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# Purple Press

Volume #20, Issue #5

March 9th, 2020

## Possibility of SPPS teacher strikes looms

*Two sides must settle by March 10*

Grace Bellamy  
Staff Writer

As of press time, contract negotiations between St. Paul Public Schools and the St. Paul Federation of Educators are ongoing, meaning that Saint Paul teachers will go on strike on Tuesday unless the new teacher contract can be settled before then.

SFFE voted in an 86% ma-

jority to strike on Thursday, February 20. Each district building with union members will have a picket line if a strike happens. SPFE members picketed outside schools on Wednesday, February 26 to put more pressure on the district for their contract goals.

Should a strike occur, schools will be closed and all after school activities will be

canceled, except for varsity sports that will occur on a case-by-case basis. Permitted activities, like archery, will continue. Several locations will offer free breakfasts and lunches to those under 18, and some elementary schools will also offer childcare from 8:30 to 3:00, as well as transport to those locations. The district also encouraged using iPads

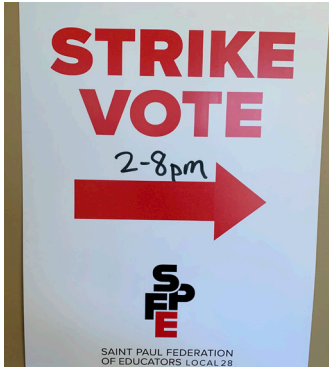
to continue learning for 6th through 12th grade students.

If the strike is long enough, the district has reserved the right to alter the school year schedule. There are some extra days built into the school year, but if strike days go over this allotment, the school year could be extended. This has potential to affect the amount of credits high schoolers are able to earn towards graduation. For striking staff, the im-

pacts are greater. They will not receive wages and, should a strike last this long, beginning on April 1, will not receive insurance. Staff may also not work on district-related activities or use their school emails.

SPFE's main bargaining points are increased mental health resources in each school, including fully staffed mental health teams in each building, weighted caseloads

Strike, 3



The union voted to strike on Thursday, February 20.

## The face of OWL retiring



Cheryl working with OWL's new secretary Tammy Plaman (left). Cheryl being her usual happy and helpful self (right).

Kate Moe  
Staff Writer

Working at Open World Learning for ten years, and 21 in Saint Paul Public Schools, OWL's beloved secretary Cheryl Giles is retiring. This is a hard time for most as she greeted them with a smile on

her face in the morning. "I kept positive because it's just in my nature. Being positive rather than negative. Glass half full rather than half empty," said Cheryl. Her last official day was on Friday, February 28th.

She has been through three buildings with the school, and

even when Open was a K-12 school. This is a hard transition for most to say goodbye to the beloved secretary.

When asked about what she will miss most, Cheryl said, "Obviously the students and the staff are gonna be the thing I miss the most."

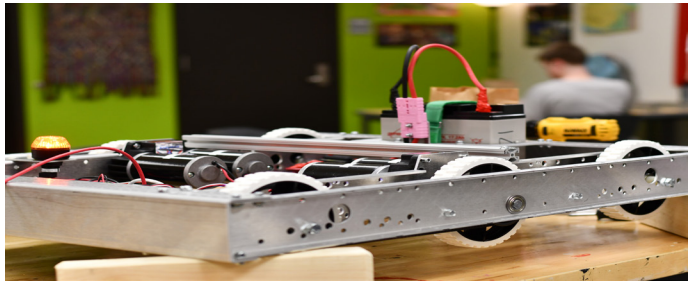


Purple Press Staff Photo

Though we are sad Cheryl is retiring, Tammy Plaman will be stepping in as the schools leading secretary. Tammy has been at OWL for four years as a Special Education Paraprofessional. Tammy is very excited and honored to become the new schools secretary and

Cheryl is confident she is leaving with the right person in charge.

"When I retire, I would like to travel, but still come back to OWL to volunteer!" said Cheryl.



Senior Grace Bellamy with 11th graders Frankie Buettner and Emma McCarthy at robotics practice (above), part of the robot they are building (below).

## Robotics is for girls, too!

*Girls vastly outnumbered in this STEM-focused competition*

Samantha O'Hara Graff  
Staff Writer

In early December I attended the Jump Start robotics training at Saint Cloud State University. When I entered the auditorium it really stood out to me the amount of male presence compared to the female presence. Looking around the auditorium there were about 100 schools and yet I could still count the amount of females there on my fingers.

FIRST Robotics Competition was founded in 1989 by Dean Kamen and Woodie Flowers. At that time there was

little to no female presence in robotics or the STEM fields, which are science, technology, engineering and math. According to ladiesinfirst.com there is an average of 30% of females participating on teams nationally, of that 30% there is one all girls team, one team with 50% girls and two teams with no girls.

In robotics there are many roles within the team and a recent study showed that the number of girls in the building, programming, and driving area was particularly underrepresented. That stat is so

important because it shows that even when girls are on FRC teams they are still not well represented in the STEM fields.

But gender does not seem to be a problem on OWL's Open Circuits team. "We are fortunate to have a great balance of students who identify as female, male, and non-binary," said Biology teacher and robotics coach Megan Hall. Being on the team, I have seen nothing but support and comradery, and it does not feel like any gender has more power over the other. "Three of our five captains are female," said Megan. This is very important

Robotics, 2

## Disney+, does it deserve the hype?



Ted Dobbins  
Staff Writer

Wouldn't it be nice when you're wanting to see the next new Marvel blockbuster or Star Wars movie and you think, oh what if I could catch up on the latest movies. But where do you find them? Disney Plus has all the Disney content you want.

Disney Plus is currently one of the most popular and divisive streaming platforms around. Is it a good value? Good question.

Disney Plus, launched on November 12th, quickly gained more than 10 million subscribers. The subscriber count is still rising, and is greater than some platforms like HBO-Now and CBS all access. But, it still has competition from streaming services such as Netflix, Hulu and Amazon Prime.

Disney Plus has many properties and certain film franchises, which pull in subscribers. Franchises like the Marvel Cinematic Universe, Star Wars, and Disney renaissance films are aimed towards a younger audience, but still attract many life-long fans. Also Disney Plus contains no rated R movies, only PG-13 or lower films, which might not appeal to older audiences. Disney Plus is marketed for mostly younger viewers, for it is all Disney content, which is

Disney+, 2





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Robotics, 1

because it shows that the females on the team are reaching for leadership roles which is crucial because it sets the tone for other girls in STEM.

Visitation High School is home to the Robettes, Minnesota's first all girls high school robotics team. The Robettes share love and support for each other, but also inspire other girls to get involved in the STEM program. Their team puts on an event every year called GRIP (Girls in Robotics Improving Performance). It was made to help young women on co-ed FRC teams to improve their technical dexterity and self-advocacy skills. "If you can see it, you can be it," said Robette Maisie Mische.

What's it like being on an all girls team in a male-dominated field? "We are not any less capable of designing, building, marketing, and operating a robot than anybody else, but that's still an unspoken assumption that sometimes surrounds us," said Maisie. When girls are thinking about joining robotics there may be some fear that it's too hard or that they won't fit in, but it is so crucial that girls should know that they belong. "You have just as much right to be there as anybody else and you can never ask too many questions about how things work," said Visitation Robette Adeleine Cooper.

Although the open circuits

Robotics, 6

Playing with the law

Mock trial requires preparation as well as lots of improvisation

Annika Lofgren and Willa Campion  
Staff Writer

OWL students Hazel Carroll and Galadrial Barrett are called before the judge as witnesses. Hazel are defending Sam Soto, who is being charged for 3rd degree murder. Galadrial is on the state side. But this isn't real, it's mock trial, an after school activity at OWL.

Mock trial is basically what it sounds like, an imitation criminal trial, or court case. Assistant coach English teacher Kevin Hansen, described Mock trial as, "a simulation of a real criminal trial." Each participant chooses a role as a witness, lawyer, bailiff or timekeeper. Every participating team has three witnesses, doubling depending on if they are prosecution or defense, two or three understudies for the witnesses, three lawyers, one bailiff, and one time keeper.

At the beginning of the season, all the teams (one per each participating school) receives the same case, and writes their own arguments for both the prosecution and the defense. The participants within a team split into two smaller teams, one for prosecution and one for defense. OWL has a smaller team, meaning every participant practices both. Teams practice and rehearse their arguments, including what witnesses and attorneys will say. Each participant has to memorize facts or pieces of information and is judged on projection and delivery, making it similar to a play. Due to this, there is a crossover between school play actors and mock trial participants.

"It's also a competition, so you're scored and get points, based on how your questioning of a witness goes, things like opening and closing statements. It takes what would usually be a month long process, and condenses it down into a 2 hour simulation of a trial. You alternate between being on the prosecution, and then being for the defense every other meet, so you have to learn both sides of the trial inside and out," said Kevin. Competitions are judged based on argument strength, delivery, and fact accuracy by judges who act as a jury. So far, OWL's team has lost both their meets, which is common for a team new to mock trial. "It's the first time we've done it, so we are all just figuring it out," said Kevin.

This year is OWLs first year having a mock trial team. Math teacher Tom Totushek is



Tom Totushek

The mock trial team at a competition this year.

The month of January was the cloudiest month ever recorded

Climate change not the culprit for the gloomiest month ever

Mercutio Takle  
Staff Writer

CLIMATE CHANGE aka the most bullied two words that start with C in science history. It's the source of most of the wild and intense weather phenomena that have occurred throughout the past twenty-ish years. The key word in there is most, as this time, I won't be discussing something directly related to Climate Change. And oh boy is it lackluster.

Do you know what I miss about anything but winter? The sun. In fact, January (and early February) 2020 had the most cloudy days of any winter since 1954. Despite this, temperatures have been rather lukewarm for a Minnesota winter. Which lowkey bugs the crap out of me. I've already established that I'm not a fan of winter, but this lack of sunlight has gone on for too long. Why not answer some questions as to why these constant boring ass clouds are filtering out sunlight.

For starters, we know that clouds are just condensed water vapor, simple science stuff everyone knows. But those clouds are constantly moving as wind carries them away. And with it being so dry during the winter, how are these clouds even sustaining themselves? While temperatures have been warm-ish, it hasn't been enough to fully melt most lakes within Minnesota, so what's the culprit?

Our favorite great lakes being any lake but Lake Erie almost never freezes within the midwest winters. Lake Erie, like its name implies, is dark and edgy, meaning it usually freezes within late January. Lake Superior mostly affected Minnesota and the UP of Michigan as it normally does. Several low pressure systems were forced south by the cur-

coaching, with English teacher Kevin Hansen assistant coaching. OWLs team has 10 participants in grades 7 - 10. 7th grader Galadrial Barrett is a witness for OWLs mock trial team. "My favorite thing about mock trial is the people that are in it, and I guess the fact that it helps with public speaking," she said, when citing a few of the reasons she joined.

Kevin described the case mock trial participants are arguing this year to us. "The current trial is the case of Sam Soto, a person who allegedly gave powerful opioid drugs to one of his good friends at a party, and then that good friend, Mr. Brandon Webster, died of a drug overdose that evening." The case is fictional, however it is based on recent court cases in Minnesota. In fact, Minnesota is one of only three states where you can be charged with third degree murder.

However, privilege does play a role in mock trial. "I think there's some privilege that goes into it," said Kevin. "The majority [of schools that participate] are private schools or more affluent suburban schools, like Minnetonka and Edina," he put it. "There are also many kids [from other schools] that have parents that probably practice law in some regard, so those students will get more support and more help. ... These kids wear nicer clothes than I do," he added.

Kevin is excited for next season. Going into next year with more experience and hopefully more participants, Kevin hopes to have separate prosecution and defense teams. "Hopefully we'll be able to have a team again, and next year we won't have to learn all these basic lessons, and we can go a little bit deeper, and have better idea of what we're doing."



OWL Staff photo

Minnesota United fans march to the stadium before a game last spring.

OWL home to plenty of legit MNUFC fans

Max Muench and Adrian Keller-Miller  
Staff Writers

Have you seen people wearing Loons gear lately?

Minnesota United Football Club, nicknamed the Loons, is Minnesota's professional soccer team based in Saint Paul. The club began playing in Saint Paul at their new stadium, Allianz Field, in the Midway neighborhood in the spring of 2019. Many people like the stadium. "It's amazing, it's the best thing that's happened... in the world. The fact that they built a professional soccer stadium biking distance to my house is a miracle to me," said English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt.

OWL is home to many MNUFC supporters, students and teachers. Some of these teachers are hardcore supporters like Leo, or History teacher Dan Sullivan, and principal Dave Gundale. There are also less serious fans such as science teacher Megan Hall, Spanish teacher Grant Boulanger, and math teacher Tom Totushek who went to one game with Leo. Leo is arguably the biggest fan at owl. "My favorite piece of merchandise is my blue sweatshirt... I also have a hat, 3 t shirts, bumper

Disney plus, 1

a younger audience-oriented company.

An advantage over other platforms in many ways is the price and package of a subscription. At \$6.99 per month or \$70 a year for a subscription, you can download content and have three devices watching at once. Compare this to Netflix's three tiers of subscription pricing, the Basic (lowest) plan for Netflix is \$8.99 per month for one device streaming at a given time, and the Premium (highest) plan, which offers four devices, is \$15.99 per month.

Another package does exist for Disney Plus. For \$12.99 you can get Disney Plus, Hulu, and ESPN+. An ordinary subscription for Hulu is \$5.99 and \$4.99 for ESPN+, which if you subscribed to each streaming service individually it would cost around \$18, which saves you some money.

A disadvantage of Disney Plus, however, is the amount of content. It may be cheaper than Netflix, but the content varies. Disney Plus contains 500 films, Netflix has roughly 4,000, so there's a difference in quantity, although Disney Plus has many titles that are currently popular. There are six categories that attract subscribers specifically, Disney, Pixar, Star Wars, Marvel and National Geographic films/TV shows, and another large attraction for Disney Plus is its originals. Some people just get Disney Plus just for Star Wars and MCU films.

The Star Wars movies are/have been on Disney Plus, other platforms, DVD, and have been around for a while. Because of this, a large attraction is The Mandalorian TV show. Disney Plus is the only way to watch The Mandalorian so fans keep Disney Plus for these exclusives. Another advantage/disadvantage is the Disney live-action films. Disney Plus is advertised as having all these titles, but in fact they aren't arriving to Disney Plus until October 2020, what means many of all the new Disney films are not available.

In the end I do believe Disney Plus is worth it, and I think it is not a total waste. Although it might not have an extreme Disney Plus amount of options like other platforms, it has the films we want and are popular, like Marvel, Star Wars, and Pixar. And I think having all these great popular films on Disney Plus at your disposal makes up for its smaller size.



# Senior Spotlight

Jacob Rhode



How many years have you been at OWL?  
I believe this is my 7th year, since 6th grade

What are your plans for next year?  
Go to college, I'm hoping to go to Colorado School of The Minds for engineering

What's been your favorite class in high school?  
Probably AP Computer Science principles in 9th grade, that was a really good one with good people

What extracurriculars are you involved in?  
Right now only archery, however in the past I have done robotics

Favorite field work trip and why?  
Probably the Colorado Outward Bound trip which I have done several times now, but I also really enjoyed Du Nord it's a great trip

Favorite book, movie or TV show?  
My favorite book is probably 11/22/63 by Stephen King

How tall are you?  
I think I am about 5' 3"

What's your favorite class so far and why?  
Probably gym

Who's your favorite senior?  
Lucas

Where do you think you're going to go for college?  
Somewhere in Hawaii, maybe the University of Hawaii

What's your favorite book, movie, TV show or video game?  
I guess The Office... or Avengers

What is the weirdest thing about OWL?  
I don't know

# That One Little Kid

Violet Baer-Benson



# February events in photos



The Valentine's Day dance was a success! Students gather around the speakers at the Valentine's Day dance (top right), while high schoolers have a good time dancing (bottom right).

OWL History Day had a great turnout. 7th graders show off their project (middle left). A student answers questions about her exhibit (bottom right). Parents crowd a room of exhibits at History Day (bottom left). Regional History Day will be on Saturday, March 15 at Johnson High School.

# Time Crunch!

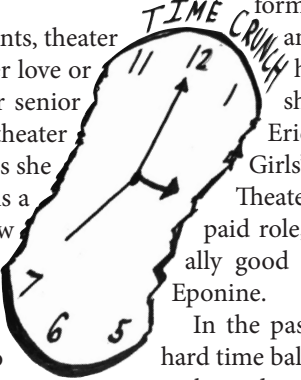
Elena Davis and Tess Cam-  
pion  
Staff Writers

For many students, theater is a class you either love or you don't like. For senior Eponine Diatta theater is more than a class she loves at school, it is a part of her life. Now Eponine is directing OWLs spring play, The Phantom Tollbooth, to teach the younger students about the art of performing in theater.

Eponine started experiencing theater in 6th grade and continued to grow and learn from doing plays at OWL, and since then she has done about 20 plays.

Eponine herself has worked and performed with theaters such as; The Jungle Theater, Broken Ivy theater, Exposed Brick Theater, the Youth Performance Company, and more. Some of her favorite roles she has played are, Erica from "School Girls" at the Jungle Theater. "It was my first paid role, and it was a really good experience," said Eponine.

In the past Eponine had a hard time balancing her acting with academics. "I think now I have learned what my limits are, and the amount of stuff I can have on my plate," Eponine said. "It definenly takes away time from my social life, that is kinda of the nice part about being able to meet all of my friends through that, because then that kind of work becomes my social life too."



Strike, 1

for special education teachers, and more multilingual staff in schools. SPPS's goals include providing resources for schools to create safe and successful environments, keep focus on students, and work within the available funds for financial sustainability. Despite the apparent agreement between both parties' goals, the money SPFE points would require is more than SPPS says is available.

SPFE considers a fully staffed mental health team to have licensed school social workers, counselors, psychologists, nurses, and behavioral support specialists. The number of staff each school would have depends on the size of the school and the age of the students. The union believes that addressing mental health needs "is a critical step to addressing the predictability of disparities by race, socioeconomic status, and disability, and will accelerate learning and achievement for all students," reads SPFE's website.

According to union president Nick Faber, the district has avoided responding to mental health proposals, instead replying to the union's proposals with actions they are already taking. The district released a statement February 19 that said there are already enough mental health supports. Nick disagrees, sharing an example of an elementary school that had to evacuate a classroom six times this year, due to violent behavior from a 1st grader. If there were adequate mental health supports in place, he argued, this would have happened a maximum of once.

Weighted caseloads for special education teachers means that the severity of each case is taken into account when assigning cases to spe-

cial ed teachers. For example, a higher-needs case may be considered equivalent to two cases with fewer needs. This reflects a growing concern about burnout rates among special education teachers in SPPS, while schools using the weighted caseload system see lower burnout rates.

The goal of increasing multilingual staff is to increase communication between students, schools, and families. SPFE also advocates for increasing numbers of cultural specialists at schools and having lists of on-call interpreters. Approximately 29% of SPPS students are English language learners.

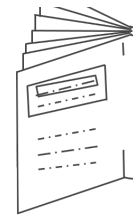
The approval of the strike vote moved faster than two years ago, the last time a strike vote occurred. "Clearly our teachers are frustrated," said Nick. The district seems less willing to respond to teacher proposals and union escalation. In the past, the threat of a strike vote has been enough to finalize contract negotiations, but recently the union has felt the need to get closer to a strike to achieve their negotiation goals. We "live in a time where we believe workers' voices aren't necessary to be heard," said Nick, despite first-hand experience in schools.

The last teachers strike in Saint Paul was 1946, when the women's SPFT was the first district to carry out an organized strike in the country. Saint Paul teachers came very close to striking in 1989. Just before the strike was going to happen, however, the mayor stepped in, so that a strike could be avoided. The last four out of five contract negotiations ended in mediation, which is the step before a strike vote, while two years ago, a strike vote occurred, but mediation was reached the night before the strike would have started.





# Reviews ‘n’ stuff



## Where the Democrats don’t succeed

*Democrats are arrogant, way out of touch, and unwilling to compromise on their liberal agenda*



Jonas Kammeyer-Mueller  
Staff Writer

On January 25th, CNN host Don Lemon was on a segment with Rich Wilson and Wahahat Ali and laughed at several jokes made at the expense of Trump supporters, or really anyone who wasn’t in dogmatic support of Democratic Party values and beliefs. Such jokes generally insulted the intelligence of what we will be referring to as DNC-skeptics, outright stating that they would not understand math, reading, or geography with such wonderful quotes as “Yer math an’ yer readin’! All those lines on the map!” Though Don has since claimed that he “wasn’t laughing at Trump supporters,” and that he “doesn’t belittle people,” his one minute and three second laughing fit forms a solid case against this. This attempt to save face not only doesn’t work outside of his own base, but also highlights one of the main reasons Trump flipped many former democratic strongholds, that being the trend from DNC politicians to have a combination of arrogance and ignorance.

Before I continue, most of the democratic candidates will not admit any contempt they may have, and certainly not publicly. However, democratic politicians like those in “the squad,” publications like the Huffington and Washington Posts, and public figures like Lemon and most celeb-

rities do push the character and policy of the DNC. What’s worse is that many of these figures seem incapable of actually relating to voters that are even just a little bit right of California, thinking that “this works in LA, it’ll work in the Great Lakes,” with few and far exceptions to this rule. In the 2016 election, all states in the Midwest, with the exception of Michigan, Illinois, and Minnesota voted overwhelmingly republican, with Minnesota barely touching blue. You’d

ia, not even half a decade after gaining it from republicans due to their fundamental ignorance of Virginian culture. The rapid gun control increases in the state led to over half the counties in the state declaring themselves Second Amendment Sanctuary Cities, and a massive rally in Richmond, protesting the law where Virginians all across the political spectrum came together against this bill.

The bigger issue highlighted by Lemon’s little laugh is the

a slightly lesser extent. In addition, many articles have been written about “the poor, brainwashed flyover voted for evil man Bignald Dingleblompf,” which is not all too dissimilar from the ages of white man’s burden mentality of “the poor, uneducated savages need civilization.”

Many urban, and thus almost exclusively democratic, voters fail spectacularly to, have no desire to, or outright refuse to relate their ideas to anyone who doesn’t live in an

*“The bigger issue highlighted by Lemon’s little laugh is the sheer arrogance of the Democratic Party, and how it views those who don’t kowtow to the dogma of liberalism.”*

think the Democratic Party would start crapping their pants and think to themselves “This is terrifying, we lost one of the biggest strongholds we have, we should campaign as hard as possible there,” and they haven’t.

Only two of the 4 major candidates (Biden, Warren, Bernie, and Pete) have actually campaigned in Minnesota, those being Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, and those two candidates combined have only done 3 fundraisers or events, of which have only been in or around metro areas. This shows how little the party cares about the state, despite an election map of the counties being overwhelmingly red, and our booming economy with record low unemployment isn’t going to be doing Dems any favors in November. In addition to this, democrats may have already lost Virgin-

ian, not even half a decade after gaining it from republicans due to their fundamental ignorance of Virginian culture. The rapid gun control increases in the state led to over half the counties in the state declaring themselves Second Amendment Sanctuary Cities, and a massive rally in Richmond, protesting the law where Virginians all across the political spectrum came together against this bill.

urban environment. Even candidates like Bernie and Warren, who have stable Midwest support in urban areas have their popularity fall like rocks off the Empire State Building the instant it’s over 15 miles away from an urban center. Even the democratic stronghold over California can’t break this, with most Californians who aren’t in the stretch between LA and Sacramento being against the Dems.

So yeah, Don Lemon’s little laugh shows us all the democratic party has to offer, in all the wrong ways. It was for these exact reasons why I left the ranks of the democratic party, why I’ve become so jaded against metropolitan areas in general, and why the Rust Belt has essentially been in open rebellion against these ideas since 2016. All they had to do was listen.

wouldn’t seem out of place at the start of an ‘It’ reboot. “An epidemic is spreading.” “the consequences will find you.” coming from organizations such as therealcost.org and truth.org, these ads follow a pretty set pattern- they show a teen vaping, the music swells, and then some horrific thing happens to them. Note that the horrific imagery used is never the reality of vape- there are no visuals of the small shards of glass found in Juul pods, there are no points made about how corporate executives have had vape technology for decades, saving it for when

## Noah’s Hot Takes: vaping



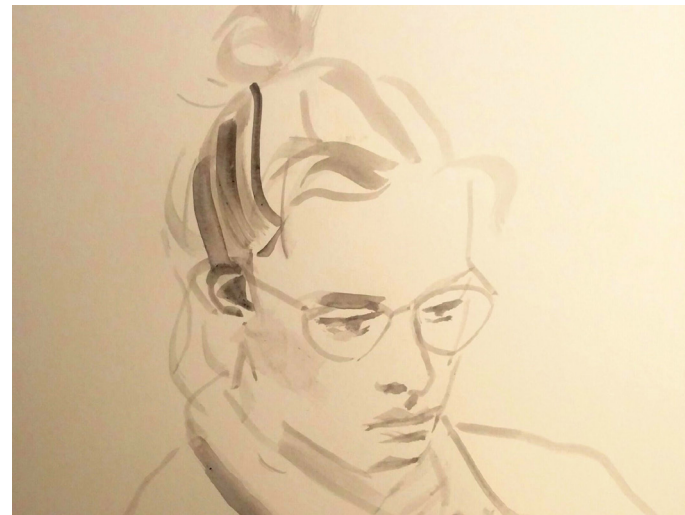
Noah Morris  
Staff Writer

My name is Noah Morris and out of all the people in the journalism class, I am apparently “Most Likely To Stay Up Until Midnight Reading About Current Events.” My exceedingly poor habits aside for a moment, I keep rather up to date on current global and national politics. So when I asked the powers that be what kind of column I should strive for, composing a relevant political column became my mission.

Therefore, from the depths of my sleep deprived subconscious, I bring you Noah’s Hot Take Corner.

Let’s talk about a local crisis -- vaping. Specifically, anti-vape media that ineffectively shames addicts without actually dealing with the problems of nicotine addiction, and the way that nicotine manufacturers are aiming to create another generation of addicts to abuse for profit. Opa! Let’s get into it.

These advertisements



## How peer pressure affects teen girls’ sexuality

Freya Ebbesen  
Staff Writer

When I was driving around with my friends a couple weekends ago, a song by Jason Derulo came on the radio. We sang along, cracking jokes at the song’s cheesiness and blatant sexual innuendo.

“Wait a second,” a friend piped up after the song had ended. “Are you actually supposed to like... do that kind of stuff?”

A heated debate, ripe with laughter, ensued. Until someone made a comment that changed the tone.

“Nobody really likes to do that--you just have to do it”

“You have to do it?”

This led to a conversation about experiences with guys where we talked felt we had to do something. It got me thinking--how common is this pressure? Where does this pressure come from? I decided to talk to a couple girls my age to see what they had to say about it.

One girl shared stories about a previous partner: “I liked hanging out with him, we were friends. But he would just do things that would make me uncomfortable, that I wasn’t into. He would say (sexual) things that would make me uncomfortable. On the outside, I’d laugh it off, cause I knew if I brought it up he’d just be like ‘that’s not what I meant’. On the inside, it felt like a huge warning sign in my head, like ‘you need to get out of here’. At one point, he tried to get me drunk. It felt weird. I felt like it was my fault for not telling him that I felt weird.”

Another girl commented on the pressure from different genders surrounding sex: “There’s pressure from guys

to have sex, but backlash from girls, like, oh my god, so-and-so’s a slut. Boys also will use this (slut-shaming) against girls, though.”

Peggy Orenstein, in her book Girls and Sex, says teenage girls hear that “they’re supposed to be sexy, they’re supposed to perform sexually for boys, but that their sexual pleasure is unspoken.” This paradox is an example of the low-level impact spawned by this culture, but its effects can also be more sinister.

Girls are taught to be ‘yes’ people. They are taught to focus on how everyone around them is feeling. They are taught to be ‘nice’. This cult of ‘niceness’, combined with the pressure to perform sexually, can put teenage girls into situations where they feel like they have to say yes, or they should say yes--even if they are uncomfortable or scared.

So what do we do about this problem? Should we ban all suggestive music? Social media? Probably not viable options. What we can do is teach--teach teenagers of all genders about sexuality and affirmative consent. Affirmative consent, also called explicit consent, is a model of consent that encourages both parties to make sure that their partner is not only willing to participate in a (often sexual) interaction, but wants to participate in that interaction as well. By empowering girls to say no, while also educating everyone on affirmative consent, teenagers can learn how to foster safe, healthy and respectful relationships that they can actually feel good--not weird, bad, or uncomfortable--about.

the last cigarette users begin to die off, there are decidedly not breakdowns of the predatory advertising used by nicotine companies to target teens. Instead, the ads mock and shame teenage users in order to show how “disgusting” and “dangerous” vape is. This is not even remotely okay. These ads don’t understand very much at all, but they miss two points particularly poorly.

The first is that it isn’t effective to shame or mock addicts

or users. These ads often target those who are not yet vaping, but these people are not the only ones who see them. And when trying to dislodge nicotine companies, it is important to remember that their client base is those who are already addicted, and those companies will only disappear when those people are treated.

Nicotine, being addictive, is not used by these people in an effort to “be different” or Vaping, 5



# Revenge of the Dreamers III satisfies your rap needs

Milani Dimayuga  
Staff Writer

Have you been listening to the same four albums on repeat for the last month? Are you tired of waiting for your favorite artists to drop an album? Have you, like me, been waiting for over three years for Kendrick Lamar to drop an album and he still hasn't but it's ok 'cause it'll hopefully be better than his last one?? Or have you too, not gotten over Kanye saying that he'll never drop another album like his old ones? Well I have a solution for you! Coming from J. Cole's very own Dreamville Records, I introduce to you (if you haven't been previously acquainted) to Revenge of The Dreamers 3; the album that's sure to feed your rap needs until you find your next favorite album.

J. Cole founded Dreamville in 2007 with current label president IB Hamad, who he met while they both attended St. John's University in New York. Since then, seven artists have signed on to the team; Omen in 2009, Bas in 2013, Cozz in 2014, Lute and Ari Lennox in 2015, and J.I.D. and EarthGang in 2017. In an interview for Forbes online in 2016, Cole said that Dreamville's goal wasn't for the artists to make radio singles and billboard hits, but for them to have "long, sustainable careers" but even so, their artists have gathered a large following—in part due to Cole—but also due to their own songs.

The Revenge of the Dreamers III album was released in 2019, with the Director's cut version released this year. Dreamville has released 2 other compilation albums before this one; Revenge of the Dreamers (released in 2014 when Dreamville signed a deal with Interscope Records) and Revenge of the Dreamers 2, which was released in 2015.

Here's the thing, I didn't

and don't plan to go to school to analyze music, so keep that in mind when you read this. I'm not gonna talk about the beats that much or the styles or whatever, just about the songs in general. I divided and analyzed as much of it as I wanted with little to no bias; as you should. One last thing, I love hip hop; I wouldn't go so far as to call myself a hip hop head, I just like it a lot. The lyrics, the samples, the references; anything from Death Grips to Biggie and from Missy to Doja. I won't go over every song, but I'll talk about 2 of the ones I liked the most and one song I wish wasn't even on the album.

The first song is Down Bad, which you can only find on the Director's Cut. And call me biased but this is definitely one of the best. Call me biased because I like JID a lot and the only reason I found this was because he was featured on it. Go figure. Anyways, this is fire. It's faster-paced, has more analogies, and features JID, Bas, J. Cole, EarthGang, and Young Nudy; who are all signed to Dreamville except for Nudy. Lyrically, it's very Nas-ey but in like, a first person perspective if that makes sense. It also doesn't follow a storyline through the song like Nas does, but it's basically talking about like, screw everybody else, "tighten the cuss up", make something out of yourself, and take the crown regardless of how and what situation you're in. If you really listen to the lyrics, they stay in your head and leave you thinking about a certain phrase or reference and how it plays into the whole song. Total score? 8/10. There are better tracks, but I just really like this one. If you check this one out and you really like it, it's sister track, "Still Up" is also good. Not as much of a banger, but it's similar.

The second is Wells Fargo,



which belongs to the original release. One of the reasons I love this is because it just sounds fun. It sounds like friends just messing around in the studio and making stuff up on the spot. This song is perfect; it has JID, EarthGang, Buddy, and Guapdad 4000. And they CRUSH it. The beat was MADE for them and each verse is tailored to one artist or another. It's like they did it all in one take, in one room, because everything flows smoothly and there are plenty of rap flow switch ups to make it interesting. The beat itself sounds like a dilapidated record player that only plays weird clown music. I honestly can't explain how much I like this song. It's definitely worth at least an 7/10 because it's not lyrically complicated, but in terms of flow, beat, and melody, it's perfect and a bop all on

its own.

The song I really don't like is "Oh Wow... Swerve". It's not so much the artists or even the lyrics, it's just how the beat and the words go together. Unlike the other songs, this beat sounds like it was made for another song, for different flows and artists. If the lyrics were a little faster or even if the beat was a little more bass-ey, I could definitely get behind it; but the way it is, I just can't. It sounds like it's on .75 speed, like the artists are just trying to get through the song, and the ending is so, so, underwhelming; even if it is J.I.D. Overall, I'd give this song a 2. It's not flaming garbage, but it's close. The first half is ok, but the minute the chorus hits for the second time, I skip it cause for me, it's not even worth finishing. Maybe it's because it sounds a little like 21 Savage

and I'm not his biggest fan, but honestly I just think this song is a whole mess.

If you want to check this album out to expand your music tastes, you should stick to the original release and then, if you want more, it's definitely worth your time to check out the director's cut. Overall, I rate the album a solid 7.5/10. It's nothing new or particularly elaborate lyric or flow-wise, but it will, as I said before, satiate your rap needs until you move on to something else. And some songs, like the ones I mentioned, should be on all your future playlists cause they're bangers. Well, except for that last one, anyways!

## 1917, simple but intense

*The elegant one-shot style truly sets this flick in a class by itself*

John Cheatham  
staff writer

I've gotta say, when I heard about this, I was skeptical. We've gotten a ton of war movies in the past and while some are legitimately amazing, most feel exactly the same. Then I saw this was directed by Sam Mendes which got my hopes up. He directed Skyfall, which is my personal favorite James Bond movie. This guy has directed tense action movies in the past and is an easy pick for a WW1 movie.

Then I saw the cinematographer, Roger Deakins. Deakins is one of the best cinematographers of all time, shooting movies like The Shawshank Redemption, Blade Runner 2049 and No Country For Old Man. This

guy is known for wide shots, great color palettes, and long, trailing cameras. This is a dream team for a movie like this and once I heard the movie would be one long shot, my excitement went through the roof.

1917 was shot across the U.K, primarily Scotland, and stars George MacKay and Dean-Charles Chapman. It was directed by Sam Mendes and shot by Roger Deakins. It premiered in the U.K on December 4th 2019 but got a U.S release January 10th.

The plot of 1917 was very simple. Lieutenant's Blake and Schofield are sent to deliver a message across German lines, calling off an attack. They have less than a day and if they fail, thousands of British soldiers die, including Blake's brother.

After all my excitement I can proudly say, this movie did not disappoint. This movie hooked me from beginning to end with constant tension and fear. It doesn't allow you to breath for a second and leaves you constantly on edge. These emotions are further exemplified through incredible cinematography and realistic set design.

I need to talk about the one-shot style. As the name suggests, the film is crisply edited to make it seem like it's all one long shot. Due to the difficulty of this style, it's rarely used but it was so well done in this movie. It convinced me 100% of the time and never slowed down the movie's pace. The best thing I can say about the cinematography was how it immersed you in the characters journey. Being right by the characters the entire movie

1917, 6

Robotics, 2

team is well balanced in terms of gender, it's still important to keep recruiting females, according to the Robettes. Maisie said, "Try the program for one week. If you don't enjoy it, you haven't lost anything." It is scary trying new things and going into a new environment, but at competitions or even practices you will always have support from your fellow girls. "Having female role models is key. When up and coming female STEM mavens see that females are successful in STEM fields, it becomes much easier to see themselves in similar roles," said Megan. "When I was in FTC I was very close to quitting after a few meetings, but I was given the advice to stay for one more week. That week that I decided to give it a try changed my life," said Maisie.

The OWL FIRST Robotics team will compete at the regional tournament at Williams arena on March 26 - 28.



Promise Moua

Isabella Graziani works on the team's robot at practice.



# Solitude & Reflection comic



1917, 5

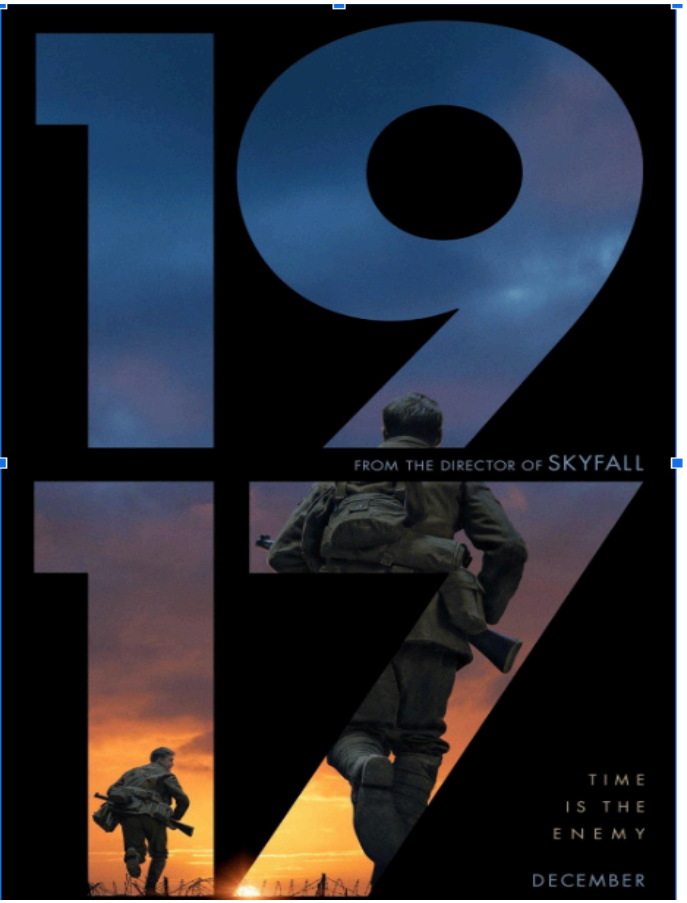
took you out of the theater and into the bloody trenches of WW1. For example, one scene brings the characters into a small underground bunker. The camerawork brings you into this tight environment and instills claustrophobia. By being in the movie, every little thing has a greater effect. Every gunshot, plane, and scream brings anxiety with it in a way most movies can't replicate.

Another thing this movie did well was the set design. War movies should always make the viewer feel immersed in the action with disturbing imagery and bleak sets and this movie does it incredibly. The backgrounds of this movie were perfect for it, combining disgust and horror really well. The color palette was simplistic, a mix of grey, brown, and green for most scenes, but who

would want to see a neon pink war movie? While the action was pretty tame compared to Saving Private Ryan or Platoon, the scenery was grissler than both of them. Loose body parts, rotting corpses and a ton of dead soldiers more than make up for the lack of explicit action.

The only problem I have is that the plot was somewhat predictable. It follows some tropes with characters, like their personal motives to complete the mission, but never ruined it for me.

Overall, this was an tense, and terrifying movie experience propped by its expert cinematography and war setting. Anyone with the slightest interest in this movie should watch it immediately. I give it 9.5/10 rations.



Students rehearsing for the Phantom Tollbooth (above), Eponine giving directions to the actors (below).

## Phantom Tollbooth coming in April

Noah Morris  
Staff writer

How fond are you of learning, wordplay, idioms, and obtuse children's adventure stories? If you're anything like the protagonist of the phantom tollbooth, you are most likely terribly bored of these things.

The Phantom Tollbooth, OWL theatres' next play, tells the adventurous story of milo, a young boy who finds a fantasy world and rediscovers his sense of curiosity. Directed by OWL senior eponine diatta, the play is a stage adaptation of the amazingly popular book of the same name. The play will be performed on the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th of april at 7pm.

In the story, Milo discovers a mysterious tollbooth in his room one day. Motivated by sheer boredom, he drives his toy car through it and winds up in the magical land of Wisdom. There, he encounters tock, a dog with an enormous watch inside of him. The two decide to help the rulers of wisdom with a problem of their own making.

The Mathemagician, a champion of numbers, and king Azaz the Unabridged, a lover of letters, have split the kingdom after they banished rhyme and reason, two princesses who settle arguments. The two decreed that numbers and letters were equally important, insulting both kings. Milo sets off to return the princesses in the hopes of permanently putting the debate to rest, and rediscovering a love of curiosity and learning along the way.

The play is student directed, the second full length play of its kind at OWL. rebekah, OWL theatre teacher, and Eponine Diatta, grade 12, collaborated to select a play, but most of the creative direction has come from Eponine- as rebekah says, "you'll want to talk to her." eponine herself speaks in glowing terms of both the play and the project of putting it all together. Already an experienced director, eponine has directed four shows previously, one of which was a full length play. She says that she

was drawn towards phantom tollbooth for personal reasons. When asked what appealed to her about the play, she said "It's kinda reflective of my life journey right now," but also cited its thematic power.

"I think the play is reflective of something that has been an overarching theme of my senior year, and that is that time is what you make it. Phantom tollbooth has a theme of time moving very fast or very slowly depending on what you do with it." Perhaps for this reason, she is excited about the process.

When asked about how the show was coming together, she said that "It's going really good! My cast is really awesome, they are doing amazing, impressive work." This enthusiasm was shared by Rebekah, who feels that the play, as a whole, is "very imaginative." "It's about this young person going on an emotional journey to combat boredom," she said when asked about her thoughts on the play, "but also to be engaged in the world."