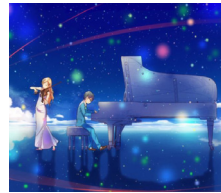




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Purple Press

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Archers aiming for higher goals

OWL team heads into the 2019 season with new recruits and defending state champion in tow

Helena Squires Mosher
Staff Writer

Open World Learning's archers are nocking their arrows and checking their stances as they prepare for this year's season. With last year's state champion, and many other promising archers, the team is excited to be back in the shooting range.

For the last few years, the OWL archery team has consistently placed around 10th

in the state. They have many talented archers, such as senior Emily Yang, defending state champion, and 11th grader Jacob Rhode, who won second at state two years back. Both high schoolers accomplished these feats with scores just under 300 points.

During the first competition of the season, which took place in Faribault last weekend, the team placed 5th. Emily won the overall title, and

Henry Smith and Zoe Champion, both 10th graders, and Pang Yang, a senior, had scores placing them in the top 20 of their divisions.

Besides having many of their experienced archers back, the team has gained many new members this year, including 11 new 6th graders. They're now 50 students strong. Emily has stepped into a teaching role for some of these incoming archers. "It's a great feel-

ing to know that many of the younger archers look up to me as a leader and mentor," she says. She's particularly excited to see what Grace Moua and Charlie Acosta can do. They're fast learners, and have already ranked high within their grade levels.

While placing higher at competitions is always a goal, Tom Totushek, one of the two archery coaches, acknowledges that scores aren't everything. Archery has very precise scoring, which makes it very competitive. Depending on the



Jolene Yang

Seniors Emily Yang, Pang Yang, Junior Jacob Rhode, and 6th grader Charlie Acosta at the tournament on January 12th.

Archery, 2

Seniors inspire, deliver



Abby Davis

On Friday, December 14th, Open World Learning's senior class participated in the annual college march. The event started at 9AM in the auditorium, with speeches from district members, parents and students. Crews made posters for their seniors and cheered them on loudly. Once the speakers were finished, each member of the class of 2019 came up to say which colleges they had applied to or been accepted to. Following this, all of the crews left the auditorium and lined up on Humboldt avenue all the way down to the library. The seniors marched down the sidewalk past the cheering students and all the colorful signs and then passed by Riverview Elementary, to see the younger kids there. After that, the seniors went to the post office, where they mailed their letters, before having a potluck lunch with their families.



Brenda serves meals with a smile

Georgia Lanik
Staff Writer

When kids think of a lunch lady, they think of a mean woman with a scowl on her face who slaps slop on your tray and calls it food. She might send a grunt on your way as you go off to eat meat that probably didn't come from a cow.

Brenda Hatch, OWL's favorite lunch lady, definitely does not fit that stereotype. She loves her job, is generally friendly, and says she enjoys the the kids who brighten up her week.

"Brenda's very positive. She always says good morning, and she loves serving the kids while always having a smile on her face," said senior Emily Yang

It takes a lot to get Brenda mad. She says there's no room for negativity in her day.

Brenda has been working as the school lunch Nutrition service ad lady for the past four years being only at Open World Learning. Brenda gets to school at 6:15 and leaves at 1:30. Each day she helps set up breakfast, cleans up, gets ready for lunch, cleans up, repeat.

I asked Brenda if she wasn't a lunch lady what would she be doing right now? "I would like

Brenda, 2



Photo courtesy of Tru Ruts

Junior Eponine Diatta (middle) performs in a short film called Keon, produced by Tru Ruts, a production company in Minneapolis.

OWL actors seek roles beyond school plays

Hazel Carroll
Staff Writer

Are you an actor searching for your next opportunity? Does the spring play not catch your interest? Well do not worry, my dear friend, for there are many opportunities for theatre outside of school. Whether you're an actor or a

designer, there's a job for all.

Auditions for the spring play, She Kills Monsters, have just wrapped up. Maybe you didn't get in, or maybe the show didn't interest you. No matter what the circumstance, I'm here to tell you this isn't the end. There are many places to look for theatre opportunities

just look around outside of school.

The first thing students should think about when wanting to do theatre outside of OWL is where to look for auditions or jobs. Tenth grader Helena Squires Mosher, who played Charlie in American

Theater, 2

Adult to Blame
Leo Bickelhaupt

Layout
Paloma Leone-Getten
Helena Squires Mosher

Writers
Grace Bellamy
Oliver Brazel

Hazel Carroll
Angelo Carvale
Leo Dungan-Seaver
Georgia Lanik
Paloma Leone-Getten
Nik Logue
Ella Pratt
Helena Squires Mosher
Milo Zimmerman-Bence

Archery, 1
day, the hour, or the minute, an archer's score could be 294 or 290, which could make the difference between first and second place. "Nothing is as important to me as developing great student athletes," says Tom. "If I could only improve in one area, it would be character development."

Similarly, Nora Leifheit, 10th grader and team equipment manager, wants to see their attitudes about their own scores change. "I see a lot of people on the team being really mean to themselves when

they don't do as they think they should. I wish they were nicer to themselves," she says. "They're very talented people."

The archery team has 9 more scheduled tournaments, with the state championship capping off the season at the end of March. Until then, OWL's archers will be practicing for two hours every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. This Saturday, in Foley, they'll be waiting for the whistle to blow so they can shoot their arrows, at their second competition this year.



Seniors Emily Yang and Pang Yang aim for targets at the tournament on January 12.

Jolene Yang

Theatre, 1
Kids last year, found success. "Whenever they release the new season of shows, I'll sign up to work on any of the upcoming shows that sound fun," said Helena, "What's good about tech at Steppingstone is not as many kids sign up for tech jobs, so there's usually availability. Also, because I've worked with them before, I was asked about being an assistant stage manager for one of their shows. I've been looking at the websites of other youth theaters in St. Paul, and seeing if they have shows next year that they're holding auditions for."

Beyond Steppingstone, Junior Eponine Diatta, who played a lead roled in OWL's December production of Macbeth, has found success at several theaters across the city. "I've worked with Steppingstone Theatre, The Jungle Theatre, Exposed Brick Theatre, Labrador, Blank Slate Theatre, etc. I'm most heavily involved with Youth Performance Company, though," said Eponine, "A lot of my opportunities now come from people I've worked with in the past. Earlier in my career though I heavily relied on a website called MinnesotaPlaylist.com. A lot of theatre companies post audition/job

notices there and it's a great way to connect. Also if you play on producing theatre, this can be a great place to find actors! I also use facebook groups specifically for young actors or black artists, to find projects more suited to who I am."

For students looking more towards developing their acting abilities, or getting involved in musical theatre, then Lundstrum Performing Arts Center in Minneapolis is another place to consider. There young artists can take triple threat classes, or take acting, voice, or dance exclusively. They also always perform two summer musicals: one for younger kids and one for older kids.

Before signing up for an audition or a class, students may want to consider: 'Is this right for me?'. "It takes up a lot of time. Rehearsals take up after school time, and I've missed quite a few days in school because of performances," said Helena.

Eponine said, "It can be stressful! As a young actor, most of the shows I do are children's theatre which means I miss a lot of school performing for other schools. Runs are often longer, lasting anywhere from 3 weeks to a month.

Building on a full season of experience



Abby Davis

Ninth grader Lili Hobday goes up for a shot in a game against Washington last week.

OWL ninth grader already well into her second year on varsity

Paloma Leone-Getten
Staff Writer

Ninth grader Lili Hobday is still in the early stages of her basketball career, but she has some ambitious long term goals.

"I averaged eight points last year. if I average above eight for the rest of my high school career, I'll hit 1,000 points!" said Lili.

This is Lili's second year on varsity. As an 8th grader, she started most games. She is a forward, coming off of a year where she scored 22 points against Central, her personal high, and received honorable mention all-conference.

"I love playing on this team. Although I'm younger than everyone, they are really wel-

coming and don't treat me any different," said Lili.

Girls basketball practices start with stretching and running killers. After that, varsity splits away from JV and c-squad and begins practice. They go over some plays and then play 5-on-5.

Last year, Humboldt finished 17-11. So far this season, they are 8-4, and the team has many goals they still want to achieve. "We strive to score 60 points a game, keep the other team under 30, have less than 10 turnovers..." said Lili. "We're starting to gain chemistry and I'm really excited to see how this season goes. We have a chance to win conference this year!"

ater productions behind the scenes, and I've been able to work with many people who do professional theater in the Twin Cities. It also allows me to meet other kids and teenagers who enjoy theater, who I wouldn't have met in school," said Helena.

Most students agree that, though chaotic, out-of-school theatre is well worth it, even if it takes some initiative and persistence. "You'll hear a thousand 'no's' before you get a 'yes'. It's easy to get discouraged when you don't get a role but KEEP TRYING! I've never heard of any actor who didn't get into a show eventually. I auditioned seven times before I got cast in my first show. When directors are casting, they aren't just looking at talent but they are also looking at if you fit the role in more ways beyond personality," said Eponine.

"Just go for it! It's good to get out of your comfort zone. Don't be nervous about being in a new place with new people, because you'll meet great people and learn a lot from it! Just make sure your schedule isn't too busy, because it is a time commitment, just like OWL plays," added Helena.

Break a leg!



Ella Pratt

Kristen works with students in her crew.

Enjoying her new role

Kristen's winding path leads her to the art department at OWL

Ella Pratt
Staff Writer

For new art teacher Kristin Moeller, the joys of teaching art are seeing a struggle overcome and the challenges of teaching art are people who don't try or cleanup.

For Kristin it was a long windy road to her becoming an art teacher. Coming from a science oriented family, they encouraged Kristin to go into a science based field and to get a well paying job. That's why Kristin originally was a pre-med student and ultimately decided to be a hydrogeologist for 10 years. After 10 years she finally said it was a "mans job, and I didn't play golf (as many of the men did) or feel fulfilled".

She then went back to college for 2 years to get her floral design certificate and helped raise her 2 kids before someone recommended being a Teacher's Assistant. After being a teacher's assistant for 10 years, she realized she wanted to help struggling students that were from science orient-

ed families, similar to herself when younger.

If you are super tall, watch your head for hanging art pieces while walking into the art room. Kristin wanted the art space to be student decorated, besides the organizational posters. That's why there are bigger pieces of art near the staircase and smaller and colorful art in the cafeteria and several different types of art throughout the art room.

When asking Kristin how she decides which art goes up she said "Everybody's (art) goes up, unless it's totally not done".

Kristin said that she has been pleased with the level of work students at OWL have been able to produce. "Anybody can succeed if they have a cool idea".

Now that Kristin has two kids that are both now out of the house she likes to garden, read, and bike around the nearby lakes when she isn't painting or grading students artwork.

pare is spicy chicken.

Brenda graduated from Humboldt: "I had a lot of friends. I was into reading, gym. I played basketball. I was very to myself a lot."

After graduating from Humboldt, Brenda decided to start a family rather than go off to college. Part of the reason Brenda is at ease around the students she serves is that she is a family person. She loves kids, has seven of her own, and seven grandchildren.

FRAQUETBALL RANKINGS:

1st lunch:
Sponsor Us
Tom Hobday and Jedi Casas

2nd Lunch:
Lotis
Lars Neske and Otis King

3rd Lunch:
Everything Nice
Sawyer Neske and Malachi Raymond

GAMES HAPPEN ON B DAYS IN THE FRAQUETBALL HALLWAY DURING LUNCH

Dark times for dairy

An investigation into OWL's milk problem

Leo Dungan-Seaver
Staff Writer

Milk. The holy, wonderful drink that keeps our bones strong and our will to live stronger. Despite these positive properties, milk is still a very polarizing drink -- you either love it or you hate it. As someone who loves it, I have noticed the quality of the product is tanking, and I have taken it upon myself, as a milk drinker, to find out why.

Cut to September/October, the golden age. I was drinking three to four cartons a day and the school milk had never been better. Then November came, the milk started to taste rancid and looked yellow. This era was referred to as the dark ages by many. But when December rolled around, opening a carton of milk became a coin flip. It either tasted like eggs left out overnight in a trash heap, or it tasted regular and positively

scrumptious, but mostly the former.

The process of making the milk that we drink is perhaps one of the most intricate and beautiful things to grace this earth. It starts when the cows are milked around two times a day, mechanically. The milk then flows through pipes to a large milk tank, where it is cooled to about 40° F. It is then checked for temperature and flavor, before being sent to the milk processing plant. At the plant the milk is sifted through pipes to remove debris and bacteria, leaving the milk in a raw form ready to be processed. It is then separated by fat level, the skim with lower fat and the whole milk with more fat. After this, vitamins are injected into to milk, and then pasteurized to kill bacteria, all the while being kept at a cold temperature. From here it is transported to the carton

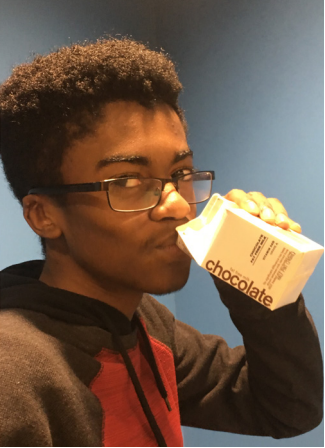
factory, in our case Agropur, where it is packaged and distributed to schools and businesses alike.

But what is causing this sudden decline in the quality of the milk here at OWL? After a brief interaction with the host lunch lady, Lori, she told me to report the milk numbers that tasted bad. (Which I guiltily haven't been doing.) When asked why the milk tasted bad, she told me that possibly the glue that held the carton together was seeping into the milk, thus causing a rupture in the river of flavor that is milk. After attempting to engage the lunch ladies again, they appeared to busy to talk, maybe a front to their spoiled milk operation, shady nonetheless. There is no end in sight, and the dark ages stretch over us, a dark cloud over the OWL horizon. Stay strong milk drinkers and don't moo-ve on just yet!



Leo Dungan-Seaver

The infamous milk carton.



Leo Dungan-Seaver

11th grader AJ sippin' some milk.

Alpine skiing: making winter fun



OWL Staff Photo

The alpine skiing team after a recent practice.

Lily Deutsch
Staff Writer

Can't bear winter? There's a sport that will either distract you from it, or make you hate it even more. Skiing.

After traveling by bus to Afton Alps, Alpine skiers meet the rest of their team, which includes Ramsey, Highland, Central, Como, and Capitol Hill to encounter a variety of steep snowy hills. Edric Lysne, head coach for Alpine Skiers tells us, "For practices and races we ski down steep hills and turn around gates which are large poles sticking out of the snow. Athletes travel one at a time down the hill and are timed for how fast they compete going around all gates."

Now it's time to talk competition. Competing for Alpine skiing is downhill therefore it is an individual timed race. Once a week skiers will be placed behind their gates ready to compete and race. 10th Grader Frankie Buettner, who skis Alpine, mentions "The competition environment is intense. When I put my helmet on I mean business." The score

is determined by totaling the points of the top four finishers and the team with the highest number of points in the end is the winner.

Edric has been the Alpine skiing coach for three years now, but has enjoyed skiing for many more. He tells us "The skiing environment is very busy." He needs to communicate with all the different schools and make arrangements with the ski areas ensuring everyone will be there for Tuesday and Thursday practices.

For Alpine skiing the season will hold about five meets a year, preparing for sections which will begin the week of February 4th, followed by state on February 13th. At sections, everyone contributes and skiers will be at the slopes from about 7am to 4pm. They can expect to meet their team around a fire with food, warmth, gear and encouragement. Besides collecting the most points, the team strives for togetherness and a safe environment where everyone feels welcomed.

Preparing for the big Friday event

How does Damon's crew prep for the community meeting?

Oliver Brazel
Staff Writer

If you walk into the auditorium during the community meeting and look towards the back, you will see Damon and a group of students at the controls. You may have heard Damon's crew plans the community meeting. What goes into that, and what has to get done for a community meeting to go smoothly? I'm here to tell you. All our secrets will be revealed in this behind-the-scenes article.

Pre-final week
To start out we generally brainstorm, we figure out the theme, pick a keynote theme, and figure out what should be in the community meeting, some of the upperclassmen write up a schedule. After this slides get written up.
A host also gets selected.
Monday: by the final week the low-creativity slides, or slides that are used every meeting get put into a slideshow, slides are sent to either

Jacob Steiner (Sophomore) or Max Schibel (Freshman), who pet together the slideshow.

Tuesday: by this Tuesday we try to start finishing up the slideshow, we try to make this the deadline for people who want to get things into the community meeting, since last minute requests can complicate things and stress every one out. (Please do not ask Damon day of to put something in the community meeting! We already have a schedule by this point, trying to cram something else in causes major headaches.)

At this point the schedule gets finalized, and we have a good idea of how the community meeting will look.

Wednesday: on Wednesday we make any final additions that we need to to the slideshow, slides, videos, photos, etc. It's really crunch time at this point to try and make sure this community meeting goes smoothly.

Thursday: rehearsal day,

practicing the community meeting is probably the most important thing we can do to make sure something doesn't go wrong, the whole crew, the host, and anyone else who might be speaking. The rehearsal is really important for my job, which is audio, playing everything and figuring out what I need to adjust, and what level everything needs to be at live, sometimes at the community when we switch from a video the audio spikes and everyone's ears get blown out, its cause the audio difference between mp3 files and video recorded on iPad is super extreme, sometimes that's my fault though. The lip synch battle is also rehearsed (ugh).

Friday: On Friday since its day of the community meeting everything is done (hopefully) and we just need to deliver the meeting to the people. However last community meeting Damon's computer crashed the night before and we had to scramble and come up with

a lot of stuff last minute, in turn that community meeting sucked. For the most part the community meeting goes well, we try our best to make it entertaining.

The community meeting is something very unique to OWL we try to make it both informative and entertaining, often we make mistakes when carrying out the community meeting and often there are variables out of our control.

We do our best to keep you guys entertained and keep disasters from happening. This last community meeting went fairly well, not having a lip-sync battle made things easier, and in general there wasn't a lot going on, when community meetings are more content heavy there is more opportunity for something to go wrong. We'll start planning for the February community meeting in a week or two.

Problem solving, with robots!

Lego League and Robotics teams gear up for competition

Grace Bellamy
Staff Writer

This year's Lego League competition is Saturday January 19, at Capitol Hill, and the FIRST Robotics team competes over spring break. This year's Lego League and Robotics are led by math teacher Clara Olson and educational assistant Derrick Le-Tran, respectively.

Both teams compete through the same organization, FIRST (For Inspiration and Research of Science and Technology), who also decides the themes for each year's challenges. This year the challenges are Into Orbit for Lego League and Destination: Deep Space for robotics, both to commemorate the 50 year anniversary

of the moon landing. The Robotics team will have six weeks to build, refine, and prepare their robots for competition.

This year's Lego League challenge is called Into Orbit, and deals with problems that astronauts could face in space. They have to design a small robot to complete a series of tasks to earn points.

One of the missions that they have to complete is launching a spacecraft. "They have to hit the launchpad really hard," said Clara. The second part of the challenge is to develop a solution to a problem relating to the year's theme. The problem that teams must address this year is challenges humans face during extended time in space. At the competi-

tion, the students will present what they found on how to make students more successful in space, as well as their robot and programs, to panel of judges.

The Lego League team is similar to robotics, but for 6-8 graders. It's Clara's fourth year leading the team. Her first year, she had one team. Since then she has had two teams, but this year OWL has formed a partnership with Humboldt. "Between the two schools we have three teams we'll be taking to competition," said Clara. She is excited about this year's teams, because they're a cohesive group, who have come up with interesting and creative ways to solve the problems they're addressing. She added

that "They're highly motivated and want to be successful."

FIRST was started in 1989 by Dean Kamen, to inspire kids to become interested in science and engineering. The robotics program started in 1992 as a small (only 28 teams, compared to 61,000 teams globally in 2018) competition in New Hampshire to inspire high school kids to enter the robotics field. "The robots are a vehicle for students to learn important life skills," said Dean of the impact of his program. Clara added that Lego League develops skills like the ability to "develop creative solutions, using programming and building as the vehicle to do this."



OWL staff photo

7th graders Willa and Tess Campion, and Cooper Peterson-Antin preparing for the upcoming competition which will take place tomorrow.

Senior Spotlight

Theo Leifheit



How many years have you been at OWL?
Since sixth grade.

What are your plans for next year?
I am most likely going to Northland College

What's been your favorite class in high school?
Hmmm, I really liked film studies with Kevin.

What extracurriculars are you involved in?
I do Outward Bound and I work a lot.

Favorite field work trip and why?
Probably DuNord because the cabins were so nice.

Fav book, movie or TV show?
Into the Spider Verse was really good.

If you had a walk up song, what would it be?
Mr. Blue Sky

That One Little Kid

Lillyian Yang



How tall are you?
Four foot one

What's your favorite book?
Uhh, it'd have to be.. Alice in Wonderland

Who's your favorite senior?
Emily Yang, she's in my crew

Where do you think you're going to college?
Oh, uhm, U of M?

What's the weirdest thing about OWL?
They're gonna change all my classes next semester, they change them up all the time.

What's your favorite school lunch?
The nachos?

What elementary school did you come from?
Battle Creek Elementary

What's your favorite class?
Theatre Arts

OWL in pictures

December 14th: College March



“We’re all gonna die”: An interview with Kevin

OWL’s English teacher talks about his love of storytelling, being bullied as a kid, and his interest in the paranormal.

Nik Logue
Staff Writer

A few other teachers talked about how they had a knack for teaching at a young age, was that something you experienced?
I liked to talk to my teachers, I enjoyed having conversations with them, and I liked them more than a lot of my peers. So I wouldn’t necessarily say I had a knack for teaching other kids my age because I didn’t have a ton of patience with them. But I had a knack for the ideas that we were talking about, and I had a knack for the language of school, which I picked up on pretty quickly. But I never really volunteered for peer tutoring or anything like that.

And just before this interview you talked about how you were bullied in school. Do you think that had ripple effects on your teaching career?

I think that, yeah, it did have an impact on—it made me more reluctant to admit to myself that I wanted to be a teacher. Just because, despite the fact that I liked talking with teachers and liked the process of school and learning, I couldn’t imagine wanting to spend my life and career back inside of a high school, because it was such an awful, traumatic place for me. But I do think that had ripple effects on when I started, but in the long run, I think it has made me a better teacher. I think the trick to depression and anxiety is that the flip side of it is actually kind of a superpower. Because, through self-criticism and worrying about all the things that can happen, you are able, in your brain, to run through many different scenarios and analytical skills of “oh, if I say this and this, then this could happen.” So I think it does wire your brain to be more empathetic and relate to people in a better way.

Did you have any prior teaching experiences before starting at OWL?

No, not really, not like teaching. I was a manager at my job, and would train people when I was taking time off from school. I enjoyed doing that, and people told me I was good at explaining things to people. But I purposefully decided not to be a guest teacher because I didn’t want that to be my first experience and convince me not to become a teacher. I think that’s the hardest job, being a substitute, and I didn’t want to be turned off from it.

So you weren’t required to throw out any traditional education methods...?

Yeah, this is the only school I’ve taught at. I got this job right after grad school. And I do think that has made it easier for me than it would have been had I come from a more traditional high school. My grad school program was really progressive, the idea was that you’re never going to be able to work at a school that will fully allow you to teach this way, but this is the best way for you to teach. And then I was lucky enough to get a job at a school where I can teach that way, so I came from an environment that was sort of like, “in a perfect world, this is what you should do.” And I was able to practice it, so I didn’t have to unlearn any bad habits other than my own experience in school, which I knew I didn’t want to replicate for the new generation anyway, so it wasn’t hard to give that up.

Through your classes of film studies and pop culture, you’ve demonstrated your passion for things like literature, cinema and music. Do you think we, as people, should be aware of the arts?

Yeah, I think that, even bigger than that, I’m obsessed with story. And I think what all of those things have in common is that they are iterations of story. Stories are a chance for us to play out different scenarios and get to know human nature a little bit better. And if nothing else, it helps to have a wide language of art, film, and music, because 90% of the conversations I have with my friend are related to culture and content. But I couldn’t imagine a life without having a movie I could watch or an album I could lose myself in. That’s important to have an escape from reality.

Was there a story, whether book or film, that really changed your life?

Yeah, I would say that, book wise, one was The Stranger by Albert Camus, which I read in my AP Lit class. And then I had an English teacher who recommended that I read Kurt Vonnegut, I read Cat’s Cradle as a ninth or tenth grader, and that was a big point for me in changing the way I looked at things and thought. I always love movies, and I think... Trainspotting and American Beauty were the two movies that really got me into movies. I watch them now and I

Kevin, 6



Reviews ‘n’ stuff



“Misery loves company”

Neal Shusterman creates a heart-wrenching story with Bruiser

Guadalupe Dimayuga
Staff Writer

“People thought Brewster Rawlins was a dark unknown, a black hole best kept away from. Well, maybe he was, but what people don’t realize is that black holes generate an amazing amount of light. The problem is, their gravity is so great, the light can’t escape—it just gets pulled in along with everything else.”

It’s weird how no matter how badly it hurts, emotionally or physically, we as humans are driven to want someone else to feel the pain we feel, whether that’s someone who you love or someone you hate, there is always someone. Well, imagine, just for a second, imagine if there WERE someone who took your pain, all of your pain, someone who cared just enough about you to absorb everything, what would YOU do, would you use them?

I absolutely love the way Neal Shusterman has written this book, each chapter is written from the perspective of either the main character Brewster, Brew’s girlfriend Brontë, Brew’s little brother Cody, or

Brontë’s brother Tennyson. It might be a bit confusing at first, but this style really helps the reader have different perspectives on the main character, while always staying in first person.

Brewster Rawlins, more commonly known as the Brew, is a mysterious high school boy, who everyone sees an average shy person, don’t blame them for it, Brew doesn’t have any friends, he also doesn’t seem to want or need any friends. Bruiser has a hidden talent, it’s the reason he doesn’t associate himself with his peers, it’s not that he doesn’t WANT friends, he just can’t have friends. If Brew would start to care for people outside of his family, he wouldn’t survive. Again, “a black hole best kept away from.” Because black holes have to absorb, even if they don’t want to, they HAVE to take away.

Brontë Sternberger is Brew’s girlfriend, more of a secondary character. Brontë sees something in Brew that no one else at their school sees, she started dating Brew because she wanted to “bring

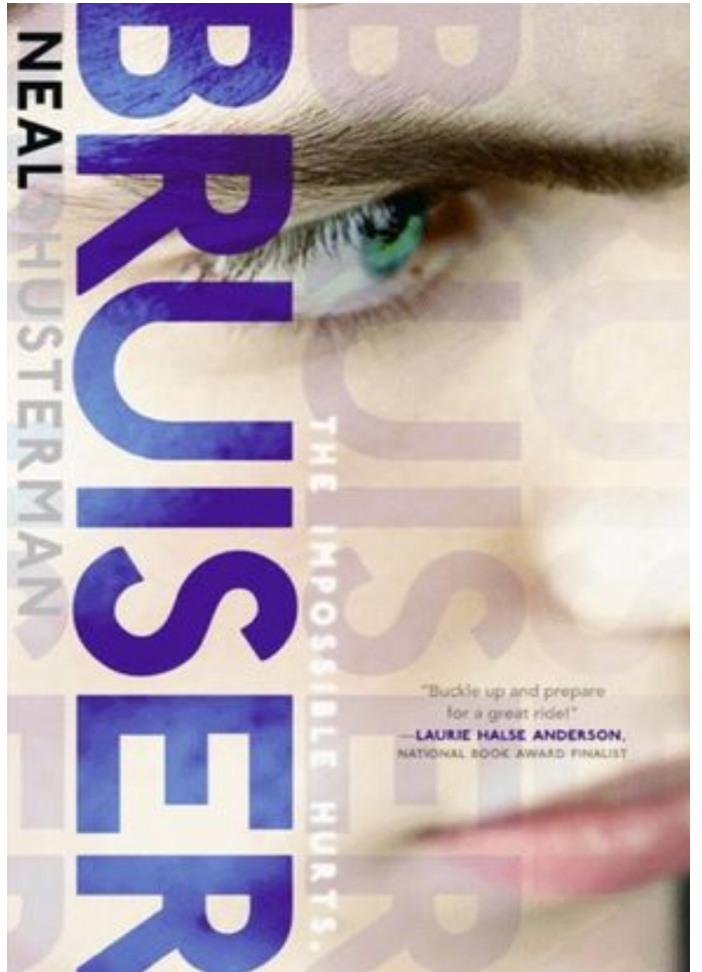
him out of his shell.” On one of their dates, she and Brew go to the falls outside of their city, Brontë slips on a rock and her right foot gets stuck between two rocks, this should’ve sprained her ankle but Brew used some “acupuncture,” and Brontë turned out fine. The next week, Brew seems to be leaning on his left foot a lot more than usual, on their date last week, he said his feet were tired so they turned back. It really shouldn’t have hurt for so long, his right foot seemed to be a lot more injured than just tired.

In horse racing, competitors put slats on either side of their horse’s face, these slats are used to limit the peripheral vision of the horse. If the horse can only look forward, it has less distractions, this will also help it calm down and not freak out when something happens in the crowd or to other competitors. We as people naturally have blinders as well, of course they aren’t physical. Our blinders don’t let us see the whole picture, if someone has wider blinders than us, (or they see things dif-

ferently than us) we wouldn’t believe them because we don’t see the same thing.

Brew usually sees things for what they are, he’s always cautious with both his words and his actions. He chooses who he cares about very wisely and makes sure not to make too many friends. Brontë is always on peoples’ backs about being nice to Brew and sometimes she can put him in terrible situations where he is forced to do something he doesn’t want to do, without realizing it. Tennyson is introduced as a douche bag brother who is always getting in the way of his sister’s events. Eventually he becomes friends with Brew and without realizing it, uses him to have an advantage in lacrosse. Brew’s little brother Cody, is a wreckless mess, he is always getting Brew hurt, and Brew is obligated to care for his little brother.

Bruiser’s writing style is very creative, it lets you see from all of the necessary viewpoints to make assumptions of what is going on, yet it never directly gives it away. The plot is constantly rising, but every



once in a while it shoots up like a rocket. Make sure not to skip pages in this book, you will probably miss a crucial point in the story’s development. The only thing that I didn’t enjoy was the 259 page length, I wish it would’ve been longer, but it’s definitely a 5

star book nonetheless. I think Bruiser fits into so many book categories that there really isn’t one particular group of people to recommend it to, so if you like what you read make sure to check it out.



Spider-Man: the old stuff is best

Angelo Carvale
Staff Writer

Spider-Man. He’s the classic high school boy who dresses as a bug and saves New York every other day, it’s hard not to like him!

But the real question is, which Spider-Man do you prefer? Do you like the recent Tom Holland interpretation, or the cheesy cartoon from the 1960’s?

If there’s one interpretation of our boy in blue and red that stands out, it’s the one directed by the blessed Sam Raimi, released in 2002 starring Tobey Maguire. Titled simply, Spider-Man.

The Sam Raimi Spider-Man movies are where it started, and when I say “it” I mean the Marvel movies. There were Marvel flicks before these ones but Spider-Man is where they really kicked things into gear.

Not necessarily the big Marvel universe we know today, where every movie is connected and they have a jolly ol time with Mister Purple, no. More the idea that a superhero movie could be deeper and more complex. It could be a drama, it could have characters with conflicts and development spanning over multiple

films, it could have a superhero with big chubby cheeks and a supervillain straight off the set of the Power Rangers. With all these strange qualities combined, a star was born.

I’ll be analyzing each Spider-Man movie in the trilogy on a scale that assesses the three most important qualities a movie can offer: high stakes action, cheesiness, and character development. I use this scale to rate every movie I watch and it’s a scale that has never done me wrong. It is merely a coincidence that my highest rated films are cheesy action movies.

First movie, the one from 2002. This has gotta be the cheesiest one, which is one of its shining features. But more importantly than cheese, this movie did the unthinkable and got Peter Parker right. He’s the definition of a dorky, loser. Nobody at school likes him, he can’t talk to girls, he doesn’t wanna fight Flash, all he does is stay in his room and drink Dr. Pepper. Someone I can relate to. For a good chunk of the movie, this guy has such bad luck, he almost feels like all flaws. Like how his arch villain, the Green Goblin, is his best friend’s dad and his only

Spider-man, 6

Ella reviews . . . gas stations

A lively tour of some of the finer filling stations of the Midwest

Ella Connell
Staff Writer

The rural midwest is a wasteland. The landscape is often beautiful, and the people are often friendly, but it’s completely removed from most things worth doing. If you’re spending 6 hours there, driving to one relative or another, it’s thoroughly mind-numbing. However, what it does offer is a tour of the complete range of gas stations we have in this wonderful totally pleasant region. This is a list of those gas stations.

Super Normal Super America/Holiday

Even if one of these gas stations is a Speedway or Shell or something, it’s an SA/Holiday. It’s also exactly like a gas station in the cities, except you might get a mild glare if you’re interesting at all. If you’re in

Wisconsin, there will probably be a whole liquor store in the gas station which is probably how it is everywhere that isn’t fully Lutheran, but it will never stop being weird.

Pastry Case Rating: 4/5 holiday-themed donuts

What You Should Get: A Code Red Mountain Dew, because you’re going to be trapped in the gig economy for the rest of your life so really who are you trying to impress?

A Cenex?

You can tell it’s a family business or something else lawless because all the decor is country themed instead of like, flat color planes and gas station products themed. They have Necco wafers and Combos, probably because that’s what the owner likes. In my personal experience, there might be a sponge on a stick in

a bucket like you’re in ancient Rome. The local Walmart definitely has toilet brushes, so it’s impossible to say exactly why this was here but it can’t be good. Still, you can get a really big bag of beef jerky here if you want.

Aesthetic Rating: 1/1 beiges

What You Should Get: One

of the cookies the shift supervisor’s niece makes in her spare time.

Deee-Lux Wisconsin Dells Gas Station

Wisconsin Dells itself is completely dead for the season, which is the best possible situation. The spectacular range of name keychains hasn’t

Gas stations, 6



Espen Asper

Ella hanging out at a gas station.

Milo’s sob worthy movie scenes

A dive into two real tear jerkers

Milo Zimmerman-Bence
Staff Writer

WARNING: The following will contain spoilers for [Your Lie in April] and the [Lord of the Rings] movies, in that order. If you haven’t seen them, go and watch them because they are all fantastic.

Okay, now that we’ve gotten that out of the way, I’m going to be picking apart famously emotional scenes known for making viewers weep openly. For the purposes of coverage, I’m going to be choosing two different scenes that reach that pinnacle of “feelsiness”

through different means: the final performance and letter scenes in [Your Lie in April], and the Shire Remembrance scene (as I like to call it) from [Return of the King]. Prepare your tissue boxes.

First of all, the performance scene in the finale episode of [Your Lie in April] (or, if you’re going by the original title, [Shigatsu wa Kimi no Uso], which makes much less sense, as it translates to “April is Your Lie”).

The main character in the show, in case you haven’t seen it, is a boy named Kousei Ari-

ma, who was basically forced by his dying mother to be a professional pianist at the age of twelve. Once she passes away, however, he finds that he has a curse of sorts where he stops being able to hear the notes he’s playing, and quits music. The series begins two years later, in his last year of middle school, as he meets a violinist named Kaori Miyazono who is waiting for Kousei’s childhood friend Tsubaki to introduce her to Kousei’s other friend Watari, on whom Kaori apparently has a crush, and who is also eager to get him back into the performing

scene despite his “curse”.

Over time, Kousei and Kaori become closer and closer in their friendship, and it all culminates in this climactic scene. Apparently, the reason for Kaori’s poor health is a chronic disease that she has, and during Kousei’s performance in a piano competition, she is undergoing surgery for it, knowing full well that there is a relatively low survival rate. As Kousei plays, now able to “feel” the notes to some extent over accepting the loss of his mother (long and equally beautiful story), the scenery changes from a stage in a con-

Sad scenes, 6

Sad scenes, 5



cert hall to a beautiful ocean, where apparently the water’s surface tension is strong enough to support an entire grand piano. Obviously it isn’t actually happening, but damn if it isn’t pretty. Anyways, a sort-of apparition of Kaori appears beside him, and they begin playing this incredible duet together. Then, the surgery goes wrong and she dies, which manifests itself in his vision as her exploding into light and fading away. Normally, in a scene with such a buildup to a moment like this, this would be where Kousei accepts it and thanks her for everything or something like that.

But that’s not what happens. He tries to plead with her, telling her to stay, but to no avail, because obviously you can’t reverse someone’s death, and she ends up vanishing. The scene changes back to the stage, and the episode goes to the pre-commercial card.

Obviously, there are a few ways this scene brings the pain. First of all, the change of scenery to the much more visually appealing ocean is setting the stage brilliantly for this kind of tear-jerking sequence. Also, the piece being played is this lovely Chopin composition that switches often between being slow and melancholy, and fast and intense. But the most prominent method is clearly Kousei’s unwillingness to let Kaori go. Not only is the voice acting incredible (in the Japanese version at least, because the English dub’s casting was especially poorly done), but the way that the moment of her death occurs right alongside one of the aforementioned furious rushes of intensity accentuates the sequence and turns it up to eleven.

Now let’s move on to my other scene of focus: the Shire Remembrance scene from the last [Lord of the Rings] movie. If you haven’t seen these yet, you have no excuse not to do so the first opportunity you get. Even somehow putting aside the still-unequalled music from Howard Shore that underlines basically everything in the whole trilogy, the scenes that drop the scale slightly and focus in on the

characters instead, like the example here, are nothing if not memorable as hell. This particular sequence comes in as Frodo and Sam are making their final ascent up Mount Doom to complete their mission of throwing the One Ring into the fire and ridding Middle-Earth of Sauron once and for all. However, the ring has a mind of its own, and does everything in its power to stop Frodo from achieving his goal. It would succeed, too, if Sam hadn’t been there.

If you somehow couldn’t tell, there is no one, more loyal than Sam. In this moment, he tries to inspire Frodo to carry on with a beautiful monologue which begins with the now semi-iconic line of “Do you remember the Shire, Mr. Frodo?”. Frodo responds to his speech with basically the typical emo run-down, and the exchange ends with perhaps the most epic line of all time from ye boi Samwise: “I can’t carry it for you, Mr. Frodo, but I [can] carry you!” Then he hoists Frodo onto his shoulder, the music swells, and everything is so perfect.

It was much harder for me to come up with an adequate way to describe this scene’s tactics than it was for me to describe the previous ones’. For one, this is in the last hour of a movie series, which, if you’re watching the extended editions back-to-back like you [should], means that you are on hour thirteen. Seeing all of the ordeals that the characters were made to endure throughout the series finally becoming too much is not exactly an easy thing to watch, and you feel just as hopeless as the characters do.

Throughout the course of the trilogy, the storyline following Frodo and Sam (and Gollum too) often becomes rather uncomfortable, as Frodo especially is almost constantly caught in a struggle behind the corruptive power of the ring and his friendship with Sam, and Sam between his loyalty to Frodo and his hatred for Gollum, whom Frodo constantly outright refuses to leave behind.

This particular scene takes

place after Gollum’s treachery is revealed, the foul spider-beast Shelob has been defeated, and all that remains is the final stretch to destroy the ring once and for all, and everything coming to a head [now] is incredibly distressing, as you are completely invested in the story, and seeing Sam still finding a way to remain strong.

The scene actually brings me back to my earlier point about bittersweetness; while the moment in general is [acutely] distressing, it doesn’t reach its emotional peak until Sam picks Frodo up. You [feel] the moment, and even though you already know how the trilogy is going to end because you’ve read or seen a good-versus-evil story in your life, it really does make you believe for a hot minute that it won’t end well, and it’s actually the relief that comes with this scene’s conclusion that causes the viewer to well up, [not] the actual point of hopelessness. Which is my last method of discussion; drastic tonal changes. This is quite a bit more difficult to pull off than the other techniques, but when it rains, it pours when it comes to quality here.

The really important thing to remember is that entertainers [love] to play with your emotions. Your tears nourish content creators more than any amount of fancy lobster with a side of caviar or whatever the %&\$# you eat when you’re rolling in a Scrooge McDuck-style amount of money ever will. And hopefully, this article has given you some semblance of an idea how exactly they can get those sweet sweet feels out of you.

Unfortunately, I can’t guarantee that this will help you build up a resistance to them, but that might actually be for the best. I can’t possibly hope to speak for everybody here, but I personally [love] when I’m watching something and it manages to really get something out of me. It feels like a nonverbal kudos of sorts to the creators.

Even if you have absolutely no interest in filmmaking, at the very least, I hope to have given you a little bit of appreciation for the amount of effort that goes into creating something as involved as a movie or TV show.

Most of the time.
Some still don’t try at all.

Spiderman, 5

father figure. He has that awful luck following him, which is a recurring theme in these movies.

I’m giving this one a two outta three on the character development, cause of Peter’s sad life, a three outta three on the cheese, and a two on the action, giving this movie a stellar seven out of nine stars. Keep it up, Pete.

This is where we get into the real good stuff, the creme of the crop. Hailed by fellow geeks as the best Spider-Man movie to date, Spider-Man 2. This one has the most character development, the saddest

sad parts, and the best action since Indiana Jones. Ever heard of a Spider-Man villain named Doc Oc? The guy that’s part robot octopus? Yeah, that’s why it’s a good movie.

They did something neat: they treated the villain like a person. They didn’t treat him like an evil scientist making robot arms just so he can punch four guys in the face at the same time, or so he’d instantly be a way better drummer. He was just a guy who accidentally caused an explosion by creating a literal sun in his apartment and went crazy after the sun killed all of his work. Just a normal guy.

I’m giving this one a three on the action, because a guy with spider powers fights a guy with scary robot arms on top of a speeding train, meaning I couldn’t not give it the highest possible score. A three on character development, because our boy Octavius lived a sad life. And a three on the cheese, giving this one a star studded nine out of nine star rating. You done good, Raimi.

Without any more introduction, it’s Spider-man 3. This one is . . . interesting. Its main problem is that it has too many ideas, mainly meaning characters. You see, Raimi didn’t actually write the script with

Kevin, 4



Nik Logue

Kevin teaching his 6th grade ELA class.

think they’re kinda dumb, and there are parts in them that I can’t believe I liked. A friend of mine and I, we taped audio snippets of dialogue from American Beauty and drive around listening to it, which is super cringe-worthy now, but those were the movies that started to get me thinking of movie as more than just these things you sit back and watch.

You also talked about your interest in unexplained phenomena when you were a kid, has that interest continued?

[laughs] Yeah, I like weird stuff, and I think I’ll always have an interest in the esoteric and odd. It’s one of those things that, it doesn’t matter whether I believe or not that these things exist, I think that there’s a lot of interesting stuff we can tell about ourselves and human life through those different things that we see. But I always had a feeling that there was something else hiding behind everything, and it lets me tap into that. I remember

when I was in high school—I guess today it’s like the plot to The Truman Show—I would imagine doing something, and everything would drop down and reveal I was on a game show, and everyone would say “You won! You did the thing!” But I always had a fascination of why we are here, and I think there are a lot of different answers to that. And spooky! It’s fun to read spooky stuff!

And do you believe there is a greater power at work?

There’s gotta be. There’s gotta be some organizing principle, because there’s just too many things that make sense when you look at them, but when you look deep down, things make less and less sense. So there are some organizing principles, but again I feel the same way as I feel about the paranormal. I’m never gonna know, and I know that, so I guess it doesn’t really mean a whole lot to me what that organizing principle is. The short answer to “is there any higher

Gas stations, 5

been picked over since August and all the icee flavors are in stock. They also have “Amish candy”, flashing you back to the days before industrialized candy production, but after the invention of plastic packaging. If you’re feeling a little ritzy, you can get a little wild with fake moonshine in off-brand Mason jars. The cashier will probably short-change you. .

Keychain Rating: 11/12
spellings of Stephanie, 0/3,000
non-white names.

What You Should Get: A pink camo rhinestoned trucker hat about being a nurse.

The One For Truckers

Venom in place, but his bosses thought they could sell more toys or whatever if Venom was there, so he’s there. That means this movie had THREE different villains. Like half of this movie is just tragic backstories of villain after villain.

Is there anything redeemable about this movie? There is one thing: it’s hilarious. I’m pretty sure Raimi knew this was gonna be a bad one, so he shoved in a bunch of cheese and slapped a bow on top. It’s a mess, but it’s a beautiful mess that shall be cherished forever. It’s been scientifically proven the best movie night movie with a group of friends. And



Even if you’re only driving through the midwest, this gas station is probably in Oklahoma. It’s the size of a 12-car garage with a bank of cash registers running the full length of one of the walls but there’s still only one person work-

power?” I think there are many higher powers that could explain why we’re here. And I don’t think there could be any one answer that, because it would just be mean to humans to do that. [laughs]

And because some things we’ll never know, do you think the prospect of the unknown is more terrifying in a time when the world’s information is at our fingertips?

Yeah, that’s a good way of putting it, but...the fear of the unknown now is also sort of inextricably connected to the onslaught of information. It’s not like it was in the 12th-13th century, where you didn’t know things because you didn’t have access, and people couldn’t read and there was no printing press. Everything was passed down through oral tradition, and people in power kept information from the underclass. Then, a lot of things were unknown, but now you have everything humans have ever known instantly available in your pocket. The very thing that terrifies me is knowing that we’ll never be able to sort through it all, and knowing that there’s too much information out there for any one thing to ever be the right answer, and that there can be nothing else but an infinite number of answers that could be equally truthful. What’s unknown now is not unknown based on a lack of information, it’s unknown because we do know that we’ll never have enough time to sort through all of it. It’s not uniquely human, it’s fundamental to life, but we’re all gonna die, [laughs] and surely all of us will die without figuring out something that we wanted to know. So knowing and accepting that is, I think, what scares me: knowing that I’ll never know, but you sort of have to embrace it.

ing. You could fully supply a pit crew here. Despite its size, in terms of food there’s a heat lamp taquito at most, even on a good day.
Sensory Experience Rating: 1/1 cabbage smells.
What You Should Get: Out.

acter backstories, it’s maybe still the best one we’ve gotten? But it’s hard to say.

Wherever it falls on the competitive tier list, it’s one I feel will definitely be remembered by Spiderfans everywhere. I better mosey on outta here, boss is giving me the stink eye for writing about superheroes instead of applying to colleges. As always, thanks for reading. Tune in next week to get a sneak peek on how my day is going, I’m Angelo Carvale, and this is Nightline.