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# Purple Press



Volume #22, Issue #1

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## OWL enduring bus shortage

*Students on busses M and Q are forced to find other transportation*

**Paloma Leone-Getten**  
Staff Writer

Senior Lili Hobday's average morning routine has changed quite a bit this year. Instead of hopping on a school bus, she gets out of bed and goes out the door to get in her minivan with her two broth-

ers, 9th grader Danny and 7th grader Luke. They make four stops along the way, picking up additional students, with a total of seven arriving at OWL promptly each morning.

Lili has become her neighborhood's "bus driver" because of the nationwide worker shortage, causing busses M

and Q to be without drivers. "We found out on the first day of school that we would have to find another way to get there," said Lili. Students have had to resort to other transportation options in order to get to school, mostly involving carpooling. "Luckily, we are able to drive every morning—shoutout to my dad for biking every day," said Lili. "But as it

gets colder—and eventually icier—we may need to figure out a new system."

Other students have begun to take public transportation, as they have been provided with Metro Transit bus tokens by the district. Previously, in 2015, the district partnered with Metro Transit to transport Johnson High School

**Bus shortage, 6**



Purple Press staff photo

**Students board the bus after school last week. Having a bus to ride to and from school is no longer something SPPS students can take for granted.**

## Fall retreats return, mostly



Luke Turvold

**The 6th graders on a boat on the Mississippi River (left), the 9th graders gardening at the Vacant Lot (right). See more fall retreat pictures on page 6.**

**Paloma Leone-Getten**  
Staff Writer

Despite being back in the building, the 2021 Fall Retreats still looked different than usual. Due to continued COVID restrictions, there were no overnights allowed, and because of the nationwide bus shortage, most grades were limited to in-school retreats

and walking field trips. However, due to the hard work of each grade's team of teachers, this year's Fall Retreats proved to be a success.

The 6th graders focused on studying the Mississippi River. They went hiking at Minnehaha Falls, went on the Paddleford boat from Harriet Island to Pike Island, and played

team building games. The 7th graders went on a Green Line tour and explored Belwin Nature Center. The 8th graders worked on team building and built up some background knowledge for their expedition this year around the topic of justice. They also hosted a guest panel of local experts including St. Paul Mayor Mel-



Grant Boulanger

vin Carter. The 9th graders engaged in service work at the Vacant Lot across the street from Humboldt and in the gardens around the school. They also enjoyed spending a day together at Cherokee Park. The 10th and 11th graders went on college tours across Minnesota, including The College of St. Scholastica, Gustavus Adol-

phus College, and Minnesota State University-Mankato. The 12th graders focused on college applications and essays, along with planning a roadmap for the remainder of the year. They also went to Harriet Island to take senior pictures and did fun activities such as tie dying and capture-the-flag.

## Indoor theater

**returns**  
*The Play That Goes Wrong opens on December 8th*

**Nick Christopherson**  
Staff Writer

The OWL theater group is finally back at school, and to celebrate they're performing what has been called one of the funniest plays performed on Broadway: *The Play That Goes Wrong!*

The performances for the play will be held in the OWL auditorium on December 8th, 9th, and 10th at 7pm. Tickets will be on sale through the weekly email in the weeks before the show.

*The Play That Goes Wrong* focuses on the eight members of the Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society as they try their hardest to put on a production of *The Murder at Haversham Manor*, a fictional murder mystery play from the 1920's. Of course, their noble attempts at bringing a thrilling mystery to life don't go as well as they had hoped, and chaos ensues as the cast and crew have to stumble their way towards the curtain call.

The structure of the play is a very unique one, as it's a play within a play, which presents a lot of possibilities for how things could go wrong. *The Play That Goes Wrong* recently just finished its long run on Broadway and the West End of London, so the high-school one-act version was made available to school theatre departments everywhere.



Leo Bickelhaupt

**The new iPad comes with a sleeker case that is easier to carry.**

## New iPads boast sleeker design and rubbery keys

**Alex Cowles**  
Staff Writer

For the first time since 2019, SPPS students got new iPads.

The model of the new keyboard is a Rugged Combo Three, and the iPad is an 8th Generation. The first thing you will notice with the new iPads is the fact that the keyboard does not easily come off the iPad. It's also all in one piece,

as opposed to the old ones which had a case made of multiple pieces that had to be put together.

For someone who has a tendency to lose things, not having small pieces with the iPad is a godsend. Having to assemble the iPad like legos whenever you put the case on was a pain, especially when some iPads wouldn't charge with the case on. I wouldn't mind being

able to remove the keyboard, but as a whole, these new iPads are a lot more convenient. The magnet that holds the iPad closed feels strong and the case as a whole feels like it could protect the iPad in case of a drop.

I don't love the rubbery keys on the keyboard; they are not elevated and solid enough for a satisfying click, but my biggest

**New iPads, 5**

**Theater, 4**



## The Purple Press

OWL's longest-running student newspaper was founded in 1995. This collection of events and news is compiled in Leo's Journalism classes. This is the 22nd year of the Purple Press, and this is the first printed issue since March, 2020.

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# Xc runners focus on fitness & friendship

## Stian caps season by qualifying for state

**Paloma Leone-Getten**  
Staff Writer

If you've been around the West Side after school hours, you've probably seen a group of kids running around the Humboldt fields with a yoga ball, yelling "Zimbabwe!" whenever the ball is kicked. No, you aren't witnessing the birth of a soccer-like sport—it's the cross country team engaging in one of their training exercises.

This year, OWL had 14 athletes participate on the Hawks cross country team. Games, such as Coach Mario Luna's invention, "Zimbabwe," aren't the only thing that make this sport so popular. "I like the community. Everyone is really nice and it's really chill. It's



Photo courtesy of Humboldt athletics  
**Stian placed 8th out of 256 athletes in a race earlier this season.**

definitely less about the times and more about having fun," said 10th grader Willa Campion. 11th grader Nick Streng agreed. "Everyone is really supportive. Even if you don't always do well at a practice run or a meet, there's never a negative feeling, just a sense of 'I can hit the next one out of the park.'"

Aside from games, the team generally begins practice with stretching and plyometrics. They then go on a 3-mile run through the neighborhood surrounding school, using one of several predetermined routes. "Since we practice on the West Side, and we have a lot of hills, I think that helped us in meets, so that was good training," said Willa.

There was about one cross country meet per week this season, all with similar structures. Anywhere from 4 to 20 schools pick 7 varsity runners for both the boys and girls teams, while the rest of the runners are JV. There are separate races for boys varsity, girls varsity, boys JV, and girls JV. There are mass starts, where teams line up together, and wait for the starting signal. "Sometimes the routes are kind of complicated because you run a certain distance and then loop around an area a few

times, but there are flags to show where to go," said Nick.

All of the runners on the team have gotten new personal records this season, and both Willa and senior Stian Asper have placed highly in races. At the conference meet, they placed 12th and 8th, respectively. "The kind and energetic atmosphere emitted by coach Mario Luna and runners alike, makes it a blast to practice, race, and be a part of the team," said Stian.

Sections comes next. "This year, we got moved down to a smaller section. There's probably like 12 teams, mostly from the Metro Area," said Willa. The top two teams—boys and girls are scored separately—from the section meet move onto state, with their scores based on their top five runners out of the seven. An individual athlete can advance from sections to state by placing 6th or better among athletes who aren't part of the top two teams. A total of 20 athletes per section move on—two teams and six individuals. Stian placed 12th this year, high enough to qualify for state as an individual. At the state meet, he placed 45th out of 160 athletes, running a 17:22.59 race and averaging 5:35.2 minutes per mile.

Overall, OWL runners had strong seasons this year. Both Willa and Stian received all-conference honors, and

Cross country, 3



Photo courtesy of the MN Cycling Association

**Sixth grader Zinabu Petersen turns a corner on the race course at Redhead Mountain Bike Park in Chisholm this fall.**

# Mountain bikers find success in '21

## Stand out riders emerge as the sport grows

**Willa Campion**  
Staff Writer

Whenever people ask what sports my school has, I try to explain that OWL only has three non-co-oped sports; Ultimate Frisbee, Archery, and Fraquetball. This combination of sports is usually met with confusion and I end up having to explain that Fraquetball is a sport invented, and only played, here at OWL that is kind of like human ping-pong. However, this year, a new sport was added to that list: mountain biking.

Minnesota is a state with unique opportunities for mountain biking. There is a surplus of trails around the cities and in recent years Northern Minnesota's Iron Range has seen an influx of mountain biking infrastructure that is drawing in a new group of tourists. Unlike most traditional sports, mountain biking is not a part of the Minnesota

State High School League, but a part of the National Inter-scholastic Cycling Association (NICA), which was founded in 2009 out of Berkeley, California as a nationwide program that allows high school student riders to compete against each other. As of 2020, 31 states had leagues affiliated with NICA including Minnesota.

OWL students interested in riding can join the St. Paul Composite team that includes students from private and public schools around the city. All St. Paul riders, except Central students who have an independent team, practice together. Up until this year, riders interested in participating in the Minnesota Cycling League race series, which is the second largest in the nation, competed under either the name of Highland Park or St. Paul Composite. This year, enough OWL high school riders signed up to race for them to score under the name of Open World Learning.

On Halloween weekend, October 30th through 31st,

Mountain biking,

# Hawks volleyball moves up the conference rankings

## The team finished 12-15, the best record in years

**Willa Campion**  
Staff Writer

When 11th grader Dani Butler serves an ace to win the Humboldt Hawks girls volleyball team first section match against East Ridge Academy, the rest of the team rushes the court and the stands erupt in cheer. Some of the players bow, like a butler, a part of the series of cheers the team has for each player.

This season the Hawks had an overall record of 12 wins and 15 losses and went 4-8 in conference play, notably beating their rivals Johnson. The

varsity team has ten OWL students, including seniors Paloma Leone-Getten, Lili Hobday, Erica Polta, and Chyanne Braun, and is coached by math teacher Damon Liberatore. After winning their game against East Ridge, the team went on to play Legacy Christian Academy in the section's quarter final game, ultimately losing. "The season has gone really well. The team has seen a lot of progress since my Freshman year and we have had a lot of exciting games," said Paloma, who has been playing volleyball at Humboldt since 8th

grade.

The team placed 2nd place at the Columbia Heights tournament, a win that represented the hard work of the team and the progress they have made over the years. In addition to OWL's four seniors, Humboldt senior Hay Gay Soe is a star on the court. However, upperclassmen aren't the only ones who make up the starting line, OWL students 8th grader Olivia Fiebich and 10th grader Annika Lofgren have both been strong players this year.

The players have formed lasting friendships over the years and this is a part of what Paloma enjoys about the team. "I really like hanging out with the girls, I have been playing with a lot of them since mid-

dle school so it's a lot of fun," said Paloma, "we always eat dinner together before games and that's a lot of fun." Annika enjoys the supportive community of the team as well. "I like how nice everyone is. I think it's a lot easier to make mistakes and try new things because people are nice," she said.

With 5 seniors graduating this year, the team is looking towards the future and is excited about the younger players coming up from the junior varsity and C squad teams. "There are definitely a lot of players coming up and the C squad team did really well this year," said Paloma, "so I think it's really exciting for all those players to come up."



The team celebrates after beating Johnson High School for the first time in years (left), this year's Hawks volleyball seniors on their senior night in October.



Purple Press Staff Photo

# Swim team makes waves after turnover

## HumWOW finishes 3-3 in 2021

**Paloma Leone-Getten**  
Staff Writer

"Splash!" The starting whistle sounds as 5 swimmers dive into the pool, different colored swim caps flashing through the air before vanishing underwater.

This is the first time since 2019 that SPPS swim meets have been held in the same pool as the competing team, something that was greatly missed by the HumWOW — Humboldt, Washington, and OWL— swim team. "It's been so nice to have real meets again in person against other teams. It's just so nice to have a typical season again," said senior Mae Wrigley.

After losing eight seniors—five of which were OWL swimmers—HumWOW looks a little different than last year. "We've kind of had to rebuild our team in a sense. That said, it's been so amazing having new swimmers on the team and watching them learn and grow," said Mae. Aside from Mae, Ingrid Thune, Anna Nowatzki, Zoe Patrick, Avery Erb, Anya Robertson, Neve Dawson, and Alva Healy also swam for HumWOW this season. "My favorite part about the HumWOW team is by far the people. It is so fun to come to practice every day and be surrounded by such kind,

Swim, 5

# Senior Spotlight

## Jalen Bolton-Steiner



**How many years have you been at OWL?**

This is my 7th year at OWL.

**What are your plans for next year?**

My plan is to go to college. I'm interested in studying Film and Media Production.

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

I really enjoyed Chemistry.

**What extracurriculars are you involved in?**

I play ultimate frisbee, am in Outward Bound, and I plan to play volleyball in the spring.

**Favorite field work experience or school trip and why?**

I really liked the East Coast trip with Concert Choir.

**If you had a walk up song, what would it be?**

"Don't Stop Me Now" by Queen.

**How tall are you?**

4'6".

**What's your favorite class so far and why?**

Minnesota Studies, because I really like history and I like Luke's class.

**Who's your favorite senior?**

Paloma.

**Where do you think you're going to go for college?**

University of Minnesota-Duluth.

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

Frisbee.

## That One Little Kid

### Brisa Bolton-Steiner



**Mountain biking, 2**

OWL and St. Paul Composite riders competed against teams from across Minnesota at the state race in Mankato. All middle school riders completed one lap of the tough course at the Mt. Kato ski hill, freshman and junior varsity two (JV2) riders completed two, junior varsity three (JV3) riders completed three, and varsity riders completed four.

Many OWL racers had strong performances, including 6th grader Zinabu Petersen, who placed 13th in his age group and 10th grader Tess Champion who placed 10th in the JV3 division. Tess was also recognized at the season-ending celebration for being the team's top point earner in the high schools girls' division. It was one of his favorites. "The races have been really fun and I liked the last one at Mt. Kato a lot," he said.

Tess, who has been on the team three years, agreed "I really like the state race, it's

always super fun because all the teams are there so you compete against all the people you have raced throughout the season and it's just fun to be there with your whole team," she said.

She was glad to have this community and race day energy back after last year's Covid-altered season. "This year we got back to doing the mass start, which is definitely a really key part of the races," Tess said. "Being able to race against competitors is definitely one of my favorite parts because then you don't only have a community within your team and the friends you know there, but you are able to race against these people all through the years and it gets kind of competitive so it's always fun to talk to people [on the starting line] and everyone in my division is really nice, so I enjoy that."

However, it isn't required that riders compete at the races and many enjoy just coming to practices. "It's really fun just

to ride with other people and I made lots of friends doing it," Zinabu said. St. Paul riders practice twice a week and do a combination of riding on roads and trails around the city. "I really enjoy [mountain biking], it's a really fun way to be outdoors and still exercise," added Tess, "the sport has a really nice community around it."

This year, lots of new OWL riders joined the team, including multiple 6th through 8th graders. "I think it was great to see all these middle schoolers come out and be really passionate about getting on mountain bikes and going straight into races and practices and being ready to do whatever," said Tess, "and all the high schoolers are really nice, so even though [the OWL team] got last at almost every race I think it was a really good opportunity to give OWL riders out there. And I think the unique thing is, OWL is a really small school but we have the most riders of almost any [St. Paul] school, besides Highland, so it's just cool to see everyone is so passionate about mountain biking."

Although new riders are joining the team, the number of male riders still vastly outnumbered female riders, something reflected in the league as a whole. Tess, who is one of only two OWL female riders along with 6th grader Charley Cheatham, hopes this will start to change. Girls Riding Together (GRiT) is an organization affiliated with NICA that

supports and empowers female riders and helps to build a community among them. "It's definitely a male dominated sport which sometimes can be intimidating to get into as a female rider, but I think what a lot of people don't realize is that there is a really great community through GRiT," Tess, who volunteers with the program, said, "I think getting more female riders out there is really important."

Mountain biking is one of the fastest growing high school sports in the nation and the OWL team hopes to continue to grow. "I would definitely recommend [the team] because mountain biking is really fun and you can make a lot of friends doing it," said Zinabu.

Tess agreed, "I definitely recommend other OWL students join the team, I think that a lot of people don't always think of mountain biking as a sport, it is definitely a newer sport, or even in Minnesota we don't really think about it because we don't really have mountains, it's mainly just hills, but I think it's a fun way to get outdoors and it really gives you the best of both worlds because you can be out there just having fun on a mountain bike but you also get to train on the road and get a lot of miles in and be able to compete at a high level."

Students interested in joining the team can talk to any of the OWL riders or volunteer coach and English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt. There are schol-



Purple Press staff photo

**Seth makes sure to take student input into account with his laboratory-style teaching.**

## Meet Seth!

### OWL's new choir teacher

**Aurora Hull-Williams**  
Staff Writer

OWL's newest triple threat is an athlete, a musician, and a teacher! Born in Sioux City Iowa and raised around New Richmond Wisconsin, the new kid on the block Seth Rogan played Hockey for 12 years, and did football and track in high school, along with music, which was always a passion he had. "I did a lot more with sports back then," he shared "I still did a lot of music but I think I was a little more active."

Seth went to The University of Minnesota for his Undergrad and Masters degree. He did Music Education for his Undergrad, with honors work in Performance and Recitals, and he did his Masters in Music Education too. The two main schools he taught at before OWL were Highland Park Senior High school and John A. Johnson Achievement Plus Elementary School.

He loved music and wanted to be a performer when he was younger. He went to school for music and while he was there he discovered that the best way for him to have a career in music and to be a part of a community was through teaching.

Seth said that his favorite part of OWL so far is the commitment to positive environments and community, from both students and staff. Seth said that he really appreciates how not only does OWL have slogans for positivity, but it also lives them out, he has seen students be very supportive and friendly to other students and to teachers, "You really can't find that anywhere else" he said, "we really walk the

walk and talk the talk I think."

Seth aims for a laboratory class in his teaching style, he follows student questions, and tries to hit LT's and standards through that lens. "I'm really seeking to find what the students are interested in." He thinks that music is very fluid and diverse and always changing, and he tries to shape his classes around that idea. In his opinion, trying to follow what students are interested in learning related to music always leads to a more positive educational experience and a more positive environment.

He thinks music is important to learn about because it gives people habits of learning that will help them out long term with learning in general, he thinks that if someone can sit down and learn music then they can sit down and study law, it gives habits of learning that are important to know, because music requires a lot of dedication and daily practice to master. Music is engaging in a diverse way that allows people to learn those habits and then apply them to anything they want.

His favorite genre of music is Classical Opera and similar music. "I really enjoy singing in other languages, and I think the stories and intentions behind them are very meaningful." He appreciates songs and genres that carry on traditions through music. His favorite music to teach is whatever keeps a student singing, he likes to encourage whatever music a student likes, because it will keep a student going for as long as possible.

**Cross country, 2**



Patrick Toohey

**The boys cross country team huddling up at a meet.**

every runner improved. "The season went great! We had exceptionally high participation this season and everyone has made significant improvements on their race times. Everyone seems to be super

engaged and ready to put in effort during practices and meets," said Stian. While the team will miss its seniors, Stian and Lue Lor, they look forward to future seasons with strong runners in all grades.



Courtesy of Saint Paul Mountain Bike team

**OWL students, and parent coaches, of the Saint Paul Composite mountain bike team.**



# Reviews 'n' stuff



## Harry Potter movies fall short of books

*Warner Bros adaptations don't live up to the bestselling books*

**Nick Streng**  
Staff Writer

Harry Potter was one of my favorite book series growing up, and like every great book series does, it grew up with the reader. It began as a light-hearted adventure about a boy who went to a wizard school, and over the course of seven books, evolved into a serious and mature, yet magical tale about destiny, family, and love. These books only get better as I reread them over the years, and to this day, I still consider the series to be a timeless masterpiece.

I wish I could say the same about the movies.

While Harry Potter was being written, it was adapted into a film series distributed by Warner Bros, and in ten years, the story was retold in eight movies by four different directors, and featured a massive ensemble of actors and actresses that played all the different characters in the wizarding world, with many reprising their roles for every movie. The three main characters of the story - Harry Potter, Ron Weasley, and Hermione

Granger - were brought to life by Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint, and Emma Watson respectively, and like the books, the series follows their adventures in the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, and Harry's conflict with the evil Lord Voldemort—oops, I mean, He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named. These movies had the impossible task of adapting a complex narrative, recreating the massive wizarding world so thoroughly explored in the books, and bringing some incredibly iconic wizards and witches to life on screen. So did they succeed?

Well...kind of. Obviously they never could have been picture-perfect. No book-to-movie adaptation ever is. But they could also have been much better. Adapting a book into a movie is extremely difficult due to the fact that the movie will never be able to be exactly like its source material. Changes need to be made to the story, and minor plot elements or side characters may need to be removed entirely. And obviously, it can be hard to bring characters, locations,

or scenes in the story to life in the way that the author or fans of the book imagined it.

Now, I'm not here to nit-pick every single difference between the book and the movie, like Voldemort's eyes being black instead of red, or Harry's wand being fourteen inches instead of eleven inches, because if I did that, this article could fill a library, not to mention it would be extremely boring to read. Rather, this will be an explanation of how these movies started out as great adaptations, but ultimately suffered from the books getting longer and longer over time, poor pacing of the story elements it adapted, and some egregious changes from the book that were completely unjustified. So to trace back to where it all went wrong with these movies, we need to begin at where it all went right - Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone.

Directed by Chris Columbus, the first of four directors behind this franchise, it was the first movie of the series, based on the first book that introduces us to Harry himself, and the secret wizard society that's been in London right under every Muggle's nose. And in my eyes, it's where the movies peaked. This first one was able to perfectly retell the story in a 150-minute runtime. The pacing is extremely fast, but no important plot elements are left out. Other, less important details or scenes in the books are removed, and while the longer, more detailed and intricate story is what ultimately makes the books better in my opinion, the movie is smart with knowing what to cut out so the main storyline can be laid out.

Harry Potter, 5



**Aanen Kulseth**  
Staff Writer

I was so incredibly excited, yet a little nervous while going to see Dune. I was excited because it is my favorite book and it could possibly be getting a worthy film adaptation, but I was somewhat nervous that it could be a failure. However, after watching it multiple times on opening weekend, I can safely say that Dune has not only met, but exceeded all of my expectations.

Let me first give some background. The novel Dune, released in 1965 and written by Frank Herbert, is widely acclaimed as one of the best sci-fi novels of all time, and personally my favorite book. In 1984, it received an awful film adaptation which was directed by David Lynch. Not all of the blame falls upon Lynch for the awfulness of that film, since the book is very hard to convey on screen. However the new movie directed by Denis Villeneuve, is able to capture the essence of the book with the skill of the actors and his directing style. Villeneuve's version is carefully crafted to stay true to the book with just the right amount of action, and maintain the epic nature of the story.

The movie takes place in the year 10,191 AG, roughly 20,000 years in the future. Groups known as Great Hous-

## Dune is an almost perfect adaptation

*"Epic and compelling"*

es control planets, and all fall under the rule of the Emperor of the known universe. The Emperor has given control of the desert planet Arrakis to House Atreides, from House Harkonnen. Arrakis is the most important planet in the known universe as it is the only source of a compound known as "The Spice". "The Spice" extends life, allows for long distance space travel, and many other powerful things.

The Emperor's "gift" of the planet Arrakis, is actually a trap to use House Harkonnen to destroy the Atreides. House Atreides know this is a trap. However, they cannot openly go against the Emperor. The other main component of the story is the Bene Gesserit, an organization exclusively of women who essentially control politics from the shadows. For thousands of years the Bene Gesserit Sisterhood have been manipulating bloodlines to try and produce a male Bene Gesserit, called the Kwisatz Haderach. The main character, Paul Atreides (Timothée Chalamet) is tested by the Sisterhood near the start of the movie and nearly dies.

Paul's mother, Jessica (Rebecca Ferguson), is a Bene Gesserit and has trained Paul in their ways in the hopes that he is the Kwisatz Haderach. Throughout the movie, Paul has to deal with trying to survive House Harkonnen and the Emperor's trap, while dealing with the fact that he may be the Kwisatz Haderach. However the other main character conflict in the mov-

ie is Jessica's internal conflict between her duty to the Bene Gesserit Sisterhood, and her duties as a mother. This is a rough outline of the plot, as it is very complicated so there is a lot I didn't cover here.

As someone who has read the book multiple times, Dune's complicated plot was not difficult for me to understand. However, if you haven't read the book, you may have some questions. This is kept to a minimum though, as Villeneuve directed the film in such a way that readers of the book will know exactly what is happening, but people who haven't read it can still grasp the plot. I thought the casting for every character was very well done and true to their descriptions in the books. However, the one exception to this would be Jason Momoa as Duncan Idaho. Don't get me wrong, he still played the part well, he just doesn't resemble the character's description and acts very differently than the character in the books.

One thing to keep in mind while going into the movie is that it is only the first half of the book. This makes the ending feel strange as there really isn't a good place to stop it. However, part two has been given the green light and will complete the story. Once again, I would like to say that this movie was a brilliant adaptation of the book, extremely entertaining, and very enjoyable to watch.

As a side note, if you liked the movie and haven't read the book, you should definitely go and read it, it's incredible.



Elizabeth Hallanger

## The Hate U Give's prequel impresses

*Angie Thomas provides context for THUG in Concrete Rose*

**Danny Hobday**  
Staff Writer

The Hate U Give has become a bestselling book among young readers. In my opinion, one of the most interesting characters is Maverick Carter, Starr, Seven, and Sekani's father. Maverick was originally in a gang, sold drugs growing up, causing him to go to jail, but turned his life around. He owns a store and raises 3 kids. The detail of his life prior to the events of The Hate U Give are revealed in its prequel: Concrete Rose. This 320-paged book is Angie Thomas's 4th, published at the beginning of 2021.

The book is about Maverick Carter and his backstory growing up as part of the King

Lords. Maverick's father was the biggest drug lord in all of Garden Heights until he was locked up. People thought that Maverick would take his place and be a typical teenager for his neighborhood, getting the newest Jordans, buying expensive gifts for his girlfriend, and playing ball all day. That's exactly what he did until a one night stand with his best friend's girlfriend ended in a pregnancy, causing his whole world to be flipped upside down.

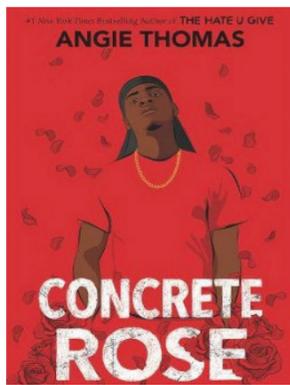
After the baby is born he tells his future wife, Lisa, that he's the father of Leshia's newborn. She dumps him on the spot. Maverick is devastated to lose Lisa but he has to be there for his baby. He decides to take

a break from drug dealing and gets a job in his neighbor's garden and convenience store. It's slow and hard work but he helps his mom pay the bills and get necessities for his baby. He consistently tries talking to Lisa and after a while, she starts to come around. Everything's going well until Maverick figures out his life is getting even more complicated...

The book is very similar to The Hate U Give, since both stories feature a big issue, however, this book moves a bit slower. Both books are written in first person by the main character: in The Hate U Give, it's Starr and in Concrete Rose, it's Maverick. Another similarity is that both had a shooting.

I loved this book because I learned more about Maverick. I recommend reading this book especially if you've read

The Hate U Give, because it gives you a different perspective. I thought everything in the book fell into place perfectly until I realized they didn't talk about him going to jail at all. This was a huge part of his life because he couldn't be there for Starr and seven growing up until they were around 8. Does this mean there might be yet another book?



Theater, 1

The students on the OWL Advisory Board found the play and brought it to Rebekah Rentzel, the theatre teacher. "[This play is] a very silly show with a lot of physical comedy," Rebekah said. "I'm excited to do a show that will be very fun for the cast, crew, and audience to enjoy."

Rehearsals for the play have been underway for a few weeks now, so the cast and crew have spent that time settling into their roles and dealing with the special kind of challenges that this show presents. 12th grader Nora Verner plays Sandra, and Sandra plays Florence. This strange role has brought up a lot of different opportunities and challenges all on its own. "I'm really looking forward to taking on Sandra because I not only have to learn what Sandra is like, but also how Sandra would play Florence, which is a unique challenge," Nora said.

"I really like that she's quite dramatic. It's fun to play a woman who swoons and faints with hysteria because that's generally something I aim not to do in real life."

This play features many instances of physical humor (people tripping, breaking things etc.) which can be very demanding for the actors as they have to exert a lot of energy and also try not to get hurt. There's also a lot of bits that require precise timing, which is hard in a live performance. Despite these challenges, Rebekah, the cast, and the crew are all very excited and determined to bring this show to us all.

"The cast have been having a good time, because this calls for a lot of silly over-acting," Rebekah said. If the outrageous mood of The Play Goes Wrong sounds fun to you, be sure to make it to one of the shows!

# Helpful communities or dens of negativity?

## Stans can be influential, for better and for worse

Elizabeth Hallanger  
Staff Writer

Stans. The word conjures up a memory of scrolling down into the comments of a seemingly normal post, only to be bombarded with multiple clips of a Korean pop-star dancing at a concert, a pink, sparkly filter and a Doja Cat song slapped overtop it all.

Or, watching a seemingly innocent and pastel-themed fan account say the most deplorable things you've ever heard over the internet.

I think it's safe to say anyone who's been on Twitter, Youtube, or Tik Tok, over the past year or so has probably heard of them. For better or for worse, it's undeniable that "stans" have had a huge impact on online spaces.

So, who are these somewhat terrifying and strangely abundant fans?

Stan, according to Merriam-Webster, is "an overzealous or obsessive fan of a particular celebrity." This label evolved into a much less negative term in online spaces. Bizarrely, many choose to label themselves as stans.

"To me it means like a super-fan, I'm just really dedicated to the content and stuff," claimed Twitter user and self-proclaimed K-pop stan Liv.

What could be referred to as a "stan" has existed for a long time. In the age of the internet and social media, however, these super-fans are no longer confined to small fanclubs or websites, meaning they can congregate, communicate, and grow their spaces faster than ever.

Many stans congregate on social media sites, like Instagram, TikTok, Discord, and most commonly, Twitter. Some are very specific in their fandom, while others branch out more. "The one I'm the biggest stan of is Jungkook, ironically, but I'm also a big fan of all the other BTS members, plus a bunch of other groups too, like Twice," stated Liv.

Most don't confine themselves to simply being a fan, either. Some dedicate themselves to making fan works like art or fanfiction, others focus on a specific series or album made by the creator, a specific member of the group. They also have their own ways of affirming their status as a fan, or attempting to show off the celebrity or group by posting "fancams," which are videos or video edits. The practice began, and is most popular with k-pop stans, but has also expanded to many other "stan-bases" as well.

In turn, these communities function as their own online ecosystems. People fill specific niches of the fandom, and new people join to fill in the spots of those who leave. Self-proclaimed stan of multiple popular Minecraft youtubers online, and the admin of a Discord server for fellow stans, Moss, stated: "We're like this big family almost, I've honestly made so many good friends from it and it's been a really fun and positive experience, at least for me."

Bunny, another server admin, added: "I've had a really hard time during the pandemic making friends and feeling isolated, being in this community really helped me a lot

with finding those people and finding that community."

However, there's a far darker underbelly to many of these communities.

Many negative online interactions are dictated by parasocial relationships. "Parasocial relationship" is a term coined by psychologists Donald Horton and Richard Wohl in 1956 to describe when one feels as though they have an intimate relationship with a prominent media figure. Originally, the term was used to describe those who felt a connection to radio and television hosts, which meant it wasn't very widespread.

Now in the age of social media, however, it's easier than ever to watch and interact with creators and celebrities. You can easily find out, say, what your favorite celebrity did that day, what their opinions are on certain topics, and even what their family or love life is like.

Many fans dig even deep into the lives of their favorite celebrities, crossing person-

al boundaries, and becoming stalker-ish in the process.

To outsiders it might seem creepy, but to them it feels normal because they "know" that person. This also means that reactions sometimes get amplified across the fanbase. When a creator gets criticized, it can feel like a personal attack on a close friend. When the creator does something bad, it can feel like personal betrayal.

"I was a big fan of Dream at first, but a bunch of his really insensitive private tweets and statements came out against native communities, it hit me super hard, and it really disappointed me because I thought of him as a nice person and someone whose content I could rely on, and it felt like a betrayal," stated Moss.

Feeling close to a media figure isn't inherently bad; it's human nature to develop connections. It's when this feeling leads to the crossing of boundaries, that it can become problematic.



## Subaru WRX too expensive

### Atticus recommends looking to older models for better value

Atticus Brooks-Babcock  
Staff Writer

The new 2022 Subaru WRX is a refresh of the 23-year long odyssey of all-wheel drive rally heritage. The 2022 WRX was announced on September 10, 2021 and will be available to the public in early 2022 for a price of around \$30,000. The STI model will cost around \$40,000. Horse power is at a decently quick, but not fast, 271, using a new 2.4 liter turbocharged Boxster 4. The Subaru WRX is a decent looking, fun, and quick car, but too expensive for what you're getting.

You have the choice between a 6-speed manual and a CVT--a form of transmission with a belt and two disks. The two disks squeeze and retract the belt creating higher and lower gear ratios. If this means nothing to you, get the 6-speed. It uses the same symmetrical all-wheel drive system, splitting power 50/50. New to the WRX is an update to Subaru's new global platform that is shared between most of their cars. Another new feature is active dampers that you can adjust to be stiffer or softer. Dampers are a shock that absorbs the springs extra bounce, a feature for handling.

The 2022 WRX will likely handle similar to the previous generations: very mechanical, giving you a great feel of the road, but a little on the heavy side. That, mixed with the

AWD, may cause some usual understeer. Understeer is when you turn into a corner and the car tries to keep going straight. This usually happens when you're going too fast for the corner. The interior of the car will be very similar to all of the new Subaru products: nice, but not luxurious. You have the option of a 6.5 or a 7 inch screen and Harman Kardon speakers. The WRX shares many design features from the BRZ, another Subaru product, including sharp lines and brake lights. In my opinion it doesn't look too different from the base model Impreza, the only difference being a hood scoop and plastic pieces on the sides and front which cost you around \$10,000 more.

The WRX is a normal car and not sporty enough for my taste. 271 horsepower is somewhat good, and is comparable to previous generations, but just like the old WRX's, the car is a little heavy compared to the power, making it feel slow.

Overall, I would not buy the 2022 WRX. It's too expensive for an upgraded Impreza with plastic cladding. Instead, I would buy any other generation of the WRX, as you can get the 2015-2019 WRXs for around \$20,000 and the Hawk-eye WRX STI for \$10,000-\$15,000. Both of those have already depreciated and have more of a community around them. However, I do have hope for the STI.



### Harry Potter, 4

Even changed or extra scenes in the movie not originally in the book fit right in with the narrative, like the entrance to a forbidden corridor being discovered by Harry, Ron, and Hermione due to a trick staircase at Hogwarts, instead of the way it happened in the book, where they sneak out at night and have to escape from the caretaker. And speaking of the characters, they were perfectly cast and written, from our main trio to all the Hogwarts teachers. The rest of this series probably wouldn't have existed if the first entry wasn't done so well. So with Philosopher's Stone exhibiting the right way to adapt a Harry Potter book, the next movie should have no problem with the second book! Right?

Well...mostly right! Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets adapted its source material nearly as well as the first movie. Also directed by Chris Columbus, it was even longer than the first, and kept the

main story intact with only a few significant changes. However, it's also where one of the first fatal flaws of the movie series was born - too much time spent on certain moments in the story.

Harry Potter was a series with many exciting and cinematic scenes, described and shown as such in both the book and the movie. But in the movie, they're unnecessarily extended to take up more screen time, and Chamber of Secrets is rampant with this problem. It may seem harmless to make these action scenes a little more dragged out and exciting, but in the case of this movie, that time could have been spent on developing Ginny Weasley more as the surprise antagonist who was forced to open the Chamber of Secrets and unleash a huge killer snake on students, thus setting up the main conflict of this story. Instead we got to see...Harry almost falling out of a flying car while he and Ron drive to Hogwarts, and that didn't even happen in the

book. I dunno, one of those elements seems a little more important than the other.

And unfortunately, the third movie only amplified this flaw, and made Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban significantly weaker than its predecessors. With the book being the longest in the series so far, this movie had even more ground to cover - but wasn't able to spend its time wisely. The action scenes continued to be dragged out, and because of the book being even longer, the pacing in the movie was even worse. And most importantly, it also marked the point in the series where one of the worst mistakes a book-to-movie adaptation can make sprang to life - adding completely new things that weren't in the book.

Philosopher's Stone and Chamber of Secrets had a couple very small new additions, but they never lasted long enough to throw off the story. Prisoner of Azkaban, meanwhile, took it to the extreme. Suddenly we're getting

entirely new scenes, like Harry and Hermione being chased through the forest by a werewolf, in addition to unnecessary scenes, such as Harry trying to stop a Monster Book of Monsters from eating him alive with its paper jaws. This prevented the movie from focusing on more critical plot elements, and thus in my opinion, held it back - and all the following movies back - from being as good of an adaptation as it could have been.

On that note, we'll move on to the fourth movie and book...wait a minute, how much have I written so far? Oh dear, way too much. Looks like this will be a two-parter. Dang, this review of mine had a lot to say about these movies, but I feel like I had to leave so many little details out in order to make sure I could cover all of the most important things, and that in turn made this writing not be as good as it could have been.

Hmm, kind of like a certain movie series.

### New iPads, 1

gripe with the new keyboard is the changes in key selection. One of the main things I'm missing from the old keyboard is the escape key. For all the fancy features you would think it would have an escape key. Is that really less important than three media control buttons?

To make matters worse where there was an escape key now there is a home button. Similarly, the lock key right next to the delete button is the Lock Screen. Constantly powering off the iPad by accident becomes frustrating.

Although problems are not widespread, reported issues include the keyboard disconnecting and essential apps getting randomly removed

At the end of the day, I can safely say I prefer these new iPads to the ones we had during online learning. They come with a collection of annoyances and confusing choices, but what technology doesn't?

### Swim, 2

bright, and motivated people. They are 100% what I'm going to miss most next year after I graduate," said Mae.

Despite the turnover of swimmers this season, the team had goals of perfecting techniques with "things like turns and dives, both of which are pretty critical to master if you want to drop time in your swims," said Mae.

The team has gone 3-3 in 6 meets this year, before a successful conference meet on October 15th. Following that, they practiced for about 2 weeks before sections began on November 10th. "Only varsity moves on to compete at sections. But since our team is pretty small this year, we have a lot of people going," said Mae. Sections entails two full days of swimming, with two rounds, and finals on the second day. "It's a bit more intense, but sections is still really fun, and there is a lot of cheering involved!" said Mae.

# OWL gets out for fall retreats



Tim Leone-Getten



Dan Sullivan



Grant Boulanger



Rebecca Palmer



Tim Leone-Getten



Dan Sullivan



Grant Boulanger



Kristin Moeller



Grant Boulanger



Katie Craven

The winning capture-the-flag team for the Seniors (top, left), the 6th graders exploring the Mississippi River (middle, left), 9th graders Gabby Govrik and Galadrial Barrett painting decorations for the Vacant Lot (middle, left), students greeting Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter (bottom, left), the 7th graders at Harriet Island (top, middle), the Seniors tie dying (middle, middle), the 10th and 11th graders touring St. Cloud State University (bottom, middle), the 9th graders gardening outside of OWL (top, right), the 7th graders exploring Belwin Nature Center (middle, right), and a sign being made for the Vacant Lot (bottom, right).

## Bus shortage, 1

students to school. Routes were adjusted to ensure that students had a convenient way to get to school. However, this hasn't been a possibility this year due to the lack of planning time.

Other SPPS schools are in a similar situation, as, according to the Pioneer Press, the district was short 76 drivers two days before the school

year began, affecting a total of 10,000 students. This came as a surprise to the district, and has caused high school students at Central, Como Park, Harding, and Washington to be without bussing altogether. Other schools, such as Jie Ming Mandarin Immersion and L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion, have begun starting classes earlier to allow drivers to cover more routes. These adjusted times will stay in place until at

least winter break.

The bus shortage has had other consequences as well. As drivers scramble to cover more routes and bus high school sports teams across the city, middle school sports have been left without a real season. Fall middle school sports, including soccer and volleyball, will practice together for about two months. However, they will not compete against other schools and athletes are re-

quired to find their own rides home.

Bus shortages are widespread across Minnesota and the United States. Other districts are facing turmoil as busing contractors have breached contracts, leaving routes uncovered due to the lack of drivers. Minneapolis has resorted to paying parents to drive their children to school. Other cities such as Grand Forks, North Dakota, are using similar solu-

tions to SPPS. The busses that are still running are packing students three-to-a-seat with masks and open windows due to the pandemic.

This shortage is yet another effect of the pandemic. "While I am not an economist, I can say that there are likely many reasons for this shortage that include things like bus drivers shifting over to do other sorts of work over the last 18 months since there was less

of a need for drivers. It simply might take a while to see a bounce back in drivers," said principal Dave Gundale.

Some districts across Minnesota and the United States are raising wages and offering hiring bonuses to attract workers. However, the training required for drivers requires a waiting period, so even after additional drivers are hired, it may be a while before students on busses M and Q can ride

## Stans, 5

From leaking private information online, to mass-harassment parties, this disregard for personal boundaries takes many forms. For example stan communities have become infamous for "doxxing" or leaking addresses online. The common online practice of "shipping," a term referring to wanting two people to form a romantic relationship, is also common within these groups, and the practice of shipping real people has led to some subjects becoming increasingly uncomfortable around each other. "There's so many accounts that pair BTS members together, it's like, interwoven into the fandom at this point, you can't avoid it," claimed Liv.

Many find these stanbases so pervasive that they become unbearable. Take for example, the stans of the modern Mi-

necraft youtuber community. Around late 2020, these groups of stans saw a huge increase in numbers and relevance. They spread across every social media platform, pumped out fan content and tweets like there was no tomorrow, and were practically inescapable.

"Literally, the Tik Tok could be about something totally random, but as soon as it had green and blue, or bees, or something like that, boom, they're all over the comments," claimed Chai, an active anti-fan of minecraft stan communities. Their constant presence on the Twitter trending tab would often end up inadvertently overshadowing more important, real-life trending events, like the Stop Asian Hate movement.

"It's so stupid, some kids and their Minecraft youtuber shouldn't be more important than people actually dying,"

said Chai.

This saturation problem is a common experience among stan groups. Take, for example, the aforementioned stan "fancams." At the deepest and darkest layers, some of these stan communities are tied to the worst behaviors possible. It doesn't take long to find stan accounts on Twitter that tie their standom to the encouragement and glorification of unhealthy and self-destructive behaviors such as eating disorders, self harm, and mental illness. In addition, many of the most aggressively negative stans are shielded in self-affirming bubbles, harboring no shame in harassing others.

"One time, one of my friends on Twitter was just getting constantly harassed. I don't even know what she did, but she was getting these horrible messages and comments on her Twitter and Tik

Tok by this group of other stan accounts which were all full of really, really awful stuff glorifying depression and self harming," stated Liv.

This has led to criticism from outsiders, the creators, and members of the fanbase. While much of this criticism is directed towards those who deserve it, it often also overflows into innocent parties in the fandom, turning into full-on harassment along the way.

"We've gotten a bunch of raids on the server in the past few months, and I've, like, ended up getting told a lot of bad stuff online. Literally there was a day where I was glued to the computer because we were getting raided every few hours. It was bad," said Moss.

Some of this backlash ends up making the problem worse. Toxic fans can become far more defensive in their practices, their actions only get

worse, and it becomes a vicious cycle. Sites like Twitter seem built for these kinds of reactions.

So that leaves us with Stan communities in their current state. While the pandemic allowed many of these stan communities to flourish, now, partly due to the reopening of schools and a slow return to normal, they seem to have quieted down. While these fanbases were fraught with turmoil and drama, many of these stans are just people trying to find a community in the wake of isolation. Many inadvertently got pulled down into a world of toxic parasociality, harassment, and lost touch with reality.

"Crazy stans give us all such a bad rep, a lot of us are really nice and just want to exist in our own spaces I swear, but like, everyone thinks k-pop stans, and a lot of other stan

spaces in general are the scum of the earth because of them," stated Liv.

In the end, while many of these Stan communities are indeed toxic, it all comes down to perspective.

"In all honesty, I think people really like to only look at the negatives and use that to label the whole community," stated Moss. "It all depends on who you talk to, because a lot of us are really nice, it just sucks that we get overshadowed."

And for said toxic fans, Chai stated: "I think they need to go out and get a reality check and just get off of the internet for a while, because a lot of them are just kids. They should be out experiencing life and growing up in the real world, not on Twitter, and not in the sort of toxic environments stans create."