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Purple Press

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March 8th, 2024

No teachers' strike this time

Teachers union and district come to terms; a strike is narrowly avoided

From staff reports

Staff Writers

On Tuesday afternoon, teachers received an email from superintendent Joe Gothard announcing that Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) and the Saint Paul Federation of Educators (SPFE) had reached an agreement about new contracts for teachers and educational assistants. This means

that after fighting for months for a pay increase that keeps up with inflation and better health insurance, among other things, SPPS educators will not be going on strike.

On February 15th, SPFE members voted on whether to strike or not. 94.2% of the union voted yes for a strike and the SPFE executive board authorized a strike. The strike

date was set for March 11th.

"I'm grateful to the SPFE bargaining team and all our union members for relentless organization and perseverance," said science teacher Megan Hall, a member of the Contract Action Team. "Thanks to our steadfast solidarity, we won a fair contract without having to disrupt learning."

Strike signs had been printed, but this is not the closest teachers have been to striking in recent years. SPPS teachers went on strike in 2020, and in 2022, teachers voted to strike, but an agreement was reached just a day before they were set to go on strike.

One of the district's original proposals was to implement mandatory hour-long

meetings after school. This would have lengthened the work day to eight hours with no pay raises.

Although teachers have received raises in previous contracts, those raises have not accounted for inflation. This means each year teachers receive money that means less. Other districts in the Twin Cities area have received

or are negotiating for five to eight percent raises. SPPS was originally offering a one percent raise to the teachers — an offer that many teachers considered unfair due to recent rises in healthcare costs and inflation.

The Open Circuits take on Duluth



Megan Hall



Megan Hall

10th grader and Open Circuits programmer Jocelyn Compton writes code (left), Tom helps team members conduct tests on the robot's vitals (right).

The robotics team competed at the Northern Lights Regional this past weekend

Violet Wright

Staff Writer

Last weekend, the robotics team competed at the DECC, trying to make a robot pick up some foam rings and shoot them at targets. The regional competition in Duluth ran February 28th through March 2nd. They'll be back in the Twin Cities, at the University

of Minnesota for their next competition on April 3rd through 6th.

The goal of this year's FIRST Robotics competition is to pick foam rings up off the ground, shoot them at different height targets, and then climb a chain at the end of it. For one part of the course, the robot needs to be preprogrammed. For

the rest, the team will control it manually as it shoots from behind a screen.

At their first competition February 17th and 18th, 11th grader Gwen Stender reported that, "Not everything worked, but that's generally how competitions go. Our intake was really good." While the robot did really well at

picking up the foam rings, the chute didn't work as well as the team had hoped. Prior to the Duluth competition, they worked on adding more power to the motors to help with the chute problem, and finalizing the bumpers. They also added climbers so the robot could climb the chain.

At the Duluth competition, the robot was pinned by another robot in one of the early rounds, causing electrical wiring problems.

There were other problems at the tournament for multiple teams, so the team is focusing on the positives. "We are

Robotics, 4

AP honors OWL's diverse programs

OWL becomes one of three schools in MN to receive Gold with Access recognition for inclusive Advanced Placement classes

Nora Crosby

Staff Writer

On Tuesday, December 16th, the school board presented OWL and principal Dave Gundale with the AP Honors Gold with Access Award. This award recognizes OWL's AP program as a thriving and diverse community rooted in the values of inclusion and access.

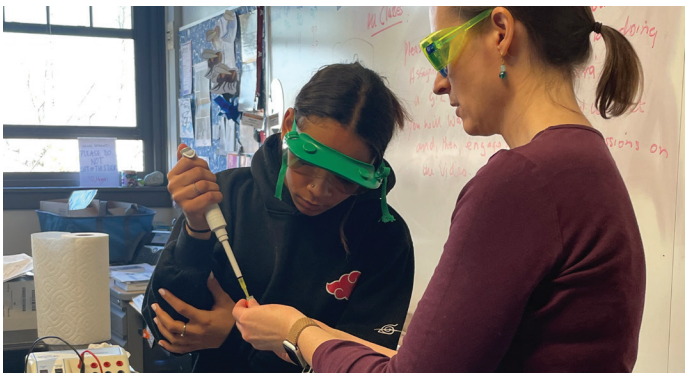
It means that many students, of a variety of backgrounds, are taking AP classes and doing well on the tests.

According to the AP report, OWL is one of three schools in Minnesota that received the Gold with Access recognition. We rank in the top six percent nationally and even higher in Minnesota. Dave says, "I am very proud to say that we are the top ranked public school

in Minneapolis and St. Paul and one of four schools in the state."

Dave explained how this award is very important to OWL because of all the curricular and systematic changes we have made to make AP classes more accessible. He states, "It is wonderful to see the number of students taking one or more AP courses

AP award, 6



Purple Press Staff Photo

AP Biology teacher Megan Hall assists 11th grader Mya Chandler during a DNA lab. Megan has been a pioneer in creating an inclusive AP program at OWL.

OWL staff's past jobs

Maisy Wall, Lana Stevens, and Jensina Eccles

Staff Writers

Imagine your science teacher in a mouse costume serving pizzas to annoying, sticky-handed little kids. Pretty hard, huh? I'd bet a good amount of money you've never thought about the jobs teachers used to have. I was right, wasn't I? Or, maybe if you have, you figured they only ever had experience with things related to teaching; a tutor, or a substitute, or maybe a student teacher. Not gonna lie, that's kind of what I was thinking too. But apparently teachers have had much more fascinating jobs.

Like, in Megan's case, as a florist at Stems and Vines, a shop that used to be on Grand Avenue in the place that Bubbly Paws is in now. For a year after college, she had a job working with flowers, doing things like creating dazzling floral arrangements, decorating for weddings, processing boxes of flowers and making deliveries.

When asked if there were any new people she met and liked, Megan said that an enjoyable part of her job as a florist was two young floral designers who were really fun to work with. "They played a lot of Mason Jennings and Portishead while they were working," she said.

Megan said she doesn't regret leaving, and is glad to be pursuing teaching. "I like teaching a LOT better, but it smelled good in the flower

Teacher's jobs, 4



The Purple Press

OWL’s longest-running student newspaper was founded in 1996.

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 - Maisy Wall
 - Violet Wright

OWL kids doing stuff



Patti Hosfield

The OWL Math Team wrapped up a successful season.

The OWL Math Team placed 13th out of 20 teams at a recent event. At these events, there are two parts to the competition, the first being a testing section, where students sit in a room and take individual tests before grading them and challenging the scores of other teams. The second section is called Mathcounts, where students compete in a larger room, completing another series of tests, including a sprint round. Like History Day, there is a Regional and State competition for Math Team.



Sorcha Nix

The Robo Raptors with coach Sorcha.

The Robo Raptors, one of OWL’s LEGO League teams, rocked the State LEGO League Competition! They placed first for core values, becoming the first OWL team to make it into the final round in ten years.

Their highest score on the robot game was 260 points and it was also the highest they could have gotten. “We scored over 200 points every round and were one of the top teams in SPPS,” said 8th grader Emily Totushek. The teams innovation project was also a success with them performing it best they had all season.



Photo courtesy of Elena Davis

OWL seniors sing at the MMEA All State choir performance.

Seniors Elena Davis, Ted Dobbins, and Vivian Bandelin performed at Orchestra Hall for MMEA as part of the All State mixed choir event. Students are selected to join the choir based on auditions.



Photo Courtesy of Humboldt Basketball

The Humboldt basketball team finished the regular season with a 9-15 record, earning the fifth seed in the section and a home playoff game. The Hawks played against Lakes International Language Academy last night. The winner advanced in the setion tournament.



Purple Press Staff Photo

OWL’s Mock Trial team poses for a photo in the courtroom.

Mock Trial ends season on a high

Remy Short
Staff Writer

Inside the Ramsey County Courthouse, upstairs in the woody courtroom, 11th grader Lucy Keenan is grilling a witness about the state of pollution in a local river.

Lucy has not yet been to law school, she is part of the OWL Mock Trial team. Mock Trial is an after school activity in which students study a fictional case to participate in a simulated trial.

The team has amassed three wins and one loss this year in what is a relatively new extracurricular, the 2023-2024 season being the fifth year.

11th grader Aanen Kulseth said, “I felt like we did pretty great overall, and I think we’ll be even better next year.” In total, the team currently consists of eight students and three coaches. At the trials there are volunteer judges who have a background in the law. Coach Akira Malley says, “Unfortunately we didn’t make the cut for regionals, but we were definitely within the top 10 teams in our region this season.”

When Mock Trial begins their season, the start of the meetings introduce the positions within a trial and the rules of participating in a trial. Once the case, created by the Minnesota Bar Association, is released for the season, the team goes over it and works on various theories for both sides -- prosecution and defense.

Once the team has decided what roles everyone wants to play, they begin to pair up witnesses and attorneys. Attorneys work with their respective witness to dissect affidavits. An affidavit is a resource that is about the witness’s role in the case in order to portray it correctly and is also about the case in general. The students also develop questions that are to be asked to the witness at the mock trial. These questions help tell the witnesses story.

These questions are created with the help of the coaches. The attorneys work with said coaches, including science Akira, with the addition of attorney coaches Ruta Johnsen and Radd Kulseth. Even though the students are supported by the coaches, Mock Trial is mainly student run.

After background research, practice and memorization of facts, the team participates in a simulated trial. The trial is against another school’s team, one team plays prosecution while the other plays defense.

The team’s then argue their carefully-crafted cases that they have been working on for months. Throughout the season, the team gets to do the trials inside of real courthouses, and later, over a virtual meeting.

There are two judges. The presiding judge runs the trial, ruling objections and keeping the trial moving. The scoring judge pays attention to students’ performance and knowledge on the case as the trial goes on. Things like how well a student witness answers questions, or how well an attorney objects or replies to an objection are taken into account. Once the trial ends, the judge fills out a scoring sheet based on a ten point scale which is later sent to the teams two days later.

Mock Trial differs from other after school activities. 11th grader Galadriel Barret says, “I think mock trial is different from other activities because it’s so complicated. There are so many moving pieces that it’s hard to keep track of if you haven’t been doing it for a while.” It is also unlike sports, you analyze and examine cases. This does not mean it is less work, instead of physical work it is mental work, which can be a learning experience if you haven’t participated in a Mock Trial before.

Many students join Mock Trial to gain skills in public speaking. 9th grader Aria Kulseth encourages this by saying, “Mock Trial really helps to improve your public speaking skills. I’ve noticed a difference in mine since joining.” Others also join to sharpen their acting skills. Mock Trial isn’t just memorizing facts and creating a strong case, theatrics also play a significant importance in the trials. This is most often noticeable in the witness role to portray the character correctly and to create a realistic performance.

The team is looking forward to next year. 9th Connie Van Genderen exclaimed, “Mock Trial has been lit this year!” They have another season completed under their belt, gaining more experience in the courtroom. Their confidence has grown despite the formality of presenting in a courtroom, and their skills in Mock Trial have helped them improve public speaking among other things.

Spring play is announced!

Senior Anna Nowatzki will direct Snow Angel on the OWL stage

Charley Cheatham
Staff Writer

It’s that time again. The auditions are over, the cast list is posted, and the design crew is bustling around. It’s spring play season at OWL, and this year’s student-directed, coming-of-age production is officially in the works.

Snow Angel is a play written by David Lindsey-Abaird about fifteen teenagers witnessing one of the largest blizzards in their town’s history. When a mysterious girl shows up in the forest and steps into the life of a lonely teenager named Frida Jensen, she brings together a group of unlikely friends and changes their lives. The show takes place over the course of a few snow days and is packed with comedy while also tapping into real world issues.

Directing this show is senior Anna Nowatzki, a veteran in the world of OWL theater. “I’ve been involved [in theater] since the spring of seventh grade,” said Anna, reflecting

on her first show, She Kills Monsters, where she worked in the costumes department. “I’ve been involved in every play since, except for A Murder is Announced.”

The process of creating the spring play started when Anna and Rebekah Rentzel, the director of the theater department, worked together to pick a play. Anna said she originally wanted to do a staged adaptation of the graphic novel Drama by Raina Telgemeier but couldn’t get the rights.

“And so I wanted to find something that had a lot of similar themes to that, like middle school and growing up,” Anna said, “and kind of just finding yourself and finding people to surround yourself with.”

Auditions for Snow Angel took place the week of January 29th. Monday and Tuesday were dedicated to the initial audition process, where students from all grades were invited to read a monologue to Anna and Rebekah Rentzel,

director of the OWL theater program.

“It was really fun to be on the other side of it [auditions],” said Anna, “I’ve never really casted people, I’ve just been cast.”

The two days following auditions were callbacks. This was when the original list of audition-ees was narrowed down to a smaller list of students “called back” to audition again and work on reading scenes with other characters.

Finally on Friday, February second, the cast and design lists were posted. While for many, this was a day to be celebrated, it can be a hard one for those who didn’t get the roles that they were hoping for. In our interview, Anna reflected on making the choices for that cast and how difficult they were.

“The hardest part would definitely be like having to decide between people because it’s not just, like, how good of an actor you are,” she said, “It’s also, you know, if you’re

right for the role, if you’re right for the play, if you’ve been in plays before we want to give other people chances. So it’s definitely a lot of different stuff to think about and it’s hard.”

This production also has a very largely middle school cast, something you don’t see a lot at OWL. Anna said this had a lot to do with the themes of the play.

“I think just kind of the themes of the play, and like, a little bit of the immaturity of the characters gave me a lot more middle school vibes,” she said, “and so I wanted to have middle schoolers and younger kids play these people.”

Rehearsals for Snow Angel began the week of Monday, February 12. This was the week that the actors began reading through and blocking the script and designers began planning and working on the sets, costumes, props, lights, and sound elements of the show. Anna mentioned that her favorite part of the



OWL staff photo

Art teacher Kent Miller advises senior Avery Erb about a recent photo she took for his digital photography class.

Kent introduces new art class

Digital Photography challenges students to be more creative

Connie Van Genderen
Staff Writer

At least 16,416 photos taken. 1824 final photos. One class.

Every three weeks, art teacher Kent Miller asks his photography students to take 38-46 photos each. At the very least, 16,416 photos will be taken over the course of the next three and a half months, at the very most 21,888 photos will be taken.

Kent's newest class, aims to teach kids to change their mindset on photography, from snapping photos with peace signs and Snapchat filters to taking thought-out photos. The class will cover portraits, landscape and architecture, distortion (using computers to change a photo), invisible photography, taking more candid shots, product, which is supposed to be a helpful skill for students to use in real life, and a story through four photos.

Kent himself has set up a new photography studio in the ceramics room for the students to take their pictures. The class just started this semester. The first and main skill set [they would acquire] is the ability to see the correct photograph before they take it. "I've taken the last six months to plan this course out. I've spent copious amounts of time on defining this course to be a solid academic experience for students, so that they can grow."

This class will follow a three week cycle of taking, critiquing and self evaluation of photos. The first week, students will take 36-48 photos, but end with 4 at the end of this three week cycle. Every three weeks, there will be new photos from the 80 students that take this new course.

Kent first decided to teach this class two years ago when he sent out a survey to his students about what classes interest them. "I think the thing for me was, what would students be interested in and what could I offer that has high engagement," said Kent, who has a passion for photography. In fact, he wrote his senior thesis on photography. "A resounding number of students marked the photography option. That kind of settled it in my mind that there was interest and space to grow."

There will be a focus on ethics in the course."It's like the right and wrong of taking

a picture. At some point, when you're in a situation, you're going to be presented with the question of should I even take this picture? Should I not? And we're going to go into some pretty heavy examples of, should these pictures be taken? Or, so they are taken, should they be published? As a photographer you have to have that discretion, and how do you build that discretion into a lesson for students to study and understand so they can come to their own conclusions," said Kent.

"If you are taking a photo of a human being, you convey that person's dignity in that picture. And you can either convey that dignity very poorly or you can take a picture in a way that allows that person to retain that dignity," said Kent.

Kent expects students' mindsets on the workload will change over the course. "At the end, kids are gonna want more photos, compared to at the beginning of the semester, students are gonna be like "ugh that's so many photos"," said Kent. "I am really enjoying it. I feel like some people say that it's a lot of work, but I'm not really seeing that. There's a few assignments but honestly, they're not too bad," said 9th grader Aria Kulseth. "With Organization, There seems to be a little bit of a problem sometimes, but otherwise, the content and everything is very interesting," said junior Saffron Takle, "It is a little bit different from his art classes in the past. Before it was like, just do whatever you want, and you'd just be required to follow this one rubric. Now, it's very specific on what you're learning. It's very very structured and not like his other classes, you really have to stay on top of the schoolwork and try to understand everything."

At the end of every third week of the rotation, students will have four final photos. And there will be 6 cycles of this. Totaling and including the total number of students, there will be a total of 1,824 photos hanging in the hallway by the end of the year. "That is my plan. If my TA's can pull off hanging stuff up in the hallway," said Kent.

I hope that TA knew what they were signing up for.

ASL, an American language

American Sign Language is rooted in American history, culture

Kaden McNamara
Staff Writer

Take a second and think, what language do you associate with the United States? Chances are that language is going to be English, after all that is practically the national language and is probably what you speak in your everyday life. Spanish may be a close second considering the amount of people that speak it in the U.S.

But neither of those are truly an American language. English was made in England and Spanish in Spain, so then what is a language that the U.S. can really say that it made? Well there are two separate options, neither of which are ever going to become the national language of the U.S., but are still important to know about and potentially learn. Native American languages, such as Ojibwe, are the first option but those are exclusive and central to Native American culture and identity and would

be disrespectful to learn without explicit permission. Option two is American Sign Language, which does have the same complication of the first, however it is far more open and actively encouraging of new learners of the language.

American Sign Language, commonly abbreviated as ASL, is the language primarily used by d/Deaf and hard of hearing people in the United States, most of Canada and Western Africa, although available to anyone willing to learn and converse with deaf people. It's based on French Sign Language and was invented in the early 19th century, in the

American School for the Deaf, in Hartford, Connecticut, by d/Deaf teacher Laurent Clerc and Yale graduate Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet. The language is not merely a way of transcribing English into something that those that would not be able to hear into something that they can understand, but its own language full of complexities and nuances that don't translate perfectly into English and that make it a wonderful language to learn, as well as its own culture of d/Deaf people. "The grammar is very complex and some of it is very layered, so sometimes the

meaning of one sign could be a whole sentence long even though it is one to two signs, when translated into spoken English," said teacher at local school for the Deaf, Metro Deaf School Jackie McNamara, also known as my mom.

The language uses five different parameters for its signs: hand shape, palm orientation, movement, location and body expressions. Each of these is essential for the language and changing or messing up one of these can change the entire meaning of a sign, for example just slightly curving a hand while signing the sign for thank you will change it to the sign for good, and signing hungry twice will change it into the sign horny. What might be somewhat surprising is that body and facial expressions do factor into the signs. One's expression while signing can also change the entire meaning of a sign,



Cecelia Mason

ASL, 4

Home audio improves music vibe

The many levels of home audio dissected and explained

Atticus Brooks-Babcock
Staff Writer

Have you ever wanted more out of your music? Have you wanted to hear your music like it was supposed to be heard? Then let me introduce you to the world of home audio.

Home audio has many levels to it; home theaters, HiFi audio, homemade speakers, and 2.1, 5.1, 7.1, 9.1 surround sound. All of those numbers represent a different number of speakers: 2.1 is two speakers and a subwoofer, 5.1 is 4 speakers, a center channel speaker and a subwoofer, and so on. On a surface level home audio can be very simple, inexpensive, and easy to learn. However some speakers alone can cost \$10,000 or more, and you can get into building your own speakers which can get

confusing fast.

First we should go over the history of home audio and how we got to the point of \$40,000 speakers. Playable music was first introduced in 1895 with the invention of the phonograph, a technology similar to record players you would recognize today. In the 1920s the radio was invented, it was a whole new way to hear music and get introduced to new music. When the cassette tape was released in the 1970s it gave a more compact way to listen to music and even gave people the ability to record, rewind, and fast forward while playing music; this is when you start to see the classic audio receiver and speaker combination.

During the 90s-2010s CDs exploded into peoples homes,

many people having extensive collections filling shelves in their homes replacing their old vinyl.. This is when Home audio and HiFi really came to be what it is today, Big speakers and subs. Most equipment made in this time still holds up today, due to the advancement in sound processing technology most receivers from the era have DTS; Digital Theater Sound. This is a technology that improves sound quality through digital encoding technology, many other receivers from this era have the THX certification which is a standard of sound made for audio equipment that can represent the correct frequency range for movies and music. Then mp3s were introduced and this revolutionized portable music but many home audio people stuck with CDs because many audiophiles think they sound better. Finally we get

to Bluetooth and streaming music. Everyone listens to some kind of music and now we can stream it from services like Spotify. This removes the need for big collections of CDs and downloading MP3s making it easier for people to listen and enjoy music.

However some people still like their physical collections, Tim a teacher at OWL says "it's cool to have a physical form of the music" however he does mostly listen to streaming services, but for some artists

Home audio, 6



Aria Kulseth

A history of what is now France

The tangled history of the country you know and love, from the Roman Empire to present day

Wyatt Hanson
Staff Writer

The Roman Empire has fallen, the Barbarians have won. In the ashes of Gaul a new kingdom is born, the kingdom of the Franks. This kingdom would go on to fight many wars and lose a fair amount of them, this land would be plagued with turmoil for the rest of its history, even to this day. This kingdom would one day be called France.

The Kingdom of the Franks would be established in 486 A.D. by the Frankish tribes who crossed the Rhine river and conquered the Roman Gallic provinces. These Franks would quickly adopt Catholicism and become a Catholic stronghold until the end of the monarchy.

The kingdom would face

relative stability and would remain unconquered by outside foes and eventually, under Charlemagne, conquer north Italy and western Germany. These additions to the Kingdom of the Franks (now Francia) would be lost after Charlemagne's death and become the kingdoms of Lotharingia and Germany which would eventually merge into the Holy Roman Empire.

Francia would go on to have a new dynasty in charge, these being the Capets, who would begin a process of centralization within the kingdom. This Capet Dynasty would also aid in the crusades, with a member of their dynasty becoming King of Jerusalem.

The Norman Conquest of England would lead to the loss of the Norman Region of

Francia and subsequently a series of wars with England. The largest of these being the Hundred Years' War fought over the English claim to the Francian throne.

The Hundred Years' War would be started by the end of the Capet Dynasty and the rise of the Valois Dynasty in Francia. Near the end of this war Joan of Arc would lead armies as a woman in medieval times. She was captured and executed for Heresy by the English and eventually would be Canonized as a Saint by the Catholic Church.

After the war ended, the English would lose most of their continental territory and the Valois Dynasty would remain in power. This war bolstered French nationalism and Joan of Arc would become a French icon for the rest of their history.

The French population would grow to be the second largest in Europe and they would become a great power during the Renaissance. They would fight in the Thirty Years' War on the side of the Catholics and would remain legally Catholic through the end.

The French also participated in colonialism along with the other European powers. They would gain territories in America along with territories in India. They would again find themselves in conflict with the English.

This time, the English would defeat the French and they would lose their American and Indian colonies in the Seven Years' War. The loss of their colonies would eventually spell doom for their monarchy.

France, 5

Wrestling is fun and intense

Three OWL athletes stepped up to compete on the mat this year

Oscar Mons
Staff Writer

10th grader Cam Sisson competed for Humboldt Wrestling this season. She placed sixth at sections but was disappointed at the result, having come in seeded fourth.

Wrestling is very individual. If you lose your match there isn't anyone else to blame, not a teammate or even bad luck. The only factor is your own performance and the coach's expectations. "It's like archery, but more intense. It's very hard on your mind and body, and if you lose, it's all on you. It's not on your team." Wrestling is also very physical. Cam said, "I feel like it's the most physical sport I've ever done." Practices and meets can often leave wrestlers with bruises and even injuries.

Cam herself suffered an injury during the season. She was concussed mid-season resulting in a break that she didn't recover from. "I just kind of lost motivation," Cam says. Cam had an overall



Saw Thoo

10th grader Cam Sisson establishes control in a match against Southwest earlier this season.

Teacher's jobs, 1

shop," she shared.

Now, going down quite a different path, I'd like to tell you about a job Rebecca Palmer had in a restaurant. Not just any restaurant, but the one and only Chuck E. Cheese. Bet you didn't see that coming.

Despite the inevitable surprise, I'm not lying. Throughout all of high school, college, and some of grad school, you could find Rebecca making pizzas, hosting parties and even decked out in the mascot costume.

I don't know about you, but I'm not really sure why someone would want to continue working with kids after an experience like that. Come to think of it, I don't see many differences between working at Chuck E. Cheese and teaching. Well, teaching middle schoolers, anyway. From firsthand experience, 8th graders are pretty gross.

Continuing on with the subject of cheese, if you can believe it, our own P.E. and health teacher Joe Bradner used to work at a cheese factory in his hometown in South Dakota. Yes, a factory, making cheese. A midwesterner's dream job, am I right? The factory he worked for even sold their cheese to companies like Little Caesars and Doritos. The other jobs Joe had worked after included some pretty difficult manual work. He was a gardener for a rich dude for a few years, and he was a cement worker working on basements. In college, he worked at a Boys and Girls club, which Joe said was his favorite job. "I got to know little kids and it was a program kind of for the disadvantaged. It was fun," he said.

When asked about how those jobs compared to teaching, he replied that he had always been happy teaching. "My first ten years, I'll bet I was happy that I wasn't working hard, that I was not coming home exhausted from manual labor."

Adding onto interesting jobs that teachers have had, Alysha Lundquist worked at a biker and leather shop when

she was 13. Then she built websites and helped create data entries for a Soil and Water Conservation District, working with the DNR. After that, for her favorite job, she ran a baseball park. "I got to mow and listen to audiobooks all day. Which is really sunshine and books. That's all I've ever wanted." She explained, though there were ups and downs with the job. She enjoyed getting to know the people and doing manual labor, but didn't like cleaning the public bathrooms.

Her next and current job; a leather worker? A data scientist? A baseball player?

No. An English teacher.

When asked how her previous jobs compared to teaching she described how it is very different; one job includes being alone, while the other is done in front of many kids. "Both good, I would say I made the right choice coming here and spending time with kids all day."

Next up... Have you ever crashed a truck into a barn?

Luke Turvold has.

One of the first jobs OWL social studies teacher Luke Turvold had as a kid was working at a farm in Redwing, MN. It was hard work, he said. "It's stressful work, really long days, labor intensive, but you also have to be really sharp and intelligent to manage." Despite the job being difficult, he said it really shaped his character. "I probably learned more about what it takes to be an adult and work really hard on the farm than anywhere else."

A couple things that made his farming days a bit better was the good food and his best friend. Which, let's be honest, is all you really need in life.

When we asked him how that job compared to teaching, he said he learned a lot of skills from working on a farm that were helpful for being a teacher too. "You have to be resilient, it taught me that work doesn't go away. You have to get it done. Like if you take a break, that just means you're going to work longer. And that's kind of like teaching. Like, if you're not efficient and use your time well, the work doesn't go away."

record of 18 wins and 11 losses this season, including 12 pins.

The team itself finished second in conference and was close to a tie for first. They lost to Harding in a close match that resulted in their second place. The season was very successful for the team as a whole as well as several other OWL

wrestlers like 11th grader Zane Sheire and 10th graders Nino Vasquez and Grant Weylandt. The atmosphere was extremely supportive and Cam describes it as, like other Humboldt sports/teams, "really nice, a really close community".

Wrestling isn't extremely well known to OWL students. Participation from OWL is very new to Wrestling and it's never before been covered by the Purple Press. Students and coaches on the team have a good relationship, according to Cam, including things like bringing sandwiches to meets and meeting up for events like carbo loads. Cam recommends the sport to OWL students saying, "If you're trying to build muscle, definitely come over to wrestling, I've built some muscle and it's really good for your mindset too."



Purple Press staf photo

Senior Leland Engelking takes advantage of the warmer than it should be weather to toss the frisbee with friends.

Minnesota sees a warm winter

More snowless months and balmy temps could be common

Aria Kulseth
Staff Writer

Many of you have probably noticed a difference this year, whether it be a lack of snow or blaring summer heat, something's off.

2023 was the warmest year on record. 2023 averaged about 1.1 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than past years. This change in temperature is due to a few factors. One of the main reasons being the buildup of greenhouse gasses, such as methane, carbon dioxide and other gasses in our atmosphere, which is affecting our weather around the world, and causing more frequent extreme weather events such as severe floods, wildfires, heavy rain, and devastating droughts.

The second reason is that there has been a strong El Nino this year, which refers to above average sea surface temperatures. Because of this the pacific jet stream moves south and east. Causing warm and dry weather in the north, and wetter weather in the south. El Nino's effects can especially be noticed in Minnesota "That's because our weather comes from west to east, a s the atmosphere passes over the Pacific, it will pick up moisture and heat, and then it releases that moisture and heat over a place like Minnesota." said John Abraham, a thermal-

science expert at the University of St. Thomas.

Our changing climate raises the question of what Minnesota will look like in our future near and far. Between 1895 and 2020 Minnesota has warmed by 3.0 degrees F. And organizations predict that it will only continue to warm. This problem was especially prevalent this past season. Minnesota's "cold snap" was 10 degrees warmer than past years, and nowhere in the state reached below -25 F, which has easily occurred in past years.

Not to mention the very noticeable lack of snow this winter. The Twin Cities snow deficit is -18.2" and Duluth's is -29.1". That's over two feet less snow than normal. Just recently did southern Minnesota receive its largest snowfall of the year, capping in at around 6.9 inches, recorded at the Minneapolis international airport.

The Minnesota department of natural resources predicts that if our climate continues to change at the same rate as it has currently, then Minnesota is likely to experience increased summer temperatures, larger rainfalls, more frequent dry spells, and warmer, drier winters and nights. So Minnesota, the state known for its extreme cold, will likely be seeing many more winters like this one.

Robotics, 1

learning a lot about how to work together as a team and how to get things done at tournaments because it's a very stressful setting. You gotta rely on each other a lot," said Gwen.

11th grader Kathryn Totushek, became OWL's first student to win the Dean's List finalist award. Around 110 students applied and Kathryn was one of two students to win. The award takes into consideration, leadership, and representation of FIRST Robitics values.

Anything else interesting going on? 11th grader Kathryn Totushek applied for the FIRST in the Upper Midwest Diversity and Inclusion grant, and received \$200, which she used to purchase a button maker. The button maker will be used for a project to promote being a gender ally in STEM.

Spring play, 2

rehearsal process has a lot to do with working with the actors and watching her vision for the show come to life on stage.

"I think it's kind of, like, fun to work with younger kids who really have so much energy and really like it," said Anna, "It brightens my day a lot to be able to be like 'hey, this is my vision and you guys are going to do it and it's gonna be great."

You will be able to see Snow Angel in the OWL auditorium April 24th, 25th, and 26th.

"I think there's a lot of scenes where people have monologues and step forward and you kind of get to see into the kids' minds," said Anna, "And then also, we have those big scenes where everyone's talking and it's like chaos. I think that's a lot of fun."

Senior Spotlight

Cas Romero Guillot



What pronouns do you use?
He/Him

How long have you been at OWL?
I have been at OWL for seven years

What are your plans for next year?
St. Paul College

What’s been your favorite class in high school?
AP Computer Science

What extracurriculars are you involved in?
Theatre

Favorite field work experience or school trip and why?
Du Nord, we had a lot of freedom

If you had a walk up song, what would it be?
“I don’t know”

That One Little Kid

Niko Leba

What pronouns do you use?
He/Him

What is the biggest fish you have ever caught?
27-30 inches

What’s your favorite book, movie, or TV show?
Hatchet

Who’s your favorite senior?
Nora Crosby

What is your favorite thing about OWL so far?
My friends

What is the best place to fish in Minnesota?
Lake Itasca



France, 3

The French aided the Americans during the American Revolution which was the nail in the coffin for their king. Their kingdom was without money and their economy began to plunge, leading to the French Revolution.

Much of what we think of as French originated during the revolution, most notably the blue, white and red tricolor flag. This would mark the beginning of French instability for the rest of their history.

In Paris, King Louis XVI would call an assembly of the classes, including the serfs. This little taste of democracy would cause rapid unrest among French peasants and lead to a violent censure of the largest prison in Paris, the Bastille.

The Storming of the Bastille is still celebrated as Bastille Day in France on the 14th of July. This would start the revolution, and after a series of skirmishes with the French military the Revolutionaries would effectively destroy the French monarchy and completely end feudalism in France.

The Revolutionary government faced some opposition in the regions of Brittany, Normandy and the Vendee. The Government was still a constitutional monarchy and the king shared power with an elected assembly for the time being.

Other European Powers would grow wary of France’s Revolutionary spirit, fearing that their revolution would spread. Austria and Prussia would declare war on the revolutionaries, hoping to restore the king to power.

The revolutionary government rapidly became tyrannical and a period called the Great Terror started. This is where the guillotine came into play, being deemed the most efficient way of executing those who the government considered anti-revolutionary. The Great Terror would eventually take the lives of Louis XVI and his wife, ending any hope for the coalition against France of restoring Louis to the throne.

During the wars, the general Napoleon was highly successful and became a vital asset to the French. During his career he would fight in Italy, Austria and Egypt and famously fire cannons into a crowd of protesters. He would eventually coup the government with the aid of a few other conspirators and establish a consulate.

The end of the first coalition would come but would begin again with the involvement of Britain and russia. This war would end badly for the coalition and a peace was reached with some of its members.

This would repeat in the third coalition and would bring Napoleon’s empire to its greatest extent. Napoleon

would use his new power to crown himself Emperor of the French. He would face constant British resistance and was defeated at the naval battle of Trafalgar.

Napoleon would introduce the Napoleonic code, which is to this day the standard set of laws that almost all countries employ. Napoleon would export ideas of republicanism and democracy across his conquered territories which would have lasting effects into the 19th century.

After a short period of peace, Napoleon invaded Russia, which promptly began his downfall. Napoleon would capture Moscow but his forces took heavy casualties to do

so and he lacked supplies. He would retreat from Russia and lose a half of a million soldiers in the process.

This left Napoleon’s army in shambles, leading to another coalition, the sixth. This war would end Napoleon’s reign and re-establish the monarchy. Napoleon was exiled to an island in the Mediterranean Sea.He would return to France during the “hundred days” and take over the French government again. He was defeated once and for all at the battle of Waterloo by the British and Prussians and was exiled to an island in the atlantic where he would die.



Aria Kulseth



Kiara Steiner

Fashion spot-

light: Sheri

Sheri is a fan of the classy, layered look

Kiara Steiner
Staff Writer

Describe your go-to fit?
Casual, yet classy. I like a good coordinated outfit. Layers and cardigans are a must.

Who is your fashion icon and why?
I don’t really have one. I do think Audrey Hepburn is classy.

What is your skincare routine?
I use a foundation with SPF to keep my skin from getting sun damage. I use facial cleaning cloths for daily makeup removal. I also see a dermatology specialist once a year.

What do you have to say about the current style trends of OWL?
Eclectic and diverse. I really love that everyone can be themselves and embrace self-expression.

What fashion trend do you think should come back?
I liked the layered bracelets.

What fashion trend do you think should never come back?
First and foremost, clothing with shoulder pads. It totally made people look like football linebackers. Neon should never come back either because who wants to look like you can glow in the dark.

Glasses or contacts?
100% glasses. I have worn glasses since the 10th grade. I tried contacts once and they were just not for me. I prefer the ease of glasses. Wear and go. I don’t even really notice I have them on.

Describe your wardrobe in one word.
Comfy

What teacher at school has the best fashion?
It’s a tie breaker between Ms. Ma’lene and Rhonda. Ms. Ma’lene and I sometimes vibe with our daily fashion, which is fun.

If I were to nominate the next staff...I would choose one of the guys—Damon.

Where do you shop?
I used to shop at Christopher and Banks until they went out of business. I did not care for it when they tried to reinvent themselves. I know am totally a thrift shopper. My niece, Makenzie, got me into that. This way, I can own name brand, higher end clothing that I could usually could not afford.

What’s the number one store you shop at?
It is a tie between Savers, Goodwill, and Style Encore.

Upcoming Events

- March 12th:** Best Prep field trip
- March 13th:** Jason Walz author visit
- March 14th:** Hamlet field trip
- March 16th:** Regional History Day competition
- March 20th:** Red Cross blood drive

HUMWOW brings the wow

The OWL, Humboldt, and Washington co-op swim team fosters a positive, inclusive community

Liam Nowatzki
Staff Writer

The team spirit is strong. The whole team meets in the locker room and is preparing for the meet. Once we’ve stretched and gotten warmed up in the pool we huddle up for a team chant. Spirits are high and everybody is pumped and ready to swim. They call the first heat to the starting blocks. “Step up.” All the swimmers up on to the blocks. “Take your mark.” Ready to jump. *BEEP* my heart is pounding and n my body shakes but the second I hit that water the voices in my head are silent. This is what all the training is for. When the race is done my head is pounding and my body aches. I crawl out of the pool and lay flat out on the ground. My whole team and coaches congratulate me.

My sister, Anna, has been swimming for four years. I’ve been to many swim meets and I was always fond of watching her race, win or lose the pride and camaraderie from the team, friends and family was beautiful to

experience. Me and my sister had learned to swim from an early age. We went to a swim school for a bit and learned proper form, although our parents never necessarily expected to do competitive swimming and they mostly just taught us for fun and safety.

I had friends on the boys swim team too, 9th grader Kai Walker and 8th grader Noah Linstad. Kai has been swimming for a long time as his mom was a competitive swimmer in college and Noah started swimming for the HUMWOW team the year prior. It made it much easier to join knowing that I had friends on the team and that I wouldn’t feel alone. Over the course of the season I made many new friends and connected with almost everybody on the team. The main coach, Johanna White, was also amazing. She was incredibly welcoming and kind and supported me through my season-long journey. That journey was not easy.

To be fully transparent I

wanted to quit within a few weeks. I realized I never truly pushed my body as hard as I could’ve. I had barely any time and I was falling behind in my classes. My body ached constantly and I thought maybe it would be better to quit. Looking back I am so glad I stuck with it and so grateful that I had people supporting me to stick with it. I improved so much more than I thought I would’ve. I pushed my body to its limits everyday and it paid off.

In competitive swimming there are four strokes: Freestyle, Backstroke, Butterfly and Breaststroke. Freestyle is your basic stroke some call army crawl, backstroke is pretty self explainable, butterfly is a combination of dolphin kick and pulling with both arms at the same time and breaststroke is pulling the water toward your chest and whip kicking.

There are 4 strokes you can swim in competitive swimming; Butterfly, Breaststroke, Backstroke and Freestyle. For my first season I only swam freestyle as it was easiest to me. The pools we swam at were 25 yards,

as are most for high school swimming around the United States. This season I mostly swam 50s and 100. A 50 would be down and back and a hundred would be double that. At conference this year I swam a 200 for the first time. It was a lot harder than the 50s and 100s but I got through it and did pretty well for my first time.

The HUMWOW swim team is a great supportive community that pushes you to do better. The coach and team members are amazing and incredibly supportive. I’m not gonna lie to you and say it’s easy or laid back. Swimming is a very hard and draining sport but I recommend trying it for anybody who wants to push and challenge themselves. I hope I’ll see some more swimmers next year!



Photo courtesy of Liam Nowatzki

AP award, 1

because it is a sign that we are preparing our students for the rigor of post-secondary studies.”

This award also has a very special impact on many of the teachers at OWL. Science teacher Megan Hall discusses how, in her eyes, the whole point of public education is to provide every child with the opportunity to become their best selves, no matter their background.

She shares how when she was an IB student at Southwest High School, a very diverse community, there were only three students of color in the six advanced classes she took her senior year.

To now see certain barriers like racism, access, and economics begin to break down is a huge success. Megan jokingly said, “I can retire happy now!”

Both English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt and Math teacher Tom Totushek state how rewarding recognition is and how much they appreciate the award. Leo says winning this award means that, “some of my hard work has maybe, just maybe, helped to make our school stronger.”

Aside from personal affirmation, winning this award means a lot to our school as well. It highlights the importance of challenging yourself academically and creating inclusive and diverse learning environments. Tom commented, “It may help others see that OWL can create students who are college and career ready.”

AP, or Advanced Placement, courses are rigorous classes that prepare students for college through higher level exams, papers, projects, and discussions. In the past, these classes were only deemed

available to the privileged but over time they have become more accessible to all people, especially at OWL.

Before there were AP classes at OWL, there were advanced courses. Leo taught a four year rotating advanced English class that had a different theme each year. “I offered them as an opportunity for students who were willing to read longer pieces and wanted to have a more discussion-oriented class,” said Leo.

When Megan began teaching at OWL in 2006, she encouraged Leo to receive AP class training so his students could have the benefit of earning an AP credit. Both Leo and the principal of OWL at the time agreed to the AP training and course, and so AP classes came to OWL. Leo stated, “AP has given me access to a lot of training, a network, and a more structured way to push students who want and need that challenge.”

When the program initially started OWL was met with some backlash from the district due to inconsistent test scores and lack of data to prove the positive impact these classes were having.

Megan said, “When we joined the EL Education network the principal at the time suggested eliminating AP classes from our curriculum because he believed that EL and AP couldn’t coexist.”

But instead of backing down OWL pushed forward, encouraging more teachers to receive AP training and providing more AP classes. Over time courses such as AP Computer Science, AP United States History and most recently, AP Art were added to the curriculum.

Yet to create a successful and inclusive program OWL has had to adapt their curriculum. One of the biggest changes was

the choice to detrack ELA and science courses. Academic tracking is when students are separated into standard and advanced courses and stay within those levels until they graduate. It can be very challenging to switch tracks once you begin.

Detracking these courses, and allowing students to switch between standard and advanced ELA has helped them to determine whether to challenge themselves or step back on a quarterly basis.

Megan commented, “When we made the switch to detrack classes, teachers had to change the way they ran their classes. The types of EL protocols we began to use in our classes such as fishbowls, projects, and other collaborative work were innovative pedagogies that were designed to help all students start thinking and working at a higher level.”

Other programs such as AVID, which started this school year, have also helped teach students organizational and learning skills so they can excel in higher level academic environments.

Advertising AP classes as courses that are available to all students has helped make them much more accessible. Tom explained how the system students learn in heavily impacts their decisions regarding advanced and AP classes. “Making sure we have systems set up where historically underrepresented groups can access these courses early on is beneficial,” said Tom.

In Leo’s words, “I think what we have done specifically at OWL is to work hard to recruit a wider variety of students into AP classes. Crew leaders and teachers have helped to establish the mindset that everyone is welcome to these classes and over time

it’s become part of our school culture that AP classes are accessible to everyone.”

He continued by saying, “A lot of students who don’t think of themselves as ‘AP students’ end up taking one or more AP classes because we as a school nudged them towards doing so. I believe that AP classes are important in helping keep kids challenged all the way through high school.”

Both Leo and Megan express pride in the work our school has done. This award showcases the positive curricular changes, strong academic programs, and respectful learning environments OWL supports. “I’m proud to be a part of something bigger than myself and that makes our world a little closer to a beloved community,” said Megan. She also pointed out that it’s important to give credit to all the students who have gotten us this far, “The only reason we have an AP program is because, since 2006, a ton of students have pushed themselves by sometimes staying up, getting behind on work and then catching up, studying really hard, and always putting their best foot forward.”

Looking towards the future, there is much to be hopeful for in regards to AP classes. Every year new adaptations are made to the program to make it even more inclusive, accessible, and engaging. Megan mentioned the option of adding more classes to the curriculum, such as AP African American studies, explaining how meaningful it could be to many students.

Leo said, “I’d like to see the program continue to grow and continue to attract a wide variety of students and help prepare them for college and beyond.”

Home audio, 3

and songs he still gets a physical form of it because it’s cool to have and personally it’s a way to show support towards artists you like. Tim did note that before CDs he was really into cassette tapes because you could put your own mix of music on it. “In the past it was hard to discover new music,” says Tim interestingly the way that he discovered new music was a friend in Australia that would send him cassette tapes of music from there, Tim would also send one to him as well.

To set up your own home audio setup you have to understand the elements of it. On the cheaper end you could get two speakers and a subwoofer for about \$50 and an audio receiver for \$35. First we should go over different kinds of speakers and what they do, for home audio you will typically see 2-way and 3-way speakers. 2-way speakers have two kinds of speakers in them, one for high frequency sounds and one for low frequency sounds. A 3-way speaker has 3 speakers, one for high frequency, one for middle frequency, and one for low frequency typically 3-way speakers are wanted more for better sound. What is a subwoofer? A subwoofer if a speaker designed only for low frequency sound and is what shakes the floors and concerts and shakes car windows. What is an audio receiver? An audio receiver is a box that has a digital sound processor and an amplifier, in other words it turns the audio file from your phone into something that your speakers can play and can power the speakers itself.

I would recommend brands like Yamaha, Onkyo, Denon, Sony, and Kenwood and you are able to find these and most thrift stores or at a place called “Free Geek.” This store is located in east Minneapolis and is an absolute gold mine of old to somewhat new technology. The speakers can be a little harder. I would recommend getting a powered subwoofer and two speakers off of facebook marketplace. A powered subwoofer means that it can power itself, you plug it into the wall and then plug the input into the subwoofer output on the audio receiver. Good brands for subwoofers/speakers are; Yamaha, Onkyo, Sony, JVC, Kenwood. These are also readily available on Facebook or at thrift stores. If you’re not comfortable with used stuff then you might be wondering

what it would cost retail for a set up. Retail is always gonna be more expensive with a basic 2.1 set up costing around \$500. The benefit to this would be having modern luxuries like Bluetooth and HDMI both of which can make life a lot easier when setting up a home theater. Personally it’s just not worth the extra \$300-400.

The next level up in the home audio world would be a cheap HiFi set up, the difference between home audio and HiFi audio is the sound quality. HiFi enthusiasts usually prefer a very “flat sounding” set up to get every frequency of sound. A “not flat sounding” set up would have more intense lows and higher highs, this can drown out the song if you have too much of one or the over. Personally it’s not worth the hundreds of dollars for a flat sounding set up but that’s up to you, you can personalize your setup to fit your needs. The difference between a HiFi set up and an home audio set up is that it splits the audio receiver in half, instead of having the processing and power in one its two separate boxes. This is done because an A/V receiver can do both of these things ok but having them separate means each box can do one task at its absolute best. Having the power and processing done separately creates the highest quality audio possible.

The set up would look like this: a pre amplifier to process sound and an amplifier to power the speakers. This is a more expensive route to take with a budget preamplifier costing \$100-\$400 and a good amp costing a similar \$100-\$500. Then if you’re spending all of that might as well spend more on speakers overall a HiFi set up like this will run you around \$1000 or more dollars on the low end.

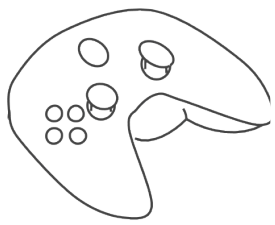
The high end however gets very high. Brands like McIntosh sell high end preamplifiers and amplifiers for prices exceeding \$10k and sell speakers up to hundreds of thousands of dollars, it’s absolutely crazy. McIntosh has a deep history of revolutionizing audio since the 50’s they made a whole new category called loudspeakers which are used for concerts and speeches.

Home audio can be a very simple way to get more out of your music and is a fun hobby to learn, facebook marketplace will be your friend in making a budget set up.

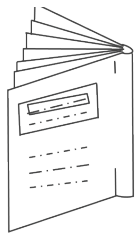


Purple Press Staff Photo

11th graders Hana Ninow and Kathryn Totushek collaborate on a lab in AP Biology.



Reviews ‘n’ stuff



Speaking out: battling misogyny

Gender discrimination has many different faces



Art by Cecilia Mason

Zania Hierlmaier

Staff Writer

Warning: This article mentions topics that could be triggering to some, including sexual assault.

Do you ever hear:
An adult figure in your life telling you that “boys will be boys.”
Or a classmate saying “come on it was just a joke?”
Has your boyfriend ever told you that you’re cute when you’re angry, and you had to shrug it off?

Have you ever said:
“Stop acting like a girl”, when your friend chickened out.
Or asked a girl why she was so dramatic?
Have you ever stayed quiet when:
You heard a joke that wasn’t funny.
Or saw repetitive bias from a teacher?
Have you ever, ever, ever... what if ever wasn’t an option, and none of these examples were true. That would be known as a life without sexism.
The definition of sexism is prejudice, stereotyping, or discrimination, typically against women, on the basis of sex. Sexism has been around for centuries. In societies ruled by male authority, in gender roles determining the life for a woman, in men getting jobs, higher wages, voting rights, bank accounts, credit cards, educations, passports,

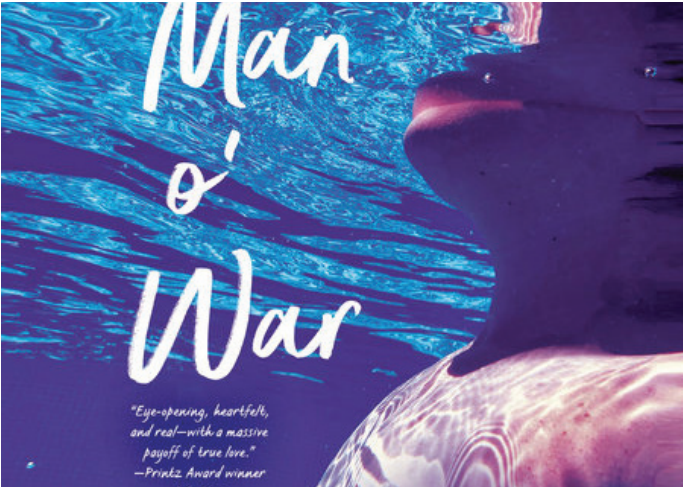
serving a jury, fighting in war, the list could go on and on. The outcome of sexism is the patriarchy, or male domination.
The term sexism didn’t even exist until the 1960s, when the women’s rights movement started. This shows just how little importance women were given in the past, despite the fact that without women, no one would be here, reading this article, becoming presidents and CEOs, changing the world one step at a time.
Sexism occurs at every second, minute and hour. In the halls at school, at the local park, inside the grocery store you shop every Saturday. Sexism isn’t going to change on its own. It’s up to us to take some action and step up. As Angela Davis said, “I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept.”
In order to understand

sexism, you have to understand the different types: hostile, benevolent, institutional, interpersonal, and internalized sexism. Hostile sexism is the hatred towards a group of people of a certain sex or gender. An example of hostile sexism is misogyny, the hatred of women. The opposite of this, misandry, the hatred of men, would also be an example. Hostile sexism can be dangerous and is typically about proving the importance of men over women. Hostile sexism could be sexist insults, the belief that women need to stay in their place, or physical or sexual assault.
Benevolent sexism is the idea that women are innocent, fragile, or beautiful. Benevolent sexists believe women are meant to be mothers and wives, and that they should rely heavily or completely on a male figure in their lives. Benevolent sexism may seem

a little too old fashioned for today’s society, but sadly, it still exists for many women around the world.
Institutional sexism is one of the most repeated types of sexism, something you most likely learn about in school, and a topic that is protested against quite frequently. Institutional sexism is the sexism intertwined in governments, healthcare systems, the media, and other workforces. Institutional sexism could be a gender pay gap, a new sexist law, or policies that impact women differently than men.
Interpersonal sexism is the type of sexism that occurs in conversations and sexist comments. The examples I listed in the beginning of this article are interpersonal sexism. Many people see interpersonal sexism as unimportant, as it usually appears in jokes made by “ignorant boys”. However, this type of sexism is just as important as other types of

sexism, and can easily escalate and become similar to hostile sexism.
Finally, there is internalized sexism, the least talked about but most common type of sexism. Internalized sexism are sexist beliefs a person thinks about themselves, such as being unworthy, powerless, ugly, or dumb. These thoughts could be rooted in a deeper shame of being a certain gender, sparked from a sexist encounter, or the want to be “desirable”.
Sexism is a broad topic, and it differs and affects everyone differently. For women of color, sexism is yet another way to treat them unfairly. Women of color have to deal with misogynoir, which is similar to misogyny, but has roots in racism. Misogynoir typically affects Black women and girls, and most commonly appears in the over sexualization of them. In our society, Black girls are seen as older and more provocative

Sexism, 10



Read Brave ‘24

Man o’ War is this year’s St. Paul youth book club selection

Rylan Merwin

Staff Writer

“Man o’ war are not jellyfish, and River McIntyre is not happy.” You wouldn’t be either if you were spending your life in a body that didn’t feel like it belonged to you and you didn’t even know it.
You may be familiar with Read Brave, a reading initiative in Saint Paul that, every year, chooses a book that fits whatever theme they’ve decided on. This year’s theme is “Celebrating Identities”, and this year’s book is Man o’ War by Cory McCarthy, set in modern-day Haley, Ohio. Cory McCarthy is also the author of several other bestselling books such as Hope Is an Arrow, and studied poetry and screenwriting before his career as a YA author.
River McIntyre is an Arab-American teenager just working through life. The story centers around them meeting Indigo “Indy” Waits and how their interaction sent River hurtling out of the closet- and how they must figure out where they land

now, and how they’re going to deal with it. The book tells things as events, beginning with a dive into the shark tank and working through their swim team, finding their name and creating a relationship with Indigo.
This is probably my favorite Read Brave book to date. The book is written in a fast-paced way that makes it easy to read in one sitting, and the characters feel real- none of the protagonists are perfect, and River starts off the book a little close minded, which makes their development feel fulfilling and tangible. It’s funny when it wants to be, and poetic without feeling like it’s trying too hard. The characters evoke emotion--- the antagonists make you feel anger and pity, and River’s development is easy to root for. It’s a great book for queer and especially trans teenagers just looking for a book where they show up, and is also a great read for cis and straight people who are looking to better understand other gender identities.

Disney releases to watch for

Inside Out 2 and Toy Story 5 are among those to keep an eye on

Claire Ales

Staff Writer

It’s time to get excited because Disney has some big plans for new releases over the next three to four years. Over the past few years Disney has had many big hit movies, but you may find yourself asking, “what’s next?”
Starting off strong, we can expect Inside Out 2, which will feature the goofy, hockey-loving Riley who is now a teen. We can anticipate the introduction of several new emotions that are putting down roots at headquarters. The new emotions will be anxiety, boredom, envy, and embarrassment! Get ready to come along for the ride as Riley navigates her teenage years. Inside Out 2 is set to

come to theaters on June 14th, 2024.
Get ready to go on a sea voyage with Auli’i Cravalho returning to voice Moana and Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson as Maui because Moana 2 is set to come out November 27th, 2024. In early February, Disney surprised everyone with the announcement of Moana 2. The announcement included a release date and a teaser trailer that features the determined Moana, and the mischievous Maui. Everyone is excited about the announcement, but the big question is, will it live up to expectations or will it fall short? The first Moana film received two Academy Award nominations, \$700 million at the box office, and touched the hearts of many.

Looking farther into the future, Disney has set release dates of 2025 for Frozen 3 and Toy Story 5. In the works is a live action film about Mufasa, the former king of the Prideland and father of Simba. Mufasa is set to release in late 2024.
The last upcoming film I will be highlighting is the newest installment in the Zombies series. Zombies 4 was announced by Disney in early February. I am interested to see how they will continue the franchise because the two main characters graduated highschool.
Along with Disney’s animated and live action films, they also have new movies planned in regards to Marvel and Star Wars. However there

isn’t as much information about these two as there are about other upcoming films/ additions to franchises. What we do know is that the bulk of the marvel films are set to come out between the years of 2025 and 2027.
The Star Wars films have announced directors for the films. Among the directors is Dave Filoni, who is currently the chief executive officer of Lucasfilm and has directed many successful Star Wars films over the past decade.
Disney is currently a 197.4 billion dollar company and they are always working on expanding their film empire. I am excited to see how all of these films come out and can’t wait for more to be announced!

The best soccer docuseries

Stay up to date on European soccer without a cable subscription

George Abelson

Staff Writer

Wouldn’t it be so nice if you could watch European soccer for free without cable? Unfortunately that is not the case. I have to cope with this sad reality, and in addition to getting live notifications on my phone, I watch soccer documentaries mainly on Netflix, but there are some on Amazon Prime, so I can keep up to date on what’s going on in Europe.
Today I will be comparing two documentary series that came out in 2023- Under Pressure, which is the story of the United States Women National Team vying for a

historic three-peat in the 2023 World Cup. The next docuseries that I will be reviewing is about the 2022 Men’s World Cup, called Captains of the World. Both of the documentaries are on Netflix. Under Pressure is three episodes and Captains of the World is six episodes long. First I will be talking about Under Pressure.
While these documentaries both focus on the World Cup, Under Pressure is different in the sense that it only focuses on USWNT and not all the teams. This is something that I like because it gives a specific thing to focus on. The first episode of Under Pressure mainly focuses on training camps for

the national team, and what it means to get invited to one. There are a lot of scenes of the players training and then interviews with them. The series specifically focuses on a couple of players such as Megan Rapione as it is her last World Cup before retiring. It also follows Alex Morgan, one of the captains. In addition to more senior players a decent amount of time is allotted to newer players like Trinity Rodman who are fighting for their chance on the roster for the World Cup- the roster has 22 spots. 22 spots seems like a lot but there is a giant national pool of young talent that is also looking for a spot on the senior team. Another

thing that is nice about Under Pressure is it interviews former players from the national team. Overall I really liked this series.
Now I will be talking about Captains of The World. I think that Captains of the World is a very interesting series. It focuses on a lot of different players, specifically captains. It also covers important games in different stages of the tournament. Some of the players it focuses on are Lionel Messi, Simon Kjaer, and Maya Yoshida. For Messi, it focuses on how it is his last chance to win the World Cup. Simon Kjaer is the captain of the

Soccer docs, 8



Cecilia Mason

Should Trump be on the ballot?

Colorado took a stand against the former president in ruling

Alva Healy
Staff Writer

Earlier this year, Donald Trump was removed from the Colorado ballot for the 2024 presidential election. The Colorado Supreme Court ruled that because of his role in the January 6th Insurrection of the Capital, Trump was not an eligible candidate for the presidential election.

The US Supreme Court agreed to see representatives from Colorado to rule on whether or not Colorado had the power to take Trump off the ballot. This case also has huge implications for the rest of the general election; this case will most likely decide on whether Trump is eligible to run for the presidential election in this year.

The Court seemed skeptical of Colorado's reasoning, stating things like, "I think that the question that you have to confront is why a single state should decide who gets to be president of the United States."

The hearing was February 8th, however, it is not expected that the Supreme Court will have a definite answer any time soon. This case does have more pressure and political implications than most that visit the Supreme Court, so it is likely we will be getting an answer faster than a regular Supreme Court case.

So far, only one other state has followed the suit of Colorado, Maine. These two states have removed Trump from the ballot on account of section three of the 14th amendment. This section states that a person may not hold office in the US government if they engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the United States.

Some question whether

this applies to Trump because the section does not explicitly say that an individual state can decide whether or not the 14th amendment applies to a person. However, this is still a key argument in many states' cases to take Trump off the ballot.

Though there have been only two states to successfully remove Trump from the ballot, almost all other states are taking this case to their local courts. Many states have also had the case rejected by their local courts. Some of these states that have rejected this case include Minnesota, Michigan, Oregon, Rhode Island, etc. Many states are also waiting for the US Supreme Court ruling for Colorado.

The Minnesota Supreme Court was one of a few states to rule against a petition to remove Trump from the ballot in Minnesota. The Supreme Court stated that, "There is no state statute that prohibits a major political party from placing on the presidential nomination primary ballot," but did open the doors for challenge if Trump is selected as Republican Presidential Nominee.

As for what this means for the 2024 election for president, if the Supreme Court votes in favor of Colorado's decision to take Trump off the ballot, this would have huge implications from the election. However, it is not likely that the Supreme Court will vote for Colorado, as they have been openly skeptical and critical of Trump's removal from Colorado's ballot. Of course, people will always have the option to put Trump as a write-in candidate if, by the small chance, the Supreme Court rules in favor of Colorado.

I preferred Under Pressure because it focused on just one team. If you are a soccer fan or even just a sports fan I think that you should watch these documentaries on the 2022 and 2023 World Cups.

Soccer docs, 7

Denmark National team, and the focus is about him trying to lead his team out of the group stage. With Maya Yoshida the focus is on Japan trying to get to the quarter finals. There is also some focus on big upsets at the start of the tournament such as Saudi Arabia beating Argentina in the group stage, Portugal, Germany, and Brazil getting knocked out and Morocco becoming the first African team to reach the semi finals. I liked Captains of the World as well.

Starbucks vs Caribou Coffee

Minnesotans face the daily dilemma of where to grab a cup of joe

Amelia Keenan
Staff Writer

Coffee is the most popular hot drink in America, but where should you go to get your coffee? With over 70,000 different coffee shops in the U.S., it may be challenging to decide. But today two of the biggest coffee chains in Minnesota will be going head to head, Starbucks vs. Caribou Coffee.

There has always been an internet debate of which coffee shop is better, and throughout America many people agree upon Starbucks. A telephone poll conducted by Poll Position stated that 30% of Americans prefer Starbucks to any other coffee, while only 7% said Caribou Coffee as their favorite. Even though Starbucks is much more popular than Caribou, does that mean it's better?

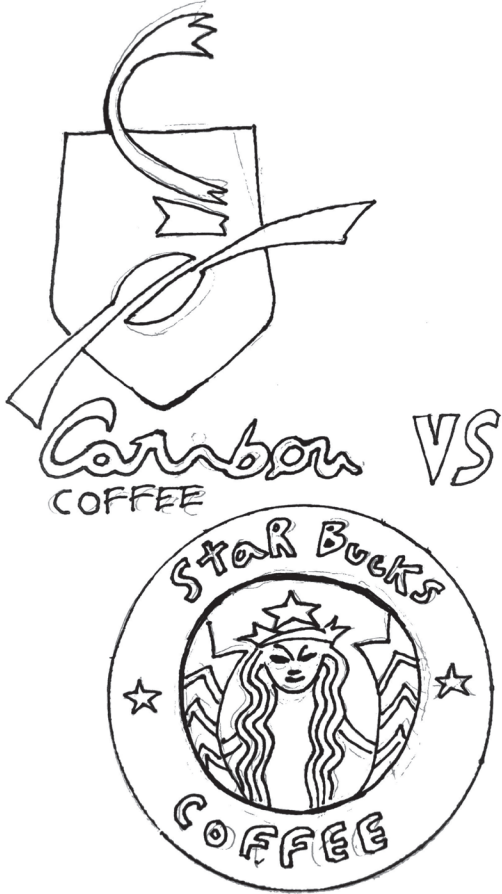
A website named "The Spectrum" did an experiment comparing four different drinks from Starbucks and Caribou, and found that they enjoyed the taste of Hot chocolate and the fruit refreshers from Caribou more than those Starbucks, and enjoyed the black coffee and the Chai from Starbucks more than from Caribou. While the ratings may have been 50/50, the prices at Caribou were

overall lower than at Starbucks. For example, a small Starbucks hot chocolate is \$3.35 for 8oz, while at Caribou it is \$3.19 for 12oz.

It's not just "The Spectrum"

menu options than Starbucks."

Going off of what Dot said, Caribou is usually slightly cheaper and has the same or even better drink and food options offered then Starbucks



Dot Lipski Cain

that seems to enjoy caribou more. Dot lipski Cain, an 8th grader at OWL said, "I enjoy Caribou, like, 100% better. It [Caribou] is usually a little bit cheaper, and they have better

does. Although, I believe that Starbucks has some better options than Caribou such as their wide variety of blended drinks.

Starbucks has pluses as well

Vikings fall flat this NFL season

Despite promising start, MN's team didn't clinch playoffs spot

August Cheney
Staff Writer

Going 13-4 in the 2022-2023 season, the Minnesota Vikings were destined for a great future in the NFL, but that didn't end up happening this season. Riddled with injuries and suspicious calls made by refs, the Vikings ended up going 7-10 and missing the playoffs. But what happened this season to cause this?

The main issue with the season was Kirk Cousins' disappearance. But what happened to Kirk Cousins? Why are we debating which backup QB to start? Well, he's injured. Cousins recorded

2,331 passing yards for 18 touchdowns through only eight games, putting himself on pace for his fourth straight season passing for more than 4,000 yards. It was 3rd and 19th when Cousins was looking to throw when his paper Offensive Line failed to make a block, bringing Cousins down for a 4-yard loss. He limped off the field as the Vikings field goal unit came out onto the field to take him out of the game. "We're going to have to be there for Kirk every step of the way. And vice versa," said O'Connell. Cousins completed 23 of his 31 passes that game for 274 yards and 2 touchdowns before giving

the job to the rookie Jaren Hall. Vikings officials reported after the game that they feared that Cousins suffered a torn achilles. A few days after the injury, Cousins shared a surgery update on his Twitter account, the update consisted of a photo of himself giving a thumbs up in a hospital bed with a purple cast, signifying the surgery was a success.

The second leading factor to a poor season was O-Line issues. But how would Cousins get brought down? A very underperforming and injured O-Line. But even with weapons like the LT Christian Darrisaw, who appeared in the 2022 Pro Bowl, or the RT Brian

O'Neill, who also appeared in the 2022 Pro Bowl and was named the 6th best RT in the NFL the Vikings still struggled all season with sacks. Well, to start O'Neill needed a walking boot for a sprained left ankle, which he injured during a hurry-up drive during the 2 minute drill before halftime. The RG Ed Ingram was ruled out due to a hip injury during a game against the Las Vegas Raiders, also briefly losing LG Dalton Risner, who was seen limping off the field in the third quarter. Behind a banged-up O-line, quarterback Joshua Dobbs ended up taking five

Vikings, 10

Video game workers face layoffs

Mass cuts by tech companies affecting the video game industry

Tait Vossen-Nelson
Staff Writer

Since January 2023, the video game industry has made approximately 14,000 layoffs according to industry estimates.

Some companies affected by these layoffs include Ubisoft, Microsoft and Electronic Arts.

Microsoft laid off 10,000 workers last June, but it's unclear how many were in their gaming division. Microsoft also said in January 2024 that they have laid off an additional 1,900 jobs in their video game division. EA announced last March it was cutting 6% of its workforce, which is about 800 jobs. Studio Singularity Six cut 10% of its workers last year.

6,000 of these 14,000 layoffs were made in 2024. Several companies have not released their cuts and that has not been factored into the estimate of 14,000.

Every year the Game Developers Conference (GDC) in San Francisco, CA, surveys workers in the video game industry who attend their convention about issues facing the gaming industry. The survey last year polled more than 2,300 workers from many different-sized studios. The replies raise the issue of career sustainability in the gaming industry.

According to the survey conducted in October 2023, 35% percent of workers were

either laid off or had colleagues laid off at their companies. Quality assurance workers were the most impacted by these layoffs, as 22% of them reported being laid off in the last year. 57% of the responders have been working in the game industry for 10 years or fewer.

Epic Games, the developers of Fortnite, cut 16%—800 jobs—in their workforce. CEO Tim Sweeney said the reason for so many layoffs is because of overspending. "For a while now, we've been spending way more money than we earn."

Some experts have commented on the surge of layoffs. "Paired with tight economic conditions, the impact of layoffs has been

amplified by reduced hiring and increased job competition," said International Game Developers Association (IGDA) executive director Dr. Jakin Vela in an interview with gaming news site Polygon. "This has been one of the most volatile periods in the games industry in the last 15 years." Vela said that the IGDA is "deeply concerned" about the layoffs.

Many say the economic growth in the games industry during the COVID-19 pandemic is the main reason for these layoffs. "Large investments in games in 2021 and 2022 encouraged

Gamer layoffs, 10



Young Sheldon, to watch or not?

The popular Netflix show is perfect for the whole family

Maren Sletten
Staff Writer

I get home from school, I have finished my school work and make my way into the living room, my family is arguing over what to watch and my mom, a long term enjoyer of Big Bang Theory, convinces us to all settle down to watch a new Netflix show she had spied, Young Sheldon. I think it's boring, but I sit down and watch it regardless, deciding as I watch that maybe it isn't so bad.

This is what it is like in my home, our household likes to have the background noise of a show while sitting together and after my family had finished Anne With An E we needed a new show to watch.

As of 2024, Young Sheldon spans over seven seasons. It follows the main character Sheldon who originates from the hit sitcom Big Bang Theory and takes us back to the 1989-1990's as we explore his childhood. Sheldon, a boy who is described by his mom as 'different' is autistic. Sheldon is nine years old and throughout the show there is a voice over by Jim Parson who is the original actor of sheldon cooper in Big Bang theory.

This had been a point of discourse in The Big Bang theory where Sheldon's actor Jim Parson is not autistic so he had no knowledge of the neurological developmental disorder. This has been a continued line of discourse as the actor who plays Young Sheldon is also not autistic either.

The first time we watched Young Sheldon. We were eating in the living room sitting around and I had put my phone down not only to eat but pay slight attention to the show because my mom was so excited. It had started a wild conversation amongst me, my dad, and my uncle about God, Gods, and religion as the first episode Sheldon points out to the Pastor that God can't necessarily do all he claims to when science says otherwise.

My family had quickly fallen into watching the show or having it on as background noise when we were all stationed in the same room because my little sibling would actually sit in on the show. The few comments I remember come from my mom (her statements often made about the grandma of the Cooper family) and include that Meemaw is played by Annie

Potts, better known for her acting roles in Ghostbusters, or Toy Story. She has commented about how Meemaw is the grandma she aspires to be when she gets older, or how that's something her mom would have done.

The older brother Gorge Cooper Jr. or Gorgie is played by Montana Jordan, the character reminds me of my older brother but with more personality, he teaches Sheldon how to fake a cold in one episode when sheldon refuses to take a swimming class that is required. The brother coaches Sheldon through faking sickness and throughout the series shows his immaturity and maturity that goes along with being an older brother.

The sister Missy Cooper is played by Ragen a Revord, She is a spunky girl with an attitude a mile long who often gets annoyed at Sheldon but her spunk and personality comes to the forefront with how determined and stubborn she is, a trait that seems to be similar to her mother. Missy, similar to Gorgie, is a little rebellious compared to her brother Sheldon and strives to be older than she appears.

Sheldon Cooper played by Wyatt McClure is the main character of the show, he is a smart young boy who starts the series transitioning from fourth grade to eleventh because he's so smart, the reason the show is named Young Sheldon is because the character that will go on to become Sheldn Cooper of Big Bang Theory. Through the series the actor and writers had to make sure they remember all of the hints of Sheldon's past alluded to in Big Bang Theory. The facts are laid out and they seem to keep up throughout the show from what little of the Big Bang Theory I have reluctantly sat in on while spending time with my mom. It's clear that the Sheldon Cooper of Young Sheldon is the same character, the mannerisms are more uptight in Young Sheldon, instead of confident and comfortable in Big Bang Theory. Sheldon himself has dry speech patterns, boring and entitled but he breaks through that with the few childish mannerisms he alludes to having.

Sheldon's mother Mary is preachy, overbearing, and overprotective at the worst of times. At the least she seems

Young Sheldon, 10

A look into the Porsche 911

Is the fast, attractive car, unveiled in 1963, overhyped?

Victor Mason
Staff Writer

The Porsche 911 is a fast, good looking marvel of modern German engineering that everyone seems to love but does it deserve all the hype? In recent years, it seems like an influx of people have started to gather lots of hype behind the Porsche 911. But out of all cars, why the 911?

September 12, 1963, at the Frankfurt International, Motor Porsche unveiled the 911 to the public for the first time. A year later Porsche started full production and the general public seemed to love it. The 911 really started to gain traction in 1988 with the 3rd generation of the 911. The 3rd generation or 964, wasn't only fast but also luxurious and looked fantastic immediately, making it a classic and the best generation of the 911 to this day.

The Porsche 911 is unique, no other car can come close to what the 911 is. The 911 is rear engined and uses a flat 6, a very unique engine and when put together in the 911, something just clicks. Yes the 911 is fast, yes it looks fantastic, and yes it sounds amazing. But that's not entirely the reason the 911 is so popular.

The Porsche 911 has a special place in every car enthusiast's heart, it's fast and looks good. What is there



Porsche

Staff writer Victor argues the 911 has become overhyped thanks to TikTok.

10 year olds take over Sephora

Beauty store chain has become overrun by elementary schoolers

Olivia Trobaugh
Staff Writer

There are ten year olds in Sephora, as I'm sure you have all heard.

They destroy products and the employees and parents of these children are doing nothing to stop them. They buy products that are meant for people three times their age and throw fits if they don't get them.

I'm sure many of you remember as a kid going into the store Claire's and finding so much joy from going into the store, but nowadays kids are spending their time in Sephora. Do we know why? Well, I think I have a good idea of why this is happening.

In this day and age, almost everyone has access to the internet and social media and no matter what we try to do, this is how our lives are now. There are influencers and no hate for them but they really can't control who watches or sees what they do. And like it or not, these kids are listening and wanting these high-end products mostly for trying to be trendy.

Some of these brands are Drunk Elephant, Rare Beauty, and Sol de Janeiro. These brands I think are the ones that are known and are some of the ones being used. They are all high-end brands and their products are all pretty pricey for adults, who can spend their

money on whatever they like, but to buy it for your ten-year-old child who will most likely forget about it in a matter of months as the trends change, it's nothing that I feel you should invest your money in.

Another thing to look at is that these kids are growing up way too fast. I would do anything to go back to being little when my life was less hectic and calmer and when I was younger, sure I tried a bit to appear older and try to act like I was an adult and maybe I'm not the best to write this article as I have been using skincare and makeup since I was younger than ten, but my parents always made sure to speak to me about how to use

it and when and to make sure everything was age appropriate for me, but that's not what the parents nowadays are doing.

Over the weekend, I went to my local Sephora to speak to some of the staff about their views on this and to see if little kids were running around the place so that I could fully write this article to my best work and explain that most of what I have said is true. The majority of the customers were younger than 11 years old and were all going to the Drunk Elephant section.

When I spoke to one of the employees at the store, they asked to remain anonymous

Sephora, 10

The Finals dissapoints gamers

New multi-player video game bores despite creative visuals

Grayden Smith
Staff Writer

The Finals has finally been released. People have been looking forward to this game with high hopes since it was first announced a year ago. But has it reached its expectations? In my opinion, meh, kinda.

The Finals is the newest big battle royale. It was released on Dec. 7th, 2023, for completely free. It's available on all next-gen consoles and PCs, which means you can only play it if you have a PS5, Xbox, or a computer.

In The Finals, there are three teams, each with three players (unless you're in tournament mode but that's for later). The background story is that the three teams are playing in a game show for a lot of money and it's also the future. There are also three classes to choose from, Light, Heavy, and Medium. Each class has different guns and speed, obviously Light is the fastest and Heavy is the

slowest. But Light also has the least health while Heavy has the most.

There are three modes: Quick Cash, Bank It, and Ranked/Unranked Tournament. Quick Cash is the basic default game mode. Three teams start off trying to open a vault. The vault has \$10,000 in it, which you then have to bring to the cash-out. When the money starts being cashed out, any other team can steal it. It then repeats until a team gets \$20,000, with infinite respawns.

Bank It also has a vault and three teams, but this time instead of bringing \$10,000 to the cashout, the safe has \$500 you have to bring to a cashout. If you die, you drop that money. You need \$40,000 to win, also with infinite respawns. Also, it's important to know that solos were just added to this mode.

The last mode, Tournament, is a mode consisting of 16 teams (four teams in each

game) that play in a bracket. To move on you need to be one of the top two teams with the most money by the end of your game. There are no infinite respawns in Tournament.

There are lots of maps with great graphics and most of the environment is entirely destructible. There are also barrels that you can throw, each doing different things. There's a pink one that spawns goo which is basically a portable wall, then there's a fire barrel that spawns fire, and it can also burn goo walls. There's gas cans that spawn gas, and an explosion thing can, which flies forward and explodes when you throw it.

I think The Finals is kinda boring, and its replayability is low, but then again it just released and it needs time to get better. The movement is kinda just ok, and it's really annoying to get kills because the guns feel like peashooters as all the classes have quite a bit of health compared to

the damage most of the guns do. The game has really good ideas and concepts, but, in my opinion, it's just not executed well.

I do, however, like the movement, because it just feels clean. It feels great to use the momentum you get from riding a zip line to slide and jump long distances, or running and leaping across rooftops then jumping into a building by crashing into a window. I also like the visuals and graphics because the game has its own unique style while still looking realistic. And it can definitely be a great game that I would love to play consistently but right now, for me, it's just not there yet.

Don't let my opinion stop you from trying the game, because I totally get it if you like it and it's just not for me. I honestly think that the game is worth buying because it's free, meaning the only thing you lose is your time. So try it if you exist or if you just want to.

Sexism, 7

than white girls, and Black women are stereotyped into four different personalities: the sassy, the angry, the strong, and the sexual Black woman. Misogynoir also affects the type of health care given to women of color, what jobs and pay wages women of color are offered, and gendered violence based on race.

Throughout history, sexism towards women of color has been nearly or completely ignored, and white women are the only ones given a voice. This has been the case for hundreds of years in America, from enslaved women being denied

their reproductive freedom, to the 1920s when only white women were given the right to vote, to today, where women of color get paid 70% as much as white men, compared to the 83% white women earn. It’s important to realize this and listen to women of color’s voices and needs, as they are just as important as anyone else’s.

Worldwide, sexism is a huge problem that impacts poor women and girls. In poor countries, 130 million girls don’t have access to education, leaving them with little choices over their lives. One

of the few options given to these girls is marriage, which results in 12 million underage girls choosing this path every year. In these poor countries, reproductive freedom is rare and likely unheard of, as 1.2

“Sexism is so much more than just a broad statement of injustice against a certain sex.”

billion women and girls live in areas around the world where safe access to abortion is unavailable.

Perhaps the most known example of sexism is what is known as sexual assault, or the act of touching someone sexually without consent. Due to the fact that this topic is very

triggering, I won’t go into too much detail. However, sexual assault is very important to talk about, as, as The Cardinal Chronicle has shown, 97% of women have experienced sexual harassment in their

lifetime, and annually, according to The Sexual Assault Victims Advocacy Center, around 460,000 sexual assaults occur in the United States. Even for as common as it is, sexual assault is rarely talked about the majority of cases go unreported or get dismissed early on. Sadly,

according to The Washington Post and RAINN, less than 1% of sexual assaults lead to a conviction in the U.S. If you or someone you know is or has been impacted by sexual assault, feel free to contact RAINN at 1-800-656-4673, which is free and available 24/7.

Sexism is so much more than just a broad statement of injustice against a certain sex. It’s built around entire societies, and impacts millions, if not billions, across the globe. Sexism is any action of oppression because of your gender. It could be as simple as

your father telling you to pull that shirt down, or as complex as not being allowed schooling. Sexism will continue to occur unless we do something about it. And yes, it may seem hard, scary, or just not worth it at first. But I promise you, your voice will make a difference. As Rosa Parks once said, “You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right.”

Remember, you are worth it, and your story deserves to be heard. Don’t keep quiet.

That’s it,
Zania xxx

Gamer layoffs, 8

expansion at an accelerated yet unsustainable rate,” Vela said. Video game companies thrived during COVID due to increased demand because everyone was at home with lots of free time to spend playing games.

Aubrey Quinn, senior vice president of communications for the Entertainment Software Association, agreed, saying the industry expanded in 2020 and 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic. “In the U.S. alone, the video game industry has more than tripled in size in the last decade, growing from \$15.2 billion in 2012 to \$56.6 billion in 2022,” said Quinn. “No other entertainment industry experienced that level of growth. What we’re seeing now is that the market is stabilizing.”

“I see it as a correction now that revenue is back to more normal levels post-pandemic,” said one respondent in the GDC survey.

According to the survey, developers expressed anxiety that their company could have layoffs in 2024. 56% of respondents said they had some amount of apprehension about future layoffs. “The layoffs are concerning because they don’t seem to be following the ‘typical’ cyclical trend of layoffs after a project ships,” said one respondent. “Not that that was great either, but it’s hard to predict these days where and when layoffs might happen.”

Psychologist Dr. Raffael Boccamazzo said the impacts of layoffs often come down to the “perception of justice” concerning how they are

handled.

Many developers Polygon spoke to said the lack of transparency around layoffs has exacerbated the already bad situation. Current and former Epic Games employees told Polygon that the night before the company laid off 800 workers, a meeting got added to their calendar, with no clear info on what it was about. No one knew for sure until right before the meeting, when they announced it was regarding layoffs. One person said that when they received the email stating the meeting was about layoffs, they “just stared at it and started crying.”

“We’re working in a deeply unfair industry,” one developer said in the survey, “and the massive loss of talent and morale will be felt in the coming years.”

Young Sheldon, 9

to be a character you are supposed to sympathize with but sometimes the connection is lost when you relate more to the other characters. A lot of her character is based around her belief system as she is a Christian and her religion seems to take over all of her character sometimes.

The show itself being a sitcom follows Sheldon to school, through his struggles of making friends and being “smarter than everyone. “He is annoying and antagonistic while he is childish and accidentally funny. This leads to few laughs at jokes Sheldon makes but more at the naivety the smarty pants displays.

My answer is undetermined, the issue with suggesting a show is that you do it with friends who show similar taste so I tell an entire school that, “hey you should watch this,” without knowing your assorted taste is a dead set way to guarantee you never listen to any of my show suggestions again.

That’s why I’m going to explain my opinion so you can draw your own, if it helps this is a skewed opinion, I don’t know anything about autistic people so the show could be a negative connotation of a

child with high functioning autism, The show could also be preachy considering the mother in the show Mary Cooper is Christian and the first episode they go to church.

I am simply reporting on a show I watched within the presence of my family and my enjoyment of the time so take everything I say and just consider watching it yourself.

I found myself feeling that some of the show was stiff and unenjoyable. The plot may flow nicely but it did lose my attention multiple times before I gave up trying to pay attention and just scrolled on my phone before the plot would pick up again and I’d

want to know what was going on. Another good part of watching with family is that someone can always fill you in. Overall so far it has been an enjoyable show to watch with my family, it is something I recommend for background noise.

It’s something I have found enjoyable to sit in on when it comes to family time even if I’m not paying attention or starting a debate over religion with my family. And it’s definitely a good way to keep your sibling in the living room so you can all spend time together.

Vikings, 8

sacks before he was pulled for Nick Mullens during the fourth quarter. Raiders edge rusher Maxx Crosby ended up having two sacks that game. Very disappointing.

The third most important factor was Justin Jefferson’s amount of missed games. But what happened to the star receiver Justin “Jets” Jefferson? Why was he not at numerous games? With 9:54 remaining in the second quarter Jefferson burnt the Corner guarding him but the QB Dobbs made a poor hospital pass, forcing Jefferson to jump up in traffic to attempt to make the catch and was hit immediately mid-air by Raiders Safety Marcus Epps. After the play Jefferson grabbed his lower back and immediately left the field. The results found he has a hamstring injury forcing him to miss 7 games. But still after 7 games Jefferson was still able to surpass 1k yards finishing the season with 1074 total receiving yards.

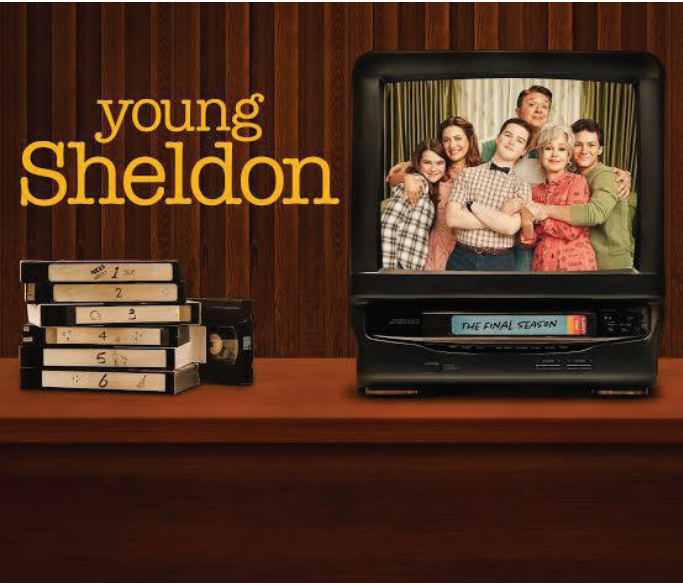


David Berding/Getty Images

Injuries aside, one of the most unheard of issues with the Minnesota Vikings this season has been poor offensive play calling. “O’Connell is just not good at it. He made a great decision to hire Brian Flores, and now he needs to follow up with an equally qualified, play-calling offensive coordinator,” said Tony Anadio, a Vikings fan. This is true, all season consisted of poor calls made by both offense and defensive coordinators. In week 18 the Vikings fell 33-10 to the Green Bay Packers led by Jordan Love. Six of the 10 Packers’ possessions resulted in points, looking at the

whole defensive breakdown it was seen the defense had low energy, not smart plays, and a severe lack of adaptability to the Packers offense. And on offense, O’Connell decided to start the rookie Jaren Hall. Hall has had his chances and has failed to prove himself, he played horribly in the preseason and even worse in the regular season. Starting Nick Mullens would have been the better decision as he has more experience and far more knowledge of the game. Though he hadn’t won any games for the Vikings, he was still able to complete more passes and force less turnovers.

Injuries and poor play calling aside, the Minnesota Vikings are a good team that struggles with small roadblocks on the way. Next season they will be great if they make the right moves in the offseason, especially with Cousins and Jefferson’s contract ending, lots of stuff will need to be done to ensure a good season.



CBS

Sephora, 9

and I will be respecting their wishes. They said that they haven’t experienced the little kids being rude, but do know about the kids wanting the high-end products. I mainly asked about Drunk Elephant as I know that’s what has been most popular. The employees said how they think that the company is making products for adults, but have been marketing to younger audiences because they can be more heavily influenced. The employees themselves

do not use products by the company and whenever young girls come to buy the products they try to talk them out of it. When asked about the pricing, they said that they think that Drunk Elephants’ least expensive product would be around \$30 and the most would be about \$90.

At the end of the day, I can’t make these kids stop using the products or the parents to stop buying these products, but if you’re reading this and have kids or younger siblings who are looking to use the brands, educate yourself and try to talk

them out of it. Find ulterior to Drunk Elephant, Rare Beauty, Sol de Janeiro, and other high-end product that little kids don’t need to be using, try to find ones that are less expensive and work just the same to make sure that what these kids are using does not end up harming them in the long run.

Cash or Trash?

“Bennett is the smartest guy in school,” -Mikko

“Bennett for president,” -Zane

“Bennett is the most handsome track runner,” -Antonio

“I hate you Bennett,” -Cooper

Bennett,
the 11th grader

CASH TRASH

Documentaries,
like movies but boring

CASH TRASH

“My dad watches them,” Elsa Humphrey, 6th grade

“They’re adorable. Cute. Petite,” Elzo

“So cash. Documentaries are so fun and they keep me on my toes,” Kiara

Cash or Trash is made possible by Gwen Stender and Gabby Govrick

10

I wish the walls were quiet

I'm not so sure the screaming coming from behind my walls is a hallucination

Joseph T. Schwartz
Staff Writer

I had just laid down to sleep when a small noise caught my attention. It was faint, barely audible, but I could make out scratching from behind the wall that was behind my bed, like a dog pawing at a door. It was annoying, but I could ignore it. I settled into the pillow and let out a deep breath. Even with the scratching, I felt my breathing steady and the fog of unconsciousness slowly took over my mind.

In the back of my mind, I realized the scratching had stopped.

Good, I can sleep.

I was immediately startled awake by a heavy slam to the back of the wall. I shot into a seated position and felt my heart racing in my chest. Another slam made me jump again. Then the scratching started back.

I took a deep breath and fell back into my pillow, letting out an annoyed groan. No, as much as you may think it, I am not stupid for ignoring something trying to break through the wall.

When I was a baby, I would randomly jolt in place and start crying, no matter the time of day. My parents weren't overly concerned when they couldn't figure out the reason why; that's just what babies do, right, they start crying randomly? When the random scares kept up until I was 4, they took me into a doctor's office. He concluded I was suffering from auditory hallucinations. I was officially diagnosed with schizophrenia the week after that. Then, when the medication I was given didn't stop the hallucinations, or help, for that matter, I was brought back to the doctor's office. Then I was diagnosed with an anxiety disorder. Two months after that I was diagnosed with depression and put on antidepressants. It took five doctors and 18 months to reach a final diagnosis. Now I just have "psychosis," which I've learned means the doctors had no clue what I have, or how to treat it. Luckily for my parents, the strange symptoms of whatever I have stopped there, so instead of paying for expensive medications or me being in an institution, I was just the guy who jumped in his seat randomly when he heard a door slam shut that no one else could.

The scratching and slamming was just a hallucination, so I tried, again, to fall asleep.

Except it kept happening. The slamming and scratching got more frequent and louder every second and eventually there wasn't a single moment not filled with incessant noise.

After nearly half an hour of this, I didn't think it could get any worse.

Auditory hallucinations have been a part of my life for over two decades at this point, and I've heard a lot of things because of it: doors slamming, chairs squeaking on the floor, voices, even an explosion once. What those have in

common is that I've heard at least something like those noises before. I'd hear the chairs squeaking from school, the voices were of things I'd heard said a day or two prior, or an explosion from an action movie. However, I can say for a fact that was the first time I'd ever heard something like that.

The noise stopped for just a single moment, a sweet reprieve, when, from right above my head, a single blood curdling scream broke the silence. I instinctually jumped out of bed and looked around frantically; it didn't even occur to me that it was a hallucination. It was something you can't even make up in nightmares. That scream was a noise you expect to hear when something biblical is punishing serial killers. I didn't believe my mind could make something like that up.

But when I heard no concerned neighbor asking about what was happening, and I heard no sirens from a police car called by someone nearby, I realized it must have been another hallucination. This was backed up when it kept happening over and over, again and again; no one could scream for that long and that violently without breaking their voice.

The screaming lasted longer and louder every time it started, my head started to pound. The screaming would pause for a moment, and the pain would ease, just for the next screech to send a spike of pain right through my eyes.

Remember when I said I thought it couldn't get worse?

The pounding and scratching came back.

Pain shot through my head as screaming and slamming and scratching filled my head until I couldn't hear anything besides the screaming and scratching and slamming and scratching and screaming and slamming and so so much screaming and-

Nothing.

My mind was still racked with pain, but the noise was finally gone. I reached up and rubbed my eyes, god that was exhausting, and found that my face was wet. Huh. I hadn't realized that I was crying.

With the sound gone, I felt the exhaustion take me completely and in moments I was asleep.

I woke a few hours later to a singular, violent scream. With a start, I sat up in the pitch blackness of my room, panicking for a moment before I remembered: it wasn't real. Goodness, that scream was terrible. I readied myself for more, more pounding, more screaming, more pain.

But nothing came. I let out a sigh and fell back into bed. I wanted to fall back asleep and try to forget this all, but, unfortunately, I had stayed late at work and skipped dinner.

My mattress creaked as I stood up from the bed and walked to the door. I made my way to the bathroom and I looked at myself in the mirror. I was a mess. Dark bags hung under my eyes and my eyelids stayed half closed, my hair was in a state of disarray that would make a rat jealous, and tear stains and red blotches covered my face.

I quickly rinsed my face off in the sink and took in a deep breath, trying to steady myself. It didn't really work. I dried my face and walked out to the kitchen, searching for something to eat. I settled on cereal; I was not in the mood to make something proper. The

me, could I have been doing that this whole time? Can I just-

"Hahahah."

What the-

"Hello there."

Was that an actual-

"Hello? Is someone there-"

I didn't get to finish as I was cut off by more laughter. It sounded like it came from everywhere and from a hundred voices letting out screaming maniacal laughter all at once. The sudden cacophony of noise startled me, and I felt the bowl slip from my hands and milk splash across my legs. I couldn't hear the bowl hit the ground.

I tried to find somewhere to sit, but the noise made it hard to focus. My vision swam and I lost my balance. My shoulder hit a picture frame hung on the wall and I felt it fall. I stumbled forward out of the kitchen, just

to ignore the pain in my head and the screeching laughter of hundreds of voices all at once. I tried to ignore it when the laughter became mixed with screams of anguish and pain. I tried to ignore it when I heard a thousand fists slammed into the wall behind me over and over.

I tried.

I don't know when I fell asleep, or if it was before or after the hellish cacophony ended, but I woke up on the couch. The world was silent. My face was dry from the tears of the prior night and my entire body ached. All in all, I felt terrible. It was like I hadn't slept at all. Slowly, bits and pieces of the night came back to me through the morning haze, and it didn't make me feel any better.

My hallucinations were random, I couldn't control

what I heard, or when I heard it. They had no consistent timing or theme; one day I might hear a donkey braying in my ear, the next carnival music would play quietly in the background. At least, they had always been. But it changed how it acted.

Yes, that meant the hallucinations would be annoying, it also meant I needed to go see the doctor. Which meant more examinations, more tests, and more medications that didn't do anything. If I could, I wouldn't go to the doctor for anything less than two broken bones, but if I mentioned the changes to anyone I knew, their next question would be about the doctors, and then they'd pester me until I went.

As I stood up and began walking towards my room, to try and get some good sleep, my alarm blared from my pocket. Work. A heavy sigh escaped my lips. I did not get that sleep, to say the least.

I came back home from work late, again, and even more tired than the night before. Sleep was the only thing on my mind when I walked through my front door, almost stumbling over my own feet a few times as I made my way back through the house. I unlatched the door to my bedroom, practically slapping the door handle and shouldering my way through into my room. I collapsed on my bed face first, letting out a groan of relief into the pillows at finally not being on my feet.

There was sweet, sweet silence for a moment as sleep began to take me away.

Until I heard a single, loud slam from a wall in my room.

And it was back like it has never stopped.

My head pounded in tune with the slamming on the



Rylan Merwin

rhythmic clinking of the cereal against the bowl was calming, almost sending me back to sleep while standing up. But the cold tile under my feet kept me awake just enough to hear a small scratching against the wall behind me.

God.

You know, I'd really had my hopes up.

The scratching continued as I poured milk into my bowl, and I did my best to ignore it. The scratching only got louder as I pulled a spoon from the silverware drawer. The sound was at its loudest in the kitchen doorway into the dining room. Before then, I had been scared. But at that moment, I was just annoyed. I knew, logically, it wouldn't do anything, but I angrily lashed out and smacked the wall where the scratching sounded like it was coming from.

"Just shut up!"

And it did.

The scratching stopped.

For a moment I was left stunned. None of my other hallucinations had reacted to

walls, wailing and laughing and crying sounded from every corner of the room. If I had been standing, I would have fallen over from the sheer force of the noise. The screams only got louder and louder, making it harder and harder to think as time went on. I felt like the noise was going to make me insane. I felt a scratch in my throat, and I realized I was screaming back. What else was I going to do? What else could I do?

"Just shut up! Shut up!" The same thing I had said earlier. And it worked a second time. It all stopped. But for only a moment, as I then heard a voice from the wall.

"No."

Lord, if the noise before was deafening, this was enough to break glass. I felt like my head was going to implode in on itself, and my vision came in and out of focus from the pain. But as soon as it had come, the laughter and screeching was cut off by a single piercing noise. Porcelain shattering.

It took me a moment to gather myself, rubbing my face and groaning deeply. I really needed to see the doctor. I reached over to my end table, where I kept my water bottle. It was there, but something else was missing. I looked forward over the edge of my bed, and on the floor were the shattered remains of my lamp. I felt my breath catch in my throat. I reached down to touch the shards, but shrank back as a sharp pain shot through my finger. I looked: blood. The shards were real.

With a closer look I noticed that my end table was a little crooked and shifted off to the side, like when your phone vibrates and shakes on the table. I swallowed hard and looked behind me. At the wall. I didn't want to see it. But it was there.

A crack.

It was small, something that could be covered up with a single coat of paint. But it was there.

Scratch, scratch, scratch.

A tiny scratch sounded from behind where the crack was. I held my breath, not making a single noise.

Scratch, scratch, scratch.

The scratching was a little louder this time. A little quicker.

Silence.

And in a second, the world was sound. The walls shook with fists, I saw them shake. I saw picture frames shift and paint flake away from the walls. Screams filled the air and made my eardrums vibrate. I ran to the door, grasping at the handle, but I recoiled when I felt vibrations travel through it and into my hand. I fell backward and onto the foot of my bed.

It isn't real, I thought to myself. It can't be real.

The laughter only grew louder.

And the crack only got wider.

African American culture night in photos



Clockwise from top left: 11th grader Shalimar Watkins reads a self written poem, families and students serve a meal of soul food in the cafeteria, all performers come together on stage for a final song and dance, seniors and OWL's Black Student Union co-presidents Eli Stende and Elle Galbreath talk about creating a space for Black voices at our school with the club's vice president Sadaijah Terrell-Rahn, a painting by OWL parent and artist Ky Robinson was one of many pieces of art on display in the entryway.

All photos taken by Tess Campion