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# Purple Press

Volume #21, Issue #7 June 10th, 2021

## Elba not returning to OWL

*OWL's beloved assistant principal will be moving on to become a middle school AP in the fall*

Lili Hobday  
Staff Writer

OWL administration recently announced that assistant principal Elba Frazier is leaving OWL to pursue other opportunities. "I've really enjoyed OWL and I think it's a really special place that does all these wonderful things

and with that comes a lot of commitments in the evening that are difficult for me. I feel a middle school will have less of those commitments and that was one of the big driving forces for me," said Elba.

She'll be the assistant principal at E-STEM middle school next year and is excit-

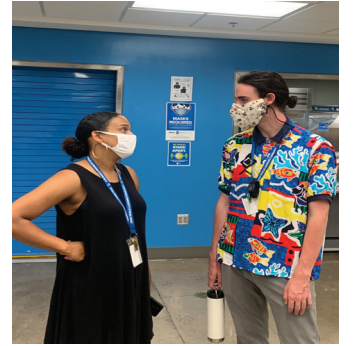
ed to work at a middle school where she can help shape kids' lives. "Middle school is an age I enjoy, not that I don't like high schoolers, but they are so independent and driven. Middle school is a time where we can help shape someone so I feel like there's a high need for love and I've got love for those

middle schoolers," said Elba.

Though she is excited about her future, Elba loved her time at OWL. "I will miss the civic engagement at this school. The students here are very active in wanting things to be fair and equitable. I'll also miss the EL education with the fall field work, and the emphasis on service. I think that stuff really shapes you guys into produc-

tive citizens."

Elba will be missed at OWL. When told that she won't be back, students have responded with choruses of "Noooo why?" 8th grader Ne-zariah Parker said, "This year was my first year, she was the first person I connected with, she helped me get to know the school and made me feel welcome. I'll miss her a lot."



Purple Press Staff Photo

**Elba has connected with many students and staff at OWL in her 2 years here.**

## Class of 2021 graduates



Purple Press Staff Photo

The class of 2021 graduated together on Tuesday, June 8th at St. Paul College. See page 10 for more photos of the event.

Paloma Leone-Getten  
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, June 8th, OWL's class of 2021 graduated at St. Paul College. This in-person but masked ceremony was a huge improvement from last years' virtual celebration for the class of 2020, despite the fact that OWL's usual venue,

the O'Shaughnessy Auditorium at St. Catherine University, was unavailable due to COVID restrictions. Each of the 62 graduates -- OWL's largest graduating class yet -- were allowed to invite four guests.

The ceremony was a success, complete with speeches from 10 graduates, a musical

performance, and remarks from principal Dave Gundale, along with SPPS administration and a school board representative. English teacher Kevin Hansen and social studies teacher Luke Turvold were selected as speakers by the graduating class. Common themes in the speeches included resil-

ience and class cohesion, along with happiness to be together for this important occasion. As per tradition, math teacher Tom Totushek read the names of the graduates as they walked across the stage to accept their diplomas.

Following the ceremony, the graduates gathered at Har-

riet Island Pavilion for a reception. Cupcakes and lemonade were served, and there was a food truck as well. Graduates, friends, and families were able to mingle, despite the heat, on the Mississippi River, to celebrate this important milestone.

## Fall retreats 2021

Scarlet Longard  
Staff Writer

Each year during the fall, OWL students spend one week doing things like field trips, overnights, and fieldwork. With the COVID-19 pandemic still a factor, many might be wondering if and how fall retreats will happen this coming fall.

Fall retreats week will take place in September, but the week will not be the same. According to assistant principal Elba Frazier, the plan is "provide day trips that coincide with what the kids are learning, and still work on building community, but we are not able to do the overnights quite yet."

She went on to say that "one of the things we've talked about is how we have interim week in the spring, and if by then something is possible for overnights, maybe doing that then. But in the fall, we do want to intentionally plan, and teachers are working on those now to have a great experience for the kids as best possible without the usual overnights."

When asked about COVID-related guidelines, Elba said, "We will get those most likely in July and then we would share that out with families in August. So we are not sure if 'hey, by September we won't have to wear masks!', or, 'the spacing will change!' We're thinking that is a possibility, that some of that will change, but we're not 100% sure."

So, how do OWL students and families feel about the changes that were made? I asked seventh grader Anson Lind and his mom Kimberly



Purple Press Staff Photo

The outfits that Clara wore to each day of classes.

## That outfit looks familiar

*Tom and Clara endure months of the same shirt for a contest*

Ian Brooks  
Staff Writer

For math teachers Tom Totushek and Clara Raineri, the end of the school year marks the end of a long competition involving repeating outfits, and not-so-observant students, myself included.

It all started when Tom proposed a challenge to the math department group chat of Pat-ti, Damon, Clara, Tom, Jeff,

and Andy: They would wear the same shirt for each class, and see how long it would take students to notice. The teacher whose students noticed last would win the competition. "Going into the pandemic, we wanted to maintain some kind of solidarity as a math department," said Tom. "We're a very close department and we chat all the time, and I thought 'You know what would be fun? To

put this little challenge out there.' And most people were like 'Yeah, that's good,' but we never thought it would last the whole year."

Clara says she felt the same way. "We all assumed that kids would notice within the first month of teaching, and so I didn't put a ton of thought into my outfit choices," she said. "Turns out I was wrong, or at least they're not willing to share it out. We're pretty convinced that a few kids have no-

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# Ultimate teams happy with Matoska results

*Womanatee come away from the prestigious tournament with a trophy*

**Lili Hobday**

*Staff Writer*

Manatee ultimate is in full swing, as the season progresses towards the state tournament in late June. Both teams have competed in five regular season games and the annual Matoska tournament so far.

Matoska was a success, with the Wo-manatee walking away with a trophy and a 4-1 tournament record, and the Manatee going 2-3-1 despite missing some veteran players.

The girls started off the weekend strong with an 11-3 win against White Bear Lake. They moved on to a narrow 7-6 win against Central. However, the 80 degree weather, horrible humidity and the loss of some key players began to affect the team, resulting in a 9-3 loss to Edina JV.

After a good night's sleep, some cooler weather, and the return of those players, the team finished the tournament strong. Their first game ended

in a 8-4 win over Mounds View, and in a redemption game, they earned a 8-6 win against Edina JV to steal the championship. "I was really proud of how we played, especially in our games versus Edina. You could see in our zone movement that we really stepped it up this weekend," said 11th grader Nora Verner

The boys went into the tournament with neither junior Jalen Bolton-Steiner nor senior Leo Dungan- Seaver. Despite these absences, the team rallied and placed 4th. On Saturday, they started off slow with a 10-5 loss to Edina JV and a 10-7 loss to Washburn but then picked it up with 10-7 win against White Bear Lake. On Sunday, they made it a streak with a 8-7 win over Eden Prairie. They then went on to tie against SPA and after a long weekend lost 12-3 in the 3rd place game against Edina JV. "We had really awesome energy the whole



**The Womanatee won the Matoska tournament this year.**

tournament which made the weekend super fun, even if we weren't winning," said 11th grader captain Stian Asper.

The Manatee have the state tournament on the 26th and 27th. The Manatee are currently 4-1 in regular season games, and the Womanatee are 3-3 which means that both teams will most likely be placed in division 1 or 2 and for the state tournament.

The boys will again be missing some key players due to the later-than-usual tournament. This time they will compete without senior Haakon Neske and 11th grader Stian Asper. However, the team is still confident, "I'm super pumped for the state tournament! I'm sure we'll do well and I hope to put up a fight for the division two title. Realistically, especially without some of our handlers, I expect us to be towards the top of division 2," said Stian.

The girls are equally excited. Last year they won division two, this year they have a chance at being placed division one. "I think that we have a very high possibility of being placed in division one. However, if we are placed in division 2, I think we will perform very well and have a high chance of winning for the third year in a row. Either way, it will be a challenge and I'm excited to see what happens!" said senior captain Ella Pratt.



**Senior Haakon Neske throws the frisbee during the Matoska tournament (above), senior Miles Pretel jumps (below).**

# Early mornings, tired legs

*A first-person recap of life at the Matoska frisbee tourney*

**Joe Deutch**

*Staff Writer*

The boys Matoska tournament consisted of shaved legs, farmers tans, and some great ultimate frisbee games.

When they arrived at White Bear Lake High School for Matoska, players were tired and hungry, yet also very spirited and joyful. The "be at the field by 7:15 am" start time was a big complaint amongst players, as most were running the whole day on six hours of sleep or less. However, for the first game of the tournament the chants were strong, the sidelines were loud, and the parents were present. The positive energy was undoubtedly on display, and that energy carried into the next two games of the day.

The early start took even more of a toll on the players the next day. Legs were tired, players were again running on six hours of sleep, and the energy was not the same. The more playing that went on though, the more people were getting involved with having a voice on and off the field. By the end of the sixth, and final, game of the tournament, voices were lost, heads were held low due to exhaustion, and the Manatee had given it all they had. A weekend well spent.

One of the biggest plays of the tournament came from Max Muench and his insane callahan against Edina JV. A

callahan is when the opposing team intercepts a disc thrown by the offensive team in their own end zone, which adds a point to the team who caught it. So in this case, Max won a point for the Manatee off an assist from the Edina team, something that is rarely seen in frisbee. After a very impressive pull by 12th grade captain Haakon Neske kept Edina stuck in their own endzone, the Manatee were able to close on each of their players very quickly. With Edina trapped, Max was keen on making a big play for the boys. Max came up big when he read one of their handlers throw to a teammate, and immediately stepped in front of the player to pick off the pass. The play sparked energy in the boys, as everyone ran over to Max to celebrate a big time player making a big time play.

Another big moment in the tournament from the team was their comeback against Saint Paul Academy. Down two points with about eight minutes to go, the Manatee pulled out two quick points from sharp defense, as well as offense, to complete the comeback. The man-to-man defense and offense was solid, with few turnovers offensively and few mistakes made on defense. Everybody was locked in, and played up to their potential that weekend.

### Fall retreats, 1

Lind. When I asked for their thoughts on the current plan for fall retreats, Anson said, "I'm gonna miss the overnights, but I'm glad we're able to do day trips this year." Kimberly said, "It's a bummer they can't be overnight, that's sad, but it's understandable and this is a great compromise."

Although fall retreats will not feature overnights, many

# Track team finds success this year

*OWL athletes help Hawks to best season in several years*

**Willa Campion**

*Staff Writer*

Ninth grader Tess Campion listens for the starting gun before sprinting 200 meters with a baton in hand. Two minutes and 11 seconds later, Humboldt 10th grader Makenzy Wilson crosses the finish line putting the Humboldt girls 4-by-200 meter relay in third place. This season, Humboldt's track and field team had just enough girls to compete in the event, which Tess and Makenzy, along with 9th graders Nora Crosby and Willa Campion, will be running at the

4AA section meet on Thursday June 10th.

Despite the fact that this year's season looked different due to COVID-19, Humboldt's track and field team had a larger than usual turnout, including 12 runners from OWL in grades 7-12. On Tuesday, June 1st, the team competed at the St. Paul Public Schools (SPPS) conference meet where multiple runners placed and Humboldt senior Jazlyn Wright medaled in the shot put. Head coach and Humboldt alumnus Wardell Warren, who has been coaching the team since 1982,

described the results as some of the best the team has had over the last 10 years.

Even without a track to practice on, Humboldt's track and field team has had a strong presence in the SPPS conference. The sprinting team saw multiple new members join this year and took first place in various regular season meets, including the competitive 100 meter dash and the 4 by 100 meter relay. The distance team saw large growth after many members of Humboldt's cross country team joined, along with cross country coach and former Humboldt runner Mario Luna. The team took first place finishes in the 1600 meter and 800 meter runs during

meets this season. Additionally, many team members competed in the long jump for the first time this year, including Humboldt senior Eh Ler Moo who finished 6th in the conference in the field event.

Some Fridays you may find the team playing an aggressive game of Zimbabwe -- soccer with a yoga ball. The sport was invented by distance coach Mario along with a series of other games played with yoga balls named after different countries around the world. "Being able to do track has given me the opportunity to talk to other people and have some fun," said Nora, who was new to the team this year. Tess

**Track, 4**

# A part of our lives

## Masks have become as common as shirts

**Jonas Ruberg**

*Staff Writer*

As someone who walks to school, I have had to sprint across my block back to my house multiple times after forgetting my mask.

My family has a large bucket of masks that we can all take from, in addition to our personal masks. Every time we leave the house, we pick a mask to wear. While it may seem normal to us now, this would have been strange, even shocking to consider until re-

cently.

Just over a year ago, we were missing an entire new part of our wardrobe that has become as common as a shirt now. While some restrictions are being levied, especially for those who are vaccinated and in open areas, masks are still a necessary part of our lives. It's odd to think that within a week of masks being brought up as a necessary preventative measure to the pandemic, most people had acquired and began wearing masks.

Now that many of us have been allowed to see others more frequently, it has become increasingly clear that masks can be a way to express yourself, just like any other clothing item. In fact, when a group of OWL students were surveyed, about 15% stated that aesthetics were something they cared about as much as the health benefits that come with wearing a mask. So that begs the question: how do you make your face fabric fully fantastic?

Obviously wearing a mask

with a design is an easy place to start. Sixty percent of students stated that they preferred a mask with a design over a plain surgical mask. What your mask ideal looks like will depend on what you want to express. When students were asked to describe their favorite mask they owned, responses ranged from a simple black Adidas mask to one akin to a band T-shirt. It seems that the most common type, however, was a simple repeating pattern:

**Masks, 5**





Purple Press Staff Photo

The cast of *Twelfth Night* had to learn how to project their voices, outdoors, while wearing masks.

# “We can’t hear you”

*Twelfth Night* cast wrestles with projection

**Helena Squires Mosher**  
Staff Writer

For the cast and crew of OWL’s *Twelfth Night*, putting on a play during a pandemic meant rehearsing distanced, with masks, on the four square court. For about a month, after school we’d meet in the theatre, then go down to the cafeteria and take turns running through scenes outside. Spacing wasn’t much of an issue (“downstage left” became “the king square”) and with just the stage manager and director watching from the steps, everyone could be heard.

So, moving to the Boat Club the week before the show was a rude awakening. After weeks on uncertainty about where the play would actually take place, we reserved the outdoor space at the Minnesota Boat Club, a popular wedding venue on Raspberry Island. On Tuesday May 18th, the group walked from OWL to the island--while I and a privileged few drove down--and got to our actual performance venue. The Boat Club is a nice building, it has even nicer bathrooms, and it’s side patio where we were to perform overlooks the river and downtown.

These positives were quickly overshadowed by the fact that as an audience member, it’s really hard to hear actors when they’re masked and yards away from you. And as an actor, it’s frustrating to know that even if you’re really trying to be louder, people in the back still can’t hear you. Sometimes I have to repeat myself when I’m like two feet away from someone, so saying lines with a mask, far away from spectators, is tough. After a few days of running through the show, and struggling to hear your cues from backstage, some of us actors huddled up. This wasn’t gonna work, was the consensus. Sure, it’d work for the lucky few who get to sit in the front row, but otherwise, it’d be like a silent performance.

The last few days of rehearsal consisted of trial and error, as we tried to amend

this problem with different types of masks, and trying not to yell while projecting extra loud. Face shields and clear masks were donned by some of the leads, and while better for hearing, face shields aren’t as effective as regular masks and clear face masks are kinda creepy and attract spit. I don’t think audiences want to see that.

Going into show week, there were whispers of maybe performing mask-less or trying out microphones, but things were still unclear. However, the Monday before the final dress rehearsal, our director Rebekah Rentzel and head-script-writer Iris Carroll announced that we’d be getting mics the following day.

Honestly, I thought there was no way we’d figure out mics the day before the show. Having done plays with body mics at a professional theater, I know that they take time to integrate into the show, and a lot can go wrong.

But by some miracle--and the last-minute addition of sound guy Nathaniel--the mics worked! Each actor got a mic, about the size of an iPhone, with a cord that gets taped to your face. When it’s on, your voice gets projected out of, in our case, two large speakers. The relief we felt as they worked on the first try? Unmatched. Being heard is cool, and wearing a mic does make you feel more professional.

After all that hassle, opening night went really well. It was a full house, we got quite a few laughs, and it wasn’t too weird that even if you were off-stage, the audience could still kinda see you. Our “backstage” was the side of the Boat Club building, and back by some plants and driftwood. Considering the circumstances of the past few months, it felt good to get a near-seamless run of the show, and even better when our stage manager-senior William Moberg texted the group chat that it was our best run of the show yet.

Oh, and the second--and last--show had to be cancelled due to rain.

# Theater in these strange times

*How OWL worked around the pandemic to stage a show*

**Avery Koll**  
Staff Writer

Huddled, but distanced, under a pop-up tent outside in the cold and rain... Not really where you’d expect to find theater practice. But this year, that just might be where you find it.

With school going back in person, theater teacher Rebekah Rentzel decided to start production for a show. Keeping the trend of doing Shakespeare every other year, Rebekah chose to put on *Twelfth Night*, which was adapted to take place in the early 2000’s by this year’s AP English students, the actors, and is senior Iris Carroll’s senior project.

At the end of quarter three, Rebekah held virtual auditions for the show. Actors had the chance to audition over a Google Meet with Rebekah, or record themselves reading the monologues provided. Very soon after, call backs were held over Meet as well. We were split into groups to

practice the scenes, and then performed them for Rebekah. After receiving our roles, we did a readthrough of the script to get a sense of the character before going on spring break. The Thursday and Friday after returning back to school, we met over Meet to read through the rest of the script.

On Monday, April 19th, we had our first in-person practice. We first met in the auditorium, and then moved down to the four-square court to start blocking the show. During the first few weeks of practice the script was still being worked on, so we just did basic blocking for the scenes. After blocking, actors were tasked to help build their characters. On May 3rd, a final version of the script was handed out to the actors, and all that was left was to memorize lines and add that little bit more to what was already blocked. And of course, to put on the show.

Since we couldn’t do the

play in the theater, we had to look at outside venues. We were looking at a few parks near the school, and the Minnesota Boat Club allowed us to use their wedding venue on Raspberry Island. On May 18th, we had our first tech rehearsal at the venue. We first met in the auditorium and then made our way down to the venue, some bringing sets, props and costumes in our vehicles.

Many of our practice days at Raspberry Island were plagued with hot weather and rain, but we still were able to get a feel for the space. There was some discussion about doing the show without masks, only for those speaking onstage, but ultimately there was too much worry so the show was done masked.

Since the show was being done masked, there was a bit more push for possibly getting us mics, so OWL parent Ginger Carroll helped us get

someone who could run them. This all happened the week of the play, and the day before opening is when we got our mics. Luckily, a decent amount of us knew the basics of having a mic, and those who didn’t learned pretty quickly with the aid of others.

The week of the show we were keeping a watchful eye on the weather. For a while the forecast predicted rain during our performance nights. Luckily, the opening night’s forecast looked perfect, though the second night looked cold and wet. So to compensate for the forecast of rain, we treated our first night like it was our last night, and invited everyone. It was a packed house. We tried to find a way to reschedule the second show to the following week, but were unable to make time tables line up, so our first show ended up being our last after all.

# Adapting the bard

## *OWL’s rewrite of Twelfth Night set in LA*

**Hazel Carroll**  
Staff Writer

For those who viewed this year’s production of *Twelfth Night* at Raspberry Island, you may have been confused at the lack of that classic Shakespearean language. The reason behind this is simple: an OWL first, this year’s Shakespeare production was completely reimagined and written by Iris Carroll and the students of Leo Bickelhaupt’s AP Literature class.

Every two or so years the OWL theatre department performs a Shakespeare show with the help of Leo’s AP Lit class. This year, however, senior Iris Carroll decided to mix it up a bit. Along with splitting and analyzing each act of the show, the class proceeded to adapt it to modern language and setting.

Instead of a Renaissance period Court Comedy, the

story now takes place in Los Angeles’s music industry scene in the early 2000s. Orsino has gone from Count to CEO of the hit record label Duke Records, Olivia is an ex-riot grrl, Antonio is an internet pirate, and Viola and Sebastian are a brother and sister duo trying to break into the music industry.

The idea started after Iris read the original script but was left confused by the ending. “It seemed out of nowhere to me that Orsino and Viola got together and Olivia was happy being married to Sebastian,” she says. So she brought her idea to Theater teacher Rebekah Rentzel, who immediately put it into motion.

Iris wouldn’t be doing this alone, however. “Adapting a full script is a huge job,” Rebekah said, “[and] Leo and I have been trying to work together (his AP English class

usually creates the program).” They recruited students from Leo’s class as well as members of the Theatre Advisory Board to help.

Before anyone could start writing (or maybe more appropriate: rewriting), they had to brainstorm, “We had all these ideas about it that we thought were hilarious but never made it into the script,” said junior Maggie Morris, one of the head writers. Once the plan was in place, they set to splitting up the show. “We organized the show by scenes we would translate by ourselves and scenes the English class would translate,” explained Iris.

Though it may seem simple, the actual process was anything but. Things only got more complicated when rehearsals began. “I think the most challenging part of any new script development process is that you’re building the plane while you’re flying it,” said Rebekah. Often the writers would think they were

done with a scene, only to see it performed and realize it didn’t make sense. “It seemed like every time we made one part of the script really work, it would cause another part to need changes,” said senior Carter Peterson Antin, “it was a lot of constant back and forth to really make everything fit.”

“The most challenging part was that last stage of making sure the script was tonally consistent,” says Maggie, “hats off to Iris for doing the huge majority of that detail work.”

Ultimately, though there may have been challenges, the team came together and ended up with a final product that debuted on front of a live audience. Rebekah summed it up best: “The most important thing about this play for me was, how do we rebuild community after a year of being apart. So just getting a chance to perform with each other, to be outside, to create something new, that’s all really exciting to me. I’m just really grateful we get to do it.”

# Softball team wraps up season

## *“Everyone on the team is so supportive and uplifting.”*

**Antonio Rosell**  
Staff Writer

The softball team at Humboldt likes to sing songs such as “Beautiful Girls” by Sean Kingston on the bus when they’re going to a game. “It’s a good way to get us in a good mood/hyped and it’s a great team bonding moment, plus it’s funny when you get the weird looks from the coaches,” said 11th grader Chyanne Braun, who is a pitcher on the team.

The team has lost most of their games but have won several. 10th grader Dani Butler said that winning against Brooklyn Center was a highlight of the season. Many of the team’s games are within the metro area, but they had one game in Pine Island. The team mostly consists of Humboldt students, but there are a few OWL students on the team.

Early into their season, two of the girls on the team tested positive for COVID-19 and



Purple Press Staff Photo

The Hawks softball team finished 6-10 in all conference and non-conference games.



# Eli’s tips to increase odds of catching fish

*When and where to fish, which lures to use, and much more*

**Eli Berg**  
Staff Writer

Now that it is summer and the lakes are warming it is a great time to get out the pole and go fishing. That’s why in this article I will be talking about fishing, more specifically 7 great ways to increase your odds of catching fish.

For the purpose of this article, all of the bodies of water mentioned will be in the Twin Cities because these are locations accessible to a student whose only modes of transport are bike, bus, or feet.

Obviously, fishing is easiest when the fish are biting. This can be annoying because it can seem inconsistent, but it is not. In fact, fish feed on schedules based on the moon. As a rule of thumb, feeding frenzies are at dusk and dawn. To get more accurate times, I recommend checking your local paper. Although fish feeding schedules may vary based on the place where you fish, they are often helpful. The weather also plays a role. Fish will often have a feeding frenzy after a rain, so this can be a good time to fish.

However, the cloudy water may impact the types of fish that you catch because sight predators will have a harder time catching the bait.

What you’re fishing for will affect where you fish. If you’re fishing for larger fish like catfish, muskellunge or northern pike, you should check in rivers. Good places to fish are under dams where the water is aerated and on bends in the river where the current is weaker, allowing the fish to “let their gills down.” If you’re after smaller fish like panfish, crappie or bass, check in lakes which have grasses where smaller fish can hide. Remember to look at the DNR website to find out your limits for each fish.

I’m not going to talk about artificial lures because they’re costly and I don’t know enough about them. (If you are an artificial lure expert, let’s talk.) However, that doesn’t mean you don’t have bait. Worms, wax worms, minnows and leeches make great all-around bait. They work reasonably well for almost any fish, but

they don’t do anything exceptionally well. For catfish I would recommend just about anything, especially things that smell. Bait like blood, canned corn and cheese work well. For fish like northern pike and muskie, try Daredevils—especially if you’re trolling. The way they flash is very tempting to these predators.

I don’t want to say a lot about hooks because there are many types of hooks in many different sizes, but if fish keep coming off the hook make sure you’re using a barbed hook. They’re legal in Minnesota and unbelievably helpful in keeping fish on the line. Also, if you’re fishing for fish like northern pike, make sure you have a leader. They make it easier to change out the hooks you’re using and harder for the fish to bite through the line.

As far as fishing poles, I don’t have much to say for this because, surprise surprise, I am not an expert. What I do think is that everyone should have a rod with an open bail. Not only is it easier to cast with, but when you inevitably get a tangle or run out of line it’s easier to fix because you don’t have to remove the cov-

er. It is easy to notice a tangle before you turn it into a knot.

Extra gear is a luxury, although some of it is well worth having. Get a long and a short pair of pliers. Use the long pliers to remove hooks and the short ones to cut and pull the line taut. You should also have a jackknife or a lighter in case you get a tangle, because although pliers can usually cut lines, sometimes you need something quick. If you plan to keep fish you should have a fillet knife. Although you can use other types of knives, this is a much more versatile knife when preparing fish.

Apps are an angler’s best friend. If you don’t know where to fish, there are apps where people will post pictures of what they caught on a map. And if you don’t remember a knot and you don’t want to go home to look at a book, you can go onto an app and figure it out. Many apps even have step-by-step guides and videos showing you how to tie knots. I’m not saying you shouldn’t learn where it is best to fish or learn the knots you need to know, but it is helpful.

I hope the fish are biting and the mosquitoes aren’t.

# For the love of books

## Library clubs focus on student voice, service

**Hiroko Zeleke**  
Staff Writer

Over the years, OWL’s library has evolved a lot. We all know librarian Caryl Mousseaux always seems to have book suggestions up her sleeve. But have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes? How are students involved in library development? I am going to introduce you to two student library groups at OWL that you may have heard of: the Student Library Advisory Council (SLAC) and the Youth Activist Book Club (YAC).

The Student Library Advisory Council formed in the fall of the 2019-20 school year and is run by Caryl. “A couple of years ago, my friend and

colleague Adayle Andrews, the librarian at Highland Park Middle School, had a brilliant idea: she wanted to create a student group for the library program. This group would offer a student’s perspective of the library and help to ensure that the library be a place for all students,” said Caryl. “I loved this idea! We teamed up and wrote an Ecolab grant we called, ‘Amplifying Student Voice in Our Libraries.’ It was approved, and OWL’s SLAC was born!”

SLAC meets once a week on Fridays. “We help with a lot of behind the scenes work in the library (i.e. writing grants/ordering books, coming up with events/activities, giving book recommendations, etc) as well

as sharing our love of reading!” said 7th grader Kate Houle. Some examples of work SLAC has done are planning author events such as the virtual Abby Cooper Q&A session, and doing book recommendations in community meetings.

Many students got involved because they love books. Senior Lucy Mullarky said her favorite part is “the people that make it like a second crew. Also all of the laughs that we have when we mess around, even with all of the inside jokes that we have.” Others said they enjoy talking to others who love books. This year, SLAC also got some new members. 6th grader Collin Larson, who is in both groups, said “I joined SLAC because I enjoy reading

and books. SLAC sounded like a group where I could read and give books recommendations (and get them in return), and it was!”

The Youth Activist Book Club, as you may be able to guess from the name, is a book club that focuses on activism. YAC formed in the summer of 2020, started by Caryl and theatre teacher Rebekah Rentzel. “In the wake of the murder of George Floyd and the uprising, there was a need expressed for students to read and learn together, but also to act on that learning,” said Rebekah. “We heard that desire and worked with a group of students to create a space to both read books around social justice

SLAC, 5

# Filibuster creates conflict

*What is a filibuster and why is it relevant right now?*

**Elijah Stende**  
Staff Writer

If you have listened to the news in the past couple of months you have probably heard about the filibuster, and if you are like me, you may be wondering what the heck is a filibuster, and why does it matter?

The filibuster is a stalling tactic used in the US Senate to stall a bill or to completely stop it. Popular ways of filibustering are through debating at length or by proposing multiple procedural motions. Generally,

the filibuster is used by the party that is in the minority, to prevent or delay a vote on a particular bill, amendment, resolution, or any other debatable question. At this time, the Senate is a 50-50 split, with the tie-breaking vote coming from Democratic Vice-President, Kamala Harris.

The reason the filibuster is big news right now is because a number of Democratic senators have been talking about eliminating the filibuster to increase the likelihood that the Senate will pass bills that do

not have bipartisan support. In the current climate, it is unlikely that Republicans will be willing to agree with any bills put forth by the Democratic controlled House.

Currently, the only way to end a filibuster on a bill is to invoke cloture, which forces the Senate to go to a vote. Cloture requires a supermajority--60 votes--to end debate and bring the filibustered bill to a vote. There is also the possibility of rewriting the rules surrounding the filibuster to allow a simple majority rather than a supermajority.

Interestingly, the filibuster is not written into the United

States Constitution. It first came into use during the 1850s when it was applied to efforts to hold a bill on the Senate floor to avoid passage.

Is the filibuster here to stay? Or can the two parties find some common ground from which to start working together to pass important legislation? If we were to actually get rid of the filibuster, how would that happen?

One way to combat how the filibuster is used is to change Rule 22, which is the cloture. According to Brookings.edu, this change is unlikely to happen partly because of the ex-

Filibuster, 10



Purple Press Staff Photo

This pair of shoes sold for \$200, despite retailing at \$170.

# Sneakerheads make money reselling shoes

**Getnet Witt**  
Staff Writer

Last week my dad was looking at some Jordan 1 Volts on the SNKRS app. They were white and black with a little bit of yellow and they were going for \$170 in a raffle. He showed them to me as soon as he saw them, and I already knew they were gonna be a hit. The draw (lottery) ended the next morning and my dad ended up getting them and I gave him \$170. A couple days later, I posted them for sale on Snapchat. My phone started to blow and I sold them for \$200.

I am a sneakerhead. What is a sneakerhead? A sneaker head is someone who loves sneakers, has multiple pairs of them, and keeps them all really clean. According to local sneakerhead Luke Leba, ELL teacher Bridget Leba’s husband, a sneaker head is “someone who loves to appreciate shoes on themselves or someone else, someone who takes care of their shoes.” Luke added that shoes can be “a way some people express themselves.” You can also be someone who tries to make a profit off of sneakers, that’s also another way of being a sneakerhead. I personally started to take care of my shoes more, and buy more shoes, after making some money off of them.

Luke first started getting

Sneakerhead, 9

Track, 2

echoed this, “The team has a great atmosphere and it has been fun to work towards best times.”

After a successful conference meet, the Humboldt track

and field team will be racing at the 4AA sections meet on June 8th and 10th, where the runners and the team’s shot put and discus throwers look to take personal bests.



Purple Press Staff Photo

The 2021 Humboldt track team has been successful this season in conference meets.



# Senior Spotlight

## Adrian Keller-Miller



**How many years have you been at OWL?**  
I've been at OWL for 7 years, I started in 6th grade.

**What are your plans for next year?**  
I am planning to attend The University of Minnesota Duluth and study graphic design next year.

**What's been your favorite class in high school?**  
Luke's history classes were my favorite because of the projects we did.

**What extracurriculars are you involved in?**  
I play ultimate frisbee, and I played soccer.

**Favorite field work trip and why?**  
Outward Bound trip to Hurricane Island in Maine, it was overall a very fun and memorable experience.

**If you had a walk up song, what would it be?**  
Too Comfortable by Future.

# That One Little Kid

## Claire Ales

**How tall are you?**  
Probably about 5'2".

**What's your favorite class so far and why?**  
ELA, we do a bunch of really cool projects.

**Who's your favorite senior?**  
I don't really have a favorite senior.

**Where do you think you're going to go for college?**  
I'm not really sure, I don't know a lot of them.

**What's the best thing about distance learning?**  
You could get all your work done at home and then do whatever you wanted.

**What's the worst thing about distance learning?**  
You couldn't be actually at school and see your friends.

**What extracurriculars have you been involved in this year?**  
I was in Student Library Advisory Council.



**SLAC, 4**  
issues and commit to taking action to make change."

YAC also meets once a week on Fridays. "We usually start by reading a book, and then have a discussion about it and how we can connect it to the issues in our life," Kate said. "Some topics we've done this with are: BLM/police brutality, AAPI hate crimes/incidents, etc." Rebekah also invited some YAC-ers to come to a PTO meeting to discuss getting some more books on activism in the library. "One of the actions YAC wanted to take was to acquire more books written by authors of color in the library," she said. "The activism needed was to show up to the PTO (OWL Community Group) meetings to make that request for funds. It was important that the PTO know what students want, and for students to get the experience advocating for funding or speaking to the people in power. It's also good for students to know they can join the OWL Community Group and help make those choices around funding themselves. (Really! Just go to a meeting!)"

Why did students in YAC decide to get involved? "I thought it sounded really interesting and the student activism side of it especially interested me," said 11th grader

Mae Wrigley, "I also thought it was a cool opportunity to have in depth conversations with students whom I might otherwise not get the chance to talk to." Kate agreed: "I didn't have anywhere to share my thoughts/opinions about our world's current injustices, but YAC gave me a place to speak up and make a difference. Collin said, "My favorite part about being in YAC is also the booklists we make, and the discussions and resources we talk about and share with the school. I like reading the awesome books we talk about, so this has also been really fun for me!"

Throughout the year, YAC has read several books. A majority said they really liked Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds, a novel in verse about gun violence. Some other favorites were Elatsoe by Darcie Little Badger, Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes, and Almost American Girl by Robin Ha.

When asking students in both groups about why it's important for students to be involved in what happens in the library, one student who would like to remain anonymous said "It's important because books can be incredibly meaningful, and not only are entertainment but also can teach people things they didn't know, or hu-

manize people different from the reader, or help the reader through something they've been struggling with. Students should be involved in choosing the books they read and discuss in order to have more meaningful books for them be chosen and highlighted." 7th grader Anson Lind said "I believe that it is very important, libraries need people to work on them to succeed." Caryl said, "The library belongs to the students! When they participate in decision-making processes, they help to ensure that the library is a comfortable, accepting, inclusive place for all students. Their voices are essential to creating a space that meets all students' needs."

Since SLAC was started before the pandemic, like most things, they had to shift virtually. When asked about the transition between in-person and virtual, Kate and Lucy,

who both have been in the group since the beginning, agreed that SLAC did well with it. "Honestly it wasn't that different. The biggest change was that we were doing less work with physical books, and more stuff through our digital library. SLAC took the challenge head on, and we're still having just as much fun!" said Kate. "I feel like SLAC did pretty well with the transition to virtual. Even with the typical glitches of distance learning being new, I feel like we all did really well and became a lot closer," Lucy said.

Now that you know about these groups, Kate has some advice. "Don't judge a book by its cover. We may look like insane bookish groups, but we're actually fun-loving & nice bookish groups that everyone should consider signing up for!"



**A meeting of the Student Library Advisory Council over Google Meets.**

**Softball, 3**  
the team quarantined, missing practices and even having to reschedule their games. By the time they came back, they only

had two practice days before their first game. Chyanne said, "It was certainly hectic but it worked out eventually."

The team seems to enjoy

playing softball and being with each other. "Everyone on the team is so supportive and uplifting," said Chyanne. As a transfer student, Dani is not

allowed to play in games, but she also likes spending time with her teammates.

# Are students glad they came back in-person?

*"I didn't learn anything the whole year until I was back in-person."*

**Cooper Peterson Antin**  
Staff Writer

In early March, every OWL household received an email with a simple, but important, question: Will you be returning to in-person learning or will you continue distance learning for the rest of the year? If you went back in person, you could always switch to online. But if you chose online, it was irreversible. About 75% of students are back in-person for quarter four. Seniors and sixth graders had the most returning students, while eighth grade had the least. Coming back in-person has its positives, but are all students glad they came back?

There were many pros that came along with in-person learning. 9th grader Levi Cooper said that he is able to be more successful now that he is in-person. "It's easier now," said Levi. "In geometry I didn't learn anything the whole year until I was back in-person. Now I understand better." A lot of people liked being able to interact with peers and teachers again. "I like that I get to talk to people, and interact with teachers and peers," said 9th grader Willa Campion. "It's nice seeing everyone before I graduate," said senior Lily Hennessee.

Distance learning provided its own challenges and benefits. Since students only had to attend two one-hour class periods a day, and schedules were much more flexible. They

were able to spend only as much time as they needed on school work, and then could spend the rest as they choose. However, along with this came a drop in motivation and work completion.

But, not every change from distance learning is positive. "Especially for seniors, there's not much to do," said Lily. 10th grader Otis King said that the biggest negative for him was just having to "do school" again. "There is not as much flexibility with my schedule now," said Willa.

While the new schedule isn't ideal, most students tolerate it. "I think it's fine. With the two-and-a-half-hour class periods, I wish we could have set aside some time for in-person crew," said Otis. Levi likes that there's enough time to complete his work, but he finds that there is a lot of extra time in class. "Two hours is too long," said Levi. Additionally, senior Elijah Ojo remarked, "I definitely think it's too much for one class, but I've gotten used to it. Time has flown by."

While students' positives and negatives were different, every student answered the same to the question "Are you glad you came back?": "Yes." In-person learning has helped people connect and interact with peers and teachers more. It's also given people more motivation to complete work. So while it might not be perfect, students think it's a better alternative than distance learning.

**Masks, 2**  
cute foxes, flowers, stripes, etc. It seems the goal of having a unique mask is usually to represent yourself or show off an interesting design.

But obviously looks aren't the only important part of a good mask. Comfort, ease, and practicality can be as if not more important factors. While some people described how their favorite mask looked, several talked about features such as wiring to move it from one's face a bit, or a clip that prevents it from slipping.

It seems that in terms of comfort, people much prefer masks that tie behind their head than those that loop around the ears. This design causes less strain, and is easier to wear casually around the neck. Additional factors people might consider include breathability and temperature. Several people stated that they had high brand loyalty to certain masks. Educational assistant Edric Lysne, for example, prefers the K95, which is breathable and effective.

It seems like masks may not be a part of our lives for much longer. Vaccine age restrictions have been lowered, and many mask mandates have been lifted. While it's great to know

that we're finally seeing the other side of the tunnel when it comes to COVID, it'll always be strange to look back at this time. For just over a year, a new piece of attire appeared in our lives. However, it appears masks will be a landmark in our lives for years to come. When surveyed, 27% of students said they'd like to wear a mask for at least a month after the mandate ends, and 12% of students said they'd like to wear a mask for a year or much longer. A mask can protect you, protect others, and express yourself in a whole new way, and that's something to be appreciated.



Purple Press Staff Photo

**Eighth grader Ani-Maria Moore sports a rainbow kitty mask as part of her fashion statement earlier this week.**





# Reviews ‘n’ stuff



## Trumpism retrospective

*The Republican party has been leaning this way for years*

**Maxwell Juvland**  
Staff Writer

Liz Cheney is a relic of a bygone era of conservative politics. Joined by family of late Senator John McCain and countless other Republican election officials, Cheney has been thrown out of power, lambasted by Republicans nationwide, and is at risk of losing to a primary challenger come next season. What terrible thing must Liz Cheney have done to earn so much scorn and fury, even as fringe congressional firebrands Matt Gaetz and Marjorie Taylor Greene have maintained much of their legitimacy among GOP voters?

She said Former President Donald Trump lost the 2020 Presidential Election.

In the aftermath of the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections, many have been left bewildered by the wild ideological swings of the Republican Party in a matter of only a few years. To many, it seems as if the modern GOP looks nothing like the GOP they once knew, or even the GOP under the Obama administration. But the evolution of the Republican Party is a lot less wild than one might assume, and through examining it, we can better understand the current state of the Party, and cut through some of the uncertainty on where its future may lie.

The beginnings of Trumpism and Republican populism can be traced back to several figures and events, far before

their explosion into the mainstream in the Republican primary season in 2015. First, one can go all the way back to former Speaker of the House of Representatives Newt Gingrich to find the roots of the partisan divides that currently define American politics. In the impeachment of Bill Clinton, the budget government shutdowns, and other drama of the time, one can find many parallels with the political conflicts of the modern day. These aggressive methods of diametrically opposing the incumbent administration would become more and more commonly used as the years went on.

Secondly, one can go back to the populist campaigns of Ross Perot and especially Pat Buchanan to find the basis of Donald Trump's oddball ideology, and the formation of a populist right wing base in American politics simply waiting to be tapped into by a Trump-esque figure. Themes of anti-immigrant sentiment, border security, and other such policies more or less originated on the federal level with these candidates.

Third, and in my opinion, most importantly, the Tea Party Movement of the early 2010's. On the surface, the Tea Party was focused primarily on combating overly high taxes and the fiscal policy of the Obama administration, but deeper down it became a home for right wing populism and aggressive anti-Democrat beliefs, bolstering the afore-

mentioned untapped base of right wing populists into an angry and highly politically motivated wing of the Republican Party.

When Donald Trump hit the scene in 2015, he was largely mocked for believing he could win, with his over the top campaign and unorthodox policies making him somewhat of a laughing stock. But with eye grabbing debate performances and strong showings in early primaries, President Donald Trump began to develop into a serious possibility. A panicked GOP attempted to stop him from getting the nomination, but finding themselves doing too little, too late, and with the GOP unable to unify behind one anti-Trump candidate, Trump moved forward to clinch the Republican nomination. What followed was a long and dirty general election, with the respective candidates of each party being incredibly unpopular, and the American electorate scared for their future either way. But of course, Donald Trump won, and his Presidency would irreparably affect Republican and national politics.

While there had been much anti-Trump sentiment throughout the GOP during the primary and even general election, with a Trump spear-headed trifecta, most felt the need to gradually fall in line and take electoral advantage of the powerful Trump base. Notable figures like Ted Cruz and Rand Paul went from being strong critics of Trump's agenda to strong supporters

Trumpism, 9



## Crumbl cookies fails to live up to the hype

**Lily Hennessee**  
Staff Writer

If you're like me, you've seen Crumbl Cookies all over your TikTok. No joke, I get at least five review videos per day on my For You page about Crumbl Cookies. There's literally people out there that go every single week to review the new flavors.

For those who don't know, Crumbl is a trendy new cookie place that has four new flavors every single week (which, by the way, is one of the weirdest business models I've ever heard of).

Whenever I saw these videos, I assumed they were only in big cities, like Chicago or Los Angeles. However, when I found out there are two locations right here in Minnesota, I couldn't help myself. I had to go see if Crumbl was worth the hype.

I will say, getting Crumbl Cookies was quite the journey. The closest location is in Apple Valley, but that didn't stop me.

I was so dedicated to this journey that I filled up my gas tank and endured the thirty minute drive to the suburbs. I'll admit, I'm one of \*those\* people that intentionally avoids driving on the highway, but for Crumbl I buckled up and faced my fear.

When I arrived, I wasn't surprised by what I found, but I was definitely disgusted. First of all, there was a line out the door. Secondly, I'd say about half of the people there didn't have a mask. Again, it's Apple Valley, so not super surprising. The inside of the store was very minimalistic, and you could either place your order on an iPad or in person. I'm not sure if this was a COVID protocol or just for fun, but either way I think it's a good idea.

The employees taking orders were all wearing the same aprons, so I assume the people who work as cashiers also do the baking. Luckily, the line moved fairly quickly and I was able to get my cookies in about 10 minutes, and get the heck

“A huge waste of time and money.”

out of Apple Valley.

I chose to get a four-piece box of the cookies of the week. Never in my life did I think I would be paying \$15 for four cookies, so I just prayed that it would be worth it. Spoiler alert: It was not. The four flavors were chocolate cake, lemon, pink velvet, and “Mom's Recipe”.

I started with pink velvet, because I figured I would like it the least. Surprisingly, I liked it a decent amount. I couldn't tell you what “pink velvet” is supposed to mean, or how it's different from red velvet, but that's besides the point. The cream cheese frosting was fluffy, and the cookie was nicely cooked. Overall, I give this flavor a 7/10. The flavors were there, but it wasn't super unique or outstanding.

Next was lemon. I knew I was going to hate this one, as I'm an active hater of lemon desserts. I give this one a 4/10, because the lemon wasn't that

Crumbl, 8

## Atlanta shooting elicits waves of raw emotion

*Still more anti-Asian acts*

**Hiroko Zeleke**  
Staff Writer

On the evening of March 16th, 2021, I remember my mom telling me there was a mass shooting in Atlanta targeting Asian people. My initial reaction? Not surprised at all. I knew since the beginning of the pandemic that anti-Asian hate crimes and incidents had risen 150%, according to the organization Stop AAPI Hate. I went to bed that night with no trouble falling asleep.

The next day, however, we learned more about the shooting. It happened at three Asian owned spa businesses in Atlanta, and eight people were killed. Six of them were Asian women, and the shooter was a white male. I was pretty horrified and doing all sorts of

searching online, but still, it hadn't really hit me what had happened. That is until the then-captain of the county's police tried to humanize the shooter by saying that “he was having a bad day.”

That is the moment I was hit hard. A bad day?! Eight people were killed!!! And six of them were women of Asian descent! That's not what you do on a bad day. I can't really explain just how angry, sad, and disturbed that made me feel as someone of Asian descent. When news reports said, “They don't know the motivation,” or, “We can't say it was racially motivated,” but the shootings happened specifically at three Asian businesses? How can that be a coincidence? How is that not targeting these people for their race and for their gender?

I was up all night, terrified, worried, angry, and shaken up. I didn't want my mom to go anywhere on her own, being an Asian woman. I started learning and planning to be

prepared for a situation, maybe not quite on the scale of a shooting, but any situation if we're faced with hate. I was acting suspicious of everyone out of fear. Atlanta still has a lasting effect on me, even a couple months later.

What bothered me the most was that anti-Asian hate was increasing rapidly, but the media didn't really focus on it until people were killed. Until that moment, I'd heard no one talking about the rising issue that I knew was happening this whole time. Asian American communities across the country knew it was a big issue. Racism and xenophobia towards Asians is nothing new. It has existed for centuries in different forms, and now the pandemic has shaped another one. But this tragic event also brought together many people, to send a message that hate in every form is wrong, and I really hope we continue to send the message that the real virus is hate.

## Timberwolves hire new coach and manage to end season on a high note

*Also, Tom is an Andrew Wiggins hater*

**Mintesinot Sisay**  
Staff Writer

While the 2020-21 NBA season wasn't too kind to the Timberwolves, there were some bright spots. They fired young head coach Ryan Saunders and hired Chris Finch, a product of the Nick Nurse Toronto Raptors coaching tree. Rookie Anthony Edwards played at a level that suggests to many that he should be awarded rookie of the year (unfortunately for Minnesota fans, LaMelo Ball exists and he will most likely get the award). Edwards averaged about 19 points, 5 rebounds, and 3 assists per game.

When the Wolves had a mostly healthy roster, they played very well. Minnesota had a stretch towards the end of the season, where they won 5 of 6 games. Within the last 20 or so contests, they had big wins against very strong teams, like the Miami Heat, Dallas Mavericks, Golden State War-

riors, and back to back wins over the Utah Jazz. The two against the Jazz were the most impressive wins in their entire season, as Utah ranked 4th in defensive rating in the entire NBA, and 4th in offensive rating to go along with the best record in the league at 52-20.

A downside to Minnesota's late season winning is that they will most likely slip in the draft. If the wolves' pick slides down further than number three, the Warriors will receive it, via a trade made last year, in which Minnesota sent Andrew Wiggins and a top 3 protected draft pick for D'Angelo Russell. The NBA restructured their

lottery so the 14 teams who failed to get into the playoffs all participate in the lottery, and the bottom 3 teams each have a 14% chance of getting the number one pick. Minnesota has the sixth worst record in the league, giving them only a 9% chance for that number one pick.

The Timberwolves have an at times potent offense, which includes star D'Angelo Russell, and perhaps the league's greatest shooting center in Karl-Anthony Towns. Guard Malik Beasley had a very good season in the games he did play. Unfortunately he was

Wolves, 10



Timberwolves star player D'Angelo Russell.

NBA



# Read Brave book delivers

*Author has created meaningful characters that are easy for readers to connect with*

**Auria Cha**  
Staff Writer

Beautiful characters? Check. Magical and astrological? Check. Talks about LGBTQ+? Check. Super duper metaphorical? For sure! What am I listing, you ask? Well I'm just summing up what this year's Read Brave book means to me! 'The Stars and the Blackness Between Them' is a heart wrenching, awe inspiring, and astrology-filled book.

It also talks about LGBTQ+ and the struggles of having an illness or having close relations to someone with an illness. For starters, I definitely didn't see a lot of myself in this book, but in some way, it caught my attention and just clicked. Even though I couldn't relate to it often, I was able to sympathize with the characters and feel like I was transported into the book because of connections I made with the characters.

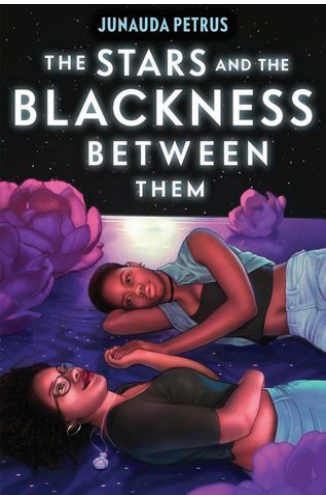
The book is written by Junauda Petrus, an activist, writer, playwright, and a creative performance/dance artist. She was born on Dakota land and is of West-Indian descent. Her work is known to center around African history and spirituality. Junauda was inspired by her parents and ancestors who immigrated from the Caribbean. 'The Stars and the Blackness Between Them' features two teens of African descent, Audre and Mabel. It takes place in Minneapolis and they even visit Lake Superior once in the book!

This book is about two Af-

rican teens, Audre from Trinidad and Mabel from Minnesota. Mabel is a bit more tomboyish whereas Audre is a very spiritual believer, having learned a lot from her grandma Queenie. She is sent overseas to live with her father in Minnesota because of her mother discovering her secret. Mabel discovers that her dad's friend's daughter is coming to Minnesota and meets Audre. The two become close and Mabel begins to develop feelings for Audre. Later, as time progresses between them, Mabel begins to become sick. Now they are fighting to stay strong for each other.

For starters, I didn't really think I could have connected with this story as an Asian American who isn't part of the LGBTQ+ community. Yet I was shocked and amazed at how many small connections I made. One of those connections was when Audre is having a deep conversation with her father, and although it's about her family issues, I could connect because I also go to my dad to have those deep discussions about things in life. The author managed to even just capture the small meaningful moments of a teen being open and vulnerable.

One minor critique I have is how the characters themselves develop. They are constantly worrying or either feeling these whirlwinds of emotions when in reality we don't always feel distressed. From a teen, soon to be a "young adult" as



adults say, to others, we aren't that emotional! Some are, but we know how to control them on our own as time goes on and in the moment they do scare us, but we discover how to grow independently.

That being said, when Mabel discovers her passion for astrology, the origin of the interest comes from an adult. I also could relate with that since my mom had introduced me to astrology during a rough period in my own life. I find that having an adult or someone trusting during those moments of whirlwind of emotions is what we often need or is comforting. Of course this isn't easy or what works for others, but sometimes a distraction or something positive can just lessen those feelings.

Overall, the book itself is amazingly beautiful and captured my heart. The poetic ways of certain writing and how they contain hidden messages in them are beyond mystical and deep. If you enjoy stories that talk about the LGBTQ+ community, supporting African American lives (and the fight for justice of crimes they didn't do), and self discovery, then this is for you! Even if you don't find this topic interesting, it's such a worthwhile book to read because of its strong, healing, and meaningful messages.

# Not for everyone

*Risk of Rain 2 loads of fun, but features an unusually steep learning curve*

**Cyprian Christensen**  
Staff Writer

This is a review. You should be scared.

Risk of Rain 2, known as RoR2, is a roguelike third person shooter indie game developed by Hopoo Games, released on March 28, 2019. It's the sequel to Risk of Rain. RoR is also a great game, the first of Hopoo Games' games. It's a 2d roguelike indie game that became a bit of a cult classic, and led to Hopoo games' relatively unexpected success.

RoR 2 developed heavily on the concepts that RoR was



built on. In both games, you collect items which buff your character in various ways, and that you can stack every item infinitely. RoR, although incredibly entertaining, did not always sell on this. Multiple items have a max level stack, and items that you would think would be in the vast majority of infinitely stackable items, the primary example being the item that increases your attack speed can only be stacked 13 times. There were also some balance issues in the game, and various bugs. Some of these problems can be attributed to the engine Hopoo was using, and others are most likely the result of them most likely not being the best programmers ever at the time.

But the glitches are half the fun. Once you've played enough of either of these games, which usually means you've unlocked almost everything and beaten the game multiple times, the next objective is to turn whatever you're using to play out this beautiful rabid moose of a game into an industrial furnace. I reminisce

fondly of the time me and my sister played a single run for 5 hours before our ps4 broke down crying and the game shut down.

Okay back to the actual game, specifically RoR 2. In the game, difficulty scales up with time. The longer you're playing, the more enemies will spawn, the more health they will have, and the more money and experience points they will drop. If you're trying to have a shorter run at the game, this is much more important, because of reasons. I don't want to spoil stuff but trust me on this. If you want to play the game and you live outside of South Dakota, i.e. you aren't made out of stale loaves of white bread, the timer doesn't matter. My personal philosophy for the game is 'if a run isn't at least two hours long, you haven't been playing long enough.'

You start off with your basic guy, the commando Although if you're playing the game on a computer a massive update just came out and you also start with the huntress. I will be primarily talking about the current console version of the

Risk of rain, 9

# Top 4 books you should consider reading

*Violet introduces her four best book suggestions for the summer of 2021*

**Violet Wright**  
Staff Writer

**A Wizard's Guide to Defensive Baking by T. Kingfisher**

The main character in this book is a 14 year old baker named Mona. She works with her Aunt Tabitha (who is the epitome of a badass woman), and the book starts in on the action immediately: With a dead body in the kitchen.

I really liked the way that Mona's character develops throughout the book. She insists that magicking bread is really a very minor talent--she can get the dough to rise right, or make sure the bread doesn't burn--and then she ends up being very important on a broader scale. When she gets over excited, she can sometimes make other things happen--the sourdough starter in the basement, whose name is Bob, is sentient and eats rats sometimes. The content of the book had some angsty moments, but interspersed with the way Mona says humorous things so matter-of-factly, it's very easy to get sucked into the plot. I give it a 9/10.

As a side note, if you like this book and the baking in the background, you may also enjoy A Trifle Dead by Livia Day, and Sunshine by Robin McKinley. A Trifle Dead is a murder mystery set in Tasmania starring a cafe owner, and Sunshine is about a baker in an

urban fantasy world with vampires and not enough world-building for me to be satisfied.

**The Midnight Bargain by C.L. Polk**

The Midnight Bargain is a fantasy book in a historical English setting, but where magic is a daily part of life, and you get more powerful magic by contracting with demons. Beatrice, the main character, needs to get married to bail her family out of debt, but is not excited about that, because that means that she needs to wear the marital collar, which locks away a woman's access to magic for the safety of their children. Beatrice is determined to practice magic--the highest honor for a man--and meets another woman who feels the same way. Falling in love with that woman's brother, however, was not in her plans.

I liked this book pretty well, though sometimes I had to put it down because Ianthe, the love interest, was being a product of his society (read: misogynistic and non-understanding), but character development is a wonderful thing. This one gets an 8/10.

**The Imaginary Corpse by Tyler Hayes**

The main character of The Imaginary Corpse is Tippy, an imaginary triceratops detective who was a companion to a little girl, there to help her make sense of the world. When her father died, Tippy couldn't

help her anymore, and so, a little too Real to disappear, Tippy fell into the Stillreal.

Tippy narrates the story to an outside observer, and the exposition is really well done. The setting is really interesting despite it's patchworkiness, and the mechanics of it are interesting and well explained. One of my favorite parts is the way Tippy, a stuffed animal, enjoys going for a spin in the dryer much the way a human might enjoy a long bath or a hot shower. It's got plenty of fluff, but also goes into some heavier topics. For example, Tippy has some trauma over the reason why he's in the Stillreal, and it does affect him. Also, he's a detective, and it's a murder mystery. Overall, a solid 10/10.

**Silk & Steel, an anthology edited by Janine A. Southard**

Silk and Steel is a book of 17 queer short stories, featuring pairs consisting of one gentlewoman and one warrior. I thought all of the stories were well written, and the plots in all of them were different enough that none of them felt like they were repeating themselves. I also liked how it was representative of so many cultures. The fluff contained in this anthology was pretty much exactly what I wanted, and I tore through it. One thing I am disappointed about is that since they're short stories, as soon as I'm really getting into the plot, the characters, and even the setting, the story is over. But on the whole, I really enjoyed this anthology and definitely recommend it. 9/10.

# Neurodiversity causes struggles in the classroom

*A story in verse about the struggles and challenges of being neurodiverse in an environment created with solely neurotypical students in mind*

**Emilia Sisson**  
Staff Writer

Have you ever had to present in a class

Where you couldn't do something like tap your foot and fidget

Or else you wouldn't pass? Has a teacher ever told you they wanted you to succeed

Then forced you to make eye contact

And you felt like it was getting hard to breathe?

Have you ever been overwhelmed by the noises all around

So you try to use noise cancelling headphones

But a teacher tells you that music and earbuds aren't allowed?

And have you ever been handed a test

With paragraphs so long and words so small which made it hard to read

Or made it hard to pay attention to which made you so

stressed?

But has a teacher ever handed you a fidget

And gave you a smile, saying they wanted the best for you

And wanted to help you cross all of life's difficult bridges?

Has a teacher ever told you Eye contact and good posture was suggested

But if it was too hard for you then don't worry because it wasn't required?

Has a teacher let you listen to music and work outside of the classroom

Because they realized how overwhelmed the working environment was

So a different space and your preferred noises was where you spent the afternoon?

Has a teacher ever gave you a hands on lesson

Knowing that it would help

you do better

And knowing that compared to a test, you'd be paying more attention?

You may not have been forced to not fidget before in school

But many others have.

You may have been fine with being graded on body language and eye contact

But many others may not have.

You may not have ever been overwhelmed by your learning environment before

But many others have.

And you may have been fine with a long wordy assignment or test

But many others may not have.

Classrooms were made for people who've never struggled with these things

But while they succeed, those who struggle are left in the dust sitting

Wondering how their education would be if they were "normal"

If only the education system viewed every learning style as normal.



# A Quiet Place 2 is fun but not much more

*Horror flick is an enjoyable watch, but comes far short of reaching its real potential*

**Jack Cheatham**  
Staff Writer

The summer blockbuster season is starting and with vaccination going well, theaters have reopened. No more will you have to watch the latest marvel movie on your tv



or phone and it feels great to go back. Unlike most years, a good amount of pushed back movies are finally going to be released, from Black Widow to The Green Knight. To kick it all off this memorial day weekend, one of the first pushbacks finally released, A Quiet Place Part 2.

A Quiet Place 2 is a sequel to the 2018 movie A Quiet Place and stars Emily Blunt, Noah Jupe, and Millicent Simmonds. The plot picks up where the first film left off, with the Abbot family leaving their home to try and find any remaining people. They meet Emmet who lets them stay at an old factory where

he lives. After hearing a song on the radio, Regan Abbot, played by Simmonds, heads south in hopes of uncovering the meaning of the song while Marcus, played by Jupe, and Evilyn, played by Blunt, stay back for Marcus to heal from a foot injury.

I will say before I review this film that I wasn't the biggest fan of the first movie, though a lot of people loved it. I thought it was entertaining but certainly had flaws and wasn't a horror masterpiece that many people made it out to be. Because of this, I didn't have super high expectations for the sequel and was just hoping for a fun time, which is exactly what I got. It had plenty of issues but I was fully entertained.

The first big appraisal for this is the tension the movie

Quiet Place, 10

## Summer movies to watch

**Otis King**  
Staff Writer

Disclaimer: this article is mostly a total joke so please don't take it TOO seriously.

With people getting vaccinated and everything that didn't go bankrupt opening back up again there are more and more releases being announced for this summer. Some to be excited about and some to roll your eyes at. Like any summer pretty much. Hey, I guess things really are getting back to normal. I'm gonna do a quick rundown of the releases I'm most excited about. I couldn't care less if any of the three people about to read this are excited or not so just shut up and listen to my thoughts about a handful of summer releases. I will count down based on how excited I am for the release.

FREE GUY - Where do I start. Just from the trailer this movie is already making me rip my eyes out with a pair of tongs I found underneath my stove. With that said I feel I should include a quick disclaimer right here: [this is my opinion and if you get offended by it there's nothing I can do about that. Except maybe suggest that you stop letting little things like this school newspaper article written by a 16 year old kid upset you and maybe try just living your life and having your opinions and not getting annoyed by people whose opinions differ from yours. And if you don't like how mean I am in expressing these opinions well how about you wake up and realize the world is mean. I'm basically conditioning you for the real world. So in summation you have your opinions and I have mine. But if you think this movie looks good, you're an idiot.] OH MY GOD CALM DOWN THAT LAST SENTENCE WAS A JOKE!

CANDYMAN - WOW how original. Another bland looking remake of a decent horror movie. I'm prepared to just not watch this movie. Actually

I'm not sure if its a remake or a sequel. Either way I already hate it. It's gonna take the slasher genre all too seriously and we'll end up with a bloody mess of ridiculous violence that adds up to nothing. Halloween 2018 ringing any bells? Of course it doesn't because I didn't write about it and my opinion is obviously held in very high regard by whoever the hell stuck around long enough in this stupid article to see this. I appreciate you, you mysterious idiot.

THE HITMAN'S WIFE'S BODYGUARD - wow look at that Ryan's Reynolds is already on here twice. Guess he's having a good year. I have a question for you: would you rather have an interesting narrative told to you in a visually striking way with great performances to bring it to life or be spoon fed a boring action comedy with like 2 good one liners. I'd like to say no judgement if you choose the second one, but that would just be a total lie. And like the great Ron Swanson, the only thing I hate more than lying is skim milk.

THE FOREVER PURGE - similar to the SAW franchise, this ridiculously macabre-for-no-reason series is getting another installment. This one is some kind of western. And like the SAW franchise, people will probably be disappointed with what they are given.

I can't claim to have seen any of the purge movies though. If you'd like me to watch them sign the petition below: [www.pleasedontmakemewatchanyofthepurgemoviesinsteadyoushouldgivememoneytogowatchthegreenknightwhenitcomesoutinju-lyandyesiwillbetalkingaboutthatmovielateroninthearticlebecauseitactuallylooksgoodunlikeanyofthepreviouslymentionedmovies.com](#)

THE SUICIDE SQUAD - Okay gonna be a little more serious with this one. Which I guess is funny, because they are trying to be less serious

with this movie. Eh it's actually not that funny. Anyway, I'm sort of looking forward to this movie I guess.

I hated the first one so much I never finished it. This one is relatively promising, but from the trailers it just honestly looks just a little bit like over-stylized action with a little bit of witty James Gunn dialogue. I'm not sure. I'm not gonna say it looks good, but it also doesn't look overwhelmingly bad like the previous entries on this list. Also, to add to that disclaimer a little while ago, [I'd like to let people know that I'm totally open to having these movies surprise me and actually be good. I actually hope they will.]

STILLWATER - Okay now we're starting to get into the movies I'm actually a little bit excited for. Stillwater looks interesting based on its trailer and I'm always excited to see Matt Damon maybe do something really good. The film centers around an oil-rig roughneck who goes to France to visit his daughter who is in prison for a crime she swore she didn't commit. Not the most original plot, but coming from the director of Spotlight the movie has promise.

SUMMER OF SOUL - this movie looks really cool. Questlove's directorial debut is a bright and colorful looking documentary about the Harlem Cultural festival that took place over the span of six weeks in 1969. I'm very excited to see it, not only because it's Questlove's debut as a filmmaker, but also because I'm very interested in learning about this festival.

THE GREEN KNIGHT - Personally my most anticipated film for the past two years now, as it was delayed twice. But on July 30th I will FINALLY be able to see it. Starring Dev Patel, this film is an adaptation of a poem entitled "Sir Gawain and the Green Knight" and is being produced by A24, every film nerds favorite production company.



**William Borer Seabloom**  
Staff Writer

Tenet, Chirstopher Nolan's latest Sci-Fi thriller, might just be his most negatively reviewed movie yet. While many of the reviews seem to be split, I feel strongly that while Tenet might not be his best movie, it is definitely worth a watch.

The movie follows the un-

## Good movie despite bad reviews

named protagonist as he attempts to save the world from people in the future scheming to kill them. The protagonist goes backwards and forwards in time in order to stop the guys from the future erasing their past. This plot leads to the movie feeling like a classic action movie, where the protagonist has to save the world, and the girl with lots of explosions along the way.

The movie's cool sci-fi part comes from how Christopher Nolan deals with time travel. In the movie people are able to go back in time but in reverse, watching everything happen backwards as they too are seen

as moving backwards for people in normal time.

I believe that despite the movie barely making any money, this movie is certainly not one to skip out on. Many of the negative reviews stemmed from people being dissatisfied with this "Gimmick." While I also found this part of the movie to be a little complex, it makes for an amazing second watch and a still enjoyable first watch. Overall, I think that this movie certainly wasn't what it could have been due to the pandemic, however it is definitely still worth a watch if not two.

## WandaVision

*The TV sensation gripping the nation*

**Elly Schibel**  
Staff Writer

About halfway through the first episode of WandaVision, the show cut to a commercial. This was strange, because Disney Plus doesn't have commercials.

The commercial was for something called the Toast-Mate 2000, a toaster that's supposed to "get the taste back in your toast." Then things get weird. See, up until this commercial, the episode has been all in black and white. But when the camera zooms in on the toaster, a light flashes bright red while the toaster ticks for a couple seconds longer, just enough to make it scary (and also sounds incredibly similar to the clashing of a certain billionaire-playboy-philanthropist's armor we all know and love, Tony Stark).

Then the toast pops out, ruins the moment, and a man ends the ad by saying, "The all-new ToastMate 2000 by Stark Industries!" Finally, a sort of title card appears, proclaiming: "Forget the past, this is your future!"

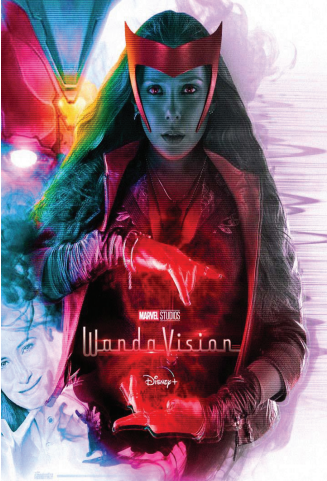
Creepy, right? That's only the FIRST episode; the calm

before the storm. I could write about ALL of the commercials and what they mean, but that would take up a lot of space.

WandaVision is one of the wackier shows I've seen in a long time. The show stars Elizabeth Olsen as Wanda Maximoff, and Paul Bettany as Vision. Lesser characters include Kathryn Hahn as Agnes/Agatha, Teyonah Parris as Monica Rambeau/Geraldine, and Randall Park as Jimmy Woo. The crew includes Matt Shakman (director), Jac Schaeffer (executive producer), Chuck Hayward (producer), and music by Kristen Anderson-Lopez. The composer is Christophe Beck. He and Anderson-Lopez were the musical duo who worked on Frozen and Frozen 2.

The show centers around Wanda Maximoff, a young adult witch who, in her grief over her husband's death, somehow finds a way to make everything alright again. Along her journey, she joins forces with other super powered individuals. The show is also a satire about sitcoms, the reason for which is explained late in the show.

A typical episode of the show is pretty standard for a sitcom: Laugh tracks, corny jokes, and all around zaniness. In the first episode, for example, Wanda has some mishaps with things she's wearing due



to her magic. Dishes break, and chaos ensues.

There are so many wonderful characters in this show from the Marvel Universe and such, but I have a few specific ones I want to talk about. Wanda's character development, first of all, is so interesting to me, and the whole confusion over how Vision is alive is fun. Also, there are lots of amazing cameos from Marvel characters from different movies and comics, who are revealed in such astonishing, tension-filled ways that are so fun to watch.

Now I, like any other person, had many opinions about many things in this show, but they were mostly all positive! The character development is so well acted and developed, the costumes are breathtaking, and I genuinely don't have many bad things to say about this show. Go watch WandaVision!

**Crumbl, 6**

strong. Even though I don't like lemon flavored treats, I think if they brand something as lemon it should taste like lemon. I'm a lemon dessert hater, but an even larger hater of false branding.

Hoping to be able to get a more positive review, I went for chocolate cake next. I don't have much to say about this one, it just tasted like chocolate cake (yay for accurate branding!). Overall I'd give it

a 5/10. Again, fine flavors, but nothing unique.

Lastly was my most anticipated cookie: Mom's Recipe. This was described as an oatmeal cookie with chocolate chips, peanut butter, and toffee chips. The combination of flavors sounded so perfect, so naturally I saved the best for last. Unfortunately, I was so very wrong. This cookie was extremely disappointing, and I give it a 2/10. Not only was it undercooked, but I also



Lily Hennessee

Lily was not impressed with Crumbl's cookies of the week or their prices.



# Four fantasy and science fiction series to read this summer

**Hazel Wright**  
Staff Writer

These are a few fantasy and science fiction series that I really like, and might make good reads for the summer! I got to a point with these reviews where I was just saying ‘highly recommended’ for all of them, so... just assume they’re all highly recommended! Now, onto the actual recommendations:

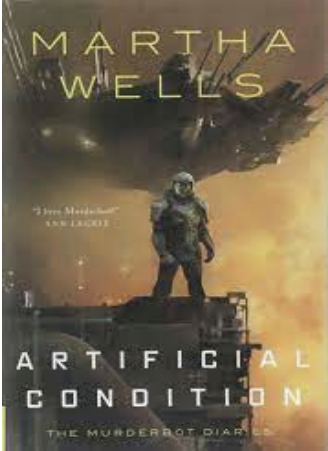
Enchanted Forest Chronicles by Patricia C. Wrede: This is a middle grade fantasy series, which I’m reasonably certain of because I recently tore through the latter three books of this four book series in a day or so. I have read this series before, and it’s really good. The characters are fun and well thought out. The cats in the third book are cat-like (and in the rest of the books, for that matter, but the POV



character in the third book is the only one that can actually understand the cats, besides, like, other cats and the dragons). There’s magic, and melting wizards, and, best of all, dragons. All in all, a great series.

The Murderbot Diaries by Martha Wells is a science fiction series that is mostly

made up of novellas. The series follows a SecUnit, which is a type of construct (part robot, part cloned organic tissue, because robots sometimes need organic processing components) that has hacked it’s government module and is now a scary rogue agent. Read: it wants to watch space televi-



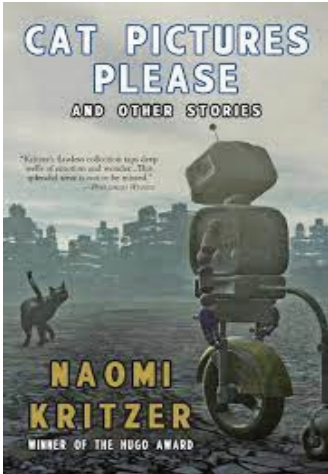
sion and be left alone. Except for the fact that the people on

it’s assignment are nice, and then things unfold from there. I really really love this series, and if some of you read it, I will be very happy.



Damar, by Robin McKinley: this is a fantasy series, and while there are apparently some shorter stories and/or sequels to the first two books, I’ve only ever read the first two, The Blue Sword and The

Hero and the Crown. The only reason I know there are more is because I looked it up on Goodreads to figure out what the series was actually called. These books are about the adventures of two strong female characters, set in a place called Damar. The Hero and the Crown is a prequel to The Blue Sword, and it tells a good story. I do, however, like The Blue



Sword better, although you may not. It’s got an interesting plotline, in both books, and I really liked this series.

CatNet by Naomi Kritzer is a series about an AI. But it’s not a malevolent AI, don’t worry: all they want to do is look at cat pictures. First introduced in ‘Cat Pictures Please,’ the AI really, truly, just wants to look at cat pictures, and try to be helpful. But mostly, cat pictures. There’s adventure. Humor. Cat pictures. This book is absolutely amazing and it is a travesty that more people haven’t read it. So, I am recommending it to all of you in hopes that someone will take some of my recommendations and give me more people who like the CatNet AI as much as I do.

Hopefully at least one of these series is what you’re looking for! Enjoy!

## Anti-trans laws springing up across the Southern U.S.

### Transgender youth face rampant discrimination

**Ted Dobbins**  
Staff Writer

So far, 2021 has sadly marked a record-breaking year for appalling and discriminatory anti-transgender laws, with many of these horrendous bills being proposed in conservative legislatures in the Southern U.S. Many of these bills would restrict the rights and privileges of transgender people, especially targeting transgender youth. Republican and conservative politicians are ridiculous claiming that they have reason for these discriminatory laws, but most of the country views these laws as extremely unjust and transphobic.

Over the spring of 2021, over 200 anti-transgender bills have been introduced in legislatures across the country. These bills would take away rights from transgender youth and communities. This wave of anti-transgender laws is almost the largest wave of anti-trans laws in the 21st century and certainly in the past de-

cade. Most of these bills would restrict certain transgender youth from participating in sports activities, require more identification/restrictions, and in some cases make it illegal for doctors to conduct gender affirming therapy or surgery for youth.

Over 31 states have so far introduced bills that would ban and prohibit transgender youth from participating in sports, and many of these bills target transgender women specifically. Already in the states of Mississippi, Arkansas and Tennessee, bills like these have been signed into law. In Idaho, a fierce battle has gone on for the past year or so, over a bill that would ban transgender women from participating in women’s sports. In a case in South Dakota, a similar bill was proposed, but to the shock of the conservative and LGBTQ+ community, Republican Governor Kristi Noem vetoed the bill. However, she later made executive orders banning transgender wom-

en from participating in high school and college sports.

Other bills have been introduced that would force more required identification for transgender youth in education, and also restrict their freedom to express themselves in education. For example, a bill introduced in Iowa would require signed parent approval and consent for teachers to discuss gender identity in classrooms. And another bill proposed in Arkansas would force teachers and educators to only refer to students with their pronouns of their sex-assigned-at-birth, and would prohibit teachers from referring to transgender students by their gender identities.

Roughly 20 extremely discriminatory bills have been introduced across the country that would prohibit or restrict the availability and opportunity to get gender affirming healthcare and therapy for transgender youth. Two bills introduced in Alabama and Texas would make it a felony

for medical workers to provide gender-affirming and transition related healthcare to minors, and a doctor or physician would lose their license and job if they did provide this healthcare to youth.

Kerith Conron, the research director at the UCLA Law Williams Institute, expressed many concerns about the implications of these bills, and that she thinks that the impact on transgender youth and in particularly their mental health could be devastating. And if many of these bills went into law, up to 1 in 4 transgender youth would be affected and impacted by these bans/restrictions.

So these bills would heavily impact the lives of transgender youth, and as seen these bills would restrict elements of daily life in these transgender youths lives. But what can we do as a community? What can everyday people do to support transgender youth in our community? And what can we do to support them if these bills are signed into law?

themselves off from the fringes and moderate their stance to win back suburban voters? This would alienate much of their hyper enthusiastic base, especially after Trump went hardline on his stances in the lead up to and aftermath of the 2020 election, but could salvage the GOP with defecting independents and moderates who miss the GOP of the 2000’s and early 2010’s. The former certainly seems more likely, (just ask Liz Cheney and the McCain family) but ultimately, only time will tell if the GOP continue down this new route of cultivating their base or attempt to return to form as a big tent right wing party.

White House, and Republican officials in the minority in Congress, one has to ask themselves, in the run up to the upcoming midterm elections, what message the GOP will be giving to the American people to try to win them over. Will they stand by Trumpism and continue spreading their message of right wing populism and loyalty to Former President Trump? This would certainly excite those who felt unrepresented by the GOP before the Trump years, although it could continue to hurt Republicans with moderate voters, who may feel compelled to vote third party or even join Biden’s Democrats.

Or, will they attempt to cut

#### Risk of rain, 7

game, since it is what I play on and you aren’t writing this. You start with the commando, who isn’t incredibly interesting. He’s got two guns, but other than that he isn’t that special. Pretty soon, however, you will unlock your next survivor. Each survivor in the game has its own personal flavor of amazing. Even the bad ones are fun (besides commando). Primary example, the next survivor you unlock is the huntress, who has a laser bow, and auto locks onto targets. Other survivors include a robot, a plant who is also a robot, a dog on acid that spits acid, and a space ninja.

The game also technically has a story, which you get entirely by reading item logs. Anyone who actually knows Dark Souls lore will enjoy this game just from the way you learn about the story. It’s pretty interesting, and the game gets plenty of points just for environmental storytelling even when most of the solid information is stuff you’re just reading, although if you aren’t playing on PC most of the items don’t have information logs yet. I don’t want to spoil anything since the world is pretty interesting, and it’s definitely worth sitting down for a while and reading through what’s available. All of the logs are also on the wiki page, but that’s cheating and you will be charged a hefty fine. On to the soundtrack.

Listen to the soundtrack. The soundtrack is by a guy named Chris Christodolo, and it’s very, very good.

RoR 2 has been finely tuned into a strange balance where

you are simultaneously terrified for your life and also the entirety of the U.S. congress on PCP driving T-32 model tanks wearing three piece suits made entirely out of chainsaws and napalm. But before you can get there, you must embark on a journey of training and personal discovery. If you really want to know how to play god in this game, start on the easiest difficulty. Once you get a grasp on the game and get your first actual god run going you can go back to chewing your way through the max difficulty.

Risk of Rain 2, despite me raving about it for upwards of what was originally over 1500 words, is not for everybody. It has a very steep learning curve. A lot of my praise for the game is true, but the intensity mostly comes from nostalgia. Risk of Rain was one of the first video games I ever played, and grew up with my sister and friends going for hours-long runs on sleepovers. What I’m saying is that I am heavily biased and you may not experience the same fanboy effect that I have been trapped in.

Risk of Rain 2 is a game with a bright future, with more content being released with regularity every few months. As Hopoo Games evolves, I hope that the RoR franchise will evolve and grow with it. The game combines visuals, music, gameplay, and lore into a damn near perfect rogue-like game, and if you have a platform with access to the game, I would definitely recommend it. 9/10. Video game shooty bang bang yeah.

#### Sneakerhead, 4

Jordan wore those shoes on the court, he got fined \$5,000. A lot of people wanted these shoes, because they were against the rules. Michael Jordan’s connection to Nike made him over a billion dollars in shoe revenue.

The sneaker game is growing literally every day and also

changing. More and more professional athletes are signing shoe deals and getting their own kicks. You can even do your own customs on Nike with different colors and designs. So there’s even more choices. That’s the biggest reason it’s becoming more and more popular, because there’s so many types for everyone.

#### Trumpism, 6

practically overnight. However, with the trifecta’s failure to achieve goals like repealing Obamacare and fully constructing the envisioned border wall, along with growing distaste for President Trump and his rhetoric among suburban voters, this trifecta got stomped in the midterms, leading many to believe that Trumpism’s electoral implications were resoundingly negative and that it would be on its way out after this election. But they were wrong.

The 2020 election was shocking and notable for many reasons, but perhaps the most notable was a rebuke of the aforementioned theo-

With Trump out of the



# Class of '21 celebrates



Seniors Lily Deutsch, Elsa Carlson, Zoe Campion, Madigan Lodahl, and Ella Pratt at the graduation reception (top, left), Elijah Ojo speaking at the ceremony (middle, left), Elsa Carlson with principal Dave Gundale after getting her diploma (middle, left), several seniors overlooking the Mississippi River at the graduation reception (bottom, left), Dulce Chautla Suastegui speaking at the ceremony (top, right), the seniors in their seats at graduation (middle, right), and Miles Pretel playing the piano at the ceremony (bottom right).

## Quiet Place, 8

creates. Without a doubt, the best scenes were the tense, nail biting moments with the monsters. Moments like when Marcus is trapped in a bunker or the entire opening sequence were exciting and kept me at the edge of my seat. The movie's sound design also really helps, with audio going out completely and coming back with a bang. This was the main thing I was hoping for with this movie and I was honestly pretty nervous, since horror movie sequels have a history of botching the intense moments, but don't worry -- it delivers.

Another appraisal was the great acting this movie had. Each actor really gives it everything and I was completely sold. If I had to point out a couple in particular, it'd be Emily Blunt and Noah Jupe, who really blew it out of the water, especially considering the lack of dialogue. The scenery and locations were also great, especially the abandoned factory and train were a great place for the monster scenes. Even though they went with a classic run-down dystopia, things like that really helped make it stand out.

Even though the acting and monster scenes are great, this movie does falter in a couple key areas. The first big weak point I noticed was the narrative. I think as a whole the movie stayed too similar to it's original and didn't take enough risks with the plot, which is something I think

could have made it great. This doesn't mean a complete tonal shift like in Evil Dead 2 or Aliens but expanding on the world or adding some new monsters could have really helped. There were only a couple new additions to what could become an interesting world and one is just learning that other people survived.

Another major thing that could have made this movie a lot better was a stronger ending. I think with a movie like this where it's sole purpose is to entertain, a satisfying ending is not only nice but essential. That was one of the things I really enjoyed about the first movie which not only was explosive, literally, but introduced a plot device that could set up a sequel, how to kill the monsters. The sequel, however, did not deliver on it's ending and I left the theater underwhelmed. Instead of a badass fight scene or important character development it felt like a cop out that tried to replicate the first movie's success. I honestly think adding an extra 15 or 20 minutes could tie up some loose ends, introduce a plot device to kickstart the inevitable Part 3, and overall provide a satisfying conclusion.

I'd recommend A Quiet Place Part 2 as an enjoyable back-to-theaters experience, but not much more than that. Hopefully, the next entry can fix some of its problems but until then, this is still pretty fun. 6/10

## Filibuster, 4

treme partisanship that currently exists in the Senate. In addition, Senate Democrats have not come to a unanimous consensus regarding changing the filibuster rules. However, Democratic senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia does not support removing the filibuster, leaving the Democrats short on the necessary votes to kill it.

Another more complicated way to eliminate the filibuster would be to set a new Senate precedent, which essentially means creating new rules to work along with the existing rules. Sometimes called the "nuclear option," it can be enacted with a simple majority of senators. The "nuclear option" was used in 2013 and 2017 to reduce the number of votes needed to end debate on nominations.

One possible option to fundamentally change the filibuster is to require Senators who feel like additional debate is needed to actually remain on the floor of the Senate and actually verbalize their opposition to the bill. In 2012, this was proposed by Democratic Senator Jeff Merkley. Unsurprisingly, this was voted down by the Republican controlled

Senate.

A unique approach would be to put the burden on the minority party to maintain a filibuster, rather than forcing the majority to have 60 votes to break it. Those obstructing the bill by using the filibuster would have to ensure they had enough senators present to vote to block the legislation.

## Wolves, 6

involved in a lot of off-court issues, personal and legal. He was suspended for 12 games after pleading guilty to felony counts of violence threats. Hopefully he can mature off the court because he is a very good player on the court. In the 37 games he played, he averaged 19.6 ppg on 40% shooting from the three point line.

Bringing Chris Finch in from a highly successful organization like the Raptors was a very good move by the front office. When he came over, he moved D'Angelo Russell to the bench, electing to start Ricky Rubio at point guard. Dlo struggled at the beginning of the season under Ryan Saunders, but with his knee surgery behind him and a new play style, he is starring in his reserve role. Karl-Anthony Towns has become a very good passer during the past couple years, and has readily grown in that aspect under coach Finch. He still needs some work when attempting those through the needle dimes that big men like Denver's Nikola Jokić make,

but one can only assume he improves, considering the new coach has put him in positions where he is the primary ball handler.

The Wolves are in desperate need of better defense, and perhaps we can nab some help this summer during Free Agency. Minnesota can't spend a lot of money, as we have signed multiple players to 20 million dollar contracts. Some players who can be expected to come cheap include 6'5, 2020 pound Wesley Matthews. The Los Angeles Lakers guard/forward, while aging (he's 34 and very well could retire this summer) is still a solid 3-and-D role player.

Other players who Minnesota could acquire are Serge Ibaka from the Los Angeles Clippers, Torrey Craig of the Phoenix Suns, Josh Richardson over in Dallas (although he may be pricey), and veteran big man, Paul Millsap from Denver. All are solid defensive players, and have a history of shooting the three ball at a good percentage. We could also try to trade for a return of Andrew Wiggins to Minnesota.

ta. This isn't a likely scenario, as Golden State loves every bit of the Wiggins they have, and they will not let him go unless they get a star in return. In his first full season with the Warriors, he has improved as a defender, ranking 5th best among all players at the Small Forward position. He is also having his best shooting season of his career, with 47.7% from the field, and 38% from 3 on 18.6 points per game.

The idea that Andrew has become good is probably unpopular among Twolves fans, as shown by math teacher and season ticket holder Thomas Totushek. He says "Andrew Wiggins is a bum. Came in a bum, left a bum, and is a bum in Golden State. When GS gets better, Wiggins will wilt from the pressure. They will depend on him and he will let them down".

Looking ahead to next season, Tom suggested the Wolves could move to the Eastern Conference, while expansion teams are created for Las Vegas and Seattle. His reasoning for the move to the East? "We are natural rivals with Milwaukee,

Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, and Indiana. In the East we could be in the playoffs for years to come."

Tom was upbeat about how the Wolves ended their season. He said his biggest disappointment was that the team "never got fully healthy", and "if we had Russell and Towns all season together, we may have been in the play-in games". It is possible that a healthy Timberwolves team gets to the play-in tournament in 2022, but as Tom said "the Western Conference is so tough."

We say this every year, but I sincerely believe that Minnesota has a good future. A budding star in Anthony "Ant Man" Edwards, an elite offensive big in KAT, and two 20+ ppg scorers in Beasley and Russell. Hopefully they round out the bench, and retain improved defensive stopper Jarred Vanderbilt (that might be a stretch but hey, I'm being optimistic with Vando).

See you next season when we're good (I hope).

Sincerely,  
A Timberwolves fan

## Math competition, 1

ticed, but are too polite to say anything."

After some time had passed, Clara and Tom were the only holdouts. No one had students who'd noticed, but they were the only ones who maintained a consistent schedule. As time went on, the two found themselves in too deep to quit. "We kept expecting it to end and it just hasn't, and now both of us are really tired of the clothes that we're wearing," said Tom. "We talk about how on the weekend it's really liberating to choose different clothes to wear."

Clara's Monday and Wednesday outfit is a red shirt with a blue sweater, and her Tuesday and Thursday outfit is a teal shirt with a green sweater. Tom's are a blue Math Corps shirt on Mondays and Wednesdays, a black "women in STEM" shirt on Tuesdays, and a purple polo on Thursdays. They expected that the move back to in-person school would mark the end of the challenge, as students would see them wearing different shirts on the same day, but because the schedule stayed with just two classes a day, the challenge continued.

There have been some close calls, though. Clara recalls an incident in November, explaining, "A student had colored a picture of me and wanted to share it with the class. Naturally, I was wearing the same clothes—red shirt, blue sweater—and a middle schooler commented that 'It looked exactly like me!' Other than that, though... no one has said anything about my clothing."

Tom says one of the keys to the challenge is that students have to see it completely. "If they ask, 'Did you wear that shirt last class?' that's not a disqualifier," he stated. "We can say, 'Oh I don't really keep track of my clothes, maybe I did wear it last time.' They have to ask, 'Do you always wear that shirt?' and then that's the trigger."

Because us students never delivered on our side of the challenge, it's been a full year of contractual outfitting for Clara and Tom. It was a fun challenge, but one thing is for sure: it's nice to be done.



Tom's outfits for this school year.

Purple Press Staff Photo