



Frisbee season recaps - Page 2



Question: "What are you?" - Page 4



A ranking of all MCU movies - Page 7

# Purple Press



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## Kristin and Kevin leaving OWL

*Kristin is retiring after time as a TA and eight years as a teacher, Kevin is leaving after nine*

**Mintesinot Sturm**  
Staff Writer

In what may be news to many of you readers, OWL art teacher Kristin Moeller has decided to retire after the conclusion of this school year. Besides her crew students, I was one of a small group who knew about this early on. Prin-

cipal Dave Gundale asked me to be a member of a committee searching for a replacement art teacher. I wanted to share what the process of hiring a new teacher was like, especially because it is a very unique experience, and many students will never get to have as much of a voice in who they are taught

by.

Early in May, Dave approached me to ask if I would like to join a committee for hiring a new art teacher because Kristin was retiring. I saw this as an awesome opportunity to be involved in my school community (and knew it would look great on a college

resume) so I very enthusiastically agreed. Along with two other tenth graders, science teacher Dr. Megan Hall, and PTO chair Kristin (wow, same name!) Peterson, I was going to be conducting interviews of five applicants. We loved each and every one of the applicants, but one (coincidentally

the first interviewee) really stood out to us. His name was Kent. I will be honest and say that I did not feel fully comfortable saying he was my preferred candidate, mostly because he and I were the only men in the room during the interview process (he was the only man to apply), and while I did not think this was a factor, I did not want any big decisions being made with the possibility of gender bias affecting

it. I liked Kent because he not only cared about creating relationships with his students, but he really had a formula for how to show how much he cares about supporting them. Each teacher said they wanted to form strong relationships with their students, but one question really helped exemplify Kent's awesomeness. When asked how they would handle challenging behavior, a

Kevin and Kristin, 10

## "It's a very tense time to be queer in America"



Purple Press Staff Photo

Preston leading a GSA meeting this spring (left), Lulu Vargo, Myya Wilkins, Tip King, and Harper Douglas pose outside of school with pride flags.



Purple Press Staff Photo

### Preston's GSA helps OWL students feel at home

**Nora Crosby**  
Staff Writer

According to research done in 2016 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, only three states have a gender-sexuality alliance in more than half of their high schools.

While this is a nationwide issue, Open World Learning

Community tries their best to make sure that all students feel accepted and valued. They make it a priority to ensure that all people are allowed the freedom to express their personal identity.

One of the ways our school supports LGBTQ+ students and allies is through GSA,

the gender-sexuality or gay-straight alliance group. GSA is a group composed of LGBTQ+ students, questioning students, and allies; that meets on Fridays during long crew. The group is led by English teacher Preston West, and includes both middle and high school students.

Each meeting follows a similar greeting but then varies as students get into the activity of the day. "We start off with sharing names, pronouns and welcoming everyone. Then we share the successes and challenges in our lives, big or small," said Preston. 10th grader Olive Ley says it's like "a crew circle, but about being queer."

Preston then went on to say that the group generally continues with a semi-structured discussion occasionally revolving around LGBTQ+ issues at OWL and queer media before working on whatever their daily activity or project is. Olive stated, "Right now we are working on painting a stairwell, we want to paint it

GSA, 10

## OWL crew mascots and their unique origin stories

*Students and their crew leaders share the stories behind their crew's beloved mascots*

**Jensina Eccles**  
Staff Writer

Everyone knows what makes our school different, which is crew. Many crews have a name and or mascot, which makes each crew at OWL different. Some have wholesome backstories, while others have... interesting or-

igins. Nonetheless they're all different. Many crews have interesting stories behind how they arrived at their current crew mascots. This is the story of how different crews were decided.

Dan's crew is known as Daniel's Tigers. This mascot had to grow on people be-

cause they got the idea from a PBS Kids show. Their crew decided on a mascot, Daniel Tiger, two years ago. Although the name has been since this year's 8th graders were in 6th grade "it just happened, what started sort of as a joke became the name," said social studies teacher Dan Sullivan. They

all kept the name because it is fitting. "I think it fits since Dan's name is Dan," said 7th grader Liam Nowatzki. The story goes back to Dan talking about how his kids like Daniel Tiger, so they choose that to be their mascot. Then they added a story of the tree nut named Jimmothy, and the whole story is on their door for people to read. Their door has their flag and mascot "Our crew door has an Italian flag and Daniel tiger with Dan's face on it," said 8th grader Lana.

Spanish teacher Tim Leone-Getten's crew is known as The Flaming Panda Hawks. They decided on this name

together because some of the crew likes pandas and the rest likes hawks. So they put them together and decided to put it on fire. All of the crew think the name fits. Their crew name has been at OWL for a very long time -- well before this year's seniors. "I think it is kinda cool that we have a historic one, like one everyone knows," said senior Nora Verner. They also use call and response in crew, "If I say hawks, then they yell 'go hawks,'" said Tim. They have a flag for their crew that is located along their wall with past and current seniors. The

Crew mascots, 11

## Tess and Willa to National History Day!

**Meara Gunderson**  
Staff Writer

Willa and Tess Campion are heading to the National History Day competition. Their project on the Kyoto Protocol, won at this year's three competitions prior to Nationals.

The Kyoto Protocol was the first international agreement to require nations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and Willa and Tess's documentary on the subject has brought them to Nationals for the second time, after making it when they were in 8th grade for their documentary on the Third World Liberation Front.

There are four levels of competition in History Day, starting with the school competition, then progressing to a regional competition, then going to a state competition, and finally to Nationals. Nationals are still being held virtually this year, with the opening ceremony on June 12th and the awards ceremony on June 18th. "I am disappointed we can't be in DC and participate in person this year, however it sounds like Minnesota History Day will be hosting fun in-person events," said Willa.

While one other project of theirs made it to Nationals, Willa states that her goal is "to do better than we did two years ago." However, with only one documentary in a group of maybe ten moving on to the final round of judging, it's hard to progress and she isn't expecting to make it to the fi-

History Day, 7



# 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 22nd year of the Purple Press.

### Adult to Blame

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Paloma Leone-Getten

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Edward Lopez

Hay Ta Kue Moo

Ghost Olatunde

Ellie Patton

Amelia Ryan

Lana Stevens

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Grant Weyandt

Hiroko Zeleke

# Manatee wrap up season in style

## Womanatee place second in DI, Manatee varsity placed 15th in DI, and JV placed 6th in DIII

Willa Champion and Paloma Leone-Getten  
Staff Writers

The Womanatee wrapped up their successful 2022 season with a second place finish in the division one category at

state. At the tournament, the team won every game aside from two against Edina High School, this year's state champions, going 4-2. They finished the regular season undefeated with a conference champion-

ship. This was the girls' team's first trip to the DI tournament, and they look forward to returning next year.

The Manatee varsity team finished 15th in a competitive division one pool. They played

tough against Hopkins High School and Cathedral High School, losing narrowly. Prior to the tournament, they picked up a conference championship, as well, beating Great River School to take the win. The team is losing four seniors, however are looking forward to underclassmen stepping up.

The Manatee JV team placed 6th in division three, picking up wins against Hastings High School and Avalon School.

Many of these players look to be influential on varsity next season.

The middle school players were divided into two teams: Team Gio and Team Donald, named for their respective coaches. The teams competed every week this season, wrapping up the year last weekend at their own state tournament. Team Gio went 1-4 and Team Donald finished 2-4.



James Dungan-Seaver  
9th grader Danny Hobday in a game against Central.



Purple Press Staff Photo  
Senior Ben Lodahl throws to 9th grader Charlie Acosta.



Purple Press Staff Photo  
The Womanatee pose with their second place trophy at the state tournament Sunday.



Purple Press Staff Photo  
The boys varsity team at the state tournament this weekend. They finished 15th in DI.



Purple Press Staff Photo  
The Womanatee in a huddle at the state tournament.



James Dungan-Seaver  
Senior Nora Verner throwing the disc in a game against Bloomington earlier this season.



James Dungan-Seaver  
10th grader Minteesnot Sturm in a game earlier this season.



Purple Press Staff Photo  
The seniors on the boys varsity team (left to right): Stian Asper, Ben Lodahl, Jalen Bolton-Steiner, and Max Schibel.



James Dungan-Seaver  
Senior Karina Bary catching the frisbee in a game this season.



Margaret Moe  
8th grader Maddie Linstad playing in a game this season.



Margaret Moe  
6th grader Noah Linstad in a middle school game.



Harding High School

Skylar pitched 20 innings this season, along with playing several positions.

# OWL senior excels on Harding baseball team

*Skylar pitched, played center field, first base, and shortstop this season*

Paloma Leone-Getten  
Staff Writer

Although Harding Baseball didn't experience huge success on the field this year, OWL senior Skylar Van Guilder had a productive season.

This year, the high school baseball team was split between Humboldt and Harding High Schools. Harding was home to a varsity, JV, and C-squad team, while Humboldt only hosted JV due to low numbers. However, the Harding varsity is the only one with an OWL student on the team.

Skylar, who has played for Humboldt since 9th grade prior to the 2021 combination with Harding, has played a big role on the team this year, picking up time playing center field, pitcher, shortstop, and first base as well as putting up impressive statistics. His above-average .579 on-base percentage alone has greatly helped his team find success this season.

This year, the team finished 4-14, with notable wins against Como Park High School and Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, who they beat 13-11 and 14-12, respectively. The season wrapped up on June 2nd with

a sections loss to Johnson High School. "It's fun to play baseball even though we haven't won every game. It's still something," said Skylar.

Prior to the beginning of the season, the team, as well as its individual players, set goals. "We wanted to not lose every game and we reached that goal. We've won a decent amount of games for the amount we've played and we've reached our goal of having fun and improving every game and have really gotten better this season," said Skylar. His own goals for the season included improving offensively, which he has completed, finishing the season with a .393 batting average. "I wanted to hit a lot better than I have before and I think I've reached that goal. I've been batting a lot better. It's also helped to know that the team I'm playing with is a lot better than last year so it's easier to play as a team," said Skylar.

The community found on the team makes the daily commute to Harding for practice and games worth it for Skylar. "I'm friends with everyone on the team, so it's nice to see them every day and to get to play baseball, so I can't complain."

# Archery places 5th at state

*Senior Gus Holtan places 7th in boys*

Grant Weyandt  
Staff Writer

On March 25th-26th, the OWL archery team wrapped up its season in Duluth, Minnesota at the State Tournament with the high school team placing 5th and the middle school team placing 13th, a challenging achievement after missing one and a half seasons to COVID-19.

Being the last tournament it's obviously very important for the team to do well, but senior Gus Holtan set the tone moving forward by getting a 287 out of 300 score and placing 4th in the high school boys division and in the 7th overall boys category. Gus may be coming back as an assistant coach next year allowing for a bigger team and more practices.

Although OWL, as the only inner city team, did face some issues with being the only

Archery, 10

# Stian sets school record

*Track team completes successful season with large roster*

Paloma Leone-Getten  
Staff Writer

This year's Humboldt Hawks track team is bigger than it has been in recent years with around 50 athletes competing on the team. OWL students make up around half of those, many of which have found success this season.

Going into the season, the team hoped to develop their skills and keep numbers high to continue growing the track program. "I've been running the 4x200 the past two years now, so it's been fun to see us get better over these past two years. We've definitely dropped a lot of time," said 10th grader Willa Campion. While drastically improving their running, the team maintained a fun atmosphere. "[My favorite part is] definitely the community. The coaches are super great. I've learned a lot from being on the team and all of the other runners make it so fun," said Willa. Senior

Stian Asper agreed. "All of [the coaches] are super welcoming and encouraging, so they get the best out of all of us. The atmosphere is so fun." The glowing reputation of the team has allowed it to double in size in two years, attracting more female athletes, as well. "Last year I think we only had around 5 girls, and this year, we have double or triple that. I hope we continue to build that in the future," said Willa.

Stian runs the 1600 - about a mile -, the 3200 - about two miles -, and the 4x800 relay, where each person runs one 800-meter leg of the race. Willa also competes in long distance events. "I've tried a lot of different events this year, but mainly I do long distance because I like doing that more. I also run the 4x200, which has a lot of energy. The mile is the event I run the most consistently and I feel like it's a good distance because four laps isn't too long, but it's enough time to build up my speed. I've also

ran the 800 and tried hurdles which was a lot of fun," said Willa. This was the first year in recent memory where the team ran hurdles, as they found a hurdle to practice on, adding to the Hawks' list of skills.

But one of the most exciting parts of this season was Stian's conference race. After breaking his personal record for the 1600 each time he raced it, he set the Humboldt school record at the conference meet with a time of 4:35.71, gaining second place and All-Conference honors, as well. "Go-

ing into it, I didn't know how things were going to shake out. There were a lot of variables and it went better than I could have imagined so it was really exciting to cross the finish line inches ahead of a guy who's been beating me for years and getting the Humboldt school record was definitely exciting as well," said Stian. At sections, Stian raced the 3200 meter in addition to the 1600, an event he has only practiced this season due to other commitments on meet days. He placed 4th with a time of 10:09 in the

Track, 10



Humboldt High School

Stian setting the school record for the 1600 at conference. He broke his own record less than a week later at sections.

# Future of boys volleyball uncertain in Minnesota

*The Hawks competed well this season despite two years off due to the COVID-19 pandemic*

Paloma Leone-Getten  
Staff Writer

After two years without Hawks boys volleyball, it's back! Despite low numbers, the team has persevered to complete its third season.

The Hawks currently have about 20 athletes competing on the JV and varsity teams, with one from the GAP School, 14 from Humboldt, and the rest from OWL, including senior Ekin Vang, 11th grader Guadalupe Dimayuga, 10th grader Eddison Vang and 10th grader Sora Walker. "Lower numbers have impacted us as well as not having an assistant coach. I would have kept a couple of younger kids on the team if I had more help. I think some got discouraged due to less support," said coach Damon Liberatore.

As of press time, the varsity

team is 3-7 and the JV team is 6-2. "The season is going well. The team is performing how I thought they would. We just had a tough loss to Tartan—who I think will go to state—and we played them to five games, so we played them close," said Damon. Volleyball veterans and newcomers alike enjoyed the season. "I've never been on a team before that constantly tries to support one another so it's a nice change of pace," said Ekin, who has played volleyball for four years, and has participated on the Hawks team for two. Eddison also found a good community on the team. "This year was my first time playing, and I thought it was a really fun, new experience. I improved a lot and Damon is a really good coach who's helped me become better."

The team went into the sea-

son with a goal of being competitive within their conference - a hard goal to meet when many teams have continued practice and playing throughout COVID-19. "Teams who kept their program going through COVID and all of that experience of playing together and gaining team chemistry had a major advantage...teams like Harding have had a team for six years in a row and you can tell," said Damon. However, the team has risen to the challenge, winning or playing closely against the majority of its competitors while gaining team chemistry and learning the game in a short period of time.

Despite the losing record, the team made the best of the season, growing as teammates and athletes. "For me, I think a good highlight for our team was against Como. Typically,

a losing game isn't a highlight but I feel like we all played almost perfectly and we all played our hardest. We fell off in the end and that's why I believe we lost but we all played really well that day," said Ekin. Other highlights include a JV comeback-win against Hmong Prep Academy.

Looking forward, the future of boys volleyball in Minnesota is uncertain. In early May, it lost by one vote to become a sanctioned Minnesota State High School League varsity sport. It will remain a club sport, meaning less funding, leading to less coaching, fewer resources, and a smaller commitment for players. Additionally, those in charge of the Minnesota High School Boys Volleyball Association plan to step down after this year, potentially ending the sport in Minnesota for 55 teams. "I'm interested in taking that over if it were to fall apart, but I

Volleyball, 10

# Hawks softball community strong

*"The community is really nice, the coaches are awesome"*

Willa Campion  
Staff Writer

A player wearing orange and black catches an incoming ball and throws it back to the pitcher. The Humboldt Hawks softball team cheers - that was the third out. This is the kind of energy the Hawks bring to the field that makes the sport fun for players and spectators alike.

The spring season for the Hawks came to a close two weeks ago after the team lost in a sectional playoff game to Minneapolis Roosevelt. Despite some tough losses, the team went on to win three

games this season including a hard fought match with Johnson which was won 24-23 in overtime.

This year, a mix of new players and returners came out for the team including OWL students Dani Butler, Leo Buapheng, and Olivia Fiebich. "We started out with a lot of new players, so we've kind of struggled at learning new stuff, but by the end we played well," said 11th grader Dani, who has been on the team for two years. 8th grader Olivia just enjoys having the opportunity to play softball. "I always wanted to play softball, I was

just never able to whenever I was younger [...] there weren't ever enough girls to be able to play. So having the chance to play softball is wonderful," she said.

Having a small team allowed players to build strong bonds this season. "The community is really nice, the coaches are awesome," Olivia said of the team, who she has been playing with for two years. Dani echoed this. "It's a small team so it's really easy to talk to people." For the players and coaches, it wasn't about results, it was about having fun. Some highlights of the season

for players was walking over to Icy Cup for ice cream and playing kickball with the team.

The Hawks' long time coach will be leaving after this season to pursue her schooling. Despite this, the team is looking forward to next year and hopes to see more players give the sport a try. "I do recommend it, just to get more active, have fun outside of school, better know the community at Humboldt so you can have more connections through the schools - that's fun, and it's just a fun sport to play," said Olivia.

# Senior Spotlight

Max Schibel



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

**How long have you been at OWL?**  
Seven years.

**What are your plans for next year?**  
I am attending the University of Vermont.

**What's been your favorite class in high school?**  
Senior seminar.

**What extracurriculars are you involved in?**  
Ultimate, fraquetball, and theater.

**Favorite field work experience or school trip and why?**  
The MN Zoo. I like animals.

**If you had a walk up song, what would it be?**  
You May Be Right by Billy Joel.

## That One Little Kid Charley Cheatham



**What pronouns do you use?**  
She/her.

**How tall are you?**  
5'1" I believe.

**What's your favorite class so far and why?**  
Minnesota Studies because..., I don't know I just think it's really interesting.

**Who's your favorite senior?**  
Probably Mae.

**Where do you think you're going to go for college?**  
Um yeah, I don't know where. Probably not in Minnesota.

**What extracurriculars do you plan on getting involved in at OWL?**  
I do mountain biking and I was in the play, and yeah, I'm planning on continuing both those things.

## Environmental Club returns

*This 8th grade-led club hopes to reduce plastic use at OWL*

Ellie Patton  
Staff Writer

One school day in the cafeteria, a group of 8th graders noticed how much plastic the school uses. They started talking about ways to fix it and realized that the school didn't have an environmental club anymore.

After being gone for two years, the OWL Environmental Club is getting up and running once again! The club is eager to improve the school's impact on the environment

and to make OWL a better place.

Getting back the Environmental Club has a lot of importance, not only for the environment as a whole but also for OWL and building the community and letting students participate in things they are interested in, as well as shed light on issues they think are important.

"It really provides a lot more of a space for kids; if they want to help out with environmental issues, they have a place to

go," said 8th grader Margaret Moe.

The Environmental Club was originally started by former OWL students Kate Moe, Elsa Carlson, Zoe Campion, Emma McCarthy and others in 2019. However, after those seniors graduated, the Environmental Club fell apart. COVID-19 also played a part in the club coming to an end in 2020. The previous club helped the school use paper bags for breakfast instead of plastic ones and helped provide reusable utensils. They also organized a protest against Line 3 at the capitol in the middle of the day at school.

The club is coming back into the light this year, and next year they plan on expanding their club to bring new ideas and new students eager to make changes to OWL's impact on the environment.

The club is being brought back to OWL by nine of OWL's 8th graders: Lana Stevens, Ellie Patton, Margaret, Jensina Eccles, Rhoda Wonders, Meara Gunderson, Elinor McAlpine, Maddie Linstad and Fiona Curran, as well as one 7th grader, Aria Kulseth.

All of these students are excited to make changes for the

Environmental club, 9

## Social media landscape in '22

*Which are the most popular?*

Anna Carlson  
Staff Writer

What are the main social media teens use these days? We know that Instagram and Snapchat have been popular

for a while, as well as Twitter and YouTube, but the most used app by teens in the US is TikTok. Roughly 43% of TikTok's global audience is between 18 and 24 years old,

and users that range from 18 and under make up about 28%. Ever since quarantine hit in 2020, TikTok has become widely popular among younger generations. Now two years later and it's grown even more.

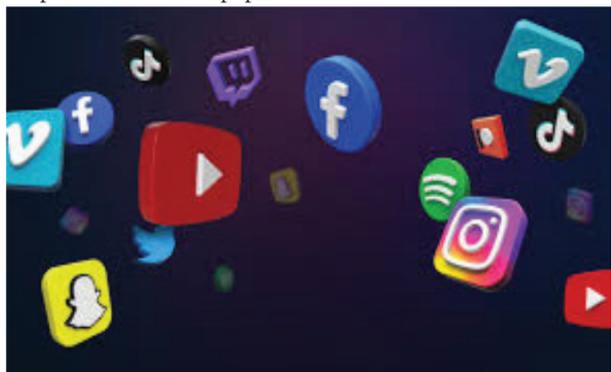
How has TikTok influenced teenagers and trends? With its wide success, comes promotions of positive and negative influences. Its trends come and go like any other app. They consist of doing certain dances, trying makeup hacks, and other random things. By the time this article comes out, there will probably be a new trend that I can't even write about in time. Some of the trends on TikTok end up showcasing "attractive" or

"perfect" people on the app, making the large population of users insecure, but that's been a thing for every social media.

TikTok can also be highly addictive because of the constant content it provides. "It fills an empty void in my life," said 9th grader Gabby Govrik. You can scroll for hours at a time. I guess that's the side of TikTok that has an unhealthy influence on young people. I'm not saying it's completely bad, but that's the stuff I've been more aware of recently.

What about Snapchat and Instagram? Sometimes there are trends on the two apps, but these are mainly used for communication. If you go up to any

Social media, 10



MotionVFX

# Being mixed race in America

*A lack of representation, microaggressions, among added challenges to mixed race people*

Hiroko Zeleke  
Staff Writer

Disclaimer: these experiences absolutely do NOT reflect experiences of all mixed race/multiracial people. Everyone has a different experience and the experiences are not monolithic.

A few months ago, I had to fill out a form asking about demographic information. They asked my mom first, but she wanted me to do it myself. The question was asking about race, and I wanted to be able to select two boxes, but they told me I could only select one. I looked to the far right for an "other" or a "two or more/multiracial" option, anything, but those weren't available either. My eyes darted between selecting "Asian" or "Black". In the end, I just refused to select. It just didn't feel right for me. But this experience is not in any way unique.

According to the 2020 US census data, the percentage of Americans identifying with two or more races has increased by 275.7% since the 2010 census. That is a huge increase. The options on the 2020 US census were "white," "Black or African American," "American Indian and Native Alaskan," "Asian," "Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander", and "Some Other Race", with people of "Hispanic or Latino origin" being a separate question from race. I went through the racial demographics in SPPS, and based on what I found, students that

are multiracial are categorized in only the "two or more" category, and not in the other racial groups they may fit into.

Multiracial Americans are a rapidly growing demographic, and some people who by definition would be considered biracial or multiracial might still not identify themselves as "mixed" or "bi/multiracial" for various reasons such as they identify with the race they are perceived as or might have closer connection to one over the other(s), which is completely valid. A notable example of this is on the 2010 census, former president Barack Obama, who's dad was Black and mom was white, put down his race solely as "Black". Finding a way to identify generally can also be difficult at times. "Recently I've just been skipping the question because it's been like, really hard to find a way to identify personally. Even though technically I know I'm this or I know I'm that, I don't always view myself as one of those," said 10th grader Jaielle Galbreath. "It's always been a question that takes me more time even though it shouldn't."

Most forms asking for racial demographics that I've seen do allow you to pick more than one race or have a multiracial category, but sometimes, there will be forms where you are only allowed to select one race. "It's kind of hard choosing between ones, so if it says 'other' then I'll put 'mixed'

Mixed race, 11

## Building bridges through music

*Joint instrumental music program beginning in 2022-23 school year*

Analigia Batres  
Staff Writer

Last spring, I submitted my video audition to the Twin Cities Youth Symphony. Playing during my senior year reminded me of what a privilege it is to make music surrounded by people you know and love.

For this reason, I'm excited to write that beginning fall 2022, OWL students will have the opportunity to participate in a musical ensemble alongside Humboldt students. This ensemble will strengthen our relationship with Humboldt and a new era of building bridges through music will begin.

I've attended Open World Learning for all of high school, and I have many wonderful memories to show for it. Un-

fortunately, making music in an ensemble with my peers is not among them. My private clarinet lessons have never compared to daily band rehearsals and the magic of performing together onstage. I played for three years in the Murray Middle School Band and loved it. At OWL, I've always felt like something was missing. These feelings inspired my senior project: create an instrumental music program for students at OWL.

I started by interviewing Dave and was pleasantly surprised to hear that he was already working with Jeremy Barnes, Humboldt Band and Instrumental Teacher, to create a combined music program. "By offering students multiple pathways of learning

Music, 10

# Anti-Trans laws in Texas impacting youth

## Gender-affirming medical treatments are now “child abuse” according to Texas Governor Greg Abbott

August Cheney  
Staff Writer

You may have heard that late last month, Gov. Greg Abbott of Texas issued a letter to the Texas state of health agencies announcing that delivering gender-affirming medical treatments to transgender youths “constitutes child abuse” under state law. Texas’s newest anti-transgender measurement was part of a record number of anti-trans bills being introduced and passed in Texas’s state house and senate. The newest directive about the new bill’s rules and conditions was a letter issued in late February to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services to make sure medical treatments for transgender youth, such as puberty blockers and hor-

mone injections, are being banned. The American Civil Liberties Union has decided to sue Texas to try and prevent the implementation of these new bills, and soon after that, a Texas judge temporarily blocked enforcement of the new bills. Soon after, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued a statement indicating that denying trans youths health care is discriminatory and illegal under federal law. Many of these bills were soon passed, in spite of the U.S. Department of Health’s statement, these bills were later put into effect.

The first bill would be barring transgender girls from playing on girl’s sports teams and transgender boys from playing on a boy’s sports team. The law had gone into effect

in January, making Texas the 10th state to do similar legislation.

The second bill will require doctors, nurses, and teachers are legally now required to report parents who help their child receive care to gender-affirming treatment to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

The third bill would require K-12 youth to participate in sports according to the gender on their birth certificate, essentially banning transgender youth from participating from the friendship, education, teamwork, and health benefits of playing a sport.

The fourth bill is that mainstream broadcast media offers only limited coverage of trans speakers, or even of fictional trans characters on TV. Yet

over the past year, right-wing Fox News has put a lot of considerable airtime to attacking trans-inclusive policies and trans and gender-diverse people.

The impact has been more dramatic among the transgender and nonbinary youth, with more than 85 percent of that group reporting that their mental health has been getting worse with these bills in place, according to the Trevor Project survey. Between January 1 and August 30, 2021, The Trevor Project received more than 10,800 crisis contacts online from LGBTQ youth in Texas needing support. More than 3,900 of those crisis contacts came from transgender or nonbinary youth.

The Trevor Project’s crisis support hotline has also been hearing from transgender and nonbinary youth all across Texas who are worried about anti-trans laws being made in their state, and some have even expressed suicidal thoughts about the situation.



Purple Press Staff Photo

OWL students at a walkout earlier this year after SPPS remained in person despite rising COVID-19 cases.

## Are today’s youth more aware than past generations? How activism has changed over the years

Lucy Keenan  
Staff Writer

The answer to that question tends to change depending on who you ask.

In an era dominated by the use of the internet, it’s no surprise that Gen Z’s connection to the online world sets them apart from other generations. Thanks to social media hubs, younger generations are more informed than ever about the cultural and social issues that affect today’s society. Gen Z especially experiences a greater exposure to events on national and global levels than youth in the past ever did. But does that make them more aware than their predecessors were? In a way, yes.

One example of this is the issue of climate change. Gen Zers are definitely determined to reach a solution to the planet’s climate crisis, and many see themselves as part of the change. Compared with youth in the past and even to some adults today, Millennials and Gen Zers especially have proven to be far more aware of climate change. Why? Well

for one thing, climate change is becoming a larger and more threatening issue by the day. But it also has to do with how Gen Z is connected to the issue.

Younger generations are better able to actively talk more about climate change by viewing and spreading content online, an option their parents definitely didn’t have. We as a globe have also witnessed a significant rise of action among students and young adults surrounding the climate crisis through organized rallies, protests, volunteering, and even everyday actions, much of which is fueled and influenced by online resources and news agencies who have now made teenagers and young adults their target market.

“Being in the loop about what’s going on in the world can affect my actions. For example, if I’m hearing about global warming and I learn there are certain brands that I shouldn’t buy because they harm the environment, I’ll avoid buying those,” said 9th grader Aurora Hull-Williams when asked about the influ-

Youth awareness, 13

## What rowing is really like

Miranda Locken  
Staff Writer

Have you ever heard about rowing or had any thoughts about rowing? If you have, this article is for you. It will tell you what rowing is if you don’t know it will also tell you all the boats and how regattas work and how to be a good rower or how to become a good rower.

It’s 7:00 am in the morning and we are getting the boats out of the boathouse into their slinging. We are moving our foot stretchers getting the spacers set to the perfect height. Then we all get to the same side of the boat. We all get our hands on the boat ready to lift it into the air to get onto our shoulder to walk down to the dock.

Then we lift the boat into the air and put it into the water. Then we get our oars in. But you need to put the port oar in first so you don’t flip the boat then you put the star oar in. After you have put your oars in and then you have to extend your star oar and put your foot on the tap to get into the boat. Then when you are in the boat

you have to strap your feet in. After your feet are strapped in you countdown from bow.

Once you are ready your push off from the dock with oars and you get adjusted to go up or down stream it depends where the coaches tell you to go. We usually go down stream and we row Under the Lake Street bridge to get to the other side. Then we start our warm up then we usually start our pieces usually and lastly once we’re done with our pieces we might do a few sprints back to the dock.

Once we get to the dogs we launched the boat takes the orders out cut that words on the dog leave him there and then go over to your boat you put your hands on the boat you go 1-2-3 down and then up and you have above your head you go down the shoulders and up clear spring and then once it’s in the same about cut the right away and then go get yours and then you can head home once everything is done.

Rowing, sometimes called crew in the U.S., it’s a sport where you are racing in boats

using oars. It is different from paddling sports. Rowing oars are attached to the boat using oarlocks, while paddles are not connected to the boat. Rowing is also divided into two disciplines: sculling and sweeping.

There are seven different types of rowing shells. There are also different types for sweeping and sculling. Sweeping boats are pair, quad, and eight. For a pair you have two people, for the quad there are four people and sometimes there is a coxswain the last boat is an eight which has eight people and a coxswain. Then for sculling there is single which is one person, double has two people, and coxed quad which is four people and a coxswain and uncoxed quad has just four people with no coxswain. Here is a list of all the boats. Single, double, coxed quad, uncoxed quad, and an eight.

Rowing is broken down into three seasons: Summer, Spring, and Fall/ Winter. Summer sessions, the best and the worst. The best part about summer is that you are out

on the water and are playing games and racing against your team mates. The worst part of the summer session is the heat. The heat is super rough and it is super important to drink lots of water and get your elector lights. During the summer session the water sometimes has a current and it is hard to row. So you have to stay on land when that happens you will either do a workout on the erg, lift, or run. But when you are out on the water you have to stay focused in the boat so you don’t flip unless you are bowing which means you are controlling the boat or you have a coxin.

When you are on the water you can hear the birds, water, people, and the sound of the oarlocks clicking when you are matched up together with your teammates. Then you have spring session, spring session is mostly racing session. Spring is when you are just practicing to get into the top boats. Also to get ready to do all the other races even if you are not in

Rowing, 12

## What is a sneakerhead?

### “It’s not just a person who likes shoes, but a lifestyle”

Ghost Olatunde  
Staff Writer

Sneakerheads have always been a thing; it’s not just a person who likes shoes, but a lifestyle.

What is a sneakerhead you may ask. A sneakerhead is a person who collects and sells sneakers and typically knows

the history of sneakers. When it comes to buying/appreciating sneakers people who are sneakerheads do it the best, buying sneakers at lower prices than what they are actually worth, and most times keeping their sneakers in almost perfect condition. Last month I bought some Jordan 3’s for \$110 then I went and sold them for \$205.

When it comes to selling, every sneakerhead is different. Some of them don’t like to sell as much but others love to buy and sell. It just depends on them and how they view

sneakers.

How did the trend of sneakerheads start? Most people think it started in 1970 and became more known in the 1980’s. It all goes back to the iconic Michael Jordan and the hip-hop we have come to love today. When Micheal Jordan released his now popular Air Jordan line in 1985. With the growth of hip-hop and famous legends wearing his shoes, sneakerheads began to pop up everywhere.

“It’s cultural. It can be a lifestyle,” said ELL teacher Bridget Leba. Ninth grader N’ezariah

Parker said “being a sneakerhead is a lifestyle as long as I can remember. Buying sneakers has been something I love and am passionate about. Overall I have about 20,000 dollars worth of sneakers.”

How does buying and selling happen, you may ask? Sneaker heads can bid on shoes or ask for shoe resales then you can buy a bid directly through websites. You can choose a website to sell shoes, like stockX, one of the leading places sneaker heads and people alike sell their shoes.

Sneakerheads, 13

## Paige and Katerina form connections

### OWL social worker and counselor create a safe space for students

Kyler Aldridge  
Staff Writer

When 8th grader Fiona Curran switched to OWL in the middle of the year, it was difficult at first, but having a supportive adult can help a lot with feeling more comfortable in a new place. “On my first day at OWL, Katerina was really helpful with finding different classes and introducing me to other students, she made sure that I was comfortable at a new school,” said Fiona.

Paige Geck, a social worker, and Katerina Youngberg, the middle school counselor, have made strong connections with

students here at OWL. “Paige provides a welcoming environment, makes me feel safe and at ease, she encourages me to do things that wouldn’t normally do and helps me be more outgoing. She feels like more than a school social worker; she is someone I can be myself with,” said 8th grader Emma Miller.

Paige’s room is tucked in the first floor hallway by the boys bathroom and Katerina’s room is in the main office by the nurses office. Both of them to make their room very friendly and welcoming “I really like the feel of Katerina’s and Paige’s rooms, the dim lighting makes me feel really calm and I like that they both have things that I can fidget with and keep my hands busy while I’m talking,” said 8th grader Rayne Van Guilder.

Paige and Katerina, 13



# Reviews 'n' stuff



## Robert Pattinson 'shines' in The Batman

*Latest movie in the Batman series is long, yet memorable*

**Alex Cowles**  
Staff Writer

Once again, Robert Pattinson is starring in a widely popular blockbuster as an angst bat related hero.

Batman was most recently played by Ben Affleck in the DCEU franchise in movies like Justice League and Batman v. Superman. Before this, the character was played by Christian Bale (and Will Arnett in the Lego Batman movie) as well as various other actors in the 20th century. Originally, The Batman was an extension of the DCEU, written, directed, and produced by star Ben Affleck but when he left the

project Matt Reeves joined as director and Robert Pattinson was cast as the lead.

The Batman follows the classic Batman plot pretty closely. Wealthy socialite Bruce Wayne's parents die while he is a kid. He grows up and swears vengeance dressing up in a bat suit and fighting crime. However, The Batman puts its own spins on the Batman formula to keep the character fresh. Instead of appearing as a social playboy like before, this Bruce Wayne rarely leaves the house. This movie plays out like a detective drama more than a classic superhero movie. The villain is more like a real serial killer than a supervillain.

Pattinson shines in the lead role. Even with his face covered up, his emotions can be read in his eyes. Paul Dano is absolutely unhinged as the villain. His performance perfectly balances the over-the-top villainy of the Riddler with the grounded realism of the movie. The Batman is visually stunning with many memorable shots. This is also the first Batman movie I've seen where the Batman costume doesn't look slightly goofy and impractical. The take on the Batmobile is terrifying and awesome. Everything about the appearance of the movie from the costumes to the sets and lighting is absolutely perfect.

I also appreciated The Batman's willingness to engage

with themes such as privilege and wealth, which sets it apart from the other movies I've seen about this heroic billionaire. That being said, it never goes all the way with this and instead makes brief acknowledgments of wealth. By not committing to addressing this at its core it can seem like the movie wants to have its cake and eat it too. At 2 hours and 56 minutes your enjoyment of The Batman will depend if these positives are worth it for this long runtime. Even as someone who loved the movie on repeat viewings, there are a couple moments that drag slightly. Still, The Batman is a memorable take on the iconic story with excellent execution that's more than worth a watch.



Epic Games Store

**New video game follows in the footsteps of Lego Star Wars: The Complete Saga.**

## Lego Star Wars: The Skywalker Saga

*New game is "the best video game ever made"*

**Nick Streng**  
Staff Writer

If you had told me five years ago that a Lego video game would be one of the best things to ever come out of Star Wars, I probably would have laughed my head off...wait, no, actually, I probably would have believed you. Ever since the early years of the Star Wars franchise, TT Games' series of Lego-themed video games based on the movies have been extremely creative and fun adaptations, with arguably its most popular entry being Lego Star Wars: The Complete Saga. And take it from a Star Wars fan who rarely plays video games and only ever really got into Angry Birds and Cool Math Games - this was the best video game ever made. Perfectly adapting both the original Star Wars trilogy and the prequels and overflowing with details, it was an absolute blast to play through every movie with Lego's comedic storytelling. While many other Star Wars projects faded in and out of popularity over the years, that wasn't the case with The Complete Saga, which continues to remain largely-talked about even now. It seemed to me that this game simply couldn't be topped...until it was.

Over the years, Star Wars became a much larger franchise, and once more TT Games has adapted it with Lego Star Wars: The Skywalker Saga, rising to meet the franchise's expansion. The game was delayed multiple times, finally releasing on April 5th, 2022, and this time around, it adapts all nine Star Wars movies - that is, if you don't count the spin-offs. I was pretty excited for this game when I first heard about it - but I was simply not prepared for just how good it would be.

This game feels like a true successor to the original Complete Saga game, keeping - and often improving - nearly every aspect of TCS that made it so good, and then expanding into uncharted territory with a plethora of new additions.

We'll get to those new additions soon enough, but first let's discuss the key appeal of this game - its adaptation of the Star Wars movies. All three trilogies - the original, the prequels, and the sequels - make up the game, with an extensive set of levels dedicated to each movie. And this ambitious task was quite well accomplished - but not without its flaws. Since all nine of the movies needed an equal amount of focus, the game had to rush through each one at a pretty fast pace. While this mostly still allows for the playthrough of all the best moments from each movie, there unfortunately are a few that are regulated to being simple cutscenes instead of actual levels.

However, it's really hard to get mad at that issue because not only does the fast pace fit perfectly with Lego's comedic tone, but the playable parts of the game are adapted very well. The level of accuracy to the movies in terms of character designs, planets, spaceships, you name it, is through the roof and everything is recreated in Lego and brought to life with amazingly detailed animation. And even with all the accuracy in mind, the game still manages to keep the spirit of every other Lego game with its plethora of puzzles, collectibles, and humor. These additions make every movie really fun in game form, and in a fanbase as divisive as that of Star Wars, you know the game's doing things right when even your least favorite Star Wars movie of all time is still extremely enjoyable to play through.

Beyond story adaptation, the game brings all the popular elements of Star Wars to the table, with the characters, the space battles, the lightsaber duels, using the Force, you name it. Lightsaber dueling and using the Force in particular are improved greatly from the original game. Instead of

## Five most expensive cars of 2022

*Rolls Royce, Bentley, BMW, Audi, and Porsche are the top contenders*

**Atticus Brooks-Babcock**  
Staff Writer

The best of the best, luxurious leather, screens, adaptive suspension. These are five of the most expensive sedans you can get new in 2022.

Starting off strong with Rolls Royce. Rolls Royce is a British company started in 1906 and has solely made hyper luxurious cars and recently SUVs. To find the most expensive Rolls Royce I went on their website and configured a 2022 Phantom extended. Some of the features it comes with are, adaptive suspension, ventilated/heat and massage seats all around, center console entertainment, wool carpet, a clock, and many more. Which was about \$600,000.

Next in line is Bentley, another British company but this time started in 1919. Bentley has always been the runner up to Rolls Royce, the difference between the two are that Bentleys are meant to be a little more sportier, most well known for the Bentley Continental grand tourer, a two door grand tourer sports car. However, I specked out a Bentley Mulsanne, the direct comparator to the Phantom. This came with all the same features and is really just a Phantom with a w12 instead of a v12 and a little worse build quality. That cost around \$360,000.

After that is BMW, started in 1916 in Germany, BMW is a luxury car brand that makes everything from sport bikes to economy cars and everything

in between. The only car that somewhat compares to either of those is the m760i xdrive sedan. Even after getting every option and everything as expensive it could be it was still only a small fee of \$160,000. It still has most of the features that the others do, just none of the name.

Another brand that makes luxury cars and also economy cars is Audi, started in 1909 Germany Audi is known for their sports cars with really good all wheel drive. However audi does still make luxury sedans they call theirs the audi S8. Again it has all the similar technology but just not the name, still it comes in at \$265,900.

Lastly is Porsche, started in 1931 they always only made sports cars but more recently with the panamera they have gone into the luxury sedan

market. The car I chose to compete was the Porsche Panamera Turbo S Hybrid, this car is more focused towards sporty feeling instead of luxury so the interior lacks the wow factor of the other four, but what it really excels in is speed. 0-60 in 3.1 seconds, 567 horsepower, and hybrid batteries this car blows all of the others out of the water in terms of speed. This cost around \$230,000.

In conclusion, Rolls Royce is still the best of the best with Bentley being the runner up Audi takes third only because of the new screens and interior. Porsche gets fourth due it being more of a sports car, and lastly BMW even though it has the big v12 and the long wheel base, it's just nothing special and you want special if you're gonna spend \$160,000-\$600,000.

## Sonic 2 doesn't disappoint

*The cultural icon is back for a second movie full of fun and adventure*

**Elizabeth Hallanger**  
Staff Writer

At this point, it's fairly obvious to say that Sonic is a cultural icon. Even as late into the brand as my childhood was, I was still a pretty big Sonic fan,



Grace Mousa

and I still have a fond appreciation for some of the older games. Of course, as with many popular franchises nowadays, it was greenlit for a first movie a while back, however when the trailer finally dropped, a very clear issue arose. If you were at all active on the internet in April of 2019, then you'd know the horror that was the original, live-action Sonic design. I don't think I've ever seen a truer form of beady-eyed, human-adjacent, uncanny nightmare fuel. The clip of his screaming face and visible human teeth from the first trailer still haunts my nightmares every now and then.

Luckily, however, the public

was rightly appalled, and the extreme negative reaction led to a redesign at the last minute, probably part of the reason the final product turned out to be such a huge success. Casual watchers and critics enjoyed it, fans rejoiced, and I came out of the theater pleasantly surprised, and excited for the second installment.

One of the things I love about this series is that it went from a failure before it even hit the big screen to one of the most successful video game films ever, and I think it's definitely fair to say that the second movie definitely followed up on that success, quality, and faithfulness to the fans.

The plot was overall really

fun and generally lighthearted. It was mainly based around Sonic, now living with his new family, learning to be a responsible hero, and bonding with his new friend, Tails, all while facing off against Eggman and Knuckles, as they race to locate the master emerald. Usually I'm not a big fan of this sort of fetch-quest plot structure, but luckily, I ended up really enjoying it, mainly because of the solid character interactions and surprisingly entertaining situations they get into along the way.

I was initially very skeptical of the side-plot with Sonic's human dad and his sister-in-law's wedding in Hawaii. However, as it went on, I was pleas-

Sonic, 13

Star Wars, 11



# Top 5 funniest YouTube videos

YouTube

*“The perfectly timed moments are funny”*

**Hay Ta Kue Moo**  
Staff Writers

YouTube is a website with over thousands and thousands of videos and as a person who's used it for years, YouTube is my go to form of entertainment. In this story, I've gathered my top five funniest YouTube videos.

1. SIDEMEN \$10,000 VS \$100 ROAD TRIP

Video length: (1:26:50)

Sidemen is a channel that consists of seven YouTubers. In this video the members are put into two teams in which they either experience the high budget or low budget road trip.

I have put this in the list because the whole concept is really interesting and despite the length, it's very entertaining and each member is equally funny. At some point in the video, the two teams meet up, the red team and yellow team. The yellow team, which is the team with the low budget road trip, are put in this small yellow car. Harry, who is on the red team immediately starts assaulting the poor yellow car, but during his vicious attack he slips and smacks his head on the ground. It was one of the funniest moments in the video.

2. A SUPER FUNNY TRY NOT TO LAUGH

Video length: (20:55)

The video is about this YouTuber that goes by KSI and basically he reacts to a compilation of memes, fails, and jokes. It's a reaction video.

I have this on the list because it's a try not to laugh video, so it's aiming to make you laugh. I like how random some of the clips are, it catches you off guard, plus his reaction and his laughter just makes it better. There's this one clip where this guy steals a crate of sports drinks in a supermarket and he's doing this while riding a hoverboard. What made it so

funny was how casually he left the store after committing a crime.

3. Went Bowling With A coconut!

Video length: (10:02)

The YouTuber, Jidion goes bowling with a coconut as a prank. It's sort of his continuation from another prank where he brought a watermelon to a bowling alley.

I have this on the list because it is entertaining and funny. The reactions and altercation he gets from this prank is hilarious. During the video he joins this bowling tournament, and the funny thing is he manages to get kicked out before ever pulling out the coconut.

4. Twitch PERFECT TIMING Moments 1 ( When the timing is PERFECT... )

Video length: (10:17)

The video consists of perfectly timed Twitch moments. Twitch is a live streaming platform that anyone can access, with a wide variety of different content you can watch live.

I have this on my list because the perfectly timed moments are funny. There's this one clip where this streamer is on a game, his character is in a vehicle and he's chilling on a train track so peacefully. But as soon as he turns his view to the left, he gets annihilated by a train and his vehicle gets completely destroyed.

5. BEST VR MOMENTS COMPILATION!

Video length: (13:22)

This video is a compilation of the BEST virtual reality moments.

I have this on my list because it has some of the most funny VR moments. An example from the video was when it took place in a virtual bar. At first it was calm, but an altercation between the player and an NPC sparked a fight, as it continued it got more and more chaotic. Chairs and bottles were being thrown, npc's were attacking each other and it turned into a bar fight, a virtual bar fight.

which also placed 4th at state.

Willa and Tess started working on their project this fall, with brainstorming ideas in September and actually starting the documentary in November. They have made a lot of revisions to their documentary since starting it. "Our first versions focused more on the climate denial debate within the US whereas our latest version focuses more on the international debate around how to prevent climate change, primarily between developed and developing nations."

**History Day, 1**  
nal round.

Willa and Tess have done History Day every year since they came to OWL, starting with their group documentary on the Quiet Revolution in sixth grade, which made it to state but didn't place. Then in seventh grade their documentary on the trade union Solidarność, placed fourth at state, then their 8th grade documentary, which made it but did not place in Nationals, and finally their website on the Chilean coup of 1973 in 9th grade,

# The most trusted how-to site on the internet

*Mikko shares the beauty and many benefits of WikiHow*

**Mikko Liimatta**  
Staff Writer

Have you ever wanted to know how to be ok with having a communist friend or how to make a duck fart? Well, I have the site for you. WikiHow: the self proclaimed "most trusted how-to site on the internet" is actually the most trusted how-to site on the internet.

Usually Wikipedia and its subsection are considered an unreliable news source, but WikiHow has proved to be an exception with its amazing informational articles. Some articles actually have multiple amazing ways to get a girlfriend and/or how to play bedwars. For example, I learned amazing things on how to get a girlfriend, such as to practice personal hygiene like brushing your teeth and the fact that you have to know

girls to get a girlfriend which was a huge surprise for me.

While I love this website, my English teacher seems afraid of it. Leo says, "It's just a matter of years before students learn about WikiHow and I'm replaced." Leo has expressed concern over articles such as how to write an essay.

Speaking of replacing things, why do we have parents for that matter when we could just look up the things we need to know? We could use articles such as "How to Have Good Table Manners" to make parents only good for money and shelter or "How to Get Over Depression" to take the place of the school counselor.

WikiHow has also inspired me to play many new games such as the funny game, Among Us, with many different strategies, such as pressing the kill button to murder a

crew mate while being the imposter, and that as a crew mate, there is a bar at the top at the screen to track tasks.

In addition, these articles are well renowned for their professional pictures that connect to the article. These pictures are not only professional but also inspirational. Some of my favorite pictures are the pictures in the article "How to be Weird." In this article some pictures show how to see ran-

dom things in the street.

This type of resource should be used so next time you need to hide a dead body? WikiHow. Next time you want to check up on the latest Dream drama? WikiHow. And the next time you want some funny jokes, look no further than WikiHow. I have used WikiHow for many things and after reading this article I hope you will use it as well.



The photo that appears on the "How to be Weird" article on WikiHow.

# A ranking of all MCU movies

*All 31 movies listed from best to worst with explanations*

**Adam Griffith**  
Staff Writer

1. Avengers: Endgame (9.9/10)
2. Avengers: Infinity War (9.6/10)
3. Black Panther (9.5/10)
4. Captain America: Civil War (9.4/10)
5. Avengers: Age Of Ultron (9.0/10)
6. The Avengers (8.9/10)
7. WandaVision (8.7/10)
8. Spider-Man: No Way Home (8.6/10)
9. Ant-Man & The Wasp (8.4/10)

10. Spider-Man: Far From Home (8.4/10)
11. Captain America: The Winter Soldier (8.3/10)
12. Shang-Chi And The Legend Of The Ten Rings (8.3/10)
13. The Falcon And The Winter Soldier (8.3/10)
14. Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol. 2 (8.2/10)
15. Guardians Of The Galaxy (8.1/10)
16. Iron Man 3 (8.1/10)
17. Spider-Man: Homecoming (8.0/10)
18. Eternals (7.8/10)
19. Ant-Man (7.8/10)

20. Captain America: The First Avenger (7.7/10)
21. Thor: Ragnarok (7.6/10)
22. Iron Man (7.3/10)
23. Iron Man 2 (7.2/10)
24. Thor: The Dark World (6.9/10)
25. Hawkeye (6.7/10)
26. Thor (6.5/10)
27. Black Widow (6.4/10)
28. Doctor Strange (6.3/10)
29. Captain Marvel (6.2/10)
30. Loki (5.6/10)
31. The Incredible Hulk (2.6/10)

Best:

#5. Avengers: Age Of Ultron  
This film is heavily under-

rated and actually really good. Iron Man makes a robot to help the Avengers but it turns against him and tries to take over the world. Also we get introduced to Scarlet Witch and Quicksilver. Overall, this is a super exciting film with a great final battle in Sokovia.

9.1/10  
#4. Captain America: Civil War

This film is usually considered to be one of, but not the best, MCU films. It's amazing, and the airport fight scene is one of the best scenes in all of the MCU. Even though this is technically a Captain Amer-

MCU ranking, 11

# Brawlhalla is fun, time consuming

*"I have over 700 hours in the game and I'm not too good at it"*

**Edward Lopez**  
Staff Writer

Brawlhalla is a large, infinitely playable game in a nice setting with interesting lore for those who love background stories. Play in the realm of Valhalla as multiple custom characters, and fight other players, climbing the ladders to become a champion of Valhalla.

Brawlhalla is a free-to-play, 2D platform fighting game, similar to a popular series known as Super Smash Bros, developed by Blue Mammoth Games and published by Ubi-



Amazon

soft. The game is playable on Xbox One, Xbox Series S & X, Playstation 4 and 5, the Nintendo Switch, Android, iOS and more with full cross-play across all platforms. The game was fully released in October 2017, and has over 80 million increasing players.

The game features 55 different characters called legends in the game, each with 2 different weapon options, unique stats, and cosmetic skins. Find a character you would like to mainly use and practice with it in special training modes or against AIs. There are many other friendly playable game modes against real players, including ranked game modes for more advanced players. In combat, you primarily utilize your two weapons, and your special signature moves for your legends to win. Learn and practice multiple types of techniques to win, including watching tutorial videos and studying the attack frames, dodge frames, hit boxes, end-lag, damages and more.

Many new players are up-

set with the difficulty of getting into the game, and they don't give it a chance. They get confused at the fact that you have to guess the opponent's movement in order to win, which is a part of the game but can become easy after recognizing the playstyle of the opponent, for example if they were seen to be playing passively, waiting for you to attack so they can punish it, you can utilize that and try to bait them out or outplay them with mind games. Brawlhalla takes a large amount of practice and time to invest in, and the game becomes much easier after you fully learn your combat and mobility options within the game. New players are also upset at the fact that a majority of cosmetics cost money. You can earn cosmetics in the game by watching developer streams and players fighting on the Brawlhalla Twitch channel for a surprisingly long amount at around 8-10 hours or more, which can give you the cosmetics you want.

To be completely honest,

I have over 700 hours in the game and I'm not even too good at it. You get better after spending time training and just practicing combos, movement and just how to play in general. I personally just practice techniques and such and then get off the game without even playing online matches. The game is definitely worth playing, you just need some practice and motivation to get into it. I've tried introducing newer friends to the game, and most of them give up due to what I've listed, but just give the game a try. Many Super Smash Bros players that I've met so far have said that Brawlhalla is just a copy of the game, just because of how similar both games are. Brawlhalla has a large amount of differences compared to Super Smash Bros, like the fact that the characters in Brawlhalla are called legends, or the fact that each legend can utilize 2 different weapons. Play the game for yourself and you'll understand the differences between each game.



Grace Moua

## Ouija boards: do they actually work?

Lana Stevens  
Staff Writer

The infamous and terrifying Ouija Board. It is said that ghosts can communicate through said board. It's been in horror movies, and horror books, and the brave even use it in real life.

But does it really work?

The rules of the game are fairly simple. There is a board with the alphabet, numbers one through nine, and yes and no. Everyone participating lays their fingers lightly on a planchette, and you ask a question into the air, such as "are there any spirits here?" Then, eventually, the planchette will move, answering all your questions as it points to the letters, numbers and words. The terrifying thing is... nobody playing is supposed to move the planchette. It moves on its own. But how? Ghosts?

Now, there's the scientific explanation, and there's the supernatural explanation. We can start with the scientific one. Scientists have found that, most likely, it is a brain function called the ideomotor phenomenon that moves the planchette around the board. It is a physiological phenomenon that makes the person move unconsciously, without the person even knowing. For example, when you ask if there are any ghosts near, and your brain is wanting or expecting for the planchette to move to yes. So without you even knowing you're doing it, you slightly move the planchette to yes.

The scientific answer, however, doesn't explain everything. There have been many instances where a person gets an answer that the people playing couldn't have known anything about. In my experience, while I was playing, the Ouija board answered the exact age to which my friend's great-grandmother died. The friend who had the great-grandmother was not participating. Nobody else knew the age her great-grandmother had passed. How can the Ideomotor phenomenon explain that? And I know I am not the only one who has experienced something that I believe cannot be explained by science. The Ideomotor phenomenon can be true, but it

definitely does not end there.

Plenty of people on the internet claim to have experienced something paranormal, but plenty of them could also be lying. I'd like to say I can tell when someone is telling the truth, but you never really know. Many people argue that a spirit or ghost can communicate with almost anything, if possible. The Ouija Board is just another communication device, and it often works because it is a simple and fairly easy way for them to communicate.

I emailed Jennifer G. and asked a few questions about what she thinks of Ouija Boards.

Q: Do you believe in ghosts? Do you believe in Ouija Boards? If so, why?

Jennifer: "I believe in the possibility of ghosts. I am less certain about the powers of a Ouija board because it feels odd that a game made as a mass produced item would be the vessel that spirits choose to communicate with, but I am open to the idea."

Q: If you wanted to convince someone else that ghosts exist, what would you say? Or, if you wanted to convince someone that ghosts do not exist, then what would you say?

Jennifer: "In favor of ghosts: the fact that they are a cultural universal across the world. They are part of folklore in every culture, that makes the idea at least fundamentally human and must have some reason for being. Against ghosts: when you look at the specifics of ghost stories there is usually a logical explanation."

Q: Have you ever experienced something that you are almost positive was a ghost? What happened?

Jennifer: "I personally have not had a ghost experience, I don't think I would handle that well. My family has a number of ghost stories that have been handed down. They usually involve people who died young and/or tragically who are going about their business. They aren't a specter trying to scare, but just "live" their life."

Q: What was the most shocking/scary session you've had with a Ouija Board?

Jennifer: "So, this is true... when I was in junior high (I

Ouija boards, 12

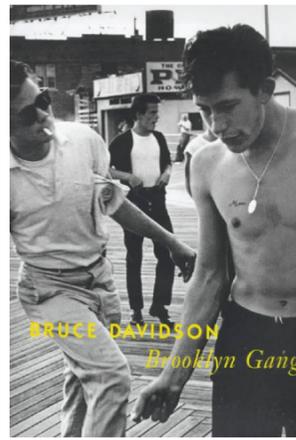
# Brooklyn Gang captures youth life in New York City

Photo series from 1959 follows the lives of teenagers apart of Brooklyn gang the Jokers

Olivia Bilek  
Staff Writer

Brooklyn Gang is a photography series shot by photographer Bruce Davidson in the summer of 1959 following the lives of the Jokers, a street gang of teenagers from Brooklyn, New York.

In 1959 Davidson read a newspaper article about outbreaks of street fighting in Prospect Park in Brooklyn. "They had had a rumble that was written up in the newspaper, and I went out and offered to take photographs of their wounds in color," Davidson said. Davidson had been looking for a gang to photograph so he connected with a social worker to get in touch with the Jokers.



Amazon

Davidson was 25 years old when he met the Jokers in Brooklyn, NY, and for several months Davidson followed the Jokers around Brooklyn capturing them hanging out in Prospect Park, on the beach in Coney Island, in Helen's Candy Store, in tattoo parlors, etc.

In the photographs you can see the Jokers look both tough and innocent, seeming to have lived wild and reckless lives, uncertain of where they are going and living as if there is no tomorrow. However, it also revealed their fear and depression.

Of the photos I have seen from this series, I think the Jokers were nihilistic in a way. It seems a lot of teenagers in Brooklyn at the time were from poor neighborhoods, from dysfunctional families, had alcoholic parents, were abandoned, etc. This could have led them to develop nihilistic ideologies or become reckless.

In an interview with The New York Times in 2010, Davidson said he remembered his time with the Jokers well but not entirely happy: "They were 15, 16 years old, Polish and Irish kids. They were abandoned, there was nothing for them, they were very poor, they came from alcoholic fam-

ilies."

I think these photos are interesting because when you think of gangs you probably think of fighting, crimes, etc. However, in these photos you can sort of see past all that and see their emotions. Not just anger and hate but also sadness, depression, rebelliousness, and friendship along with other things. That's the way I see it anyway.

Davidson has said that Brooklyn Gang isn't really about a gang, but more about a bunch of young people who spent their lives together.

I sort of relate to this series because if you're growing up in a tough situation (having little money, alcoholic parents, etc.) or not, you might make friends that are from similar circumstances and if those friendships stick and you stick together for awhile you might become sort of like a family, a "gang". You watch out for and protect each other. That's what I see in a lot of these photos is a sort of family.

In one of the photos you can see the gang playing a game of stickball on Seventeenth Street and Eighth Avenue in Brooklyn. The street is lined with cars, one kid is getting ready to pitch the ball and the other is ready to hit the ball

and there are a few other kids in the background. The photo was shot from the roof of a nearby building.

In probably my favorite photo in the collection you can see the Jokers walking down the Coney Island boardwalk, looking like they are laughing, with Lefty and Junior at the front of the group. It's one of my favorites because it reminds me of my friends and I when we were younger.

In another one of my favorite photos in the series you can see Junior, with a cigarette in his mouth, walking up to Lefty, who looks to be snapping his fingers, on the Coney Island boardwalk. You can also see Bengie in the back of them. This photo is on the cover of Brooklyn Gang.

In another photo you can see Cathy fixing her hair in the cigarette machine mirror somewhere in Coney Island, standing next to her is a guy rolling up the sleeves of his t-shirt.

In another photo you can see members of the Jokers grouped together by a brick wall. In the picture you can see (back row L to R) Tony Vealo, Bryan McGill, Mikey Gaven, Junior Rice, Joey Douglas. And (front row L to R) Jimmy Wares, Bengie Powers, Lefty Jensen, Roger Moore, Hoppy Cassidy (presumably),

Brooklyn Gang, 9

## Different play on Star Trek

CBS series released in January 2020 carries Star Trek franchise into its 66th year

Emmett Cooper  
Staff Writer

Star Trek Picard totally exceeded my expectations. When I finished the first Star Trek Picard episode I was surprised when the conflict wasn't resolved. In this way Star Trek Picard is a totally new and dif-

ferent play on Star Trek.

Star Trek Picard is a new CBS Star Trek series that was released on January 23, 2020. It stars Patrick Stewart as Picard, Allison Pill as Agnes, Jeri Ryan as Seven of Nine, Santiago Cabrera as Rios, and Michelle Hurd as Rafaella. The

longtime series Star Trek that started in 1966 is now onto its 66th year across many series and movies. This series focuses on Picard and takes a more emotional approach than previous ones.

The first season follows Picard as he tries to protect a Data-like person in danger

after a Romulan group starts an attack against synthetic life forms. It's a riveting story full of cliff-hangers. The second season changes the plot to a more inward focus on Picard and his past.

I really like the series Star Trek Picard. It was a new and interesting story on how Picard and others can get together and make a change for a better cause.

## The most realistic driving games

Beam.ng Drive and Assetto Corsa are better than most others

Atticus Brooks-Babcock  
Staff Writer

When you think of realistic driving games your brain might go to games like Forza Horizon 4 or Gran Turismo Sport, but those are not nearly as realistic as a few lesser known games. Those games are Beam.ng Drive and Assetto Corsa.

Before we talk about the games we have to find the most accurate controller. Most people just play with a normal Xbox or PlayStation controller which does the job for arcade driving games like Forza, Gran Turismo, and Mario Kart. However, many people buy a racing wheel and pedal set up which comes with force feedback. Force feedback is a way that the steering wheel simulates road feel by vibrating and moving accordingly.

Beam.ng Drive was initially released on August 3rd, 2013

in early access on Steam by the company beamNG. Beam.ng Drive is an open world sandbox driving game. Its whole gimmick is its hyper realistic crash physics which are almost 1:1 to real life. For example, in Mario Kart if you crash into a wall your Kart will just bounce off, but in Beam.ng Drive your car would crumble and fall apart. Beam.ng Drive also has very good driving physics. I'd say it's almost 100% to real life

\*with a racing steering wheel and pedals.\* The only thing is the cars feel a little light - when driving it feels like you're floating instead of on four wheels. Another good thing about Beam.ng Drive is the modding community. There are an infinite amount of cars and maps you can play with, making it have unlimited play time. Personally my favorite mod is the ETK1300 which is just a BMW

x5 but the mod is really high quality and fun.

Assetto Corsa is a hyper realistic racing simulator that was released on December 19, 2014 for Windows. Unlike Beam.ng Drive, Assetto Corsa does not have realistic crash physics. It focuses more on driving physics, which I'd say are basically 99% realistic \*with a racing steering wheel and pedals.\* Assetto Corsa also has a similar modding community to Beam.ng if not bigger; some models have managed to make open world maps for Assetto Corsa, some even have traffic.

Another game similar to Assetto is Iracing. Iracing is a hyper realistic racing game made for e-sports making it limited to tracks and not open world. Iracing is also one of the most realistic feeling games \*with a racing steering

wheel and pedals,\* but the weird thing about it is that it's a monthly subscription for some reason, and you have to buy cars and tracks, making this game really expensive. Racing Room is another game like Iracing and Assetto Corsa but it doesn't really look good and doesn't feel as good as the others.

In conclusion, for all around fun you should get Beam.ng Drive. I have 1500 hours on it and I know that the game is fun. However, for the most realistic game you should get Assetto Corsa. Its modding community makes the game infinitely fun, its super realistic feeling and it has a growing community. I didn't mention Iracing because of the monthly subscription, it just makes the game so expensive. It's something like \$112 a year, making it hard for beginners to get it.

# The best and worst of Nicolas Cage

“All the girls were CRAZY for Nicolas Cage!”

- Leo Bickelhaupt, 2022

Amelia Ryan  
Staff Writer

Nicolas Cage has starred in sooo many movies in his 40 year career. Most of them are pretty bad. All of his movies have a particular feeling to them, a feeling that scratches that itch in one's brain wishing for a mindless movie to blank out to. Those 2 hours that promise explosions and constant action entice me. All of the following are movies I have seen which have left an impression on me, all in their own way.

Based off of the Marvel comics character of the same name, the movie Ghost Rider is about motorcycle stuntman Johnny Blaze getting possessed by a “bounty hunter of the damned” called Ghost Rider, and then beating people up as the Ghost Rider. The guy isn't even a ghost :/. Very misleading. He has to deal with his old girlfriend-turned-reporter Roxanne that he abandoned years ago, some weird guy who knows everything about the Ghost Rider, and yeah, turning into a flaming motorcycle-riding skeleton that kicks criminal ass every night!! The main villain is the demon Mephistopheles who is trying to obtain a contract that will allow him an army of corrupt souls. It's not really clear why he would want an army of corrupt souls. I guess to take over the world?

Overall, the movie was stupid but fun. I loved that sick motorcycle jump at the start of the movie. Man, that was cool. So cool. I'm adding a star just for that. 5/10 stars. It didn't have any substance, but was entertaining nonetheless.

Con Air was garbage. Complete, absolute garbage. I wasted two hours of my life on this movie that I'll never get back. It's about ex-army sergeant Cameron Poe (played by—you guessed it!! Nicolas Cage!!!)

## Brooklyn Gang, 8

and Petey Canelle.

When Brooklyn Gang was reprinted in 1998, it had an extended afterword by Bob “Bengie” Powers. Bengie had been one of the youngest members of the Jokers at 15 years old. In the afterword Bengie recalled his childhood as the son of alcoholic parents, being very poor, and his time in Catholic school where he was beaten by the priests and nuns.

In one photo you can see Bengie in a candy store sitting at a bar with his hand covering his face. In the afterword Bengie said, “When Bruce would take a picture of me, I would just stay in the spot that I was in, I would never fake it. Sometimes I caught him with the camera and I would just say, f— it. What am I going to do, smile? I wanted to tell people how sad I was.”

In the afterword Bengie

who gets into a bar fight and accidentally punches a man to death. He goes to jail and misses his kid's childhood and gets buff and grows his hair out. I'm taking off a star just for the hair. He is soon to be released, with only a plane ride to freedom. Unfortunately for him and the security guards, the other prisoners decide to break free and commandeer the plane. Poe could have gotten off of the plane, but goes along with the jailbreak, while secretly sending messages to the police force and planning to stop the escape. The reason he stays on the plane is because his former cellmate is diabetic and there is no insulin on the plane, so the entire reason that Poe plans to stop the jailbreak is to get his buddy some insulin.

None of the characters were interesting at all and I had no reason that led me to root for them. No one had a single redeeming quality, not even Poe himself. While everything about this movie was terrible, I did enjoy it when he threw that body out of the plane and it landed on some rando's car. Those thirty seconds were the highlight of the movie. -11/10 stars. Worst movie I've ever seen.

National Treasure is about historian and cryptographer Benjamin Franklin Gates (yes, that's his real name) whose grandfather was obsessed with an old treasure hunt that had been created by famous historical figures, with clues that have been left for centuries. Ben had dedicated his life to this treasure hunt, spending all his time and money on it. After going to the arctic with his dorky comic relief friend Riley to recover a clue from an old frozen ship, he finds that the next clue is on the back of the Declaration of Independence. Unfortunately, the guy that funded the expe-

dition, Ian, wants to steal the Declaration. Then some old gunpowder causes the boat to explode, separating Ben and Riley from Ian. Ben goes to Dr. Abigail Chase of the National Archives, but she doesn't believe them and doesn't let them near the Declaration. Then Ben and Riley have to steal the Declaration of Independence. Abigail gets roped into the hunt, and the trio follows the clues around the world, racing against Ian and his gang, who are also trying to find the treasure.

Honestly, National Treasure isn't that memorable to me. It was fine. A B grade movie. It has a lighter feel than the other movies that I've talked about here, probably because it focuses more on being an adventure movie with some gunfights, rather than purely an action flick, which is good. It shakes things up a bit. A solid 7/10. Decent.

Next up is Face/Off, also known as the masterpiece of his entire career. It follows the fierce rivalry of criminal Castor Troy (Cage) and FBI agent Sean Archer (John Travolta). Troy killed Archer's young son many years ago, and ever since then, Archer has been on a quest for revenge. Troy gets thrown into a coma after a long action sequence where an airplane gets blown up, but his criminal activities haven't ended. Before that, he had hid a bomb in an airport, and Troy's brother Pollux is the only one who knows where the bomb is. To get Pollux to give up the location, Archer has to undergo complex surgery in which surgeons take his face... off... and swap it with Troy's, making the greatest case of identity theft in history. However, Troy wakes up from his coma, forces the surgeons to give him Archer's face, and then explodes the lab, making it so Archer can never go back to his old life. What follows is an hour of beautiful, glorious gunfights and explo-

also remembered Lefty Jensen, the first of the Jokers to die, and how the Jokers always wondered why girls liked him so much because they didn't think he was that good-looking. He remembered Jimmy, one of the older members of the Jokers, and later how Jimmy's whole family was wiped out by drugs. He remembered Junior, a member of the Jokers, being “the Don Juan of the neighborhood”, always reading, walking around with a copy of Allen Ginsberg's Howl in his back pocket. He remembered Cathy, Junior's girl, saying that she was “beautiful like Brigitte Bardot” and how they used to call her “shaggy dog.” He remembered how Petey, a member of the Jokers, used to put his name everywhere and how he carved his name into the Coca-Cola machine at Helen's Candy Store and Helen's son took Petey into the

telephone booth and beat him up.

After years of substance abuse and drug addiction Bob “Bengie” Powers got clean with the help of his friends and Nar-Anon and later became a drug counselor. After getting clean he also started learning to read and write at an adults reading and writing school since he never learned how to read or write as a child. “The funny part is I never knew how to read, but I would look through things pretending I did know. I'd put my hand on my head like I'm just thinking.” In 1998 around the same time Davidson was contacted about a republication of Brooklyn Gang Bengie reached out to Davidson and his wife and wrote a book about his life called Bobby's Book published in 2012.

Some of the faces you see in Brooklyn Gang are Lefty Jensen, Junior Rice, Bengie Pow-

sions.

The best part of the movie is how the title is a pun, because their faces get removed, AND they face off in a gunfight multiple times. It's truly amazing, and whoever came up with that should get a huge pay raise. 20/10 stars: Best Movie Of All Time.

Last off is The Rock (no relation to Dwayne Johnson). In it, Nic Cage plays Stanley Goodspeed, a nerdy chemical scientist working for the FBI. Some Navy guys wanting money have taken hostages in the no longer used Alcatraz prison, and are threatening to send rockets loaded with deadly caustic chemicals into California. With the help of the only man to have escaped Alcatraz, con-man John Mason (Sean Connery), Goodspeed and Mason must break into Alcatraz and stop the criminals before it's too late.

I almost fell asleep while watching this, but that's no fault of the movie, just my own. I have the feeling I didn't miss much when my eyes were closed.

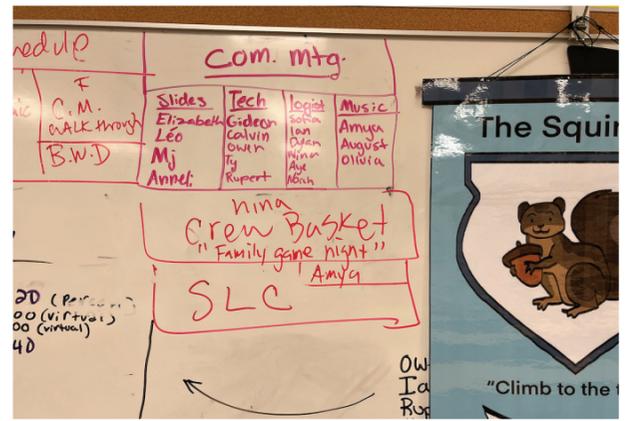
Even though a lot of the movie took place in sewers underneath the prison, it wasn't so poorly lit that I couldn't see what's going on. A lot of stuff recently has had this problem, to the point of being almost unwatchable.

This movie features my favorite dumb quote: “Stanley Goodspeed: Listen, I think we got started off on the wrong foot. Stan Goodspeed, FBI. Uh - Let's talk music. Do you like the Elton John song, “Rocket Man”? Captain Darrow: I don't like soft-ass shit. Stanley Goodspeed: Well, I only bring it up because, uh, it's you. You're the Rocket Man. [Goodspeed fires a rocket at him]”

Overall, I give this movie 5/10 stars. I wouldn't watch it again, though I don't regret watching it.

ers, and Cathy O'Neil. There isn't a lot of information about the people in these photos so some of the names and information might not be accurate but from the information I have found people say all the people in this series were really good people.

If I had to rate this collection I would give it a 5 out of 5. I would definitely recommend it to people who are interested in photography or the 1950s or 1960s gang culture. I would also recommend other series by Bruce Davidson including East 100th Street, Central Park, and his book Time of Change: Civil Rights Photographs 1961-1965. Brooklyn Gang is one of my favorite photography collections and definitely one of my favorites of Bruce Davidson's.



Purple Press Staff Photo

Students plan for the community meeting on Damon's whiteboard.

## Community meeting BTS

What goes into planning and putting on these all school assemblies

Nina LaFerla  
Staff Writer

It's a normal Tuesday at OWL. While other crews are playing name games, Damons crew is working on the next community meeting. First, we all decide the theme together, then we split into our groups. There are four teams, tech, logistics, music, and art.

The two main teams in Damon's crew are tech and logistics. The tech team takes care of the videos and slideshows, while the logistics team handles organizing and talking to people.

“Everyone on the tech team is a nerd,” said 9th grader Owen Belmares, in charge of lights on the tech team. “Working on it is fun, especially filming.”

Our crew had to prepare a

lot of slides for the show, and spend a lot of time in the theater making sure all the lights and sound worked. As a member of the logistics team, my role is to go around and talk to people about scheduling dates and getting teachers to participate in games.

Damon's crew starts working on the community meeting almost right after the previous one takes place. There isn't really an order for how we prepare, everyone just works on what Damon and the older crew members tell us to.

“The best part of making the community meetings is seeing it when it's finished. The worst part is that it's always rushed when we're making it, so we don't have time to work on any schoolwork,” said 8th grader Amya Wright.

## Environmental club, 4

school and the environment even if it's a small change. “I'm excited for there to be change and growth,” said Jensina.

Next year the club hopes to bring back some of the things we lost during COVID-19, such as reusable utensils and less plastic usage. Reducing plastic is a big priority because plastic harms the environment. The more plastic we throw away the more it gets into the ocean and hurts sea creatures. It also gets into the soil from landfills and litter and hurts plants and wildlife when chemicals like phthalates are ingested or absorbed. Over one million marine animals and more than 1,200 species are killed by plastic each year, whether it be by getting entangled by plastic and dying or ingesting plastic and getting poisoned. Plastics are also produced from fossil fuels, which are one of the main contributors to climate change.

“Our school, since the Environmental Club ended, has gone back into using a lot of plastic and that's not good for

our environment,” said Jensina.

Next year is when the club will be ready for students wanting to join, so students who are interested in being a part of the club should be on the lookout for updates. The club will most likely be meeting on Friday crew, every week. The club hopes that they can expand the Environmental club next year into something bigger and stronger.

“I'm excited to build the community and build a larger group of people that can help out,” said Margaret.

The club is eager to get new members next year of all age ranges to make an impact on the OWL community and the environment, and even if there are students who aren't a part of the club, the club hopes that the OWL community as a whole will help the club from the sidelines even if it is something as simple as supporting the club or educating themselves on environment issues.

“It's important from a young age to get an understanding of why the environment is really important,” said Aria.



Purple Press Staff Photo

The original Environmental Club in a meeting.

### Kevin and Kristin, 1

large number of our applicants said something along the lines of "I'll send them to someone else, and they can deal with it". While it's true that teachers should not have to handle these situations constantly, the lack of commitment towards fostering connections when they arise was visible (hearable?) amongst most of the teacher hopefuls. Kent detailed exactly how he would ask what was concerning his students, how he could best support them, and what more he would do if they continued being a disturbance to learning (especially to their own learning). He was far slower to alert other authoritative figures than anyone else.

Now to turn to the other

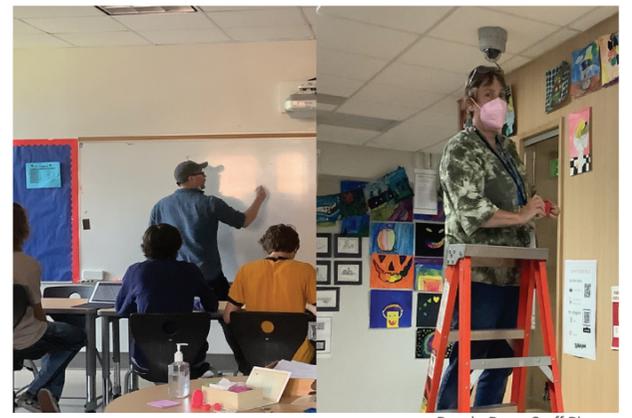
end of the spectrum, the perspective of the retiring teacher. When I asked Kristin about her retirement, she gave some really nice insight into her teaching philosophy over the years. Kristin began as a TA for special education, and then went back to school twelve years ago to become an art teacher. She taught at a school before OWL for five years, and has spent the last three at OWL. The biggest reason for retirement was family. Kristin said "my parents are getting older, and my grandson is almost in kindergarten," so she has some family milestones she would not want to miss. Teaching - as much as she loves it - gets in the way of her family time. Kristin also admitted that the COVID-19 pandemic has really taken a

toll on her mental health, and said "not being able to see my students' faces has challenged me in finding as much joy in the job as I used to have".

When I asked her what her favorite part of teaching has been, Kristin said "helping students grow outside of their comfort zone, and do things they thought they couldn't do". As a student of hers, she definitely tried to get me out of my artistic comfort zone. I used oil paints for the first time ever in her class during my freshman year over distance learning. I have gotten much more interested and skilled in the field of digital media, which has become a mode of convenience for me. Without ample time for traditional art making due to being busy, having my

iPad sitting in front of my face for half the day influences me to do what I otherwise might not with regards to digital art.

Shortly after I learned of Kristin's planned retirement, I was told that my beloved crew leader Kevin Hansen was moving away from teaching as an occupation. After nine years of teaching, he's felt burnt out. He wants to buy a camper van, and plans to spend the next year "camping around the Midwest, visiting New Mexico," and even wants to travel to Japan. The news of his leaving obviously hurt to hear. Kevin has been my crew leader for my nearly five full years at OWL, and he's long been someone who I knew I could confide in about many things, share jokes with, and



Purple Press Staff Photos

### Kevin and Kristin will be missed by the OWL community.

always knew when the crew needed a day to relieve stress.

With such drastic changes to the teaching force, Kristin and Kevin will definitely be missed. Still, the following years will definitely bring

something new and exciting to OWL. However disappointed I am in Kristin and Kevin leaving, I'm hoping for success and happiness in whatever they choose to do with their lives going forward.

### GSA, 1

a bunch of pride flags." Or, as Preston said, "sometimes we even just have a dance party!"

Preston said that honoring and respecting each person's identity is very important to GSA. "Confidentiality and supportiveness are essential for GSA to function, and students do a great job being there for each other! Making sure that all group members follow these moral rules and respect one another is essential to making meetings run smoothly and safely.

Olive agreed by saying, "being accepting of everybody and letting anyone who wants to join; join," is an important principle for the group.

Furthermore, Preston explained how many LGBTQ+ people were/are raised by people who don't share their identity which means many queer youth haven't had the opportunity to spend time with people of their own identity. He says "there is power in the connections made and I'm hoping that GSA can help provide that," as one of his goals for the group. Olive adds that one of her goals is that all people will feel seen and heard within the group, that their identity will be represented.

In addition to their regular schedule, GSA has discussed some of the many current events surrounding the LGBTQ+ community, some

positive but many negative.

Preston stated, "it's a very tense time to be queer in America," as we see more and more laws, bills, and other forms of restriction targeted at the LGBTQ+ community; for example the Don't Say Gay bill and transgender restriction laws. These regulations are not only frustrating but frightening as well. "Part of being queer is constantly evaluating whether being yourself will put your safety at risk, and bills like these raise the stress for LGBTQ+ people, especially those who live in unsupportive or hostile home situations."

Olive added their thoughts by saying, "I feel like the 'Don't Say Gay Bill is just ridiculous...like if a kid has two moms or two dads and they can't talk about it, they can't express themselves...it's just really frustrating."

GSA combats these events in multiple ways, one of which is through group discussion. Students are encouraged to process their emotions and talk about how they can be a part of certain solutions. Olive stated, "I think a lot of people are homophobic because they are just ignorant but having more representation and giving people the opportunity to learn about LGBTQ+ people will help our community."

Preston explained how this current state of affairs resurfaces a lot of emotions about his early life. He says, "I grew up

in a small Kansas town, where coming out as gay would have been physically dangerous for me, and I think these laws bring up a lot of those memories. If I wanted to move back home, it would require me to be dishonest with my students or risk getting harassed. People shouldn't be put in unsafe positions just because of who they are."

Another way GSA has battled these current issues was through the Day of Silence we held earlier this year which was a great opportunity for students to express their support for the LGBTQ+ community as well as Q Quest.

Looking forward, Preston emphasized the importance of GSA. "GSA provides space for queer students to simply exist without the need to justify their worth like they might in other spaces, even within OWL. It is a place of safety where you don't need to worry about anything, and I wish I'd had one as a kid."

For the future, Preston hopes that the group can have more discussions on LGBTQ+ history and even more world issues. His dream is that "student advocates can help make the community a safer and more welcoming space for all."

"It's rare for LGBTQ+ people to be in a space where they are the majority, and there's power in that," said Preston.

### Music, 4

through music, with the option of vocal music at OWL with the amazing Seth and/or instrument music at Humboldt, with me, I believe it will create a meaningful experience for our student musicians from both buildings and serve as a bridge to further unite our communities together for a common good -- making music," said Jeremy.

Jeremy is an experienced instrumental music teacher who came to Humboldt in October 2019 after 12 years at Wilbur Cross High School in New Haven, Connecticut. His previous collaborations brought different schools together and earned him a nomination for the 2018 Connecticut Music Educators Association Teacher of the Year award.

When Jeremy picked up the conductor's baton at Humboldt, band and orchestra enrollment

was down. There were around 20 students enrolled in the high school band, 15 in the intermediate section, 12 in the beginner's section, and 8 in the middle school string orchestra. The pandemic did not help matters, preventing Jeremy from getting instruments into the hands of prospective band and orchestra students. "Interest in instrumental music waned. With the low numbers, it just wasn't sustainable," he remarked. But then the 2021-2022 school year began, and Jeremy heard that OWL students were interested in an instrumental music program. With newfound motivation, he sent an email to Dave proposing a collaboration, and they haven't looked back.

The current design Dave and Jeremy are planning for this musical collaboration is to open an instrumental music class to 6th and 7th grad-

ers from OWL and Humboldt. Practice sessions will take place in either Jeremy's music room at Humboldt or choir teacher Seth Bovis's room at OWL. This class will be offered either as an elective course or an extracurricular activity.

The results of a music interest survey among current 6th graders was encouraging. 46% of 6th grade respondents already play an instrument, and 34.4% of this demographic have played for one year or less, 26.3% have played for four years, and 21.1% have played for two years. Furthermore, 36.4% of 6th grade respondents are interested in learning how to play an instrument. The data indicates that OWL 6th graders are ready for this opportunity to make music and relationships that extend beyond our high school.

### Track, 3

3200, and placed 3rd in the 1600, narrowly missing going to state with a new personal best and Humboldt school record of 4:33. "It was a great race. There was a lot of tough competition and I'm really



Anja Gundale

### 10th grader Annika Lofgren runs the 200 at a track meet.

### Archery, 3

team who wore masks, "the team scored well throughout the entire season especially after looking at some of the upperclassmen in the team" said head archery coach and math teacher Tom Totushek. Contrary to the name, the Becker Meltdown was one of the team's best tournaments with the high school team earning third place and winning a trophy so big it can't fit in the dis-

play case.

With the already-huge team it is expected to continue growing. "I think we might have problems, and let me tell you why. It might be impossible not to have to go to 4 days of practices a week with a team so large," said Tom. Another solution that may be used is making more teams, leading to more leadership opportunities for captains and lieutenants but also a lot more responsi-

### Volleyball, 3

know I don't have the capacity. If I had enough supporters, I would want to keep it together because I'm passionate about it. The governor is behind [keeping boys volleyball going] and if the governor can't make it happen, I don't know how it's gonna happen," said Damon.

But while next season may look different, Hawks boys volleyball has had a successful spring despite obstacles. If there is a season, the team has one request for the OWL community. "Come support the sports that OWL and Humboldt students are doing. It's tragic - last night we had three fans and at some varsity girls games, we had no fans. One of the parts of sports is being on "stage" and performing in front of people and you don't get that opportunity when people don't show up. You also don't feel supported. So if you're a staff member or student, come out and support," said Damon.

### Social media, 4

teenager 9/10 times they will have both of the apps. From my perspective, Instagram is a place where you like each other's posts and see snippets of what people are doing. "I like to post about my life in order to become Instagram famous," says 9th grader Kiara Steiner. Snapchat is similar, but it's more about sending stuff to your friends. "I love when my snap score goes up," says ninth grader Joe Lodal. "I like it because I can use the funny filters," says 9th grader Mylie Peterson Antin. The annoying thing is both of the apps get updates a lot and change the layout of things.

What about the "old people" apps like Facebook? The only reason a teen would own that app is because they need to make an account for Subway Surfers, and the only way to acquire one is to have Facebook. Is Twitter an old person app? The London School of Economics and Political Science say as of 2017 37% of users are between the ages of 18

and sections meets, as well. "I wanted to PR in the mile, and I was able to do that at conference, which I was happy about," said Willa, who set another personal record at the sections meet. Humboldt runners impressed as well, with a sprinter placing 5th in the 100 and a shot put thrower going to the finals. "Just seeing a lot of the newer athletes come out and get a personal best and seeing their determination in their faces is super rewarding. It makes me proud to be on the team with them," said Stian.

The fun and the growth assured by joining the track team has resulted in high praise and recommendations from its athletes. "Join track. It's really fun and being on a team is super cool," said Stian.

bility for the upperclassmen to step up.

At the end of the season, there was a banquet at a park in Battle Creek. Most of the archers on the team were at the banquet so they could get their certificates and trophies. Some of the people that won awards was high school MVP Veronica Rohde and middle school co-MVPs Claire Hulson and Maddie Linstad.

and 29. I wouldn't count it as an old person app yet because there are certain sides of Twitter that are very much active with opinionated teens, while other sides are more like Facebook. There's a wide range of people on that app.

How long will it be until another app takes over and becomes popular? Will TikTok still exist a year from now? About a year ago people on TikTok claimed the app was shutting down and everyone freaked out, but the next day it was still there. Maybe they thought it was gonna be like when Twitter shut down Vine or something. I guess there's always a possibility that another app could gain popularity and TikTok would be nothing but a memory, but for now it's thriving off of teens.



The Social Media Butterfly

### Crew mascots, 1

flag has their mascot of a panda with wings and the wings and feet have flames.

ELL teacher Bridget Leba's crew is the Octodogs. The crew was the Bulldogs for a while, so when they changed people weren't set on the new name. The process to change this name was long and brought conflict: "This year caused a bit of drama to change the name because some people in here have been Bulldogs for six years," said Bridget. Eventually people decided that this change could work and would be good for the crew. They chose octopuses because they all love shoes and octopuses, octopuses means eight so many shoes can fit. As of now they are all transitioning into going to Octodogs. They have their door decorated with a bulldog, then there are clouds which go into the octopus that is holding presents. "Look at our door, it's so swag we have front and back and it's 3D!" said 8th grader Ghost Oatunde. On the front facing the classroom has all the crew members with a shoe they created.

Although most crews have more of a wholesome backstory, Preston West the ELA teacher's crew background is something a bit different. Now not everyone thinks the name is amazing or cool, but some do. All of the crew think this name is a fitting one off of the mascot Racoons Holding a Knife, because their crew is chaotic. The process of find-

ing this was easy and just been decided on last year during quarantine. "One of the questions of the day was what's your favorite animal and one of my 9th graders at the time said raccoon and people got really attached to it, especially trash pandas," said Preston. They also liked this name from a game called Groot in which they became attached to the character. "Preston always puts a photo of a raccoon holding a knife on our slides that has what we will be doing for the day," said 8th grader Fiona Curran.

ELA teacher Leo Bickelhaupt's crew may or may not have an official mascot, it depends on who you ask. Some in his crew call themselves "Leo's Leos," but how this was decided is unclear. Some of the crew wanted Leo's Leo's while others wanted Leo's lampshades. "People seemed kind of set on their opinions, so I tabled it and decided not to name an official mascot," said teacher Leo. "Leos Leo's take the L. I really like it," said 10th grader Elena Davis. Leo is not sure: "Some people wanted us to be called Leo's Leos, others wanted Leo's lampshades, and a third faction (Margaret) wanted Leo's pile of hats."

As you can see, many crews have different ways of making their crew known and mascots are subject to change over time. Come next year crews will go through the process and decide if they will keep their current name or move on. Some crews will have dif-

### Mixed race, 4

**7. What is this person's race?**  
Mark  one or more boxes **AND** print origins.

White - Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc.

Black or African Am. - Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc.

American Indian or Alaska Native - Print name of enrolled or principal tribe(s), for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Mayan, Aztec, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, etc.

Chinese  Vietnamese  Native Hawaiian  
 Filipino  Korean  Samoan  
 Asian Indian  Japanese  Chamorro  
 Other Asian - Print, for example, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, etc.  Other Pacific Islander - Print, for example, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc.

Some other race - Print race or origin.

Census

under 'other,' or I'll just do African American," said 8th grader Titus Galbreath. "If it's not multi-choice, then it kind of sucks and it leaves you in like this, middle ground where you don't know what to pick." I also noticed throughout my interviews that a lot of times, self identification on forms where you can only pick one or in general can be influenced by how others around you perceive you.

People who are more than one race often face a unique set of microaggressions. One of the most common ones I personally have faced many times and always come across when researching about microaggressions towards mixed race people is the question "what are you?" This is just straight up rude and annoying, reducing people to a "what" and just feels dehumanizing. Everyone I interviewed said that they have been asked this question before, and honestly questions like this are a reason why I felt reluctant at times asking people to do interviews, because I didn't want them to think I was hitting them with a microaggression since I know it's really annoying to be consistently asked about race. Please never ask a person you're unsure of their racial background this question.

I remember one time when I was at a bus stop with my

mom, who is Japanese, a random stranger came up to us, turned to my mom, pointed at me and asked, "is she adopted?" Why, random person, is that any of your business? My mom told the stranger that I was not. The person just said "oh" and left. I have never had an experience like that with my dad, who is Ethiopian. That was the only time with my mom that had happened, though I still feel weird stares sometimes when I'm with her. "It really hurts. I'll walk around the store with my mom and then a friend of mine, and I just know that nobody connects the dots that I'm with my mother and it's not the other way around where my friend's with my mom, and that always hurts because it makes me feel, just feel separate from my mom," said Jaielle. "It's just kind of strange that people still don't get the idea of interracial couples," Titus said.

I'll only talk about this briefly since I've never actually personally come across this nor have my interviewees, but I've seen this several times online through my research. That is, that mixed race people are supposedly "the solution to racism." Okay that's just absolutely ridiculous. "I think that's a foolish notion," said 9th grader Shalimar Watkins. "Just because two people are different races and in a relationship

or me being mixed, how am I supposed to fix racism just because a Black person and a white person married? That's not the case for everyone. If you really think about the question, no." That's it. We're moving on.

Another comment I get a lot when people find out I'm mixed race is, "oh, that's so cool!" Now this reaction to finding out about one's racially mixed background on the surface may seem harmless, but it is actually harmful in a way that is kind of difficult to explain, but I think Shalimar best described how it feels for people to say this. "It's almost like when you see an exotic bird, you're like 'oh look at that pretty little creature.' We're not exotic birds, we're not creatures. It's not like I'm a zoo animal," she said. "I am a human being, so treat me like I am."

Every interview I did, we all agreed on the lack of representation in the media for mixed race people. "I think we've gotten to the place where we can talk about, like, one thing. Like we can talk about one race, but talking about mixed race people has been like, really difficult," Jaielle said. "Growing up I saw no diversity in the media for mixed people, or just people of color in general, but definitely mixed people, and it still hasn't been all that great." Jaielle mentioned Zendaya being the only mixed race representation she had when younger. But really, it's hard to even come up with even five shows or movies with a multiracial main character or that discuss mixed race identity. The only thing that really comes to mind that people have probably heard of and came up in a couple of my interviews is the show Mixed-ish, the spin-off of the show Black-ish.

No one has ever explicitly told me this to my face, but there is the topic of "not being enough of \_\_\_ race", where people will try to tell people of two or more races what their race is or isn't. "So many times, it's happened at this school actually, we're talking and I'm like 'oh it's because I'm Black' or a joke like that, and then people are like 'you're white too,'" said Titus. "But yeah, it happens a lot where people are like 'you're also white, don't forget that.' It kinda sucks because then it makes me feel like I'm

not as Black as I'm supposed to be. It doesn't make me feel good inside."

Now back to the topic of identity, a lot of times in research, things such as mixed people having an identity crisis or not knowing how to identify comes up. I can say I have experienced identity crises in the past before, but for me personally it was never about me being confused about how to self identify, it was more about how do people really see me, like when I mentioned the form from the beginning of the article that didn't allow me to select more than one race. This definitely ties to the "not being enough of a specific race."

"To the people that keep asking 'what are you?' or who want to assume the stereotype that mixed people or people of multiple races have identity crises, which sometimes we do, you asking questions like that or assuming that, you're kind of the cause of that, because you're trying to validate or invalidate that, so if you would stop doing that, then maybe we wouldn't have as many crises," said Shalimar. "It's not a common thing, it's not an uncommon thing, but the more people prod and ask you 'what are you?', the more times you go to take a questionnaire and they ask you 'what's your race' and there's only one option, it starts to dig into you and you start to ask yourself, 'what race am I?'"

I didn't list nearly all the different experiences faced by people of multiple races, since there are a lot of different things that play out in these microaggressions such as what races one's parents are, but I hope this is at least somewhat insightful. Speaking of which, how should people approach racial topics that they're curious about, and specifically on mixed race people? Should they be allowed to ask questions if they're curious? Personally, I think it is okay to ask questions, as long as the questions aren't asked in a way that exoticizes our identities such as things like "what are you?" It also really depends on the person. Sometimes having conversations can also help move us forward. But I want you [monoracial people] to think to yourself, is the most important thing to about a person their race?

### Star Wars, 6



StarWars.com

only one method (or rather, attack button) for fighting your enemies with a laser sword, there are now several different attacks that you can combine together to slice your opponents into even smaller plastic pieces - or you can just throw objects at them using the Force. In addition, just about every single Star Wars character is playable in this game, even the really obscure ones, so good news for hardcore fans of Dexter Jettster or Babu Frik.

But by far the greatest part of this game is the new open-world element, and it might be hard to believe, but this is where the real game begins. While I was playing through the levels of each Star Wars movie, journeying from planet to planet, I had the feeling that I was only exploring a tiny fraction of every location, and was ecstatic to discover that after playing through the movies, you were free to quite literally roam the entire galaxy and thoroughly explore every single planet. This makes the game feel even bigger than it

already was - and sometimes even bigger than its source material when locations that didn't get a lot of focus in the movies are expanded upon. I could spend this entire article detailing every single thing to do in this part of the game, from taking bounty-hunting missions to finding even more collectibles to traveling the cloning labs of Kamino to attacking a Star Destroyer in space to jumping into the Sarlacc pit (actually, that last one isn't advised) - but I haven't even finished discovering everything in the galaxy.

While I do have to acknowledge that I have a strong bias in favor of this game due to being addicted to Star Wars, I think that even the most casual fan of the franchise will find something to enjoy in Lego Star Wars: The Skywalker Saga. While not perfect, it's still an incredible, exciting, and hilarious game that adapts the saga in Lego form beautifully. I never thought there would be one better than the original game, but here it is.

### MCU ranking, 7

ica film, it still feels more like Avengers 2.5 but it's still a great film with a lot of action and suspense.

9.4/10

#### #3. Black Panther

Black Panther is one of the best MCU characters and this film will always be incredible. I love the futuristic, high-tech country of Wakanda and the action scenes, effects and soundtrack of this film are so iconic and wonderful. This film is amazing.

9.5/10

#### #2. Avengers: Infinity War

While it can't top Endgame, Infinity War still stands as the second best MCU movie. It's got a great plot, and great action scenes. Many things are going on at once, and each storyline is just awesome. The final battles are all great and it's

a perfect setup for Avengers: Endgame.

9.6/10

#### #1. Avengers: Endgame

The event of a lifetime. The ultimate finale to one of the greatest sagas of all time. This is by far the best MCU film. Every single thing about it is incredible, from the time travel to the final battle at the end to the long conclusion, Endgame is an incredible journey from beginning to end, and without a doubt the best MCU film.

9.9/10

Worst:

#### #5. Black Widow

Black Widow deserved a better film than this. Slightly entertaining at best and boring at worst. I was very disappointed by this film.

6.4/10

#### #4. Doctor Strange

The effects are awesome, but everything else is pretty boring. The film takes forever to even get going and even after it does, it's still pretty mid.

6.3/10

#### #3. Captain Marvel

The first MCU movie with a female lead, which is great, except that Carol Danvers has a personality about as complex as an empty plastic bottle. She's so bland and cliché that I think I found Goose (the cat monster thing) to be a more interesting character. If the best part of a superhero movie is the comedy, you know you've messed up.

6.2/10

#### #2. Loki

The 2nd and 4th episodes were actually pretty interesting. The other 4 bored me to tears. The time keeper concept

was interesting but Loki is just such a boring and overrated character that this show didn't work.

5.6/10

#### #1. The Incredible Hulk

A literal 2 hour piece of boring nothingness. About as interesting as staring at drywall. This is widely accepted in the Marvel fanbase to be the worst MCU film to date, and rightfully so.

2.6/10



Amazon

# “One of the most fun games I’ve played in a while”

*Clash Royale has become popular among OWL students, and the rest of the world, too*

**Wyatt Kessler**  
Staff Writer

My opponent places a hog rider at the bridge. I have my defensive building in cycle and I play it in the middle of my side. I place it too far to the right, and the hog rider ignores my building. This mistake costs me to lose the damage lead, and ultimately lose the game.

The game Clash Royale has become very popular as of recent, and not all may know exactly what the game is. If you don't know, Clash Royale

is a free strategy based game where you battle opponents online with decks made from cards you have selected. The game was developed in 2016 by the company Supercell, and has been growing ever since.

You and your opponent each have one King tower and two Princess towers, and the objective is to take down the opponent's towers before they take yours. Unlike different card games, the cards are not turn based and can be placed at your will. The cards spawn different things depending

on what the card is. There are three different types of cards: Troops, buildings, and spells. Although to play a card, you need to have the amount of elixir the card costs. The maximum amount of elixir you can have at once is ten, and if you do not play a card before you reach ten elixir, you will start leaking it. This means that you could have been gaining more elixir, but instead you stay at 10 elixir until you play a card.

There are one hundred seven cards in the game, and eight cards make a deck. Each deck has an archetype, whether it be bait, control, bridgespam, beatdown, cycle, Etc, and they all require using a certain playstyle. Playstyles can vary a lot, but then again lots of people who play the game tend to play very aggressively, such as those who play bridgespam or beatdown, and even then they both take very different playstyles with the same idea of overwhelming the opponent with a perfectly set up attack. Or they just place Mega Knight at the bridge with no strategy. More passive play styles include cycle and bait, playing more laid-back until double elixir and

triple elixir start after 2 minutes and 4 minutes.

When you win a battle, you gain trophies. Trophies get you closer to a new arena or league if you win a majority of your games, gaining more trophies than losing them. In the game, there are fifteen different arenas and ten different leagues to show that you are ranking up. The difference between leagues and arenas is that if you get into an arena, you are not able to fall below where the arena unlocks. In leagues, you can drop below a league if you lose too many games. Although, you cannot go below leagues once you reach the first one. Leagues unlock at five thousand trophies, and the last league is at eight thousand. Although don't feel sad if you are in a low league like challenger one or two, (or if you're not in leagues that's okay too) you're around the average OWL player's trophies if not a little bit lower.

I have been playing the game for a few months now, and along the way there have been both pros that outweigh cons and cons that outweigh pros. I'd say I'm still pretty

bad/ near intermediate at the game, but it's all a learning experience.

To start, matchmaking has been a problem for a long time. Whether it's overleveled players, players that have been playing for a lot longer, or just getting a bad matchup, it sometimes makes it a lot harder than it should be to progress. This is something that is nearly impossible to fix in almost any game, but it's still a con about the game worth noting. Levels in matchmaking can severely change interactions from what they should be, and it hurts your experience if it happens frequently. For example, if a tornado is level thirteen and a skeleton is level fourteen, the skeleton will not die and will need another response to be finished off.

Another thing that's a little easier to fix is balancing cards. I'm not specifically talking about high elixir cards, but just cards that if you don't have the perfect counter to, it feels like you have been defeated as soon as it's placed. For example, we have the Hog Rider. For four elixir, it has the health to take a rocket to the face, can do almost 1,000 damage on a quarter of its health, and the highest speed possible in the game. Any of those categories could be a quality about it that could be nerfed to make it a bit more balanced.

Transitioning into something more light-hearted, I really do think this is one of the most fun games I've played in a while. Sure, there are other games out there, but I really do love what it is and what it's become. The reason for this being the uniqueness of the game. It separates itself from other card games by making the cards spawn buildings people/creatures/robots on a playing field instead of just having normal cards is very interesting, and the game would still be fun even without the idea that each troop, building, or spell isn't a card,

I think that the process of leveling in this game is interesting, although I like it. It's unique from other games by leveling one card up to level your king tower up which helps level up your cards to help level up your king tower once again. Another thing I enjoy about this game is the way it works on the playing field, as instead of a traditional card game in which you can get rid of an opponent's card by just throwing another one down, most of the time it requires either a specific response and/or placement of your card. I also like the feature of the newest rarity, "Champions", having unique abilities that you can choose when to use (at a cost).

Overall, I give the game a 8.5, almost 9/10.



Wyatt Kessler

**8th grader Titus Galbreath playing the popular game in class.**

## Rowing, 5

the top boat. Then there is fall and winter. Fall and winter are combined because they are both training sessions for spring. During fall you do a lot of cardio that is not on the water because it's too cold. So what you do is erging, waites, running, or a circuit. Most of the time a circuit will include a little bit of everything.

There are two rowing teams that are big in the twin cities, the first one is Minneapolis Rowing Club (MRC) which is the one I row for but it doesn't matter the second one is Twin Cities Youth Rowing (TCYR). Twin Cities Youth is a lot more competitive than Minneapolis Rowing Club. Twin Cities Youth Rowing is also a lot bigger than Minneapolis Rowing Club. TCYR, depending on the session, has 40- 150 athletes participating in daily practices. MRC, depending on the session, has 20- 40 athletes participating in daily practices.

The object of rowing is different for everyone and what you are doing. For example when racing most people want to win or at least place

in the top five. For me I want to win and also have fun but it is also about how you pair up with the people in your boat, you and one other person or it's just yourself and you have to work with your body and mind. Rowing is a mental sport especially when you are racing or just doing a piece on the erg. Rowing is the kind of sport that will mentay drain you but you need to keep pushing yourself so you can do well and have a positive outcome even when you don't do your best.

Competition can vary; there are different regattas for high school and college. The regattas that my team goes to are Camp Randell invite, Midwest regionals, Head of the Charles, and Junior National. Camp Randell invite is not really a regatta it is more of a scrimmage it is a smaller race and there are four teams that race each other but it is not that big of a deal. Midwest regionals is a bigger regatta where tuns of teams come to compete against each other. This is one of the bigger regattas because if you place in

top three you will portable get to go to Head of the Charles. You can only go to the Charles if you have a boat that makes it in the top three. Head of the Charles is the second biggies regatta because it means that if you do well you will be able to go to Junior Nationals which is the biggest regatta to go to as a high schooler. Junior Nationals are important because there are colleges there and sometimes they come to look at you so you want to do your best and push yourself to the best of your ability but don't injure yourself or faint because Nationals is in Florida and it is super hot and lots of people fant. Spring regattas are 2ks which is 2000 meters and 5k are 5000 meters.

There are not really levels, they are more put into age groups. So there is U23: , U21: , U19: , U17: , and U15.

Training for a regatta is super stressful because your coach's keep moving you around to find where you should sit and what you should be in and they also watch you so they can pair you up with one of your teammates who

has the same power and the same speed. Training is not always hard but it does make you work all the time even if it's not a racing session. You train all year around. In the winter you are lifting and ergging. An erg is a rowing mansion that helps you prepare for when you get out onto the water. Winter session is preparing you for fall races. Then you have nfall session. Fall session is known for 5k or 6k on the erg, getting the dock out and starting to get ready for fall races and spring races. Spring session is mostly 2ks and getting ready for the big regattas so you can get a boat to the Head of Charles and many get a boat to Junior Nationals.

There's really no "good rower" but height helps, having strong legs and mentally and physically pushing yourself without injuring yourself. Well height doesn't always help because if you don't want to be a rower you can be a coxen. A coxen is the person that sits in the bow or the stern. They are your coach on the water even if there is a coach out on the water with you. But they also

help when you're racing because there are no coach's out on the water. They can also help with pacing. Lastly they keep an eye out for other boats and the race effishols.

People like rowing because it is a fun sport but it's also a sport that not a lot of people do, so it's that one sport that can get you into a college if you have a fast 2k and keep

it steady. But if you have never rowed and want to try it out, most of the clubs in the twin city's offer learn to row through the club. One that I recommended is Minneapolis Rowing Club.



Photo Courtesy of Miranda Locken

## Ouija boards, 8

think 7-8th grade) the Ouija board (the one I still have) told me I would marry Mike S and that Betsy knew him. Both of these turned out correct though I wouldn't meet him for years after that."

Q: What is the biggest piece of advice you'd give to someone who has never played with a Ouija Board and wants to? Jennifer: "Only play it with someone you trust and only ask questions you want to know the answer to."

One Youtube video I watched was called "Top 10 Scary Reasons You Shouldn't Mess With An Ouija Board" from the

channel MostAmazingTop10. The person speaking in the video stated her name as Lindsey Ivan. Lindsey first explains the rules of the game. Lindsey said that the rules are super important, and said, "Basically, if you don't accurately follow them then it puts all the players at risk." Then she talked about Manipulation. She said that we never actually know if the spirit we are communicating with has good intentions or not. "It said that evil spirits will often manipulate players to gain their trust. They may do so by telling you information you want to hear; They may claim that they are a de-

ceased relative but in turn they can just say that so that they can gain control of you." Then Lindsey talks about what an malevolent, evil spirit might do if it comes in contact with you. "They could physically and mentally hurt you." There's plenty more in the video, but I'll let you all watch it yourselves if you want to hear the rest.

Another video I watched was called Ouija Board Rules You Can NEVER BREAK!!! by Hailey Reese. She starts out by saying that she has always been anti-Ouija board because of the things that have happened to her friends and family while

using one. She doesn't describe what happened, but just says that it was bad. She advises that anyone wanting to use or play with a Ouija Board should not do so. "But obviously, I also believe in the freedom of choice", Hailey says. "I know that yes, there are people who've had wonderful experiences with Ouija Boards and I am by no means discrediting that. There are people who have contacted some of the most evil, negative, demonic presences through a Ouija Board and there are people who have actually gotten possessed all because they didn't properly follow these rules and they didn't take it

serious enough." The rest of the video is her explaining the rules, such as to never mock or insult the spirit, to never use the board when you are ill or weak-minded, to never play alone, to never play in a cemetery, to never burn a Ouija Board, to never stop playing without saying goodbye, to never let the spirits count down the line of numbers or alphabet, and finally, to never leave the planchette on the board when you are not playing. She closes off the video, saying, "I think that its really important that if you are going to utilize this board you take it seriously in the sense that

its not just some game even though you can buy it at Toys R Us, and its actually a tool, and a portal into a dimension that you may not fully understand and that you really need to be safe while doing it.

Yes, I could be crazy, But I think Ouija Boards work and it's gonna take a lot to convince me otherwise. You all can believe whatever you want to believe, but I believe that ghosts or spirits can in fact communicate through a Ouija Board. So, with all of that, always remember to follow the rules of the game, and have fun talking to ghosts!



Sonya Schober

**9th grader Noah Johnson (right) pitches in to help repair some of the damage done to Gordon Parks High School during spring of 2020.**

ence of news on her actions.

Majorities among Gen Z and Millennials are also showing a positive outlook on the increasing racial and ethnic diversity in the U.S. More kids have a positive view of interracial and same-sex marriage and Generation Z is a lot more familiar with the use of gender-neutral pronouns. With so many available ways to communicate and learn, the youth are growing up in a world where these things are rapidly becoming the norm.

Social media platforms have given those feeling isolated or marginalized a way to feel connected and represented among their peers. Social

media also allows people to speak out and share their own personal experiences with larger audiences, giving today's youth access to firsthand perspectives from the world they're growing up in.

While the growing progression and awareness among the youth is inspiring, it also leads one to question the negative effects of access to so much information.

The internet is a vast network of mostly uncensored content, and not every link you click leads to something that is good, or even true for that matter.

It's common knowledge that many news sources are as

fabricated or biased as the stories they share are upsetting, and following along too much can easily lead a person down a trail of depression. Since the rise of social media, loads of research has been centered around the link between social media and bad mental health, and the question as to whether an interconnected world is better or worse has become quite controversial.

A youth study found that 47% of the U.S. Gen Z identifies with mental health challenges, and many have reported that this partially stems from the pressures of growing up in a world where they feel they are expected to find success and feel they also have a lot to fix. Many more identify with having anxiety about the future, and what the world will look like as they transition to adulthood. Feelings of depression and fear are not uncommon among youth following surges of negative media surrounding present day issues. More access to scary or upsetting content can definitely serve as a large trigger of anxiety.

A wider spectrum of sources and clickbait also heightens the risk of kids, as well as adults, to fall for or be tricked into believing something that's biased, fabricated, or just flat out not true, but has been posted for the purpose of gain-

ing attention and popularity. Which opens up an entirely new can of worms, how do you navigate through questionably motivated news sources?

With more opportunities as well as more reasons to upload and share faux information, it has become increasingly difficult to discern what is real and what is just a scam for views, or an opinion fueled by bias. It seems that Gen Z has a lot more to be wary of when they look for news, and one could argue that their increased awareness can easily be countered by the amount of false information they are simultaneously consuming.

But more sources still makes us more aware than our parents were, right?

To give the older generations credit, they didn't have as much access to the news as we do now. While we have the whole of the internet, they were limited to newspapers. While we can tap into a live stream or rewind a video clip with a single swipe on our screens whenever, they had local news channels that aired at specific times. The internet gives us plenty to look out for, but it also makes communication a whole lot easier. A big difference between our generation and theirs is that we are not limited in places they were.

Take the St. Paul riots for ex-

ample, back in 2020. Depending on the news channel you went on, some anchors would paint the riots as unwarranted and destructive, until you went on Twitter, where rioters were live-streaming the event, and you were given a first hand view of what was really going on. With so many sources to view one story, younger generations are better able to compare and piece together what said story is, not just what one news anchor tells them.

Not only that, but the ability for anyone to stream and share live events via platforms such as Instagram or Twitter has given the younger generation a closer up perspective on events, and with the quickness of the internet, spread that content faster than wildfire. And the riots are just one example. In 2022, there are so many huge events going on in the world that it's impossible to completely avoid them.

War in Ukraine, Roe vs Wade, Don't Say Gay, the climate crisis, mass shootings and overall gun violence, the list is never ending. We're still in a global pandemic! There's a lot of pressing issues happening right now for youth to be aware of, that we are encouraged to be aware of. So in this way, yes, Gen Z is collectively more aware than past youth, partially just because we have

more to be aware of.

"I do think that you are aware of some really significant challenges that are being posed to your generation more than I was," said social studies teacher, Luke Turvold, when asked about the severity of the problems Gen Z is faced with.

"I think to a degree that that awareness is good, but if you spend too much time focusing on the news, problems can start to feel really heavy and overwhelming," he continued. "However, I am hopeful in the collective action of young people, and I am hopeful that with this knowledge, we can work together to make change."

When all is said and done though, it all really comes down to the person, and how much news they personally choose to seek out. While we've certainly seen an overall increase in youth accessing information, that doesn't mean youth in the past were not. Every generation wants to know what the future of their world is going to look like. And every generation has had a different way of getting that. As the world keeps moving forward, so do we. Today's youth will never be the same as youth in the past, or youth in the future. All we can do is live in the present, and work together to move forward.

**Sonic, 6**

antly surprised, and ended up enjoying it, mainly because of all the utterly absurd twists that it took.

Plus, the final battle, when Sonic, Knuckles, and Tails finally unite as a trio and work together was easily the best part of the movie.

Some smaller details I really appreciated were all the references to the games, memes, and general pop culture surrounding Sonic, as well as other franchises too. You can really tell that the filmmakers knew their source material well, as they packed this film full of even the most obscure references to the games and general Sonic canon. The whole movie is really just one giant love letter to the franchise, its fans, and the popular culture that made it what it is today, which I think is pretty appropriate, and makes the film so much better overall.

Moving onto the characters, they are easily the strong points of the film. Sonic's character stayed pretty consistent from the first film, and I can always appreciate how they nailed his fun, wise-cracking energy in both films. I also thought he had a simple, but sweet character arc about learning what it means to be a hero. Tails, one of this movie's biggest new additions, was absolutely adorable, and probably my favorite out of the Sonic trio. I loved his dynamic with Sonic, and his arc of going from a shy, fanboy sidekick, to a hero in his own right.

I also absolutely adored Knuckles. He worked as a great rival to Sonic, brought a lot of humor to the film, and I liked his gradual redemption and addition to the trio.

I honestly didn't think Eggman's character could get any more unhinged than he was in



Amazon

**Sonic 2 came out in theaters on April 8, 2022.**

the first film, however, I was very much proven wrong in this film. Jim Carrey absolutely hams up Eggman's character and I am very much here for it. It can get a bit cringe-worthy at times, I definitely did not need to see him do the floss on screen, but overall, he plays a really entertaining, energetic, and intimidating villain.

My favorite character in these films, Agent Stone, also ends up returning, and I could genuinely write an entire essay just on why he's my favorite. His hilarious re-introduction at the coffee shop when he's just drawing pictures of Robotnik in lattes, the sheer amount of pining over Eggman/Robotnik he does in this film and the semi-normal-ness he brings to the otherwise abnormal team makes all of his scenes really funny. He works as such a great addition to Eggman's team dynamic and I hope he remains as one of this series' staple characters.

As for Sonic's human family, they honestly didn't get much screen time, however, I think that was to their benefit, as this film stays more focused around Sonic and his new friends.

I did have a few nitpicks

while watching, however. The plot and scenes did go a bit quicker at some points than I figured they should have, and some parts I felt had some tone/pacing issues. While the humor was really good overall, some of the jokes were a little juvenile, even for someone like me, who consistently laughs at farts. Plus, the aforementioned Eggman floss was about as nightmarish as the first live action Sonic design.

However, I can give a lot of these issues a pass, because for a normal viewer, they don't distract from the overall film, which is technically marketed towards families and kids as well, and as a jaded high school junior I am decidedly neither.

Overall, the second Sonic movie definitely did not disappoint. It was entertaining, funny, heartfelt, and just a generally great movie overall. Plus, it has a post credits scene that, while I won't spoil it, will get you more than excited for the next film. If you're looking for a fun new release, something to see with your family, or you just want to watch anything other than Morbius this month, then I would definitely recommend Sonic 2.

**Sneakerheads, 5**

You simply put the shoes you want on stockX and choose the highest bid and they will do the rest for you. On average, a good seller can make up to more than five figures, lots of times 10 figures in a month.

Why? Why do people choose to do this? For some people it's just a hobby, something to take up time but for others it's a passion and something that can connect them to others. The sneakerhead community is a fun and beautiful place. It is where you can go

and share your love for sneakers and just get to know people and what they enjoy about the sneakers. For some this might

not sound fun but for others its amazing its a place to connect with your love for shoes.



Sothebys

**Paige and Katerina, 5**

"I seek to provide a safe space for students to be heard and feel seen. I always want students to feel like they can be their authentic selves," Paige stresses learning about student interests, having consistent meetings, and creating a non judgmental space as key parts to having a good relationship with students. "I love hearing what students are passionate about and what motivates them. I learn so much from students every day," Paige.

Though Paige and Katerina often work together, they have their own methods when working with students. "I try to be visible around the building and in classrooms, so students know who I am and how I can support them. I learn about students' individual interests, hobbies, families, goals, what they like and find challenging about school, and especially how students enjoy spending their time outside of school! I use humor, games, art, etc. to build relationships. I also work to be consistent, so students know they can rely and count on me. These things help foster and build strong relationships with students," said Katerina.

While OWL has many helpful teachers, having a counselor or a social worker to talk to can add another layer of support. "School can be hard so it's important to find moments

of laughter and lightness every day. I want students to know staff care about them and that I will be an advocate for their needs," said Paige.



Purple Press Staff Photo



Purple Press Staff Photo

**Paige with 8th grader Violet Baer-Benson (above), Katerina hands 8th grader Teddie Lopez student a snack (below).**

# Congrats to the class of 2022!



Rebecca Palmer

Lili Hobday's speech applies the spirit of ultimate frisbee to life.



Rebecca Palmer

Dave poses for diploma shots with Mo Mo Aung (left), and Audrey Cannon (right)



Rebecca Palmer

Seniors pose before the ceremony (above), Maggie Morris assures parents they needn't worry (below).



Rebecca Palmer

Superintendent Joe Gothard addresses the crowd.



Rebecca Palmer

The class of 2022 decked out in graduation garb.



Rebecca Palmer

The class of 2022 applauds one of the speakers.



Rebecca Palmer

Analgia Batres Pearson plays the clarinet.



Rebecca Palmer

Auria Cha introduces her dad.



Rebecca Palmer

Nora Verner and Desmond Haug strike a pose.



Rebecca Palmer

The jazz choir performs on stage.



Rebecca Palmer

Max Schibel's dad presents dollars and wisdom to the class of 2022 (left), Clara reminisces about her financial literacy class and her own struggles in ninth grade math. (right).



Rebecca Palmer



Rebecca Palmer

Ekin Vang and Sophia Govrik execute a sophisticated maneuver on stage.