

I'll get back to it in the morning.

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

Before I started working, our team got to the bottom, or 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 farther to see where the platform ends. We don't have enough supplies to keep the hole as deep as it is without depriving other teams across the site of resources.

I brought in another classical archeologist by the name of Pascal Garnier, he's an older man brought in from his residence in France. He was part of the team that worked on Linear B, the Ancient Greek language on the pillar, so he can read the writings easier than most.

The writings appear to be a repetition of a story of Eros, one of the Greek love gods. The story starts with Eros firing a golden arrow at the heart of the goddess Artemis to make her fall in love with the god Ares. He did this out of

spite for her being the patron goddess of maidenhood.

But once the arrow reached her, the arrow abruptly turned to lead and made her hate Ares with a passion. The story says this is because Artemis was given a pendant by her mother, The Titan Leto, that would ward off all love.

This is, of course, paraphrased, but I thought it would be best to write down an account of the story.

The story is written about 16 times, all over the bottom half of the pillar. We don't know what the hieroglyphs say, but we are assuming they say the same as the Linear B.

Both Mr. Garnier and I are stumped by the appearance of Linear B, because there hasn't been any evidence of the Greeks making it to this part of Egypt, at least, at the time Linear B was used.

I'll make sure the story gets copied down onto a piece of paper and images are taken of the writing ASAP.

We currently just have the pillar out in the open air. There seems to be a sort of rectangular seam on the side, at about waist height. I'll need to remember to call someone in to look at that.

Additional notes: Mr. Garnier has been difficult to work with. He hardly stays on task and never stops talking about his wife. It's cute and all, but he cannot stay on topic for longer than 10 minutes before he brings up something about his wife. I would prefer not to work with Mr. Garnier after this.

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

Third day. Mr. Garnier was looking over the pillar while I was gone and somehow opened a secret compartment. The seam was actually a 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 grinding of stone. Once 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 large, ruby pendant with carvings of something I wasn't able to make out. Similar to how the pendant in the story was described

Mr. Garnier stood up and backed away from the pillar, and that's when the strangest thing started happening. A strange, gray fog started pouring from the open drawer, and I swear I saw it coming directly from the pendant. The fog quickly filled the hole and obscured Mr. Garnier from view.

I called out to him, but I didn't reach down for him. The fog just seemed wrong. It didn't make it past the top, it just sat at the lip of the hole.

Mr. Garnier made it out of the hole himself, his clothes

were a bit damp from the fog, but he looked fine.

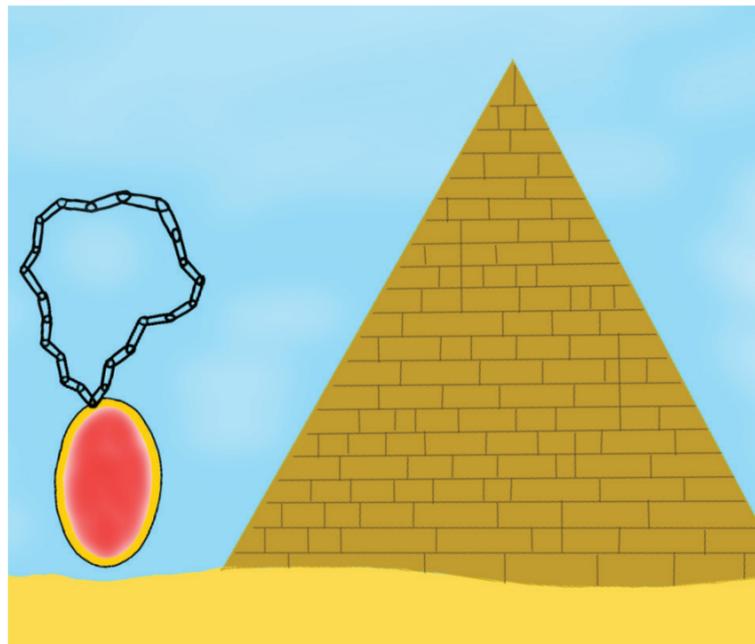
He was oddly angry, though, angrier than I feel he should have been. I asked him if he was okay, but he just stomped past me and back to his tent.

I reported this to our supervisor, Dennis, and he looked over the fog. He dipped his hand into it, but quickly retracted his hand like he had been burned. The sun was falling at this point, so I clocked out and got ready for sleep in my tent; that was 15 minutes ago.

Dennis came in five minutes ago and said he wanted a testimony of what happened today. Hopefully this writing is sufficient.

[February 12, 2026 Julia Veléz- Fog]

I woke up this morning to an unnatural darkness, especially at 7:15 in the morning in the middle of Egypt. It took me a moment to rub the sleep from my eyes and notice that the sky wasn't



dark, but the light was being blocked. It was a layer of that same dense, gray mist from the hole. I covered the entire tent and it seemed almost like midnight. I opened the flap of my tent and was still met with the same darkness.

I was sitting there for a few minutes unsure of what to do before my radio crackled and started talking.

"This is Dennis Hanson. Anyone know what's up with that damn fog?" He sounded irritated, which was understandable considering the impact this would have on the work day. I responded.

"This is Julia Veléz, I'm not sure what to make of it either."

"Rats," he said, "Let's see if we can wait it out, the sun oughta burn it away soon enough."

I was going to respond, but felt a stabbing pain in my back that caused me to drop the radio. I expected there to be some bug on my back, but instead I only saw a wisp of fog dissipating in the air.

Strangely, the fog hadn't gone into my tent beyond the opening flap, besides the wisp just before. It was like the fog was testing the waters, or something. Like it was alive.

Now, I must have been

in a trance, or something, because I was staring at the fog, unsure what to do, one moment and the next I was practically touching it. Beneath my fingertips the fog swirled at the moving air and I saw the sunlight 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 bravery at the sight 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.

Everywhere the mist touched as I stepped through it burned like lemon juice on a cut. Once I stepped out into the humid and hot air, the mist just spontaneously melted away from the tents. Mounds of gray fog just fell away to reveal the nearly 20 tents of my colleagues.

Unfortunately, the fog remained on the ground. Probably about up to knee height, or half a meter. It luckily stopped stinging after a while, but me and my colleagues

didn't have much to do except stand there in confusion.

Dennis hasn't said anything besides we can't work since 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 this down somewhere. I can't really pinpoint the feeling, but everything just feels wrong. Like something's missing. Maybe I'm just a bit crazy from the strange day.

[February 13, 2026 Julia Veléz- Behavior Issues]

The day has been one of the strangest work days I've ever experienced. Now, I work with people obsessed with old dead people's objects, so everyone isn't going to be normal, but a few people have just been acting wrong.

My tent neighbor, Dave, was just really sad this morning, he was standing with droopy shoulders and his eyes were red. I tried to ask what was wrong, but he just grumbled and walked away.

My other colleague, Karthika, was just mad all day.

Yelling at anyone who talked to them, brooding as they glared at anyone who walked by their tent. They even yelled at Dennis, who isn't in a good mood either.

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

Dennis announced just recently that if the fog doesn't clear up by morning tomorrow he'll call in some people to send us home.

The time is 11:43 in the morning, so more may be added soon.

[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. I could excuse my other coworkers for their behavior because of the fog, but this is making me nervous.

Mr. Garnier was out of his tent for the first time since he opened the drawer, but he wasn't himself. He was red faced like he was about to throw a punch. He was screaming into a satellite radio to who I think was his wife.

I cannot stress this enough, but I have never heard Mr. Garnier say anything that wasn't making his wife out to be some goddess in human skin, but what he just said to his wife, I can't believe a human would ever even say something like that to someone else.

And, to make matters worse, two of my coworkers got into a fight. They had to have the fight broken up by Dennis, who I thought was more likely to join them in the brawl, and we had them placed in tents across the site from each other.

Only 2:36 in the afternoon, and everything is breaking down. I can only hope we make it until the helicopters get here to lift us out.

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

On an even weirder note, I'm starting to think I'm getting a little delusional from being in this place too long, but I could have sworn that I'm forgetting something important. It's right there, just on the tip of my tongue, but I can't find it.

[February 13, 2026 Julia Veléz- Update 2]

I was messing around with my necklace this morning when it popped open. By some bizarre circumstance, I forgot that it was a locket. When I looked into it and saw the picture inside, it felt like an electric shock.

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 occurrence, I've not thought of them once.

Even worse, when I look at the photo and try to think of something happy, to calm my nerves, I can only think of their worst moments. When they were screaming at their 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 just feel disdain. Is this what's happening to everyone else? Is this why they're so mad?

I don't understand how something like this could happen, I know I shouldn't feel like this, but I can make it better.

This has to be that mist's fault. I haven't thought of my spouse since it appeared and now I hate them. Somethings gone wrong with the world.

[February 14, 2026 Julia Veléz- World Gone Mad]

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

This morning I woke up to screaming from outside my tent. I didn't know at the time but it was Dave who had screamed. It was probably about 4:30, since the sun was just barely below the horizon when I jumped out of bed and out of my tent.

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

Dave was gone. No trace of him, even his tent, had been left behind. It was at that moment I started to truly consider that I was going insane. We didn't have much to do, so we resigned ourselves back to our tents.

We learned the hard way how bad of a choice that was. The hard way cost us three more people in less than an hour. I didn't even know their names until they were gone.

Marton Ezra, Claud Engström, Brigid Lowe. Gone

The radio has been mostly static for a while, but I think the fog is just affecting us. We've caught little snippets of statements of national emergency, hundreds of missing persons statements, and even weather advisories about a heavy fog. I think the world is ending, and I'm sure it's the pendant's fault.

I think that story was more true than it let on.

To anyone reading this, if this world survives, don't go digging in the sands of Egypt. We're going to gather out shovels and try to bury the pillar back in the sand.

This will likely be my last entry, because the mist has started swirling around like crazy. I hope we last long enough to bury the pillar.