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Purple Press

Volume #24, Issue #3

December 22nd, 2023

Archers bring pride to sport

OWL's team will include a Progress Pride flag on new jerseys this season

Lillie Eiken
Staff Writer

The OWL Archery team is a point of pride for our school, having won the State Tournament last school year, and previously gone to Nationals. But, it isn't a normal team. And maybe that's a good thing.

"Our team is not a typical team in that they come to it

because their fathers have taken them bow hunting and they're like, 'Oh, archery,'" said head coach and OWL math teacher Tom Totushek.

"We have noticed that the environment at archery tournaments are very different from the environment that is at OWL and the OWL archery team. Most of the archery teams in the NASP (National

Archery in the Schools Program) are from rural areas, so the people on the team tend to be more conservative about the LGBTQ+ community," said Kathryn Totushek, an 11th grader on the archery team.

Homophobia and transphobia in high school sports is an ongoing issue that's received national attention in the last few years.

Currently, 24 states have bans on trans youth participating in sports according to their gender identity and not their sex assigned at birth. And archery is a sport that's divided by gender.

"I was sitting next to a coach from another school," remembered Tom. "And I was like, how do you feel about trans archers? And that coach

was like, well, I worry that they would pick their gender for each tournament to try to give themselves a competitive advantage."

That's a common concern when talking about trans people in sports. However, it often isn't true. "In society, it does not pay to transition into a group that is talked about the way society talks about trans

people right now. Groomers, pedophiles, you know," said Tom. In addition, gender dysphoria (the severe distress that comes when the gender you appear as isn't the one you identify with) is often so difficult to live with that people do not choose it in order to be successful.

Archery jerseys, 5

Class of '24 marches to the mailbox



Rebecca Palmer



Rebecca Palmer

Senior Jonas Ruberg gives a speech empowering younger students to reach out for support (left), the graduating class of 2024 poses for a photo (right).

The college march celebrates the accomplishments and futures of the senior class

Kate Houle
Staff Writer

"[OWL] won't let you walk alone, not even to the mailbox," said parent Mariana Romero Guillot at OWL's ninth annual college march.

On Friday December 8th, OWL celebrated the college aspirations of the class of 2024. All EL Education schools

across the country participate in this event, celebrating the impressive goal of having every 12th grader apply to at least one secondary program.

At OWL, students and community members head to the auditorium to listen to speeches, including ones from SPPS assistant superintendent Yeu Vang, St. Paul City

Councilmember Rebecca Noecker, two OWL parents, and seven seniors. Then, each senior gets a chance to announce to the crowd which schools they applied and have been accepted to.

Crews spend the week before the event making posters, then cheer seniors on in the auditorium before

heading outside and lining up along Humboldt Avenue to watch and wave around their posters for the parade of 12th graders. "It's such a great experience for the whole school, cause seniors walk by and see their names in the air, and think 'wow, I made it!,' it's just really awesome," said 10th grader Margaret Moe.

"It felt very nerve racking, but also very rewarding, because I knew my message of my speech was mainly targeted towards the younger ages of OWL, and a lot of those kids look up to me, so I wanted to inspire them just like previous seniors have inspired me," said senior Elena Davis, who spoke at the event.

BCB is changing crew for the better

The Better Crew Bureau looks to engage and lift up all students with crew lessons

Nora Crosby
Staff Writer

How can we change crew to make it more engaging? Do all students feel like they are represented in the content? These are the type of questions that OWL's new club the Better Crew Bureau, or BCB, addresses.

The BCB is run by science teacher Megan Hall and senior Mintesinot Sturm. Once a month, one or two students

from each crew gather together to discuss the current issues and topics revolving around crew.

The BCB was started last spring by 2023 OWL graduate Guadalupe Dimayuga. According to Megan, Guadalupe created the club because he was, "motivated to find ways to elevate the student voice around crew at OWL."

Mintesinot added to that statement by stating that Guadalupe's hope was to

make crew more engaging for all students. His goal was to, "ensure crew lessons were incorporating more equity-based teaching."

Guadalupe wanted crew to again become a place where every student is involved and engaged in the topic, game, or activity at hand.

Each month the BCB representatives meet with Megan and Mintesinot to



Purple Press Staff Photo

Senior Mintesinot Sturm (left) and science teacher Megan Hall (right) lead the BCB.

BCB, 5

History of Disney

Claire Ales
Staff Writer

Two brothers, 12 theme parks, 100 years. It started with two brothers that had a vision and has grown into a multi billion dollar business where dreams come true.

Disney is one of the world's most successful businesses and has continuously grown over the 100 years it has been in existence. But every company has to start somewhere.

As a child Walt Disney loved drawing cartoons. He even drew some for publications. As an adult Walt opened his first studio called Laugh-O-Gram. Unfortunately it went bankrupt in 1923. Over the next five years, Walt moved to LA, sold several short films called Alice Comedies, opened a new studio with his brother called Disney Brothers Studio (now known as Walt Disney Studio), and introduced Mickey Mouse in his biggest hit of that time "Steamboat Willie".

The brothers then turned their attention to creating a full length film. In 1937 Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs was released, but not without going 400% over budget and hiring over 300 animators. After the success of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Disney started and completed a move to a new studio in Burbank, California.

The 1950's were a time of great success for the Walt Disney Company. Cinderella was released, bringing in 182 million dollars since it came out in 1950. The next big thing in the 50's was the opening

Disney, 5



The Purple Press

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Archery team looks to another state title

The team is practicing for success, but focusing on personal growth and having fun this season

Maggie Jansen
Staff Writer

Last spring, OWLs archery team, the only team in the Twin Cities, headed north to the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC) to compete against over a thousand other archers across the state. The high school team came back to the city carrying the title of state champions. Along with that major achievement, various individuals on the team in both middle and high school individually qualified for the National tournament.

The 2023 season was a resounding success. The team recently started practicing to defend its title. That title defense begins with a series of tournaments next month. Before that, open shoots were hosted every Tuesday, designed as an opportunity to showcase to students what OWLs archery team is, as well as to give returning team members an opportunity to cram in extra practice before the season. “They [students] get to see what shooting as a team looks like and they get to see if it’s something that they want to do,” said math teacher and archery coach Tom Totushek.

One of the events the team will compete in this season is the tournament OWL will host at Johnson High School on January 20th. “We haven’t held a tournament since 2019, so this is a big event for us. It’s a lot of work, but in the long run it’s really fun,” said 11th grader Kathryn Totushek, one of the team captains. “I think it will be important at this tournament to not focus on how well our

team performs, but how the event turns out in general and making a welcoming environment for the teams that are attending the event.” This tournament is to be organized by the members of the archery team, parent volunteers, and Outward Bound students.

“We just want to have a fun tournament,” said Tom. Along with having fun, the team is also using the OWL tournament as



Purple Press staff photo



Purple Press staff photo

9th grader Benji Diaz practices from 15 (top), coach Tom Totushek observes 11th grader Paige Rohde’s shooting form (bottom).

an opportunity to gather the funds to attend Nationals in Louisville, Kentucky from May ninth to eleventh. The regional tournament is in Becker, Minnesota on March 8th and 9th. The Minnesota state tournament is typically held in Duluth, but this year it is being held in Rochester, March 22nd through March 24th. “It’s always weird when you shoot

in a new place,” said Tom. But even with that change, the team is determined to succeed at state once again by shooting at least 3300 points to qualify for Nationals. Last year, their goal was to place in the top three at state and they ended up shooting 3383 points.

Some strong returning archers to the team include the last year National qualifiers like 11th graders Duncan Smith and Theo Kimball, senior Jacob Landy, 8th grader Maggie Jansen, and 7th grader Sophie Sherman-Hoehn. That list also includes the new and returning captains such as 11th graders Kathryn Totushek, Paige Rohde, and Sylas Kolb, along with 10th grader Claire Hulson and senior Valerie Fox.

Archery is easily described as a unique sport, filled with ambitious goals and individual and team aspects. “In such a mental activity where you are limited to being with yourself, to turn around and find your team rooting for you is an incredibly gratifying feeling,” said 11th grader Paige Rohde.

As an archer myself, this sport can be really difficult because it sometimes feels like such an individual pursuit. It’s easy to get frustrated when shooting, but the coaches, captains, and my fellow team members are incredibly supportive, always giving me feedback on how I can improve. “It’s [archery] also for me an opportunity to just get away from all of the other distractions that life offers, and just focus on a bow and arrow and a target and just sort of be in that mental space where I can just focus and sort of, you know, get at it,” said Tom.



Photo courtesy of Zane Shiere

11th grader Zane Shiere plays wide receiver and outside linebacker for the Knight Hawks.

Zane represents OWL on the Knight Hawks

11th grader finds success and community on Humboldt and Harding’s co-op football team

Oscar Mons
Staff Writer

It’s late on a Friday afternoon. Two dozen players face off on either side of the Humboldt turf field. With the flood lights shining down on the players, one team throws the ball and it’s caught, and a player in orange and black sprints the ball into the end zone for a touchdown. It’s a knight, it’s a hawk, it’s none other than the Harding-Humboldt Knight Hawks!

Not many OWL students know much about Humboldt Football and unlike many other schools, our Homecoming is centered on our Ultimate Frisbee team instead of our football team. In addition to that, there is only one OWL student on the team this season. The football team is shared between both Humboldt and Harding with the option for OWL students to join as well. The team called the Knight Hawks (Harding Knights and Humboldt Hawks) has both varsity and junior varsity teams. Unlike many other sports at Humboldt, football doesn’t get a lot of participation from OWL students.

This year 11th grade captain Zane Shiere was the only OWL athlete to join the team. He plays wide receiver (WR) and outside linebacker (OL). He had 45 tackles/30 being solo, two sacks and 15 tackles for loss. He encourages other students to join saying, “It would be fun to have more inclusion from OWL students.” The team is young and is very much still growing, so everyone is encouraged to get out and join. Humboldt-Harding football is very accepting of all skill levels

and offers a place for almost every player. Throughout the years and seasons the Knight Hawks haven’t gotten much participation from OWL students, Zane being the only one this year is not an exception.

As for the team’s atmosphere, practice is very fun and involves many games and fun drills. Zane describes the team’s atmosphere as, “really good, we have fun basically all the time and yeah just have a lot of fun.” Football is all about teamwork and cooperation. The team is only as strong as their weakest link, which makes them so supportive and understanding. Harding-Humboldt football is a fun and engaging environment that is extremely inclusive. Practice is a time to improve at the game and also meet and get to know a lot of people.

This season the Knight Hawks finished 0-7 in their conference although some games were very close, like in the game against St. Paul Central where the Knight Hawks made many runs but lost by 13 points, 27-40. This was a huge difference to last year’s season, where the score was flipped to 6-1 and they were second in their conference, second to Minneapolis Patrick Henry. This is partly due to the loss of seniors and other players. However as Zane says “it’s still a younger team,” and “a lot of people are still learning,” meaning that they are only getting better and better every season, so don’t count them out just yet.

Marking 50 years of hip-hop

Celebrating the cultural influence of the popular music genre

Gabe Zupfer
Staff Writer

Hip-hop has reached the 50 year mark, starting from the bottom of the charts and making its way to the top. Its influence is indisputable. But how did it get to this point?

On August 11, 1973, in a New York apartment building, 18-year-old Cindy Campell threw a party with her older brother Clive Campell. During the party, Clive (AKA DJ Kool Herc) switched it up. He looped a beat from a song called Apache by the Incredible Bongo Band and started rapping, or MCing, over the beat. This was how hip-hop was born.

Hip-hop is a culmination of music, writing, and dancing. In the 70s and 80s it was originally made by taking two copies of the same record and switching between them, looping the percussive part of the song, which is known as the breakbeat. DJ Kool

Herc called this technique the merry-go-round and it’s a technique that is still used today by DJs everywhere.

Music isn’t the only thing that makes hip-hop what it is though, hip-hop is a culture with many things that make it up. Breakdancing, AKA b-boying or b-girling, is a form of dance that involves lots of fast-paced footwork and acrobatic moves. It formed from martial arts and gymnastics. It is called breakdancing because of the slang “break”, which means to act energetically or to cause a disturbance.

Another aspect of hip-hop, graffiti, is the act of painting or tagging the name of the artist. Graffiti is usually made to express feelings, but it’s also made so that the artist can get recognition from other artists.

A common misconception about hip-hop is that it is the same thing as rap. Hip-hop goes deeper than just a genre of music because of all the different aspects that make it up. Rap is part of hip-hop, but it is not the full culture and it is not the thing that defines hip-hop.

“Rap is a gimmick,” said hip-hop artist Method Man. “but I’m for hip-hop, the culture.”



Gabe Zupfer

Because of the decline of the manufacturing industry in New York City, the Bronx was a poverty-stricken area in the early 70s. Out of every 100 Bronx families, 15 lived under the poverty line. Hip-hop was made as a way to speak out about such things. It gave voice to many young people in the 70s and brought people together across the country.

Many people loved hip-hop, and it quickly became a very popular genre of music in America in the 80s and 90s. It spread across America to cities like Los Angeles and was popularized by DJs across the country. Many people viewed it as a positive thing because it fostered a sense of unity within many communities.

“Hip-hop is the voice of this generation,” said DJ Clive Campell. “Even if you didn’t grow up in the Bronx in the 70’s, hip hop is there for you. It binds all of these people, all of these nationalities, all over the world together.”

Is it as easy as 1, 2, 3?

Finding out what numbers are the very best proved to be a difficult and time consuming task

Anson Lind
Staff Writer

Numbers are everywhere. Class periods are numbered. Book chapters have numbers. Sports players have numbers. Dates, times, ages? All numbers. Even the lack of numbers has a number - zero. But just about everyone will agree: some numbers are better than other numbers. Everybody likes numbers like one, three, seven, or thirteen. But numbers like 29473.274? Nobody likes 29473.274. And this has led me to thinking: if some numbers are better than others, which numbers are the very best?



In order to determine the answer to this immensely important dilemma, I've gathered information and opinions about numbers from all over the school. I started with the school's resident number experts, OWL's math department. Patti Hosfield's favorite number is 12: she got her first job at twelve and has won several prizes with that number. Clara Raineri's favorite number changes from time to time. At the moment, it's -13, but in general, she likes either prime numbers or numbers with lots and lots of factors. Damon Liberatore's favorite number is 64: it's a perfect square, a perfect cube, and has lots of factors. He even has a game in which his students have to make 64 with five other numbers. Finally, Tom Totushek's favorite number is pi, which he likes partially because it shows up in circles and spheres, and partially because his initials, TT, look a lot like pi.

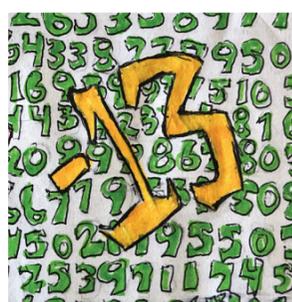
Of course, math teachers aren't the only ones with opinions on numbers. Art teacher Kent Miller's favorite number is seven, "because it's odd, yet it offers a nice resting place between five and 10." When asked, 12th grader Hiroko Zeleke said, "My favorite number is three. It's just a good number, like, there's a lot of good things that come out of threes." Favorite numbers can impact daily life, too. According to Hiroko, "whenever I'm setting my TV volume, I try to keep it at an odd number, unless the number ends in, like, eight. Eight's a lucky number."

Clearly, people have opinions when it comes to numbers. In order to hear these opinions more efficiently, I created a survey, which was sent out with the OWL Weekly Email. This survey collected 115 different responses, all sharing their opinions about

their favorite (and least-favorite) numbers. Though I could jump straight to the #1 most-liked number, that would make this article significantly less interesting. Instead, we'll start with the last question on the survey, which asked whether people preferred even or odd numbers.

Throughout the various responses about liked or disliked numbers, a surprising amount of people said they disliked even or odd numbers, which led me to wondering which of the two was more popular. 67.7% of people who answered the survey had an opinion when it came to the topic of even and odd numbers, with only 32.5% saying they had no preference. Of those who did respond, more people liked even numbers than odd: 53 responders preferred even numbers, while only 24 said they liked odd numbers more. Now that we have that covered, it's time to cover another interesting question: what were people's least favorite numbers?

Surprisingly, there were just as many disliked numbers as there were favorite numbers, which raises the question, why would people hate certain numbers? Lots of reasons, in fact. People disliked numbers for being boring, for being associated with bad memories, for giving off bad vibes, for being hard to do math with, being unlucky, being overrated, and many more reasons. However, the most



common reasons for why people disliked some numbers were aesthetic reasons. Numbers like 3, 6, 19, 38, and several more were disliked for looking strange or ugly.

So what were the most common disliked numbers? In a tie for second place are two and nine, which each got eight votes. Two was commonly disliked for being a common, boring, ordinary number, though more than one person stated their dislike for two because it's second - almost first, but not quite. Nine, on the other hand, was more disliked for being hard to use in math, as multiplying and dividing with nines can get tricky. Other disliked numbers ranged from one to four to 15 to 29 to 1,235, but the number 13 was by far the least-liked number, with eleven different responses choosing it as their least favorite. The superstitions regarding the number 13 being unlucky are extremely common - people may try to avoid staying on the 13th floor of buildings

or sitting in row 13, and Friday the 13th has become accepted as the unlucky day. These superstitions are what caused 13 to become the most-disliked number in the school, as almost everyone who named 13 as their least favorite cited its unluckiness as the reason why.

Choosing a favorite number can be tricky. As English teacher Preston West put it, "What makes a favorite? A number that is practical, hardworking? One whose manifestation in the real world is pleasing? Or one that just looks nice?" He went on to demonstrate his point with the number three: "Three

"Clearly, people have opinions when it comes to numbers."

is a hardworking, practical number. Tripods are stable, and triangles are great. Three things together look better than two. It has balance. But I hate the way a 3 looks. Should it be my favorite number? The philosophical implications are confounding and strange." Preston, whose favorite number happens to be 0, raises a good point. Why do people choose their favorite numbers?

Just like with the least favorites, there were lots of reasons as to why people chose their favorite numbers. These ranged from fond memories related to the numbers to the fact that some numbers work well at math. 11 people chose favorite numbers that were easy to use in math, while 19 people chose their favorite numbers based on their birth dates, but the main reason that people use to choose their favorite numbers, was that it just feels right. There are a vast variety of numbers that fall into this category, ranging from 2 to 7 to 12 to 76, but they're all related in that people chose them, not for any specific reason, but because the number just feels good. 20 different responses specified this as the reason their favorite number was chosen, but due to this reason's vague nature, it's extremely possible that numbers submitted without



any particular reasoning were selected because of this as well.

But now it's time for the main event. The big question. The section I've been putting off for the past five paragraphs for dramatic effect. It's time to look at the school's most common answers and finally

determine the best number. The answers to this question on the survey are particularly varied. Favorite numbers included two, six, eight, 12, 27, 42, 86, 515, and many many more. The smallest favorite number was -343, and the largest was infinity, though a mention needs to be made for the response whose favorite number started with 9 and proceeded for an additional 1,741 digits. There were sports jersey numbers, and aesthetically pleasing numbers, and even a Star Wars reference, but it would take a full newspaper to go through them all, so here are the top

three most common favorite numbers in the school.

In third place: the number five, at nine votes. This number was generally praised for its ease of multiplication, and was even referred to as an "honorary even number". However, it did get a few votes on the least favorite numbers list, mostly due to its popularity. As 10th-grader Lillie Eiken put it, "I don't like five, mostly because of a 'the fans made me hate this' sort of thing," before going on to point out that five should not be an 'honorary even number', explaining that "people just say that because we count in base ten. There are many other base systems out there. Binary is in base two, but we don't go around calling 1 an honorary even number." However, people born on the fifth day of the month tend to list five as their favorite number, as do fans of its easy multiplication. Despite those who dislike it, five claims its spot as the third-favorite number in the school.

In second place, we have perhaps the most controversial number in the survey, that being 13. Ten different people list 13 as their favorite number, despite - or in some cases, because of - the fact that it's generally regarded as one of the most unlucky numbers. Between both the positive and negative lists, 13 got more mentions than any of the other numbers, being one of the most liked and disliked numbers across the school. Though many people attempt to avoid the number, many more seek it out - 13 is a surprisingly common lucky number for many people, due to its perceived unluckiness, which is what led it to becoming the second most popular favorite number in the school.

And now, we finally have it. The school's most common favorite number, the one that OWL has determined is the best number. It's official: the (potential) greatest number



Photo courtesy of Leslie Burgess

Leslie Burgess, who came out of retirement to teach Spanish, poses for a photo in Guatemala on a recent trip.

Meet Leslie: OWL's new Spanish teacher

Claire Ales
Staff Writer

Have you ever had Spanish teacher Tim Leone-Getten talk you into something? Well for OWL's newest Spanish teacher the answer would be, yes.

OWL was very fortunate to find a temporary Spanish teacher. Finding quality candidates is never easy, but finding a teacher in the middle of the year is nearly impossible. This is why OWL is very fortunate to have found an experienced teacher in such a short period of time. "My most probable outcome was that we would have to dissolve the Spanish classes at the end of the quarter," said Tim.

You may be wondering how OWL came upon a new Spanish teacher so fast. Well the answer is, Tim is friends with her. Leslie Burgess got a call from Tim one night asking if she knew any Spanish teachers that were looking for a job. Little did Leslie know she would end up being the teacher. "I thought about it overnight and I said what about me," said Leslie. Then shortly later, Leslie was ready for her first day at OWL. "Tim has always talked about how great the students and staff are, and I thought I should check it out for myself," said Leslie.

Leslie will be the Spanish one, two, and three teacher until the end of the year. After the school year is over, Leslie will go back to being retired. Then OWL will try to find a teacher for the following years.

Leslie and Tim have been friends for many years. She met him while she was in Guatemala with the peace corps. While she was in Guatemala she taught adults about business and really enjoyed it. She decided she wanted to go back to school to become a teacher and Tim suggested she come to the University of Minnesota and

get a license there.

Many people might not know this, but Leslie was actually retired before accepting the position at OWL. Before retiring, Leslie had taught in the Hastings public schools district for 23 years. Leslie taught at Edina High School for one year and for the rest of her 22 years of teaching she taught in the Hastings Public Schools district. While retired, Leslie enjoyed spending time with her petite goldendoodle, Lucy.

Outside of school Leslie enjoys spending time with her dog, reading, hiking, and cross country skiing. Leslie also enjoys traveling. She likes traveling anywhere from visiting friends around the US or even Iceland. In her spare time Leslie works once a week at a local food pantry in Hastings, Wisconsin.

At OWL, Leslie teaches Spanish one, two, and three allowing her to teach students from many grades. "I have a Spanish 1 class with mostly seventh graders and they are bringing the energy. I might have to have a little coffee during crew to keep up with them," said Leslie.

Leslie has big plans for OWL's Spanish one through three classes. Leslie is going to use the same program that the rest of the Saint Paul Public Schools districts uses. There will be a focus on grammar, but she will also be doing a lot of songs to help students learn by listening. "There will definitely be an adjustment period, but I hope everyone will enjoy this year while getting ready for what comes next," said Leslie.

Leslie is an experienced teacher who is excited and looking forward to her year at OWL. She can't wait to get to know the students better and really likes OWL's schedule and being here. "OWL just has a really good vibe," said Leslie

Senior Spotlight

Jyrena Gueye



What pronouns do you use?
She/they.

How long have you been at OWL?
One year.

What are your plans for next year?
I'm planning on going to Inver Hills Community College and starting my two-year degree, cause I'm not exactly sure what major I wanna do. But I'm planning on eventually transferring to a four-year degree.

What's been your favorite class in high school?
It's very cliché, but any theater class.

What extracurriculars are you involved in?
Theater, and I also coach my little brother's basketball team.

Favorite field work experience or school trip and why?
I've only been to Camp Du Nord, so I guess I'll say that. That was really fun because before I went, I didn't really have a lot of friends here, but because they took our phones and forced us to bond, I had a really good time.

If you had a walk up song, what would it be?
I'll say Bad Habit by Steve Lacey.

That One Little Kid

Ben Casper



What pronouns do you use?
He/him.

How tall are you?
Like 5' 1".

What's your favorite book, movie, or TV show?
I like Harry Potter.

Who's your favorite senior?
Brenin.

What is your favorite thing about OWL so far?
Gym.

What extracurriculars do you plan on getting involved in at OWL?
Football and basketball.

Wait... she looks kind of familiar

Alum Athena Bolton-Steiner is back at OWL working on staff

Hiroko Zeleke
Staff Writer

Athena Bolton-Steiner. To some, she is a new face. To others, she is very familiar.

Athena is one of this year's new OWL staff members. She works as an intervention specialist, which means her role is mainly to assist with credit recovery. But in the 2018-19 school year, she was a senior in the OWL Class of 2019. Her journey at OWL began when she was an 8th grader in 2014, nine years ago.

Like many, after high school graduation, Athena went to college. "I went to UMD. It was my freshman year when COVID hit, so I was in the dorms, and got kicked out of the dorms. And then I lived in a house for three years, and finished up college. Basically all I did was school," she said.

Contrary to what one might think, Athena didn't go to school for a degree in education. "I went to college for international studies and philosophy with the goal of doing some type of international relations type work or policy work within the Minnesota government," she said. "People have asked me 'Oh, do you have a teaching license?' or 'You went to school for teaching?' and I'm like, 'No I didn't. I went for politics and history and philosophy.'" She got into

international studies through an intro course after going to college as an undecided major, where through that she got a job relating to her major. "I worked for Johns Hopkins, and I was a undergraduate research assistant, and I worked at the Center for Indigenous Health in Duluth, so that's kind of what put me on the path of international studies, international relations, so that was kind of like a public health, public policy kind of job, so that was a big reason I went in that direction was that job, and I really liked that job."

So how did she wind up working at OWL? Athena had graduated from the University of Minnesota Duluth in May, looking for a job post graduation. "I couldn't find anything in the job field I was looking for," said Athena. "I just couldn't really find

anything over the summer, and I got a call from Tim saying 'You looking for a job?' and I was like, 'Yeah, I still am looking for a job.'"

Athena also has another role at OWL as the Athletic Director. "Dave said, 'We have this position available this year, are you interested?' and I said, 'If no one else is interested, I'll do it,' she said. "I had some previous experience with the admin side of sports for school. I was a captain on my ultimate frisbee team in college, which you're the president of that organization, so you are in charge of figuring out all of the travel, all of the money, and a lot of the kinds of things I do now as an Athletic Director. It's mostly a lot of emails." She makes sure anyone who wants to do sports gets involved. Athena also added that it's "getting kids to

tell me that they're interested in playing sports when I know that there are kids that are interested that just don't know what the next step is, so being there for those kids is my goal." Athena was someone who was active in sports during her years at OWL, as she was on the frisbee team, and now is the coach for the middle school frisbee team, which she always wanted to do when she came back from college.

You may be wondering what it's like for Athena now that she's seen both sides, as a student and as a staff. "I think it's interesting because I had the experience of a student before I was a staff member, and quite a few of the staff members knew me as a student before I was a teacher, so there've been a couple of instances where I'll be somewhere that a student isn't generally, such as the copy room or something like that, or there was one time where Tom walked into behind the desk by Tammy and he saw me back there and he was like, 'Ope, I thought you were Athena the student, not Athena the teacher,'" she said, laughing. "I think it's weirder for the teachers than it is for me because I still see them as teachers, but they don't see me as a student anymore."

Juniors and seniors who've been at OWL since 6th grade



Class of 2019 grad Athena Bolton-Steiner now works at OWL as an intervention specialist.



Purple Press Staff Photo

Rhonda poses for a picture in her comfy-bling outfit.

Fashion spotlight: Rhonda

Rhonda's outfits "are bussin" according to OWL student

Kiara Steiner
Staff Writer

Describe your go-to outfit.
"Capris and a tank top with a sweater/jacket (weather permitting)."

What is your skincare routine?

"I use a nice cleanser morning and night, and I moisturize as needed before I apply my makeup."

What is your hair routine?

"I wash it each day and put it up in a ponytail when it is long. If it is shorter, I just wear it straight. I will curl it for special occasions."

How early do you wake up to get ready?

"I get up each day a couple of hours or so before school, around 5:30am most days, to get ready each day before school, plus I commute about 40 minutes each way so I have enough time to get up early and get ready."

Where do you shop?

"I like to shop at smaller Boutiques, support small businesses. I like the quality of the items that I purchase. I am also a bargain shopper so I like to purchase things on sale or at bargain prices."

What's the number one store you shop at?

"FlannelRoseboutique.com, Petals by Flannel Rose."

Who is your fashion icon and why?

"Jacqueline Kennedy Audrey Hepburn, I also like Kate Spade designs."

What do you have to say about the current style trends of OWL?

"I enjoy the variety of fashion."

What fashion trend do you think should come back?

"Well they all tend to come back, everything comes back it just looks a little different, for example, acid wash jeans made a comeback, but they are more updated now, just like neon clothes."

What fashion trend do you think should never come back?

"I am not sure because everything comes back, maybe puffy shoulders but it all comes back in style, but with a cuter look."

Glasses or contacts?

"I typically wear glasses, as contacts dry out for me with the lights here at school."

Describe your style in one word.

"Comfy-bling."

What teacher at school has the best fashion?

"Sheri."

Questions for students:

What's your hot take on Rhonda's outfits?

"I think her outfits are bussin," said senior Aeriana Wright.

Per Rhonda's recommendation, the next

Upcoming Events

December 22nd: Long Crew Day

December 25th - January 5th: Winter break

January 11th: Winter choir concert (7:00 pm)

January 15th: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, no school

January 17th: PTO community meeting (6:30 pm)

January 18th: Perspective family showcase (6:30 pm)

Mary Shelley jump started Sci-Fi

Frankenstein author credited for creating genre when she was a teenager

Maisy Wall
Staff Writer

What comes to mind when you think of the word 'sci-fi'? Maybe something about aliens, robots, futuristic gadgets, the beloved film series that is Star Wars... What if I told you the entire genre of science fiction was invented by an 18 year-old woman in the early 19th century? Bet you haven't heard that one before!

Well, it's very much true. Mary Shelley, author of the gothic horror novel that's stood the test of time enough to become a Halloween cliché, also known as Frankenstein; or, the Modern Prometheus, was hardly an adult when she began her first draft of what would soon become one of the most famous gothic novels in all of literature.

Not only that, but you must also remember that it broke a barrier that those alive when the novel was published probably never even thought existed, let alone able to be broken. According to Stanford Medicine Magazine, Frankenstein was "not only the first creation story to use scientific experimentation as its method, but it also presents a framework for narratively examining the morality and ethics of the experiment and experimenter."

There's a chance you might be wondering why a teenage girl decided to write about what she did; the invention of a being so hideous even his creator wanted nothing to do with him. She did not simply think to herself, "hey, you know what's missing from

the many abundant genres of literature? One about unearthly creatures and a reimagined, technologically advanced future full of life on mars and time traveling," and then create science fiction.

Instead, what actually inspired the creation of Frankenstein was a springtime vacation Mary Shelley (Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin at the time) took to Switzerland with her lover Percy Bysshe Shelley and friend George Gordon Byron. Despite

traveling smack-dab in the middle of spring, the weather was quite cold, inspiring the friends to stay indoors, read German ghost stories and discuss them. A bit specific, but the truth, nonetheless.

Lord Byron enjoyed their conversations so much that he dared Mary and Percy to each write their own gothic ghost tale. So, never one to turn down a good challenge,

Mary worked hard on a rough draft for what would eventually become her first published

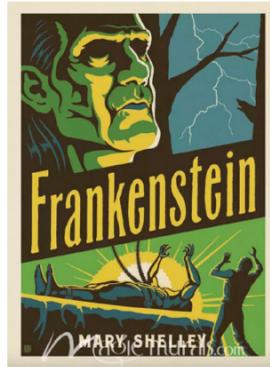
novel by the year 1818.

It has been said that it's Shelley's large amount of experience with loss that influenced her ability to write such an imaginative and dark tale based largely around the topic of death. The first loss Shelley experienced was that of her mother when she was merely ten days old. Following this event shortly, her father remarried a woman Shelley would grow to despise whose daughter would also commit suicide in on of the later years of Shelley's life.

That was just the beginning of a whole series of deaths, as the first child Shelley gave birth to was born premature and passed away, and she also was forced to bury three more of her children as well as her husband before the age of 25.

The grief experienced following these traumatic events may have caused Shelley to imagine what it would be like for someone to be brought back to life, hence the novel directly about this topic.

Now, I'd like to make it very clear that I haven't read Frankenstein, and truthfully didn't have much interest in it until I came across this information a mere few weeks ago. That said, after all of this, I'm hoping to read it as soon as I think I can really appreciate it. I'd like to compare the novel to modern science fiction to see where authors, artists and screenwriters after Shelley's time got their inspiration. After writing this article, I have a newfound interest in, as well as respect for, Mary Shelley, and I hope you do too.



Disney, 1

of Disneyland in Anaheim, California. For the next decade Disney was doing really well. Producing several hit movies, and bringing in lots of income from Disneyland.

With the sudden death of Walt Disney in 1966 at the age of 65, the whole company started to crumble. With Walt's absence no one was really sure what to do. This began what many people consider the "dark days" for the Walt Disney Company.

During the "dark days" Disney didn't release many hit films. They mainly relied on ticket sales from various theme parks and press from opening Tokyo Disneyland. During this time Disney went through many changes in leadership. This included Micheal Eisner who was the CEO of Disney from 1984-2005. Many people had mixed opinions on Micheal. Roy Disney (Walt's nephew) quit the company's board and called for the resignation of Eisner. "Michael, it is my

sincere belief that it is you who should be leaving and not me. The company has lost its focus, its creative energy, and its heritage," Roy wrote in a letter to Eisner.

Micheal Eisner resigned from the company in 2005. Though some may have negative feelings on his leadership, Eisner brought Disney out of the "dark days" and was CEO of the company when several of Disney's biggest hits came out.

Now began a new age of Disney. Over the next decade and a half they would purchase Lucasfilm, Marvel studios, Pixar, and National Geographic, which are the creators of some of the most enjoyed films. This includes Star Wars, Toy Story, Cars, and all of the Marvel movies.

As of today Disney has 12 theme parks spreading over three continents, and a cast of unforgettable characters that we all know and love. So let's hope that Disney keeps thriving and will keep bringing us magic for another 100 years.



Disney+



Purple Press staff photo

Leo's crew discussing Long Crew Day.

BCB, 1

discuss the upcoming lessons that will be presented in crew. The students then practice the activities within the lesson so that they can help lead and facilitate it when it comes time to present it to their own crew.

Mintesinot explains the routine of a normal meeting, "The BCB writes crew lessons and establishes school norms. In the meetings we collaborate in writing crew lessons and help prepare for monthly OWL staff training in crew."

Megan says that as the school year progresses the BCB reps will also influence what topics we explore in crew and how we explore them. But currently, Mintesinot states, the club is working on brainstorming and creating engaging crew lessons for the upcoming months.

The overall goal of the BCB is to make crew more fun, inclusive, and meaningful for all students at OWL. The hope is that it can become

a more active and engaging environment.

Mintesinot elaborates on that statement by saying, "The goal of the BCB is to establish long lasting equitable crew lessons that encourage students to have meaningful discussions about social issues that may be outside of their comfort zone or what they're used to, and harbor an environment where students feel comfortable speaking out."

Megan adds that she agrees with Guadalupe's purpose, "to respond to student feedback and find ways to make crew better to everyone."

Looking towards the future, Megan and Mintesinot hope that the BCB will continue to thrive in the upcoming years. Megan says that the work of the BCB has the, "potential to lift up everyone here and I'm excited to follow the lead of the students and see where we go."

Archery jerseys, 1

"And the fact is, if we would've shot at Regions -- we did not win Regions, we lost at tiebreakers -- if we would've shot as sex assigned at birth, we would've won. So to argue that archers are changing gender to win, there's proof against that very idea," added Tom.

This year, the archery team has decided to do something to push back against anti-LGBTQ prejudice. "We had the idea of putting the Progress Pride flag on the jerseys to show our team's accepting values towards members of the LGBTQ+ community, on our team and on other teams," said Kathryn.

"Our team wants to say you belong at Nationals. Because we plan on going to Nationals. We're gonna have that on our jersey at Nationals," said Tom.

There are some risks of that decision. According to a study done by Out on the Fields, an LGBTQ research organization, 80% of all people (LGBTQ or not) have witnessed homophobia in sports. However, Tom sees it as a risk worth taking. "Out in

the world, at that tournament, where there's a thousand archers and 500 of them have God, Country, Archery shirts on, and it's like, American flags everywhere and all that stuff, it would be a hard sell for a trans individual to really feel comfortable there," said Tom.

"We expect there to be some negative reactions because the other teams have different beliefs about the topic, but we are not going to let any negative comments affect this decision," said Kathryn.

"The reality is they are expressing the bravery to go into what could be a hostile place with that," said Tom.

In a time when homophobia and transphobia in sports is on the rise (with 27 anti-queer bills enacted in American states in 2021 alone), this bravery can be hard to come by. That makes it all the more powerful.

"There is so much else that sucks about being an adolescent. Letting somebody else know, hey, you're okay, that's just what we're trying to do with the Progress Pride flag," said Tom.



Photo courtesy of Tom Totushek

The proposed jerseys include a pride flag on the sleeve.

Hip-hop, 2

However, lots of people were against hip-hop and still are because people say it's negatively influencing youth and contributing to things like misogyny and violence. Since the songs were usually talking about serious topics like addiction and poverty, lots of people disliked the music because they couldn't relate to the songs. Some people saw hip-hop as music that romanticized things like violence and substance abuse.

"Hip-hop is not the problem," said artist Kendrick

Lamar, "our reality is the problem of the situation. This is our music. This is us expressing ourselves."

Hip-hop started as a dance culture in the 70s and transitioned to an industry in the late 90s and 2000s. In 1991, because of copyright laws, hip-hop lost the sample aspect of the music. Many artists didn't like the fact that people used their music and made money off of it. Because of this, hip-hop lost a lot of its jazz and soul influences. Modern hip-hop no longer relies as heavily on sampling. In the 90s,

drum machines, synths, and samplers became much more accessible. This made it so that people could make an original beat without using another person's music.

Hip-hop is still changing today, with many artists bringing new ideas to the genre. It is still bringing awareness to issues in today's society and bringing people together. Artists like Kendrick Lamar, Drake, and JID are still keeping the genre alive. Hip-hop is a culture that will continue to live on into the future.

Numbers, 3

in existence is seven. Twelve different people nominated seven as their favorite number, which may not seem like much until you consider that most numbers would be lucky to get even one mention. Seven is nominated as a favorite number for many, many reasons: some liked that it was their birth date, some liked the way it looked, some liked how it was the only single-digit number with two syllables. Some associate seven with fond memories. Even Purple

Press Adult-To-Blame Leo Bickelhaupt claims seven as his favorite number, as it was his soccer number in college and then in men's league. And if that wasn't enough, a survey sent out in 2017 that polled 44,000 people from around the world reached the same conclusion: in both OWL and across the world, the most common favorite number is seven.

So there you have it. We set out to find out the best number, and the school has reached the conclusion that that number is seven. However,

you never know - maybe the best number isn't one that gets all the credit. Maybe there's some gigantic billion-digit number or extremely tiny decimal number that can actually explain the nature of reality to us. Maybe the true best number in existence hasn't yet been discovered, or maybe the greatness of seven is over-exaggerated. But until then, this great question has finally found an answer. And to everyone who answered the survey and helped me arrive at this answer: thank you!



Holidays 'n' stuff



Our very own Grinch: Zania

For this staff writer, the holiday season is just one big stink

Zania Hiermaier
Staff Writer

Jingle bells, snow, flashy lights, hot cocoa, sugary cookies, presents... Bam, you've entered the Christmas season, and I'm not happy about it.

Which, for some strange reason, has to start on November 1st. What about Thanksgiving? I need my giant meal, ASAP.

And don't even get me started on that god awful music. Mariah Carey, I hate to tell you this, but your music is at best mid. And way too overplayed. Especially on

that special day your family decides to decorate a whole pine tree with ornaments from the 1950s. And plant it right in the middle of the living room. In November. If you're going to go all out for the Christmas cheer, at least do it in December.

Next up: Presents.

I went into Target the other day to look around (I'm broke btw), and surrounding every corner were Christmas gift sets, home decor, and gingerbread. Do you want five different wreaths and matching PJs for the whole fam? Target is stocked and

there isn't even snow on the ground. And Santa? You all work that poor man to death with those long lists.

Anyway, enough with this rant. I haven't even gotten to the worst part yet: Christmas movies

I hate Christmas movies.

I swear every single one goes something like this. "Oh look, I'm a single mom who just so happened to start dating the prince of England, become a famous musician, reunite with my long lost twin, and create world peace, on one Christmas. Oh, and don't forget the sappy wedding at

the end, with Santa himself as the minister." I might puke.

Since this seems to just be turning into a list, Christmas cards are next. These are just an excuse to brag about your oh so perfect family. Like nobody cares about your son's grade in math or that your friend's sister's husband's aunt's kid got a raise. Good for them. Also, how many family vacations do you need? Like I know you love Florida beaches, but do you really want to interact with tanning Karens? But you do you I guess.

Christmas Dinner, who are you? I'm not staying for your

dry ham or pecan pie with so much corn syrup you can't even taste the nuts. Plus, I do not want to deal with the toxic in-laws. Or the fact that you forgot to buy them a present. We always have the half used Sephora samples if you're really desperate.

Christmas costumes always end one way or another. You either dress up as sexy Ms.Claus or put on your Santa hat, ugly sweater, and string lights, get drunk, and kiss under the mistletoe. So romantic, am I right? Or, you have to bring your kids

Grinch, 8

The best activities for winter break

Ranking ways to spend the two weeks, from boring to the most fun you can have

Titus Galbreath and Wyatt Kessler
Staff Writer

It's winter, and both Titus and I agree that winter is the best—it comes with some of the best activities and holidays. We compiled a list of activities that we agree are great, and we will rank them Zero-Five snowflakes.

Sledding: 3.5 Snowflakes.

Starting off strong, we have sledding. Sledding is great if you want a thrill or adrenaline rush. Going on the sled by yourself is fun, but going with someone else can make it even better. What makes it even better is adding a small jump, especially on a big hill. Sledding is definitely one of the best things to do during winter even though the walks up the hill may be challenging sometimes.

Baking: 4 Snowflakes.

Whether with friends and family or by yourself, baking is a relaxing thing to do. There's something about getting all the ingredients together, and mixing them in a specific order. There's also the feeling of knowing that you'll have the reward of delicious cookies or muffins in 15 minutes. You can always make silly shapes in the rolled out cookie batter or invite people for a cookie party. Baking cookies isn't the most exciting, but it is relaxing and delicious. Some people may not like it, but we both think it's a great way to relax after a long day.

Snow People: 2.5 Snowflakes.

Making snow people is great... but it's not quite as fun as you get older. Why include it? Because as a kid this was awesome. Due to its extreme simplicity, now

not many people in this age range (including us) seem to be doing it as much. Building snow people by yourself is just something that, to be honest, we would call a 'boredom activity', because there's better things to do. But that is why it was so great as a kid, because it was simple enough to seem fun and there was really nothing better to do. We think that making snow people was a great way to have fun back in the day, just to get out and do something with friends or by yourself, but it's sort of boring now.

Snowball Fights: 3 Snowflakes.

Snowball fights are great, because you can usually have them whenever as long as the snow isn't too powdery. You can have snowball fights with any amount of people, but it gets more fun as more

people join. Overall, we think that snowball fights are still a great way to have fun during, especially in a large group. However, it may not be as fun if it's just two or three people.

Ice Skating: 3(ish) Snowflakes.

Ice skating is usually difficult your first time. I (Wyatt) never really got the hang of it when I was younger. However, I got used to it later. You can ice skate, play hockey, figure skate, or just goof around. It isn't the greatest activity because it requires so much practice, and rollerskating is always an option, but I would say the atmosphere is better in an ice rink than a roller rink. We originally decided that if you are figuring out how to skate, it might sit at about 3 snowflakes, but once you get the hang of it we agreed that it

could be about four snowflakes out of five. A great thing about ice skating is the feeling you get when you get used to it. However, getting used to it can be humbling.

Snowboarding: 3.5 Snowflakes.

Snowboarding is similar to sledding. It takes a while to get used to, but once you get the hang of it it's great. We still believe sledding is better, since the thrill is more repeatable, but the reward of snowboarding successfully down a hill is definitely better than sledding. There's more tricks you can do, but they are very difficult and if you are just casually snowboarding you can't really pull them off. That could be what would make snowboarding better, but unless you really love snowboarding the tricks are

Winter activities, 8

Hot cocoa tier list

Olli Liimatta
Staff Writer

With winter always comes three things: snow, the holidays, and the need to drink something hot. For that last need, most people turn to hot cocoa. Even though some people like coffee and tea to warm up, I think that hot chocolate is the superior option. Most of the time, people buy hot cocoa powder from the store instead of making their own, so this is a ranking of most of the major hot chocolate brands. Disclaimer: tastes were in milk, and this is my own opinion.

Number five: Cadbury

This cocoa is just disgusting and you should not buy it, but if you love bland The creaminess is decent, but the dark chocolate takes away from the overall creaminess of the beverage. It isn't the sweetest, so if you don't like bitter hot cocoa, I wouldn't recommend it. The lack of sweetness is because Cadbury uses dark chocolate instead of milk chocolate. The price is \$5.99 for 500 grams, which is enough for around 15 cups of cocoa.

Number four: Ghirardelli

Ghirardelli had a very creamy cocoa that tasted more of milk than of chocolate. It was very disappointing from a Swiss chocolate company like Ghirardelli. It was okay, but the lack of chocolate taste led it to be very bland and disappointing. The price for a single serving is \$2.09, which makes it the most expensive cocoa on this list.

Number three: Generic Store Brand

The cream to chocolate ratio is okay, but just like Ghirardelli, you can taste the milk more than the chocolate.

Hot cocoa, 8

The age old question: is Santa real?

Purple Press writer Erik Imholte explores all sides of this pressing controversy

Erik Imholte
Staff Writer

Many people believe that Santa Claus, the gift-toting, sleigh-riding jolly old Christmas mascot isn't real, but those people couldn't be more wrong. First things first, think about the gifts. You've written a wish list before, right? And mailed it to Santa after giving it to your parents? So, to all you claiming Santa isn't real—how are the gifts under the tree almost exactly what you asked for? It's because Santa reads each wish list sent to him and commands his elves to hand-craft each toy and trinket. It goes to show how much he cares about the children all over the world—and it also goes to show that he does indeed, exist.

An argument that Grinches will always bring up when talking about Santa's existence

is "he can't get through every chimney in the world in only nine hours." The problem with that theory, though, is that any true believer in Saint Nick will know that he uses arcane magic to deliver gifts to all the good children in the world. That's right, folks. Santa Claus is a master of the esoteric art of spellcasting. A connoisseur in witchcraft. A doyen in the supernatural. And he draws his magical vigor from the milk and cookies left out for him on Christmas Eve. See? If you think about it logically, it all starts to make sense.

In the same vein, non-jollies also love to argue that Santa can't keep an eye on every child's behavior at once. And once again, of course he can! Us mortals have no grasp on the limits of Christmas magic. As far as we know, Santa could bring down the sky upon us, and his elves could ravage the

Earth, but his heart is too pure for that to even cross his mind. Instead, he uses his magical talents for joy and generosity.

Now, let's talk about the Elf on the Shelf. This seemingly inanimate stuffed elf moves around your house every night in the days before Christmas. Why? Because it's a magical emissary deployed by Santa to keep an eye on your behavior. And every night, it travels back to the North Pole and updates Santa on what's going on in your house.

If you're still not convinced, take a look at these lyrics. This one's from Chuck Berry's Run Rudolph Run: "Run, run Rudolph, Santa's has to make it in town / Santa, make him hurry, tell him he can take the freeway down." Now, many Christmas theorists believe that the year this song was released, 1958, was a rough year for Saint Nick. Evidently,

he was struggling with scheduling, and was rushing to deliver all the gifts before the sun rose. Here's another lyric from Gene Autry's Up on the Housetop: "Up on the housetop, click, click, click / Down through the chimney with the good St. Nick." Now, this is a memento of a very successful year for Santa, though if I was him, I would probably change my shoes—

you don't want the clicking to wake up the children.

So, there you have it. I've definitely proven that Santa Claus is a real, existing person. And to all of you who still don't believe in the GOAT Father Christmas, even after all the indisputable evidence I have put in front of you, you're on the naughty list and I wouldn't touch you with a thirty-nine-and-a-half foot pole.



Jae Lind

The history of Christmas

From origins in Roman festivals to modern-day commercialism

Wyatt Hanson
Staff Writer

Christmas is the largest part of the holiday season. It has become the highpoint of the year before winter reveals itself to be a dry, cold, desolate season. Many believe that Christmas is a Christian holiday, some claim it had Roman origins, and some believe it to have become less of a religious holiday and more of a holiday for everyone.

The history of Christmas begins in ancient Rome. Saturnalia started as a festival dedicated to Saturn, the Roman god of agriculture during the Winter Solstice. The festival underwent major reform in 217 BCE after the Defeat at the battle of Lake Trasimene. This is where more traditional aspects of Christmas begin to take shape.

The idea of the Saturnalia festivals was to have a role reversal for a few days, slaves

would enjoy luxurious food and could “disrespect” their masters, and the Romans would wear colorful and flamboyant clothing normally considered improper.

The Romans would also wear masks and perform comedic plays. Another staple was gambling and drinking. This is also where the tradition of gift giving originates, with the Romans gifting each other all manners of presents throughout the season. Gag Gifts were also common, these often took the form of wax figurines or pottery.

Employers would give extra money to their employees so they could buy their family gifts in what was the ancient version of Christmas bonuses. In an early form of greeting cards, poems would often accompany gifts.

In the second century AD the Christian church began to celebrate the birth of Jesus on

the same date as Saturnalia. It is believed that Jesus was born on the 25th of December, but many sources contest this and instead believe that the Christians moved the date of Jesus’s birth to coincide with Saturnalia.

Early Christmas celebrations were similar to Saturnalia celebrations, which helped with the transition to Christianity. Some Christians believed that the celebrations were too blasphemous.

Christmas was still not widely celebrated during the early Middle Ages, being overshadowed by another Christian holiday called Epiphany. During this time Christmas fell into a period called the forty days of Saint Martin from a set time, usually November 11th to Christmas, which is now known as Advent.

As Christianity flourished in Europe, Christmas became

more and more celebrated and became widely recognized after Charlemagne was crowned. Other kings began a tradition of being crowned on Christmas Day, such as William I of England.

During this time Yule traditions from Nordic cultures and German cultures began to mix with Christmas; this is where we get the Yule log. Caroling also became common, with theater troupes performing for lords in exchange for food and money. Some writers condemned caroling as lewd and unruly along with the Saturnalian traditions of drunkenness, promiscuity and gambling.

Gift giving became more common and even expected among communities. The gift giving date was also moved from December 6th to Christmas Eve during Christmas feasts became

Xmas history, 8



Cecilia Mason

Lighting a goat on fire for Xmas

Gävle goat in Sweden makes for a unique holiday tradition

Kaden McNamara
Staff Writer

Have you ever been tempted to commit arson on your local traditional Christmas display despite heavy punishment and massive security stopping you from doing so?

Well in Gävle, Sweden this is a yearly struggle with people that constantly try to burn down their display, that has since become part of the tradition.

The Gävlebocken, also known as the Gävle goat, is a yearly tradition in Gävle, Sweden, where a giant version of a traditional Swedish Yule goat, which is basically a straw goat, is put up, people taking it upon themselves to protect the goat, and others attempting to burn it down or otherwise destroy it.

The whole thing started in 1966 when someone named Stig Gavlén came up with the idea of making a giant Swedish Yule goat and putting it up in the town square. However later that year on New Year’s Eve a vandal went and burnt it down. From there the goat was popular enough that it became a yearly tradition for the city. Since then it has been a frequent target for arson and has been destroyed 38 out of 57 years that it has been put up, not counting this year.

In the beginning its destruction was generally frowned upon as it was a large, expensive decoration that some vandals would just burn down for laughs, but over time people started to look forward to see if anyone managed it. In the end no matter what fate befalls the goat people still cheer. If it survives, those guarding it are congratulated and honored, and if it gets destroyed, people cheer for the vandals, especially if the destruction was particularly innovative or fun. Additionally, considering the local fire station is very close to where it resides, they always make

it there fast enough that the wooden frame isn’t destroyed, so there isn’t any real danger of anyone inside, because the fire never has enough time to spread.

Despite the popularity of the arson attempts, burning or destroying the goat is very much illegal, as it is arson and destruction of public property, with a punishment of a three year prison sentence. Yet that risk of heavy punishment and challenge of heavy security only makes people want to burn it down even more, resulting in some hilarious and wacky arson attempts.

Some of the best examples include in 1970, when it burnt down six hours after its construction, 1973 when someone stole it and put in their backyard, 2001 when a visitor from Cleveland Ohio burnt it down not knowing that it was illegal, 2010 when two people tried to bribe the security so they could steal the goat with a helicopter, and, my personal favorite, when in 2005 two people dressed up as Santa Claus and a gingerbread man and shot a flaming arrow at the goat, and have not been caught since. Of course the goat security isn’t lacking either, from 24 hour security cameras, to soldiers, to K-9 units, to a taxi unit, to one year where people in medieval armor and on horses guarded it, the goat certainly isn’t defenseless.

This tradition has been around a while now and has gained quite the following around its death and survival. Many people have a superstition that if it survives it will be a bad year, but in general it just acts as a very effective form of controlled destruction for people to engage in. For now let’s wait and see for ourselves if it will burn this year.

The best holiday light colors

Green, white, red, blue, or multicolor? Bright lights a hot debate

Ronin Eckfeldt
Staff Writer

Christmas lights bring life to Christmas. They show someone’s real spirit. When I see someone with no lights, I think of a lack of Christmas spirit, a lack of fun and joy. Christmas lights bright light to the world make it better- if it’s the right color that is. These are my top five Christmas light colors.

The fifth best Christmas light color is green. When you walk past a house with only green lights you think “damn, that’s plain.” When you see only green lights you don’t even realize. It is not the worst, like yellow, but it’s not good. It is plain to see that you would be better off not having lights.

The fourth best light color on this list is white. Don’t get me wrong, when I see white

it can be spectacular like the Mona Lisa. It’s worse than green half the time but when you see a house with white in a tree or in garland it is better than green. But when you see a house that has their white lights on their porch and not in the trees it makes me mad. I swear people who have white lights don’t know how to hang up lights in a good position. There are huge clumps of lights in the middle of them being strung around the porch.

The third best light color is red. When I see red it can be very pretty but please tone it down. The lights are so bright and obnoxious and don’t even look that good. It makes your porch look like a place you would yell at or even chase a boy scout selling wreaths. It looks like there is a guy who is hiding who will jump out and take you away.

The second best light color is blue. Honestly I hate blue, but a lot of people tell me it

is good so I did this for the people. Blue is one of the best colors with others. It needs help from other colors to make it pop. Blue is good if it’s the right shade and place. Like most other colors with the right placement it is beautiful I guess. I still think that blue is weird, it just looks wrong.

The best color of all time is even better than any famous piece of art. This color of course is multi-colored light strings. This is so beautiful. All the colors go perfectly together when I see a house with this. I know there are chill people who are the type to give you hot chocolate. It looks so good, and the colors go together perfectly. When I see lights of this color I only see beauty. The colors contrast each other so well. It looks like some sort of magic would happen.



Jae Lind

‘Tis the season of decorating

Deciding when to bring out the holiday lights is an exact science

Amelia Keenan
Staff Writer

Ah, the holiday season. We all love the holiday season for delicious food, time off from school, and beautiful decorations, but when exactly does the holiday season start? When should you fill up that mug of hot cocoa and open up that box in the basement filled with lights? This is the exact question we will be answering today.

Decorating is always fun and can help get your spirits up, but some people want to start decorating early. Once Halloween ends and November begins, you start seeing wreaths on doors and lights on the roofs. I have talked to people who enjoy seeing decorations up early, but others don’t. “Well, it depends on what you do, but I feel like it’s kinda stupid.” Said Erik Imholte, 8th grade, in response to whether you

should decorate early or not. “I don’t think you should put it up before Thanksgiving.” Said Erik. Some people agree with his opinion, such as Martha Stewart, who stated on her website that she would “prefer to enjoy our Thanksgiving turkey before a bite of gingerbread and a glass of eggnog.” But, there are multiple perspectives on this matter, but they always seem to go head to head. I’ve heard plenty of arguments about when you should or shouldn’t start celebrating.

I can see where he’s coming from, but I also can’t find a problem with those who want to celebrate a bit early. The website ‘Better Home and Decorating,’ claims that putting up your decorations long before Thanksgiving can make you happier. According to several psychologists, decorating earlier can bring back more nostalgic and

happy memories of the holiday season and you should make the most of this time. Some students believe that decorating earlier is better, such as Sally Keenan, a 6th grader, who has this to say about the matter: “I feel like when you have the decorations up for longer, you also get to enjoy them for longer.”

There are multiple perspectives on this matter, but they always seem to go head to head. I’ve heard plenty of arguments about when you should or shouldn’t start celebrating.

Some scientists and physiologists believe that decorating earlier for Christmas can cause endorphins to go to your brain, a hormone that gives you a sense of well being, therefore making you feel happier. This happens because seeing all of the decorations and listening to holiday music can bring

back happy and nostalgic memories, and getting out of your normal routine and bringing something exciting into your life is also a cause for this.

“It does create that neurological shift that can produce happiness,” said Psychologist Deborah Serani while being interviewed for TODAY news. “Christmas decorating will spike dopamine, a feel-good hormone,” She said in the article. Getting out of our normal day-to-day schedule can change your emotions very quickly. Decorating for Christmas or any other holiday is an easy and fun way to do so.

I think it’s smart to wait until at least after Thanksgiving to put up the tree. It makes it feel more special when you wait a little. My family puts my decorations up relatively early, but if others wait until

Decorating, 8

A comprehensive review of winter pastimes

From shoveling to sledding, there is plenty to choose from when it comes to enjoying MN winters

Grayden Smith
Staff Writer

Winter break is coming soon, and besides summer, it's easily the best break of the year. It's packed full of fun holidays, and the snow provides people both a great excuse to stay inside, or go outside. There are so many activities that someone could get up to, but which ones are actually fun, and which ones just waste precious break time? Well, my tier list should help you figure it out.

Tier one: Boring Shoveling

Shoveling is just a chore. Sometimes it can be fun or calming, but really it's just scooping up snow with a shovel. You have to put on all your snow gear (a somewhat long process), grab a shovel, scoop up a bunch of snow and pile it all up. Depending on how long your shovel is, this might be a difficult process. There's also a chance you could get roped into shoveling other different locations around your neighborhood, still in

freezing weather. But, at least you can lay in your snow pile after.

Puzzles

It might be because I did tons of puzzles over COVID, but I dislike puzzles quite a bit. I just find them uninteresting. I get why other people like them, as they can be calming, but puzzles are somewhere between calming and frustrating for me, which is why I'm putting them at tier one.

Tier two: Only fun with friends

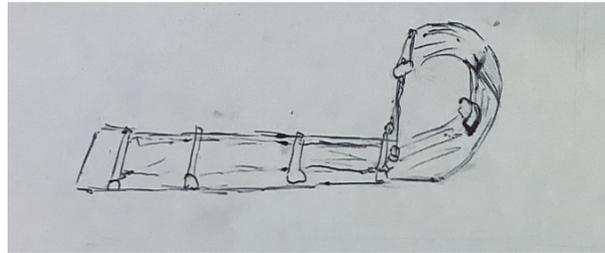
Making a Gingerbread House

I think gingerbread houses are a fun and unique thing to do, but they don't rank above the rest because of one big problem. The main reason I feel enticed to build a gingerbread house is because I want to eat it right after, except after about an hour to finish (depending on the size), all of it is stale. So then why would I even want to make one? Probably because it would be a fun thing to do with some other people, and that's exactly

why it's at tier two.

Christmas Movies

Christmas movies can be good or bad. They can be those Hallmark movies that you mostly just put on in the background, or Christmas movies with genuinely unique and interesting concepts that are pretty good as long as



Cecilia Mason

they're executed well. But no matter the movie, it's always nice to lay in bed or sit on a couch and watch something with family and friends.

Tier three: Fun if done right

Hot Chocolate and Coziness

Hot chocolate is always nice in chilly weather, but it's especially nice during a cold, snowy winter day. Imagine

sitting on the couch with a nice cup of hot chocolate and wrapping yourself in a bunch of blankets after any outdoor winter activity. It would be perfect. Drinking hot chocolate and getting cozy in what I would call "the perfect relaxation weather" is something everyone needs,

and that's why this is in the third tier.

Building a Snow Fort

Building a snow fort or igloo is always a long process, but it's almost always worth it in the end. It's best in 20-degree weather because it doesn't melt, but you also won't develop frostbite immediately. It's always nice just stepping back and admiring your handiwork on your perfect

creation. And it's also good for snowball fights....

Tier four: Always fun

Snowball Fights

These are only at tier four because of potential ice balls. Otherwise, they'd be in the fifth tier. It's especially fun using those plastic snowball molds to get the perfect snowball, and then throwing it right at your friends. As long as it's made of snow and not ice.

Building a Snowman

Building a snowman is a fun thing to do with family or friends. You can make it easily if the type of snow is right, and you can mold it any way you want. You can then put anything on or in it to add details like eyes and arms. It's always sad seeing your snowman being destroyed when spring comes around though.

Tier 5: Most fun you can have

Video Games

Sure, video games are great year-round, but if it's late at night and the snow is still falling outside, it's just better

in every way. I don't know why, but it just sets such a chill atmosphere which is perfect for video games, especially if you're playing with friends or family. And it's even better if you pair it with hot chocolate and coziness.

Sledding

Sledding is the best thing you can do during the winter. It may depend on the sled you have, but no matter what, it's the best thing to do. If you go with friends to a good, steep hill that's not too crowded, there's no better way to do it. Especially if the snow can be molded into a ramp. The only issue is walking back up the hill. This can stop the sledding early because of how tiring it is walking up a slippery hill with heavy snow gear on.

So, that was my list. My definitive answer for the best winter break activity is sledding, so I hope that that choice and the others don't get me hate.

Winter activities, 6

very tedious to learn. We think that snowboarding is great for everyone. However, the walks up the hill are even harder because you have to take the snowboarding boots off when you're all the way down, and carrying a snowboard up a hill is hard.

Decorating a Tree: 4 Snowflakes.

Decorating a tree is one of the most nostalgic activities of the season. We love the feeling of putting up the tree for the holidays. We are in families that have a fake tree because it's more convenient, but we've heard that families who cut a tree down every year can end up with some family time. For me (Titus), the time you spend with your family putting up decorations, and the time

you spend making hot cocoa and watching holiday movies afterwards, is something I miss when winter ends.

Christmas/Gift Exchange: 5 Snowflakes.

Gift exchanges are great. The idea of buying something for someone and receiving a surprise is always a great feeling. Christmas is by far our favorite part of winter. For us, the feeling you get on Christmas morning is absolutely unmatched, especially when you're younger. Waking up super early all excited, waiting for your family (or rushing them) to wake up, having to speed through breakfast so you can open your presents. And it's not just the 25th, it's the whole month. The feeling of Christmas is something that lasts.

Hot cocoa, 6

It has a decent taste, but the chocolate-to-milk ratio is disappointing. It's also not very sweet for that matter. For a box of 10 packets, it is \$2.29.

Number two: Nestle

The taste is very creamy, perhaps a little too much so. And though the overall taste is good, the aftertaste is very wonky. Right after the chocolate taste dies down, you get just plain cream. However, it tastes good compared to the other hot cocoas, and finally has a lot of chocolate flavor. It costs \$2.09 for eight packets of

cocoa.

Number one: Swiss Miss

The cream-to-chocolate ratio was perfect, with enough chocolate to make it flavorful, and enough cream to keep it from feeling like you're just eating an entire bar of dark chocolate. It tasted great, but there was a little downside. Some of the chocolate got stuck at the bottom of the mug, getting rid of some of the chocolate flavor. The chocolate was there, but there still just wasn't enough for me. For an eight-pack of cocoa packets, it is \$2.69.

Xmas decorating, 7

December or later that's all their opinion. We like to have decorations up for longer so we can enjoy them more. The holidays are about spending time with family and doing what makes you happy, so if you want to bring out those lights on November 1st, go for it. If you'd rather wait, that's your decision.

So yes, scientifically

Grinch, 6

along. Which never ever ends happily. Mix in kids on a sugar rush, drunk parents, and snow, make sure to have 911 ready because even I am worried.

On a more serious level, Christmas has some faults, such as the fact that the Christmas season produces 3 million tons of waste every year, according to GWP Group. So now we can add Christmas to the long list of things slowly ruining our planet. Hooray! Also let's factor in that only 64% of Americans identify

as Christians and celebrate Christmas. Even though that number is over 50, Christmas is the only commercialized holiday in winter everyone talks about, and it seems for months before. Insert eye roll. As America becomes more diverse, we have to allow other religious customs and holidays to shine.

Finally, Christmas is labeled as a jolly season to relax and enjoy time with your family. I'm afraid that marketing just might be a lie. According to Retail Dive, over a third

of Americans go into debt paying for holiday purchases each year. Although plenty of people don't have to worry about spending a little extra to ensure a happy holiday for their loved ones, it's still a serious problem that is just flat out ignored. Maybe we should start treating the Christmas season differently, perhaps just spending time with your family and having a nice meal. It's just a suggestion, but I think everyone celebrating would be much happier and have a lot less stress.

I might sound petty but you know what, Christmas is just not my thing. If it's yours, though, I don't mean to offend you. And if you don't celebrate Christmas, I hope you just take this as funny. Because let's be real, nothing about the article is supposed to be serious. (Except for my feelings). I hope you enjoyed my grinch article, yes you can blame me for ruining your day, and have a happy holiday, whatever it might be.

That's it,
Zania xxx

Xmas history, 7

more and more popular and evergreens became incorporated into decorations.

In the 400's Saint Nicholas began to give presents to the poor and after his death it became a tradition in some circles to celebrate him by giving gifts to the poor. This became a staple of Christian charity with Saint Nicholas being one of the major precursors to Santa Claus.

The protestant reformation brought on by Martin Luther bolstered Christmas tradition in Germany and their Christmas traditions began to take shape. In England Christmas was under attack by the puritans who banned it in England in 1647. This led to widespread unrest and many cities celebrated Christmas anyway. The ban was lifted in 1660 by King Charles II.

In America, Christmas was common in pilgrim communities but banned in puritan communities. This led to Christmas being a minor holiday all the way up until the American Revolution.

At the beginning of the 19th century in England, Christmas became more streamlined and many authors wrote about the importance of charity, family, and kindness. The myth of Santa Claus also began during

this time period with the mix of Father Christmas in Germany and Saint Nicholas creating a jolly figure who gave presents.

One of the most influential works that shaped Christmas was Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol -- this work may have been the one to cement goodwill and family into the holiday season. This work is also responsible for the term Merry Christmas.

In the early 1800s the Christmas tree was introduced and the idea of decorating it with ornaments and surrounding it with presents became extremely popular after the royal family began the practice.

A few years after England fully embraced modern Christmas, America became infatuated with the idea after Washington Irving published several short stories about it. The American public began a tradition of extensive shopping during November and December.

In 1850 Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote a character who complains that the true meaning of Christmas was lost in a shopping spree. This was a common sentiment among families who had practiced Christmas regularly before it became a large holiday in the United States. This was

another sign of a trend, that of the commercialization of Christmas.

During the turn of the century, Christmas largely became what it is today. Most companies enjoyed the Christmas shopping season and encouraged it. The season was not only good for companies but for the economy.

Black Friday rapidly became a staple of the season with the day itself starting as the first day of Christmas deals and eventually being dubbed "Black Friday". The term spread out of Philadelphia after 1961 and was considered negative until in the 80's.

As a business you want to sell as much as possible to as many people as possible, so it would be unprofitable to discount groups of people based on a holiday. This logic began the switch from "Christmas season" to "holiday season" as "holiday season" includes other cultures' late year holidays such as Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.

This creates an interesting question, is Christmas still a religious holiday? There is an argument to the statement that it is no longer a Christian holiday and is now a western holiday. Given there are still nativity scenes and some feel uncomfortable with the idea

of Santa Claus but it can be reasoned that it stands for giving more that it does Christ.

Many religious people celebrate Christmas not for Jesus but for the spirit of giving. Many stories around Christmas don't talk about Jesus, instead they speak of kindness and giving. Santa Clause also isn't really religious—he stands more as folklore and most people understand that he is a fictional character.

In this way Christmas is a celebration of giving and always has been. Christmas is not just for Christians and is not just about Jesus. It is about loving each other and having compassion. Even in one of the most brutal and terrible wars ever fought—WW1—a truce was called on Christmas Day so that the British and German soldiers could take a break from the fighting and play a game of soccer.

If even soldiers destined to kill one another in the flames of war could put aside their differences, it stands to reason that most people could. Christmas is a holiday for everyone in almost all meanings of the word. So have a Merry Christmas and think of all of those who have celebrated Christmas all throughout history for thousands of years.

Athena, 4

may remember Athena being an upperclassman. "It's mostly strange because I haven't seen these people in five years, so I kind of missed a big section of you guys growing up, so like, I don't recognize a lot of you guys. There were a couple times where I, you know, introduced myself to people and they were like, 'Oh you were in my crew,' and I was like, 'Oh, no way! Okay I kind of remember that you look, you know... last time I saw you, you were 12, and now you're a senior, and you look a little different.' Yeah, a lot of people have grown up. I am excited to see sort of this next generation of OWL kids grow up, cause I am coaching middle school frisbee right now, so I am super excited to see, like, you know, the first year I coach, like, the 6th graders now, I'm excited to see them graduate. I wanna see all the middle schoolers grow up now."

During fall retreats Athena was one of the staff with the

seniors for two weeks. "I helped with the seniors for the senior fall retreats, that was really fun because I feel like I just went through that process too, you know? I just went to college and did it," she said, "and you guys are all planning for your next steps, so it was really fun to have a lot of knowledge about that and share that with the seniors. I had a good time with the seniors."

Since Athena graduated from OWL in 2019, one can expect the school to have changed a bit since then. "Leo's still here," she said jokingly. She mentioned that the graduating classes have grown, as hers had a number in the 40s. "The culture is different in a way where I feel like people were grouped together with their grade a little bit more and hung out with just their grade a little more." She said, otherwise, there's not a big difference besides the change in people. However, Athena noted that when she came back to OWL, everything felt smaller. "When I came back, EVERYTHING seemed

smaller. Like, the rooms, the chairs. Like, I don't know why, but like, my perspective of everything is small. Like, every time I walk into a room, I'm like, this room feels really small. In my head, this school seemed way bigger than it was."

Athena also finds it wild how many staff have kids now compared to when she was a student. "Dan didn't have kids when I went here. Now he has three," she said.

One more difference Athena added was that she felt crew has evolved. "Crew is a lot more structured now than it used to be," Athena said. "We didn't have clubs, we didn't have academic check-ins, we didn't have surveys, we didn't do any of that, and it was more team-building. It was a lot more of that, and a lot less of academics." During her OWL student years, Athena had been in multiple crews throughout that time. "I was in Lisa's crew, I don't think anybody here knows Lisa. She was the typing and computer teacher. She was in the Bike Tech room,"

Athena started. Then she was in Rebekah Rentzel's crew in 9th and 10th grade, then she was in Dave's crew (yes, Dave apparently had a crew at one point), and then she graduated out of Luke's crew. If any of you are wondering if Athena has a crew, the answer is a bit complicated. She started out with Akira's crew. "It was Athena and Akira's crew, and then when Grant left, I took over for his crew," she said. "And then on Fridays, I visit my old crew cause I miss 'em. I didn't want to leave, but Grant's crew is pretty cool."

Many of you probably know that Athena has other relatives at OWL as well. "It's mostly funny when other people find out about it. Just today I told somebody, they asked me, 'Oh, who's your sister?' and I was like, 'Oh, Brisa,' and they were like, 'Oh, I didn't know,' and I was like, 'Well, do you know Kiara? Because she's my cousin,' and they were like, 'What?'" Her brother, Jalen, graduated from OWL a couple of years back. And if by now weren't aware, OWL

study skills teacher Jeff Steiner is Athena's uncle. Jeff Steiner. Athena Bolton-Steiner. "It's just a little bit funny that I do have so many connections here. It's kind of crazy because everybody, when Brisa came here, they were like, 'Oh, she's been around for awhile, you know.'"

Some other fun facts about Athena is that her boyfriend, Donald, who people who've done archery and frisbee will know, is also an OWL grad, she has two cats that she talks about a lot, and she also will never run for president. "People ask me like, 'You like politics, right? Are you gonna be the president?' and I'm like 'No, I do not want to be the president, I'm good,' she said. "Do not vote for Athena Bolton-Steiner for president. She does not want to be the president." She was also an avid reader and staff writer of the Purple Press. "I wrote quite a few articles, yeah, I was really into it," she said. Athena added that she really really liked this year's story about Kent's fashion.

What's in the future for Athena? At the moment, she's still figuring things out for what to do, but she said she enjoys working at OWL for the time being. "My favorite thing ever is spirit week, especially because I'm next to Damon, and he comes to say hi to me every morning," she said.

One last thing I'd like to add as I close out this story, is that Athena was an active Fraquetball player when she was a student at OWL. "I was a commissioner. My name's on the wall downstairs," she said. "I had a pretty crazy injury from Fraquetball, I had a ping pong ball mark on my side." She even painted the Fraquetball hallway. Anyway, Athena tried looking for a partner for the 1st semester, but could not. So if anyone needs a Fraquetball partner 2nd semester, Athena has 3rd lunch everyday, so 3rd lunch on B day folks looking to play, let Athena know.

Asian culture night in photos



All photos taken by Cal Schmid
A family enjoys their meal that included foods from Hmong, Japanese, Korean, and other Asian cuisines (top left), senior Hiroko Zeleke finishes a cup of spicy noodles (top right), three of the events senior organizers introduce a speaker (bottom right), 9th grader Chloe Best and her mom pose for a photo (bottom middle), a group of dancers led by OWL alum Chutima Xiong perform at the event (bottom left).



Reviews 'n' stuff



Boston.com

The Hobbit: the prequel to the epic series stuns

"...the unexpected adventure of a very respectable hobbit..."

Tait Vossen-Nelson
Staff Writer

Bilbo was just about to walk out into the open when he caught a glimpse of glowing red in between Smaug's eyelids. "He was only pretending to sleep!...I kill where I wish and none dare resist. I laid low the warriors of old... Then I was but young and tender. Now I am old and strong, strong, strong, Thief in the Shadows!" he gloated. "My armor is like tenfold shields, my teeth are swords, my claws spears, the shock of my tail a thunderbolt, and my breath death!"

"...he darted back and fled up the tunnel... and fast though he sped up the slope, he had not gone nearly far enough to be comfortable before the ghastly head of Smaug was thrust against the opening behind... for the dragon spouted terrific flames after him... and he was nearly overcome, and stumbled blindly on in great pain and fear."

Bilbo's grand adventure is chronicled in the classic *The Hobbit*, which was published in 1937, is 305 pages long and was written by John Ronald Reuel Tolkien. Tolkien was an English professor at Oxford and Leeds, specializing in Old and Middle English. He created Middle Earth, which was the setting for most of his books, including *The Hobbit*, to have a world in which the Elven language that he created could exist.

Middle Earth is a magical land with mystical wizards, magnificent Dragons, deformed goblins, fair Elves, stout Dwarves, envious Men and cruel Orcs. One of the smaller races are Hobbits. A Hobbit is smaller than most, including Dwarves, measuring from two feet to four feet in height. Hobbits originate from the Shire, have no magic and are rather shy of big people

like us. They are fond of food, having many meals like second breakfast, elevenses and late-night snacks.

The Hobbit is about the unexpected adventure of a very respectable Hobbit of the Shire, Mr Bilbo Baggins. Bilbo goes on his adventure with Dwarf Thorin, son of Thrain, grandson of Thror and the first in line for the throne of Durin, to be king of the Dwarves. 12 of his dwarven companions make up the rest of the company. They are trying to retake Erebor, the Lonely Mountain that was once Thror's mighty dwarven kingdom and is filled with mountains of gold and jewels and is also Thorin's inheritance, from Smaug the fire dragon.

The dwarves have hired Bilbo as their Master Burglar to steal all the gold from the dragon, promising 1/14 of the treasure of his pick for his services. Hobbits are notoriously light on their feet and a mysterious wizard named Gandalf, who is interested in seeing the dragon go and will participate in the quest, selects Bilbo for them.

The dwarves are very surprised at his choice and don't believe Bilbo is up to the task when he falls on the ground and starts yelling when they say he may never return. One dwarf especially is so against having Bilbo as part of the company until Gandalf puts his foot down and scowls at him so deeply after he voices this that he shrinks back into his chair wishing he wasn't there.

"I have chosen Mr Baggins and that ought to be enough for all of you. If I say he is a Burglar, a Burglar he is," says Gandalf.

They travel through the Misty Mountains, a huge mountain chain where

Hobbit, 13

Art wars: crochet v knitting

Jae and Onyx are back! This time they are reviewing textile tools

Jae Lind and Onyx Oberheide

Staff Writers

You sit down in math class, and the person next to you has a giant ball of yarn on their desk. They're furiously twisting and looping it around a singular hook, creating a solid fabric. "What're you knitting?" You ask. "I'm not knitting, I'm crocheting. And it's a hat," they reply. But what's the difference, and which is better?

Welcome to edition two of Art Supply Wars! Today, we're talking about crochet and knitting. Despite many people thinking of these as 'grandma hobbies,' many students at OWL do one or both of these.

We will be judging these on three things: First off, convenience. Which is faster? Easier to learn? Which is just more convenient?

Second, affordability. Which is cheaper to start learning? What about yarn usage?

Third, peer preference. We

will be interviewing Kent, the art teacher, a middle schooler who does both, and a high schooler who does both.

But before we can begin discussing which is better, we need to go over the differences. Because honestly, it's pretty easy to tell which is which. Crochet is done with one hook. Knitting is done with two needles. The final products do look different. Crochet can make almost any pattern with its stitches, whereas Knitting creates a pattern similar to a V. So before you ask someone, "What are you crocheting?" Check to see what they're holding. If it has one hook, it's crochet- because crochet has one T in it. If they have two needles, it's knitting, because knitting has two T's in it. Now, let's get started on figuring out which is which?

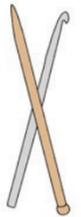
Convenience is rather difficult to judge with crochet and knitting, as they are just so different. Despite this, we can tip towards crochet in this

category as many people recall crochet as easier to learn than knitting. "Knitting is pretty simple, once you get the hang of it, but it takes longer," says Adelaide Stender, an 8th grader. Generally, crochet is also faster than knitting- however, depending on how good you are at knitting, it can be faster. Crochet hooks are shorter, and in extension more practical to carry around, but it requires more yarn. Knitting needles are longer, harder to transport, and use less yarn. However, I think I say this for the sake of all crocheters- it's more convenient than knitting. Therefore, crochet wins the convenience category! Score: Crocheting 1 - Knitting 0.

What do you need to get started crocheting? What about knitting? Well... more than some hooks or needles and a ball of yarn. Both hobbies require yarn, though as we stated in the convenience category, knitting needs less. Therefore, it is cheaper and we

get a point in knitting. Crochet also uses stitch markers and tapestry needles. It's \$6.49 for a beginners 6-pack of crochet hooks at Micheals (These can also be found at JoAnns for a similar price). It's another \$6.49 for a 20 pack of clover clasp stitch markers. "But why those ones?" You may ask. "There are other ones for so much cheaper- loop rings, and other ones for under half the price?" Trust me, those ones aren't it. They're flimsy and hard to close, they don't insert into your work easily, and they're overall just terrible. I hope to save you from their

Art wars, 13



Onyx Oberheide

What is Russian bimbo aesthetic?

"This hyper-feminine style has taken the fashion world by storm"

Cecilia Mason
Staff Writer

In recent months, a distinctive trend has seized the social media landscape—the ascent of the "Russian bimbo" aesthetic. You may have been scrolling TikTok when a video of Tiktok creator @fhlown pops up with her lip syncing in the snow with a fur coat on. Characterized by its flamboyant use of pink, skimpy clothing, and mini skirts, this hyper-feminine style has taken the fashion world by storm. This article delves into the roots of this trend, exploring its ties to pop culture, questioning its societal implications, and scrutinizing its environmental footprint.

The inception of the "Russian bimbo" aesthetic can be traced back to July 9th, a

and 90s reached their pinnacle in the summer of 2023, with the "Russian bimbo" look epitomizing hyper-femininity. Pink mini skirts, reminiscent of past eras, have become a timeless piece in the wardrobe of those embracing this trend. "I never knew there were that many Slavic women on TikTok, I guess you can just throw on a fur coat and be Russian now," said 8th grader Amos Lucken Hill.

As the fall season commenced, a Russian cover song titled "Мой мармеладный" by Katya Leo gained momentum on TikTok. The accompanying videos featured predominantly Slavic women, adorned in fur coats, glamorous makeup, and occasionally a fur hat. The look is meant to be anti misogyny

date of significance marked by the release of the Barbie movie. The Barbie brand, with its iconic association with stereotypical femininity—blonde hair and a penchant for pink—contributed to the surge in popularity of this color during the summer months. While the Barbie movie aimed to convey an empowering feminist message, one must ponder whether the subsequent fashion trend unintentionally reinforces negative stereotypes about women.

The term "bimbo" traditionally evokes an image of an attractive yet unintelligent woman, a stereotype embraced by many young girls in pursuit of the "bimbo aesthetic." Resurging fashion trends from the 2000s

and embracing femininity. This ensemble became synonymous with the "Russian bimbo" aesthetic, despite its origins having no connection to traditional Russian clothing.

TikTok is a powerful app these days. TikTok alone can reshape fashion trends completely in our modern day. The fashion of the 2020s has almost only gained popularity because of Tiktok. For example Uggs, a shoe traditionally disliked and viewed as old lady looking, is now extremely popular and on many people's wish list.

While acknowledging the visual appeal of the clothing and makeup associated with the trend, concerns about the perpetuation of negative stereotypes have emerged. "I

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Opal is a one of a kind short film

Opal addresses internal and external conflicts within families

Evelyn Pennington
Staff Writer

Opal is a devastating short film about addiction, and abuse, that will leave you in tears. "It made me internally and externally weep," said 8th grader Beatrice Cosgrove.

This tragic film was released in 2020 on Adult Swim, a television network. The film was written, animated, directed, and voiced by Jack Stauber, a musician and artist that makes abstract songs and videos with deep and dark meanings.

The film starts with a slow pan of cigarettes and somber music playing, then the music switches to upbeat, with the

cigarettes dancing around all over the screen. A very powerful first scene, it sets the tone for the rest of the film. In the next scene, Opal, the main character, wakes up to her family around her, she notices the house across the street but her family tells her to ignore it. Later that night she looks out the window, and something is calling to her from the attic of the house across the street.

She decides she must find out what it is. She walks into the house and sees a blind man watching television (ironic, isn't it?), he calls her Claire and orders her to get his cigarettes "Don't bother hiding them again, I know it's you who's

doing that," he says, he then explains while coughing up blood "it's evil to help people who don't need help." He then realizes she's not Claire and chases her. When she runs upstairs a man with a chamber of mirrors surrounding him (This is representing how focused he is on himself), explains his life to her.

Opal goes to the next room, and it's a mess. She sees the stairs to the attic, and starts walking, when she is abruptly grabbed by a woman who is clearly drunk. The woman sings an eerie song about how she needs Opal to take care of her. Opal manages to escape into the attic and lock the door.

She looks out the window and has a terrifying realization.

I absolutely adore this short film! The first time you watch it you're like "ok, that's cool I guess," but the second time you watch it you're like "holy crap, how didn't I notice all these little details and hidden meanings?" Opal is a beautifully paced short film, so many turns that you may not even realize until the end of the movie! I would definitely recommend this, however it is not for the faint of heart. "I would recommend it to people who like weird creepy claymation," said Leo Scoggins 8th grader.

Minesweeper slays (no cap)

A procrastinator's dream, bruh

Sylas Kolb
Staff Writer

You're staring at that classic gridded screen, looking at a field of red cartoon flags and colorful numbers. This isn't just a game, this is life and death. One misclick is all it takes, you meant to place a flag, but you dug instead. The screen explodes into an array of confetti with each mine revealed.

Minesweeper is a logic puzzle game that gained popularity when Microsoft released Microsoft Minesweeper in the 90s. Since the game took off, Minesweeper has had many variants across many platforms. For example it's been incorporated as a mini game for video games such as RuneScape and for Minecraft in an April Fool's update. Even the HP-48G graphing calculator has a variation of Minesweeper, however most OWL students are probably most familiar with Google Chrome's free Minesweeper mini game.

The objective of Minesweeper is to clear the screen of all tiles except the ones concea-

ling mines. The player clicks a tile to reveal either an empty space with no mines, a mine and thus losing the game, or a number. These numbers tell the player how many mines are adjacent or diagonal to the numbered tile. When a player thinks they know if a tile is hiding a mine, they can flag it to indicate this and prevent themselves from accidentally clicking it. Squares that have no mines nearby are blank, and when destroyed create a chain reaction that reveals other neighboring blank squares and numbered squares. The Goog-

le version has three difficulties. Easy mode has a seven by 11 grid and only 10 mines, medium has an 11 by 17 grid and 35 mines, and finally hard mode has a 15 by 23 and 75 mines to sweep. Games can last all of 20 seconds or stretch out over 10 minutes depending on the difficulty and your skill level.

As you play, you'll start to notice patterns in how the numbers and mines are placed. When you get comfortable with those patterns, it is easy to quickly progress, taking on harder grids and solving them faster. While the game is only single player, it can be very fun to race your friends and see

who can solve a grid fastest.

Google's Minesweeper is the most addictive, cut throat, procrastination-inducing game I have ever had the honor of playing. I regularly use this game to take a break from sweating over an upcoming math test and instead sweat over the green grid of death that is Minesweeper.

I wholeheartedly believe that this game should be in any professional or aspiring procrastinator's reservoir of time wasting activities. The brutality of getting a grid down to just a few squares left, and then subsequently misclicking, digging up a mine, and undoing all my hard work has myself and others replaying over and over. "It teaches you to be honest mistakes," said eleventh grader Nick Christopherson, an avid Minesweeper addict. Nothing compares to the raw fear I feel when having to blindly click around the board after getting stuck on the revealed area I have. This combined with the easy access ability of Google's version makes this game a clean 10/10 and I think everyone owes it to themselves to play it at least once.



Purple Press Staff Photo

11th grader Owen Belmares playing Minesweeper.

Deep Rock Galactic is on the rise

According to Erik, Deep Rock Galactic is sci-fi co-op excellence

Erik Imholte
Staff Writer

Deep Rock Galactic has a lot of bugs. And I don't mean glitches— I mean dog-sized, six-legged beasts with three jaws and a thirst for blood. So you'll have to arm yourself to the teeth to complete your mission and emerge with your beard still intact.

Your beard is particularly important because in-game, you play as a fantasy dwarf with all of the traditional dwarven characteristics: a surly attitude, a long, scruffy beard, and a love for all things ale. You're employed by intergalactic mining corporation Deep Rock Galactic, and your job is to spelunk the caves of the alien planet Hoxxes IV, extract precious minerals to fulfill objectives, and fight the hostile flora and fauna, most

notably the bug species of the Glyphids, that call Hoxxes home.

Deep Rock is developed by Danish studio Ghost Ship Games and published by Coffee Stain Studios. It's available for \$29.99 on Xbox, PlayStation, and PC.

Deep Rock is a co-op first-person shooter with four classes available to play, each with their own unique equipment and abilities. Each class's loadout comes with a primary weapon, a secondary weapon, a mobility item, and a support tool. For example, the Gunner's loadout comes with the "Lead Storm" Powered Minigun as his primary weapon, the "Bulldog" Heavy Revolver as his secondary, the Zipline Launcher as his mobility item, and the Shield Generator as his support tool. Each class also comes equipped with a set of

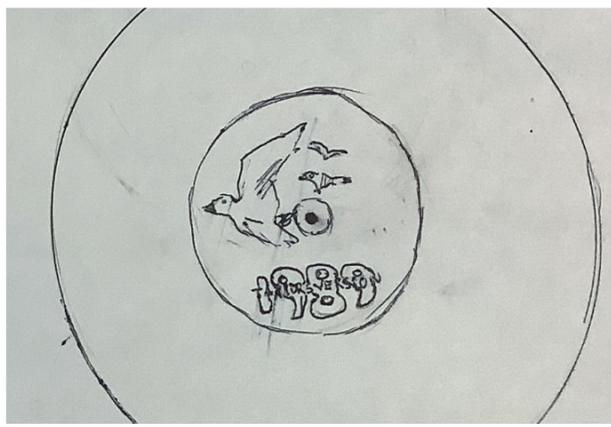
rechargeable flares, a pickaxe, and an "Armor Rig" that can be upgraded to better protect your dwarf.

Every cave in Deep Rock is procedurally-generated, meaning an algorithm creates random cave systems based off of the mission difficulty, the biome, and the mission type selected. Mission types range from a simple, low-difficulty Mining mission to a bloody, high-stakes Elimination mission where you're tasked with taking out the gigantic armored Glyphid Dreadnoughts. After missions, you can head to the Abyss Bar in the lobby, manned by the industrious bartender Lloyd, and grab a beer for you and your dwarven band.

Deep Rock also has a solo mode, where you're accompanied by the all-purpose-drone Bosco, who you can command

to mine things for you, light up the caves, or fight waves of oncoming Glyphids. Missions are typically quicker with Bosco, but I'd highly recommend joining a public multiplayer lobby as they're more fun. Deep Rock's community is very welcoming and positive, and the developers at Ghost Ship are incredibly friendly and are very engaged with their community.

I've truly enjoyed the time I've spent with Deep Rock. Playing with friends and goofing around on multiplayer missions or grinding through solo missions, I've always had a blast. If you have thirty bucks, some friends, and time to spare, I highly recommend you pick up Deep Rock and give it a shot. Rock and Stone!



Cecilia Mason

1989 Taylor's Version is here!

"The album mostly lived up to the hype..."

Adam Griffith
Staff Writer

Taylor Swift's 2014 album 1989 is one of the best and most successful pop albums of all time. As Taylor Swift continues her process to re-record and reclaim all of her stolen albums, 1989 was arguably the most hyped out of all of them. This record completely shifted Taylor Swift's music from her previous rock pop, folk pop and country pop music to the electronic synthpop sound we all know from her today.

The original record is a pop masterpiece with songs like "Style" and "New Romantics" that stand among the greatest pop songs of all time. As a major Swiftie, I could not have been more excited for this album. The album mostly lived up to the hype, but there were definitely a couple of major missteps.

Starting with the good, many of my favorite songs on the album sounded just as good or even better re-recorded, like the opening pop anthem "Welcome To New York" and the classic jam "Out Of The Woods". Both of those songs kept their anthemic synth led production, with some slight improvement on the vocals. Another one of my absolute favorite songs on this album is the emotional pop ballad "Clean". The re-recorded version was among the better ones as well, as the emotional vocals, catchy beat and bassline, and iconic metallophone line all got an upgrade.

The same can be said about the dreamy pop ballad "You Are In Love", and in what might be my favorite rerecording, the chill dream pop masterpiece "This Love". The upgraded production and angelic vocals make this one of the most beautiful songs I've ever heard. As for other rerecordings that I think got an upgrade, the vocal delivery and expression on the smash hit "Blank Space" is SO much better on the new version, even though I have always deemed this song overrated.

The rave influenced track "Wonderland" sounds even more hype than before, with an extra drum layer on the final chorus that sounds heavenly. The classic hit "Bad Blood" sounds just as crisp on both new versions, and other pop jams such as "I Wish You Would", "All You Had To Do Was Stay", "I Know Places" and "How You Get The Girl" sound even better and more poppy now, and despite being on the weaker side of the album, are still really really good.

As for the vault tracks, I was SUPER excited to hear these, and I think they mostly lived up to the hype, even if there wasn't anything quite as good as "All Too Well (10 Minute Version)" or "Run". The first vault track, "Slut!" is probably my favorite. I know most people, including myself, expected this song to be an aggressive, reputation type vibe, when in reality it's a dreamy,

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A review of Taylor Swift's full discography

Olivia Trobaugh
Staff Writer

Everyone has and deserves to have their own opinion about Taylor Swift and her albums but this is the right opinion now, so shut up and listen.

I thought I would rate all of Taylor Swift's albums because of 1989 T.V, The Eras Tour, and The Eras Tour movie. I really got back into listening to Taylor over the summer and wanted to share what I thought about her different songs and to maybe get others to listen to her or listen to more of her music, and to voice their own opinions. Disclaimer: I'm doing them in order of when they came out, and only talking about a few songs from each album. For each album's songs I have picked one to really go

in depth on, and this—at the end of the day—is just my opinion.

I picked these songs because they're either my favorite from the albums or friends recommended them to me, and until now I truly didn't sit down and just listen to the albums or songs and doing this really felt relaxing. As for the order of the albums, it's from the time that they came out—I'm not doing the stolen versions of her albums if she already re-recorded them.

So, starting out we have Taylor Swift (2006). This was Taylor's first album and not the best—this was when she was mainly doing country style music, which I myself am not the biggest fan of. In the end, I would give this album a 5/10.

"Our Song": This is such an amazing song, it may be more country, but it's so iconic that you can ignore that part.

"Teardrops on my guitar": Not the best, for most of her music you can either zone out to it, dance to it, or cry

for hours but this one I really didn't get or understand.

"Cold as you": I thought this song would be a lot sadder for some reason but it was quite catchy and not that sad. I guess that this is what it means don't judge a book by its cover.

"Tim McGraw": The name of this song doesn't really match the song and the song to me is just weird, "When you think Tim McGraw I hope you think my favorite song" this would probably be my favorite of all the lyrics in the song. To me it's kinda like if you're thinking about one thing you can hope that someone is thinking about you even if they're not but it still can give you some comfort.

"A perfectly good heart": At the start of this song I didn't

think I would like it, but in the end I did, and almost started to cry, but I was in class and couldn't.

Next album is 1989 (side note i'm not doing Taylor's Version of this one because at the time of writing this it's not out) This is probably my favorite album, and I would give it a 100/10. If you couldn't tell I freaking love this one.

"Welcome to New York": This is so freaking good and you could literally listen to it whenever.

"Wildest Dreams": I love this one so much. It is amazing how she hits the notes and it makes me feel like a freaking princess.

"Style": 100/10 song, the lyric "Cause we never go out of



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Power to the pickled snacks

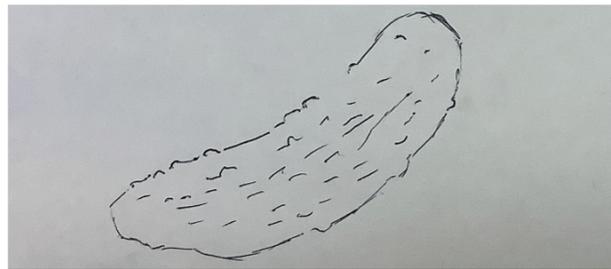
Students are calling for more fermented foods at lunch

Mikko Liimatta
Staff Writer

Pickled food. A phenomenon for the ages; the act of placing food in a vinegar solution, and causing a drastic change in taste. Pickling mainly has been used for turning cucumbers into pickles, which is where the name pickles come from. However, we may have restricted the potential of pickling foods as recent studies by Harvard Law School show that pickling food increases the enjoyment after eating the food. The study shows that after eating pickled foods the dopamine, the drug that the body produces when it's happy, is raised by 30% in your body. Why this data hasn't been picked up by mainstream media can only be a product of the long reach, and influence that SPSS has.

People really love pickles. In a one person survey that I conducted 100% of people would say that they like the

taste of pickles. I think that this survey, however small the sample size, shows people's opinion. This love for pickles isn't unfounded either, as pickles provide an excellent snack with a good amount of Vitamins A, K, and C, in addition to being packed with probiotics. Moreover, pickles are a very versatile food as they go well with many foods, as relish being one of the most popular hot dog condiments, and pickles also being used on burgers. After eating all of the pickle, the brine itself also provides a healthy drink as it helps control blood sugar levels, and soothes



Cecilia Mason

muscle cramps, in addition to preserving foods for a long period of time.

People enjoy using cost as an excuse for why pickled foods are unsustainable, but there is a harsh reality coming check for those people. To pickle food you need "brine" which consists of equal parts vinegar and water; vinegar costs \$2.31 a gallon, and getting straight from the producer you could get it for much less. For pickling you only need enough brine to cover the food you are pickling, in addition you can pickle multiple things at once. As an example of this average price to pickle a pickle is around \$0.07 cents per pickle.

Hearing how cheap it is to pickle foods, many OWL students are calling for them to

be included in school lunches, saying that it would mend the damage that Michelle Obama caused. One of these students is junior Victor Mason he says, "Michelle Obama should've made all the food pickled," he isn't alone in his beliefs either as many others share his sentiment, but are scared of speaking out, due to oppression by the institution. Sadly this is a real concern for students, as the school has a past of trying to restrict "free thinkers" ideas, an example of this is the time where the school tried to censor the idea that getting the Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson and Johnson vaccine would give you superpowers.

I hope that this article will help to convince you of the merit of these snacks, and convince you to give them a try if you are still holding back. The evidence provided shows that pickles are good, and if you don't like it you're a hater. Remember stay safe out there, there is opposition even where you don't expect it, but power through. Pickle Power!



HBO Max

Our Flag Means Death was released on HBO Max.

Our Flag Means Death is back after long wait

New Zealand swashbuckler comedy is worth the watch

Kiara Steiner
Staff Writer

Bumbling pirates, kiwi accents and silly yet dark humor, what's not to love?

Our Flag Means Death (OFMD) is a romantic swashbuckler comedy that stars New Zealand actors Rhys Darby as Stede Bonnet and Taika Waititi as Captain Blackbeard aka Edward Teach. The first three episodes were released on HBO Max in 2022, with new episodes released weekly. After gaining a prominent online fandom, and cult following, season two was announced and began production. Season two is now fully out.

The show takes place in the early 18th century, during the Golden Age of Piracy. Rhys Darby plays the privileged and naive Stede Bonnet, who runs away from his comfortable life to become a pirate. He builds a ship labeled the 'Revenge' and clumsily captains his rag-tag crew of pirates, as they try to make a name for themselves. They run into the infamous pirate captain Blackbeard, AKA Edward Teach. Stede and Ed begin to fall for each other, but are broken apart by the end of season one. Season two takes you through the rekindling of their relationship, the crew being reunited, and unsolved trauma characters are still going through.

Having rewatched season one a total of four times, I had exceedingly high expectations for season two. The first three episodes take you through a rollercoaster of emotions. The crew is split apart, after Blackbeard essentially kidnaps half of them, while deserting the other half on an island. Blackbeard goes on vicious tyraids after being heartbroken by Stede. But deep down he still loves and misses him. As Stede and his crew try to rebuild everything from the ground up they run into Blackbeard and his traumatized crew. They are finally reunited at the end of episode three -- in less than ideal circumstances.

There's often a somewhat stand alone story that helps move the plot along in creative ways, and that did not change

in season two. For example, in episode four of season two, Stede and Ed run into each other at an antique store run by Ed's former friend Mary Read and her wife Anne Bonny, after Ed was kicked off of the Revenge. Consequently, Stede and Ed are invited to a dinner together while tension between them lingers. But at the dinner Stede and Ed witness the toxicity between Mary and Anne when they bicker, and play mind games with each other. Anne even stabs Mary at one point. While this has nothing to do with the plot initially, it helps push Ed and Stede closer to each other, and work on their own relationship.

There were a lot of good moments throughout the plot that I think fans of season one would appreciate. There were a lot of circle backs and references to season one that fit well. But a lot of new characters were added and there were some storylines involving them that were kind of hard to care about. Overall though, I thought that there were some really solid episodes that are reminiscent of season one.

My favorite part about OFMD is the characters. There are multiple guest appearances, such as comedian celebrities like Leslie Jones, Will Arnet, and Fred Armisen, who appear and create fun characters. They are all developed to make you care about them. Blackbeard himself is flawed, and on the surface he seems like an awful person. But his persona crumbles as his insecurities and trauma are brought to light.

The establishment of characters and their traits didn't transfer as well to season two. A lot of Blackbeard's positive developments were promptly crushed. Although it makes sense after the break up between him and Stede at the end of season one, it feels odd after all the progress he made. I think a lot of his actions could've been handled with more nuance and reasoning.

Another gripe I have is the many instances where

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Top five Premier League kits

Ranking new jerseys sported by English soccer league teams

George Abelson
Staff Writer

I love watching soccer and it is always interesting to see brands come out with new jerseys, also known as kits in the rest of the world. It makes teams more recognizable and makes it more enjoyable to watch. Sometimes it is fun when your least favorite team comes out with an awful kit and you can laugh at them even more. So let's rank the top Premier League kits of the 2023/24 season. Because there are so many teams I will just be ranking the top five kits. This is not about how good the teams are but how stylish their kits look. I will be ranking home, away, and third kits.

Number five: Brighton and Hove Albion's away kit. This shirt features black and green stripes with white accents on the stripes and sponsor. This kit is sponsored by Nike. A big part of how good a kit looks is the sponsor Brighton's kit is sponsored by American Express and it is in bold white text that looks clean. A final detail that look cool is a green collar.

Coming in at number four is Fulham's away kit. It is neon pink, and it has black accents on the sleeves, the Adidas logo and the crest as well as the sponsor on the chest. I am sure not everyone will be happy with this kit as it is so bright Fulham themselves are calling

it "shock pink," I actually think that this kit looks rather clean and is refreshing, the black accents do it a huge favor.

At the number three spot is Newcastle United's home kit, the first home one on this list. It has classic black and white stripes. The reason I like Newcastle's kit is because it looks crisp and clean. It is simple but not too simple. My only criticism of this kit is that it looks too much like Juventus's classic stripes.

Now to the final two. At the two spot is another neon kit; Arsenal's away kit. It is neon green with light blue blue accents and tiny black dots and wavy black lines across the chest. It is crazy and it is not doing well on other lists but I think this kit actually looks nice and clean. It might not

be as good as Arsenal's away kit from last season but it still looks nice.

At number one is Arsenal's home kit. In the last couple years Adidas has been nailing their kits for Arsenal. This one is classic Arsenal. It is mostly red with white and gold accents. It looks extremely clean and takes my number one spot.



Evelyn Pennington

For All The Dogs: album review

New Drake album makes up for his recent shortcomings

Isaac Wencel
Staff Writer

Drake's reputation hasn't been the best in recent years, musically speaking. His albums Certified Lover Boy, Honestly Nevermind, and Her Loss definitely haven't gotten the best reaction from the crowd, with a song or two from each album that the general crowd actually enjoyed. However, I've seen a different general reaction to his new album, For All The Dogs. So I thought I'd give it a listen, having the only part I've heard of this entire album being Drake's "money for fun" adlib, which rapidly spread round the internet. I will be focusing on the two things that I think this album focuses around, those

being the features, and the consistency.

Starting off with my favorite part, the features. A majority of the features are really good, with few exceptions. Drake can work really well with a lot of them, from the surprisingly softer tone of Chief Keef saying "used to be a smarty, used to wanna study" on "All The Parties", to the unapologetic flow of J. Cole's "not the three, not the two, I'm the U-N-O" on "First Person Shooter", both of which I really liked. I didn't like "Rich Baby Daddy" with Sexy Red and SZA, I feel like Sexy Red kinda just repeated the same first verse with her time on the track, but SZA did well on that track and on her other feature on "Slime You

Out", another track I really enjoyed.

Overall I'd have to say my favorite song on this album is "IDGAF" with Yeat. The smooth opening sample from "The Tunnel" (1977) straight into Yeat's verse with a Bnyx beat is the definition of quality over quantity, and has become one of his most popular songs.

This album, to put it short, is consistently good. Not consistently great, but consistently good. There are moments in which the quality of the songs kinda dip down, like the aforementioned "Rich Baby Daddy" and "Gently" but it doesn't affect the overall consistency of the album too much, I think there are more songs that positively affect the album rather than ones that negatively affect it. This album never made me click off of it in favor of some

other song, but there were definitely times when I felt a little compelled to.

In conclusion, the album is good. I would recommend it to anyone who feels robbed of their time from listening to any of Drake's other newer albums. It's a good album, the lyrics are creative, the flow is incredible and it never really got stale. As a final rating, I give For All The Dogs an 8.5/10.



OVO Sound

For All The Dogs was released on October 6, 2023.

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style, we never go out of style' makes me think that no matter what she's going to keep creating music.

"Blank Space": Not as good as the others, but still amazing, and if you listen to it on repeat you can tire of it easily, but I still love it.

"Shake it off": This is a classic, the lyrics, the melody, the music video, all of it really matched the year (I forgot how weird 2014 was until I watched to music video).

"Clean": I was listening to this song, and then just didn't stop. I think a people can relate to it: '10 months older I won't give in, now that I'm clean im never going to risk it.' This line can hit hard and talks about how recovery can be difficult on many levels.

Reputation (2017). An overall 9/10 album, it had so many amazing songs and you feel like you're in your villain era while listening to it.

"Getaway car": An amazing song to help you forget the world and just be. 'I was cryin' in a getaway car I was dyin' in a getaway car, said goodbye in a getaway car' I'm reminded of how if you're trying to get away from something/someone that isn't the best for you at the time, it can hurt a lot.

"..Are you ready for it": For me this song can get a bit confusing when it goes a bit dark and then sounds pretty happy. But it's still pretty good.

"Don't Blame me": Nothing else compares to it when you listen to it for the first time.

"Look what you made me do": This is iconic and I won't be told otherwise.

"Gorgeous": An 8/10 song, the song is amazing but to me it doesn't really fit the rest of the album.

Lover (2019). Overall I really like this album, that's why there are more songs in this review but a good 9/10 for this one.

"Cruel summer": A 10/10 song, end of discussion. Nothing else compares.

"Lover": A calm song that you either cry about for hours on end, or when you take that math test that you have been putting off.

"Paper rings": An upbeat song to dance to that really should get more love.

"The man": A bit cheesy but I am powering through all the same, like go girl boss 'I'm so sick of running as fast as I can (as fast as I can) Wondering if I'd get there quicker if I was a man (hey) And I'm so sick of them coming at me again (coming at me again) 'Cause if I was a man (if I was a man), then I'd be the man.'

The lyrics for this song can show how women are treated completely different in many places. Now don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that if the power balance shifted so that women are treated how men are, and men are treated how women are, that would not do anything good, and would just be switching the problems. What I'm saying is that women are treated horribly in many places and that the world would be better if women and men were treated more equally.

"London boy": Nice melody and I think my favorite line is

"babe don't threaten me with a good time" I don't know, I just really like that line.

"You need to calm down": It sends a nice message to some people in the world and if you're ever in an argument you can just play this song.

Folklore (2020). Before this article I didn't listen to this album, but I really enjoyed it, so I would say a 10/10.

"Cardigan": This is a very melancholy song, I just imagine someone running through the woods in the rain: 'To kiss in cars and downtown bars, was all we needed. You drew stars around my scars, but now I'm bleedin.' These lyrics show me how if you're going through something there will be someone out there to help you as best that they can, and how these people can come into your life without any warning, but can just as soon leave, so treasure that relationship as best you can because you truly have no idea how long it will last and when they leave it might truly break you to the point where you don't think you can ever recover, and maybe you won't, but maybe you will, and will look back on the memories and cherish that relationship that you lost, but be able to let go.

"August": It's a nice song to take a step back from reality, and I really like how it was named after a month.

"Hoax": This one seems like it would be in a horror story when the protagonist finds out who the killer is.

"This is me trying": For me this is a song you can really relate to and you don't really need to explain why.

"Seven": Calm. That's all I have to say about this song, it's just really calming.

Evermore (2020) This album sounded more country to me but it was better then Debut so 8/10.

"Champagne Problems": It's a good song but it seemed a bit like a song Olivia Rodrigo would write or sing.

"Ivy": It sounds a bit country, which, if you couldn't tell, I don't really like country music.

"Willow": Sounds like a good sea shanty that my brother would probably force me to listen to back when he was in 8th grade that I would act like I hated but they eventually grew on me. 'The more that you say, the less I know' is a lyric that really stood out to me, and to be honest, I have no idea why. Now I know that I have been serious when talking about my favorite lyrics from songs, but for me, when listening to this lyric all I can think about is when I'm confused/ board in math or tutoring when my math teacher/tutor is trying to help with with math work and all I can think is how I'm not understanding any of it but still pass the math test (don't get me wrong I'm very thankful of my tutor and math teacher, I would not be able to pass the class without them).

"Gold Rush": It's kinda sad, like I thought this was going to be happy, but no.

"'Tis the damn season": It has a nice melody that I really liked.

Taylor Swift - the remaining albums will drop in issue four of the Purple Press.

Russian bimbo, 10

feel like this name perpetuates a negative stereotype that Slavic women are shallow gold diggers, which is simply not true and the style really has nothing to do with Russian women," said TikTok content creator Ange Mariano.

Beyond societal impacts, the "Russian bimbo" aesthetic has prompted discussions about its environmental consequences. The use of fur in this trend raises ethical questions about the fur trade, notorious for its cruelty and violence. Animals endure inhumane conditions, facing painful deaths to preserve the quality of their fur. Advocates for sustainable fashion propose opting for faux fur, a cruelty-free alternative that closely mimics the look and feel of real fur.

As the "Russian bimbo" aesthetic continues to captivate the fashion world, it becomes imperative to reflect on its origins, societal ramifications, and environmental consequences. Whether through challenging stereotypes, advocating for sustainable choices, or fostering cultural sensitivity, the discourse surrounding this trend underscores the multifaceted nature of fashion trends and their broader impact on society and the planet.

Art wars, 10

dread, and purchase some decent ones, because the only quality part about the entire thing is the little box they come in. Clover clasp. Remember it, save yourselves. And it's €99 for a tapestry needle, bringing our total to 13.97 for a starter collection. Now knitting! It is \$4.49 for a set of knitting needles. You don't need tapestry needles, you don't need multiple sizes- at least to get started. Therefore, knitting has won the affordability! Score: Crochet 1 - Knitting 1.

We are coming into the peer preference category with a tie. The fate of this entire debate rests on the preference of students (and a teacher). "I prefer crochet, although knitting is an older fiber art, with crochet being the newer, more modern fiber art form that allows for a fresh look to textiles," says Kent Miller, art teacher. This statement brings crochet back on top- but can it remain there? "I like knitting because it uses less yarn, but I prefer crochet because I have more knowledge in doing that," Emma Oseguera, 10th grader. With crochet keeping its throne, we only need input from one more person. "Crochet is more portable and forgiving. If I miss a stitch in crochet, I can just as easily fix it- but with knitting, I have to undo my whole project," states 8th grader Adelaide Stender. Score: Crochet 1 - Knitting 1.

And there you have it! Crochet wins, taking the throne and proving that it is better (and more popular) than knitting. As stated by Kent Miller, "Crochet is like the newer version of the iPhone; it just has more to offer."

1989, 11

chill pop ballad. Despite that, however, it's extremely beautiful and emotional. The next vault track, "Say Don't Go" is a cathartic pop anthem that nicely leads into the next vault track, the bass heavy, electronic pop jam "Now That We Don't Talk". This song is Taylor's shortest song to date, and definitely could've been longer, but is great nonetheless.

The penultimate song, "Suburban Legends" is a Midnights type vibe, with an instrumental similar to the Midnights track "Mastermind". The final track, "Is It Over Now?" is the pop anthem that this vault needed, with clever lyricism and a fantastic climax. The 1989 vault definitely deserved to be bigger, but I'm mostly happy with what we got.

Now, on the more negative aspects of this record, you might have noticed that I did not list "Style" or "New Romantics" under the re-recordings that I liked more, and that's because she kind of botched these two, and Swifties were not happy. First off, the production on the pop anthem "New Romantics" isn't as strong on the new version, and the vocals are more processed and faded, especially on the chorus where it just sounds like they only added background vocals but forgot to record the lead vocals. There's also some weird watery drum on the chorus that sounds really off. I will definitely be listening to the original version more.

Secondly, the iconic hit "Shake It Off" is just slightly weaker sounding on the re-recording. There's more autotune on the vocals and the drums are not as well mixed. What was easily the biggest disappointment, however, was the re-recording of what is easily this album's best track, the iconic electropop smash hit, "Style". This is easily in like the top 5 greatest pop songs of all time, with its iconic guitar riff, pulsating synthesizers and anthemic chorus. I was worried that the re-recording wasn't going to be as good as the original piece of pop perfection, but nothing could've possibly prepared me for the absolute atrocity that I heard on the night of October 26th.

As soon as I started listening, I knew something was way off. The guitar riff sounded way more processed, the production sounded way off, and the vocals were more flat on the verses. This was nothing compared to the chorus, unfortunately. As soon as the chorus kicked in, I knew that I would be going back to the original version permanently.

The chorus vocals sounded so aggressively processed and autotuned, with so little emotion and expression that it felt like they were trying to make it sound as flat and robotic as possible. The original chorus was filled with so much energy and euphoria, and the new one just felt so empty and AI generated. The bridge was maybe even worse, as the high notes that everyone loves were so robotic and autotuned, and there was a very noticeable staticky noise throughout the final part of the song. I felt like my ears

were being assaulted. Thankfully, I wasn't the only one. People all over the internet were complaining about Style (Taylor's Version) and New Romantics (Taylor's Version).

Thankfully, a few weeks after the album release, she silently replaced those two songs with slightly updated versions on all platforms. The changes on "New Romantics (Taylor's Version)" are barely noticeable, but "Style (Taylor's Version)" now has slightly better sound quality, and the chorus vocals are a little better. The production also sounds marginally better and less plasticky, and the static noise on the bridge is mostly gone but still noticeable. The original "Style" is still far superior, but the re-recording is at least listenable now. I'd say it's like 30% better towards the original, and I can at least enjoy it quite a bit now.

Overall, 1989 (Taylor's Version) is a masterpiece just like the original, but has a few major flaws that keep it from being the best Taylor Swift album to date. For now, it's still second place. That being said, her songwriting is still as strong and unbeatable as always.

Overall Score: 9.2/10.

OFMD, 12

characters were written off quickly, in odd ways. Like one of the characters 'Buttons' actually transforms into a seagull and is never really mentioned again. Also a recurring member of the cast 'The Swede' is separated and removed from the crew for reasons that came out of nowhere. It seems that the show was trying to make room for all of the new characters, but I don't think it was handled in the best way.

The acting, however, was just as great as the previous season. Jokes are delivered by talented comedians that know how to make you laugh. There are so many clever bits. Like in episode of season two, the high strung former right hand man of Blackbeard, Izzy Hands, accidentally snaps his peg leg, but the crew builds him a new prosthetic from the unicorn masthead's leg and he is moved to tears. The actors move through extravagant scenes with beautiful props and visuals.

There is also so much amazing and interesting queer and BIPOC representation in the show. The leads are in a gay relationship, there's a nonbinary character and many POC. In season two there is even more representation, with a lesbian couple and Asian representation. The show executes this representation very well and I would highly recommend it to anyone who wants to see themselves represented. Although the show is rated TV-MA because of swearing, violence and adult themes, I think high school aged students can handle it.

Season two did a lot of things right, and despite the minor grievances I have, It's absolutely worth the watch. I am only so harsh because of the incredibly high expectations I set after finishing season one. I'm optimistic for season three and what voyage the hearty crew will be taken on.

Hobbit, 10

stone-giants play games of catch with boulders bigger than men. They are stalled by goblins and Bilbo comes across a magic ring. They go to the fair Elf-valley of Rivendell where Elrond lives in the Last Homely House and he gives them advice. The company traverses many other perilous things, but Bilbo's courage, luck and magic ring carry them through to the doorstep of the Lonely Mountain where the return of a king under the mountain seems imminent.

Bilbo is tasked by the company with taking a look inside the mountain where he meets Smaug and barely escapes with his life and severe burns, leaving his hair behind. Smaug then leaves the mountain to unleash his fiery wrath upon the nearby lake-town of Esgaroth.

The Hobbit is an outstanding book, it has excellent character development, one prime example of this is Bilbo. In the beginning, Bilbo isn't interested in the adventure and is viewed by the other hobbits of the Shire as a very respectable hobbit who would never leave the fine comforts of his home to go on some silly adventure or do anything unexpected. They were fond of saying "You could tell what a Baggins would say on any question without the bother of asking him."

Bilbo is a skillful cook and makes his own meals, he has many pantries and cellars full of the finest foods from around the Shire. Bilbo is fond of going out under the sun after one of his many meals and smoking his pipe. He blows huge smoke rings and just appreciates nature around him.

Bilbo had never done anything unexpected until he went on the adventure. On the adventure he showed real courage, fighting off goblins and carrying out a conversation with a dragon and getting out alive, a conversation most people would never return from. He is a very clever hobbit and was able to free his friends from elven captivity. The dwarves gained respect for him throughout the adventure, often looking to him for help and ideas.

Tolkien can have very long chapters that seem to never end in his books, but The Hobbit doesn't roll on and on. The book was very well written, the plot is extremely interesting, you never know where Bilbo might carry you. There is the perfect mix of lore, epic fantasy action and intriguing conversations and descriptions in the book.

The Hobbit is a great fantasy book and I would recommend it to anyone who loves a good fantasy saga of epic proportions, with a touch of lore and magical locations. It is also a great introduction to Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings series if you want to read that, but never have read Tolkien and don't want to get far in LOTR then stop because you don't like it.

Some Elk Aren't Worth It

Roy Stafford loves the "thrill of the kill" and it seems he's not the only one

Joseph T. Schwartz
Staff Writer

Roy knew he shouldn't hunt today. He knew it would snow, and pretty heavily at that. He knew that his cabin currently contained enough elk venison to last him months of three meals a day. And he knew that shooting elk without a permit was a crime. He knew all of that.

Yet here he sat, settled into his hunting perch, rifle in hand. Roy wasn't a stupid man, no. By some standards, he was much worse. Roy was a proud killer. He boasts about it at family gatherings, at bars, at hunting conventions, and almost everywhere the man frequented. One would be very lucky to spend an hour with Roy Stafford and leave before he mentions "the thrill of the kill," or his wall of antlers.

The world had yet to be lucky.

So Roy ignored the recklessness of hunting that cold December morning and trudged through the snow to one of his perches, a metal stand attached to a tree where he can look down through the forest. He held his rifle off to the side and sat still in the metal perch, waiting for anything to cross his view. Roy was never one to worry himself with what, but if something got shot.

Roy had been waiting for over an hour when a faint noise broke the silence. Small steps in the snow behind him. Roy did not move to look at the source, for fear of scaring it away. The sound got closer and closer, until an elk stepped into view on his right hand side. Roy smiled.

The elk wasn't in good shape. It had a wounded left leg and limped forward through the snow, landing heavily on its front leg. The animal was thin and struggled to hold its head up all the way with the antlers weighing it down. He, because only males have antlers, also looked like he hadn't eaten in a while. To any other hunter, the elk didn't have enough meat to be worth it.

Good thing for Roy he wasn't in it for the meat.

The elk had one redeeming quality for Roy: its antlers. It had antlers bigger than any other elk he'd seen before. And he knew that would look good on his cabin wall. He might even make it the centerpiece.

He raised his rifle slowly and lined up with the elk. It was close; he didn't need to adjust for distance or wind.

The elk wasn't alert, its head was down. A gust of wind knocked him off balance enough he had to take a step. The metal stand clanked underfoot. The elk raised its head. Roy pulled the trigger.

Bang!

The elk had already begun to move once he heard him. Roy cursed at his miss. He racked the bolt and tried to grab another round. But adrenaline gave the elk enough energy to run quicker than he could reload. He cursed and

slumped back, before noticing something.

The snow was bloody. And that blood made a trail.

Roy closed the bolt with a smile.

After climbing down from the perch, he followed the blood trail through ankle high snow. Based on the consistent blood trail and the elk's wounded leg, it wouldn't last long. It would die. And Roy would get his prize.

He was used to trailing behind game for hours at a time, a big, healthy elk could take a shot to the body and live for a quarter of a day. This elk was neither, so a quick hunt was a breath of fresh air.

That was until the trail led him to the edge of a small clearing, no more than 30 feet across in any direction. And laying in the snow across the clearing from himself was the elk, hoarsely calling out in its final moments. Roy was about to step out into the clearing when he was beaten to it.

A wolf stepped out from the treeline, though calling it a wolf is an honest disservice. It was the height of a healthy elk, and almost twice as wide. The wolf had a tail over a third of its entire length swaying in the air behind it, just barely touching the low hanging branches behind it. The wolf sniffed the elk, its massive nose taking breaths loud enough for Roy to hear it. As if being four times the size of any regular wolf wasn't noteworthy enough, it was also a stark white. If not for the trees behind it, Roy wouldn't have been able to see it against the snow.

The biggest wolf he'd ever heard of, let alone seen, was standing right there in front of him. If he hadn't already shot the elk, he would have brought it home and fed it full until the end of its days for bringing him here. That elk had just led him to the greatest hunting prize since woolly mammoths walked.

Roy gripped his rifle tightly and slowly took a knee, careful not to make any noise to alert the wolf. He rested the rifle against his knee and pulled back the bolt, the chamber still empty. His left hand steadied the rifle as his right loaded a cartridge into the chamber, then he closed the bolt as slowly as possible. Roy brought the rifle back up to his shoulder and placed the wolf in his sights, who was still sniffing the elk. A deep, cold breath filled Roy's lungs and he closed his eyes, focusing hard.

He opened his eyes and held in a gasp as a deep red met his gaze. The wolf was staring directly at him through his scope. The wolf wasn't tense, it didn't try and flee or

charge. The wolf just stared. Not a blank stare, no, those red eyes had something intelligent behind them. It knew what would happen once Roy pulled the trigger. It was drawing him in, asking him. Daring him.

Roy pulled the trigger.

BANG!

Pain flared up on the right side of his face. His head was too close to the scope and the recoil flung it back into his eye. He took a blind step back, but a root caught his heel. He scrambled and flailed, trying in vain to stay balanced. Roy's rifle went flying back into a tree and Roy himself landed flat on his back.

Roy let out a groan of pain before struggling into a seated position.

The wolf was gone.

Roy was sure he had hit it, he was aiming right at the wolf's face. The wolf should've been lying in the snow with the elk. He stood up slowly,

for him, Roy's good mood didn't last long. The farther he trekked into the woods the more conifers there were, and the more conifers there were the darker it got.

Roy never lost the trail, no, but he got nervous. Being in the dark in the wild without some sort of night vision was a recipe for getting ambushed by something. While he didn't slow, he got fidgety, jumpy. Whenever snow would fall from a tree, or if the wind made a branch lurch he would flinch. His breathing got shallower as he tried to be as quiet as possible so as not to attract anything.

It wasn't long before he came face to face with something living. The downside of being quiet is that you might sneak up on something you don't want to. He had quietly stepped around a tree trunk, his eyes down and following the path, when his

trail made by a deer being dragged off by a massive wolf that he was sure he had shot, yet there was no blood to show for it. And, on top of that, he was following this potentially completely healthy wolf without his gun and right before a storm would hit.

He should turn around. He knew he should. He ought to go back, grab his gun off the ground, walk home, and wait out the snow by the fire with some venison and a beer. But he had a pocket knife in his back pocket.

That should be enough to get the head off so I can bring it home quick.

Roy wouldn't just let that elk go. He had shot it fair and square, and that rack of antlers was a sight to behold. Sure, he couldn't get the wolf without his gun, but he could walk home with that elk head. And because he could do it, that meant he most definitely would.

And that was about when Roy walked out into his second clearing for the day, albeit extremely small compared to the first one. Actually, calling it a clearing was pushing the definition; it was more a break in the trees than anything.

The break was 10 feet across in any direction and littered with wolf prints. No square foot of snow was undisturbed as it seemed the wolf had circled the area over 20 times at least.

Nora Xiong

The path left by the elk, while disturbed by the prints, was still visible. It went forward from where Roy stood and up to a stone that sat in the middle of the break. The stone was nearly all flat across the top, like a table.

Atop the stone lay a furry, limp form with four hooves. An elk. Roy was convinced that it was a different elk, because this one very clearly had no antlers, until he walked up and looked closer. It was the elk he had shot, for sure. Except at the top of the head the antler had been snapped off at the root. No, not snapped: bit, there were tooth marks along the remaining bone stumps. Nothing else about the elk was touched, there were no bite marks or missing flesh.

The antlers were gone. Roy was stunned, just stuck staring at the elk. It'd lost the one thing he'd wanted. The wolf took the one thing he'd wanted- Roy furrowed his brow. The wolf didn't really know he wanted the antlers, did it?

He was shaken from his thoughts by howling, loud and aggressive. He jumped and whirled around, looking for the source before a gust of

wind hit him right in the face. It was the wind whistling in the trees.

The wind didn't stop, it battered him in the face and covered his hair in snow.

Snow.

It was starting. He needed to get home, now.

Roy turned back and grabbed the leg of the elk, intending to at least get some meat from the elk, and pulled. And it didn't budge. It was frozen to the rock.

Crunching snow behind him made his heart jump. He froze and listened: heavy panting and rhythmic whooshing. He knew exactly what it was.

He didn't look back before bolting past the rock and back into the forest. Discretion was thrown to the wind as he dashed between trees and cracked branches underfoot. Roy didn't think about how easy the wolf could catch up to him. His heart pounded through his chest for what felt like an hour as he ran and ran and didn't stop.

Roy stopped running when he almost hit a tree because the snow was so heavy he couldn't see it. Instead he walked. He walked until a sheer wall of stone emerged from the blizzard haze. Luckily, what he presumed to be a cliff face had an opening larger than himself, allowing him to hide inside. To hide from the snow, and what was hidden in it.

He stumbled inside and made his way all the way to the back, where the light from outside couldn't touch him. Finally, concealed and away from any danger, Roy breathed. In and out; full breaths of cold air.

Even though the air was cold, Roy was warm. He had a coat, and the running had heated him up better than any fire. Water condensed in the air from his sigh of relief.

At the mouth of the cave, something hard clattered to the ground, the noise sharp and defined in the small area. Roy's insides did somersault and he had to hold back a yell. His eyes shot to the entrance and locked on an ivory antler laying on the ground. There wasn't anything he could see outside the entrance, and he hadn't seen it fall.

He walked up and knelt to grab the antler. Once it was in his hand, he knew it was one of the antlers of the elk. Where's the other one-

The other half of the antlers fell to the floor in front of him.

Roy looked up into the snowstorm.

Knowing red eyes looked back.

