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Purple Owl Press

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Sprinklers burst, OWL office floods

Due to a heater malfunction, frozen pipes ruptured leading to flooding on the first floor

Meara Gunderson
Staff Writer

On December 24th 2022 the pipes behind the sprinkler in the OWL foyer froze and burst due to the heater not working, leaving at least six inches of water flowing over OWLs first floor, and into Humboldt.

While principal Dave Gundale thinks it was December 24th, no one knows for sure and it could have been up to a day earlier. The water flowed down into the main office and Nurse Colleen's room, as well as into Katerina, Dave, and Jolene's offices. It also flooded much

of the cafeteria and towards the Humboldt wing, which ended up going into the space beneath the Green Room.

Because the walls where the water was are drywall, some of the water absorbed into the walls so not only was there water all over the floor, it was in the walls as well. They

poked holes into the drywall near the floor where the water had been, to dry out the walls. They also brought in a lot of machines to suck up most of the water, as well as blow the school dry afterwards.

The burst happened during the first week of winter break and the second week was

entirely spent cleaning up. "Probably around a thousand gallons of water gushed out," said Dave.

While this was bad, it isn't the first time it happened. The first time was about two years ago, when another sprinkler head froze. "Essentially the same thing happened but was caught earlier," said Dave.



Purple Press Staff Phot

Evidence of the damage

Solitude & Reflection: origin story



Photo courtesy of Damon Liberatore

Principal Dave as Davos (left), Jeff and Luke ponder the implications of time travel as Solitude and Reflection (Right)

The beginnings of OWL's design principle avengers

Nick Christopherson
Staff Writer

Superhero media, and by extension superheroes themselves have been gaining massive popularity over the last decade or so, most likely thanks to the Marvel Cinematic Universe and its ever-expanding collection of

movies, TV shows, and, uhh... holiday specials I guess. But while everyone is quite familiar with the big superheroes, only students at OWL know about the greatest heroes of them all: Solitude & Reflection.

We see them pretty much every month at our community meetings, with each of their

videos usually being met with thunderous applause and laughter. But while many of you know about the heroes themselves, you probably don't know their origin story.

It all started in 2017, when math teacher Damon Liberatore had students in his crew go around and record

interviews with teachers. The students would ask the teachers to say a few things about the Design Principles, the ten core ideas that EL Education schools like OWL are built on. "One of the things we talk about in EL is our core values and these Design Principles, and that's why we started [the interviews] because we were starting to

theme every month of the community meeting with a Design Principle," Damon explained. "For me it felt a little bit like Sesame Street, like let's teach what we're doing. And so it started out with these little vignettes with crews where we would gather some kids and ask them, 'what does service and compassion mean to you?'"

Solitude and Reflection, 2

What is colorism?

Understanding the impact of discrimination based on skin color

Hiroko Zeleke
Staff Writer

I want to talk about a topic that I don't think gets discussed enough. Colorism.

You may be wondering what I am talking about, but it is very relevant in the lives of many. Colorism is the discrimination of people based on the color of their skin. Now, I know you may be thinking, isn't that just racism? And the answer is no, it is not. It shares a lot of similarities to racism, but in the end, racism is discrimination based on racial and ethnic categories while colorism is about one's skin tone. One might argue that that's what racism is about, but there are multiple factors to racism, while like I said, colorism is about skin complexion, and solely that.

Colorism exists across all races and cultures, both within and outside of different groups. I want to say upfront that I can't even begin to explain all the different ways it shows up in different societies, because it's so complex, but I'll mention a couple as an introduction. I encourage you, the reader, to do further research on the topic because there are going to be things I miss in this article.

First off, colorism affects

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Colorism, 2

Megan and Tom present at EL conference



Photo courtesy of Dale Bergerhofer

Tom (far left) and Megan (second from right) supervise a gallery walk at their presentation in Chicago

Meara Gunderson
Staff Writer

Math teacher Tom Totushek and science teacher Megan Hall gave a presentation about inclusion in AP and STEM classes at the annual EL Education school conference in Chicago on December 8th.

EL stands for Expeditionary Learning and EL Education is a national network of schools to which OWL belongs. There are more than 150 EL Education schools in the country.

The conference is a place for teachers, administrators,

and students to gather and share ideas. This year, Tom and Megan presented under the title Everybody In: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility for Advanced STEM Courses.

"Megan and I are Nationally Board Certified Teachers and we are required to re-credential every five years. As such, I was looking through some data that the district offers and noticed that our graduates were taking AP classes at a significantly higher rate than the district and the

state, especially in the STEM departments, and I sent that data to Megan. She loved it and made it part of her re-credentialing portfolio," said Tom.

"We wanted to share with other schools how we changed our school program and how we changed our teaching to support this change," said Megan.

This topic is important to Megan and Tom so that all students have equal access to resources that will help



The Purple Press

OWL's longest-running student newspaper was founded in 1995. This collection of events and news is compiled in Leo's Journalism classes. This is the 24th year of the Purple Press.

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Solitude and Reflection, 1

What does success and failure mean to you? I had a bunch of kids in my crew who were kind of into film so I was just giving them kind of an avenue to start doing that."

One of the students doing these interviews stopped by special education teacher Jeff Steiner's crew and asked him to talk about compassion. Jeff assumed that the video was for the student's class, so he wasn't too worried about trying to sound professional. "I was talking about compassion, and my first few sentences made sense," Jeff said. "And then I started rambling and it was kind of incoherent, but I was like 'I don't care, it's just for her class, no one's gonna see it except the teacher.'" A little bit later at the next community meeting, the interviews that Damon's crew kids did were shown on the big screen in front of everyone, and Jeff realized that he might've made a mistake by not putting his best effort into the interview. Luckily, Jeff was spared of any humiliation. "To my luck, [the student] was nice and edited out the second half of what I was saying so I looked competent," Jeff said. Even though Jeff had narrowly avoided being embarrassed in front of everyone, the whole incident gave him an idea.

He realized that it might be funny if he were to make some videos for the meetings where he would be asked about the Design Principles like in the original interviews, but this time he would pretend to be super oblivious and get everything completely wrong. He would also have someone else there to play the straight man and try to help him out. "My original thought was to have Joe Brandner the health teacher do it with me, and I was gonna be the one being goofy and being wrong about stuff and he was gonna kinda nicely correct me," Jeff explained. Jeff talked to Joe about it, but Joe turned the offer down. "I was co-teaching with Luke at the time, and so Joe was like 'well why don't you get somebody

like Luke, I bet he'd be down for that.'" So, Jeff found Luke during passing time one day and told him about the proposal. "He just grabbed me and said 'just sit next to me and say what the Design Principles are,'" said social studies teacher Luke Turvold. "So that's how it started. I literally just happened to be standing there when Jeff grabbed me."

So Jeff and Luke recorded their first video together, and played it at the community meeting. "It went pretty well, like people responded, it was funny," Jeff said. "So we decided to keep doing it every month, and pretty soon people would just see us sitting in a chair and they'd start cheering." So the Solitude & Reflection videos didn't actually start out as



Former science teacher Tien Dang with Lou Keng (left), a comic version of a S&R scene.

elaborate superhero parodies, it was just Jeff and Luke sitting down in front of a camera and doing little sketches about the Design Principles. "They became kind of an on-screen straight man/funny man comedy duo, talking about the Design Principles," Damon said. "I think one of the first ones we did was talking about the natural world and earth day, and Jeff misheard it and said it was his birthday."

Even though the videos started out simple, a certain prop infinity gauntlet would soon change that. "Towards the end of the year, somebody from Damon's crew had bought like a movie quality gauntlet, and they had brought it in and it was like a hundred

bucks or something," Jeff said. "I saw the gauntlet and I said to Damon 'hey, for the last community meeting we should have Dave hide it behind the podium and then all of a sudden like pull it out in front of everyone.' And Damon was like 'well I got a better idea.' So Damon had the idea to do like a little movie with superheroes and whatever, and he and I started talking about it and it just kinda developed more and more."

At first, Jeff and Damon's plan was to just do a version of the Avengers, and have different teachers play each member of the team. But Damon decided it would be better to make the Design Principles into their own superheroes. Jeff and Luke

it was kind of this 'teachers and a boss' type thing, I don't know," he said. "I think that in general, principals, at least when I was growing up, were always considered kind of the villain. You know, going to the principal's office or whatever. And I know that that's not the case with Dave, he's a nice guy and he cares a lot about students. We actually are going away from that in our newest storyline. And actually Dave wasn't the villain, the gauntlet was the bad guy, it just possessed Dave. We saw that in season two."

After everyone was cast, Jeff and Luke prepared for the filming of the very first Solitude & Reflection video by making their own costumes. "For Solitude, my thought on



Purple Press Staff Photo

was that it was gonna be sort of Batman-esque, so I picked these dark colors," Jeff said. "I threw a bunch of stuff together. I had some gardening gloves and I thought 'oh these look like superhero kinda gloves,' and then I had like an old cape that one of my kids wore for Halloween, so I pulled that. We thought that like Superman I could just have like a generic 'S' on my chest." For Reflection's costume, Luke got out some of his old hockey gear and wrapped it in aluminum foil to create a sort of a reflective surface, and then added the 'R' symbol on the front. He also included a pair of sunglasses.

Then the filming finally began near the end of the 2017 - 2018 school year. The

video started with Jeff and Luke sitting in front of the camera like normal, and they were asked to talk about the Principles of solitude and reflection. Luke's character tried to say something to make sure Jeff's character didn't say anything ridiculous, but Jeff ended up going first. Instead of even attempting to say anything, he just kept philosophically repeating the words "solitude and reflection" over and over again, until the screen started to fade into the opening title crawl for Marvel Studios. Then Jeff and Damon were revealed to have transformed into Solitude & Reflection!

They went all around the school meeting all the other Design Principles, meaning that Jeff, Damon, and Luke had to shoot a lot of footage with a lot of other teachers. However, none of the other teachers really knew the full scope of what they were participating in, or that other teachers were also being filmed. "We made a decision to keep it secret, so we would film with one teacher and not let them know that we were doing the rest of the building, so at the final community meeting when we finally put the first Solitude & Reflection movie together, it was kind of like a surprise for everybody," Jeff explained. "The kids didn't see it coming and of course the teachers didn't know that other teachers were a part of it."

Safe to say, when the first Solitude & Reflection video was finally shown, it was a huge hit with OWL students at the time. "I just remember the pop, and the way that everyone reacted to seeing that Marvel title crawl," said Damon. "They were like 'oh, something's about to happen.' I remember on the last day of school we were at Lake Elmo and people were coming up to Luke and Jeff and saying like 'oh that was so cool' and stuff like that."

Part two of Solitude and Reflection: origin story is coming in issue four of the Purple Press on February 10th...

Colorism, 1

people who have darker skin negatively while light skinned people benefit from it. This is what is called "light-skinned privilege." Colorism has roots in many different areas, one big one being anti-Blackness or proximity to whiteness, or class, where in many places such as in a lot of Asian countries, poorer people would be working outside where their skin would get tanned more, so darker skin became associated with being poor. In America, slaves would be separated by complexion, with dark skinned slaves being forced to work in the fields and light skinned slaves in the house.

I'm going to start by talking about the US specifically by listing some statistics I found. One study conducted by the Pew Research Center from 2021 found that a majority of Latinos in the US said that having darker skin hurts their ability to get ahead, and having lighter skin benefits them. The study also found

that 54% of Latinos with lighter skin had at least one discrimination incident in the past year compared to 64% of those with darker skin. (The study showed an image of the scale they considered lighter and darker skinned). A study done in 2013 called "The Relationship Between Skin Tone and School Suspension for African Americans" found that dark skinned Black girls are 3x more likely to be suspended than their light skinned counterparts. It exists in all walks of life.

A big question is, how far will people go to be lighter or not get darker? Some things are as simple as covering up when the sun is out to avoid getting darker. But something that's a colorism related issue on the global scale is skin whitening, especially in Asian countries. It's a rapidly growing part of the beauty industry worth billions of dollars and is expected to continue growing, but one that comes with risks as well, as procedures will go from using soaps that lighten the skin, to

creams that contain toxins like mercury, to actually bleaching the skin.

Some of you may be asking why anyone would do that? Because complexion can influence things like getting a good job or the way people perceive a person, and just the idea of being better off economically is worth these risks to some people. It can also

"I believe that a way to address the issue is to first learn about it"

be about how one perceives themselves, thinking that having lighter skin will make them more beautiful.

Now let me tell you a short story. Once upon a time when I was around six years old, me and a group of friends at an after school program were playing a game of tag, and we each pretended to be our favorite colors—it was like a weird version of color tag.

Anyway, I chose 'clear'—yes I know that's not a color, don't judge me I was like a first grader or something—and one kid told me I couldn't choose that because I have brown skin. I somehow won that argument, but it left a mark on me, since it made me realize that my skin color could determine how I may be treated. Look, I know, even writing this story down,

I'm cringing writing out this story because it sounds really silly and childish, and I'm not gonna stand here accusing that kid because I don't expect little kids to know better, but things that hurt you when you're young stay with you. That said, as a mixed race person, especially depending on which of my cultures we're talking about, I may either benefit or be at a disadvantage because of

my complexion.

When I've brought up the topic before, I've found that a lot of people had never heard of colorism. The only time I've ever seen a storyline centered around colorism in media is in a season 5 Black-ish episode called "Black Like Us" where one of the daughters in the family, Diane, who has the darkest complexion in the family, wasn't lit properly in a school photo.

This sparks a conversation about colorism in the family, where the lighter skinned and darker skinned family members go back and forth in an argument. The lighter skinned persons accuse the darker skinned family members of making fun of them for being light, especially with Rainbow, who is a mixed race woman, who feels like they're making her feel like she's not as Black as they are. The darker skinned family members go on about how light skinned Black people are favored in society and in the Black community.

Diane eventually breaks up this conversation after being frustrated with her family by talking about her experiences being dark skinned, and getting microaggressive comments such as "you're beautiful for a dark skinned girl." The first time I saw this episode, it really stuck out to me because I had never seen anything like it, as it discussed the history of colorism in the African American community as well as touching on how it's a worldwide issue as well.

I again want to stress that I am not an expert on this, and am writing this for the purpose of introducing people to the topic of colorism. I believe that a way to address the issue is to first learn about it, and because it's so complex, you really want to look at it through many different lenses, and because it's dealt with differently in different cultures and societies, please approach the topic with sensitivity.

Senior Spotlight

Thomas Xiong



What pronouns do you use?
He/Him.

How long have you been at OWL?
4 years.

What are your plans for next year?
Straight to college.

What's been your favorite class in high school?
So far I did enjoy beginners guitar and a bit of biology.

What extracurriculars are you involved in?
I'm not really involved in any.

Favorite field work experience or school trip and why?
The Camp Du Nord fall retreat, it was fun because we spent a week and it was more open than all the other trips.

If you had a walk up song, what would it be?
I don't really listen to a lot of music.

That One Little Kid Lauren Harris

What pronouns do you use?
She/Her.

How tall are you?
5'3

What's your favorite book, movie or tv show?
Baby-Sitters Club.

Who's your favorite senior?
Isa Benegas.

What is your favorite video game?
Roblox.

What extracurriculars do you plan on getting involved in at OWL?
Theatre and soccer.



EL conference, 1
them exceed. "Students who have access to AP courses, take the courses, and succeed in them, are more likely to get into college, graduate from college, and make more money as professionals. Many schools limit access to AP courses in ways that present unfair barriers to students of color, female students, LGBTQ+ students, and students belonging to other

marginalized groups. If we really want liberty and justice for all, we need to make it possible for all motivated students to get into advanced courses and do well in them," said Megan.

"The research is pretty compelling - students who take one or two AP classes before they graduate attend college at a higher rate than those who don't take any AND are more likely to graduate on

time," said Tom, emphasizing, "even if they don't pass the AP test! We are trying to build a STEM culture at OWL and AP is an important part of that. We want students regardless of background to start to see their innate genius and believe in themselves."

The EL conference organization started in October of 1976. Now the conference is no casual thing, and you have to apply to

present and many proposals are rejected.

While Tom and Megan did a great job this year, they aren't the only teachers at OWL to present at the conference. In previous years, English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt gave a presentation about student publications, Spanish teacher Tim Leone-Getten presented with Megan about crew, and Tom presented about standards-based grading.

Students to travel to Central America

Trip to Panama and Costa Rica originally planned for spring break 2020 will finally happen

Maya Reynolds
Staff Writer

Math teacher Tom Totushek is coordinating an OWL abroad trip starting in Panama and ending in Costa Rica from March 28th to April 5th. This trip is accessible to all students, middle and high school. The trip will be organized by EF Tours, which offers guided tours, boat rides, educational opportunities, as well as a variety of activities and excursions for students looking for exciting ways to learn and gain new cultural experiences through travel.

Highlight excursions included in the trip include a 90 foot zipline adventure, a folklore evening over a traditional Panamanian dinner, snorkeling, rafting, hiking up to a waterfall, and a visit to the Panama Canal.

I was curious about what participating students can expect and planning that went into the trip, so I chose to interview Tom about his previous work with EFT tours and what he values most about these opportunities.

Why did you choose Costa Rica and Panama?

"I like to alternate between Central America and Europe every other year. We were set to travel to Costa Rica and Nicaragua in 2020 then the world shut down. Three years later that original itinerary was not available so I chose an alternative one that got us to also travel to a second country for the purposes of comparing/contrasting. Panama and the Panama Canal have an interesting place in US history

and I hope we get to explore that a little bit."

What do you like about working with EF Tours? What has gone well in the past?

"I love working with EFTours because their size gives them leverage if things go wrong. They have expertise and people everywhere I go (a priority for me) and so if something goes wrong it gets fixed."

What are you looking forward to?

"I genuinely enjoy seeing joy in others. I will enjoy the whitewater rafting and the snorkeling, but seeing the students enjoy the things and learn about themselves will be a joy."

What should students participating in the trip look forward to?

"The Costa Rica Trip is about practicing Spanish if possible, gaining a more world-wide experience, and Eco-Tourism and adventure which could lead students (and future leaders) to view land use possibilities in another way (it doesn't have to be exploitive)."

Overall, what do you want students to take away from the trip?

"Students may not remember much about Costa Rica and Panama, but traveling is also about learning about yourself and where you are from. I want students to understand that people in other countries are awesome and that the way that life is lived in the US isn't the only way."

Middle school Lego League program thrives

Kaden McNamara
Staff Writer

What is Lego League? A club where you build legos the entire time?

Nope, it's two extremely competitive middle school teams led by science teacher Megan Hall and math teacher Clara Raineri, where you code robots, make friendships and propose ideas to improve the world to companies.

"It's a lot different than what some other clubs that are at OWL do," said 8th grader Connie van Genderen. Lego League is an afterschool activity where you code a small robot to complete objectives made of Legos such as a mission where the robot goes and pushes in a couch that Lego figures are sitting on and another mission where the robot goes and pushes something in that causes a windmill to spin and drops down energy units for your robot to move into circles

on the game board. When it comes to doing the missions it requires some coding skills, a lot of trial and error, a bunch of problem solving and of course, a bunch of handmade jigs. A jig if you don't know, you probably don't, are things that you built that you put in between the robot and the game board walls to make sure that you start from the same spot every time, which is very much vital to success.

But that's only one side of Lego League, there's also the part where you propose ideas to companies, that's called the innovation project, in which you come up with a project related to the year's theme that will attempt to improve the world in some way. Last year's topic of transportation was of cargo and other things or this year's topic of alternate energy sources to gasses and oil such as wind or hydro power. Students have full liberty over what medium the project

is from a skit to a board to a build, they can make anything as long as it's an idea and related to the theme.

The final part of Lego League is the competition itself, which starts with the regionals at Capital Hill. At the competition you have two assigned times to show up in the room where all the boards are set up and each time you go to the board that you were assigned to and when the judges start everyone off you start your code, however only two teammates can be at the game board itself, operating the robot per starting area, which as a new addition this year there are now two of. Everyone else has to stay around two feet away from the board. Sometime in the day you'll also get pulled to a classroom on the second floor to show off your innovation project and answer questions about your team that the judges might have.

After the competition day, is the awards ceremony which last year was a livestream of the judges showing off a slideshow of which teams got awards and who the eight teams are that are moving on. Last year Megan's team was awarded a coding award and Clara's team was the eighth team to move on, which was very exciting for them.

"It helps students become self-directed engineers," said Megan. Members of Lego League gain skills in programming, problem solving, and teamwork, as well as creating some great friendships and many of the alumni of Lego League go on to participate in our robotics team. There is also a rich culture in Lego League of traditions and stories. "Every year our team is the Brick Birds, and every year, the students make matching bird hats. In 2020, we were owls. In 2022, we were chickens.

In January 2023, we will be Pinguinos which are penguin-flamingos since we couldn't decide," said Megan.

"We want to win and go to state," said Connie. Both teams are aiming to make it to the state competition this year. The Brick Birds are aiming for state in one last attempt before they move on to robotics since

all of the members this year but two of them are in eighth grade. Clara's team, named, "Better With Legos," after being named "Okay With Legos," last year and making it to state, is planning on making it there again and after that maybe even further than last year.

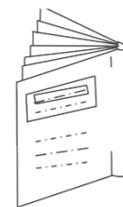


Purple Press Staff Photo

The Lego League team gathered over winter break



Reviews 'n' stuff



Nox GebbenGreen

Pokémon: Scarlet and Violet review

New Pokémon game follows the usual story template, mixes things up with new mechanics

Elizabeth Hallanger
Staff Writer

Pokémon. No matter who you are, I can almost guarantee that you're familiar with them. With just how popular the series is, of course they're bound to release a brand new set of games every few years, and Pokémon Scarlet and Violet are no exceptions. Just like previous installments, they promise an adventure through a brand new region with brand new Pokémon to catch and brand new mechanics to try out, all while still following the previous games' tried and true formula.

However, with new features there often comes a myriad of new problems to go with them, and with every new generation, there seem to be more and more complaints. This ultimately begs the question: do the new games break from that trend? Or do they prove that this series has passed its peak?

Scarlet and Violet follow your character throughout the Spain and Portugal-inspired region of Paldea. We're currently attending a Pokémon academy, where we meet our rival, friends, and professors, all while we battle, train, and try to unravel the many mysteries of "Area Zero," a crater with either past or future related anomalies, and the source of what might be one of Pokémon's most insane emotional bombshells.

The games still follow the main template of previous games, (catch Pokémon, battle gyms, Elite 4, etc.) but include some new mechanics to shake things up. The primary new battle mechanic, Terastalization, strengthens one of a certain Pokémon's typing, and also

gives them what is essentially a themed crystal hat. I thought the concept was pretty useful, and though I only ever really used it during gym battles, I liked it, and thought it was pretty balanced.

I also love that you're able to catch the main legendary right away, and that it acts as your main form of transport. It's a really interesting and fun switch up, and it gave me a lot more time to actually develop a connection with one of my Pokémon. The new sandwich-making mechanic was amazing, not only because it allows you to attract more of certain Pokémon type in the wild, but also because of the absolute struggle meals you're able to concoct. I can't tell you how many times I subjected both myself and my poor Pokémon to an open-faced pickle sandwich, it's probably my favorite feature.

As for the story, characters, and battles, I really enjoyed all three throughout this game. While some of the characters, like our rival, and specifically the streamer gym leader whose dialogue uses popular internet lingo that already feels dated did irk me a bit, I absolutely loved the rest of the characters, especially the gym leaders. There's 8 gym leaders in this generation, each specializing in bug, grass, electric, water, normal, ghost, psychic, and ice types respectively. From the ghost type gym leader Ryme, who is quite literally a rapping grandma, to the normal type gym leader Larry, whose entire personality is that he's just some guy with a 9-5, I found all of the designs super clever and interesting. The battles

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Looking back on 2022

A year filled to the brim with "historic headlines"

Kate Houle
Staff Writer

2022. Two thousand twenty two. Twenty twenty two. No matter how you say it, the 22nd year of the 21st century was pretty insane.

From diseases, to climate change, to war, to protests, last year was full of historic headlines. Take a trip back through time with me, as we look back at what made this year so noteworthy. Be warned, some serious topics are discussed ahead.

We entered the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2022, with a spike of over 1 million new cases after the winter holidays. By December the US had reached 1 million COVID deaths over the course of the pandemic, even with a two-part main dose of the vaccine available to everyone, and regular "booster" updates starting to become the norm. But COVID wasn't the only thing we had to worry about, with the US declaring monkeypox, a disease that shares symptoms with both the flu and chickenpox, a national health emergency in early August. Autumn brought the beginning of school, and hospitals scrambling to hold more kids than ever before who had caught COVID, the flu, or respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) because their immune systems had been weakened over the

pandemic.

Moving from one national emergency to another, 2022 had some of the worst weather on record, with 70 million Americans going under heat warning and advisories in July, and temperatures reaching as high as 104.5 degrees Fahrenheit in the UK. In September, the heat turned into rain, with devastating floods hitting Pakistan, leaving 1,500 dead from the monsoon rains and 33 million displaced from their homes. Hurricane Fiona left the entire island of Puerto Rico without power for multiple days, and barely a week later Hurricane Ian hit Florida hard, killing 114 people and leaving the city of Fort Myers almost entirely destroyed. Christmas got pretty

cold, with below zero temperatures across the country, and holiday travel being brought to a halt due to a freak snowstorm, dropping almost 40 inches of snow in some northeastern states, and killing 31 people in Buffalo, New York.

To combat both global warming, and rising inflation rates President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act in early August, which pledged \$370 billion to climate and energy programs, and expanded the Affordable Care Act. Earlier in June, inflation was at a 40 year high, with Californians paying up to \$6.43 for a gallon of gas, even after the Federal Reserve had lifted its policy interest rate in March.

Not everything was

so grim though, and many turned to media for some relief from the headlines. In the film industry, the Oscars were more focused on Will Smith slapping Chris Rock over a badly received joke, but the movie CODA made history as the first primarily deaf cast to win the award for Best Picture. Box offices were taken by storm from the releases of Minions: the Rise of Gru, The Batman, Everything Everywhere All at Once, Nope, Black Panther: Wakanda Forever, Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery, and Avatar 2: the Way of Water. TV was ruled by Stranger Things Season 4, HBO's House of the Dragon, and Lord of the Rings' newest series The Rings of Power. Music was overtaken by Bad Bunny's album Un Verano Sin Ti, Beyoncé's Renaissance, and later Taylor Swift's newest album, Midnights.

On a more serious note, Florida governor Ron DeSantis took school restrictions to a whole new level in March, when he signed the "Don't Say Gay" law, which prevents teachers from addressing sexual orientation and gender identity in class. And in another blow against the LGBTQIA+ community, a shooter targeted Club Q, a queer club in Colorado Springs, killing five people and



2022 IN REVIEW

Elizabeth Hallanger

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Wednesday becomes new favorite

The Netflix series helmed by Tim Burton is worth the watch

Alva Healy and Remy Short
Staff Writers

The Netflix show everyone's been waiting for, which had 50 million households watching it the first week it was released, and with raving reviews from the audience. With an iconic cast, and lovable characters, Wednesday is easily a success.

Wednesday was released on November 23, 2022, and was immediately a success with audiences both young and old. The show was directed by Tim Burton, and stars up and coming actors such as Jenna Or-

tega as Wednesday Addams, Emma Myers as Enid Sinclair, Hunter Doohan as Tyler Galpin, Percy Hynes White as Xavier Thorpe, and more.

The show's main character is teenage Wednesday Addams. The main premise is about her and a mystery she is trying to solve at a school for outcasts, called Nevermore. Along the way, Wednesday develops as a character and gets closer to solving the mystery.

The Netflix show reunites Christina Ricci to the Addams family, with her returning as

the role of Mrs. Thornhill. Mrs. Thornhill introduces herself as the caretaker of Wednesday's new home in Nevermore, Ophelia hall. Christina Ricci was the original actress of Wednesday, which she played in the Addams Family movie.

The show was overall very well received with the larger community. The show received a 4.7 star average from the fans of the show. Though most could say you either loved it or hated it, many people who loved the show still have some complaints about the show.

The most common complaints are that the show is too unrelated to the Addams fam-

ily's other movies and show, that the show had too many overused plot lines such as the love triangle or polar opposites, that the show was too comedic, and that the monster in the show was too unrealistic.

We talked to some students about their opinions, and their opinions were also related to those of other viewers. Most students rated the show 4-5 stars, and said that the show was slightly over-hyped. Most thought that the casting was very good, and most agreed that the actress who played Wednesday, Jenna Ortega, had an outstanding performance.

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Wakanda Forever impresses

Black Panther sequel honors Chadwick Boseman's legacy

Marshall Wasmund
Staff Writer

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever is the second movie in the Black Panther series. It came out in theaters November 10th, 2022. It is a 2 hour and 41 minute movie. Which makes it the second longest Marvel movie. It was originally going to be about T'Challa/Black Panther trying to get

back to normal after the events of Avengers Endgame. But sadly Chadwick Boseman, the actor who played T'Challa died in his fight against cancer. So they had to change the entire movie. Marvel could have recast T'Challa, but Kevin Feige the president of Marvel Studios said "It just felt like it was much too soon to recast." So they decided to kill off T'Challa and start from scratch.

Wakanda Forever is mainly about Queen Ramonda, Shuri, M'Baku, Okoye and the Dora Milaje fighting to protect Wakanda from a new threat after the death of King T'Challa due to an unknown disease. In the beginning of the movie there is a big funeral for T'Challa as a way to honor Chadwick Boseman's death and the death of his character Black Panther. Throughout this movie there is a lot of emotion coming from Shuri.

She's dealing with the death of her brother who was her first friend. And when the moment came to protect him she failed, and she's extremely devastated by that. And instead of talking about it she keeps it inside and eventually her grief turns into anger and rage.

This story is similar to the first Black Panther movie because both of the movies start after someone who is close to the main character. In the first

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The Night Circus is magical

The book by Erin Morgenstern places you in a fantastical world

Juniper Krings
Staff Writer

A circus where it's only open at night, with multiple black and white tents with numerous people doing all sorts of tricks...but the truth is a little darker. A bet between two famous magicians from the 1800s, Prospero the Enchanter and the enigmatic Mr. A.H. leaves them to find a challenger.

One picks his daughter and another picks an orphan boy. Celia is an illusionist, raised by her cruel father to be a simple toy. Marco has been studying symbols and tarot cards for years. When the two meet with the plan to make a circus they don't talk often, but they soon find out they're challengers and accidentally start to fall in love. As they play pretend in the circus they play a game where none of them know the rules.

But when mysterious things start happening they must find a way to win the game...or risk losing everything...

This book has 734 pages, written in multiple perspectives. I find this super cool and an interesting twist to the witches and wizards world. Usually this circus travels all over Europe but mainly with one of the three main characters it takes place in France. We get details of moving ice sculptures, a tarot card reading, some kittens going through hoops, and possible murder. Celia and Marco are the main characters but we later meet a kid named Bailey, who gives us an idea of what someone from outside the circus sees.

The detail is wonderful, leaving you begging to see this magical world and the end of the book is not what I was expecting. I'll be honest I didn't think the ending was that

good, everything else was very cool. It's super fascinating and I love it! But every book has a slight problem. The ending isn't very good, not giving us a good idea of "what happens now?" and overall is kinda unsatisfying. It doesn't make it completely unlikable though.

Each character was fascinating and well detailed and I loved imagining this environment. It's been compared to Harry Potter a lot and I don't really agree. In Harry Potter it's illegal to show Muggles mag-

ic. Here they adore showing the outside people a magical world. I love the idea of either working there or just exploring because of how beautiful it is described.

I got the recommendation from my mother who read it, liked it, and suggested it. I read it all during the Thanksgiving weekend and adored it so much. If you want a good book to leave you imagining yourself in this world then this is the book for you.



Nox GebbenGreen

World Cup song goes viral

IShowSpeed's new song boasts grand instrumentation, amazing lyrics, and is "without a doubt the best song ever created"

Ian Myott
Staff Writer

In the history of music there have been many fire songs such as "Old Town Road" by Lil Nas X and "Rich Flex" by Drake (Classical Remix). A large number of songs are relegated to a genre and become a product of their time after a few years. But there are a few exceptions such as "Funky Town" by Lipps Inc and "Sicko Mode" by Travis Scott but recently a new song has been released and it will be the timeless song of all time, yes that song is... "World Cup" by IShowSpeed.

This song is kind of a reference to the soccer/football tournament "FIFA

World Cup," you might have heard of it, might've not. The World Cup seems big at 1.2 billion myspace viewers but is

small in comparison to rapper IShowSpeed who has 190 Billion YouTube subscribers. Though being small in comparison to Speed's audience the tournament does have a significant impact on the people of the world that enjoy soccer. This song does have an impact but what makes it good and what makes it timeless? Well let's find out!

Let's talk about the most lackluster part of this song to give you an idea of how good this song is. While I call the Instrumental "Lackluster" I am not downplaying it, I am simply comparing the Instrumentals to the rest of the song. Don't believe me? Well, this song's Instrumental is such an undeniable banger that even people that hate music love this song's instrumental. Even people that are Tone Deaf

(which is when you can't hear pitches) think that this song is S Tier.

The Instrumentals are grand and spectacular with a large brass section making this song feel big and important. Now a problem with music with grand instrumentals is that they can overshadow the content of the song but this song is about one of the biggest events in the entire world, so the big brass section doesn't feel out of place in fact it makes the song at least 1000% better. Now that we have talked about the brass section let's talk about the drums.

At the beginning of the song and during the verses the drums seem small and generic. But, this makes the lyrics sound better and hit harder and when the song needs it it brings in these great and bom-

bastics drums that compliment the brass section. There are also strings in this song which makes the song even grander than it already is and if you listen closely to them I am pretty sure that they are the strings from Beethoven's Symphony 5!

Now that I have proved that the Instrumentals are top notch, I will tell you about the lyrics. Now hold onto your socks because they are about to be sent to the moon because of how fire these bars are. This song's greatness comes from the amazing lyrics that IShowSpeed gave us. The lyrics are so good that in an interview with 8th grader Harper Kopka an Intellectual Genius with a PHD in being smart said "World Cup by IShowSpeed is without a doubt the best song

World Cup, 7

Nightmare before Xmas: spooky, jolly, neither, both?

Rylan Merwin
Staff Writer

The Nightmare Before Christmas - a wonderfully classic movie. Skeletons, Santa, and objectively some of the best songs in movie history. But it begs the question: when something is the best of both worlds, which world does it truly belong to?

The Nightmare Before Christmas is a Tim Burton movie centering around the ruler of Halloweentown, the pumpkin king Jack Skellington, and his quest to get some of that Christmas joy for himself. It has sparked several debates over whether it is a Halloween movie or a Christmas movie, and I'm here to answer that question once and for all.

The movie begins with the citizens of Halloweentown

singing a joyfully haunting ode to the spooky holiday that gives their town its name. It's very clear from this scene alone that Halloween is very prominent in the movie, but the scene isn't the entire movie. The song ends as our main character, Jack Skellington himself, is introduced, and the love interest of the story, a doll-like woman named Sally. Jack, upset and bored with Halloween, leaves the celebration and finds the doors to the other holidays. Upon entering the Christmas door, he's overcome with joy, and begins plotting to take Christmas for himself. While most of the citizens of Halloweentown rejoice in this idea, Sally has her doubts. And the villain of the film, Oogie Boogie, has his own plans...

It's a great movie, but what

holiday should you watch it on? Both Halloween and Christmas are incredibly prominent. I was having a bit of trouble deciding. So I turned to others.

"It's obviously a Halloween movie," said Kaden McNamara, 8th grader.

"I think it's a Halloween movie," said 7th grader Charley Cheatham.

"Both, I guess?" said spe-

cial education teacher Andrew Kunkel.

I took these into consideration as I made my decision. But not really, because I think it's more of a Christmas movie. Don't get me wrong, I do think this movie fits into both categories, and I will gladly watch it on both holidays, but I really think that Christmas is more prominent and important in the movie.



Disney



Netflix

Daniel Craig returns as Benoit Blanc in Glass Onion.

Glass Onion is as good as Knives Out

Twists and turns abound in the stunning and elaborate sequel

Nick Streng
Staff Writer

If you're a fan of whodunit movies, you've probably watched - or at least heard of Knives Out. Rian Johnson's meticulously woven web of mystery took the genre by storm back in 2019, earning an incredibly high amount of critical praise and amassing a huge number of fans - myself included. This movie was an absolutely wonderful murder mystery, with a stellar cast and more plot twists than you could count on your fingers. Just one of these masterful and subversive cinematic experiences was enough to leave me satisfied for life, but then a couple years later Johnson decided, "hey, I think I'll make another one!"

Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery is technically a sequel to Knives Out, but you don't need to have seen the latter to follow along with this one. The only familiar face is Daniel Craig as the sharp and humorous detective Benoit Blanc, who unraveled the mystery of Harlan Thrombey's death in the first movie. In Glass Onion, he's thrown into an entirely new puzzle of a story, complete with another new ensemble cast. Written and directed by Johnson once more, the movie was released in theaters for one week starting November 23rd, 2022, before moving to Netflix on December 23rd.

Glass Onion follows Blanc as he's invited along with a group of buffoons to visit their billionaire friend Miles Bron on his island, where he's created a murder mystery game for them to play and solve his "death" but when tension rises between Miles and his friends, the get-together spins out of control and everyone ends up getting much more than they signed up for. At first it seems like the movie may buckle under the weight of how complex the mystery appears, but in the end it lives up to its title and reveals that it's a true glass onion - something that seems densely layered at first, but the

answer is very simple and hidden in plain sight.

I was pretty excited to see this movie, but also a bit skeptical on whether it would be able to live up to the enormous highs of the first Knives Out. Having seen it twice now, though, I can confidently say that it's a fantastic follow-up that has me struggling to decide whether or not I like it more than the first one. It's just as unpredictable and hilarious, and had me laughing my head off and then going "ohhhh I didn't see that coming!" on repeat for the entire runtime.

The story was wonderfully engaging, managing to cohesively cram in as many twists and turns as possible, while still taking plenty of time to focus on the characters and their motivations and personalities in order to get you invested in all of them. It takes on a more modern tone than Knives Out in its social commentary, and so much of the story feels like it could have been written just a few days ago based on recent events, aside from a few dated references. The humor consistently lands as well, and it's so impressive how this movie is able to be so funny while keeping the high, more serious stakes of its murder mystery premise.

The entire cast really brings a lot to the movie as well, with Craig as Blanc once again being my favorite of the bunch with his lively personality and witty dialogue, and Janelle Monáe is excellent in her role as the mysterious Cassandra Brand. I would be less vague about her, but she's a character whose story is best experienced going into the movie blind. Miles Bron and his insufferable friend group of sycophants are very entertaining as well, with Edward Norton and Dave Bautista in particular nailing their roles of Elon Musk and Andrew Tate - (checks notes) - I mean, Miles and Duke Cody respectively. And not only is Rian Johnson's writing as sharp as ever, but his directing is yet another

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Understanding Roe v. Wade

The landmark supreme court decision is a topic of debate

Orathai Hang
Staff Writer

In 1973, a woman by the alias of Jane Roe challenged the Supreme Court and the Texas District Court. Roe challenged the courts about the vagueness and extent of the first, fourth, fifth, ninth, and fourteenth amendment. Ultimately, the case of Roe v. Wade led the Supreme Court to make an immense and crucial decision to overrule Texas' previous anti-abortion law. This decision led to the Supreme Court's acknowledgement of abortion being protected under the constitution. Soon, the rights to abortion would be legalized all over the United States. Today, however, that right is the same right to be stripped away from women.

Abortion is an important part of health for anyone who is capable of conceiving. The banning of abortion not only affects girls and women's health,

but also transgender men, transgender boys, intersex, genderfluid, and nonbinary people. Abortion originally highlighted women's health, as of today, we should look at abortion and health with an open-minded and inclusive view. This view doesn't take away from what was originally being emphasized, but rather this gives new perspectives.

The overturning of Roe v. Wade means that states are now in charge of regulating their abortion laws, that is, unless Congress decides to intervene. After Roe v. Wade was overturned 13 states banned abortion. The Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade is jeopardizing not only pregnant people's health, but also anyone who is able to conceive. The banning of abortion can cause the number of maternal deaths to increase by 24 percent, and giving birth is 14 times more riskier than abortion.

Even though a pregnant

person is allowed to travel into states where abortion is legal to safely get an abortion, this doesn't mean that everyone is able to have the privilege of traveling around the country to get an abortion in another state. As a result, people often seek unsafe and illegal abortion procedures, which makes up for 13 percent of maternal deaths annually.

Overturning of Roe v. Wade mostly affects women of color and low-income women. Research from BBC news showed that 75 percent of women who get abortions are classified as poor or low-income. This means that not giving them the rights to abortion can give them a higher risk of poverty, and in turn even affect the well-being of the future child. The women of color that are significantly affected are Black women. They are three times more likely to suffer from pregnancy related deaths than non-hispanic white women, and the banning of abortion could increase the maternal death for black women up

to 39 percent. The banning of abortion disproportionately affects black women.

June 24th, 2022 was the day the Supreme Court decided to overturn Roe v. Wade. To understand why Roe v. Wade was overturned; we need to look at the case of Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization. The case of Dobbs v. Jackson presented the nuance of protection under the constitution and ferment under the constitution. In this case, Jackson Women's Health Organization challenged the Mississippi Department of Health. The question in concern was if Mississippi's law nearly banning all abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy was unconstitutional. The conclusion of this case was that Roe v. Wade is protected under the first, fourth, fifth, ninth, and fourteenth amendment; although, the issue is that abortion rights weren't conferred under the constitution, this essentially led to the overturning of Roe v. Wade.

Pokemon, 4

themselves weren't super challenging, and while I was personally fine with that, I could see how that might upset some people looking for more of a challenge.

Of course, the games wouldn't be complete without Pokémon, and the Pokémon in this generation certainly don't disappoint. The new starters, Quaxly, Sprigatito, and Fuecoco are absolutely adorable, and this was one of the first generations where I genuinely couldn't decide which one to pick. Other new Pokémon, like Fidough, Greavard, Tinkaton, and many others have great designs, though there are a few duds. Looking at you, Flamigo.

I also love the legendary designs, mostly because the main legendaries, Koraidon and Miraidon, are essentially motorcycle lizards. The game-exclusives that are either future or past versions of current Pokémon put a new spin on region variants, and I think exploring how they evolve over time just like real life animals is a really interesting and fresh concept.

While I generally have a positive view of the games, I do have one big gripe, and that's the apparent glitchiness and lack of polish. If you search around online for footage of these games, you're bound to witness baffled players watching their characters and Pokémon clip through the floor. I even experienced some of this lack of quality myself in the form of countless frame rate drops. I find it really disappointing, as with Nintendo's multi-million dollar budget, it's clear they could do a lot better, but simply don't, likely due to crunch times to reach specific deadlines.

Overall, I'd give this installment a solid 8/10. I had a surprisingly good time with the games, and while I had a few small gripes with them, they really didn't take away from the overall experience. However, if you're looking for a real challenge, something completely different from the recent previous games, or don't feel comfortable supporting unhealthy developer crunch times, then I'd say this isn't this generation probably isn't for you.

A brief history of Germany and Prussia

Wyatt Hanson
Staff Writer

Ever since the Nazi era in Germany (1933 - 1945) there has been a common misconception that Germany was always a Nazi power or something nearly as bad. This is not true.

Germany as a country originated in 1871 with the kingdom of Prussia. Prussia was a country in the Baltic which unified with a duchy in the German heartland called Brandenburg. Prussia was a small nation who took part in the Holy Roman Empire traditionally led by the Austrians or Bavarians. Brandenburg-Prussia was granted the title "Kingdom in Prussia" in 1701. This made the monarch of Prussia a king, but his domain was not a kingdom.

The next king was Friedrich Wilhelm I who reformed the army to be as powerful as any other European power. After Friedrich Wilhelm came Friedrich II "The Great". Friedrich the Great was given control of Prussia against his own wishes.

After he became king he set about expanding the kingdom in Prussia. With his father's professional modern army, Friedrich set his eyes on Silesia. Silesia was a duchy in the Habsburg kingdom (Austria) and Friedrich had a claim as to where to pass to Brandenburg. Friedrich pushed this opportunity when the Austrian monarch died leaving his daughter to inherit the throne.

Friedrich declared war starting the first Silesian War and the War of Austrian succession. Friedrich went on to beat Austria in

two wars, the first time taking Silesia and the second securing it. After a short hiatus, war in Prussia was back on the menu as the English needed a continental ally to threaten French allies in Europe.

England supplied Prussia with the gold they needed to build their army and in exchange Prussia would help them win the Seven Years War. In the Seven Years War (or the Third Silesian War), Prussia would face Russia, France, Saxony, and Sweden at the same time. This would be Friedrich's greatest accomplishment.

The seven years of war pushed Prussia to its limit, testing every part of the Prussian military. Midway through it looked lost for Prussia, but Russia tapped out as their new Tsar was a big Prussian fan. He asked only for a prestigious award for peace.

The war was won by the anglo-Prussian alliance and set the path for more expansion for Friedrich and the revolution of a few English colonies. Friedrich, determined to gain more glory, took part in the partitions of Poland between Prussia, Russia and Austria, finally making Prussia a kingdom. After he died heirless, his nephew took the reins of Prussia and after him came Friedrich Wilhelm III.

Friedrich Wilhelm III decided to not reform the Prussian military before his war with Napoleon leading to a great loss and great shame. They lost many territories gained after the partitions of Poland and needed to aid Napoleon's Russian campaign.

But Friedrich Wilhelm

III was not completely incompetent as he trusted his generals to completely reform the military. The new reforms made Prussia once again a military powerhouse and they demonstrated this in the Battle of Waterloo, beating Napoleon.

After Friedrich Wilhelm III came Friedrich Wilhelm IV who dealt with the 1848 nationalist revolution sparking the ideas of Kleindeutschland (little Germany) and Großdeutschland (Greater Germany). These ideas inspired Otto Von Bismarck in his quest to bring Germany to new heights.

After Friedrich Wilhelm IV came Wilhelm I who made Otto Von Bismarck Chancellor of Prussia, a new title created during the 1848 revolutions. Bismarck started the first Schleswig War to take the german speaking areas of Denmark (Schleswig-Holstein) and delivered his 'Blood and Iron Speech' saying, "Not through speeches and majority decisions will the great questions of the day be decided [that was the great mistake of 1848 and 1849] but by iron and blood."

The question he is talking about is Kleindeutschland vs Großdeutschland, Großdeutschland is the idea that a united Germany would be led by Austria whereas Kleindeutschland is the idea that a united Germany would be led by Prussia.

The Prussians waited for an opportunity and one presented itself in 1864. The Danish had broken their peace treaty with Prussia and began re-integrating Schleswig-Holstein. Prussia was able to turn this war into the Austro-Prussian

War, or the Seven Weeks' War. Prussia won handily but fought many other German states. Prussia annexed Hannover and a few other smaller German states and Proclaimed the 'North German Confederation.'

Bismarck eventually convinced Wilhelm I to agree to let him unify Germany. Bismarck formulated a plan to unify the southern German states. Bismarck's plan was to go to war with France and convince the southern German states that France was dangerous and a unified German state would protect them.

The problem was that France needed to be the aggressor so in a heated debate between Prussia and France over Spanish succession, Bismarck added a comma to an interaction between Wilhelm I and a French diplomat making it look like he insulted the French diplomat.

Napoleon III was quick to take offense and declared war on 19th of July 1870. Prussia soon beat the disorganized French and at the battle of Sedan Napoleon III was trapped in a city and surrendered on the second of September 1870. By January the Prussian and Bavarian forces had encircled Paris and on the 18th of January 1871 the German Empire was declared in the hall of mirrors at the palace of Versailles.

The war was won and Bismarck's dream of a unified Germany had come to fruition, Wilhelm I was declared Deutscher Kaiser Wilhelm I. des Deutschen Reiches. Two days ago the 152 anniversary of the Unification of Germany oc-

curred as this date is one of the most important dates in modern history as it marked a potential new age in history.

Kaiser Wilhelm II dismissed Bismarck and failed to maintain his alliance with Russia. Wilhelm II also neglected the colonies and allowed for a rogue colonial administration in Namibia to commit atrocities against the people there.

Kaiser Wilhelm also began building a larger navy but this upset Britain as their navy was now threatened. Kaiser Wilhelm formed a close bond with Franz Ferdinand and after his assassination gave Austria the "Blank Check" allowing them to give demands to Serbia with German support. After Serbia refused one of the 10 points in the demands Austria declared war starting WW1.

The Prussian Spirit pushed hard against eastern and Western Europe and almost won in 1915 & 1918 but the British blockade stopped food from arriving in Germany leading to mass famine and a revolution in Germany. The German Empire was dissolved in 1919 after the treaty of Versailles was signed. The following rise of Hitler led to the com-

plete destruction of Prussia by the Soviets.

Prussia created Germany and its influence is still seen today, the football uniforms of Germany are black and white the colors of Prussia, the flag still has the black bar of Prussia, and the capital itself is the heart of Prussia and the fact that it is still the capital of Germany instead of other historical capitals of the Holy Roman Empire shows the heavy influence of Prussia.

Prussian history is one of survival, the three times they lost they were dismantled, after the defeat to the Polish the Teutonic Order was obliterated, after Napoleon Prussia would have been just another state if it wasn't for the sixth coalition and after WW1 Prussia was obliterated. The last remnant of old Prussia lies in Kaliningrad Russia that has been ethnically cleansed of Germans.

Germany was not unified until 153 years and 2 days ago. Germany was made prosperous and glorious by Prussia and without them they would still be a mass of small German city states and the world without Prussia would be unrecognizable.



Nox GebbenGreen

injuring 25 more. But good news prevailed at the last minute, when Biden signed the Respect for Marriage Act into law, which codifies same-sex marriage, and prohibits states from denying same-sex couples the right to marry.

In sports, the year started off with the 24th Winter Olympics opening in Beijing, China, with Norway, Germany, and China bringing home the most gold medals. In the US, the LA Rams won Super Bowl 56 23-20, the Golden State Warriors won the NBA championship 103-90, and the Houston Astros won the World Series 2-1. Tennis players Rafael Nadal and Iga Swiatek were named the 2022 tennis champions, and world famous tennis stars Roger Federer and Serena Williams both announced their retirement. The biggest event of all however was the 2022 World Cup. The month-long soccer tournament was hosted by Qatar, and was eventually won by Argentina.

For celebrities, most news was focused on court cases, with Elizabeth Holmes being found guilty of fraud and conspiracy after claiming her company Theranos could detect cancer, and was sentenced to 11 years in prison. Infowars founder Alex Jones was ordered to pay over \$1.4 billion in damages to the families of the Sandy Hook massacre, which he claimed was fake. Actor Johnny Depp won his defamation trial against his

ex-wife Amber Heard, and was awarded more than \$10 million in damages. Drama turned away from the courtroom when Adidas cut all ties with rapper Kanye West after he repeatedly used antisemitic language and symbols. And the year ended with a bang after social media influencer Andrew Tate was arrested for human trafficking charges after losing a Twitter argument with Greta Thunberg.

Of course, you can't mention Twitter without bringing up Elon Musk's purchasing of it in late October. He made immediate changes to the social media company, firing several top executives, installing a payment option for the "Twitter Blue" checkmark program, and removing many restrictions that he believes prevented free speech. Criticism was plentiful, and Musk's net worth reportedly dropped a large amount, with rumors that Twitter will soon file for bankruptcy. Musk also lost a poll titled "should I step down as the head of Twitter?" where 57% of users overwhelmingly voted yes, only two months after he became CEO. He hasn't stepped down yet, but says he's searching for someone to take his place.

Speaking of people who refuse to step down, former president Donald Trump's residence in Mar-A-Lago was searched by the FBI for stolen documents that related to Trump's involvement in the 2020 January 6th capital riots. A congressional committee held hearings throughout the

year to determine whether Trump was guilty of inciting the riots, and decided in mid-December that the former president and several of his associates should be prosecuted. Though the decision held no legal weight, it was a huge blow to Trump, who had recently declared his intention to run again in 2024, especially after a disappointing turnout for republicans in the midterm elections, where the predicted "red wave" made no appearance.

Keeping with US politics, late June brought upheaval to the country when the Supreme Court overturned Roe



The Boston Globe

2022 was a tumultuous year for international news.

v. Wade, a historic case that insured the constitutional right to an abortion. The decision meant that state governments had the power to shape their own laws around abortion, and total bans on the procedure went into place in about half the states.

Some of the most devastating news of 2022 took form as gun-related massacres. In May, ten people were killed in a racially motivated attack at a supermarket in Buffalo, New

York. Only ten days later, a shooter killed 19 children and two adults at Robb Elementary in Uvalde, Texas. Thailand also suffered a school shooting, when an attacker armed with a knife and gun killed 34 people at a local preschool. In October, deadly stampedes occurred in both Indonesia, where over 130 people were killed in a riot at a soccer stadium, and South Korea where a Halloween celebration turned dangerous and took the life of 158 partygoers.

Sadly, these weren't even the deadliest headlines of the year. Starting in February,

homes, and those who stayed were under constant threat, often retreating to underground bomb shelters. There have been hundreds of thousands of deaths on both sides, even with NATO's full support behind Ukraine. Neither side has been declared victorious, but hope still lies with the brave Ukrainian troops as they slowly reclaim their land.

Other international headlines told of historic protests in Iran, after young woman Mahsa Amini died in police custody, where she had been taken in for "not wearing her hijab correctly". Iran has strict laws regarding women's rights, and the protests are led by other young women who are tired of being silenced. Videos of women burning their hijabs and cutting their hair in public, things that are both highly illegal in Iran, quickly went viral, and the slogan "Woman, Life, Freedom" became a rallying cry. Many countries took a stand with the women of Iran, but news is hard to get through the Iranian regime's harsh crackdown on protesters.

The UK also went through some insane times, starting in June, when over 40 government ministers and political aides resigned within 24 hours, pressuring former Prime Minister Boris Johnson to step down after months of scrutiny over his hypocrisy regarding COVID rules. Liz Truss was then appointed, but only lasted six weeks in the seat, with Rishi Sunak now holding the position. Of course the biggest headline

was of Queen Elizabeth II passing away after 70 years on the British throne, and King Charles III taking his mother's place.

Queen Elizabeth II wasn't the only beloved person we lost this year. Let's take a moment to remember Sidney Poitier, Shinzo Abe, Loretta Lynn, Meat Loaf, Christine McVie, Bob Saget, Mikhail Gorbachev, Thich Nhat Hanh, Nichelle Nichols, Andre Leon Talley, Taylor Hawkins, Bill Russell, Kevin Conroy, Angela Lansbury, Robbie Coltrane, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Pelé, Barbara Walters, and so many more.

It wasn't all bad though. 2022 also brought plenty of heartwarming news, like the first successful transplant of a pig's heart to a human. Or Ketanji Jackson Brown being sworn in as the first black woman on the US Supreme Court, similarly to Karine Jean-Pierre being the first black and out LGBTQ+ woman appointed as White House press secretary, and Maya Angelou being the first black woman featured on a US quarter. Over 2,000,000 kilograms of trash were removed from oceans and rivers, and humpback whales are no longer an endangered species. We got some breathtaking images from the James Webb Space Telescope, and achieved net positive nuclear fusion for the first time. The world's population has reached eight billion, and we have more to reflect on than ever before. Happy New Year!

Wednesday, 4

Although many of them also agreed that some of the plot lines are overused and predictable, overall students gave the show a very good review.

Alva's Opinion

I really enjoyed watching the show, and I thought that Jenna Ortega was very good in the role of Wednesday, but I agree with some of the complaints, like the overused plot lines. I have never been a big Addams Family fan, so I didn't really have a problem that they were not as present in this show, but I can understand why people got angry about that.

I think that it was a good thing that it was separate from the other Addams family, because it really allowed the show to do whatever it wanted.

I also really loved that Tim Burton was directing. I love Tim Burton's movies, and I loved that the monster looked like one of Tim Burton's old Beetlejuice monsters because it was very nostalgic for me, since I used to watch his movies when I was younger.

The mystery was probably my favorite part of the show. I thought that they did a really good job of surprising me with the identity of the monster. Even though I suspected it, I was still really surprised that it came true. The show gives a lot of good red herrings.

Remy's Opinion

I personally really enjoyed the show, I don't have much to complain about. I can still relate to some of the complaints, specifically the fact that the show did have some cringe-worthy scenes. Aside from that, there is a lot I enjoyed in the show.

One of the things that

really makes the show for me is the casting. I enjoyed all of the actors' performances, but Jenna Ortega really stood out above all others. Jenna really wowed me with the perfect portrayal of Wednesday's emotionless personality. And how, in the show Wednesday rarely blinks, it really helps develop the character and bring it to life.

I also really loved the mystery with the monster. If you pay attention, the show drops very subtle hints of the identity. Along with this, the other mysterious storylines really got me hooked on watching the show.



Netflix

Jenna Ortega stars as the title character in Wednesday.

Glass Onion, 5

great positive. Multiple times I thought, "wow! You can do that with a camera?" when I first watched it; he brought even more energy to the movie with so much clever camerawork.

There are a few criticisms I have of this movie - with the way the mystery is structured, a very long flashback is necessary for the story near the middle and it results in the

pacing being rather uneven. A few plot details also don't line up as well as they could have, and the movie is even less interested than its predecessor in allowing you to figure anything out on your own ahead of time by picking up on small details. Obviously that wasn't Johnson's main focus; he clearly wanted to keep us guessing throughout the whole movie, but it was unfortunately at the expense of including hints and foreshadowing.

But overall, Glass Onion is a terrific, tremendous, and memorable movie that I would highly recommend, and I'm giving it an overall score of 9/10. If you loved the first Knives Out, or are just looking for a really great movie in general, this is a wonderful viewing experience to "inbreathe."

World Cup, 5

ever created."

But what makes this song's lyrics so good? Well I will dissect a few lyrics and prove why they are some of the greatest of all time. A great example of a hype line sounding great is "Arf, arf, arf, arf (uh, ayy)" Which is a reference to dogs being loyal to their owners, which fits into this song because World Cup fans are very loyal to the country they support. In this case Speed is showing that he is loyal to Portugal even though is from the depths of the land recognized as Ohio.

And, Speed's line "Siuu, Siuu, Siuu" which is a reference to Cristiano Ronaldo's famous line "Siuu!" Which again shows Speed's loyalty to Portugal. Speed's lyrics are so good he even dropped a political rap bar "Foi na onda da droga, foi-foi-foi na onda da droga" which is a bar that talks about the Socio-Economic state of Indonesia in Portuguese and because it is in Portuguese he is still staying loyal

to Portugal.

While the lyrics and the Instrumentals are fire we should also appreciate the phenomenal production on this song! The production is fire as all the Instrumentals have a time to shine without making the other Instrumentals redundant. Speed's voice has also been drastically improved because of the production which makes his bars even more impactful than they already are. This song is probably the best produced song of 2022 because of how the production makes everything come together.

Now that I have proved that this song is really really fire I will prove that it is a timeless song. This song is so fire that it is all genres and genreless at the same time. But, if it was going to be labeled as a genre, this song would be a rap/anthem song which can turn some people off but the bars are so fire and are delivered so perfectly that it's so called "genre" isn't a big factor.

Also because soccer (football) is the most popular sport ever created and is proba-

bly one of the most universal things humans do makes it hard to not get behind. And, because the World Cup happens every four years it will be forever relevant as long as FIFA exists. And if FIFA fell apart another tournament like the World Cup would take its place. Even if soccer somehow manages to fall out of relevance it will still be a great rallying cry for people as it is undeniably a great anthem song.

In Conclusion this song is the greatest song ever created and will be regarded as the greatest accomplishment of this generation. If you haven't listened to this song I highly recommend it as it will not be a waste of time in fact you will probably live for 747 more years when you listen to it. Now to finally give my rating, I give "World Cup" by IShowSpeed a 62/46 "Heinz Ketchup Rating." #epicgoat91 #Costco #DonutEarth

Wakanda, 4

one it was T'Challa's father and in this movie it's T'Challa. And with the obvious differences like different characters and new locations.

Overall I thought this movie was great. And I recommend it to everyone. It would have been a lot better if Chadwick Boseman didn't die and they could go with their original idea but Marvel did good with what they had. "I like it

because it was very interesting and the fight scenes were very well done," said 10th grader Victor Mason. "I thought it was a good movie but was also sad because of how much Chadwick Boseman was loved and it shows in the funeral scene and also the beginning intro," said 10th grader Zane Sheire. Black Panther Wakanda Forever got 84% from Rotten Tomatoes and a 7.2 on IMDB. The movie is still only

in theaters and may or may not come onto Disney +.



Marvel Studios

Monthly Scary Story: Darkness's Very Own

Joesph T. Schwartz

Staff Writer

A static fills the room as I press the button on the side of the radio. It takes some effort, the button is worn from use.

"Hello? This is Harry Wulfrick, I'm an inmate at Hulmsmith's Penitentiary. I woke up this morning and... everyone's gone. All the cells, including mine, were open and empty. I'm confused why they were opened in the first place. Even the officer's quarters are empty. Did I get forgotten in some building-wide evacuation?"

I hope that someone will return the message, but all I get is silence. I'm antsy in the seat. I'm not sure if I'm gonna get in trouble for being in the warden's office. Did the radio even work? I've only seen them used in movies and through iron bars..

A crackle from the radio makes me jump in the rickety leather office chair of the warden's office.

"Close the windows, Harry" says an aloof, and strangely familiar, androgynous voice. The windows are sealed with a barred cage over them and there aren't any curtains.

"Hey, um, is this meant for someone else? I can't shut the windows, they have bars."

"Don't wait, Harold, shut the windows," the voice says insistently.

"I didn't say my full name is Harold," I say warily. The voice doesn't say anything in return. The silence stays that way for a few seconds, then those seconds turn to minutes, and soon an hour has passed. No voice. I put the radio back into the standing charger on the warden's desk.

I just want to get this over with. I lean back into the chair and bump my head into the wall behind me. I should just try and leave, right? Once I walk out, everyone will be sitting out there waiting for me.

I stand up from the cheap metal desk and exit through the chicken-wire door. I'm not sure why it's even there, considering that can't do much against the gigantic prisoners in here.

My footsteps echo down the concrete hallway, the way only lit by the dim lights hanging from the ceiling. That's strange, I could have sworn this part of the third floor had windows pointing out onto the river. Didn't I see a man in a fishing boat this morning?

"What in the..." my voice trails off just as it begins. I open the heavy steel door that goes into the main area. I expected to see a railed walkway that goes over the common area. Instead, I see another hallway, the exact same as the one I just walked through, with the same iron door at the end.

I step through the door and begin to walk down the

hallway, just to hear the steel door slam behind me. I startle and spin around, only to see the rickety chicken wire door to the warden's office.

What is going on? Is this a dream? Please let this be a dream. Did I hallucinate walking to the steel door? Am I going crazy?

Alright. Slow down, I need to think rationally. I take a deep breath, trying to steady myself.

"Let's go," I say out loud. I walk down the hallway and open the steel door. It's the hallway again. My breath quickens. I walk down the hall to the door and open it: the hallway. Again and again, it's just that hallway. My pace quickens and suddenly I'm running.

My side aches, I should stop. But I don't. Even as my breath comes in heaves, I don't stop running. I can't stop. My head is light from hyperventilating.

I lose track of time as I continue running. At some point I stop feeling the ache in my shoulder from slamming open the metal door. I stop thinking about anything other than sitting down. The exit doesn't matter, finding people doesn't matter, the voice in the radio doesn't matter, I just want rest.

Something in my right thigh rips and I'm on the floor. Finally, I can rest. My lungs burn, my leg sears with fiery pain, my throat aches from the cold, dry air of the hall but I'm indifferent to the pain because I'm resting. I feel tears of relief flood from my eyes, but I'm... numb. Like I'm just watching myself cry.

I drag my hands across my face and feel... stubble? I was clean shaven when I woke up, how long have I been running?

The pain in my leg fades away slowly, along with my shuddering gasps for air, and I feel my consciousness begin to slip into the inky blackness. Maybe I can rest for a little longer. I'll get out when I wake up.

Suddenly, I snap awake at the crackle of a radio. I look up from the concrete ground and I realize I'm in the doorway to the warden's office. A deep, grating voice emanates from the radio that is sitting on the desk.

"This is Carrie Doyle, I'm the supervisor at head command. I haven't heard any correspondence from Hulmsmith's Penitentiary for at least four hours, I'm gonna need confirmation you're still up and running over there. Copy?"

As I stand to answer, pain shoots through my leg and up my back and I fall to the floor with a cry. Instead, I start to drag myself forward by my arms, and in a few seconds, I'm pulling myself up into the leather chair. Once I'm seated, I take a deep breath and grab the radio, pressing in the button.

"This is Harry Wulfrick,

I'm at Hulmsmith's Penitentiary, is there someone there?" My voice is hoarse from running. The radio crackles to life in an instant.

"Harry?" the woman says with a tone of familiarity.

"Yeah?" I respond.

"Close the windows," says the woman, her voice transitioning from that of the security guard to the voice.

I scream in frustration and throw the radio into the wall. The old machine breaks into a flurry of plastic and falls to the floor. Yet, even in its broken state, the voice is still able to carry through.

"Close them, Har..." The voice dies off in a mess of static.

I want to be anywhere but here. The cells are empty of inmates that were all there just last night, the hallways repeat themselves forever, the windows are missing. I pull my legs to my chest, having to use my arms once the muscles fail me. I'm crying again, aren't I? I can't really tell anymore. I woke up what should have been only hours ago but I have a

way. But I don't fall into despair, because the hallway is different now. Instead of the previous windowless corridor, the walls on both sides are now lined with windows. At least, what I assume are windows; they're all covered by large, red curtains. They must be good at absorbing light, because there isn't a hint of a glow from the midday sun.

My leg hurts like hell as I limp forward through the doorway and grab onto the curtains, their fabric is rough beneath my fingers. The steel door slams behind me, causing me to flinch slightly. I want to see outside. I want to see the light.

The rings that hold the curtains make a scraping noise as I open them, only to see another pair of curtains. What is it with this place and repeating things? I continue opening the curtains over and over, trying to get a glimpse of the outside, but matter what I try, I only see more of the same rough red fabric.

Sooner than I expect, something changes, the fabric is getting thinner, and a

felt wrong, like when you think you see something move in a dark room. That sinking in your stomach is exactly how I feel, right now.

The phone was ringing louder and louder every second, and it didn't seem to be reaching an end. So I limped three paces across the hall and answered.

"Hello?"

"Close the windows, Harold." The voice wasn't completely aloof, anymore: it was mad. It growled out the words, commanding that the windows be shut and stay that way, but I couldn't. I needed to see that inky darkness once more, no matter the pit in my stomach.

I slam the receiver down without a response and quickly return to the window. I once felt against looking out the window, but now I only want to see.

My hands grip the thin set of curtains that still remain, and yank them open. I was prepared for another race against the curtains, but this time, there is nothing beneath. Finally, I can stare into the darkness.

At first, it is only darkness, nothing special, but as I look longer, I see things that I can barely comprehend, things that words cannot do justice. The darkness swirls before me, bubbling and churning beneath my gaze. It tosses and turns, before finally- it wakes.

Darkness is all there is. It has no body, or mass, yet somehow, it looks around itself. It thinks and comprehends its surroundings. Soon, the darkness notices the window and, unfortunately, me.

The ink looks at me, taking in my broken, weathered form. My torn muscles, my scruffy hair, ripped clothes. But my physical form bores it, so it looks deeper. It can see all I ever was, am, and could be, it knows what I know, what I don't know.

I do not know how I can tell what it's doing, but I can, and it's terrible. It inspects me like a piece of ragged meat, cutting into me and noting anything of worth. My muscles burn and my mind aches. Nothing happens to my physical form but I still suffer.

Time slows to a crawl, every moment is agony as I'm inspected. Suddenly, thankfully, it stops. I collapse from the window sill, the hallway's smooth concrete ceiling, once a terrible bore, is now a welcome comfort. My mind is comforted by something real to look at.

The concrete, as if hearing my comfort, begins to warp and twist. The hallway turns and breaks from reality. Concrete beneath my back crumbles and disappears, sending me into the darkness. It swirls around me, looks back at me with the same interest as it did before, except this time, it

can touch me. It knows me in ways I can never understand, even as I see it flash before my eyes.

I see what I've done, am doing, will ever do, could have ever done, might be doing, and could ever do. I see worlds crumble beneath my foot, rise under my rule, but it isn't me that I see. It's the Ink. I can see it in my eyes. My pupils swirl and move like no regular darkness. This is not the first time the Ink has known me, and it is not the last.

Some have described darkness as malevolent, or maybe indifferent, but those accounts are wrong: it's greedy. The darkness doesn't like when its things get free. Now, I have done, did, or maybe will do, something that makes the darkness look at me specifically, and now it wants me, every possible me.

The darkness will never let go.

Every possible me, from every possible where or when, is now its personal toy, to be taken whenever it pleases.

I continue to fall as the darkness takes me for its own once again. My muscles burn for a while, under its scrutiny, but the pain numbs, and now I am simply falling.

My consciousness is invaded by the Ink, the embodiment of nothing, and once again, I am completely its own. The Ink has taken me.

Surprise hits me when I land on something soft and bouncy, but the feeling is muted, like when you're just about to fall asleep. I don't even realize my eyes are closed until a light clicks on and shines through my eyelids.

"Wake up, hun, time for you to get to work," says a calm, androgynous voice, the voice. My eyes open, but something is wrong. I didn't open them. I realize quickly that I can't feel anything. Not my hands, feet, arms, only this deep, deep cold.

"Oh, fine, if I need to," says a deep, scruffy voice-my voice. My voice, but I didn't say it. I can't control my own body. I- no, my body sits upright on my bed, looking into the eyes of my husband.

"You're late. You know we need you to keep that job," he says, adding a little angry growl at the end of his sentence to convey his thoughts. My body stands up out of bed at that, stepping quickly into the conjoined bathroom and looking into the mirror to start a new day.

I look nothing like how I did in the hallway, I am shaved, my hair isn't long and shaggy. Only one thing is wrong. My eyes, once a light brown, have darkened significantly, and an inky darkness swirls in the depths of my pupils.

The Ink has taken me for its own once again.



Nox GebbenGreen

week's stubble on my face. I just want to... give up.

No! No, I mustn't give up. I need to leave this place and see him again. I need my husband.

I get just enough strength from the thought, the hope to see him once again. I think of his strong hands on mine when he gave his wedding vows, his wide smile, his beautiful hazel eyes. His name: Hyacinth. He always thought it was a bit strange, but I thought it was amazing.

The muscles in my legs tremble as I stand up, threatening to make me fall to the floor again. I take one step, my knee almost buckles, but I'm able to keep standing. I take one more step with my right, pain shoots through me, but I grit my teeth and move onward. Step after painful step, I make my way to the office door, then through the concrete hall, and, finally, I step up to the big, steel door that had left countless bruises on my shoulder. Throughout it all, I think of him.

I unlatch the handle and push, the iron creaking open into... another hall-