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Purple Press



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Two OWL projects advance

History Day continues its second straight year with online format, nationals judged next week

Helena Squires Mosher
Staff Writer

On Sunday May 2nd, three out of six projects from OWL placed at State History Day, and two advanced to the National competition following first-round results on Friday April 30th.

This year, all History Day

events are taking place virtually, due to the Covid pandemic. Aside from a few changes, such as no live presentations or judge interviews, the rules have stayed generally the same. Students must frame their projects around the theme "Communication in History: the Key to Understanding",

while using online resources and meeting primarily over FaceTime or Zoom to work on their projects. "If I needed advice from Katie or Bridget... it was more difficult since it would have to take place over Google Meet," said 11th grader Analigia Batres, who placed 5th with her individual web-

site on the 1964 New York City School Boycott. She expressed pride in her project, though, saying she succeeded in presenting "stories that aren't usually told in regards to [the Civil Rights Movement]"

State, preceded by Region-



Katie Craven

History day, 4

The students that advanced to state History Day on a Google Meet to watch the awards ceremony together.

Class of '21 graduating live



The class of 2021 in a circle to announce their plans for next year on donut declaration day (left), seniors Ella Pratt and Zoe Campion with their donuts after announcing their commitments to the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire and University of California at Berkeley (right).

Paloma Leone-Getten
Staff Writer

Graduation will be held in person this year, at the St. Paul College auditorium. Each graduate will be allowed to invite two guests, who will be spread out throughout the

room, to ensure social distancing. The entire OWL staff will be able to attend, and the event will be livestreamed for other family members and friends of the graduating class.

"Everybody will have masks on and there will be a

certain distance to separate guests. The auditorium holds a lot more people than the number that will be coming, so there will be room to spread out," said Spanish teacher and program coordinator Tim Leone-Getten.



This graduation setup is different from years past due to the pandemic, as OWL's usual venue, St. Catherine University, is not hosting any events, in an effort to keep their campus as COVID-free as possible. "We actually used to have our

graduation at St. Paul College about 10 years ago. We're planning on being back at St. Kate's next year," said Tim. Unfortunately, there will not be cake or a reception at the venue after the ceremony, unlike previous

Graduation, 6

Anti-racist curriculum

Hiroko Zeleke
Staff Writer

Did you, at home or at school, ever talk much about race with your friends and family? Do you think we as a culture are past racism? What about after the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis? Did your conversations on race shift after that? How?

The death of George Floyd seems to have started a lot of conversations on race, and started a lot of new conversations. But how much has that impacted us here at OWL? After years in the works, an anti-racist Crew curriculum was launched. I personally think, as a person of color, Crew lessons on anti-racism should've already been a thing, but I'm glad to see that the community is trying harder now. But if you haven't heard of this, then let me tell you about it.

First things first, what is anti-racism? I think we all know what racism is, but what is it to be anti-racist? Anti-racism is actively fighting against racism when you see it happening. Let's say you aren't racist, or you claim you aren't racist. That doesn't make you anti-racist. If you see someone doing or saying something racist to another as a bystander but just watch, not doing anything about it, then you aren't being anti-racist. But if you try to stop it from happening, then that is being anti-racist.

The conversations about race and anti-racism at OWL started long before this fall. Dare 2B Real is an anti-racist

Anti-racism, 7

Georgia rolls out new voting restrictions

Ted Dobbins
Staff Writer

On Thursday March 25th, Georgia legislation passed a very large elections-voting bill that has many restrictions and alterations of voting privileges. As you probably know, this got quite a lot of attention and criticism because it seemed like an attempt by Republicans to limit and prevent the voting of Democrats in

population-dense Georgia cities (areas in which the voting bill's restrictions would have most effect, and areas with a large Democratic presence.) But, you might ask, what's in this bill? And how will it affect voters? Here we'll go over the most important contents of this bill and how it has already impacted Georgia voting rights.

First, let's go through some

of the most important aspects of the 98 page bill that are viewed as the most restrictive. The bill impacts many elements of absentee voting and postal ballots, with the amount of time before Election Day that a Georgia voter could request an absentee ballot being cut almost in half. Another restriction on absentee voting that was introduced in the bill is that it states that it is now

illegal for election and voting officials to send absentee voting applications to all Georgia

voters. And finally another very large alteration to an ab-

Franklin Weaver

Georgia, 2





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Happy to be on the field again

Womanatee raring to go after a great start

Paloma Leone-Getten
Staff Writer

After a wait of over a year since the WoManatee frisbee team had played together, on April 27, 2021, they celebrated after defeating White Bear Lake High School, 8-5 at the Humboldt field, despite the pouring rain.

As of press time, the girls frisbee team is 3-1, with their most recent game a tough loss to Edina High School. They play each week on Tuesdays at 6pm. This year's captains are seniors Ella Pratt, Elsa Carlson, and Zoe Campion, all of whom started their ultimate careers playing for the middle school team. "I'm really excited to be a captain this year. I was also a captain this past fall, so I kind of have a little bit of a grasp of coaching during COVID and trying to find different ways to connect," said Zoe.

The team is made up of 21 girls, most of whom are returning players who participated in winning the DII state championship in 2019. "More than half are seniors. I think that means that we're gonna have a pretty successful season because we have so much ex-

perience and we don't have to spend a lot of time learning the rules or anything. But it feels kind of ominous for next year, because about half of our girls will be gone, so the team could be really small," said 11th grader Lili Hobday. Because of all of the experience on the team, they've had a solid start, capped off by great performances by seniors Frankie Buettner and Aiko Mattie, along with new team member Lily Weissman.

All sports seasons have had to be altered due to the pandemic, with extra restrictions put into place. For the girls frisbee team, they are playing with masks and staying 6 feet apart as much as possible in all practices and games. "They just made a new rule that we

have to be 6-10 feet away from the person we're marking, which will definitely be weird and there will be less blocking," said Lili. The season also started a little later, in order for logistics to be figured out, and with less games being played. "We're also not able to have spirit circles this year after the games, so that'll be different this year, but we're really lucky that we're still able to have a season," said Ella.

All of the girls on the team seem to love the sport, as well as their teammates. "It's a really fun team, and is very different from my other sports. Although we're competitive, there's a lot more sportsmanship and spirit of the game. There's a lot less pressure and a lot of support," said Lili. Zoe agreed, saying "My favorite part about being on the team is the community. It's espe-

Womanatee, 3



11th grader Nora Verner throws during a game.



James Dungan-Seaver

11th grader Jalen Bolton Steiner dives for the frisbee in a game earlier this season.

Manatee off and running

Boys experiencing mixed results in 2021 season thus far

Lili Hobday
Staff Writer

After being on pause for a year, frisbee is back! Since the week of April 4th, the Manatee have been back in action. The season started out slow with a 15-12 loss to Edina JV but picked up with a 15-9 win against Irondale and a 14-6 win against Great River.

11th grader Jalen Bolton-Steiner has a positive outlook on the season, "We have many new players this year and already have good chemistry. The few practices and games we've had have made me super excited to play more frisbee."

Changes had to be made to the season due to covid. Aside from the expected decision to

mandate masks, the team is being asked to stand 6-10 feet away from whomever they are marking and are only scheduled for 4 official games. "We also try to guard the same people throughout practice and stay 6 feet apart when were "huddled" up or taking water breaks," said senior captain Haakon Neske

Despite these changes the team is happy to be back on the field, "Everyone on the field is feeling pretty optimistic about the rest of our schedule. We've played these teams before so we're pretty pumped," said Haakon. Their next opponent will be Great River followed by Minneapolis South.

Manatee, 6

Distance learning or in-person?

Students voice their preference

Hazel Wright
Staff Writer

You wake up to your alarm. You get out of bed and get ready for school. Then, once you're ready, you open up your iPad and you log onto Google Meets. This has been the reality for the majority of students for the past year. Now, many students are going back to in person school. But there's some people that have stayed in distance learning. And there's some people that might even opt into distance learning

next year, too.

While the majority of OWL students have opted to go back to in person classes, some students have decided to stay virtual. I decided to stay virtual for a variety of reasons. The main reason is that I wasn't very comfortable with going back to school because of the pandemic. I've been doing rather well in distance learning, so I decided it wasn't worth the risk.

9th grader Violet Wright decided to stay virtual be-

cause "it was working fine for me. I went to a Montessori school for elementary, and that worked really well for me as a learning style. Virtual learning isn't really that different." On the other hand, Anna Nowatzki, also a 9th grader, decided to go back to in person because "I really wanted to see everyone again in person and it would be nice to have a change of scenery."

So while there are certainly good reasons to go back to in person learning, the plusses of virtual learning are many. I like that I can schedule my

time however I want, besides classes. I also like that I can have whatever I feel like for lunch, as long as it's available, instead of school lunch or a premade lunch from home. Anna said, "I liked that I could take breaks whenever I needed to." Violet said, "I like being able to complete assignments at my own pace."

This is why some people are likely going to stay virtual next year. It's a good option for some people. I know the great majority of you are likely going to be surprised at this, but it's actually pretty nice.

Georgia, 2

sentee voting law is that now Georgia voters have to provide increasingly more identification.

Before the bill Georgia voters only had to sign their absentee ballot application, but now they have to provide not just their name, address and date of birth, but also their driver's license identification number or an equivalent high level state issued form of identification.

One restriction of voting privileges and opportunities in this bill that directly affects Georgia voters, is that now early voting on Sundays will not be available. This is also seen as a direct attack and restriction against Georgia voters, because it is a tradition of many Georgia Church-goers to vote after Sunday church

services. Another addition on this bill that seems to directly restrict voters' privileges is that the number of early voting drop-boxes will be reduced. They were introduced in high numbers in Georgia during the 2020 election, but now will be reduced to roughly only one drop-box for every 100,000 registered voters, this means that the number of secure locked drop boxes that were available last year will not be available for Georgia voters in the future.

And finally another voting restriction in the bill that has gotten a lot of attention is the restriction of outside people giving food or water to people waiting in line to vote. It is now illegal for someone to provide food or water to a voter waiting in line, city voters (who largely vote democrat)

because long lines at polls are often found at largely populated city centers.

Other restrictions the bill include: now runoff elections will be counted and concluded faster. Mobile voting centers like large busses and RVs will also be banned. If you show up at the wrong polling place it will be quite hard to vote. And even Election Officials will no longer be able to accept third party funding from outside sources.

Republicans in the Georgia legislature say that this bill is just to expand access and to increase election voting security, but many of these restrictions are seen as purely an attempt by Republicans to stop Democratic turnout. The 2020 presidential election was the first election in over 25 years that Georgia voted for a Democrat-

ic candidate, and that Georgia election was extremely close. So because of that, this seems even more like an attempt by Republicans to stop the high numbers of Democrats' votes that come from high density cities, where this bill has its most restrictions. For example, this bill says that Georgia runoff elections are going to be shortened; this seems very much like a reaction by Republicans to the Democratic success of the Georgia Senate election runoffs.

So now that we have gone over the important issues this bill might possibly cause, what do you think? Do you think these new laws are an attempt to restrict voting rights in Georgia? How do you think these new laws will affect the future voting of Georgia?

Mock trialists earn first win

Coach Tom hopes to stock team with young talent next season

Violet Wright
Staff Writer

Do you like theater? Do you want to learn more about law? Do you just want to have something fun to do to distract yourself from the monotony of life? Mock trial might be right for you.

Mock trial is an extracurricular where a team of at least eight students competes. Each team has 3 witnesses, 3 attorneys, a timekeeper, and a bailiff. Schools compete, arguing either the prosecution or the defense.

"Every school participating is given the same case to prepare for in October," said sophomore Hazel Carroll, who is a member of OWL's mock trial team. "The competition begins in January where 2 teams are matched against each other. One team represents the plaintiff while the other represents the defense, though both prepare to argue both sides (the side of the case your team represents changes each round)."

According to Hazel, the trial follows the format of "Opening Statements; Direct, Cross, Redirect, and a possible Recross for the plaintiff's 3 witnesses; Direct, Cross, Redirect, and a possible Recross for the defense's 3 witnesses; a 2 minute recess; and finally Closing Statements."

"OWL competes at Region-

als and it is a power matching system," said Tom Totushek, the coach of OWL's mock trial team. "You do 2 competitions against random teams and then everyone with your record gets put into the same pool. Since we were 1-1 after 2 matches we faced another 1-1 team. We lost and were 1-2 so we faced another 1-2 team, then lost again. Only the top 4 teams from the region go on to state."

Mock trial is a good choice for students interested in theater and/or law. "I would definitely recommend Mock Trial to other students," said Hazel. "It's always exciting to dive into the case and find ways that it can be represented for both sides. Another thing is that it's really informative. One part of Mock Trial is working with actual attorneys and learning how the legal process works. This past year we had two attorney coaches who were great fountains of information. It's also a great way to make friends, attorneys and witnesses work together to create a narrative of what happened through questions asked and evidence entered in direct examination."

"We have some students who are experienced actors and just want to flesh out a role and 'spar' with the law-

Mock trial, 7

Senior Spotlight

Leo Dungan-Seaver



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

What are your plans for next year?
I will be attending Whitman College in the fall.

What's been your favorite class in high school?
Gotta love a good PE session.

What extracurriculars are you involved in?
Manatee frisbee, Humboldt basketball and Outward Bound are probably my big three.

Favorite field work trip and why?
Probably Du Nord because it was a very open and (relatively) unstructured time to interact with our peers and expand our friendships.

If you had a walk up song, what would it be?
Forever by Drake (ft - Kanye West, Lil Wayne, and Eminem)

That One Little Kid Lucas Rounds

How tall are you?
I am 4'10".

What's your favorite class so far and why?
I love ELA, because I like Preston and all of the projects he has us do.

Who's your favorite senior?
I don't know any yet.

Where do you think you're going to go for college?
I don't know. Maybe in Florida or another coastal because I want to be a marine biologist and love the ocean.

What's the best thing about distance learning?
I can mute myself when I get chatty.

What's the worst thing about distance learning?
Everything else. I miss making friends in person, because I moved here from Kentucky at the beginning of the pandemic. It is hard to be social through Schoology and Google Meets.



The Day the Music Died

Fateful IA plane crash shaped music history

Olivia Bilek
Staff Writer

Buddy Holly, J.P. Richardson, and Ritchie Valens were killed in a plane crash in Clear Lake, Iowa on February 3rd 1959, along with pilot Roger Peterson. All four people on the plane were killed on impact. The three musicians were on the "Winter Dance Party" tour at the time of their deaths.

Buddy Holly was the most popular out of the three. In 1956 Buddy Holly and the Three Tunes (later The Crickets) started recording demos in Nashville, Tennessee. Their first big hit was "That'll Be The Day" in 1957. Other hits by Buddy Holly were "Everyday" "It Doesn't Matter Anymore" and "Peggy Sue" and many others. Buddy Holly recorded most of his music with Norman Petty at his recording studio in Clovis, New Mexico.

Richie Valens started his music career when he was 16 years old when he joined his first band the Silhouettes. At one of their gigs Richie was spotted by Bob Keane, the head of the Del-Fi record label, which he signed a contract with in 1958. Richie Valens became famous in 1958 with his first single "Come On, Let's

Go". Other hits by Ritchie Valens were "La Bamba" "Donna" and "We Belong Together" His career only lasted eight months.

J.P. Richardson gave himself the name "The Big Bopper" after seeing college students doing a dance called The Bop. He was a disc jockey and had a radio show before he started his career in music. The Big Bopper started his music career as a songwriter. The promotion director for Mercury and Starday Records Harold "Pappy" Daily helped launch The Big Bopper as a recording artist. He signed a contract with Mercury Records in 1958. With the success of "Chantilly Lace" The Big Bopper joined Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and Dion and the Belmonts for the "Winter Dance Party" tour. His first hit song was "Chantilly Lace" in 1958. Other hits by The Big Bopper were "Crazy Blues", "White Lightning", and "Walking Through My Dreams".

When people got the news of the crash they were shocked and saddened. But despite the misfortune, the "Winter Dance Party" tour continued. The pilot of the Beechcraft Bonanza was not yet qualified to operate in weather that required

flying, causing the plane to crash roughly 6 miles from the airport. The likely cause for the accident was the pilot's lack of flying skills.

On the "Winter Dance Party" tour Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, The Big Bopper, and Dion and the Belmonts were touring the Midwest from January 23rd to February 3rd 1959. The weather on the "Winter Dance Party" tour was reported as light snow, the sky was obscured, visibility 6 miles, and winds from 20 to 30 mph.

On the evening of Monday February 2nd Buddy Holly decided to charter a small plane for himself and the Crickets to fly to the next venue in Fargo, North Dakota. At the last minute Waylon Jennings gave up his seat to The Big Bopper who had the flu. And Tommy Allsup lost his seat in a coin flip with Dion DiMucci, but Dion gave his seat to Ritchie Valens because Buddy Holly asked him to pay 30 dollars to fly in the plane.

The Day the Music Died is marked a dark day in American history and music history. In Don McLean's 1971 song "American Pie" he dubbed it "The Day the Music Died." The song is about the loss of innocence and naivety, which began with the deaths of these three major teenage music idols in a plane crash. It also talks about the American

Dream during the 1960s.

The Day the Music Died is a tragic but important day in music history because after their deaths the "Winter Dance Party" tour continued. Bobby Vee filled in for Holly at the next scheduled show in Moorhead because he knew all the words to his songs. In 1978 Waylon Jennings (a former member of Buddy Holly and The Crickets) added his own memories of the incident onto his song "A Long Time Ago", he sings the lines "Don't ask me who I gave my seat to on that plane, I think you already know, I told you a long time ago."

Movies have been made about The Day the Music Died including the Ritchie Valens' biopic "La Bamba" in 1987 and the biographical film "The Buddy Holly Story" in 1978. Buddy Holly, The Big Bopper, and Richie Valens continue to inspire musicians to this day with their music.



Can teachers talk about political opinions?

Minnesota law does not require neutrality

Ian Brooks
Staff Writer

In researching this piece about politics in the classroom, I expected to find obvious, specific rules in law and district policy about what teachers can and can't express politically in class. But what was perhaps the most consistent thing I learned from every resource--teachers, principals, and articles-- is that the regulations around this issue are surprisingly unclear.

In places like Minnesota, where state law doesn't require teachers' neutrality, whether or not a teacher will face repercussions for sharing their personal beliefs on a political topic depends largely on the unwritten norms of their community rather than any laws or contract language.

At a time when political polarization is peaking in our country and significant events seem to happen increasingly often, teachers are tasked with the difficult job of processing current events and controversial topics with their students. And while there aren't specific laws or policies limiting teachers from expressing their own political views in class, many are wary of doing so. Even when it's technically allowed, consequences are not unheard of. Plus there's fear of heated discussions and angry parents as well as their own philosophies of teaching. So how do teachers go about discussing sensitive topics in class, and where is the line drawn for political expression?

Social studies teachers Daniel Sullivan and Katie Craven say they try to frame current events through history. "I try to present the facts and add historical context to it," says Dan. "I think as social studies teachers that's really important. Like, this isn't happening independently, it's not just random. It's something that's hap-

pened throughout history and I don't believe that history repeats itself, but I think it does provide the context to help us understand the present more."

Katie feels the same way. "I try to frame discussions in history. I try to be like, 'here are the different perspectives from history; here's what history recorded,' and then allow students to take that and try to build their own beliefs." Helping students build their own beliefs was a common theme throughout my interviews with OWL's social studies teachers. Luke Turvold says he focuses more on the present, highlighting biases and giving a holistic picture of the subject. "I think it is a teacher's obligation to provide a well-rounded view of the event or situation, highlighting different perspectives and biases that may be present."

But discussing controversial topics in general can be difficult. Katie says one of her major concerns is alienating more conservative students, as it's no secret that OWL is a left-leaning school. "It's hard, and sometimes the easiest thing is to just not talk about things, which does a disservice to everybody. So I just try to be mindful and planful, having a plan and knowing what it is that I want to say, and also stepping back and letting the students be the ones doing the talking and I'm just facilitating an opening space for them to have a discussion, rather than me driving the discussion."

As we continue in this time of polarization, many teachers like Katie will continue to keep political discussions structured and planned, worrying about alienation, argument, direct consequences or push-back. But maybe as this period in our country passes teachers won't have to be so wary of political topics, and classroom discussions will no longer take as much effort as they do now.

Womanatee, 2



Kate Moe

Members of the womanatee team pose during a game.

cially nice because we have so many seniors, we've built up a strong team and a strong dynamic over the past few years, so I'm really excited to see how that plays out in games." The team has high hopes for the rest of the season. "I expect the season to go well, I'm really excited to see what happens and for the state tournament at the

end of June. I honestly think that we're going to do really well, because everyone on our team is super passionate and wants to give it their all," said Ella.

Following the rest of the regular season, the state tournament will be played, with ample COVID restrictions, on a weekend at the end of June.

COVID-19 vaccine update

Many OWL students have now been vaccinated

Nora Crosby
Staff Writer

The COVID-19 vaccine is working wonders in adults thanks to its predominantly speedy and smooth rollout. There have been major discoveries regarding medicine and health that are leading us closer to herd immunity. Yet even as this provides hope for the future, there are still so many people to vaccinate. Minors make up 24% of just the United States population; they are crucial to reaching overall safety. The majority of OWL teachers and staff have been able to receive the vaccine since February. Yet many eligible students are still struggling to find and create an appointment opportunity.

The COVID-19 vaccine is formed from a new type of preventative vaccine immunization that uses an mRNA cell. Vaccines using an mRNA cell instruct our bodies to make a protein that causes an immune reaction. Our bodies then realize that the protein isn't supposed to be there, so begin creating antibodies. The result is our bodies have learned how to defend themselves from the virus. The three main vaccines currently being distributed are from the companies Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson and Johnson, all of which are around 95% effective in adults after two doses. Moderna and Johnson and Johnson are cleared to

distribute the vaccine to those who are eighteen and older while Pfizer is sixteen and older. Additionally, some are in the process of testing the vaccine in those younger than the given age along with getting it approved.

While many young people are in a hurry to get vaccinated, the process of testing a vaccine in them is fragile. The immune systems of minors are more complex than those of people over eighteen. This means that the COVID-19 vaccine may potentially have a greater impact on adolescents. As mentioned, both Pfizer and Moderna are testing their vaccine in those under sixteen or eighteen. The issues with testing a vaccine, especially in minors, are great. Receiving enough adequate and willing participants is difficult as well as having a variety of contributors.

The Pfizer vaccine has sufficient data that the vaccine is effective in those twelve to fifteen, while Moderna is still in the process of testing those under the age of eighteen. Once they have accurate data, they have to await approval for the vaccine to be administered to those in the given age group; that is the stage Pfizer is at for twelve to fifteen year olds. The Johnson and Johnson vaccine is currently being re-studied for its overall effectiveness and safety.

Once approval has been granted, those eligible can receive the vaccine. Having eligibility depends on factors related specifically to you. Many adolescents are able to receive the vaccine due to their job. Seventeen year old Lily Hennessee was eligible to receive the vaccine because she works in food retail. Others can receive it due to their personal physical condition. Sixteen year old Stian Asper was qualified simply because of his age. And eighteen year old Kate Moe was applicable because of her disability which makes her more susceptible to lung infections. All received the Pfizer vaccine.

The process of getting the Covid vaccine can be long and tedious, especially when you could be viewed as not necessarily needing it. "I had like five tabs open at once for hours trying to find one, but eventually I got an appointment for the next day at Walgreens," said Lily. Stian's process was a bit smoother. "I signed up online using the CVS website and had my appointment a week later. I showed up to the CVS and waited in line for about 10-15 minutes. After which I went to a closed off area and answered a few medical questions and got my shot. I had to wait 15 minutes after the vaccination to make sure I didn't have any allergic reactions." Kate included, "My

mom stayed on the line with Children's hospital for hours. When I finally got word that I could get the vaccine, they had also said that my dad can get it because he is considered a caregiver."

But once you can and do get the vaccine, data suggests, you are helping and saving more people than just yourself. Kate says, "I know immunocompromised people who are not vaccinated yet and if you are not wearing a mask correctly, it paints a view of ignorance." Having minors receive the vaccine now, if they can, is extremely important. Many adolescents are unintentionally superspreaders of the virus based on the diversity of the locations they attend. Having those people receive the vaccine as quickly as possible will lead to a decrease in cases. "Being able to get the vaccine is a big deal to me and I'm glad I have the privilege to be able to get it," Lily said. Kate added, "The U.S. is incredibly rich and privileged in that [vaccines] regard because so many countries do not have the funding to get the vaccine out to people as quickly as we did."

Some people experience side effects after receiving the vaccine. Doctors have confirmed that these are completely normal unless they persist for a long period of time or cause you to become unable to work. Stian says, "I only

experienced a sore shoulder from 24-48 hours post shot." Lily experienced the same situation with her first dose but she hasn't received her second dose yet and admits that she is, "a little scared for the side effects from that since I've heard they can be worse".

The next step we need to take in the journey toward herd immunity is to continue to test the vaccine in all safe and willing age groups. So, children under the age of twelve will be the next section to be assessed with their reaction. One of the biggest issues that scientists will encounter when testing the vaccine is the difficulty to stretch and conform to all people. Having such a diverse world will make it difficult for the vaccine to be completely effective in all people. But the science and math behind vaccines has made leaps and bounds this past year.

Jim, the school nurse, add-

ed a statement about how people should behave after they receive the vaccine. "Because the vaccines currently offered are not to their full effectiveness for two weeks after the final dose of the series (and are not 100 percent effective anyway), masking indoors, distancing always, and staying home in you feel ill will all remain important ways of keeping our schools open and businesses thriving for some time. I am hopeful that we can progress to where we are able to have our Minnesota State Fair in August!"

The quicker we can get results and data back from the trials, the sooner we can vaccinate all people and create a clear path to getting us all back on our personal paths. Stian concluded, "[Getting the vaccine] means getting back to normal and being able to socialize with people without masks on and not worry about getting sick."



Senior Kate Moe after receiving her first dose of the Moderna vaccine.

How social media really affects your life

And what are the consequences

Sayén Lundeen-Leiva
Staff Writer

Lately, social media has been a big part of our lives. Teenagers spend a lot of their time scrolling through Instagram or Tik Tok, or posting pictures or videos. Technology has brought us many great benefits, but has also brought many negative effects.

With social media, we have learned to communicate through a screen instead of face to face. This impedes our communication skills and as humans, we are a very social species. Facebook was first announced in 2004, and the first iPhone was released in 2007. This is when social media took

a big step into society and when these positive and negative effects started occurring.

Although social media can help people communicate with each other, build communities, and can help teens express themselves, social media is also very harmful to us. It can create unrealistic body images of how we are "supposed" to look and there is also a great deal of online bullying and rumor spreading that can greatly impact someone's life. Mayo Clinic says "A 2019 study of more than 6,500 12- to 15-year-olds in the U.S. found that those who spent more than three hours a day using social media might be

at heightened risk for mental health problems."

The results of a survey I sent out to OWL shows that most students spend 6-7 hours on their phone a day. They spend most of their time on Tik Tok, and they said that connecting with friends is one of the benefits that phones can bring

them. Some negative things they said that the phone brings is that it is distracting and social media can be pressuring them into things.

In conclusion, social media can be good for various reasons, but putting limits on what you do on your phone can be good to minimize the negative things that can happen.



The OWL theater department presents... Twelfth Night!



Members of the cast of Twelfth Night performed warm up exercises by the four square court after school earlier this week. They have been rehearsing outdoors as much as possible to ensure social distancing and the safety of the cast throughout the play. They have adapted the Shakesperian comedy to be set in the music industry in modern times, and the play will run May 26th and 27th at the Minnesota Boat Club on Raspberry Island. Seating at the venue is limited, so make sure to reserve your tickets soon.

History day, 1

als and School History Day, brings in projects from all over Minnesota. Twelve OWL students moved on to State and submitted their projects on April 15th, leaving about two weeks in between the awards ceremony. "Because there was no real "day", it was hard to know what the competition would be like," said Zoe Campion, who's documentary on Ethel Payne--known as the "First Lady of the Black Press"--which she made with fellow senior Elsa Carlson, advanced to Nationals.

The virtual awards ceremony was held on Facebook Live, which OWL's group watched together on a Google Meet. 9th graders Tess and Willa Campion received an honorable mention for their website on the CIA's intervention in Chile during the Cold War, and 11th grader Mae Wrigley and seniors Sam Kellar-Long and Helena Squires Moshier's performance on Ronald Reagan's communication of

Martin Luther King Day, also advanced to Nationals. Group performances are required to be filmed on a video conference platform, with each group member calling from a different location.

Participants and History Day coordinator/social studies teacher Katie Craven expressed feeling disconnected this year. "I miss being able to stop by a student in class and see what they're working on," said Katie. "I've seen a lot of projects in the completion stage this year, but not the creation stage." She explained that participation was down significantly this year, with just six projects competing at State, instead of, for example, the 19 projects which competed in 2019.

Nationals projects are due next Tuesday May 18th, at 11pm, and the results will be announced sometime in June. "It's definitely a lot less hype without having a trip to DC," said Zoe.



The screen from the livestreamed awards ceremony showing 11th grader Analigia Batres's 5th place finish.



Reviews 'n' stuff



Daunte Wright case serves as reminder

The all-too-real danger of driving while Black

Minteesnot Sisay
Staff Writer

On April 11th, 20 year old Daunte Wright was shot and killed during a traffic stop near Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. Police claim that he was pulled over for expired tabs, but in a phone call to his mother, Wright said he was stopped because of air fresheners hanging in his car. Soon the police discovered an outstanding arrest warrant and attempted to detain him, and after a brief moment where he attempted to drive off, an officer shot him.

He then drove away for a short distance but the car collided with another vehicle and crashed into a barrier of concrete. After police pulled him out of the car he was pronounced dead at the scene.

Daunte Wright was a father of a 2-year old boy. He was described by his family as "amazing, loving, with a big heart" and a "bright" smile. Apparently, he and I share a love of basketball.

Kimberly Potter, a 26 year veteran of the police force, and the former officer who killed Daunte Wright, claimed she mistook her gun for a taser, which to be quite honest is a very hard thing to do. Tasers are bright yellow and are purposefully placed away from a gun on a cop's body. Tasers also weigh quite a bit less. Potter has since resigned, along

with the Brooklyn Center police chief. She was arrested and charged with second degree manslaughter on April 14th, although she was released on a bail of 100 thousand dollars.

This isn't the first time a Black person was killed by police in the Twin Cities area, and it most likely won't be the last. George Floyd was murdered by former officer Derek Chauvin in May of 2020. Chauvin was convicted on April 20th, and in the process became the first white Minnesotan police officer convicted of killing a Black civilian. Many of you may remember that Philando Castile was shot and killed by Saint Anthony police officer Jeronimo Yanez in 2017. A connection that I had with Mr. Castile, other than both being Black, is that he worked in the cafeteria at the elementary school that I attended (J.J. Hill).

This tragic display of police violence towards yet another Black person, only reminds me how we can do everything in our power to make white people comfortable, but it will never be enough to keep us alive in these situations.

I have been thinking about all the steps I plan to take when I become a licensed driver (I am 15 years old and eligible for a learner's permit), including keeping my license and registration on the dashboard, and everything else Black children

are told from a very young age. It gives me even more reason not to even try any kind of illegal drugs, because I don't want to give police an "excuse" to murder me.

However ridiculous this may sound to many of you, a good portion of people often talk about the negative history of the victim as a way to justify their death, especially when the victims are Black and the perpetrators are (white) police officers. I can't say how many times I've seen and heard some version of "well, he was arrested on drug charges a few years ago so he won't be missed" or "if he hadn't been resisting, he would be alive." An example of this exact It's astounding that some people actually think resisting arrest should equal a death sentence.

When the jury found Derek Chauvin guilty on all accounts, I was admittedly glad, but this only one example out of countless other incidents in which accountability was not served. While some people may be tricked into thinking that the trial of Kimberly Potter will end in a guilty verdict, I am not of that belief. Considering the fact that Chauvin is the first white police officer found guilty of killing a Black person in Minnesota, the expectation should be that Potter will be acquitted.

Dragon tale moves altogether too fast

Raya is gorgeous to watch, but leaves plot points unanswered

Elizabeth Hallanger
Staff Writer

Over the years, Disney has released a wide variety of interesting movies, and among those, it has really branched out recently past it's typical children's story and princess movie formulas, and has created some truly great stuff. However, along with those, it's also made some fairly mediocre films and sequels as well.

As someone who eagerly watches any Disney movie they can get their hands on, I was pretty weary of this fact, and was always skeptical with new Disney movies. However, when I saw the early teasers for Raya, I was more than hyped. It seemed like such an interesting idea, so much so that I had no problem paying Disney+ \$30 to see it on it's day of release. The whole idea of dragon-centric fantasy adventure seemed almost too good to be true, so, was it? Was my

year or so of hype justified? Or, was the movie a monumental let down.

Let's begin with the plot. The movie's story follows the titular Raya, and takes place in Kumandra. The land of Kumandra, a once prosperous place, filled with both dragons and humans, has been ravaged by an evil force called the Druun, which turns anything it touches to stone. The dragons helped to defeat the Druun via a magic orb, but in turn, they were all petrified. Now, five tribes constantly fight over the orb, which is currently being held by Raya's tribe.

When Raya's father, the tribe's chief, decides to hold a feast, Raya befriends the daughter of the Fang tribe's chief, Namaari, and shows her the orb. However, a fight breaks out, and the orb is accidentally shattered, the other tribes each leaving with a piece. The Druun is then awakened, and turns



Raya's father to stone. Now an adult, many years later, Raya seeks out the last dragon, Sisu, and goes on a quest to find the missing pieces and reconstruct the orb.

Now, if that seems like a lot in terms of plot, it is. I do have a great appreciation for the detail and world building that this movie has. All of the tribes and lore were super interesting, but I really would have loved to see more of them. The whole movie seemed to be rushing a bit, and many times didn't give these places the

Raya, 7



Lily Hennessee

Lily's favorite snack, guakis, takis with guacamole, provide the benefit that the taki dust gets into the guacamole for future chips to pick up.

Did your favorite snacks make the cut?

Lily Hennessee
Staff Writer

With distance learning, many of us have gotten used to snacking throughout the day, whenever we desire. Now, 1:35 is the most anticipated time of day for those of us unfortunate enough to have D lunch. Personally, I have D lunch 3 days of the week, and all I think about from 10:30 to 1:35 is food.

I've spent so much time thinking about this that I've been able to come up with a definitive ranking of the three best snacks of all time. These rankings are based on three factors: price, taste, and amount you can eat in one sitting.

Coming in last is Doritos. They range from \$2-\$4 depending on size, which is a steal. The taste, of course, is up to standard. I don't know a single person who doesn't like doritos, and if I did know such a person, I would be scared of them. Like chex mix, the great thing about doritos is the variety of flavors. In my humble opinion, original and sweet chili are the best flavors, and cool ranch is overrated (sorry, I don't make the rules).

Doritos might be one of the most addictive snacks out

there, so eating a huge amount in one sitting is not super difficult. Now, sure, doritos are a great snack on their own. However, my main reason for being such a dorito fanatic is that I love walking tacos. They are the perfect compliment to every single topping, and for this reason, I'm ranking them a 9/10. The only reason they aren't a 10 is that a lot of the flavors are a miss.

Next up is white cheddar popcorn, which costs around \$3-4 per bag. These are pricier than doritos, but it's definitely worth it. With white cheddar popcorn, I would say it's worth it to splurge for better brands. For example, low tier popcorn would be Old Dutch, although it's pretty good. Middle tier would be Smartfood, which up until recently, was my go-to popcorn.

Recently, however, I've discovered that Kowalski's makes their own white cheddar popcorn, and it is out of this world. It's made with coconut oil, so it basically tastes like movie theater popcorn but with cheddar added. This is perfect for me, because I can watch Dance Moms on my couch and pretend I'm at the movie theater. With popcorn, you can eat an infinite amount in one sitting, because the main ingredient is air. Overall, I rate white ched-

Lily's top 3 snack list

dar popcorn an easy 10/10.

Lastly, the best snack out there is an original Lily Hennessee invention: guakis. It's just takis dipped in guacamole, but it is literally the best thing I have ever tasted. The one drawback of this snack is that it's a lot pricier, as there are two separate components, and good guacamole can be rather expensive. However, I stand by this snack, because it is worth the price, and I would even pay upward of \$20 just to eat this snack.

Not only does the guaki itself taste good, but the taki dust mixes into the guacamole as you're dipping. So, if you want to eat plain chips and guac later, the guac gets an extra kick. The one problem with guakis is that I'm scared to eat too many, because I've heard stories of people going to the ER from eating too many takis. However, I simply do not care, and give this snack a rating of 20/10, because the flavor is just that insane.

So, there you have it, my definitive ranking of the three best snacks. I sincerely hope everyone reading this tries guakis, it will be well worth your time and money. Lastly, I'd like to extend a prayer to all my other D lunchers out there. Only a few more weeks left, we can get through this.

Film nerds give hot takes

Jack and Otis offer some insights

Otis King and Jack Cheatham
Staff Writer

Otis's overall take: The Oscars have finally rolled around once more. Better late than never (maybe) as they have hit a record low year for viewers. Roughly 9 million people viewed the Oscars this year, 14 million less than last year. But while the venue was strange and accompanied with a few face twisting moments (including Francis Mcdormand howling like a wolf and Glenn Close twerking basically) I actually found the overall ceremony enjoyable and mostly agreed with the award given.

Jack's overall take: To me this was a very average award ceremony for me and, for the most part, I thought it was ok. Unlike last year when I ran around the room when Parasite swept the show or when

Joaquin Phoenix won best actor, nothing blew me away and for the most part they played it safe.

Otis agrees with this also.

Best supporting actor winner: Daniel Kaluuya for Judas and the Black Messiah.

Otis' take: Well deserved after he was snubbed for getting out. I'm very happy the award went to Mr. Kaluuya, although I am sad Lakieth Stanfeild couldn't have won also.

Jack's take: I knew from the moment the award was announced that it would either go to Kaluuya or Stanfeild, although Paul Raci was excellent in Sound of Metal. I'm super happy Kalluya got it since he's been great in everything he's in and I know Standeild will get one in the future.

Best supporting Actress: Youn Yuh-jung for Minari

Otis's take: I couldn't be happier about this award. As someone who didn't absolutely love the movie (although I still thought it was great) she

was my favorite part. Funny and perfectly tempered for her character I was never unimpressed with her performance in this film. A certain layer of depth was needed for her character and in the story and she definitely did not disappoint.

Jack's take: A great choice as Yuh-jung delivered the stand-out performance in a movie full of great ones. She balanced so many emotions and essentially played a completely new character in the second half. This win came as somewhat of a shock since I thought Amanda Seyfried would win but this was a very pleasant surprise.

Best Picture

Jack's take: Nomadland was a pretty safe bet, especially after Chloe Zhao won Best Director, and I wholeheartedly agree with it. Nomadland was a top 3 movie for me of last year and loved the slow, humble approach it took to discussing life and death. I honestly would have been happy with

Oscars, 7

Super League crashes and burns

Joe Deutch
Staff Writer

On April 18th, a soccer competition by the name of the European Super League was announced with some of the most prestigious soccer teams in the world participating. On April 21st, that same competition was discontinued, never to be uttered by the teams again. Within three days the European Super League went from being considered an exciting new project backed by all of these great and historic teams to being bashed as the league to destroy soccer forever.

The European Super League was going to be made up of 16 teams all of which are considered the best in the world. Teams like Real Madrid, Manchester United and FC Barcelona. Of the 16 teams, 11 would be selected as the “core founding” clubs. These clubs would be granted immunity in the league and no matter how poor they do, they would never be eliminated from it for the next 20 years and beyond.

The competition was really made up to be a cash grab for all of these largely viewed clubs. In the Champions League, which is the biggest club competition in the world, the winner of the 2020 competition made around \$100 million while the sign on bonus for the core ESL clubs is around \$400 million each. From a business standpoint the ESL is a great investment and would have made the owners as well as all involved a ton of money. From any other standpoint the ESL is horrible for the fans, anyone not involved in the competition and a stain on the history of soccer. There are many other cons to it as well.

There are a lot of downsides to the ESL hence the harsh backlash it has received. One example has been through



the immunity granted to the founding teams. Part of what makes the Champions League so great is that any club can participate, it all depends on the teams standings in the season prior. With the ESL, the big teams are guaranteed a spot in the competition no matter how poorly they play. This pretty much sidelines these smaller and gives them no hope of ever achieving European glory.

Another reason for the Super Leagues backlash is that through competitions such as the Champions League or Europa League, young players from small clubs all across Europe have the chance to shine and prove themselves. This contributes to their future success and helps them advance with their soccer journey. Something that all soccer fans in the world love to see and/or hear.

As of April 21st, the ESL was discontinued with fans

rejoicing on that occasion. The protests on soccer clubs did not stop, however. Fans from clubs such as Arsenal and Manchester United are calling for their owners to step down as they are now being seen as “greedy” and as “traitors.” Not only the fans, but notable former players, players with statues outside of each club’s stadium, have been taking a stand against the ESL and their former teams.

There is no doubt that the Super League was a horrible idea perceived very negatively by the public. However, the ESL will most likely happen at some point down the line. The more soccer becomes global and hits markets such as the US and China, the more that people are going to want to frequently see big games such as Manchester United v. Barcelona. That still leaves the idea of the ESL gone but most definitely not forgotten.

Graduation, 1

However, the seniors are still excited about the prospect of having an in-person graduation ceremony, after the

somewhat fragmented high school experience they’ve had over the past couple of years. “I was expecting it to happen but I was surprised that it’s happening indoors, though

I think they’re taking a lot of safety measures. I feel very spoiled getting this opportunity, and I’m excited!” said senior Kate Moe.



Seniors Aiko Mattie, Charlotte Marboe, and Lily Hennessee eating their donuts (left), seniors Lachlan Cotner and Elsa Carlson on donut declaration day (right).

Purple Press Staff Photos

Another excellent chapter in the MCU

The Falcon and the Winter Soldier gives two overlooked characters the spotlight they deserve

Nicholas Streng
Staff Writer

Remember Sam Wilson and Bucky Barnes? The guy with mechanical wings and the other guy with the vibranium arm? Yeah, I don’t blame you if you don’t, they’re pretty forgettable in the massive story of the Marvel Cinematic Universe - until now. The Falcon and the Winter Soldier - as suggested by the show’s title - puts these two front and center in their very own show, and delivers a story that exceeded my expectations as a long-time Marvel fan.

The Falcon and the Winter Soldier is the MCU’s second television series, premiering on Disney Plus on March 19, 2021, with six episodes in total for its first season; one episode was released every Friday until the last one on April 23. The series is created by Malcolm Spellman, who also was the head writer of the series, and all of the episodes are directed by Kari Skogland. Anthony Mackie and Sebastian Stan return from previous MCU movies to portray the titular characters Sam (the Falcon) and Bucky (the Winter Soldier) respectively.

Taking place six months after the events of Avengers: Endgame, where “the Blip” brought back all the people that everyone’s favorite giant purple man snapped away, the series has a main focus on Sam’s struggle to be Captain America as a black man, as he joins up with Bucky and a few unexpected allies to fight a radical anti patriotism group



Manatee, 2

Aside from those regular season games, the team will also participate in the state tournament, the Matoska Classic, and hopefully the Hopkins Hustle. “We’re losing a couple of key players for state, so hopefully we do well at the other tournaments because I think that will be the

known as the Flag Smashers who want to restore the state of the world back to how it was during the Blip.

I have to say, I didn’t have very high expectations for this series. I was interested to see Sam and Bucky’s stories being expanded upon hearing the announcement, but I wasn’t excited for it the same way I was for previous Marvel movies. My only hope was that Sam and Bucky would finally no longer be sidelined by the far more popular Avengers with their own film trilogies, and that’s pretty much what I was expecting as well. But this series fulfilled my wish and then went above and beyond.

Sam is undoubtedly the best character in the series, and I couldn’t be happier that he’s gone from one of the least popular Marvel characters to one of the most popular. The series is at its best when it focuses on the racial issues brought into focus by Sam deciding whether he believes he can be the next Captain America or not, after Steve Rogers gave his shield to him. Bucky, who was already a pretty good but ultimately sidelined character in previous MCU entries, had his most interesting character arc here as he struggled with his murderous past as the Winter Soldier. Both of these titular stars get so much more characterization than they ever have before, and as a result, are made far more likeable.

The characters reintroduced from previous movies were all great additions, notably Helmut Zemo, the antagonist from Captain America 3, as well as the new characters, the best one easily being John Walker, who was a character I loved to hate, yet found compelling. If you’ve seen the series, you know why.

The directing and cinematography is just as good as any other MCU movie, and while some of the action scenes are a little too fast-paced for me, this series also did some really well done new and creative ones. The musical score was

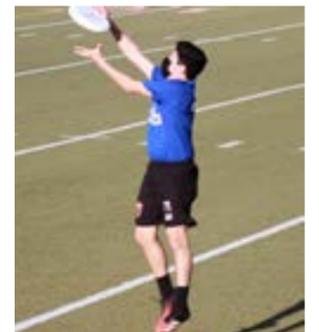
another great element. Henry Jackman has been one of my favorite MCU composers ever since I heard his score for Captain America 1 and 2, and I was glad he returned to compose the music here. The callbacks to musical moments from other MCU movies he did were especially clever, as well as expanding upon Sam’s Falcon motif, only heard a couple times from other movies, turning it into a full superhero theme here.

Finally, the cast for this series was excellent. Anthony Mackie and Sebastian Stan did well as Sam and Bucky, but it was John Walker and Zemo who stole nearly every scene they were in, thanks to the performances of Wyatt Russell and Daniel Bruhl. Additionally, Erin Kellyman as Karli Morgenthau, the leader of the Flag Smasher group, while not being quite as memorable as the previous characters listed, still was a well written - and performed - antagonist.

The only major criticism I have of this series is the pacing. It’s able to slow down and let important moments play out, but then rushes through other moments I wish had gotten more focus. This is due to the fact that the series got a little ambitious with everything - and everyone it introduced, and thus struggled to juggle them all equally. Some character arcs and parts of the story weren’t nearly as well done as others, with a few characters having their arc offscreen. Fortunately the series did manage to stick the landing well with the finale, something I was worried it wouldn’t be able to do with everything it was building up.

Concluding this review, The Falcon and the Winter Soldier is a fantastic series that only got better as the episodes went on, and while it has its fair share of problems, they fail to bring down the show in any significant way as a whole in my eyes. I’m giving it a 9/10 and will remember it as one of the better MCU stories.

team. With the team being dominated by a huge senior class, it’s easy to assume that next year looks daunting. However, Jalen thinks otherwise, “This team has a lot of potential, I think with more practice we will be a contender, I’m excited to see how it goes.”



Senior Elijah Ojo throwing the frisbee during a game (left), Adrian Kellar Miller catching the frisbee (right).

James Dungan-Seaver

How long will masks be worn?

Scarlet Longard
Staff Writer

Masks. Most people are used to wearing them by now, and many people may be wondering, “When will the mask-wearing end?”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that “When you are fully vaccinated, you can visit inside a home or private setting without a mask with other fully vaccinated people of any age [but] you can’t visit indoors, without a mask, with people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.”

Although, even if masks aren’t required, some people will choose to wear them. When asked what she thought about mask-wearing after the pandemic, Kati Kragtorp, environmental toxicologist and biology teacher at Breck School, said “I think it’s probably very likely that there’s gonna be a lot of people who don’t want to wear [masks] anymore, but I think there are people who think it might be a good idea to make it a little more normal so we can try to get things like the flu to not happen as much.” And when asked if and when she thinks she would wear a mask after the pandemic, Kragtorp said, “I think that probably after all of this, if I ever feel like I have like a cold

or something like that, I think there’s a 60-70% chance that I would choose to wear a mask if I wasn’t feeling well.”

People in some countries wear masks even when there isn’t a pandemic. According to an article by CNBC author Christina Farr, “In countries like Taiwan, those who did not wear a mask were occasionally even publicly shamed on social media for failing to take proper precautions.” Farr also said later in the article, “Hope King, a New York-based journalist, has found comfort in that moment on the street when people pull their mask up as they approach. She sees it as a sign of respect.” There are also people with medical conditions who are afraid of catching something like the cold virus because, for them, it could even be deadly. Most of them feel safer during the COVID-19 pandemic because almost everyone around them



English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt wearing his mask and shield for school (left), science teacher Megan Hall wearing a mask and shield for school (right).

is wearing a mask and practicing other safety measures.

Though some people think mask-wearing will become a part of American culture, some people can’t wait to get rid of their masks. When asked if she would continue to wear a mask if masks are no longer required, 8th grader Amaya Sanders said, “If COVID is down, like, the numbers are down, I probably wouldn’t wear a mask.” Lyra Longard, 5th grader at Cherokee Heights Elementary said, “Masks are uncomfortable.”

So, the CDC will most likely recommend masks until enough people are vaccinated against COVID-19 and all of its strands. Even after masks aren’t required though, there will still be many people who will continue to wear them at least when they aren’t feeling well.



Purple Press Staff Photo

Mock trial, 2

yers from the other team using that character and the facts of the case - very much like improv!” Tom said. “On the other side, we have some students who are interested in learning about the law and the work of lawyers. Those students work with our attorney coaches to understand the law of case and rules of evidence and work on their public speaking skills. We really need both types!”

There have been some challenges to distance learning. “It

was hard to create a feeling of positive anxiety around the deadlines with so many other things changing. It was hard to get the lawyers access to the witnesses to practice all the time. I had to fill in for a lot of roles!” said Tom. “It’s harder to connect over a video call,” Hazel explained. “One of the biggest problems I encountered as a witness was that it’s harder to get the subtleties of a character across when you can only see down to your shoulders. Vice versa, it can be hard to determine what the attorney

wants from you because their tone and facial expressions are harder to read.”

“It was hard to get new talent into the fold this year,” said Tom, but “We won our first trial!”

Looking ahead to next year, Tom is excited to continue the program. “It would be nice to build on our success of getting our first win by winning one or two matches next year. I would also like to get more young people involved. We are kind of an aged program at this point.”

Raya, 5

proper depth that I think they deserved, which left me pretty dissatisfied.

The main characters of the movie, Raya, Sisu, and to a lesser extent, Namaari, I enjoyed a bit more, however. I liked Raya and her character arc of learning to trust others. I liked Sisu and her bubbly personality, and I thought Namaari was a great foil to Raya. However, again with the fast pacing, we didn’t get to see too much depth, which I thought was a bit disappointing. The scene during the climax, without spoiling anything, really threw me off in terms of character and message.

Finally, onto the animation and artwork within the movie. This movie was gorgeous to watch. I often feel like every new animated Disney movie

always improves in animation quality from the last, and this was no exception. The settings, costumes, and character designs were all beautiful, fun and interesting, no doubt because of the movie’s influences it took from the culture of Southeast Asia. The fight choreography was also super interesting as well. The only main issue I had was again, that it all went by a bit too fast, and I didn’t really feel like I had enough time to soak it in. Also, Sisu’s design. In this highly fantastical and cultural world, Sisu’s design just looks like a typical, regular old dragon, with a strangely uncanny face might I add. I find it a shame, because her previous designs in concepts had more fins, details, and pops of color, and it would have been a bit nicer to see that than “Elsa but

make her a dragon.”

So, in conclusion, I thought Raya was an okay movie. It’s got some great artwork, world-building, and story. However, the pacing flew by way too fast for me, which in turn messed up many elements of the movie, at least for me. I honestly think that this movie could have worked much better as a tv show, one that could give the world ample time to develop, and probably would have made for a better experience overall.

Overall, I would give this movie a 7/10. It’s got all of the elements for a good story, but is mainly hampered by its pacing and story flaws. In the end, I would recommend that if you really want to watch Raya, to save your \$30 and wait for it to come out on Disney+, because you aren’t missing much.

Anti-racism, 1

group at OWL that has been around for six years. It is facilitated by reading and ELL teacher Bridget Leba and special education teacher Misha Hemingson. Some of their work includes the privilege walk they conducted in Crews a couple of years ago. One Dare 2B Real student, who would like to be anonymous, talked about how we’ve been taught a false narrative and schools seem to white wash history, and we need to tell it not just from a white perspective, but all perspectives.

Bridget said “Right now, this work is so important because of the things that are happening in our world, things that are happening in our community, that this is necessary work.” When talking about interviewing a person of color, senior Lucy Mullarky said “it really opened my eyes, because I really didn’t know what it was like to be a person of color in the real world.” Everyone in Dare 2B Real talked about the need for education on race and listening to what students of color have to say, especially in a school that’s majority white. “Young people are gonna change the world,” said Misha.

Beyond Dare 2B Real, another platform for anti-racism at OWL is Crew, and the plans to integrate anti-racist curriculum into Crew goes several years. “A few years ago, Nora and I were working together in the BELE (Building Equitable Learning Environments) project and became inspired by a student group that led home-grown ethnic studies lessons in their school. We wanted to do something similar to lift up more voices in our school community. Crew seemed like

a good fit because everyone is in Crew and we have a lot of say in regards to Crew curriculum,” said science teacher Megan Hall. OWL’s EL Education school designer Dale Bergerhofer said “I agree with Megan that the BELE Project was a key point in the OWL Conversation about equity. And would also add that analyzing a BELE student survey data that was conducted in Crew, some OWL students responded they did not feel a part of Crew. This raised concerns about supporting ALL students at OWL.”

I talked to some staff who were a part of developing the anti-racist Crew curriculum this year. When asking why is now the time to have these lessons, they talked about how after George Floyd’s murder, they saw the need to dismantle racism in our community. “I hope that these lessons help us all to recognize the ways in which what we do and how we do it lead to inequitable outcomes for the BIPOC members of our community,” said Spanish teacher Tim Leone-Getten. “Once we start a conversation and recognize the ways in which we need to improve, we can better address the issues.”

Over the summer, a staff anti-racist group was led by Tim and librarian Caryl Mousseaux. “We have been working on educating ourselves on issues of equity for many years, but this group was most inspired by the murder of George Floyd,” Tim said, “we know as white teachers in a diverse school, we have to challenge ourselves to learn about how our privilege impacts our school and our students.” They did reading, watched videos, listened to podcasts, and had discussions about them,

making sure it was centered around local issues of education specifically and what they as teachers in our state can do. But their work isn’t done. “This led to our work in Crew this year,” said Tim.

I also talked to a couple of students that identify as students of color about being what it’s like to be a person of color at OWL and their opinions on anti-racism. Seventh grader Birhane Nord told me how what we saw with George Floyd is nothing new, saying “this has happened before,” and saying that it always seems like someone has to be brutally killed before people open their eyes. Ninth grader Jaielle Galbreath said she thinks anti-racism isn’t only actively fighting against racism when you see it but fighting people’s own racist thoughts they may have. “People might have grown up in a racist household or a racist community,” she said, “anti racism-is saying like what I grew up in is not okay and I’m not gonna contribute to that.” Both students talked about how important it is to educate ourselves.

Very recently, the verdict in the Derek Chauvin trial for George Floyd’s murder was guilty on all charges. This was historic, but that doesn’t mean anti-racism is no longer relevant, in fact it is still very relevant. About a week before the guilty verdict, Daunte Wright, a 20-year-old Black man was killed by a police officer in Brooklyn Center, in Hennepin county. At OWL, plans are in place to keep working on anti-racism. “Yes, we will continue this work,” said Tim. “It is not complete in one summer or one school year. It is a long, yet urgent process to transform our society.”

Oscars, 5

whoever one, except the Trial of the Chicago 7, but I’m glad Nomadland did.

Otis’ take: I’ve talked about Nomadland before. I think it is a good movie and the obvious choice (for the Oscars) for an Oscar. I hope that made sense. Let me explain. I think Nomadland is exactly what the Oscars look for in a best picture movie. Great performances and a good young filmmaker who has proved herself so far and not to mention the tearjerker story. It’s a good pic but also the obvious choice. I don’t think anyone thought it would go to any other movie.

Best Actress: Francis McDormant

Jack’s take: Despite Nomadland being a great movie, I never fell in love with Francis McDormant’s performance. I thought the supporting cast was fantastic but I wasn’t blown away by the lead. I have seen any other of the nominees movies but I’m not sure if McDormant was the right call.

Otis’ take: I’ve seen better performances from McDormant but I honestly think she deserved it this year. And with this win she became the second most winning in the category with 3 wins (Fargo, Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri, and Nomadland.) I wasn’t a fan of Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom but Viola Da-

vis was extraordinary in her performance. For me it was between those two and I was happy to see it go either way. McDormant’s performance had a quiet depth that I found very impressive and that only a high level actor could pull off. The kind of beaten down sadness almost made the movie all the more heartbreaking to me. Deserved but a tough choice.

Best Actor

Jack’s take: I think the Oscars handled this category horribly and was considered the biggest surprise of the night, even if I mostly agree with the winner. The way they hyped Boseman up all night as the winner by switching best actor to the final award, announcing him last in the memorandum, and even handing out NFTs was complete BS considering who actually got the award.

With that being said, Hopkins was incredible as a dementia victim and was quite possibly a career best.

Otis’ take: I cannot state how blown away I was by Anthony Hopkins performance. I was particularly impressed with his ability to jump between emotions so quickly which is so accurate with the subject matter. I will say the way the academy handled this award was terrible. Not only leading those to believe Chadwick Boseman was the winner but also not allowing Anthony Hopkins to give a virtual speech. Due to his inability to be there he wanted to give a speech from his home and the academy wouldn’t let him which I think is totally ridiculous, especially when talking about an actor as respected as Anthony Hopkins.

