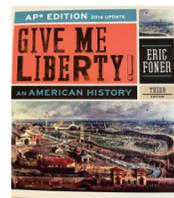




Manatee season previews
- Page 2



Kevin opens up about mental health
- Page 6



AP class review
- Page 8

Purple Press

Volume #22, Issue #7

May 6th, 2022

SPPS mask requirement lifted

Majority of OWL students and teachers have chosen to continue to wear masks in school

Nick Streng
Staff Writer

Citing the currently low community levels of COVID-19 in Ramsey County, the Saint Paul Board of Education has made the decision to lift the mask mandate at all SPPS buildings effective Monday April 18.

The decision is subject to

change if community levels of COVID increase again. While it is now optional to wear a mask and SPPS states that staff and students will be supported in their decision on this matter, it is still strongly recommended by the district that those who are unvaccinated or at high risk continue wearing one.

Some students at OWL

have decided to no longer wear a mask either all of the time or some of the time. "I feel comfortable with taking [my mask] off if I'm in a more open area, like at a table by myself, but if I'm in a more closed area with other people I wear it," said 11th grader Samantha O'Hara Graff. A vast majority of students continue to wear masks to school. "I just got used to

it since I'd been doing it for a year, and I agreed with my family that it was safer," said 8th grader Meara Gunderson.

Many students also believe that lifting the mandate was not a wise decision due to COVID waves still occurring in other areas of the world. Citing the recent outbreak of the BA-2 subvariant on the East Coast, senior Jackson

Sheire commented, "COVID cases are going up, and it's a bad time to lift [the mandate] now. We're just going to go back to where we were before." 11th grader Abe Baer-Benson agreed, adding, "We've made it this far with masks, we should have stuck it out until the end of the year."

If COVID decides to throw more cases or variants our way, the mandate may be reinstated, but for now, students and teachers are no longer required to mask up.



Purple Press Staff Photo
Senior Josie Gibson wearing her mask while at school.

Robotics makes regional competition



An Open Circuits team member works on the robot (left), team members Owen Vaughn-Fier and Nick Streng during the competition (right).

Lana Stevens
Staff Writer

Over spring break, the OWL robotics team, coached by science teacher Megan Hall, competed in the 2022 Minnesota North Star Regional Robotics tournament at the University of Minnesota. Around

12 students participated in the competition at the U of M, driving their robot around the pit and programming it to toss balls into hoops to get points.

The OWL robotics team's robot, named Mitwo, won 37th place. The members of the robotics team, known as

the Open Circuits, had to get to the competition at eight in the morning for three days during spring break, April 7th, 8th, and 9th, and they stayed until six.

The theme for the 2022 competition season was Rapid React. Before the teams could

drive their robot on the competition floor, they were given 15 seconds for the robot to complete pre-programmed tasks. The first goal was to launch cargo into a big hoop. The second was to get the robot to climb ascending bars. The first and lowest bar was

called rung, the second called mid, then high, then traversal, each bar slightly taller than the previous. The higher the robot got, the better the team's score.

Some of the OWL team's teammates were unable to participate due to travel over

Robotics, 9

Community meetings return

First meeting since 2020 on May 13

Nina LaFerla
Staff Writer

As we get into the school year, more things are starting to go back to normal at OWL.

In fact, math teacher Damon Liberatore, who's in charge of putting together community meetings, confirmed we will have a community meeting on May 13. This will be the first official in-person community meeting since February 2020 -- over two years ago.

"We started working on preparing the community meeting mid last week," said August Cheney, one of Damon's crew members. "We've been preparing slide shows, getting music, and deciding the theme."

Community meetings are a big part of the OWL community, and a lot of work is put into making them. They typically last about an hour long and take place on the first Friday of every month at the end of the day. They begin with monthly announcements, usually followed by performances and awards.

The tradition of community meetings started around 2010.

Community meeting, 4



Purple Press Staff Photo
Students eating lunch without social distancing.

OWL relaxes lunch rules

Assigned seating, other guidelines will no longer be enforced

Meara Gunderson
Staff Writer

As COVID-19 numbers relent and cases drop, students at OWL are enjoying the new, more relaxed lunch rules.

The new rules are that you can sit anywhere you want in the cafeteria, many more people can sit at a single table, the

classes don't have one area they have to stay in, you don't have to stay in your seat the whole time, and in the last 15 minutes of lunch if you have finished eating and cleaned up as long as it is above 40 degrees and not raining you can go outside and play four square; but you can no longer eat in

Damon's classroom.

Restricted lunch guidelines go back to April 14th 2021. When OWL students returned to in person learning they couldn't leave their seat for the entirety of lunch, they couldn't go outside, and they couldn't be on their phone.

There were a lot of different phases of lunch restrictions. A year ago there were assigned zones and you couldn't move from your seat, then as vaci-

nations came out and COVID numbers went down we moved to still having assigned zones but being able to move within them, and now having no zones and being able to sit wherever you feel.

Students are very happy with the changes, as this means they have the opportunity to do more things during lunch. "My favorite thing about the new rules is having

Lunch, 10



The Purple Press

Adult to Blame
Leo Bickelhaupt

Editors-in-Chief
Paloma Leone-Getten
Willa Champion

Copy Editor
Nick Streng

Writers
Henry Bandelin
Olivia Bilek
Willa Champion
Hazel Carroll
Auria Cha
Nora Crosby
Adam Griffith
Meara Gunderson
Elizabeth Hallanger
Claire Hulson
Lucy Keenan
Nina LaFerla
Paloma Leone-Getten
Arlo Northrop-Kiel
Samantha O'Hara Graff
Elena Patton
Emmy Ryan
Mintesinot Sisay
Lana Stevens
Nick Streng
Amya Wright

First-hand account of Humboldt basketball

A player recounts the highs and lows of b-ball



Tanya Sturm

The team making a game plan against Johnson High School.

Mintesinot Sisay
Staff Writer

Eight seconds remain in the final game of Humboldt Hawks boys' 2021-22 basketball season. A Washington Eagles player dribbles stationary while their bench celebrates their advancing beyond the first round of the section tournament. Hawks players watch forlorn on the bench as they see their season disappear in the ticks of the game clock.

Washington has long been regarded as the worst team in the Saint Paul City Conference, by far. Humboldt was 0-3 against Washington, en route to one of the worst seasons in its history. One might wonder how players managed to find joy when they were being trounced every game for almost the entire season—minus a 60-55 victory to kick it off, and a mid-season blowout of Community & Peace—going on to win a whopping two games.

Well, if you were indeed wondering how on earth we still had fun, I'm here to give you answers!

I, Mintesinot, was a player on the Hawks varsity basketball team. Usually that would be exciting: "Wow, I made varsity! I must be good at this game!" Nope. I'm decent, but would never make varsity at a school that had normal participation.

Central High School had over 120 students attend their basketball tryouts, and they had more than enough players for three teams; a varsity, a JV, and a C squad. Beyond Como and Johnson, the rest of the SPCC did not see as much success as usual. Still, most teams were good. Even without their star point guard for much of the season, Central managed to be the third ranked team in the conference, amassing a pedestrian 11-15 record.

In comparison, thirteen potential players attended tryouts at the beginning of the season for Humboldt. There were times when we had 8 available players on the roster for games. Our four tallest players were forced to make the hard decision to relinquish extracurriculars due to

outside circumstances (work, family, etc.), which brought our average height somewhere near 5 feet 9 inches. By the last 7 games of the season, we had one player who had prior varsity experience. We were a team of 2 juniors, 2 middle schoolers, and 4 sophomores. My brother—an 8th grader at Humboldt—played much of the season, while also suiting up for our C squad. Our talent pool was so low that we didn't even have a JV. We had a varsity and a C squad. That's all there was.

There were many times when we struggled to find joy in our games. Our highest point was probably the first game of the season when we played Cristo Rey Jesuit. At that time we had a few very talented scorers, and we were able to sneak a win on their home floor. That game was a personal high for me, as I scored 9 points in my Varsity debut, and played lockdown defense in the waning minutes against their most dangerous player. I was really excited for what I thought might be a solid year. Then, a month later, we lost two of our three seniors, and our season began to fall apart in earnest.

We had a hard time of it for a large chunk of the year. Loss after loss kept piling on, and we really struggled not to be angry about everything.

I experienced a lengthy shooting slump (coincidentally at the same time as Stephen Curry was having his worst

Basketball, 3



Rick Verner

The womanatee at a game this season.

Womanatee team strong despite low numbers

After graduating 14 seniors in 2021, the team looks to stay competitive this season

Paloma Leone-Getten
Staff Writer

Despite their smaller size, the girls ultimate frisbee team can make their presence known. "On the land or in the sea, we are sea cow, Manatee!" the girls ultimate frisbee team cheers before running onto the field and beginning each game.

The girls ultimate frisbee team—the Womanatee—is looking forward to a strong season with a 13-player roster. "We lost so many seniors—14 out of 21 of our players were seniors last year—so we came in this year thinking we'd only have one line, but we've had a lot of younger students step up and have been developing quickly. We've also had a lot of upperclassmen level out our experience," said senior captain Lili Hobday.

Eleventh grader Lily Weissman and senior Nora Verner are also captains this season. "We keep people engaged during practices, starting with warm ups and ensuring that everyone is paying attention," said Lily. They have also been working hard to foster community on the team. "One of my goals as a captain is making sure the team, itself, is close, since we're all coming from different grades and there are little groups that are friends outside of frisbee," said Nora.

Having a strong community is a crucial aspect of Ultimate Frisbee. "I think that Ultimate is a very specific kind of sport because there isn't the same kind of inner-team competition that other sports have, so I enjoy that there's always a positive environment when you're playing and if there's not, then that's going against the rules. It's built into the way that Ultimate works and that's something that's irreplaceable for me," said Nora. The team has implemented off-the-field bonding as well, to improve team chemistry across grade levels. "I try to get us to get ice cream after a good game, or before tournaments we'll do carb-o-loads. We're hop-

ing to do lake days as well but it's weather-dependent," said Nora.

The positive attitude of teammates and competitions, alike, has kept many OWL athletes involved in the game. "I've played frisbee since 6th grade. The sport of frisbee has a really great community and environment so I have a lot of fun playing it," said 10th grader Willa Champion. Lily agreed. "I joined in middle school because I thought everyone did it. It was a really great environment—the coaches are great and everyone who plays is positive. I haven't had any negative experiences with it and have played on teams outside of school and found great communities there as well. It's a great way to stay active."

In terms of on-the-field goals, the team hopes to pick up some wins, notably against Central High School, along with building the program for next year. "One of my goals, since I'm going to be here next year, is to convince 8th graders and high schoolers who didn't play this year to join the team, because we have a very small team this year and I want a bigger team next year," said Lily. Nora hopes to remain competitive despite low numbers and such a large focus on spirit, which is an ultimate frisbee-specific focus on good sportsmanship and community-building within and between teams. "That's one difference between guys ultimate and girls ultimate: there tends to be a better spirit in girls, which I appreciate. But sometimes that means that the sport isn't taken as seriously by the players and I don't want that to be the narrative that's put out there, because it still is a competitive sport."

The Womanatee play every Tuesday night until the State Tournament in early June. In previous years, they've found success at the DII level, winning the division in 2018 and 2019, and qualifying for the

Womanatee, 7

Manatee teams start the season off strong

Both varsity and JV have seen success despite poor weather and cancellations

Willa Champion
Staff Writer

An hour and a half before the Manatee, OWL's boys ultimate frisbee team, were scheduled to play, players were on the field shoveling snow from the turf. Although this doesn't seem like something a spring sport should have to do, Minnesota weather has made the



Purple Press Staff Photo

Senior Jalen Bolton-Steiner in a game this season.

start to the Manatee's season a bit cold.

Ultimate frisbee has been a sport at OWL, formerly called the Open School, since the early 2000s. Over the years the program has gained popularity and this year OWL will have three high school teams competing in the Minnesota Youth Ultimate state league - a girls varsity team, a boys varsity team, and a boys JV team. As of print time, the boys varsity team had a record of 4-1 and the JV team a record of 3-2.

In Minnesota, which now is home to the largest high school ultimate league in the country, the sport has grown rapidly. Spirit of the game, which is the idea of positive competition and building supportive teams, is a large part of ultimate's premise and this positive community is often a draw to young players. Games are officiated without referees - players are the ones to

call fouls and debate whether a throw was caught out of bounds. Additionally, at the end of each game, both teams come together in a spirit circle to debrief the game and hand out spirit awards - shoutouts to players that exemplified good sportsmanship on and off the field. "Just overall the game has a good culture," said 10th grader Mintesinot Sisay, who plays for the varsity team.

Despite losing multiple seniors last season, the Manatee had a large turnout at tryouts and for the first time in recent years, were able to have two teams. "We have a lot more people playing this year, which allows us to have both a varsity and JV team. We have many new freshmen playing, which is fantastic to see because the program will continue to run strongly once we graduate," said senior and varsity captain Jalen Bolton-Steiner.

The Manatee's first tourna-

ment was canceled because of poor field conditions due to heavy rain. Despite this, both teams are looking forward to the Hopkins Hustle, a tournament that brings in players from around the state, which is scheduled to take place over the weekend of May 14th. The varsity team, who has won all their games besides a close 11-12 loss to SPA, are poised to be strong contenders in the division 1 bracket.

The welcoming community of ultimate frisbee makes it easy for players to pick up the game at any age. OWL's team especially exemplifies this culture. "My teammates are awesome people and they are very supportive," Mintesinot said. Jalen added, "Frisbee is my favorite sport because it combines a competitive game with an emphasis on good sportsmanship. It's a very easy game to pick up and I think OWL's team does a very good job at welcoming new players. I would highly recommend anyone who is interested to start playing."

Understudies are becoming a norm for OWL theater

For the first time in recent OWL theater department history, an understudy was called to fill in

Hazel Carroll
Staff Writer

After nearly two years of darkness, the lights of the OWL auditorium stage were finally being reignited for this year's fall production of *The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong*. And though the threat of COVID-19 still loomed, actors and tech crew were anxiously and excitedly preparing in a space they hadn't been able to since Open's production of *The Addams Family* in December of 2019. Unfortunately, the weekend before opening night sickness struck and, for the first time in recent OWL history, an understudy stepped up to fulfill a major role.

In live theatre there are four types of actors: Main Cast, Understudies, Swings, and Stand-bys. The main cast, which is usually broken into leads and ensemble, are the actors who are listed as their certain roles

on the cast list. Understudies are ensemble members who cover (often several) lead and supporting roles and step in if the main actor is unable to perform. Swings are off-stage actors who cover a multitude (sometimes all) of ensemble roles, much like understudies they will fill in for an ensemble member if they are unable to fill the role. Stand-bys are a bit like swings, they're off-stage performers but instead of covering for the ensemble they usually cover for just the main lead.

In the past, OWL hasn't always casted understudies. "I think I've only cast understudies a couple times before [*The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong*]," said theatre director Rebekah Rentzel, who has worked at Open for eight years, "it's something where if I don't remember to take the time and plan for it, it's always gonna be something

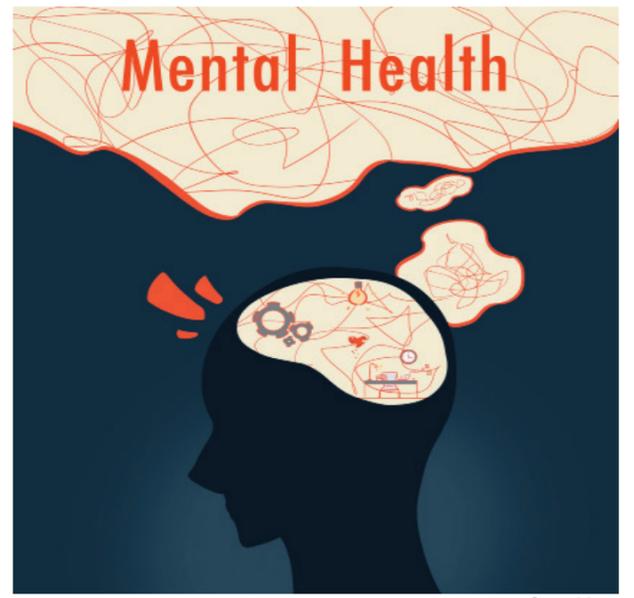
important that comes back to me later." That was until just this past fall when, together, sophomores Anna Nowatzki and Mintesinot Sturm covered all the roles (minus the Stage-hand) in *The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong*. This past fall's show had a remarkably small main cast of nine, meaning that every actor had quite a bit of material to learn, but no one had as much to memorize as the understudies.

Though rehearsals for the understudies went very similarly to the main cast, though they weren't often onstage, they also had to pay attention to the blocking and lines of four different people, which proved to be a challenge. "I wasn't needed on stage most times (I actually had to fill in for people like five times during rehearsals)," said Mintesinot, "so I had to just watch and practice." But just because he was watching and waiting

didn't mean he wasn't working. "The fact that I was an understudy to four roles made it so I had to focus on a wide range of lines, which was difficult." Everyone was prepared for the worst, but no one really expected Mintesinot to have to perform.

A spotlight has recently been shown on understudies in the broader theatre world as well. After Broadway League President Charlotte St. Martin made a poorly thought out statement about how today's understudies "aren't as efficient in delivering the role as the lead is," many actors spoke out about how hard understudies and swings work to make sure the show goes on. One notable instance is when renowned actor Hugh Jackman made a statement during the curtain call of the show *The Music Man* which he stars in as con-man Harold Hill. In his speech he paid tribute to swing Kathy Voytko who had had less than a day's notice to learn the lead-

Understudies, 7



Grace Moua

Kevin's leave to address mental health

"There is a lot of pressure for adults to pretend that they're okay."

Nora Crosby
Staff Writer

Earlier this year, our own English teacher Kevin Hansen took a leave of absence due to ongoing mental health struggles. Kevin sat down with *The Purple Press* to discuss some of the causes of his leave, revolving around the burdens he feels in trying to maintain a failing system and the pressures from society to wake up and grind each day. Too often, we sweep these situations under the rug because they are uncomfortable or controversial. But the first step in solving the cause of these problems, in Kevin's eyes, is to address the issue at its core.

A 2021 study found that 64% of teachers struggle with issues surrounding the stability of their mental health. 27% experience problems with depression and 37% with anxiety. Despite the acknowledgment of these numbers, the question as to why these statistics are so large is still being answered.

Kevin began the interview by explaining his complex relationship with his mental health. Since he was a child, Kevin has struggled with depression and the guidance of a therapist was an on and off occurrence. As he got older, Kevin noticed that his depression worsened during the winter months; making it difficult to keep up with his job.

Last year, during the pandemic and distance learning, Kevin considered taking a leave of absence but felt that he would only make things more difficult for both himself and his students. "Everything was just so uncertain that I didn't feel it was responsible or something I should do," he said. "But a colleague of mine mentioned taking a leave as an option which planted the seed of this 'last resort.'"

When the current school year rolled around, Kevin was feeling refreshed and optimistic yet once the winter months came about he found it difficult to simply maintain his job. Both friends and family stated

he seemed down but the final pushover was when students emailed Kevin concerned about him. "I thought I was doing a better job of hiding it, and the last thing I wanted was for students to be worried about me. So that was the final straw that pushed me to do this."

Initially, Kevin was nervous about leaving his classroom for a long period of time. But when he saw that other adults and teachers were taking similar absences, he realized taking the leave was necessary for him to become both a better person and teacher.

After preparing with the substitute and Dave, Kevin told his classes, "I'm really struggling with my depression and I need to do something about it, so I will be taking a leave of absence to participate in a program." Kevin explained how he wanted to show that adults also struggle with their mental health and that it's important for them to also get the support that they need. "I think that there is a lot of pressure for adults to pretend that they're okay sometimes."

On the outside, the situation seemed straightforward: Kevin would leave for a few weeks and get the help he needed, the substitute would carry on with the lesson plans, and the students would complete their work. But internally, Kevin was grappling with the causes of this particular wave of depression.

Beyond struggling with the clinical symptoms and side effects of depression, Kevin was feeling a lack of support and happiness within his job. "Part of the reason I became a teacher was because it made me happy. But when I realized that I wasn't finding joy anymore the question was 'well, why should anyone do this?'"

As Kevin described, he believes that the job of an educator is usually held by people who exert a lot of kindness and compassion; those who want to be with young people. Yet

Kevin, 4

Vikings hire new coach

New head coach Kevin O'Connell hopes to lead the Minnesota Vikings to first Super Bowl win

Amya Wright
Staff Writer

O'Connell played quarterback for San Diego State, and was then drafted by the New England Patriots during the third round of the 2008 NFL draft. He then began his career playing for the Detroit Lions,



KARE 11

Miami Dolphins, New York Jets, and San Diego Chargers before retiring in 2012. Just three years later he became a coach, serving as an assistant coach for the Cleveland Browns, San Francisco 49ers, Washington Redskins, and offensive coordinator for the Los Angeles Rams before becoming head coach of the Vikings in 2022.

O'Connell has taken over a club that missed the postseason the past two seasons with losing records, and hasn't won the NFC North since 2017. But O'Connell believes there is a foundation in place to compete right away. "Trying to win championships is the goal," O'Connell said Thurs-

day during his introductory press conference. O'Connell has spoken out about how excited he is in all three phases, offense, defense, and special teams. O'Connell has spoken very highly of quarterback Kirk Cousins; he believes Kirk is a player of the team we can win with. There are other players like receivers Justin Jefferson and Adam Thielen, running back Dalvin Cook, safety Harrison Smith, linebacker Eric Kendricks and edge rusher Danielle Hunter, among others.

O'Connell began his inaugural press conference as the head coach of the Vikings by thanking all of the people who helped him land this amazing

opportunity. He has shown in a short amount of time how much he cares for his team already, "To Vikings fans, I just want to let you know, you'll get everything I absolutely have on an every single day basis," O'Connell said. "Knowing how hard it is to win in this league and having come from an organization where we were just able to accomplish the ultimate goal in winning a Super Bowl, I know what it takes."

9th grade student Danny Hobday has given us his own opinion, saying, "I think what he did with the Rams could really translate over to the Vikings. The way he utilized Cooper Kupp and turned him into a triple crown winner, he could do the same with Jefferson."

ing time on JV would be much more beneficial for my overall confidence with the toned down competition. Basketball can be more fun next year, and that's what our team needs to take with us going forward.



Tayna Sturm

10th grader Endale Witt playing in a game against Harding High School this season.

Basketball, 2

shooting months) that went from the 3rd month until the end of the season. There was a game where I missed six of seven attempted three point shots, and that was the nail in the coffin for my confidence. I could not understand what changed. Nothing about my mechanics was off. I was shooting exactly how I always shot, but this time they would not fall. I have since been out of that slump and back to enjoying basketball, so that's good news.

When the team changed our perspective, our outlook turned around.

Fellow teammate and OWL sophomore, Endale Witt said "Losing sucks, but overall I felt like we were improving. In the end we were having fun and everyone was a better player and teammate."

We finally realized that we weren't going to have the kind

of success that looks good on a stats sheet, but rather success in the development process. Many of us will be coming back next year, while other schools will be graduating most of their varsity talent. Experience is extremely important for a team, and that's what we will have next year. Many of us - especially me - played tentatively; not understanding our roles entirely, and just lacking the knowledge of the high school game that comes with experience.

"What I enjoyed the most was playing basketball with friends after not playing during the COVID year," said Endale. That perspective is special because it shows how even with the season being such a tremendous disappointment, players were still able to look at the good things that came out of it. We played terribly, but a season without basketball sucked more. Team

captain and star Jorge said "it was tough knowing our team was young and didn't have experience, but I knew we were going to build a brotherhood, which is important for next year, knowing we'll have the same people, with hopefully a more well-rounded overall team." We struggled together, and we plan to win together next year.

Our focus turned to working as hard as possible to be prepared for next year when we have the opportunity to be a solid team in the SPCC. With COVID-19 (hopefully) in the rear view, participation should be higher next year. With that realization, some of us (me) may not be back on that varsity roster. I wouldn't have much of an issue with that because it means we have numbers, which also means we have enough for a JV team. I hold no delusions of my talents, I am not varsity stock. My play-

Senior Spotlight

Gus Holtan



What are your pronouns?
He/Him.

How many years have you been at OWL?
7 years.

What are your plans for next year?
I am going to St. Paul College.

What's been your favorite class in high school?
Horticulture or Landscape Design because I get to work with plants.

What extracurriculars are you involved in?
Archery, video games, and rubix cubes.

Favorite field work experience or school trip and why?
St. Croix because I was fresh into high school and I got to see everyone again.

If you had a walk up song, what would it be?
Champion by Kanye West.

That One Little Kid

What are your pronouns?
He/Him.

How tall are you?
5'6"ish.

What's your favorite class so far and why?
Social studies with Luke because Luke is an amazing teacher and he's very supportive and cheery.

Who's your favorite senior?
Hannah.

Where do you think you're going to go for college?
I haven't thought about it but my goal is just to get a job.

What extracurriculars do you plan on getting involved in at OWL?
Theater and maybe D&D, and I'm already in GSA.



Kevin, 3
both our society and the educational system thrust teachers into the cycle with very little support; setting them up for failure. "Teaching is generally put on the backs of individuals who are really caring and can be very selfless when personally taking on the burden of a failing system."

Kevin explained how the 'little, simple things' teachers do, like spending their own money on school supplies and working overtime without payment, are considered normal but actually only contribute to keeping the system from failing entirely. "If teachers were to suddenly say 'nope I'm not spending any of my own money, I'm not working outside of the school day' the system would crumble."

Kevin was also feeling pressure from society to ignore his emotions and carry on as if nothing was wrong. In his belief, our culture accepts burnout as a norm and expects people to 'rise and grind' despite obvious flaws in that ideal. Furthermore, the stigma surrounding teachers taking a leave of absence and getting

the help they need is extremely negative and only adds to the 'push through it' environment we live in.

The COVID-19 pandemic especially has also had a profound impact on both the way our society is shaped and the lives of the people living in it. "There is a lot of pressure for adults to pretend that the last couple years didn't happen, and they did. And it has been frustrating to see this worldwide return to normal as opposed to taking an intentional leave of absence we all need and not taking the time to make some fundamental changes to fix the way our culture and society is struggling to stay uproot," said Kevin.

During his leave of absence, Kevin attended a virtual, outpatient program at Regions Hospital. For 15 days, 9am-3pm, he participated in four therapy sessions in addition to other group and individual sessions. "It was a good opportunity for me to experience different approaches to mental health and stuff that I hadn't maybe known, thought about, or considered, like music or dialectical therapy."

Community meeting, 1

Some of the more memorable elements of a community meeting include lip sync battles, Dave Time, and senior spotlights.

"I like the whole school coming together and when they play 'Don't Stop Believing' at the end," said Max Schibel, a 12th grader in Damon's

crew.

Although planning is still in progress, and Damon's crew doesn't want to give away too much, it looks like this community meeting might include a certain popular movie series and a theatrical performance starring one of OWL's most adored teachers.

It was a very limited, lonely environment so Kevin made sure to visit with friends and family when he could. "It was really draining, the first week at 3pm all I really wanted to do was go to bed. I had to fight against that because I knew sleeping for the other 16 hours of the day wouldn't be good for my mental health either." The most important skills he took away from this experience were using mediation, journaling, and other sensory activities to, not casually, but intentionally reset himself.

Upon returning to school, Kevin was intimidated by the reality that he quickly had to confront. He described how it was easy to keep a healthy routine when his main focus was his welfare. As he continued to readjust to work he found that despite all the effort he put in, his mental health would still fluctuate. "Part of me felt that I should have been 'fixed' when I came back because I took the time to work on myself. But that's not how it works, and that's definitely something I am still grappling with."

As he readjusts to the rhythm of work, Kevin has made it a priority to be vulnerable and transparent with others in the hope that it will allow others to be open about their own mental health struggles. "I've noticed that my students are more comfortable talking to me about their own mental health and maybe even more confident talking to each other as well." Kevin had also stated that he tries to use the skills he learned in his pro-

gram within his classroom when students seem stressed and overwhelmed.

Since returning, Kevin has also helped other teachers come to terms with their own issues and support them in their line of action. "Since I've gotten back, I've spoken to other adults who asked me about my process. I have shared links to the program with people who have considered taking a leave of absence."

Kevin has expressed that he still struggles with his mental health, it's not something that will go away. But finding support in others has helped him reset when situations become difficult. "I still struggle with feeling as if I should be better, I still feel some guilt...it's nice to know that this isn't necessarily just a me problem, that this is a widespread issue."

Looking toward the future, Kevin believes there is a lot of positive movement towards fully normalizing the discussion and support given for mental health. It's important to treat each person and situation with compassion and empathy. "It's okay to feel like things aren't good and things aren't working sometimes."

As a final statement, Kevin said, "I hope that you're all [future generations] able to craft a better world that looks kinder for everyone. Because it's clear that the one we're living in right now isn't working for many people and I think the only way to change that is to refuse to take part in it and decide to change it for the better."

Marvel doesn't pay writers fairly

Popular multi-billion dollar franchise is under scrutiny for underpaying comic creators

Emmy Ryan
Staff Writer

Doesn't it suck when you tell a joke, but someone tells the same joke louder and everyone laughs at it? That's how some Marvel comic writers and artists feel when their work is adapted into the MCU, but with a whole lot more money involved.

It's doubtful that an introduction to the Marvel Cinematic Universe is even needed. It is an incredibly popular franchise; one would be hard-pressed to find a person that's never heard of it. Marvel has made countless hit movies and shows, with Avengers Endgame, Spider-man: No Way Home, the Falcon and The Winter Soldier, and WandaVision being just a few out of many. Each movie and show makes hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue, setting and breaking box office records.

People are obsessed with this company and the media that it makes. Marvel has a tight grip on the superhero movie genre, with DC being its only true competition. It's hard to avoid Marvel, with the large amount of content that it releases each year. Ten movies out of the forty seven that made over 1 billion dollars in revenue were created by Marvel Studios. That's 21% of the list!

Despite the amount of love it gets, Marvel Studios has had its fair share of controversies, one of them being not paying a fair amount to the creators of the comics they adapt. It's not a one-time mistake, it's a recurring event that leaves writers and artists completely screwed over. Writers that create a character or have their stories adapted into movies get \$5,000 and an invitation to the premier. Compared to the billions of dollars that each movie makes, this is ridiculously tiny.

One notable person that has spoken out about this issue is comic writer Ed Brubaker. In 2004, Brubaker wrote the series Captain America: Winter Soldier with artist Steve Epting, reviving the long-dropped character of Bucky Barnes into the Winter Soldier. The Winter Soldier appeared in many other series, but it's undeniable that without Brubaker, Bucky would still be in the grave.

Bucky made his first major

appearance in Captain America: The Winter Soldier, the sequel to Captain America: The First Avenger. Brubaker didn't even get asked whether he wanted his character in a movie, nor was he the first one that was told of this. He had a cameo in the movie as a Russian scientist, and said, "It's great because I got SAG royalties from it, so I still get SAG residuals from my [cameo]," and "I have made more on SAG residuals than I have from creating the character, from my one line that got cut." (SAG residuals are compensation to actors in addition to their initial payment.)

In March of 2021, Marvel released the show The Falcon and The Winter Soldier on Disney+, with one of their star characters being, you guessed it, the Winter Soldier. Brubaker was sent the aforementioned check for 5,000 dollars, but turned it down because he felt that it was an insult. In a newsletter in March of 2021, he wrote about having mixed feelings about the show, and later in an interview with podcast Fatman Beyond talked about what it's like to have his work adapted. The main feelings he expressed was that he knew what he was getting into when he signed those contracts, but that doesn't mean that he doesn't feel like he got ripped off. "I loved working at Marvel, I had a great time there, but at the same time I also feel like, be a little bit more generous!"

In regards to the Captain America: Winter Soldier movie premier showing, Brubaker was placed in the overflow theater, instead of the main theater where the people that worked on the movie were. "Everybody kept coming over to me after the movie and going, how much did they give you for this? When you have a hundred people asking how much they gave you for this, it starts to eat away at you a little bit... The whole b-plot and a lot of the emotional arc of the movie wouldn't exist had I not written these comics."

When asked about the Falcon and the Winter Soldier, he said "I think I might be the only person in America who's not excited about the show. When I see the ads for

Marvel, 10



Disney Plus

All 17 Star Wars films and shows ranked

Yes, there has been 17 Star Wars projects and, yes, all of them are reviewed in this article

Adam Griffith
Staff Writer

In late February 2022, Disney announced that the long-awaited STAR WARS show, Kenobi, would be dropping on Disney+ on May 25, 2022. On March 9, 2022 the first trailer for the show was released. Most STAR WARS fans were incredibly excited for the new show (although a few were over-complaining about the shape of a character's face), so in honor of this new series dropping, let's take a look back at the past 45 years of the greatest fictional series of all time and rank all 17 canon STAR WARS projects. This is based on my personal opinion but also with the objective scores as well (scores based on pure quality), coming from one of the biggest STAR WARS fans on the planet.

#17. STAR WARS Episode VIII: The Last Jedi (2017)

This movie divided the STAR WARS fan base in two, and is probably the single most divisive film of all time. But this movie is garbage.

It's beautifully made and fun to watch, but the writing is just terrible. Luke Skywalker throwing his lightsaber behind his back and ditching the Jedi was a massive slap in the face to the hundreds of millions of STAR WARS fans worldwide who had waited 2 years for this movie. Holdo is the worst STAR WARS character to date and the Canto Bight sequence did absolutely nothing for the plot. This movie does have its highlights, however. The visuals are great and the new creatures are adorable. But pretty much the only thing you need to know going into Episode 9 from Episode 7 is that Luke Skywalker is dead. Otherwise, you can skip this sugar-coated dumpster fire mess. Personal Enjoyment Score: 8.4/10 (A-). Objective Quality Score: 4.8/10 (D+).

#16. Solo: A STAR WARS Story (2018)

This movie's main question is "How can we make yet another style of the Millennium Falcon to sell more toys?" No, seriously, this film is a total

cash grab. I was not expecting much going into this film, however I actually enjoyed it a lot more than I thought I would. It's fun, but not something to rewatch over and over again. Personal Enjoyment Score: 8.5/10 (A). Objective Quality Score: 6.3/10 (C+).

#15. STAR WARS: The Bad Batch (2021)

This show did something you rarely ever see in a TV show. The first few episodes are the best and then it just goes downhill from there. The first episode is awesome, and 2-5 were great as well, but episodes 6-16 were just good. Not bad at all, but the finale was very underwhelming and I hope they do better in season 2. Personal Enjoyment Score: 8.7/10 (A). Objective Quality Score: 7.2/10 (B).

#14. STAR WARS: The Clone Wars (Movie) (2008)

In my opinion, this movie gets way too much hate. People call it bad, and while it's not incredible, it is pretty good and fun to watch but it does not compare at all to the iconic

TV show that it promotes. Personal Enjoyment Score: 8.7/10 (A). Objective Quality Score: 6.8/10 (B-).

#13. STAR WARS Episode I: The Phantom Menace (1999)

This film is actually really underrated. Even though it is the worst of the original 6 films, it's great. Young Anakin is adorable and the lightsaber fights and the podrace are so much fun. It's certainly not as good as the other 2 prequels, but I do really love this film. Personal Enjoyment Score: 9.2/10 (A+). Objective Quality Score: 7.6/10 (B+).

#12. STAR WARS: The Book of Boba Fett (2021)

Not what I expected from a Boba Fett show, but I'm not disappointed. This show is a blast, even if the best episodes are the ones centered around The Mandalorian. Overall it was a nice mini-series and it got me super hyped for The Mandalorian Season 3. Personal Enjoyment Score: 9.3/10 (A+). Objective Quality Score: 7.7/10 (B+).

#11. Rogue One: A STAR WARS Story (2016)

This film is so beautifully well made. Is it fair to put it

Star Wars, 9



Purple Press Staff Photo

This drinking fountain is accessible from Leo's classroom.

Arlo reviews water fountains

Water fountain in front of Leo's classroom is among the best

Arlo Northrop-Kiel
Staff Writer

Water is a very important part of students' everyday life, and how do they get that water? Water fountains. Water fountains are a necessity in any public building but also a part that typically goes unnoticed. If you are new to OWL or just haven't thought about water fountains that much, this is the guide for you. I have taken the time and reviewed all seven water fountains at OWL (and the one in the Humboldt wing) to finally decide which one is the best.

In my opinion the best water fountain at OWL is the one outside of Leo's classroom. It has great accessibility for most of the second floor and is next to the stairs so you can take a break if you get tired. This water fountain also has very cold and refreshing water, a water bottle filler, and higher water pressure so you don't have to be as close to the spout (or bubbler). But my favorite part about this water fountain is that the stream is much thicker than the typical flow so you end up getting more water and no more awkward sucking noises.

In the number two spot I'm giving this to the fraquetball fountain. The main reason this is so high as many of you could probably guess is the location. Being right outside the gym is the perfect spot to put a drinking fountain so it always feels very refreshing, but if you try it without having a run around beforehand, it is not nearly as refreshing. The button is very large and triggers easily so when you are filling up your water bottle you have to pay extra attention to not accidentally press it and get water on your sleeve. But the location is so good it makes up for all its shortcomings.

If you forgot to bring a water bottle and are thirsty during lunch then this fountain will be great for you. In third place is the water fountain just outside the art room. The water fountain here has cold water with a water bottle filler, the water pressure is pretty good so you don't have to bend over as much. Though this has the same issue as the gym fountain where you have to be careful when filling up your water bottle as not to get

your sleeve wet.

Probably the most average water fountain at OWL is the one in the Humboldt wing. This drinking fountain doesn't have anything too special about it but it also doesn't have anything too bad about it either. The water is relatively cold and the water pressure is decent, but there is nothing outstanding about it. That is why this drinking fountain lands right in the middle of this list.

Now we are moving onto the sub par water fountains, these could be good for a drink if you are very thirsty and don't want to walk very far, but you shouldn't seek these out. So at number five we have the water fountain outside Preston's room. This water fountain is alright, it's just in a poor location. If you are having lunch just go to the art fountain and if you are in the gym just use the gym fountain. The water pressure is also a bit low but the water is cold and so is the water bottle filler. It would be higher but it is just in a bad location.

In 6th place it is Katie's water fountain. There is only one fountain here so if there is a line it will take longer for your turn. The water here is also a bit warm and the water pressure is average. As of press time the water bottle filler does not work, but that will hopefully be fixed soon. The fountain is mostly used by the cluster of rooms next to it because Leo and the Humboldt wing are much better options.

The worst water fountain at OWL is also the only one on the third floor. The third floor water fountain is very disappointing. Since it's the only option on the third floor you would hope it would be good, but no. The water is room temperature at best and the pressure is horrible, it is either too weak or too strong and it hits you in the face when you press it. The water bottle filler originally didn't work, but it has recently been fixed. If you are on the third floor and you need a drink you're better off just going down to Leo's fountain.

All of these fountains are bearable, but some are certainly better than others. If you have enough time be sure to visit the best fountain in your area.

The Hate U Give banned

Book that teaches teens about racism has been removed from libraries in some districts

Lana Stevens
Staff Writer

The Hate U Give is a story of racism and police brutality. It is a good way to teach kids about real world problems, but some schools and parents think it is a little too real for their students.

#1 New York Times Bestseller
ANGIE THOMAS



Amazon

The Hate U Give, by Angie Thomas, is about a black teenager named Starr Carter and her friend Khalil, who is brutally shot by a cop after getting pulled over. Starr is the witness, and the book follows her through her journey in trying to get justice for Khalil. She also balances her life in her black neighborhood versus her life at her fancy white prep school, and the difficulties in navigating the two worlds. There is also family drama, gangs, and guns.

The book was first banned in 2017 by a Texas school district, when it was

temporarily removed from library shelves before being returned. They challenged it for having strong language and discussing important topics like racism and the intersection of police brutality and bias and is thought to promote an anti-police message. "Thomas tweeted that she was 'saddened to hear' of the restriction, stating that 'you're basically telling the kids of the Garden Heights of the world that their stories shouldn't be told,'" said a story in The Boston Globe. 'Garden Heights' is the name of Starr's black, poor neighborhood in the book. In

South Carolina, a police union challenged the book for "an indoctrination of distrust of police." The police union wanted schools to take The Hate U Give out of their school libraries and their curriculum. The schools refused.

Many people who don't want kids reading the book blame it on the strong language, but I think what most of the fuss is about is the topics it covers. It does have an age recommendation, which is 13+. Some parents think it should be 14 or even 15+, but most kids think 13+ is good enough. I also think 13+ is reasonable, even 12, if the kid is mature enough and understands the issues the book

THUG, 10

'Don't Say Gay' bill passed

Signed on March 8th by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, the bill bars LGBTQ+ ed for K-3rd

Claire Hulson
Staff Writer

Don't say gay, or else. Imagine OWL without the LGBTQ+ community? Very very different. There would be no GSA, no crew lessons on gender identity, and most likely, no Preston.

The Parental Rights in Education or referred to as the 'Don't Say Gay' bill by critics was signed twice in Florida after a revision to make it stricter and more conservative.

The 'Don't Say Gay' bill that

makes it illegal to teach anything about homosexuality or the LGBTQ+ community to kindergarten through third graders was signed on March 8th by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. It was updated and signed again on the 28th.

The intention of this bill is to keep the children of Florida free of exposure to "controversial views." It must be especially heart breaking for Rep. Joey Hensley of Florida when his kids come home and tell him that they learned that not everyone is straight. Hensley has

"two children in the third and fourth grade and I don't want them to be exposed to things I don't agree with."

This bill poses less awareness for the coming generation, but full insight for parents into their kids' personal lives. Florida will "adopt procedures for notifying a student's parent if there is a change in the student's services or monitoring related to the student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being and the school's ability to provide a safe and supportive learning environ-

ment for the student." Well that might sound nice, but what it boils down to is if the school thinks you're gay, then they'll tell your parents with full transparency. As many kids at OWL know, coming out is a terrifying thing that can take years of confidence for kids to build up to, even with accepting parents. So, try to put yourself in the shoes of someone who might get kicked out, disowned, put into conversion therapy etc. if they were apart of the LGBTQ+ community.

This bill would mean is that any sort of instruction of LGBTQ+ topics is barred,

Don't Say Gay, 10



Reviews 'n' stuff



West Side Story reimagined

Directed by Steven Spielberg, new movie revisits the Broadway musical classic

Olivia Bilek
Staff Writer

West Side Story (2021) is a reimagining of the 1957 Broadway musical and 1961 film West Side Story. It was directed by Steven Spielberg, starring Ansel Elgort as Tony, Rachel Zegler as Maria, Ariana DeBose as Anita, Rita Moreno as Valentina, Mike Faist as Riff, and David Alvarez as Bernardo.

West Side Story had its world premiere at Jazz at Lincoln Center's Rose Theater in New York City on November 29, 2021, three days after composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim's death. Sondheim did the original lyrics for West Side Story and was just 27 years old when West Side Story opened on Broadway.

West Side Story is about two rival gangs, the Jets and the

Sharks, fighting for territory in San Juan Hill in Manhattan when Tony, a former Jet, and Maria, the sister of the leader of the Sharks, fall in love at a high school dance. The movie takes place in New York City in 1957.

The movie opens with the Jets vandalizing a mural of a Puerto Rican flag at the playground which aggravates the Sharks causing the Jets and the Sharks to fight, leading to the cops coming and breaking them up. After the Sharks and the cops leave the Jets dance and sing "Jet Song".

West Side Story follows the song order from the Broadway script, excluding "Gee, Officer Krupke" and "Cool" which were performed in the first half and "One Hand, One Heart" performed in between. In Spielberg's West Side Story Tony sings "Cool" to Riff to try

and convince the Jets not to rumble with the Sharks while they play keep away with the gun Riff bought, instead of Riff singing it to encourage the Jets to stay cool before the rumble like it was performed on Broadway. On stage and the 1961 film "Gee, Officer Krupke" was performed outdoors in the alley, this version moves it to the New York Police Department. And "One Hand, One Heart" was moved from the bridal shop to the Church of the Intercession, while Tony and Maria were on a date.

Spielberg decided to shoot West Side Story on 35mm film to give it more of a vintage look and tone. Cinematographer and Spielberg's cinematic partner Janusz Kamiński said, "[Spielberg] and I still use celluloid to make movies, as film emulsion has an incredible aesthetic ability to evoke nos-

algia."

Spielberg's West Side Story was nominated for seven Academy Awards including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Cinematography, Best Sound, Best Production Design, and Best Costume Design as well as Best Supporting Actress for Ariana DeBose for her role as Anita. Ariana DeBose won an Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for West Side Story at the 2022 Oscars.

I really liked this movie because West Side Story (1961) is one of my favorite musicals and the 2021 version in my opinion might even be better than the 1961 version. The film's cinematography was amazing, the actors were amazing, the dancing was amazing, etc. I like how there is more backstory for certain characters and how it wasn't exactly like the 1961 film or the original stage version. I give it 4 out of 4 stars.



Disney Plus

Cheaper by the Dozen

New family comedy on Disney Plus discusses racism and more

Elena Patton
Staff Writer

Cheaper by the Dozen, the new movie on Disney Plus, follows a family of 12 with their struggles of moving into a new neighborhood after their whole lives change. Cheaper by the Dozen is on one level a family comedy, but it is also a movie about racism and the subtle racism we don't always see.

There are multiple Cheaper by the Dozen movies out there, but this is a review of the newest one that came out on March 18th, 2022. This new movie is a remake of the previous two Cheaper by the Dozen movies: the Cheaper by the Dozen made in 2003 and Cheaper by the Dozen 2 made in 2005. The new Cheaper by the Dozen is directed by Gail Lerner.

Cheaper by the Dozen features a dad played by Zach Braff, who is also known for his role in Scrubs as J.D., and a mom played by Gabrielle Union, who you might know from the movie 10 Things I Hate About You, in which she played Chastity, and their growing family. Their family has nine children, two girls, Ella and Harley from the dad in the family, Paul and his ex, Kate. Paul and Kate's good friends later died in a car crash, leaving behind Haresh, so Paul and Kate adopted Haresh while they were still together. Zoe, the mom of the family also had two children while still with her ex, a girl named Deja and a boy named DJ. Then after Paul and Zoe get married they combine their families and later have two sets of twins of their own, which now makes them a family of 11 with nine children and only two parents. However, they do have a baby sitter, Kate who helps out with the kids sometimes when Paul and Zoe go out.

Their families come together when the two newly divorced parents meet each other at the restaurant that Paul owns. They start to hang out more and eventually get married. They don't stop there though, they work together and update Paul's restaurant

into Baker's breakfast, because of Zoe's suggestion it is now a restaurant that serves breakfast all day. Soon Paul gets one step closer to achieving his dream of having his own sauce line, when he gets an opportunity to pitch his idea for a sauce recipe. Two ladies, Melanie and Michele like his pitch and give him money to start building his sauce business.

Paul and Zoe aren't the only ones with big dreams. Deja, one of the oldest kids in the family dreams of being a starting point guard for USC and is a star player at her high school. Harley is in a punk band and Ella is obsessed with social media and dreams of becoming an influencer.

After Paul gets money to start his business, he uses it to buy a house in a rich new neighborhood. All may seem well for the family, but in reality they are struggling and the people in their new neighborhood don't help the situation. It seems that people in the neighborhood aren't used to a family like theirs, interracial and big.

Being different doesn't help them blend in and causes them to face some problems in their neighborhood. The police are suspicious of Zoe and follow her around and Haresh is getting bullied.

But the situation I don't understand is Deja's. Deja played very well at her old school and was on the road to become successful. However, moving to the new school, she was never put into the games. The movie claims that it's because one of the other girl's family donated the gym to the school so she's getting better treatment from the coach. But that doesn't explain why Deja hasn't been able to play at all compared to every other girl even though only one of the girls donated to the gym.

It's not that one person is getting special treatment. It's that Deja is being put below everyone else. Which makes me think that it's racism underneath the special treatment.

This movie never got boring. There is always something happening left and right. The

Cheaper, 10

Stranger Things is back

Long awaited season four is set to be released on May 27th

Lucy Keenan
Staff Writer

To all the fans who are still holding on after three long years of waiting, it's official, Stranger Things's fourth season is coming, and it's coming soon.



Grace Moua

A Science Museum of Minnesota sweatshirt wore by Dustin in the show.

As of February 2022, season four has been set to be released in two volumes, with volume one coming out on May 27th, and volume two set to come out on July 1st. Similar to previous seasons, the timing of season four's release coincides with its setting, which takes place over spring break in 1986. Season four will consist of nine episodes, premiering with episode one "The Hellfire Club" and ending with episode nine, "The Piggyback".

Since the ending of season three, we've been getting bits and pieces of what the new season will look like in the form of teasers, posters, cast lists, and much more recently, an official trailer. Right off the heavily nailed bat, fans can tell that season four has some major differences in genre, as the show strays away from sum-

mer blockbusters and dives deeper into small town horror.

For starters, the main gang that we have come to know is split up for the first time, with El and the Byers adjusting to a new life in California, and the rest of the crew dealing with all the travesties left behind in Hawkins. One of the first teasers, "From Russia with love" also revealed that the Hawkins chief of police, Hopper, is in fact alive and being held prisoner in Russia. With this information it can be assumed that season four will have at least three separate storylines that will most likely converge in the finale.

Looking at the Hawkins group first, we know from the official trailer that life in the small town has been getting drastically worse since the events of season three. For the first time, residents are beginning to question what's been going on in Hawkins, and as we can see from the ambu-

lance and police cars, it hasn't been going well.

To add on to the horror is the Creel house, an abandoned home in Hawkins that was subject to a trio of gruesome murders in the 1950's, which Dustin, Lucas, Max, and the rest of the Hawkins gang has decided to investigate.

From Hawkins also comes a new cast of monsters, including the demo bats, flying versions of the demo dogs and demogorgon we see in seasons one and two. In the trailers we also get a glimpse of the season's main antagonist, a Freddy Kruger inspired being named Vacna, along with a mysterious grandfather clock discovered by Max. The clock itself is said to be something of a bad luck charm, but it's definitely an important piece of the season. The Duffer brothers have also confirmed that season four will be chock full of long

Stranger Things, 7

Spelunky 2 as good as the first

Video game franchise is a "staple of its genre"

Henry Bandelin
Staff Writer

Spelunky haunted my dreams. In my ~150 hours playing and 2300 runs spanning 8 years, I've beaten it five times. However, I feel that every single failure has made me understand the game better, and none of my deaths made me feel as though I was cheated. By September 2020, I had a good understanding of the game. Until the Spelunky 2 came out, which now haunts me as the first did.

Spelunky 1 and 2 are games in the Rogue-Like Genre,

meaning that every game you play will be different. Levels are randomly generated, and there is little you can do to fundamentally change the game as you play it, aside from unlocking shortcuts. Spelunky is a sidescroller with the goal of descending a cave. Your actions are jumping, whipping, scaling environments with rope, and using bombs to get through walls. These tools are enough to let you get to the end of the game if you've got the technical skill, but the game also gives you items that give you abilities, such as a pair

of spring boots that allow you to jump higher, or a cape that allows you to drift downwards instead of just falling. But these items aren't necessary.

The developers of Spelunky 2 made sure to keep the identity and mechanics of the first, however they changed a crucial detail, which severely impacts my enjoyment of the game. While Spelunky 1 has 3-4 songs per stage, Spelunky 2 has only 1 song for every stage. This leads to areas in Spelunky 2 feeling much more homogeneous than its predecessor. The new music isn't bad, but

I believe that there should be more. Spelunky 2 also has a major change in that there are branching paths, allowing for more mechanical and musical variety in the game.

But even with my nitpicks, I still believe that Spelunky 2 is an improvement over the original in almost every way. The original was one of my favorite games, and one of the hardest I've ever played. Spelunky 2 goes far above the difficulty of the first while remaining fair. The game never does anything without giving a reason why. Every single game gives you a

Spelunky, 7

Tall Girl 2 falls short

“Overall, the movie was just plain bad.”

Elizabeth Hallanger
Staff Writer

Netflix, truly a baffling service. It's given us such classics as *Stranger Things*, *Black Mirror*, *Bojack Horseman*, and *Anne with an E*. However, it has also given us some truly bad, bottom-of-the-barrel content, and among these bad films and series was *Tall Girl*.

A semi-infamous film from all the way back in 2019, it was endlessly laughed at and mocked online for its ridiculous depiction of being tall, and it's unintentionally hilarious line of “You think your life is hard? I'm a high school junior wearing size 13 Nikes. Men's size 13 Nikes. Beat that.”

The movie, unsurprisingly, turned out to be mediocre and forgettable in the end. However, Netflix, probably in an effort to wring the meme dry for all the money that it could bring them, made a sequel, *Tall Girl 2*. Despite the poor reception of the first movie, surprisingly, this movie had a far larger budget and more production value, giving it the potential to actually be a better movie than the first. However, instead of reaching new heights, *Tall Girl 2* fell short.

This movie feels like the epitome of zoning out. It barely felt like I was watching an hour and 45 minute movie, because it honestly didn't feel like I was watching anything at all. If you told me that *Tall Girl 2* was a figment of my imagination, and that I had actually

been staring at a static TV that whole time, I would probably believe you. The movie follows Jodie, now with a devoted boyfriend and filled with newfound confidence from the last movie. She auditions for the school play and gets the lead, however, her life begins to fall apart as she and her boyfriend break up, her sister plans to move away, and she experiences a single self-deprecating thought for the first time in her entire life.

The film is just plain forgettable overall, and the plot ends up feeling like a reread of the first film. Plus, Jodie's one issue of being tall was solved in the end of the first, so it just feels like they shoehorned more problems into her life out of the blue.

I did think the sequel's theme of dealing with anxious thoughts was a nice message, and somewhat relatable if you don't have actual anxiety. However, it was also laughably inaccurate at how it was portrayed, and how easily it was overcome in the end. They essentially frame anxiety as the voice of Regina George from *Mean Girls* throwing lame insults at you inside your head, and it ends up being too ridiculous for me to take seriously. Plus, this girl is a high school senior who's been bullied for being tall her whole life, and you're telling me that she's never had a self-deprecating thought up until now?

A lot of the extra elements and side arcs also felt like random filler that was needed for

padding, because Jodie's story didn't fill up the run time. Jodie's friend Fareeda, her clothing business, and her arc with ex boyfriend exchange student Steig, the mean girl and her sidekick, Jodie's sister, all of it really didn't add much to the main plot. However, I would honestly take the side characters any day over Jodie, because at least they're actually interesting.

Speaking of the characters, I actually didn't mind, or even enjoyed most of them except for Jodie, which turns out to be a definite problem because she's the main character. All of the other characters just seem far more interesting and far more worthy of a movie than Jodie. Steig and Dunkleman actually becoming friends was pretty funny, and I thought they had some great chemistry. I thought Fareeda and her arc with her clothing business was interesting, and Kimmy and Schnipper's semi-redemption was cartoonish, but still fun to watch. Looking at these other stories in comparison to Jodie's arc and character makes her seem predictable and boring. She had one problem, being tall, which was solved in the last film, and now in the sequel, she's suddenly ultra-popular, flawless, and has every boy in the school thirsting after her. Even despite her anxiety and breakup with Dunkleman, she still feels like the walking equivalent of a cardboard cutout.

The movie does have some strong suits though, in that it's so ridiculous that some parts

Tall Girl, 9

Understudies, 3

ing role of Marian Paroo before performing that evening. St. Martin has since rescinded her statement and apologized.

The weekend before opening night everything changed. One of the cast fell sick and it was up to Mintesinot to step in. “The member of the cast for whom I was to fill in was not at school right before class started on that Monday,” said Mintesinot, “then, I was called to speak with Rebekah, and that sealed the deal.” Everyone quickly jumped to make sure the changes would go smoothly. Luckily he'd had much more time to prepare than Voytko.

The day that was originally

scheduled to be opening night was canceled due to cast sickness and replaced with a last minute put-in rehearsal. A put-in rehearsal is when the cast runs the whole show, with emphasis on difficult sequences, with an understudy to make sure they're comfortable in the role. “[There was] a lot of ‘here's the physical things; ‘here's how you light the fire; ‘here's how you pull the couch offstage, just making sure they feel safe and comfortable,” said Rebekah, “and then fight call, so even if it's not a fight, if it's anything remotely dangerous we practice it beforehand.” By the next day everyone was prepared and excited to per-

form. “I was prepared and just got to it,” said Mintesinot, “the whole experience was awesome, besides the fact that one of my closest friends couldn't perform on their first night. That sucked.” Rebekah also expressed her pride for the cast: “I think it went really well! I was really proud of both of those actors stepping into and out of the part.”

So what does this mean for future casting of OWL shows? Well it means we now have an official back up plan for if a cast member can't perform for whatever reason as Rebekah has stated that going forward she'll cast at least two understudies for each show.

Womanatee, 2

DI division in 2021. Last year's COVID-19 pandemic-shortened season, along with some schools having smaller teams, or even no program at all, makes expectations for this year somewhat vague. “So far, we've been doing well in our games this season, but in terms of predictions, it's hard to tell

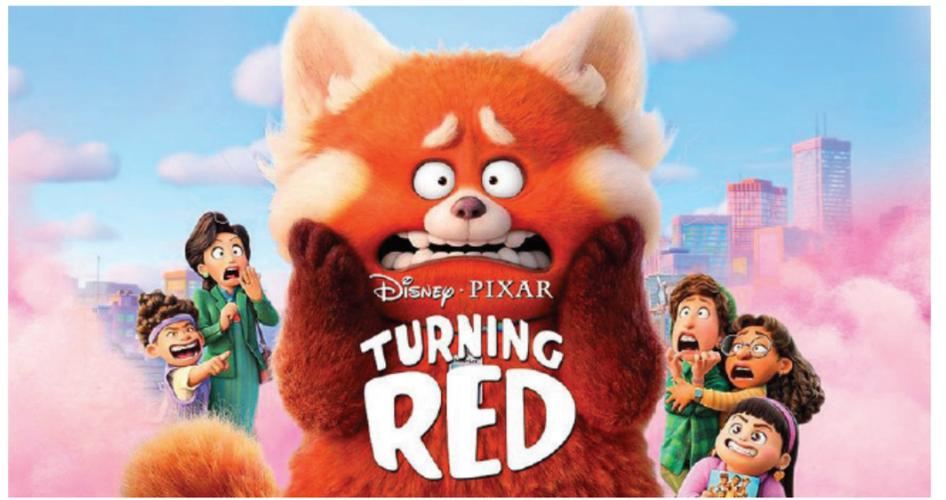
what division we'll go on to... Right now, I'm expecting DII, but I'm expecting us to do well in DII,” said Nora.

If you have a Tuesday night free, stop by to support OWL's Womanatee Ultimate Frisbee team! Their next matchup is scheduled for May 10th against Bloomington at the Humboldt field.

Spelunky, 6

measurable feeling of growth, as you learn how to fluidly move around, learning the tricks and the small advantages the game will afford you – if you know where to look.

While *Spelunky 1* and *2* are difficult games, I would recommend both without hesitation. The fact is that almost no other game has given me the replayability and reward that the *Spelunky* games have, and—even when I lose—I feel growth. *Spelunky* is a franchise that has to be beaten with skill (not with your wallet), and it remains a staple of its genre. I'd give both *Spelunky 1* and *2* a 9/10, and I'd recommend both games to anyone with an abundance of time.



Collider

Turning Red came out in theaters on February 21st.

New Disney movie is heartwarming

Turning Red tells the story of a 13 year old girl

Auria Cha
Staff Writer

“Turning Red” is a cute animated movie that, to me, has funny jokes. There were lots of emotional scenes that I could relate to as well. From the fan-boying over a boy band called 4 Town, which has five members and not four, to the typical teenage fight between friends. In particular, one specific scene has stuck with me. But wait, spoiler alert! This scene takes place near the end of the movie!

“Turning Red” is a Disney movie and was released on February 21st of 2022 which was directed by Domee Shi. It takes place in Toronto, Ontario, where a 13 year old girl named Meilin Lee magically turns into a giant red panda whenever she has strong emotions. It starts off with Meilin living her normal life and doing her normal daily activities until later the next day she wakes up to see that she is a giant red panda. Freaked out, her mom thinks Meilin has begun her menstrual cycle. Now I'm going to pause. This is where the movie gets a little controversial for some people.

After learning that the movie was getting backlash for just two topics that should be free to talk about is upsetting to me. It's about the mentions of menstrual cycles and the removal of some LGBTQ+ scenes. Historically, women and girls have faced stigma even from ancient and medieval times. Not only does it occur to women but for transgender men and nonbinary people who menstrate as well. It's a natural and healthy process for those during their reproductive age. I'm frustrated that a simple kids movie has caused such a problem now when the topic of it has always been faced with disinterest and hostility.

Along with the new “Don't Say Gay” bill that was passed in Florida, Disney has cut lots of the scenes that were LGBTQ+ in the movie. There was some frustration from within both the general and LGBTQ+ community because of the deletions. Although I understand that Disney has deleted these scenes only because of the bill, it makes me upset that simply because the new bill was passed, kids from kindergarten and third grade

can't talk about gender or sexuality. I fully support putting these scenes back into the movie. Even if they don't put the scenes back in, I'm glad that there was not only an effort but a form of the LGBTQ+ community within a Disney movie.

Okay, controversy aside, Meilin plans on getting rid of her panda but she learns to love and embrace that part of her. The movie felt a bit... rushed. Almost the whole plot of the story was. I didn't mind that some of the scenes were filler or meant to convey a message clearly but they could have worked more on the idea or concept of how they were going to represent the emotional challenges besides having her turn into a giant red panda all the time.

In the scene I mentioned earlier at the end of the movie, Meilin and Ming, her mother, are having a heartfelt conversation about Meilin growing up but Meilin fears the change will bring them apart. After Ming says something encouraging to her daughter, a magical portal that helps you get rid

Turning Red, 10

Stranger Things, 6

overdue visits to the Upside Down, which we saw next to none of in season three.

Meanwhile in California, the Byers' lives are also being derailed. Similar to other seasons, Joyce appears to be following a storyline separate from her children, after receiving a strange package from Russia. Meanwhile, Hopper is trying to survive the harsh environment in a Russian prison. We see him being tortured, put to work, and most shockingly, thrown into a gladiator style ring with a Demogorgon, giving us a taste of some of the action sequences to come. It's safe to assume that these two characters will eventually reunite in Russia, especially after we see a shot of Joyce and Murray crash landing a plane in a familiar snowy terrain.

Finally there's the leading lady, Eleven herself, who is entering season four without her powers. After watching the trailers, it becomes clear that the military will be an important point in El's story this



Netflix

Stranger Things stars Millie Bobby Brown.

season, and we see an array of helicopters, tanks, and soldiers disrupting her “normal” life. While El tries to move forward and deal with the war Dr. Owens claims is at their doorstep, her story will also be taking a turn to the past. The Duffer brothers have stated that Eleven's backstory will be a key factor in season four, answering one of the biggest questions we've had since season one: What happened to the other numbers?

Stranger Things season four appears to be one of the biggest seasons yet in the show, with

at least twelve new characters, various new destinations including a haunted house, a Russian prison, and a psychiatric hospital, and a multitude of new threats that will test the strength of our protagonists. After three long years of waiting and a production time halted by the pandemic, one of Netflix's most popular originals is finally up and running and ready to deliver their chaotic, suspenseful, and action packed new season that we all hope will be worth the wait.



Rick Verner

Senior Lili Hobday during a game this season.

AP classes 101: a complete review

Staff writer Paloma Leone-Getten overviews every AP course at OWL

Paloma Leone-Getten
Staff Writer

Are you a high school student trying to figure out what classes to take next year? Are you considering taking an AP class? If so, then this is the article for you: a full overview of every single Advanced Placement course that OWL offers. (Disclaimer: many of these classes were taken almost fully online by students interviewed).

Before getting into the review, it's important to recognize that Advanced Placement classes are not accessible to all students. Many schools require applications for students to enter AP classes, so many have missed out on the opportunity to challenge themselves in this way. OWL is working to give all students the opportunity to not only take AP classes, but to be successful in them, and has improved numbers of students of color, of all genders, of both free and reduced lunch and not, of special education students, and of English-learners in the program, but there is always room for improvement. Furthermore, it should be stated that students do not need to take AP classes to be successful in high school and beyond. These are merely suggestions for students who wish to take these classes.

AP Statistics

AP Statistics is a complex, but interesting course. "AP Sta-

a lifesaver for test studying," said Willa. Collaboration is helpful for AP Statistics, which continues to build on previous units throughout the year. "We had a study group that would meet before every test," said senior Lili Hobday.

The AP exam has two components: 40 multiple choice questions and six free response questions. Much of the content of the class is applicable to the real world, so if things such as sports and scientific studies interest you, AP Statistics may be the class for you. "People are constantly trying to use numbers to confuse, control, and manipulate you, and having a basic understanding of the way statistics works is really going to help you," said Tom.

AP Calculus AB

AP Calculus AB is another complex math course offered at OWL. Students are required to have previously taken Pre Calculus, and even with this background knowledge, the class still proves to be a challenge for most students. "I took this class online, so I was going into it thinking it would be hard, but the online format on top of that was super challenging. I was working on it every night for a few hours," said Lili. The workload included lecture videos to take notes on and several assignments alongside weekly meetings with a study group. "It was the hardest AP class I've taken, but

advanced placement course, at least in comparison to other classes. This may be true due to the light workload and the fact that no prior coding experience is required as the class mostly involves learning the theory. "I have very little homework. At the most, I have 30 minutes of homework a week, which is very different from other AP classes, so it's very approachable," said senior Mae Wrigley. The class involves collaborative lessons and assignments on code.org, a coding education software, where students can learn new aspects of coding and debugging in Java. "Computer science is very different. I've never done coding or anything near it, so learning about that has been a lot of fun," said senior Josie Gibson.

Students work in partners a majority of the time, making the class much less intimidating to students. "I think it's a very fun class. It's super approachable, which is super helpful, especially considering that I'm someone who doesn't consider math to be my forte. I think it's a cool way to try something new like coding while also having a very collaborative environment," said Josie. AP Computer Science Principles has an in-class component of the AP exam: the Create Performance Task, where students create an app of their own design with both a written and video submission. On test day, they also do a 70-question multiple choice section. "It's a great class for 9th through 12th graders that allows them to get an introduction to computers," said Clara.

AP Computer Science A

AP Computer Science A is generally taken after AP Computer Science Principles, as the class jumps right into coding in Java at a high level. "It's a very valuable skill, but it's also very challenging. The class only got more difficult as it went on, although office hours were helpful," said 11th grader Nick Streng.

The class involves coding problems on the Edhesive website, the software the course uses, along with multiple choice quizzes. "We'd learn a new skill every week, like how to use a for loop or integers or how to code a certain function. We would get hints and feedback on what we were doing wrong and how we could debug our program," said Nick. This work prepares students for the AP exam, which involves 40 multiple choice questions, as well as several Create projects, where students write their own code to complete tasks. "Computer Science A can be taken by anybody who has a strong math aptitude as soon as they're in high school...It's really good for anybody who wants to understand the basics of computer programming in terms of

logic and different elements. They're going to need that regardless of what field they go into to separate themselves from others," said Tom.

AP United States History

A quintessential AP class, United States History—commonly referred to as APUSH—is extremely popular at OWL, especially as it's our only advanced placement social studies class. The class centers around a 1,000+ page textbook, from which students read one chapter per week. They complete weekly quizzes as well, alongside practicing components of the AP exam, which entails 55 stimulus-based multiple choice questions, three short answer questions, and two essays: the document-based question, and the long essay question. "During class time, we went over notes with Katie and talked about [the content]," said Josie.

This is not an AP class to be taken lightly as about 400 years of history are covered in 9 units—referred to as "periods" in APUSH. "I decided to take it, but then [school was] online so it wasn't as fun as I thought it would be... History is not my favorite subject, so it was hard. It was stuff that I wanted to learn about—like it was American history that I thought I should know though," said Josie. This class may not be for everyone, though students with social studies as their favorite subject found it beneficial. "I was able to pay attention to lectures for the first time. They are really engaging and help me understand each aspect of every historical period," said Nick. "There is a lot of reading involved, and it's run more like a college class than a high school one, with tests and essays rather than projects," said Katie. APUSH is a good fit for those passionate about history and ready to dive into readings.

AP Environmental Science

AP Environmental Science is a mixture of sustainability, biology, chemistry, ethics, statistics, and more, something reflected in the textbook readings, lecture videos, class discussions, labs, and projects. "It was a good balance of work in the textbook and labs. We did a lot of group stuff in that class which I liked because it was less independent than other classes so I could have social interaction," said Josie. In normal years, AP Environmental Science is a fieldwork-heavy course, with students traveling as far as Lake Superior to conduct labs.

The exam includes 80 multiple choice questions—some based on quantitative data, others based on qualitative data and text-based sources. It finishes with three free response questions, one of which asks students to design an investigation about a certain topic, and two where they are asked to provide solutions to an environmental problem. "Most people think of AP Environmental Science as carry-



Purple Press Staff Photo

A student studying for the AP US History exam. The textbook is only a part of the extensive curriculum.

ing about a semester's worth of material, while classes like AP US History and AP Biology are more like a year's worth of college material. AP Environmental Science is also great for folks who love hands-on learning and field work. It's a really dynamic and interesting class," said science teacher Megan Hall.

AP Biology

AP Biology is regarded as one of the hardest classes that OWL offers, intimidating many students out of taking it. However, those who braved it had positive experiences. "I think it's a very fun class. It is not easy, but it's also very interesting. Megan does an excellent job of making confusing concepts approachable," said Mae.

The workload can be intense, due to heavy textbook readings and chapter readings that take hours per week, alone. Alongside this homework, there are extensive lab reports and small e-work projects due somewhat regularly. The AP exam includes 60 multiple choice questions and six free response questions—two of which are long and four of which are short. Despite the complex content, the class is a good push for students interested in science and ready for a challenge. "It's really good for students who are excited about life sciences or are considering a career in medicine, veterinary sciences, or STEM. It's also good for students who are good with language and are good at acquiring extra vocabulary words quickly, since it is such a word-based class with so much language acquisition," said Megan.

AP English Language

AP English Language is one of two advanced place-

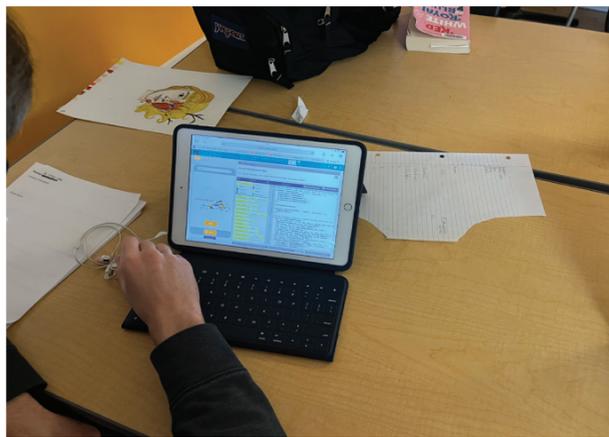
ment English courses offered at OWL. It involves a lot of reading and analyzing texts in order to write about them. Within the context of the exam's components, the class studies "power and punishment in society, so we look at a lot of different things related to justice, criminal justice in particular, and what we can do to change things for the better," said English teacher Kevin Hansen. "English is my favorite subject so I really like AP Lang. Rhetorical analysis essays have been really hard but I really like that class," said Josie. Rhetorical analysis essays are one of three essays on the AP exam, along with the argument essay and the synthesis essay. The test also contains a 45-question multiple choice section.

"It's been fun so far. It is a little jarring at times that some weeks, we barely do anything and other weeks, we have a very consistent workload," said Nick. As the class balances test prep with lit circles, the workload varies greatly, so time management is crucial. "AP Language is a class that's heavily focused on writing, so throughout the year, you'll experiment with different genres of writing and analysis. I think that everyone should think about taking it," said Kevin. "It also is helpful if you can take it as a junior since the writing we do is applicable to the AP Literature exam as well."

AP English Literature

AP English Literature is the other advanced placement English course offered. It features prose and poetry reading, culminating in a 55-question multiple choice and three-essay exam. "We had reading assignments for book clubs, essays, and multiple choice practice..."

AP, 10



Purple Press Staff Photos

An AP Computer Science Principles student working on their create performance task, a part of the AP exam.

tistics is a lot wordier than other math classes. If you're not a strong reader, you are going to struggle," said math teacher Tom Totushek. The class features long word problems and studies to read, along with written responses. "I really like Stats. It's definitely my favorite math class I've taken in high school. It challenges me and I like that it includes written answers [alongside math]. It's less algebraic and feels really applicable," said 10th grader Willa Campion.

The class's homework includes textbook notes and problems that aren't submitted or graded, so students need to be self-motivated. "If you don't do them, you won't understand what's going on in class, so as long as you do the textbook notes, you have a good base for the test. Albert.io is also

very rewarding to do well on," said Lili.

The exam, composed of 45 multiple choice questions and six free response questions is one of the most challenging offered by the College Board. "Calculus is a great class for kids who are going into any type of STEM or engineering, as well as kids who really like solving problems that are mathy. Some kids view it as being a pinnacle of their math career, but it doesn't need to be. You can be successful in life without taking Calculus, but if you are interested in seeing how everything fits together, Calculus is good for that," said math teacher Clara Raineri.

AP Computer Science Principles

AP Computer Science Principles is known as an easier



Purple Press Staff Photos

AP Environmental Science students conducting a forest census lab.

Life at a traditional high school

Comparing OWL to Two Rivers High School

Samantha O'Hara Graff
Staff Writer

When I left OWL in 9th grade I had hoped to have the "high school experience." You know, football games, Homecoming kings and queens, and mean girls. But no amount of movies prepared me for what it's actually like to attend a traditional high school after having been at OWL.

Although there were over 1,000 students attending Two Rivers High School--1,468 to be exact--I still felt completely alone. It became unbelievably clear that no matter how many football games I attended, it still could never replace the comfort of OWL. Being at a

bigger school was a complete turn around from what I was used to, and it had shaken my confidence in how I did academically. It was almost as if we were in a factory; teachers no longer knew who you were or even cared enough to know. I felt like all the students were just cattle and we were only remembered by a number tag.

A teacher who does not know you compared to a teacher who has faith in you can make or break your high school experience. That is something you can never find at a bigger school, yet it's crucial. I hadn't known how much I was going to miss my teachers until they were gone. My middle school years at OWL

were somewhat rocky, but my teachers quickly became my lifeline. From the support of Joe Brandner, Luke Turvold, and Tom Totushek I became very confident in myself and was able to overcome a lot of obstacles.

At Two Rivers, I felt like a ghost. Teachers didn't know me and could barely remember my name. It felt extremely lonely and doing assignments began to feel hopeless. No teacher would check in if you were struggling, and even when I went to teachers for help, they would brush me off.

Looking back on my time at OWL, there were many memories that have stuck with me throughout my high school

years. One in particular was my 8th grade year, when I was struggling a lot academically and had no intention of turning that around. That was until I was put into Tom's math class. I remember joking around with another student when they called me stupid. Tom had reacted in a way I hadn't seen before. He told the student about how that was not okay and then we went on to say three nice things about one student in our class at the end of each class. This continued until the end of the year. At conferences, Tom would also explain to my parents that he wants me to succeed academically but what was more important was my confi-

dence in myself. Hearing that from a teacher, I felt incredibly supported and it completely changed the way I thought about school. In just a couple months I went from failing half my classes to having nearly all A's.

Jumping into Two Rivers where the teacher's barely remembered my name, I quickly lost my hope and motivation towards school. It seemed almost impossible to keep up with all the homework, tests, and expectations--on top of feeling like my head was going to explode. I wasn't the only one struggling; it was very common to see many students in tears because of the stress that was put on us.

From the moment I found out I got back into OWL

I felt a huge weight being lifted. The new experiences and new things that make up the "Highschool Experience" are just a cover for how truly lonely it really is. All of the "perks" it has will never amount to the comfort and supportive atmosphere OWL has to offer.

Although there are many incentives to go to a traditional high school, the loss of security and support seems to outweigh the good. OWL provides support and encouragement that you can't find anywhere else, teachers truly care for every single one of their students. It is very important socially and academically to feel safe in the school you attend and OWL goes above and beyond on making that a reality.

Robotics, 1

spring break. However, there were around 12 students who did participate in the competition. Megan wasn't able to come to the competition, so



Purple Press Staff Photo

The robotics team working on their robot at a competition.

principal Dave Gundale had to act as a coach for the duration of the event.

The teammates that went to the competition agree that it went well. "I think it went good. We made a lot of prog-

ress on the robot in a very short time. Considering where we started to where we ended, we did really well," said 11th grader Elizabeth Hallanger. 10th grader Hiroko Zeleke described the tournament as, "exhausting but good."

The competition had a very supportive community. Since OWL didn't have their mentors and coach, a team from Iowa shared their mentors to help OWL's team. "I really liked interacting with other teams. I learned that people in robotics tournament are really nice people," said Hiroko. "There was a lot of gracious professionalism," Elizabeth added.

After a successful tournament, The Open Circuits is looking forward to the coming competition season in winter of 2022-23.

Tall Girl, 7

of it become a comedy. They made Dunkleman a complete and utter simp, which was actually pretty funny purely because of just how much he was obsessed with her. I found it incredibly funny how the male rival love interest from the play takes a moment to be vulnerable and confesses to Jodie about his serious body image issues as a child, and how it affected him while "My life is hard because I'm tall and I don't have a boyfriend" Jodie stands there awkwardly.

I thought the scenes with Kimmy were fun, because she was made such a ridiculously stereotypical bully character to the point where she full-on jumpscares a teacher in the bathroom for casting Jodie. I also just genuinely enjoyed Stieg, because he was the one

character keeping the movie funny, and therefore made me actually pay attention to it.

Overall, the movie was just plain bad. The sequel was clearly only made to capitalize on the first movie, and it really shows, because it has a re-done, shallow, predictable plot, a shallow message, shallow characters, and has the overall depth of a puddle. In the end I think it's fairly disappointing, because if they really leaned into this movie's absurdity, it could have probably turned out at least a bit more entertaining.

The only reason I would ever recommend this movie is if you want something to make fun of with a friend. Personally, I had a friend over when I watched this movie, which made everything ten times better, because we just made fun of what was happening,



IMDb

made jokes the entire time, and it's really the only reason I remember what even happened in the plot. In conclusion, in terms of movie quality, I give the movie a 3/10, however, if you want something to make fun of and laugh at with some friends, in terms of hate-watchability, I would give it 9/10, and recommend it all the way.

Star Wars, 5

only at number 11? Like, that's just how good these next 10 projects are. But Rogue One is an emotional masterpiece of a film that has some of the best cinematography out of any STAR WARS project. The battle on Scarif is so awesome and although it's pretty predictable, it's still a great addition to the STAR WARS franchise. Personal Enjoyment Score: 9.4/10 (A+). Objective Quality Score: 9.2/10 (A+).

#10. STAR WARS: Rebels (2014)

This show is actually incredible. I recently rewatched it and I forgot just how good it is. The characters are awesome and the story is so much fun. Also, the Ahsoka vs. Darth Vader lightsaber duel is one of the most emotional and beautiful scenes in the entire STAR WARS franchise. Personal Enjoyment Score: 9.4/10 (A+). Objective Quality Score: 8.6/10 (A-).

#9. STAR WARS Episode IV: A New Hope (1977)

The film that started it all. Some might argue that this film should be higher but excluding originality bias, I think it's actually not one of the best STAR WARS films. It's still an incredible film, and in my top 10 favorite films of all time (yes, that's how much I love STAR WARS), but it's

just not quite as exciting and action-packed as these next 8 projects. It's still a classic however, and quality-wise it would be higher. Personal Enjoyment Score: 9.5/10 (A++). Objective Quality Score: 9.7/10 (A++).

#8. STAR WARS Episode VII: The Force Awakens (2015)

The first film of the sequel trilogy is probably the single most hyped STAR WARS film ever, and also the highest-grossing. While this movie does take a lot of its plot elements from A New Hope, I can't help but like this one more. The new characters are great, and the visuals are some of the best of any STAR WARS. Personal Enjoyment Score: 9.6/10 (A++). Objective Quality Score: 9.3/10 (A+).

#7. STAR WARS: The Clone Wars (2008)

This show is truly incredible. Filling in the gap between episodes 2 and 3, this 133 episode long show tells us basically everything that happened during The Clone Wars era. The storytelling and animation is so well done and while there are a few skippable episodes, this show is a blast and I am so glad to see that it's been getting a lot more praise lately. Personal Enjoyment Score: 9.7/10 (A++). Objective Quality Score: 9.4/10 (A+).

#6. STAR WARS Episode II: Attack Of The Clones (2002)

This will probably be the

most debated pick for this list, but yes, I truly think that Attack Of The Clones is one of the best STAR WARS projects. While the dialogue may not be very good, the visuals, props, scenery and action are all amazing. The Battle Of Geonosis and Yoda vs. Count Dooku are two of my favorite scenes in STAR WARS as well. This movie might be considered one of the worst by the fanbase, but it's truly one of the most beautiful in my opinion. Personal Enjoyment Score: 9.7/10 (A++). Objective Quality Score: 8.2/10 (A-).

#5. STAR WARS: The Mandalorian (2019)

The first project that has united STAR WARS fans worldwide possibly since The Empire Strikes Back. This show is amazing. Grogu is adorable and Din Djarin is an amazing character. The story is a perfect blend of new ideas while also keeping a lot of the traditional STAR WARS in it. The first season is very good, but the second season is absolutely incredible. Personal Enjoyment Score: 9.8/10 (A++). Objective Quality Score: 9.5/10 (A++).

#4. STAR WARS Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back (1980)

Rightfully considered one of the greatest films of all time, Empire Strikes Back is an absolute masterpiece. This film contains what might just be

the single greatest plot twist of all time in an amazing lightsaber duel and has the Yoda sequence on Dagobah and the battle of Hoth which are all great scenes. Overall, this film is one of the greatest of the STAR WARS saga. Personal Enjoyment Score: 10.0/10 (A++). Objective Quality Score: 9.9/10 (A++).

#3. STAR WARS Episode VI: Return Of The Jedi (1983)

This used to be my favorite STAR WARS film. The opening sequence on Tatooine is great, and then we get the battle of Endor and of course the final confrontation between Luke and Darth Vader, with Luke eventually turning Vader back to the light. The final victory celebration scene is one of my favorite scenes in all of STAR WARS, especially with the new edit with the new music, planets, and Anakin's force ghost. Overall, this movie is a masterpiece with some of the best scenes in the whole franchise. Personal Enjoyment Score: 10.0/10 (A++). Objective Quality Score: 9.6/10 (A++).

#2. STAR WARS Episode III: Revenge Of The Sith (2005)

This movie is a pure work of art, and I'm so glad to see it getting more recognition lately. The action, effects, and emotional value of this movie are like no other. The battle over Coruscant is probably the



Grace Moua

best opening sequence of any STAR WARS film, and then it just goes uphill from there with Anakin slowly being turned to the dark side by Palpatine, and the Mace Windu vs. Darth Sidious fight, where Anakin finally turns and becomes Darth Vader. Order 66 is a heartbreakingly beautiful scene where all the Jedi are wiped out, and then of course, two of the best scenes in all of STAR WARS, Yoda vs. Palpatine and Anakin vs. Obi-Wan. These lightsaber duels are both incredible, emotional scenes with amazing effects and choreography and the climax of this incredible movie. The final sequence is beautiful, and a perfect finale for the trilogy. Overall, this movie is one of the greatest things I've ever seen. Personal Enjoyment Score: 10.0/10 (A++). Objective Quality Score: 9.8/10 (A++).

#1. STAR WARS Episode IX: The Rise Of Skywalker (2019)

After 42 and a half years, it all comes to this. In what might just be the greatest film of all time, STAR WARS Episode IX: The Rise Of Skywalker wraps up the saga in the most amazing way possible. The plot is extremely creative, and I was not at all expecting the twist of Rey being a Palpatine. Both lightsaber duels between Rey and Kylo Ren are amazing, and of course the final sequence with the battle of Exegol and Rey finally taking down Palpatine was the best part of this amazing. The ending scene where Rey takes the name Skywalker was a perfect ending as well. Overall, this film was the perfect ending to the greatest saga of all time. Personal Enjoyment Score: 10.0/10 (A++). Objective Quality Score: 9.7/10 (A++).

Lunch, 1

the freedom to move spots if I wanted and not having to yell at someone across the table,” says 8th grader Ellie Patton. “I spend my lunch just eating and talking with friends,” said 8th grader Lana Stevens.

The fact that COVID cases are considered low right now, both at OWL and in Ramsey county, was a part of the decision to change the lunch rules. “We were pretty safe last year but COVID numbers and vaccinations weren’t as prevalent so we were very careful about spacing and numbers of students in the building,” says principal David Gundale.

“COVID rates are much lower now and more students and staff are vaccinated,” said Dave when asked why the administration felt comfortable enough to relax the guidelines. When asked if there were to be any guideline updates for the rest of this year, Dave said “I really hope not but we have to be prepared at all time to watch data and respond accordingly,” so let’s all hope to have these relaxed guidelines until next year, where we are hoping to move back down to three lunches. “We would like to go back to 3 lunches so that we can make third period a bit shorter,” said Dave.



Purple Press Staff Photo

Marvel, 4

the show, it actually makes me feel kind of sick to my stomach... These people have made so much money on stuff that Steve [Epting] and I did.”

In what is less using characters and more straight plagiarism, an advertisement for the show Hawkeye has been found to be almost a direct copy of the cover for Issue 6 of Hawkeye (2012), drawn by David Aja and written by Matt Fraction. A user posted about the similarities though only crediting Fraction, the writer for the series who I believe had very little to do with the creation of the cover. Another user called them out on the lack of credit to Aja, and as can be seen in the image, Aja responded “Even better: Stop crediting, start paying, haha.” So it seems Aja isn’t even getting the \$5,000 check. People say that imitation is the most sincere form of flattery, though it doesn’t seem to be in this case. [is it necessary to describe the image if it’s added

with the article?]

One of the most recent people who Marvel has treated unfairly is artist Declan Shalvey. Shalvey did the art for the 2014 Moon Knight series, and created the design for Mr Knight, which has been featured in the Moon Knight show on Disney+. When someone tweeted to him, “They better pay you for this,” Shalvey responded, “That’d be nice!” confirming that Marvel was being stingy yet again. Even worse, the costume was made fun of in the show, with the character Marc saying it looks like “psycho Colonel Sanders.” Why even bother to use the costume just to make fun of it? It’s not Shalvey’s fault that the costume designers did a bad job. (Sorry to all the people that think it looks good.)

And of course, the most famous happening of this is Jack Kirby’s descendants trying to recover the copyrights from characters that he created in the 60s. (Characters such as the Hulk, the original X-Men, and Spider-Man.) There is a

way to recover transferred copyright, and for works made before 1978, the creator or their heirs can take it back after 56 years. The Kirbys tried to recover it on the basis that Jack Kirby worked independently and sold his completed work to Marvel, instead of working for the company, which would classify the characters as “works for hire.”

In response, Disney and Marvel sued the Kirbys to invalidate the copyright termination notice.

The reason why Marvel can use these characters and stories like they do is because the writers don’t own the characters or stories, the company does. The Copyright Act of 1976 says that any work made by an employee is automatically owned by the employer as a “work made for hire,” and the employer is considered to be the “author” of the work. The author has complete ownership and is able to control, register, license, or sell the work that the employee created.

If I worked for Marvel, I

would feel pretty crappy if my work got adapted, and to quote Brubaker once more, as a company, why would you want that to be the way that creators feel? To get people to want to join a company, the people in charge should be as fair as possible and strive to make good deals that everyone feels good about.

A way that Marvel Studios could try and fix this mess is to go back and pay the creators that got a bad deal. This isn’t unheard of, as Jim Starlin negotiated a bigger payment with Marvel after his character Thanos was used in Marvel’s movies.

However much I want to enjoy Marvel movies, this leaves a bad taste in my mouth that I can’t ignore. While Marvel is the monopoly, there are other superhero things that people could watch, such as Hellboy or Invincible. I’m not saying to boycott it completely, just that giving your money to a company that does stuff like this isn’t the greatest idea.

THUG, 5

shows. As for swear words, unless the kid is particularly young, like early elementary and doesn’t know that they are in fact swears, I don’t think swear words should be the thing that gets a book banned. It’s the story it tells that’s important, and if the author is going for realistic teenagers, then swearing would certainly be realistic. Realistically, teenagers swear, and that shouldn’t be a huge problem in Y/A books.

As for the gangs, and guns, and drugs, those might be a bit mature. But this, along with profanity and racism, this is all based on real life. Angie Thomas, the author of The Hate U Give, is only making

the events and topics in this book realistic. Circling back to her quote, “you’re basically telling the kids of the Garden Heights of the world that their stories shouldn’t be told.” These devastating happenings of injustice happen in real life, and the story reflects that.

In conclusion, I definitely think this book should be read by middle schoolers and high schoolers. It is very eye-opening and talks about issues that are very important to be aware of in real life. It gets a good first-person representation of events that actually happen in reality, and gets us to understand and be aware of stuff when it happens. All in all, this book is very well written, covers important topics for kids to learn, and should be read.

Don’t Say Gay, 5

meaning students aren’t taught about sexual orientation or gender identity. Currently it’s not barred to ‘give direction’ about sexual orientation, for example talking about the 2016 deadly attack on the Pulse nightclub, but as we know in Florida, anything can change in a minute.

Summing up this whole situation is so confusing it’s difficult to interpret and put onto paper. Florida leaders say this law lets the parents choose what they want to teach their kids but there has been no attack on the parents ability to do so prior to the bill, and at this point, they are just teaching them LESS at school.

But the most confusing part

is the logistics of this bill. Like what would happen if a kid’s parents decide to teach them about the LGBTQ+ community and that kid brings it up in class? Does the teacher ignore it or tell them that gay people don’t exist, the way many Floridian lawmakers want them to act? I guess Florida will have to cross that bridge when they get there.

Some of the students of Florida are retaliating with protests and letters to the governor, but he hasn’t budged on the bill. If teaching kids that “they can be whatever they want to be” was “inappropriate” for children, then there’s no point in teaching.

Cheaper, 6

characters really bring the excitement to life. It’s not all fun and games though. The movie made me feel all kinds of emotions: sad when Hareesh is bullied, happy when Paul and Zoe get married. But one emotion that reappeared a few times was anger. I know anger is a strong word, but these people are very annoying. There were characters that made me mad because of their actions and what they say. Mainly two people.

One of the people that makes me mad is Anne. She is one of the moms in the neighborhood and she’s the mother of two kids, Ming and Kenny. She makes a lot of assumptions about Zoe when they first meet, like that Zoe was a nanny or that her kids were adopted. Not only did she rudely assume things but she also made many racist comments toward Zoe. Another character that made me mad that might seem fine at first glance is Paul. Paul is so oblivious to what’s going on and at times it’s really aggravating. While his whole family is struggling, he isn’t around.

Given these characters make me mad you might assume that’s a bad thing. On the contrary I think it’s a wonderful thing that the movie made me feel this way because it shows that the story was well made. The writers of the story seemed to write the story in a way that would make the watchers feel something and really connect to the film. There are many people who

I think can connect to the movie and others who maybe can’t relate but can learn from it and I think learning from it is an important thing to take away from the movie as well as simply enjoying it. The movie made me really think about how the characters acted and how that can affect people.

One person from the movie that helped me understand the family’s situation better was Dom (Zoe’s ex). He said what others didn’t, he said what was left unsaid. That no matter what Paul does for the kids, they will still face racism everywhere they go so all they can do is to prepare them for what they will face when they grow up. Dom tells Paul how he still gets pulled over in every state he lives in even though he is a respected football player. This conversation really helps say the important message of everything that’s going on in the movie.

Overall I really enjoyed watching this film with my family. I think the movie had a really enjoyable story to follow. The story follows everyone in the family’s struggles throughout the movie and how their characters changed for the better. The movie was also really enjoyable because of the comedy. It was a really funny movie and it was really fun to watch it. Even though there was a lot going on, the movie still fit together nicely with everything happening. I would definitely recommend watching this movie with your friends and family if you have Disney+.



IMDb

Turning Red, 7

of the red panda fades away along with Meilin’s mom. This scene alone has a strong meaning to me, and if I’m honest, I shed some tears.

Despite all the things this movie has been through, I rate it a four out of four stars. I recommend this movie to every-

one. If you’re curious about it or slightly interested then just jump into it! I advise those who are unsure about the movie or already have an opinion about it to try and watch it with a clear and open mind to see what sticks out to you the most.

AP, 8

What we were being graded on changed up a lot, with essays, fishbowls, book groups, presentations, etc.,” said Lili. Practice essays included those required on the exam: one analyzing a prose passage, one analyzing a poem, and a third about a book of the student’s choice—ensuring that students read several AP-level books throughout the year. “It was one of my favorite AP classes I’ve taken. There was a lot of reading and analyzing texts which was really interesting. I read a lot of really cool books,” said Lili. Students read

texts such as George Orwell’s Animal Farm, Chinua Achebe’s Things Fall Apart, and more, gaining knowledge of important books. “It’s a great class for people who really like to read and want to spend a long time analyzing books... It’s also a good place to learn essay structures that will be replicable in college,” said English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt.

AP Spanish Language

As OWL’s only AP world language class, AP Spanish Language and Culture is a fairly popular class. While mostly populated by students who

grew up speaking Spanish or attended Adams Spanish Immersion for elementary school, students are able to move from Spanish 1 to AP in their time at OWL—if they put in the work. “I made the leap from Spanish 5 and went straight to AP, skipping Spanish for Spanish Speakers. It worked for me, but I don’t know if it’ll work for everyone. It depends on how confused you’re willing to be. There’s a lot of class periods where I’m not confident in my abilities, but I’ve noticed a huge boost in my language skills,” said Mae.

The class entails learning

about Spanish-speaking countries, doing readings by significant authors, and practicing the many components of the exam, including 65 multiple choice questions, one mock email reply—where students respond to an email using proper language and grammar—, a persuasive essay, a mock conversation, and a recorded two-minute cultural comparison—where students respond to a prompt comparing their own experiences with a Spanish-speaking community they know well. But despite having so many components to practice before May, the work-

load outside of class is relatively light due to the curriculum being split into four-year cycles (outside of test prep), so that students can take the class for all four years of high school without repeating content. “At most, I have maybe an hour per week of homework,” said Mae. While this class is sure to be easier for lifelong speakers, this is the class for students who have an intermediate (at minimum) familiarity with Spanish and are ready for a challenge. “Join it in any grade of high school to work on a real-life skill that will enhance your life in whatever you de-

cide to do,” said Spanish teacher Tim Leone-Getten.

Each of the 11 Advanced Placement classes offered at OWL have their own merits, though many OWL students have a favorite—one they’d recommend highly to any student making their schedule for next year. Make sure to ask the juniors and seniors for their own recommendations before committing to your classes and think carefully about your interests and how you want to challenge yourself next school year!