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# Purple Press

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## Four OWL projects advance

*Top finishers at state competition now preparing to compete at Nationals*

**Abby Horton**  
Staff Writer

On April 20th, 24 projects from OWL competed at the Minnesota State History Day competition at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Of those 24 projects, five got honorable mentions, six placed, and four will be attending the National History Day competition in

Washington DC in June.

The 24 projects at State History Day were judged and then moved into the additional judging rooms, where 11 projects qualified for the final round of judging. At the award ceremony, five OWL projects received an honorable mention: 7th graders Aeris Hendricks and Ehna Sommerville with a website,

Alex Halland, Cooper Small, and Oskar Helle-Morrissey with a documentary, Charlie Cowles and Matteo Alejandro Provenzano with a documentary, 7th grader Atlas Schultz and 8th grader Jae Lind with a exhibit, and 8th grader Emily Totushek with a website. There were also six projects who placed: 10th graders Ellie Patton and

Fiona Curran placed 5th with their website, 9th graders Aria Kulseth and Connie Van Genderen placed 3rd with their documentary, 10th grader Margaret Moe placed 3rd with a performance, 9th graders Anya Robertson and Claire Ales placed 2nd with their documentary, 8th grader Zania Heirlmaier placed 1st with a paper, and 8th graders

Abby Horton, Beatrice Cosgrove, Charley Cheatham, and Maisy Wall placed 1st with their performance.

Students also received Topical Prizes, the Agriculture Award going to Aria and Connie, the Labor Award going to Greta, and the Minneapolis History Award going to Anya and Claire.

Four projects will be going

to National History Day. 8th graders Abby, Beatrice, Charley, Maisy, and Zania, 9th graders Anya and Claire, and 10th grader Margaret will be attending the competition. National History Day will take place at the University of Maryland outside Washington D.C. from June 8th to June

History Day, 6

## Seeing double... three times over



Purple Press Staff Photos

Then 8th graders Henry and Oliver Plaman, Tess and Willa Campion, Hazel and Violet Wright posed for a twin pic (left), recreated recently (right).

*Despite its small size, there are three sets of identical twins in OWL's class of '24*

**Claire Ales**  
Staff Writer

**From the Archives:** Read the original feature article on the class of '24 twins in Issue 1, Volume 20 of The Purple Press.

Walking through the hallways at OWL you might get slightly confused when it

seems like you're seeing the same person twice. Well don't worry because you're not going crazy. In OWL's senior class there are three sets of twins, Willa and Tess Campion, Violet and Hazel Wright, and Henry and Oliver Plaman.

With all six preparing to graduate this spring, The Purple Press decided to revisit

the story about life as a twin first written in 2019. I talked with all six of them about the ins and outs of having an identical twin.

When you have a twin, you always have someone to share experiences with and fall back on. "My favorite part about being a twin is that you always have a built-in person

with you at all times. Someone who's there to support you and I think sometimes I take it for granted. But I know that I always have someone to rely on," said Willa. It can also be nice to always have someone to do things with. "I like that there's somebody in my grade that I can hangout with and do stuff with," said

Oliver. Having a twin can also make it easier to try something new, knowing that you have someone with you. "Sometimes you can override the part of your brain that's being scared about something. If one of us is freaking out, the other one can help solve the

Twins, 6

## Robotics wraps up season at the U

*The Open Circuits ended their season at a tournament at the University of Minnesota in April*

**Connie Van Genderen**  
Staff Writer

This year of robotics is over! OWL robotics competed at their last tournament of the season at the University of Minnesota on April 3rd through 6th.

This year's FIRST Robotics competition centered around a music theme, picking foam rings of the ground called

"notes", shooting them at different targets and climbing a rope at the end. The team pre-programs parts of the robot's mission and the driver team controls the robot of the other part.

The team competed in two tournaments this year, Duluth and Minneapolis, starting practices at the start of the year. After facing electrical problems at the Duluth tournament, the

robot wasn't able to perform to their highest ability, but was able to move forward and compete successfully. "I've never seen so many nerds in one place before," said Megan's mom, Lea Hall. Overall the team has done a lot of learning about how to work together as a team and work in stressful situations. "Successful in some places and unsuccessful

Robotics, 6



Purple Press Staff Photo

Team captain Kathryn Totushek fixes a bumper on the team's robot, Cyto, with the help of Emily Totushek.

## Uber and Lyft are out!

**Tait Vossen-Nelson**  
Staff Writer

Rideshare giants Uber and Lyft are threatening to leave the Twin Cities area on July 1st in response to a new Minneapolis city ordinance that requires them to pay their drivers more.

Uber is threatening to leave the entire metro area, which would make it the only metro area in all of the U.S. without Uber's presence, and Lyft is threatening to leave Minneapolis, refusing to do drop-offs and pick-ups in the city, but continuing to operate in St. Paul and the airport.

The ordinance aims to bring the hourly wage of rideshare drivers above the local minimum salary of \$15.57; it requires rideshare companies to pay their drivers at least \$1.40 per mile and \$0.51 per minute, or \$5 per ride, whichever is greater. Drivers are also entitled to 80% of the cancellation fee. In the event of multi-city trips, it only affects the Minneapolis portion. The ordinance will come into effect on July 1st.

"This ordinance makes our operations unsustainable," CJ Macklin, Lyft's policy communications manager, said. They also claimed they support a minimum wage standard for drivers, but not the one by the city council.

Josh Gold, Uber's senior director of public affairs, claimed this ordinance will "kick Uber out" of the metro area.

Uber and Lyft, 5





# The Purple Press

OWL's longest-running student newspaper was founded in 1996. We publish monthly from November through June. All content for The Purple Press is created by OWL students. The Purple Press welcomes feedback and letters to the editor. Submissions can be emailed to [leo.bickelhaupt@spps.org](mailto:leo.bickelhaupt@spps.org). The opinions expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily represent those of OWL staff or administration.

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# OWL joins US News Best High School list

*Ranked 1,121st nationally, OWL placed first among SPPS schools for the first time ever*

**Violet Wright**  
Staff Writer

In the most recent US News Best High Schools Report, OWL was ranked first out of St Paul Public School High Schools, 17th in Minnesota High Schools out of 425, 140th in Magnet High Schools, and 1,121st nationally out of 17,655 high schools.

Since OWL ranked within the top 40% of high schools, we have become an official U.S. News Best High School. OWL scored 93.65 out of 100.

The score is calculated with six statistics. The college readiness index is 30% of the score. One element is the number of seniors in the 2021-2022 academic year who took at least one AP or IB test by the end of their senior year, divided by the total number of seniors at the school. The other element is a quality-adjusted participation rate, meaning the number of seniors who got a three or higher on an AP test, or a four or higher on an IB test, by the end of their senior year, divided by the number of seniors at the high school. Fifty

four percent of OWL's class of 2022 took at least one AP exam, and 35% passed at least one AP exam. Quality adjusted participation was weighted at 75%, and the participation rate was weighted 25%. OWL scored 40.1/100, ranking 36 in state.

The college curriculum breadth index is 10% of the final score. This index is calculated with the proportion of seniors who took and passed AP or IB exams in multiple areas. If you took more exams, more emphasis was placed, up to four exams. Qualifying scores were weighted at 75% and taking a test was weighted at 25%. OWL ranked 11 in state.

The state assessment proficiency is 20% of the final score, in this case how well OWL high schoolers did on the MCAs. OWL ranked 25 in state with score in the 94th percentile.

The state assessment performance, 10% of the final score, is the total assessment scores compared with what US News predicted for a

school with its demographic characteristics in its state. OWL scored Well Above Expectations.

Underserved student performance is 10% of the final score, assessing learning outcomes among Black, Hispanic, and low-income students. Schools performing above the 50th percentile nationally received the highest score. The percentage of underserved students who are proficient at OWL was 54.5%, and the gap between the school and state among underserved students (the school's percentage minus the state average, so a positive value means the school outperformed the state) was 27.8%.

The graduation rate is 10% of the final score. US News and World Report defines this as, "Among students who entered ninth grade in the 2018-2019 academic year, this measure is the proportion who graduated four years later, by 2022." OWL's graduation rate was 83%, ranking 346 in the state.



Purple Press Staff Photo

**OWL, pictured above, scored 93.65 out of 100 on a performance scale created by the US News Best High Schools Report.**

# Manatee earn national rank

*OWL's boys frisbee team debuted 14th on Ultiworld's national high school power rankings after beating Saint Louis Park*

**Maddie Linstad**  
Staff Writer

Ultimate spring season is officially in full swing, and the Manatees are reportedly expecting a truly incredible season. Many players and fans so far have noticed this "new energy behind ultimate this year." This new energy and overall hardwork has led to the teams first ever national ranking.

The Rankings are made by Ultiworld, which is the leading news and media site for the sport of ultimate frisbee. Ultiworld has a section called "Power Rankings," which they do for both college and high school, where they select the top 25 teams in the nation. It is reportedly an incredible deal to make it to the rank, and currently, the Manatee hold 14th.

"It's great to see all the hard work and dedication paying off from the Frisbee team and I'm excited to see how the rest

of the season goes," said Senior Captain Cooper Antin on the topic of the recent ranking.

Spring practice officially started mid-March, but behind the scenes, Manatee have been holding "winter practices" since November, meaning the ultimate grind had never stopped. The practices began in the West St. Paul dome following the closure of this school year's fall

ultimate season. "We felt like our team was really dedicated this year, and a lot of people wanted to take another step to be more competitive," said Junior Captain Noah Johnson. The team used this time to reportedly "stay sharp and check with throws and conditioning," as well as new plays. These practices were reportedly successful, "We had a pretty committed group

of people who were willing to wake up earlier in the morning to come to these practices and put in good work," said Noah.

The Manatees this year overall are a reportedly very committed bunch. A handful of players have stated how they've noticed a step-up in skill and improvement. Junior Captain Danny Hobday stated there were Manatee players involved in Cash Cows and YCC, which are both club teams that run during the summertime.

As for team chemistry, the team seems to have developed a "flow" on field, with a healthy dose of competition that helps them improve. "It makes us better," commented Danny. "We compete against each other very hard, but in the end, we're all on the same page together." It's not only Manatee players who have noticed the chemistry, but even fans on the sidelines. "They're energy is unmatched compared



Photo courtesy of the Manatee

**The Manatee pose for a photo after finishing third in the Matoska Classic tournament.**



Lydia Bruber

**Wo-manatee players Bea Lloyd and Annabelle Wilson in a game against St. Louis Park.**

# Wo-manatee start strong

*OWL's girls frisbee team looking to grow with new players*

**Liam Nowatzki**  
Staff Writer

The girls ultimate frisbee team, The Womanatee, are looking forward to a season of learning, improvement, and positivity. This year's team has a mix of experienced upperclassmen and younger players.

This year there are four Womanatee captains, all seniors: Elena Davis, Bea Lloyd, and Tess and Willa Campion. The captains all share the common goal of growth and improvement. The culture of the team is very supportive and open. They strive to improve their skills in practice and get all players (whether new or returning) involved.

The Womanatee had a challenging start to the season but they have been improving steadily. They have had five games and one tournament so far. One of their more recent games was against Saint Louis Park on April 23rd. This was also an event named senior night, held to celebrate the seniors on the team. The Womanatee won

10-6. They also participated in the Matoska Tournament on April 20th and 21st. During this tournament they won two of five games.

The Womanatee team is focused on growth and improvement. Tess said, "We have a lot of new players this year so our goal is growth. We want to build a strong base of skills and knowledge so we can be a stronger team in the future." Many returning players have stepped into roles of leadership and are helping new players using their previous knowledge and skills. Elena said, "I think we continue to get better and better. I could see us becoming very good, very strong."

The team has one more regular season game left against Hopkins. They also have two remaining tournaments, both taking place at The National Sports Center in Blaine, Minnesota, the Hopkins Hustle on May 11th and 12th and the state tournament on June 1st and 2nd. You can keep up with the Womanatee on their Instagram page, @womanateeultimate.



Hana Ninow

**The Womanatee attended prom after a day at the Matoska Classic tournament.**



Hana Ninow

**The Manatee varsity team posed for a photo at prom.**





Photo courtesy of Endale Witt

Senior Endale Witt advances the ball for the Humboldt Hawks at a game against Highland Park.

# Endale talks basketball

*The senior breaks down his basketball career for the paper*

**Roman Rufi**  
Staff Writer

Endale Witt just finished his senior season as a player for the Humboldt basketball team. He averaged 7.8 points, 3.9 rebounds, 1.7 assists, and 2.2 steals per game this season, which earned him All-Conference honorable mention while being a team captain and winning the defensive player of the year for Humboldt. Endale came to America from Ethiopia when he was seven years old. His parents signed him up for basketball right away in second grade. The Purple Press talked to Endale about his high school basketball career.

**How long have you been playing basketball?**

I started playing basketball when I was seven years old. And then I've been playing for Humboldt on the middle school team since sixth grade and then I've been a part of the high school varsity team since my sophomore year.(He didn't play his freshman year because it was the COVID year and he decided not to play)

**What sports do you play other than basketball?**

I ran track one year and then I played soccer my junior year and then I played this year too. I was also on varsity. For Soccer I played left back and I'm a shooting guard for basketball. For soccer, I didn't start. I started one game at the end of the season playoff game against Minnehaha. But other than that I came off the bench and I was a rotation player. Then for basketball I started every game.

**What are the benefits to being a two-sport athlete?**

I chose to play soccer because I needed to keep in shape for when the basketball season comes around. So you're better prepared for your other sports and then also you, like, build community with other people outside of

just basketball. Now I know, like, more people at Humboldt because of the soccer team and like, you know, they're asking me to hang out and whatnot. And then I found I was able to use what I knew from basketball to help me out on the soccer field as well, because, like, defensively, like knowing how what help defense was and also knowing how to get into spots.

**What are some of the highlights of your basketball career?**

For sure, like just the people I was with this season. We were able to go to a tournament out in Willmar High School and have to build relationships with people. Also on court and going out to eat at Chipotle and spending time with people off the court was as much fun as on the court stuff, and you got to see how people were in different situations. So I really enjoyed that.

**How do you feel about your senior season?**

I feel like I had a good end to my season. I accomplished what I wanted to do. I feel like I was a lot better than I was in my junior year and the goals I had set out before I was able to achieve them. So I finished feeling I did what I could to reach my goals.

**What has been your favorite part of playing basketball at Humboldt?**

I think just seeing the progression of Humboldt athletics, especially from when I started in my sophomore year to like where it's at now. I feel like everyone's gotten better in the program itself has gotten better with it, like the competitiveness of it, how we show up to practice, how we show up into games, and how we treat one another. whether things are going well or not, like it's really mature.

Endale & Basketball, 5

# Tennis excited about season

*Humboldt's team amasses new players, has positive outlook for their future matches*

**Oscar Mons**  
Staff Writer

With spring upon us and the courts clear, Humboldt is well underway for another successful tennis season. Tennis, although a newer sport for Humboldt, continues to grow.

This year is no different. Many players look forward to the season with positive expectations. "I'm super excited for this season, it's going to be crazy good," OWL 10th grader Simon Casper said. "I would really like to improve the finer parts of my game this year, like approach shots and volleys," 8th grader Tait Vossen-Nelson said. Tennis at Humboldt has grown since it was first reintroduced after COVID, however it has

also lost a few players this year, including some from OWL. Two seniors graduated last year as well as one player transferring to another school. Many others have moved from tennis to volleyball as well.

Humboldt's tennis team has gradually risen through the ranks of other SPPS schools and while they remain in the middle, the team is committed to reaching their full potential. Humboldt is in the middle of the pack for boys tennis. The team had stronger records than both Tartan and Brooklyn center last year, as well as Simley and North St. Paul, but they played close matches against Johnson, Como and Washington Tech and are regularly beaten by Highland, Central and S.P.A, who are the

top teams in the conference.

Players on the Humboldt team have greatly improved from previous seasons such as Humboldt senior and captain Eh Muy Wah who plays first varsity singles and will compete with the top players in the conference this year. The team overall remains optimistic although less likely to have a winning season and good results for most matches.

OWL tennis players this year include, 10th grade Simon Casper (1st Varsity Doubles), 8th grade Tait Vossen-Nelson (3rd Varsity Singles) and 9th graders Oscar Mons (2nd Varsity Singles) and Lucas Rounds (3rd JV Singles). This year's team lost many players compared to the 2023 season and didn't have enough players

for the JV team to compete in most matches.

Tennis is not a complicated sport, nevertheless knowing how to appreciate the skills involved in the game requires more knowledge. "It's very fun, but there are a lot of intricacies and techniques that are very fun to learn," Tait said. Tennis is played in either of two types of gameplay; singles and doubles. Singles, as it sounds, involves only one player per team facing down on opposite sides of the net. Doubles has two players on each side and includes the extra allotted space at the far left and right sides of the court known as the 'alleys'. When playing singles, matches are often determined by the better player; who has the better forehand? Serve? Doubles differs in the fact that matches are mostly won

Tennis, 5

# Lip sync battles build unity

*Crews compete, collaborate on impressive music showdowns*

**Lana Stevens and Jensina Eccles**

Staff Writers

Every month, OWL students, teachers and faculty gather in the auditorium for a community meeting, full of witty presentations, fun student-hosts, Dave Time, and award ceremonies. But at the end of each meeting, the moment the audience always waits for, two opposing crews come up to the stage to have a battle. And no ordinary battle at that. There's props, costumes, dancing, music, some screaming, and... lip syncing!

The March lip sync battle—Tim's crew vs. Laura's crew—was a pretty impressive battle. They had more time than usual to prepare, about two and a half months, because OWL's community meetings and lip sync battles kept getting pushed back. Laura Orris, this battle being her first time

helping and participating in a crew lip sync battle, explained how preparations went down in her crew.

After deciding on songs, there were other jobs to do. "Then it was assigning roles like choreographer, who wants to be the main lipsync person, who wants to do props, and background dancers." According to Laura, it was the students doing almost all the work and organizing. "It was based on who was interested

in doing what and then who wanted to kind of step into some leadership roles as students, so they did a pretty good job of deciding what area they wanted to help out." She also explained who got the final say on certain decisions. "Upper class men like juniors and seniors kind of had final say with decisions just because it was their last opportunity for what they want it to be."

Overall, Laura's crew successfully achieved their

victory. However, another crew was involved: Tim Leone-Getten's crew. He also talked about the steps they needed to prepare. He talked about how the seniors had mostly helped run the thing, just like Laura's crew had done. "They picked the songs, and then they worked through some kind of general choreography, taught the kids choreography and then thought about props." One of the seniors in Tims crew, Nora Crosby, talked about dividing up the work. She said that people that wanted to be in the battle would work on the choreography, and people who didn't could think of ideas and work on props. Then they talked about things that went wrong while preparing, like how busy the seniors were the weeks they were preparing. "Another challenge we had



Purple Press Staff Photo

Leo's crew throws it back in the April lip sync battle.

Lip sync battle, 6

# What's up with SPPS snow days?

*A lack of snow days has angered some students, raised the question of how days off are chosen*

**Samir Keller**

Staff Writer

About six weeks ago, the Twin Cities Area experienced its first snowstorm of the year. School districts across the state, even districts next to ours like Minneapolis and Woodbury, and even some districts in neighboring states closed schools for at least one day. On March 25th, making students upset, Saint Paul Public Schools was the only district in the state to not cancel school or end early. This brought up a question in some students' heads, 'How do schools decide when there's a snow day?'

Many regions across the country have vastly different policies on when to call off school. In the south, while rare, any amount of snow can result in school being canceled.

However, this article will focus primarily on the Northern Midwest. Here, school is usually canceled due to far below freezing temperatures, or large amounts of snow.

Most schools make their decisions on whether to close based on their local National Weather Service forecast. Schools don't close school based on temperature alone, but on the NWS wind chill chart, which is calculated as so  $(35.74 + 0.6215T - 35.75(V^{0.16}) + 0.4275T(V^{0.16})$  [T is air temp and V is Wind speed]).

Saint Paul Public Schools uses the same wind chill chart and is quite similar to other districts in how they decide when to close schools. Unless the windchill is below -35°, (which means school will always be canceled) the

district superintendent decides whether or not to cancel school based on windchill or unsafe road conditions. A new contract, that teachers signed in January, ensures that the first two no-school days will be snow days. According to the SPPS snow plan, after two snow days, the superintendent will decide between a snow day and distance learning.

While we would all like a snow day, superintendents must consider many things before deciding to close school. Some students live in impoverished households, where they may not have any food at home some days. For these students, school lunch and breakfast may be all they are able to eat.

School is supposed to be a safe place for students to learn. Some students may

have problems at home, and school is supposed to be an escape from all that for them. These students could suffer additional harm if they stay at home for a longer period.

Young kids need a lot of attention. If school is canceled on short notice, parents may not be able to get childcare for their kids. Parents may have to not go to work, and stay with their kids. By not going to work, these parents could be reprimanded or even fired from their jobs.

In Minnesota, if there are less than 165 instructional days by the time the school year ends, schools are legally required to extend the school year until that condition is met. In theory, too many snow days could push the amount of school days below 165. However, English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt said, "In my 25 years of teaching, they have never extended the school

Snow days, 5



# Senior Spotlight

## Hiroko Zeleke



**What pronouns do you use?**  
She/Her

**How long have you been at OWL?**  
Since 6th grade.

**What are your plans for next year?**  
I’m still figuring it out but I’m staying in the Twin Cities.

**What’s been your favorite class in high school?**  
Journalism, Bike Tech, Preston’s English and US History.

**What extracurriculars are you involved in?**  
Robotics and the Student Library Advisory Council.

**Favorite field work experience or school trip and why?**  
11th grade fall retreat at Camp Wapsie in Iowa because it was the first overnight since the pandemic and I got to know people better.

**If you had a walk up song, what would it be?**  
Livin’ on a Prayer by Bon Jovi .

# That One Little Kid

## Frances Healy

**How tall are you?**  
5’5”

**What pronouns do you use?**  
She/Her

**What’s your favorite book, movie, or TV show?**  
I don’t really know, I like a lot of them.

**Who’s your favorite senior?**  
I like Maria in my crew, but I feel bad because I have a lot of other seniors in my crew. But I like Maria the best.

**What is your favorite thing about OWL so far?**  
The friends that I’ve made.

**What extra curriculars do you plan on getting involved in at OWL?**  
I did Lego League. I do soccer, Futsal, and Ultimate.



# Mira masters Shakespeare

## Senior Mira Iwasek has garnered a lengthy Shakespeare resume

**Charley Cheatham**  
*Staff Writer*

Kenneth Branagh, Judie Dench, Al Pacino. All of these actors have one thing in common. Not only are they some of the most respected actors in Hollywood, they are all most known for taking on the challenging role of acting in a Shakespearean adaptation. Well I would like to add one more to the list, OWL’s very own Mira Iwasek.

While Mira has been acting from a young age, she discovered her love for Shakespeare in the summer of 2020 when she first auditioned for Shakespearean Youth Theater in St. Paul. She was originally going to be in a staged production of A Midsummer Night’s Dream, but they had to adapt due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It was really cool,” said Mira, “I got some voice acting work from auditory teachers and I was able to do theater in the summer of 2020 which was a pretty special experience.”

Since then, Mira has done nine other shows with Shakespearean Youth Theater including Macbeth, King Lear, and most recently, Hamlet.

So what does a school like OWL do when they have an actress as talented as Mira? They organize a school wide field trip to go watch her shows.

This was a tradition started last year when the OWL theater director, Rebekah Rentzel organized a field trip open to all high schoolers to go see Mira perform in Shakespeare’s King Lear. In March a similar field trip was organized, this time to go see Hamlet.

When someone has done as many shows as Mira has, you wouldn’t expect them to get nervous in front of an audience, but when you are performing in front of 75 of your classmates and peers, there is a whole other level of stress.

“I gotta say in the run of Hamlet, the show I was most nervous for was the one I had so many of my peers coming too,” said Mira, “Usually there are scenes where I’m just standing still in the back but I need to be entertaining in case people are watching, and when 75 of my peers are there, there is a lot more chance someone is watching.”



Photo Courtesy of Mira Iwasek  
**Mira plays a witch in a production of Macbeth in 2023.**

# An interview with Elliott Payne

## Staff writer Tait talks with the Minneapolis City Council president

**Tait Vossen-Nelson**  
*Staff Writer*

I had the opportunity to interview Minneapolis City Council President Elliott Payne about the new Minneapolis city ordinance which requires rideshare companies to pay their drivers more, and how Uber and Lyft responded with a threat to leave the area. Following are some highlights of the conversation.

During our dialogue Payne said Uber and Lyft have a whole system to monopolize the transportation industry for their benefit, and we were heading down that track before this ordinance got introduced. “I think it’s really important that everybody understands how Uber and Lyft came to be, and it’s through multiple billions of dollars of investment. Most of that money went to subsidizing the rides to make them really affordable for riders and subsidizing the drivers to make a really lucrative path, and they did that on purpose so that they would undercut the taxi industry until it didn’t exist anymore.

“And part of the playbook for them is to, once the taxi industry is no more, and they’ve been pretty effective at basically killing the taxi industry, now they’re raising the rates to make it so that it’s a more expensive trip every time and the drivers are getting paid less and less. And I think a lot of people don’t understand that that was the trajectory that we were on, and as those rides get more and more expensive, we just want to make sure that the drivers are not left behind.”

He felt Uber and Lyft drivers used to make decent wages; however, as the companies made progress drivers’ pay deteriorated due to corporate greed. “Over the years, I think that Uber and Lyft drivers did pretty okay for themselves because these were startups that were trying to grow their businesses, they were trying to attract drivers to the platform, and so they were paying pretty decent wages for rides at that time; but as they started to mature and become public companies, they realized that they needed to be able to be more profitable, so they needed to pay their drivers less and charge customers more. That was kind of the trajectory we were on, and that’s what happened when we had a pretty big group of drivers show up at City Hall asking for some relief”

Payne believes Uber and Lyft are playing a bit of a game of chicken with governments passing minimum wage standards, and they also

are trying to force the state to preempt Minneapolis’ ordinance. “I really do believe one of the reasons that they’re threatening to leave is, A, to get leverage at the state capitol, because they would like to force the state legislature to preempt our ordinance so that whatever passes that the state would make our ordinance not valid, and they want to create the stakes to be high enough to really pressure those legislators to pass something of that nature. And then the other reason would be to try to make an example of Minneapolis so that other jurisdictions don’t pass driver minimum wage standards. And so I think that they’re playing a little bit of a game of chicken with this.

“One of the things we wanted to do is create a little bit of a pressure relief valve to extend the timeline for implementation so that we can A, make sure that there is a transition period if they do pull out and B, make sure that that transition period is ramping up other competitors in the marketplace.”

Payne said that the state government was working on a report to help resolve the issue by providing statistics; however, they took a very long time and it felt like a delay tactic. “The governor put together a task force that was supposed to come up with recommendations; they never actually completed that work... We were always kind of on the cusp of this report coming out. I’d even met with Lyft representatives the week before we took our vote, and they said yeah, this should come out [at] the end of March or so. And that report was just kind of always on the horizon, and it felt like almost a delay tactic to try to prevent us from moving forward.

“We all felt pretty strong to move forward with it because our professional staff had done a lot of rigorous work around coming up with our rates... so we moved forward with those numbers, and then the day after we took the vote, then the state released the report. And so that was the kind of contentious thing that this report was promised to come any minute, but it was never clear when that would happen. It only came after we kind of forced the issue by moving forward with the vote.”

Payne said the council feels strongly about this becoming a statewide policy because local governments can often have a snowball effect on higher levels of government. “We really strongly believe





Photo courtesy of Endale Witt

Endale dribbles past a Johnson defender.

Endale & Basketball, 3

Do you think the Humboldt program is moving in a good direction?

For sure. I feel like all athletics are heading in the right direction. Playing basketball is specifically a thing with Coach Sam. He’s been here for two years now and we’ve had great improvements with him and the expectations are higher than before, and we’re meeting those expectations. It’s a great sign. I feel like the biggest thing I’ve seen is the change in our practice. There’s a bigger emphasis on practicing with a purpose and looking to win more.

What are your strengths as a basketball player?

My biggest strength for the team was defensively. I felt like I was the best defender on our team and I was assigned to guard the best offensive player on the opposing team. So I would give us defensive energy. You know, do these wild things like get back on defense, shut down their best player, get rebounds, that kind of stuff. Then I was also good as a catch and shoot player. Once you drive, someone helps, helps off you, and then kicks it out, and when I got that kick out shot I think I made it pretty consistently. Those were my two biggest roles and to help the team.

What role will basketball play in your life after high school?

I feel for basketball, I’ve really learned what it means to work hard and have the kind of mindset you need to succeed for that. So just applying that to—whether it’s academics when I go to university or just in life in general. To reach your goals or reach whatever you’re wanting to do. You have to work the

Snow days, 3

year.” Many families’ plans would be uprooted if school was to be extended, garnering anger from both parents and students. While most students want as many snow days as possible, there’s a lot for a superintendent to consider. There can also be consequences for keeping school open. A few years ago in the winter of 2018, some buses did not finish their routes until 9 or 10 pm as they got stuck on heavily snowed roads lined with ice. There was no communication from

hardest and be uncomfortable and you don’t always want to lift or you don’t want to always want to go run, or whatever your coaches want you to do, but if you really want to go to the next level, you have to do those things and you have to do them consistently to build that strength, and that’s the same thing in life. Whatever you want to do, you have to be consistent about what you’re doing and you have to work hard to achieve.

Do you want to or are going to play basketball in college?

I’m not gonna play basketball. So I’m going to the University of Minnesota here in the Twin Cities. I do plan on playing intramurals (sports leagues and tournaments that happen on campus) and basketball is still going to be a big part of my life.

Who’s your favorite basketball player and why?

My favorite basketball player I have to say is Kyrie Irving. How he dribbles and finishes around the rim is really unlike any other player. So he’s a fun player to watch and that’s who I’ve been following along for a long time

Are there any players you like to model your game off of?

I would say I try to take a little bit from multiple players. For defensive intensity, I like Patrick Beverley. He’s one of the top defenders in the NBA—he comes in every game and is kind of a pest on the court. Then I just like different guys like Jaylen Brown. I feel like I don’t do it well but, I try to play like Kyrie. Obviously it’s hard to play like someone of his level. But yeah, just like players I enjoy watching. I just try to do what they do and at least do what they do in practice.

the district for hours and many parents were worried about where their kids were when they didn’t come home at the normal time. While there were no publicly known injuries because of this, the safety of hundreds of kids was in jeopardy. Even if there was no real threat to their safety, parents were panicking and felt awful while the district knew what was happening and didn’t tell anybody.

Tennis, 3

due to superior tactics and positioning rather than the more skillful player. Doubles also involves far more netplay and shots known as ‘volleys’ where the racket makes contact with the ball before it hits the ground.

Singles is the default for tennis and doesn’t change or vary in rules very much from doubles. The two are the only played differently. At the beginning of a match, both players will start warming up, starting with short court, then baseline and finally volleys and serves. After a couple of minutes of warm ups the two players will meet in the center of the court and perform a racket spin in which one spins

Uber and Lyft, 1

The companies argued that they would be forced to raise prices, which would result in fewer people riding; they said they would accept \$0.89 per mile and \$0.49 per minute as a satisfactory standard. These figures would align with the minimum wage standard in Minnesota.

Because rideshare drivers are considered independent contractors, not employees, they aren’t granted the protections that employees are, like minimum wage and insurance. They have to pay their own work expenses like gas and maintenance; if they rent cars they also have to pay for that, which is about \$355 a week.

The ordinance was passed on March 7th by the Minneapolis City Council with a nine-to-four majority. It was vetoed by Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, but the veto was overridden by the council with a ten-to-three majority. The bill was reconsidered on April 11th, and subsequently postponed to July 1st. The ordinance was originally set to come into effect on May 1st; thus, the extension will allow more time for the council to work with state legislators and for new rideshare companies to get registered.

“We passed this ordinance because the current rideshare system is broken, and we were shocked to see the way it is leading to exploitative labor practices,” said City Council President Elliott Payne and Council Members Katie Cashman and Aurin Chowdhury, in a joint statement.

A 70-page study on rideshare drivers, conducted by the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry in 2022, reports median gross earnings for drivers in the metro area are \$50.04 (avg. \$52.94) per hour of having passengers in the car, but drivers only had a passenger in the car 58% of the time and after factoring in expenses the median net-hourly earnings of drivers is \$13.63 an hour, 25% of those drivers earning below \$10.54 an hour and 25% earning more than \$17.51 an hour.

“The only part of this report that is grounded in reasonable data is its conclusion that Minnesota rideshare drivers earn more than \$52 per hour of giving rides. The rest is nonsensical,”

their rackets on the ground upside down, the player serving first is determined depending on which side of the logo the handle face shows. The person who chooses that symbol will then decide to serve either first or second. The second player will decide which side of the court they want to play the first game. The server will say the score: 0-0 (Love-Love) and then serve. The serve must fall into the box opposite them on the other side of the court where it will bounce once and then be returned. The players will play until they win the fifth point or 40. This counts as one game, players will then switch sides. Matches are played in best of three sets each containing up

said a Lyft spokesperson in response. “This study is dishonest, counterproductive and a disservice to the goal of meaningful policymaking.”

Uber released a similar statement counting the report as “deeply flawed.”

Although Uber and Lyft criicized the report, their proposal for a minimum wage standard was concluded from it.

The report, ordered by Governor Tim Walz, was meant to develop recommendations on worker protections for rideshare drivers, but it didn’t. Not until the day after the council passed the ordinance. Payne said it felt like a “delay tactic” because the council was always just waiting for the report that was forever on the horizon. “We all felt pretty strong to move forward with it because our professional staff had done a lot of rigorous work around coming up with our rates,” said Payne. The original ordinance was developed using Seattle data with minor changes to reflect Minneapolis contexts.

Some drivers claim they are not making enough to consistently put food on the table. Others claim they make more than enough money now.

“I’m in the realm of \$50 on a slow day to almost a 100,” said Travis Joseph, who has been a Lyft driver for five years. “There’s bonuses, there’s tips, there’s bonus areas so it just depends. I’m not sure how these drivers aren’t making \$15 an hour and every driver and rider I’ve talked to has the same confusion.”

Last year Joseph’s tax documents show he earned \$65,000 from Lyft.

Emmanuel Noah, who has been driving for Uber and Lyft for years, claims he cannot make enough to fully support his family.

Farhan Basel, who has been driving for Uber and Lyft for six years claims, “It’s really tough.” He sometimes earns less than \$14 per hour.

The rising gas prices are also a concern for drivers.

Uber and Lyft have become an integral part of daily life for many residents of Minneapolis and the metro area. Many feel grateful the council postponed the ordinance to allow for more thought and input from different parties. Some think the ordinance is “idiotic.” Others do not believe that

to 6 games.

High school tennis matches between schools are decided by a best of seven matches. Each match is a best of three sets, although 10-point tie breaker is often used in place of a third set when time runs short. Each match played is worth one point, 4 singles matches and 3 doubles matches making it impossible to tie, however the whole of the match often comes down to one player towards the end. This can lead to a lot of pressure on a single player during the game.

Overall, the Humboldt tennis team is looking forward to a successful season. Head coach Koua Xiong predicts to have a mostly winning season, the only losses coming from

these companies cannot afford to pay their employees more and want them gone.

“These people [Uber and Lyft] are making more money than they’ve ever made in their life,” said Jake Hay, a frequent rider of Uber and Lyft. “If they’re going to claim that they can’t sustain what they’re doing now and pay these people, they don’t deserve to be around anyway.”

This isn’t the first time the government tried to raise wages for rideshare drivers; last year, Uber and Lyft said they would withdraw from Minnesota after state legislature passed a different bill to raise driver wages, but Governor Tim Walz vetoed the bill, saying he supports fair wages for rideshare drivers but is worried raising the wage this dramatically will make Uber and Lyft leave.

Mayor Frey has vetoed multiple bills saying they should be passed at the state level instead of the city level.

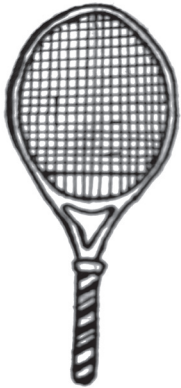
The majority of the Democratic party is working on a statewide bill similar to the Minneapolis ordinance, proposing \$1.39 per mile and \$0.49 per minute, while the majority of the Republican party is trying to pass a statewide measure that prevents local governments from implementing laws that regulate transportation network companies.

Republican Elliott Engen, the lead author on this policy, said “I’m a local control guy. But when it comes to something that has these larger ramifications, this is kind of local control out of control. Because at the end of the day, this is going to impact more than just Minneapolis. This is going to impact the entire seven-county metro area and the state writ large.”

Walz said he generally doesn’t like overriding local policies but it might make sense for the Minneapolis ordinance.

Council President Elliott Payne said that local governments can often create a snowball effect; they pass a law, which makes the state government pass a law and that can make the federal government pass a law. “And so we’ve always really encouraged the state to step in and come up with a comprehensive statewide policy,” said Payne. “And the flip side is that we don’t want to be preempted

bigger schools like Highland and Harding. Although it may be too late for students looking to join tennis this year, they are highly recommended to try next season. The more participation from OWL students the better the team will become.



by the state, meaning we don’t want the state to pass a law that basically nullifies our local law. So we’re working really closely with the state legislature to make sure that what they pass at the state level is complementary to what we passed at the city level.”

Ten rideshare apps, including a co-op of former Uber and Lyft drivers, have sprung up in response to the threat made by Uber and Lyft. As of press time, only three have been licensed and are ready to move in. To become and operate a rideshare company in the Twin Cities you need a Transportation Network Company or TNC license to operate. It costs \$37,145 per year, plus a \$10,615 wheelchair surcharge, and the acceptance process takes two to six weeks.

Most of these companies are local, new start-ups; only four of them had a presence in the U.S. before this ordinance, but the others are growing fast, some with over 1,500 drivers. Most of these companies are giving drivers around 80% of the fare for each ride, and drivers should end up making above \$20 hourly. A couple of companies allow drivers to set their fares, let them keep 100% of what they earn and then charge them a daily fee to drive for the company.

The City Council is working with the Met Council and Metro Transit to ensure that Minneapolis has services like Metro Mobility that contribute to a healthy and robust transportation network in Minneapolis. Because Metro Mobility can have long wait times and often is inconvenient, they are also trying to promote Metro Mobility’s on-demand service because many people don’t know about it. They are also working to augment Metro Transit Micro, which is focused on the north side of Minneapolis, and operates similarly to Uber and Lyft; Microtransit uses five different vehicles, all smaller than a city bus. The council is working to have more public transportation routes and also making dedicated lanes for those routes.

The council wants to continue to pass more bills to give rideshare drivers more protections and they also are working to make sure that if a driver would like to get their taxi license they can do so.



**Twins, 1**  
problem,” said Hazel.

One of the most common stereotypes about twins is that they like the same things and do everything together. This is far from the truth. they all agreed that it’s important to be your own person and not only be seen as a twin. “Sometimes I will be in a situation where people would automatically assume that I was going to work with Willa. I mean I love to work with Willa, but I also want to be able to do things on my own,” said Tess. “I think it’s important to find a balance between doing things with your twin while also being your own person,” said Willa.

Tess and Willa are the set of twins that have spent the longest time apart from each other. Over the summer they spent a total of seven weeks apart while on separate trips studying abroad. Henry and Oliver, and Violet and Hazel, have spent around five days to a week apart from each other.

Being together a lot of the time and doing the same things can lead to comparison from themselves and others and also missing out on opportunities because someone might not want to give it to one twin over the other. “A lot of people hate the idea of having to choose between twins because they will tell you that you are too

similar and I think it’s pretty interesting because you will see the amount of opportunities that one gets and the other doesn’t normally evens out over time,” said Tess.

Next fall, Henry and Oliver are both going to the University of North Dakota to become pilots. “We’ve always been really interested in aviation and we both got in,” said Oliver. Violet and Hazel are also planning to attend the same college. “For us, it’s not that we want to go to the same college because we want to be together, it’s more like we want to go to the same college because we both want to go there,” said Violet. Among the three sets of twins, Willa and Tess are the only ones that said



**According to OWL’s senior identical twins, pictured at prom, none of them possess twin telepathy.**

**Robotics, 1**  
in others,” said 11th grader Kathryn Totushek.

The tail end of February was when the team went to their first tournament in Duluth, and faced their first challenge. In one of their matches there were electrical problems so the robot wasn’t able to finish every round they competed in. But there was a silver lining. Kathryn was the first student from OWL to be selected out of a group of 110 applicants for the Dean’s List Finalist Award.

The Minneapolis tournament went about the same in overall success, but the team faced some different

challenges, mainly mechanical problems. “It kind of stopped our robot from being able to do anything because it was like our main part of the robot, the biggest part. But we were able to play defense. We were a pretty good defense,” said Kathryn. But one of their goals for the tournament was accomplished, climbing the rope. “We’re serving G.O.A.T.,” said 11th grader Ani-Maria Octavia More. They were able to climb the rope but faced some ruling problems when the weight of the robot was not being distributed evenly so the robot had one corner still touching the ground.

they want to go to a separate college than their twin. “For me, college is an opportunity to see what it’s like to live independently and be able to push myself to develop as a person on my own. I also feel like I’ve always known that I wanted to go to a different college than Tess,” said Willa. “When we were applying to colleges, there was definitely some overlap because we have similar interests. But we wanted to prioritize being able to go to separate places,” said Tess.

The first and most noticeable thing about twins is that they look similar. People are always looking for ways to tell the two apart to avoid the somewhat embarrassing

interaction that follows when you call the twin by the wrong name. All of the twins have different ways they respond to being called the wrong name. “I normally like to correct them almost immediately,” said Violet. “For me it really depends on the situation. If they are just passing by I won’t correct them, but if I’m having a conversation I will,” said Wila. Henry said, “I like to play along with it unless I am asking a teacher a question about something.”

As you would imagine, all of them have equally funny stories about someone calling them the wrong name. Henry recalls going a whole class period without a peer noticing that they were calling Henry, Oliver!

When asked about things that they liked but their twin didn’t, it was found that one of the twins in each pair doesn’t like olives! The differences ranged from music taste to other kinds of food as well as different types of school projects.

When asked about strategies for telling each other apart Henry and Oliver listed the differences in their facial features and hair styles but Willa said, “I used to tell people something very specific like a facial feature but now I feel like the best way to tell us apart is just to get to know us.”

them so that as they get older and people graduate, they can take over and the program will still run,” said Kathryn.

Next year the team is very excited to be making a huge leap in technology by switching from tank drive, which is considered clunky and mid, to Swerve Drive, able to move all wheels independently, giving more ability and agility to the robots movements. “We have some seniors graduating but we have other people stepping up!” Said 11th grader Gwen Stender.

knowing so there’s no due process for them to get kicked off the app... and so we really encourage that [statewide policy], and the flip side is that we don’t want to be preempted by the state... So we’re working really closely with the state legislature to make sure that what they pass at the state level is complementary to what we pass at the city level.”

Payne feels there is a big lack of investment in our transportation system. “I don’t think that our region has made the types of investments in our transportation system that are necessary. And I think 10 years ago when Uber and Lyft were just getting started, that was really the time to have really thought about a robust transportation system. The fact that their threatening to leave the city is creating this sense of crisis is a reflection of a lack of investment in our transportation system.”

**History Day, 1**  
14th. “I’m so excited. It’s going to be such a cool experience to be with other students who have the same passion for History Day as I do,” said 8th grader Charley Cheatham.

“I’m proud of our students and excited that eight of our kids get to go to Nationals. I haven’t been to Nationals since 2019 so I’m excited to take a trip with students again,” said Social Studies teacher Katie Craven.

Students experienced a change this year at State where the location was different then past years. While State has previously taken place at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus, this year it took place at the Minneapolis Convention Center due to policy changes by the University of Minnesota that didn’t allow events to happen on campus during the weekends. “It was unfortunate that the U has kept the campus closed on weekends. Students are going to miss out on a really cool opportunity to visit the U,” said Katie. “The one upside is that everything is under one roof. But that’s also a downside because we don’t get to run all over campus,” Katie added. “I’m hoping it’s temporary. And maybe next year they’ll go back to their old policies.”

While at State, students checked in, presented their

projects, and viewed others, many students choosing to stay from their judging time until the award ceremony. Many OWL students supported other OWL students by viewing each other’s projects and other projects by other schools from across the State. “I love trying to see as many projects as possible. I like seeing everybody cheer for each other and root for each other,” said Katie.

In order to get to State, students had to compete at Regional History Day. During Regional History Day, students arrived at Johnson High school and checked in, either going to set up their exhibit in the school’s gym or wait outside their judging room, located on the first floor of the school. Students either stayed and waited in the school until the award ceremony, viewing other projects that were being judged or left and came back. “Regionals is so fun because it’s not super competitive but it’s still really fun to get to see other projects from other schools and cheer on the OWL projects,” said Charley, “It’s also a fun warm up to State without the stress of competing at State.”

This year’s theme was Turning Point in History. Next year’s theme is Rights and Responsibilities in History, where students are hopeful for another successful year in History Day.



**Lip sync battle, 3**  
was that the week before most of the seniors were busy almost everyday.” In the end, after the three weeks the crew spent working, their performances were all put together, and they performed against Laura’s crew. Every member had fun preparing and performing. Tim reminded them of their running joke that they can only come in 2nd if not 1st.

The most recent battle was Leo’s crew vs. Akira’s crew. This was Akira’s first time participating in a lip sync battle, just like Laura. Sometimes, while preparing for a battle, it can be difficult to divide up work and opinions; Akira Malley explained how his crew handled this. “We just had prop makers and dancers. Upperclassmen took the role of director. I think everyone had an equal voice on how we did what and we just went with whatever most people agreed on. Obviously some people were more happier than others with how things went but it’s all about compromise.” He talked about how they managed to incorporate everyone’s ideas. “People just speak up and offer up ideas and changes to what we are currently doing. Sometimes it’s too much, other times it’s just right and we make changes on

the fly.” This round, the crews did not have as much time as Laura and Tim did to prepare, but nonetheless, it was a very entertaining and fun performance. A crowd favorite was when Akira himself popped out of a costume at the end of the song, revealing who it was all along.

Violet Wright, a senior from Leo’s crew, talked about their battle. Their phases of preparation were very similar to Laura’s and Tim’s. “It’s pretty much been whoever wants to work on whichever song has kind of moved more towards that group.” We asked her if they ever had trouble coming to a consensus. “There’s been a lot of people that had ideas that were pretty much just a yes, mostly. Then there have been some ideas where people are like, that doesn’t really work with what we already have planned, so we are not going to do that. But I feel like we’ve done a pretty good job.”

A pretty good job indeed, as Leo’s crew came out as the winners. But winning isn’t what really matters in the end. What matters is how each crew collaborates and comes together to work hard and organize neatly and have fun doing it, no matter how much the crowd cheers for them.

**Manatee, 2**  
to previous seasons, they have great team chemistry, and they are really thriving and growing,” said ultimate parent Kristin Peterson after a successful Manatee home game against Cretin Derham Hall.

Manatees recently completed their first spring tournament, the Matoska Classic, where they obtained 3rd place. “We were doing really great, as a team we were adjusting really well in the middle of games,” said Junior Charlie Acosta.

The Manatee went up against some reportedly strong teams such as Edina, Saint Louis Park, and Minneapolis Squall. Throughout all their reported success, they captured the attention of Edina head coach Nate Wohl. “Big statement win by Open World over SLP [Saint Louis Park] this weekend. It’s been a while since there were this many quality teams leading up both top divisions in Minnesota. It’s one of, if not the strongest, the Minnesota high school league has ever seen,” Wohl

said following the tournament. Wohl is very present within the ultimate community, and receiving such praise from him is reportedly a huge deal.

All in all, the future is looking bright for the manatee this year. Looking ahead, expect to see the manatee show up at the Hopkins Hustle Tournament on May 11th and 12th. Additionally, for the first time the Manatee are going to Illinois to play in the Neuqua Knockout 2024 happening on May 4th and 5th. Neuqua is reportedly one of the hugest and leading youth Ultimate tournaments in the country.



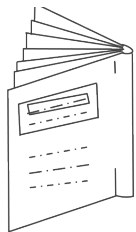
**Payne interview, 4**  
this should be a statewide policy, and one of the things that’s really meaningful about local government is we do oftentimes have the ability to pass laws and more responsive, in a faster way than state government... and state government can often move faster than federal government. And so what ends up happening pretty frequently, in government, is something passes at the local or state level, and then that kind of spurs action at higher levels of government... and so we’ve always really encouraged the state to step in and come up with a comprehensive statewide policy.”

He said that their policy addresses wages; still, there are more protections drivers need and they are working with their partners at the state to make sure their bills are harmonious. “Our policy is really only addressing the wages that drivers are paid, but there are other protections that those workers need, things like they need to not get just deplatformed without





# Reviews ‘n’ stuff



## The school lunch reviewed

Staff writer Luis Hernandez dishes out his top five lunch picks

Luis Hernandez  
Staff Writer

School lunch. This is such an interesting topic because everybody knows that there are good lunches and there are bad lunches. Now I know not everybody eats school lunch, they pack their own lunches from home or get food elsewhere, but that is not the topic of the story. This story is a matter of opinion, and I’m going to tell you mine.

I feel qualified to write this because I have eaten basically every lunch available and can give my true and honest review. This is not an article that’s going to tell you what lunch you should eat, because kids should be eating lunch at school regardless of what’s for lunch. This is just an opinionated list, ranked 5-1, bottom to top, with honorable

mentions at the end.

Number five: Mongolian beef

Now I know this is a very controversial meal because I’ve heard from friends and peers that this is not a very well liked lunch. I do see where people are coming from when they

say that this lunch is not great because the rice isn’t cooked or the meat is too chewy, but occasionally, it’s cooked perfectly right. When the rice is cooked how it’s supposed to, and the meat is perfectly tender, it is definitely a good lunch to eat, hence the number five placing.

Number four: Wings

Now this list has changed since I started writing this article, because the number four spot used to be the mashed potatoes, chicken nuggets and corn bowls, which has since been kicked out and replaced by a new lunch that was added to the menu recently. I’m not 100% sure what this is called, but it was five chicken wings with cornbread, a brownie and good sides. Although the brownie was not as good as I was personally expecting it to be, the rest of the lunch was pretty tasty and I actually genuinely enjoyed it, especially for being a new lunch.

Number three: Hamburger/Cheeseburger



The chicken sandwich, pictured above, is a fan favorite.

School lunches, 10

## Kiara breaks down scary movies

It’s never too early to get a jump on the Halloween spirit...

Kiara Steiner  
Staff Writer

Do you find yourself staying up in the night wondering “Where oh where can I find horror movies that quench my thirst for quality entertainment?” Well if you do you’ve come to the right place because this list is full of only the best of the bunch. I thought I’d get a head start on the Halloween spirit so here they are.

I’m pretty much an expert in all things horror, it has been my favorite genre since I was a child, and for years I have SEARCHED for the scariest movies I could find. In my search I have watched a range of some of the worst movies ever—but more importantly, some of the best. DISCLAIMER: I chose these

movies not because they will absolutely scar you—or leave you shaking in your boots, but because they are overall the best of their genre. This list includes movies that will ensure an incredible viewing experience, with the possibility of giving you nightmares.

Number five is Jaws. After a young woman goes for a late-night swim at the fictional beach town “Amity Island,” her remains are found washed up on the shore the next morning. After the medical examiner concludes that it was a shark attack, police chief Martin Brody closes beaches. However, Mayor Larry Vaughn urges Brody to keep beaches open, so as not to affect the town’s summer economy. After leaving beaches open, more people are attacked by

the same shark. After amateur fishermen attempt to catch the shark, deaths continue and Chief Brody, amateur shark hunter Sam Quint, and oceanographer Matt Hooper are tasked with going into the ocean to kill the shark.

Jaws is easily the best and most iconic shark movie. I mean it is THE shark movie. Every shark movie after Jaws will forever be compared to Jaws. To this day, I find myself worrying that a shark might bite my legs off whenever—or wherever I’m swimming. I’ve never even been to an ocean, and I’m still scared! That fear is all thanks to this movie.

“It’s an instant classic. Big shark scary—and very influential in pop culture. It gave so many people irrational fears of sharks, and that’s

awesome,” 11th grader Joe Lodahl said.

Its summery feel makes its scares all the more unique. Oftentimes, horror movies seem all gloom and doom, but Jaws ignites a fight or flight kind of fear that’s incredibly effective. It not only provides its scare factor with its fight or flight moment but also through its incredibly iconic soundtrack. All it takes is those two iconic notes and you are instantly filled with a guttural fear that leaves you wondering about the terrors beneath the ocean’s surface.

“It is the blueprint for what to put on DVD covers or any sort of promotional material because now every single horror movie can be like ‘this is the next Jaws.’ Because Jaws

Scary movies, 12

## The Bear is both raw and comedic

The TV show follows a chef who attempts to save his restaurant

Neve Dawson  
Staff Writer

Hey, you! Are you looking for a show to watch that may or may not emotionally devastate you, depending on how invested you get? Are you looking for a show both entirely about food and not about cooking at all? Are you just looking for a good dry comedy? Well, look no further; I have a show for you. Full of such wonderful and heartwarming content as: “Look, I’m fine, really. I just have trouble breathing sometimes and I wake up screaming.”

Raw, bittersweet and metaphorically bloody, FX’s The Bear is a unique exploration of the intricacies of validation, expression, grief, trauma, passion, anxiety, and growth, masterfully blending

comedy and analysis.

Written and directed by Christopher Storer, The Bear premiered on June 23, 2022, and has since received glowing reviews from critics. Starring Jeremy Allen White, Ayo Edebiri, Ebon Moss-Bachrach, Abby Elliot, and Lionel “L-Boy” Boyce, along with a myriad of cameos and smaller-role actors, it has attracted a lot of attention since its release. It was swiftly greenlit for a second season, which was released almost exactly a year later, on June 22, 2023; an impressively short wait. Its success was replicated, and its third season is set for an unsurprising June 2024 premier.

The Bear is an Emmy-winning comedy-drama show about Chicagoan chef Carmen “Carry” Berzatto, who returns

to his home city after leaving for years, training at world-famous culinary schools and serving at Michelin-starred restaurants. When his brother dies, Carry inherits his imploding sandwich shop The Beef, and with it all of its financial struggles. Now he needs to deal with heading a new team who resents him, piles of debt he can’t begin to pay off, and his own untouched mental issues. Like, all of them. It’s a mess.

Each episode is a thirty minute package of losses, victories, community and the complications of running a business. Some stray longer, like season finales, which are 45 minutes to an hour in length. Each episode’s title is named after a food or culinary slang phrase relating to the upcoming content. “Hands,”

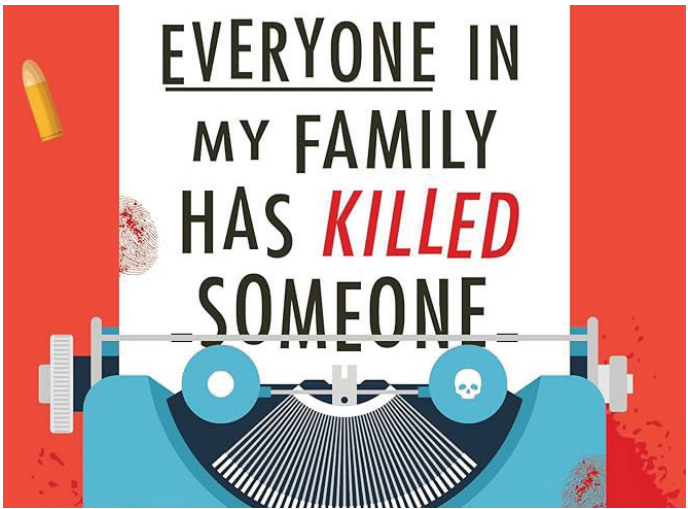
“Brigade,” “Braciolo,” “Fishes.”

While the show may be listed as a comedy and highly awarded for its comedic achievements, I cannot stress enough how much this show is not a show you come to for some light humor. It is very funny, but you are being falsely advertised to. A fair portion of the jokes are on the darker side,

The Bear, 12



Hulu



Goodreads

Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone by Benjamin Stevenson was published in March of 2022.

## Family friendly murder mystery

An unpleasant family reunion meets murder in new book

George Abelson  
Staff Writer

Something unbelievable just happened. I discovered a book with a prologue you actually want to read!

Now you are probably thinking, what is this wonderful book? How much does it cost, 10,000 dollars? Fortunately for you, this wonderful book only costs \$17.09 (and also all your brainpower and deductive reasoning). It’s not a book to take lightly; it’s a book you stay up reading and a book you don’t forget about for days.

This wonderful, mysterious, weird book is called Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone. This masterpiece is written by Benjamin Stevenson; name doesn’t ring a bell for you? Well it didn’t for me either. I am sure you have heard of the old phrase don’t judge a book by its cover but that’s completely false. We’re talking about BOOKS here. We SHOULD judge them by their cover. How else will you know if the book is worth your pretty penny?

Ok ok let’s get back to actually talking about the book - as I was saying, judge a book by its cover because if I had not judged this book by its cover I never would have found it. I mean, we’re talking about a cover with a retro looking typewriter, bloody fingerprints, broken pencils, and the background of the cover is a nice deep orangish red.

Ok, so I just spent 221 words talking about why the book is great and how the cover is beautiful, but I’m sure by now you want to hear about what the book is about. You might think you know what it is about because of the title. You don’t. This piece of literature takes place during a (dysfunctional) family reunion at a snowy mountain top ski resort. If that does not make you want to curl up under three blankets with your cat and read, then I don’t know what will. Oh, I also forgot, the main character and his family are Australian. The book starts

with a flashback involving the main character whose name is Ernest Cunningham; he goes by Ern or Ernie, and Ernest’s brother Michael. You HAVE to read this first scene if you want the rest of the book to make any sense whatsoever.

I have not really told you what the book is about yet, let’s do that now. Without giving away too much I can tell you the majority of the characters at the dysfunctional family reunion die. Ernest is the detective alongside the other real detective that is incompetent. What makes Ernest qualified to solve murders you may ask? Well he writes guides that he sells online about how to write mystery books. By books I do not mean anything close to a Stephen King novel. According to Ernest this makes him extremely qualified.

This book is very unique because of the way the story is narrated. It is in first person. It’s intriguing because the book is fiction and nonfiction at the same time. I don’t mean that it is based on true events, I mean that the narrator, Ernest, is writing a memoir from his perspective of the events that happened (which is the actual content in the book). This POV means that throughout the book Ernest will add little anecdotes like “I didn’t know this at the time,” or “I wish I hadn’t done this.” These tidbits make the book more compelling and funny. Ernest has a very dry dark sense of humor which I really enjoy.

This is a very unique and interesting book and you NEED to read it! This book is different from the numerous other mystery books I have read because of the perspective it provides. One of my favorite quotes is “admittedly, this was not so big a revelation as to warrant a chapter break.” The reason I like this quote is because it is a quick witty remark that if you blink you will miss. There are many quotes and little jokes peppered throughout the book which makes it all the more enjoyable.



# Barbie criticism debunked

*The 2024 hit movie has been labeled as ‘anti-man’ by some*

**Remy Short**  
Staff Writer

The Barbie movie, a movie that supposedly promotes gender inequality, has been one of the most criticized and acclaimed movies as of its release last year.

It’s a movie seemingly about dolls that many children grew up with at first glance, but in reality, it addresses gender problems in our modern day society. Even though many people can agree that the film itself is great, there is more debate when it comes to the topics the movie covers. Does it truly promote gender inequality?

The Barbie movie was released in July of 2023. The film is directed by Greta Gerwig and includes various impressive actors such as Margot Robbie as Barbie, and Ryan Gosling as Ken. The movie has been a massive success worldwide thanks to the film’s aesthetic, soundtrack, and plot.

At the surface, the Barbie movie follows the storyline of Barbie leaving Barbie Land to explore and experience the real world. Looking past the plot, the movie addresses much of our society’s flaws with gender inequality. This is visible because later in the movie, the Kens take over Barbie Land. The Kens treat the Barbies like people whose job is to entertain the Kens, and also begin controlling everything in Barbie Land, including the politics. In the end, life in Barbie Land returns to how it was before.

This situation illustrates how men dominate our society and how oftentimes women are not given the same chances

to participate in the same activities, for example sports or even politics. Because of this, Barbie has received a lot of praise from feminists worldwide. But, not everyone shares the same opinion.

Because of the film’s empowering women message, many people argue that the movie is also anti-male. A point that is made to support this claim is how Barbie Land is governed by Barbies only, not Kens. The Kens are viewed as if they simply exist in Barbie Land with no real responsibilities or importance.

At first glance, these are very understandable and valid complaints. But throughout the movie, it explains why the

Kens are portrayed in this way. The irony of the portrayal is that this is how many women are treated; as if they are simply objects.

The Barbie movie addresses how women are continuously treated unfairly by men, and how gender roles affect people. Though at the surface the film appears to be about a plastic doll many people worldwide grew up with, it proves to be much more. Despite the movie’s message exposing our society’s flaws when it comes to treating one another as equal despite their gender, many people oppose the movie and make various controversial claims about their opinions regarding the film. Before watching the movie, these claims could be plausible. Even so, the movie clearly demonstrates how gender inequality affects everyone; especially women. It uses irony and a compelling storyline to do so.



Purple Press Staff Photo

## Music recs from this music snob

*Beatrice digs through the archives for classic listening gold*

**Beatrice Cosgrove**  
Staff Writer

First of all, I can be a complete music snob. We’ll start with that. Ask anyone. My fellow 8th grader Abby Horton described me very well, “You’re just like an old lady” she explained, but when asked about the downside of my opinions she replied: “You always try to make us listen to your old music. But sometimes I just need to listen to Taylor Swift.” According to Abby, the stuff I recommend is usually pretty good, though. I also critique modern music in a way that suggests I’m a seventy year old man shaking my fist grumbling about ‘kids these days’. That isn’t saying I don’t like modern music, I’ve found quite a few artists I really enjoy, I just think there’s something about music from the mid to late 20th century that is so easy to fall into. You have rock bands, metal bands, vocal groups, solo artists, etc. that all have a distinct sound because, namely, auto tune wasn’t around yet. Plus, artists still had actual music backing their vocals and not just beats. So, let’s get started, shall we?

Have you ever heard “You Send Me” by Sam Cooke? That song encapsulates a lot of the music I’m about to discuss. It’s the kind of music from the 50s and 60s that flows together in the background, doesn’t necessarily try to make a statement with the lyrics and feels like soft love songs you’d play at brunch. First up for this category are the Skyliners. The Skyliners are such a great group with that authentic vintage feel and honey-like vocals. I love this group for the nostalgia that sort of taps me on the shoulder and wraps me in a hug. Next up is Lesley Gore. I have been listening to her nonstop for the past few weeks. Namely her album “Girl Talk”, with songs like “Say Goodbye” hitting hard for no apparent reason. Lesley Gore has such a beautiful voice that makes her songs feel alive, like she’s right there with you. Her music is comforting, so I can just relax and be lost in the music and vocals. I will say that because of its age, some of this music

makes women seem very romantically reliant on men and powerless without them, which is absolutely untrue. I find this part of it frustrating and therefore choose not to listen to the songs where this is especially prominent. A couple of other artists worth mentioning in this area are the Inkspots, Patsy Cline, Frank Sinatra and the Flamingos, all giving off the same feel.

I don’t necessarily know how I would describe the next few recommendations, but I love rocking out to these artists. First, David Bowie. I first listened to his album “Let’s Dance” on a tape I found in a huge box my dad had pulled up from the basement and immediately loved it. All of the tracks are slightly odd, but super fun to bop around to. Next, drumroll please, the Talking Heads! The Talking Heads are such a great group with vocals similar to Bowie’s, though the oddness levels are turned up a little higher. Most of the music I don’t really understand, but it’s a fun experience. This was another group I listened to on tape for the first time, the album? Creatures of Love. I highly recommend it. “The Talking Heads make me feel like I’m on vacation, but also very nostalgic at the same time,” 8th grader Charley Cheatham said. Finally, Haircut 100. They only have one album, but I really like the music aspect of it which has lots of great little musical interludes. Overall a fun time.

Third, we have some similar, dance-y, but more upbeat and classic artists. First, Elton John. I really like Elton John because of his fun tracks that make you tap your foot along with the beat and smile (because who doesn’t smile when “Crystal” comes on?) The Bee-Gees are a great disco group, while also quite comedic to listen to, as the main vocal artist sounds, according to my sister, like a bleating goat, 8th grader Maisy Wall agreed, “He sounds like he just inhaled a lot of helium,” she told me. They are one of my all-time favorite groups.

## Manual transmission is more fun

**Atticus Brooks-Babcock**  
Staff Writer

Are manual transmissions a thing of the past? Do you know how to drive a manual transmission? For most people under the age of 40 this is an easy question to answer: “No,” what happened to manual transmissions?

First off, what is a manual transmission? A manual transmission is a part of a car that allows you to manually shift up and down gears, with use of a clutch and shift knob. In the past 35-40% of cars came equipped with a manual transmission. The biggest reason for this was because of how cheap, reliable, and fuel efficient they were. In the 80’s, 90’s and even in the 2000’s many automatics got

worse fuel economy and were typically more expensive than their manual counterparts. Many people also prefer the feeling of control you get from manual transmissions, almost like you’re connected to the car.

The biggest reason for manual transmissions getting phased out is the fact that automatic transmissions got more advanced, they got smoother, they got better miles per gallon, and most importantly they were a lot more convenient/easier for the average person. This switch to automatic transmissions was somewhat slow in America but during the years of 1995-2007 it went from 25% to under 10%, and finally in the year 2020 only about 2% of cars bought were manual

transmissions.

Other countries like the UK and most of Europe, however, still require you to know how to drive a manual transmission, for the simple fact that they are still the majority. About 80% of cars bought in Europe were manual transmissions compared to America’s measly 2%. But why is this the case?

In Europe you can get a license without knowing how to drive a manual transmission. However, you are only allowed to drive automatic cars, which is an obvious down side due to the fact that 80% of cars in Europe are manual, meaning your options would be slim. Another reason for manual cars is the fact that Europe’s roads are different. Whereas an automatic would be fuel efficient on long straight

American roads, it would struggle on the tight slower paced European road system.

Because of the fuel efficiency, costs, and license factor, Europe still prefers manual transmissions. America, however, does not agree. Mostly because we are a little lazy, most people don’t want to learn how to drive a manual car because they will never have to drive one. However, there is a slim number of people who prefer manuals because of the added feel of the car. These people are mostly car enthusiasts who want to shift manually and feel more connected to their car. Manual cars are a lot more fun than an automatic car, but not so practical.

## Victor ranks his top 5 classic cars

*Classic models have a special place in the heart of any car lover*

**Victor Mason**  
Staff Writer

As technology advances and gets implemented into cars, for the average person the new technology makes life easier and most of the time is safer. For car enthusiasts the new technology is working backwards. The dying of manual transmissions, cars getting heavier for larger crumple zones and the weight increase with all the new technology. All of these make cars less fun to drive and make new cars simply worse to drive. As a car enthusiast I have a special place in my heart for classic cars, and here are my top five:

### ‘68-72 Stingray

The Chevrolet Corvette, the car most associated with balding owners in a midlife crisis. But let’s go back in their day to when Chevy released the 3rd generation Corvette. In 1968 Chevrolet released the 3rd generation Corvette, the

C3. The C3 Corvette was quite different from the previous generations, it was now sharp and curved in an aerodynamic way that hadn’t been seen before. Today the design is still super unique and has become somewhat of a love it or hate it style.

### ‘67-69 Camaro SS

Chevrolet wasn’t going to let Ford beat them out in sales with their all new Mustang and had to do something. Chevrolet decided to not only make a car to compete, but a car to destroy the Mustang.

Chevrolet didn’t really do that sales wise, but I personally believe that the Camaro is far superior than the Mustang and is the best Camaro to this day.

Chevrolet first released the Camaro in 1967, two years after Ford’s Mustang. The Camaro couldn’t make the sales that the Mustang made until 1977, making the Camaro somewhat of an underdog of its time. The Performance trim super sport or SS was more popular with car enthusiasts as it came with more engine options and better suspension.

On camera the car looks good but in person the car



Purple Press Staff Photo

**Purple Press Adult to Blame Leo Bickelhaupt goes for a ride with friends in a ‘70s Porsche, one of Victor’s favorites.**

just looks fantastic. Everything comes tougher to create a masterpiece.

### ‘67-69 Fastback

In 1964 Ford released the first generation of the iconic Mustang and it was an automatic hit. From gearheads to soccer moms, everyone knew about the mustang and loved it. The Mustang came in two versions, starting in 1965 the regular coupe and the fastback. The fastback was a hatchback version where the back window went all the way to the rear of the car opposed to a trunk. In 1967 Ford made some changes to the Mustang and perfected the Fastback. The ‘67-69 Fastback came with a 6.4L V8 making 324. The Mustang came with a 5 speed manual transmission and could reach a top speed of 115mph.

### 1975-1989 Porsche 911 Turbo (930)





Purple Press Staff Drawing

# The pill and why it’s so important

*Birth control has helped women earn control of their bodies*

**Zania Hierlmaier**  
Staff Writer

For History Day this year, I wrote a paper about the birth control pill. I decided to write an article about the key points in my paper and my thoughts.

The birth control pill is a name every American has heard sometime in their lives. Their parents have told them about plan b, their teacher has explained it awkwardly during health class, they’ve read about it on the news, heard about it through their doctor, the examples are endless. But most Americans don’t think about its creation as an important part of American history.

The pill is one of the most popular contraceptives in the world, with 151 million women and girls around the world currently using it. The pill has played a significant role in women’s lives, becoming a turning point for women’s educational, economic, and cultural standards. Here is a deep dive into the creation of the birth control pill, and how it has impacted millions of women and girls for over 60 years.

In America, birth control was made possible by Margaret Sanger, a women’s rights activist who coined the term birth control in 1915. She started the birth control movement in the early 1900s, and created the Birth Control Federation of America in 1921. Due to her work, the number of birth control clinics in America rose from 55 in 1930 to over 800 in 1942. With the help of scientists John Rock and Gregory Pincus, she was able to create the birth control pill, which was approved by the FDA on May 11, 1960.

While researching the pill’s invention, I learned about its trials, which were unjust and unethical according to today’s human drug trial standards. The pill was first tested on patients at the Worcester State Hospital without consent, and later brought to Puerto Rico and tested on young women as an option other than sterilization. This altered my view on the pill’s invention, as I learned about the dark side of this so-called empowering

creation.

Despite its trials, the pill immediately made an impact on American women, with 6.5 million married women on the pill by 1964. The pill became even more widespread in 1965 with the Supreme Court case Griswold v. Connecticut, which allowed married women access to birth control. Furthermore, the 1972 court case Eisenstaedt v. Baird gave unmarried women the right to birth control. Women were able to choose their life direction, unlike their chosen career of a housewife before the pill. Because of this, American women were able to get a higher education and college educated jobs. Most importantly, American women finally had freedom over their own bodies, which to me, is the pill’s biggest turning point.

One of my favorite parts of researching the birth control pill was learning about the oppositions of the pill. For me, history is about every side of the story, and I felt that was very important to discuss in my paper. To my surprise, the three main groups against the pill were the Black community, the feminist movement, and the Catholic Church. Due to racism, some members of the Black community saw the pill as another method by whites to limit the amount of Black people.

Feminists were upset that they still needed their physician’s approval to take the pill, as it was supposed to allow women to control their fertility on their own. And the Catholic Church was well... the Catholic Church. The Pope published the encyclical letter Humanae Vitae, which stated that the use of birth control was a sin and a violation of natural law. Seriously? It was interesting to learn about these three different groups, and how they saw the birth control pill. I realized that although the pill seemed to have a positive influence on all, there were underlying issues unknown to most.

The last point I made in my paper was the lasting impacts of the pill today. As a young

# Jojo Siwa pivots with Karma

*The Dance Moms star is back on the music scene with new single*

**Amelia Keenan**  
Staff Writer

Jojo Siwa has always been known for her kid-friendly content and her colorful bows. She started her career as a dancer on the show ‘Dance Moms’ and later signed a contract with Nickelodeon in 2017. She also produced a song in 2016 titled ‘boomerang’ and performed it at the 2018 Nickelodeon slime fest. But recently, Jojo Siwa has been getting a lot of popularity for something different.

Jojo Siwa released a new song titled ‘Karma’ in 2024, and is very different from her original brand. Siwa stated in an interview that she is the “first in the generation to make such a drastic switch in genres” and that she is “creating a new genre, gay pop.” But she is not the first to do this.

Many artists such as Lil Nas X, ove Cameron, and more who are part of the LGBTQ+ community have made changes in their brand to fit who they he are now. Lil nas x was originally a country singer, and dove Cameron appeared on many Disney channel projects such as ‘Liv and Maddie’ and ‘Descendants.’ Jojo Siwa has used her new song ‘Karma’ to attempt to create a new genre that already exists, but also, the song wasn’t originally hers.

Jojo Siwa has now written credits on the song ‘Karma’, and it was actually written for Miley Cyrus in 2011, but she didn’t use it in any of her albums or make it a single. It was instead given to pop singer Brit Smith in 2012 as her first single. Brit smith did record her version of the song and created a music video, but

eventually went with her song ‘provocative’ as her first single instead of ‘Karma’.

Recently, Brit smith released her version of ‘Karma’, and people have noticed that there are little to no differences between her version and Jojo Siwas. Jojo Siwa responded to the allegations that she stole Brit Smith’s song, saying “there’s no such thing as stealing”.

It is not a new phenomenon for an artist to use another artist’s unreleased song as their own. One example is Britney Spears’ song ‘Toxic.’ Toxic was originally offered to Australian singer Kylie Minogue, who turned it down. It was then offered to Britney Spears and became one of her most popular songs and won her a Grammy.

So although it is not a new or bad thing for artists to

## What’s with celebrity rebrands?

*Jojo Siwa’s new persona begs us to examine celebrity culture*

**Matthew Hansen**  
Staff Writer

“I was a bad girl; I did some bad things” is the opening line of former Nickelodeon Jojo Siwa’s new pop-punk industry-plant-adjacent single Karma, a song that’s currently going viral for all the wrong reasons.

Internet users claim that this attempted rebrand by the former bow-wearing Nickelodeon dancer is forced and inorganic (with TikTok users kold\_pain and Amanda~Boo calling her “Pink from Temu” and “a cheap version of Miley Cyrus” respectively, while others call her “the KISS member we never wanted” and “childlike”)... but why does this story sound familiar? Why do celebrities always insist upon inserting themselves into subcultures in such an unnatural way, and most importantly, what does

this say about the current state of pop culture as a whole?

Let’s start with the biggest reason celebrities want to start over with a clean slate nowadays: controversies. As impactful as “cancel culture” may be on our current social climate, it’s shockingly easy to get people to forget the reason they’re mad at their favorite influencers. All you have to do is change your style a little, release a new product, and you’re completely off the hook (with Doja Cat being a notable example; the second

she put on a wig again, people conveniently forgot all about her blocking her boyfriend’s victims on social media). Jojo is no exception to this rule, of course. Unfortunately for her, this new era is giving “Party City’s idea of punk fashion styles”, if anything, with makeup that looks unappealing regardless of personal taste. For many people, the edgy content warning issued on Jojo’s Instagram is the cherry on top of this half-baked mud pie of a dessert. This trainwreck is

nearly unwatchable.

Jojo Siwa has always been a disliked public figure; the YouTube music video for Boomerang (a song from 2014, back in her Nickelodeon pop star days) had over 1 million dislikes as of 2022; that’s 70k more people than the entire population of Fiji. Nowadays, people despise Jojo-With-A-Bow for significantly more valid reasons. Jojo is someone who’s made offensive/insensitive comments towards the lesbian community, despite being queer herself. She’s someone who consistently supports problematic people, outright defending their actions on public platforms.

Most importantly, Jojo is someone who has subjected her backup dancers to harsh, unethical treatment, a notable

Celebrity rebrands, 13



## Online safety is a political issue

*The Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA) remains a controversial bill*

**Alva Healy**  
Staff Writer

KOSA (Kids Online Safety Act) is a bill first introduced in February 2022. It would restrict social media platforms for minors under the age of 16, and would give more safety features. KOSA is designed to provide more safety features for young users of social media apps, such as Tik Tok. It is meant to minimize depression and anxiety caused by social media, as well as suicide and self harm rates among teens and young adults.

On paper, this bill seems to have a few very solid ideas. With the passing of this bill, parents would get the ability to see and access their child’s privacy and account settings, as well as their time spent on the app. This would allow for the parents of young children to make sure their children are watching age appropriate content. This would also help

keep the child safe from being exploited online.

However, there are many that would criticize the bill because of its extreme censorship. While this could be helpful if children are being targeted by dangerous posts, this can also lead to parents censoring their children from learning about alternative ideas and lifestyles. Many parents could exploit this feature by censoring all posts and videos they don’t agree with, which would make their child unexposed to the real world.

KOSA has over 60 backers as of this February, and has already been passed through the Senate. It has yet to be introduced in the House of Representatives, despite it being almost two months since the bill was assured passage through the Senate. It is unknown when the bill is likely to be passed, but KOSA has

many backers, and President Biden has already confirmed that he would approve it if the bill got to him.

For our incredibly polarized political scene, KOSA is not a left or right issue. For the most part, there are pretty equal numbers for Democratic or Republican members of the Senate who support KOSA. KOSA is more an issue that is divided by age. Younger generations are more opposed to the bill, whereas older generations agree more with the bill.

If KOSA were to pass, age restrictions would be put in place and censorship of things such as mental health, LGBTQIA+, and different gender content, as well as many other topics. Parents would also get more autonomy over what their child was watching and how long they were watching for. More personal information would also be

needed to access uncensored content, which might lead to adults also getting censored content if they didn’t feel comfortable putting in the extent of personal information needed.

KOSA as a whole has some major problems, from censorship issues to a large extent of personal information that needs to be shared. However, KOSA is also slightly admirable act from politicians, since it is the first bill to address the serious problem that can be worsened by social media, such as depression, anxiety, body dysmophia, and suicide, just to name a few.

Overall, KOSA could be a very good thing for the American public youth, but it has too many major issues at the moment for it to be effective at what it wants to do. It has to make many changes before it should be passed.



# Concrete Rose is a must read

Angie Thomas discuss poverty, gang life, and youth in 2021 book

Joseph Sierra-Zepeda  
Staff Writer

In Angie Thomas’s Concrete Rose, set in Garden Heights, seventeen-year-old Maverick Carter faces the tough realities of family expectations and street life. As he goes through his teenage years, Maverick confronts his father’s legacy and the difficult choices shaping his future.

Angie Thomas is a famous author from the USA. She wrote a popular book called “The Hate U Give.” Born in 1988 in Mississippi, she got her inspiration from her life as a teen rapper and mentor. Her debut book, “The Hate U Give,” came out in 2017 and was a big hit. It’s about a girl named Starr who sees her friend get killed by the police. The story is inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement. Thomas’s second book, “On the Come Up,” was published in 2019 and

is about a young rapper. People like her books because they talk about important things in an easy-to-understand way. Angie Thomas also stands up for people who don’t have a voice. Concrete Rose is a book by Angie Thomas, released in 2021, it is 368 pages long.

Angie Thomas uses words and goes so deep into a moment that it makes you feel like you’re there in Garden Heights. You feel all of the struggles that he faces, all of the feelings that he feels, all of the emotions that he can’t let out. He tries to be strong but you can hear and feel the inner monologue inside of his mind.

Maverick or Mav is 17 and stuck in the neighborhood Garden Heights. You got gangs, poverty, and a lot of real-life problems. Some of the problems are that people don’t have opportunities for jobs so they turn to a life of

crime. The crazy part is Mav’s trying to figure out who he is in the middle of all this chaos. It’s like a coming of age rollercoaster.

One of the big things that changes his life forever is that he becomes a dad at 17 years old. He doesn’t know how he is going to balance his life. He is only a kid and he knows that he needs to do good in school to do something in life. But to do all of this he needs help. He doesn’t ask for help because he’s Big Don’s son. He can’t be seen as weak. But he’s just afraid. Not long after he gets another son and this time he asks for help and he has a plan for what to do with his life.

Mav’s relationships add this whole other layer of drama. There’s family problems, friendships, and even a touch of romance. It’s like a drama series, but in book form. Life gets messy and Concrete

Rose captures that perfectly. Everything that Mav feels is how a lot of people feel in the real world and you can experience that grief, pain, and love that he has in his heart.

Even if you haven’t read The Hate U Give, this book stands strong on its own. It’s real, it’s deep, and it hits you right in your face. If you’re into stories that have a lot of drama and strong bonds, Concrete Rose is a must-read.

What’s good about the book is that it feels real, and you can relate to Maverick’s challenges. But some parts might be easy to guess, and sometimes it feels like the book is teaching you a lesson. Overall, “Concrete Rose” is a powerful story about family and making things right. It’s worth reading if you liked Angie Thomas’s other books or want to learn about tough issues in an easy way.



CMSWire

## Twitter/X sees a year of changes Elon Musk bought the social media platform in 2022

David Griffith  
Staff Writer

It has been over a year since Elon Musk’s acquisition of Twitter and it has been an eventful and controversial year for the platform. It started with the mass layoff of Twitter employees and turned into major changes happening on the platform leaving many worried about misinformation and hate speech. These massive changes have had a massive impact on the reputation of the platform and the man who was the face of the takeover, Elon Musk.

Musk first purchased twitter in April of 2022 for 43 billion dollars claiming he was going to turn the platform into a haven for free speech. He almost immediately tried to go back on the deal saying that twitter did not provide enough information about bots on the site. He went back and forth for a few months about whether or not he was buying the platform before officially stating he was pulling out of the deal on July 8th, this caused twitter to sue him and force him to buy twitter or pay the 1 billion dollar termination as in the terms of their contract. He eventually agreed to acquire the company and started as CEO on October 28 2022.

The first problems arose when Musk immediately fired half of the 7500 Twitter staff which left twitter understaffed especially in terms of content moderation, this decision will have consequences for the company as hate speech and misinformation rapidly rose on the site. The next step Musk took was to make a paid subscription model for Twitter called Twitter Blue, this allowed users to get the verified badge previously reserved for celebrities, government accounts, and businesses, along with users posts getting favored. Allowing normal users to get verified badges presented a problem for the company as many people started legitimate looking accounts for notable people and companies.

Most of these accounts were harmless fun, there were multiple that had real world effects due to people believing they were real. The most prominent examples of this were from an Eli Lilly account the posted “we are excited to announce insulin is free now” causing many people to believe it was real including

investors. This led to a drop in the stock price. A similar situation happened to weapons manufacturer Lockheed Martin when a fake account posted that Lockheed would no longer sell weapons to the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Israel due to human rights abuses. After multiple weeks the problem was eventually fixed with designated verified check marks for businesses and government accounts.

Many problems users noticed with twitter after the acquisition is an increase in hate speech that is promoted and endorsed by Elon Musk such as when Elon replied positively to a post promoting the “great replacement theory” which is the theory promoted by white supremacists, it states that migrants are coming to western society to replace the white population. Musk also reversed the suspensions of accounts such as Donald Trump and Kanye West who had previously been banned for hate speech. This rampant hate speech has led many to leave the platform leading to a decline in the company’s legitimacy and credibility in the social media space, this has led to a slight drop in users since the acquisition which has led Elon to increase ads on the site leading to a platform that feels overrun with advertising and hateful posts.

The most notable change is the change of the name twitter to x. This immediately hurt the recognizable branding for the app and took away terms like “quote tweet” “tweet”, and “retweet” replacing them with “post, quotes, and reposts”. This change was meant to make the platform look cooler.

The state of the platform today is generally stable although hate speech is still an ever present problem on the platform, Elon stepped down as the CEO but is still very active in promoting and doing public relations for X. These problems only scratch the surface of the many Twitter related controversies of the last year and a half, but they show how Elons ambition and narcissism as well as his confidence after having previously successful ventures. These issues as well as the monetization of X posts and the amount of bots and advertising have turned a well known and pretty highly regarded platform turning into a shell of what it once was.

## T wolves continue historic season For the first time in 20 years MN’s team moves on to the semis

Mintesinot Sturm  
Staff Writer

For the first time in twenty years (two years before I was born!), the Minnesota Timberwolves will move on to the conference semifinals. Add another bit of history as the Wolves won in astounding fashion, finishing the series against the Phoenix Suns in a 4-0 sweep. Days before the playoffs, Minnesota’s historic season in which they posted a 56-26 record, one game back from the first seed, was marred with the knowledge that their first-round matchup would be against the one team that the Wolves had not beat—Minnesota lost all three games against Phoenix in the regular season.

There were significant doubts about the Timberwolves’ ability to pressure Phoenix’s three elite isolation scorers in Kevin Durant, Devin Booker, and Bradley Beal. Those worries were put to rest quite quickly, as Minnesota opened the

series to a roaring Target Center crowd, winning 120-95 with an incredible defensive showing, blowing up every action Phoenix attempted, and effectively shutting down Devin Booker and Bradley Beal. Durant had an inevitable 31 points on mind-blowing efficiency, but the Minnesota defenders consistently made it hard to get open looks. The defense was phenomenal, but Anthony Edwards stole the show, scoring 18 of his game-high 33 points in an electric third quarter filled with trash-

talk from Ant to KD, helping Minnesota pull away for good.

Quick sidebar before I get back to writing about the players—I feel that I must include an analysis of the fans. Firstly, the home crowd was awesome, and I’m sure their energy was a huge part of the win. The chants of Wolves in four showed just how this franchise has turned itself around, giving fans real confidence for the first time in decades. Secondly, those crying Devin Booker t-shirts worn by fans in the second

row at Target Center were absolute perfection. Hats off to whomever created them. And of course I have to acknowledge the Timberwolves faithful who showed up to the Footprint Center in both games 3 and 4 draped in full Wolves gear, a wolf mask, and armed with a broom to take on the sea of desperate—and now depressed—Suns fans in Arizona.

Game 2 was similar to the previous match defensively. Minnesota contained all three of Phoenix’s scorers, and after struggling to put the ball in the basket for the first half, ran away with it in the third quarter once again.

In an interesting wrinkle, this game’s hero wasn’t a regular at Target Center. Unlike the previous 33 point explosion, Ant couldn’t get it going in this game, and Karl-Anthony Towns struggled as well. Fortunately for the Wolves, “they got KD, but we got Jaden McDaniels” came to

Timber Wolves, 11



### School lunches, 7

Here’s where we get into the top three: these are the ones that really really hit at home and secured their spots in the top 3. Now, coming in at number three is the hamburger/cheeseburger meal. I know some people are going to be surprised that this lunch was not second or even first, but there are many different ways that I look at it when compiling my list. The main reason why this lunch got bumped to third was simply because how dense the burger was and how it paired with the bun that was also dense. And don’t get me wrong, the burger is delicious and is definitely a lunch worth eating, but it’s sometimes just a little bit hard to swallow and that throws me off just a little bit.

Number two: Spicy chicken sandwich

Now moving on to number two. The spicy chicken sandwich. If our school only offered the regular chicken sandwich, it would be in third place because it’s good but it lacks flavor. With the spicy chicken sandwich you get spice and flavor. This is what really pushes it into the top two for me because it gives us a substantial amount of flavor that makes the lunch feel more filling. I have zero issues with this lunch. It has a perfectly sized sandwich that doesn’t feel too dense, and the fries are always pretty good, which works really well with the rest of the meal. This is just an outstanding lunch, and it is most definitely deserving of top three and quite possibly almost took the first place spot.

### Number one: Sambusas

Finally, number one. This lunch is outstanding. There is not a school lunch that I

have eaten in my 12 years that I have spent in the St. Paul Public school system that has been as good as this lunch. From the flavor to the texture to the consistency of this lunch, it just blows every other lunch out of the park hands-down, no questions asked. The sambusas. I remember when this lunch was first introduced over the last couple years, I had my doubts just because it was new and a lot of new lunches weren’t very good. But I do remember the first time I ate it and it was the most incredible school lunch experience I had ever had. The only downside to this lunch is that it’s not served very often. Although it wasn’t seen for a couple of months leading up to now, it will be served again, and people will be able to taste the deliciousness once more.

### Honorable mentions

Now there’s one last lunch



# Vikings draft JJ McCarthy

## After losing QB Kirk Cousins, MN traded for a first round pick

**August Cheney**  
Staff Writer

During the 2023 NFL Draft The Minnesota Vikings with only five overall picks, a tough salary cap situation, and a struggling 31st-ranked defense, had made the right choices which seemed to have improved that side of the ball. Or, with Quarterback Kirk Cousins under contract for only one more year, the Vikings could have taken a Quarterback in the first round of the draft for his replacement. Instead, the Vikings chose the highly productive Wide Receiver Jordan Addison to combine with Justin Jefferson, who has made a massive impact.

But first, what IS the draft? A draft is an annual event where teams are based on their season's record, meaning that the last-place team is positioned first pick and the Super Bowl champion

team's pick is last. The draft is separated into 7 rounds, 32 picks in each, all over the course of 3 days, the first round takes place in primetime on Thursday night. Day two of the draft features the second and third rounds. To wrap the whole thing up, day three of the draft comprises of rounds four through seven. Teams based on these standings will recruit players from NCAA colleges, in the hope of getting the top pick made by football draft analysts.

In previous Drafts the Vikings have done well with drafting, to start off, drafting WR Justin Jefferson in the 2020 draft. Since drafting Jefferson the Vikings have generally stayed in the upper half of the NFC North division and have gone to the playoffs multiple times. Jefferson himself has also been improving on the Vikings, in 2020, his rookie season Jefferson had 1,400 yards, in 2021, Jefferson had

1,616 yards, in 2022 Jefferson had 1,800 yards, and in 2023, despite being injured half of the season Jefferson had 1,074 yards. This shows clear improvement for both him and the Vikings. Taking it back a bit, in the 2015 Draft, the Vikings drafted WR Stefon Diggs in the 5th round at the 146th pick overall, he made a massive impact on the Vikings, he himself consistently had over 700 yards for the past 5 seasons he had been on the Vikings, 2 of those seasons going over 1000 yards, and making the famous "Minneapolis Miracle" catch which brought the Vikings to the Divisional round of the 2017 Playoffs. Taking it even further back, in the 2012 Draft the Vikings drafted SS Harrison Smith in the 1st round at the 29th pick overall, who had made a massive impact on the defensive side of the ball, starting 175 of 176 games and has a recorded 1,153

career tackles, which was the most by a Vikings Defensive Back. Smith has totaled 34 interceptions, including five in 2014, 2017, and 2020; 19.5 sacks, 45 tackles for loss, 86 passes defended, 12 forced fumbles, and eight fumble recoveries, and gaining the nickname "Harry The Hitman" after plenty of astounding seasons.

During the 2023 draft the Vikings drafted WR Jordan Addison in the 1st round at the 23rd pick overall, who made quite an impact on the Vikings, with 70 receptions for 911 yards and 10 TDs, during the 2023-2024 season when Jefferson went on IR for 7 full games, Addison was able to take over the WR1 spot which helped the Vikings go 5-2 in the span of Jefferson's injury. In the 3rd round, the 2nd round pick being traded away, the Vikings drafted

Vikings Draft, 13

## Top 5 all-time Vikings draft picks

**Zane Sheire**  
Staff Writer

Number one: Fran Tarkenton

Tarkenton is one of the best players in Vikings history. He led the Vikings to a few super bowls but could never win one. Coincidentally, they stopped reaching the Super Bowl after he retired in 1978.

Number two is Randy Moss who is one of the best wide receivers ever and really needs an explanation, he changed the league and Vikings history.

Number three is Alan

Page, he ranks 8th all time for sacks which is amazing for a Defensive tackle and was a big part of the purple people



eaters. Number four is Adrian Peterson because of just how dominant he was. He is the last

person to win an MVP outside of the quarterback position. Just looking up his highlights is really worth it.

Number five is Justin Jefferson, he is already the best wide receiver in the league and he's only been in it for four years. He has broken so many records in a short amount of time and he's only going to get better.

### Timber Wolves, 10

fruition, as Jaden shut down his matchups defensively—a usual occurrence—and had a playoff career-high 25 points to slam the door on the Suns. Game 2 was a perfect coming-out-party for the other guys, showing that despite the team not quite matching Phoenix's star power, Minnesota's depth would be the deciding factor in the series.

While the Wolves' performances in the first two games were convincing, no series is over until one team wins four, and Minnesota had to prove they could bring that defensive intensity and offensive firepower with them to the valley. And oh, did they do that.

Game 3 was another superhero film from Ant-Man, pouring in 36 points, 9 rebounds, and 5 assists to drive the Timberwolves to a 126-109 win. The next—and eventually the final—game was much closer, ending 122-116, with a frantic Suns team making it interesting behind a 49 point performance from Devin Booker. He was on fire, but there must be honesty, and the officiating was clearly in favor of an extended series—Booker had 21 shot attempts...and 21 free throws! Unfortunately for Phoenix, the Ant Show returned for a third night in this series, as Edwards dropped 40 points, 9

rebounds, and 6 assists, letting each and every defender the Suns threw at him that they had no chance.

The storylines from this series were as entertaining as it can get. Ant sending his childhood idol Kevin Durant home, the Wolves with their first sweep in franchise history, among others. On the more sobering side, coach Chris Finch suffered a torn patellar tendon in his right knee after a Devin Booker hip-check sent Mike Conley crashing into Finch. Finchy will have surgery at some point this week (by the time this story is published, he most likely already did), but we have no idea if he will be able to perform his duties as head coach during the second

round.

The Minnesota Timberwolves had an incredible regular season this year, but there were some worries about how they would fare in the playoffs especially against a team as dangerous as Phoenix had shown to be for Minnesota. However, powered by a physical, connected defense anchored by the deserved 2024 Defensive Player of the Year, Rudy Gobert, offensive masterpieces from Anthony Edwards, and an efficient series from Karl-Anthony Towns returning from meniscus surgery, the Timberwolves made history and will look to shake things up in the semifinals against the defending champion Denver



Nuggets.

This will be a rematch from last year's first round series with Minnesota as the 8th seed against Denver that ended in five games. In 2023, both McDaniels and Naz Reid—a key piece off the bench—were out, and Towns had just returned from a calf injury that kept him out for over 50 games. Despite that, multiple Nuggets players lauded the Wolves' effort, saying Minnesota gave them the toughest challenge. Looking to regular-season matchups this year, Minnesota played well against Denver, going 2-2. Both wins were blowouts, and both losses came on the second night of a back-to-back and without KAT—one without Towns, Gobert, and Reid, making the Wolves a very small team—6'9 Kyle Anderson started at center against Jokic! In that game, Minnesota lost 112-115, and was a hair away from winning. The other loss was also close, with a final score of 107-116. I believe Minnesota, now at full-strength, can win this series. It will be hard-fought, and I expect the stars to burn bright. Many expect this series to be short in favor of Denver, but the Wolves are just too long, physical, and deep to lay down the welcome mat for the Nuggets. My prediction? Wolves in 6.



## Ghostbusters is entertaining

### The latest installment of the classic movie series thrills

**Rowan Simmers**  
Staff Writer

I'm chilling in the living room thinking on my phone when my mom says it's time to go to Riverview theater to watch Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire, and what I have to say is that it was good, I loved seeing the original cast (the cast from Ghostbusters: Afterlife) and of course Slimer who was Slimier.

For the movie they had Gil Kenan directing the movie with him bringing back all of the original cast with Bill Murray (Dr. Peter Venkman), Dan Aykroyd (Ray Stantz), Ernie Hudson (Winston Zeddemore), William Atherton (Walter Peck) and Annie Potts (Janine Melnitz) with Harold Ramis (Ego Spengler) who sadly passed away in 2014. They brought back the cast from Ghostbusters: Afterlife with McKenna Grace (Phoebe Spengler), Finn Wolfhard (Trevor Spengler), Paul Rudd (Mr.Grooberson), Carrie Coon (Callie Spengler), Logan Kim (Podcast) and Celeste O'Connor (Lucky). Two new characters were introduced, played by Emily Alyn Lind (Melody) and Kumail Ali Nanjiani (Nadeem Razmaadi).

The movie takes place in New York City and mainly follows Phoebe as she tackles not being able to stay on the Ghostbusters because of Walter Peck, who is now mayor. She confides with Melody who's a ghost that died in a house fire with her family. Ray has a shop where he collects haunted objects and meets Nadeem Razmadi, who sells him a brass orb containing Garraka, who is an evil spirit that wants to conquer the world with an

army of ghosts and negative emotions. Nadeem learns he is a descendant of a group of sorcerers called the firemasters that defeated Garraka, took the main source of his power, which is his giant horns, and sealed him in the brass orb. Learning of this, he trains with Peter Venkman to master his pyrokinetic abilities. A ghost, learning of a way to release Garraka, steals a wax cylinder with Ray, Phoebe and Podcast, trying and failing to stop the ghost.

Afterward, Phoebe and Melody go to a paranormal laboratory that Winston has and enter a chamber that takes ghosts out of objects and puts them in a giant containment unit. They turn into a ghost and interact with Melody but plot twist she was working with Garraka and he controls Phoebe and recites an incantation to free him. He goes to Nadeem's apartment to get his horns and then the fire house where everyone has congregated to take Garraka on. They fight with him, they win and Walter Peck has to deal with the fact that the ghostbusters are going nowhere.

I like the new gear with the coats, Proton packs, and arm cannon, a multi directional weapon. The new ghosts that they introduce are really good with the designs, abilities and sounds. Garraka is good with the lore surrounding him and his design with the horns is something that I've seen in The Owl House and Amphibia. I love that they brought back the original cast but I also dislike it because there is such a big main cast that it feels oversaturated with protagonists.

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Scary movies, 7

was the blueprint,” Said 11th grader Cal Schmid.

Another reason Jaws is so fantastic is because of its special effects. I mean, they built a full-scale mechanical shark for this movie. Although it wasn’t used very much due to technical issues, the small glimpses you do see have a bigger bite to them. The camerawork is also super interesting because a lot of scenes are filmed from the perspective of the shark, creating a weird kind of anxiety unlike any other.

At number four is Lake Mungo. Lake Mungo is an Australian horror mockumentary about 16 year old Alice Palmer who drowns in a local dam. After her drowning, her family begins to experience strange happenings around their home. After exhausting their options, the Palmers seek out a psychic and paranormal expert who begins discovering Alice’s secret double life.

Lake Mungo is one of the coolest modern horror movies I’ve seen. Because it’s a mockumentary you find yourself all the more immersed in the story. Its acting, editing, and story mirror a typical documentary which makes each new development seem believable. It goes in unexpected directions that tackle some pretty wacky concepts, and yet it somehow manages to keep an air of realism. Its scares are effective because they build off of your imagination. The imagery is ambiguous enough to make you question if what you’re seeing is really there. It makes you think to yourself “Is that the scariest creature ever or is it a pile of clothes on a chair.” It’s also jam-packed full of twists and turns that have you glued to the screen, waiting to

see what happens next. If you enjoy found footage-esque horror I highly recommend watching Lake Mungo.

After asking Cal about what she thought about Lake Mungo she said, “It made me sick to my stomach—it’s scary, I got scared, It was by far too scary. I was scared. And for it being so scary, I could say ‘OMG IT’S TOO SCARY! I DON’T WANT ANYONE TO WATCH IT!’ But I think people are tougher than me. I think they could handle it. I think it’s a pretty good movie and I like Australian people.”

At number three is The Exorcist. After actress Chris Macneal and her 12 year old daughter Reagan begin staying in Washington D.C for work, Reagan falls ill and begins acting out of the ordinary. After several visits to the doctor, her condition worsens. She begins breaking out into violent outbursts and speaking in tongues. As Chris’s options begin to dwindle, and Reagan’s actions are left without explanation, she seeks out the help of two priests who begin to perform an exorcism.



Often labeled the “scariest movie ever” The Exorcist remains one of the greatest horror movies of all time. It’s the first of its kind, known for its shocking imagery that left audiences puking and running out of theaters. It’s a staple in horror that opened the door

of possibility to what a horror movie could be. Although in modern culture its effects don’t hold the same power they used to, it still is pretty scary on first watch. I will warn you though—this is a gross movie. There are a lot of disgusting scenes and vulgar language that are pretty hard to stomach. So maybe sit this one out if vomit, blood, and needles aren’t your thing.

“I mean, that’s a classic. Yeah, I really like that one. I remember the first time I watched it I was in ninth grade, we just watched the really gross scenes out of context. But later on, when I actually watched the whole movie, I thought it was really good despite the gross stuff.” Said social studies teacher Dan Sullivan.



Number two is The Sixth Sense. After child psychologist Dr. Malcolm Crowe blames the suicide of his former patient on himself, he begins working with young patient Cole Sear. Throughout getting to know each other, Malcolm believes he might be getting abused or hurting himself after he sees cuts and bruises on Cole. Until Cole confesses that he sees dead people, and that they are the ones hurting him. At first, Malcolm believes that Cole has schizophrenia until he remembers the similarities between Cole’s confession to his former patients. After discovering that Cole really

can see dead people they work together to try and see if they can try and help the ghosts out.

This is the perfect first horror movie for anyone who is trying to get into the genre. It has its scary moments, but what really drives home is the quality of its story. The entire plot is well done, and each character is captivating and interesting. Toni Collette plays the mother of Cole and she is absolutely phenomenal in her performance. The dynamics of each of the characters are also really interesting. It’s definitely not as scary as some of the other movies on this list but it just hits harder. Definitely one of the most rewatchable movies on this list and some pretty iconic moments. It’ll definitely leave you thinking about it after watching.

Special education teacher Jeff Steiner says it’s one of his favorite movies. “It’s such an original movie. And it’s very powerful—it’s very emotional. Which really kind of gets you into the story. It works on so many levels because it’s got some scary parts to it, It’s got some psychological things, and the acting is just phenomenal.”

Before I get to my number one pick I have to shout out some of my other favorites because there are too many amazing movies out there to choose from.

The Descent was pretty close to making this list because it scared me pretty good when I first watched it. It’s about a group of women who go spelunking and end up getting stuck underground. It’s very claustrophobic and the drama in it is juicy. But I decided not to include it because it gets pretty campy as it goes on, and the ending is kinda silly, but it’s definitely worth watching.

I also wanted to mention

The Grudge. I think the visuals in that movie are really cool and pretty freaky. Something about women with long black hair and pale skin who can contort their bodies will always freak me out a little bit.

Creep is also super fun. It’s about this guy who gets hired to film this man who says that he’s dying of cancer until It takes a weird turn. It’s definitely one of my favorites because there are moments in it that are pretty ridiculous but also parts that are pretty freaky.

Special shout-outs to the following movies: Talk to Me, Poltergeist, The Conjuring, Midsommar, Get Out, Barbarian, Psycho, Silence of the Lambs, and Lights Out. Everyone mentioned is a certified banger and a must-see.

At number one is The Shining. Jack Torrence is an aspiring writer and recovering alcoholic with previously violent tendencies who lands a job taking care of “The Overlook Hotel” during its off-season. He brings along his wife Wendy, and son Danny, who has violent paranormal visions of the past and future. Inside of the hotel, the family is left completely alone with no outside contact. Through the months of isolation, as Jack continues writing his book, he begins to experience cabin fever and starts to see hallucinations that leave him spiraling out of control.

One of the most iconic horror movies out there. Although it’s known for its creepy twins, iconic lines, and pinnacle chase scene; the grip this thing has on both me and pop culture is its exploration into the deep isolation and psychological deterioration of Jack Torrence. I love a good psychological thriller and The Shining hits all the marks. The

subtlety of it all is enthralling and is the perfect mix between paranormal and psychological horror.

Jack Nicholson who plays Jack Torrence does an amazing job at showing the mental state he devolves into. Without his performance, I couldn’t imagine the film having the same effect that it does. Shelley Duval who plays Wendy Torrence also makes the entire movie. Her screams of fear and reactions to Jack are very real and disturbing to hear.

“It’s psychologically interesting. You can watch him go crazy, with all of his mutterings and visions. The acting is so good, he (Jack Torrence) goes from a hard working guy who’s sort of on the edge to someone who falls completely off into the deep end. Incredibly scary scenes,” said English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt.

The entire atmosphere is super cool. The family remains surrounded by deep snow which is a kind of isolation we Minnesotans know all too well. The soundtrack also does a great job of adding to the atmosphere. The music provokes such an intense weary feeling that it almost makes you feel like you’re going crazy while Jack also loses it. It emulates the dread of being alone incredibly well.

“It’s great. I love The Shining. The sound is really good--the sound is great. All the best horror movies I’ve seen tend to have suspense without release.” Said 12th grader Mae Heeringa.

Binge-watch all these movies if you haven’t seen them already because they’re truly the best of the best.

The Bear, 7

and those that aren’t are often used as a stark contrast to its heaviness, a tool to prevent it from getting too heavy, or are utilized for tonal shifting.

I could write a whole different article simply trying to analyze the show, but since this is more of a sales pitch than a deep dive, I won’t do that. Instead, let me talk about the technical achievements of this show. Namely, it’s mastery of tone.

Watching The Bear is like riding a roller coaster, but you’re not going anywhere. Like a Goliath for your emotions. In everything from set design to camerawork, a tone is created and meticulously upkept through every scene. It’s done especially well in the scenes where it matters most, where the tension must be built to justify a large explosion of emotion, anger and overwhelm. Choice of lighting highlights how grimy and dirty the kitchen is, as Carmy, who has a fixation on perfection, must see it. Close-up shots make the viewer effectively uncomfortable, even if the character hasn’t done anything (yet). Continuous shots of the overwhelming nature of the kitchen give the viewer an effective look into what

the characters are dealing with, and the superhuman amounts of time management, speed, and task retention that are going around in the establishment.

In several episodes, most notably s1e7 and s2e10, there are continuous shots that go on for about five minutes, switching between people to follow as they walk around doing different jobs about the restaurant, always on the move. It perfectly highlights how hectic and complicated restaurants are to run, and how many things are going on at any given moment, and therefore the stress each person must feel, juggling their respective tasks. It is one of the most effective tools the show uses to build tension, and you barely even notice it at first.

The show only gets better on its second viewing. I have seen the show twice now (with the exception of the Christmas episode; I’ve seen that four times), but even rewatching the first season, I caught so many not-so-subtle details that seemed random or confusing at first, but genius coming back to it. My first viewing was a very stressful experience that effectively brought me along with the emotions of the characters, so much so that an actual analysis of what I’d just

watched was difficult, buried under a tide of confusion and comprehension. The speed and explosiveness of arguments and intense scenes made them hard to track if you’re unaccustomed to it, especially at first. All you can think is “what is happening and why,” and then “oh, that’s happening.” On the second viewing, you will pick up on a lot more. “oh, that’s the background for that animosity.” “ohh, that’s why



Ayo Edebiri and Jeremy Allen White star in The Bear.

this scene happened.” “ohhh, they aren’t okay.” I can imagine that it only gets more clear as you grow more emotionally detached on future viewings.

I noticed that coming back to the show, I tensed upon the approach of specific scenes. I have been taken by surprise

by this show before, and I will be ready when those scenes come up again. They are deeply unpleasant, and it is a testament to the quality of the show that it elicits these reactions. Sometimes, in the middle of particular scenes, ads feel like a welcome 45 second interruption, and what sort of show could make you feel that way? Either a really bad one doing it unintentionally, or a really good one doing it

intentionally. General rule of thumb: when they play the credits before the episode, it’s about to be rough. It’s interesting, because you get to see the evolution of an establishment through the eyes of the people who work there. The establishment gets

better, because the people grow and improve themselves. But the process is not without pain or stress. It’s not easy or pleasant, and the problems the individuals deal with don’t disappear or just go away, but it ends in something that is quantifiably better than what was started with. The state of the kitchen is reflected in its workers, and while Carmy may fail in fixing them, maybe he can end up changing them, making friends with them. It’s a very human story of slowly healing, getting better, the same way you correct a broken bone that’s healed wrong by breaking at again and positioning it correctly.

The soundtrack is comparable to that of The Umbrella Academy; a similarly high quality, just in a different genre. Via Chicago by Wilco as the first song to play? Absolutely. New Noise by Refused consistently being used to stress the pressure of time and the vitality of speed? Yes. Impossible Germany also by Wilco posing as a calm lull in the action? Yep. Chicago by Sufjan Stevens playing behind imagery of Chicago scenery? Yeah, they’ve got a lot of civic pride. Lindsey Buckingham’s Holiday Road playing as a character walks through Copenhagen? Beautiful.

The show is rated TV MA for its excessive use of profane language, and a fair amount mentions, implications, or discussions of various mental issues, drugs or violence. Also, be warned, there are a lot of cutscenes of really delicious looking food, and something is bound to make you hungry, so either don’t watch around a mealtime, or watch it just after eating. I highly encourage subtitles. There’s no shame in them, and things can get hard to track sometimes.

To anyone who has seen the show before, I’d like to offer this food for thought: what if the state of the kitchen is supposed to reflect the mind of someone who is struggling mentally? In this case it’s Carmy, but it’s meant to represent people like Carmy, with trauma or anxiety or depression or really any mental issue. If you haven’t seen the show, go watch it. Think about it.

With its third season due for release, many fans anticipate what horrible, wonderful things will emerge from the upcoming content. If you’re looking for cooking lessons, this may not be the ideal program. But if you’re interested in a masterclass in media creation, I would recommend checking in on this messy establishment.



Viikings Draft, 11

CB Mekhi Blackmon in the 3rd round at the 102nd pick overall, Blackmon ended up not making much of an impact on the Vikings throughout the 2023-2024 season with only 1 interception and 1 fumble recoveries. In the 4th round, the Vikings drafted SS Jay Ward in the 4th round the 132nd pick overall, Ward made almost 0 impact on the Vikings with only 1 fumble recoveries.

During the 2024 draft, the Vikings drafted QB JJ McCarthy from Michigan in the 1st at the 10th pick overall. Personally, I think McCarthy will be good for Minnesota, though during his time at Michigan, they had a run-heavy offense, his accuracy is great and his arm is quite

good. “First, the organization’s outstanding, and then you have the players and pieces that are around it and the coaches,” McCarthy said in his introductory news conference. “It was just a perfect fit for me. I talked with a lot of quarterbacks throughout this process, and it was the perfect fit for them, too. Obviously, it’s a huge honor, and I hope to just prove them right.” With the Vikings 23rd overall pick, which was acquired via a trade with the Houston Texans, the Vikings drafted LB Dallas Turner from Alabama. Turner was known as a “game wrecker” with his time with Alabama. This could mean a lot to the Vikings, especially after losing LE Danielle Hunter, the Vikings need more pressure on offense.

Birth control, 9

woman, learning about the life I would have had if I was born in a generation without birth control horrified me. Could you imagine marrying at 18, having 10 kids by the time you were 30, and never spending a day working a paid job? Not to mention, relying on your husband for everything. Yuck. I don’t know about you, but I wouldn’t last a week living that life. Luckily, we have the glorious plan b, which has allowed women to soar above men in the amount of bachelor degrees earned and college level jobs. Sucks for you men. Not to mention, women now have an average of 1.6 children, a stark contrast from 3 in 1950.

Finally, I learned about the amount of danger the birth control pill is currently in.

For the past 10 years, the pill has faced multiple court cases restricting its access, including the 2014 court case, Burwell v. Hobby Lobby, which allowed certain employers the ability to restrict their employees from accessing the pill. With the recent reversal of Roe v. Wade in 2022, the pill has faced even more threats. The scientific discovery of the pill dramatically changed women’s autonomy and ability to achieve educational and economic opportunities. In the near future, possible new limitations could undo that progress.

Classic cars, 8

When you say 911, people will think one of 2 things, either gt3rs or classic turbo. As much hype as the new 911’s have, the older models are often seen as better to REAL car enthusiasts not trend hoppers who “like cars.”

The 3rd generation of 911 the 930 is almost inarguably the best looking generation of 911. It may not be the fastest, cheapest or safest but I will die on the hill of it being the best generation. Porsche started production for the 930 911 in 1973 but in 1975 after a couple of Weissbiers the German engineers decided that the 911 should have turbos, cause why not.

The 930 Turbo had a cool 300hp weighing in at less than 3000 pounds. Today that

seems a bit lackluster but in the ’70s the 930 turbo was top of its class reaching a top speed of 162 miles per hour and was one of the fastest cars on the road at the time. Compared to the cars of today the 930 turbo isn’t the fastest thing around but still can get down with a 0-60 in 5.6 seconds.

1986-1991 BMW M3

BMW was on the top of its game in the late 80s and early 90’s, beating out the other two German competitors Audi and Mercedes. Today the competition is too close to say one of the big three German luxury brands are better than one another. But in the 80s and 90s the story was different; BMW was on top like it was the 40’s.

Music recs, 8

Last is the Electric Light Orchestra, which is basically your average band but with an entire orchestra backing it. I love ELO for their disco and classic rock elements with distinct violins that weave in and out of their music so perfectly. “Turn to Stone” and “Tightrope” are some of my favorites.

Now, girl groups! The Supremes were my COVID group. I would listen to all their hits during the pandemic while I did my school work from home. They’re so upbeat and their voices are supreme (get it?). Even after Diana Ross left and the group began to shift, vocals remained strong and they adapted very well to

the changing times. Next, the Poni-Tails. They only have one album, but I love how innocent and young it feels. The style is very playful and similar to the above mentioned Skyliners and Patsy Cline. Last, but not least, are the Ronettes. The Ronettes are known for their Christmas songs and only have two albums that aren’t Christmas-themed, but are definitely worth a listen, especially if you have enjoyed the Supremes or Poni-Tails.

Well, I guess I have to throw in some heavier rock. I got into this genre a few different ways, all involving my also before-mentioned dad. We were driving to an orthodontist appointment and he said simply, “I think you’ll like this song,” and proceeded to play

me Stairway to Heaven by Led Zeppelin, which is, literally, a stairway to heaven. It starts out slow and slowly climbs



Yolan Cris

**Stevie Nicks blends classic rock and lyricism.**

up to an epic ending. Another favorite of mine is Kashmir. The next band my dad got me into was Metallica. I had come downstairs into the kitchen

and found him blasting an insane guitar solo on our little speaker. Sneakily, I went over to see what he was playing,

and, you guessed it, The Four Horsemen by Metallica, which remains my favorite. The final band is Black Sabbath, an all time favorite of my dad’s.

Imagine the same scene; a kitchen and a blasting speaker. “I think you’ll like this band,” he said. And I did.

To finish this off, I have some fabulous solo women with amazing music! First, Stevie Nicks. “Something about her makes me feel very powerful and her music makes me very emotional,” Charley said. Nicks’ voice fits extremely well into the classic rock genre, her solo career taking some Fleetwood Mac elements but remaining very much her own. Her songs are very upbeat with great backing music and interesting lyrics. Last, but not least; Nina Simone. Her voice is so beautiful and powerful. Her music carries so many messages, each different and unique in their own way. The

music backing her vocals is full and alive, as well, supporting and adding to her already phenomenal voice.

That’s all for now! Hope this article will help you in your journey of discovering “the oldies” and bringing into perspective all the amazing artists that came before those you know today. Also, I’m always open to recommendations, and since this article mostly consists of popular music, I would love to unearth lesser-known artists. So, whether you plan on hollering down the hall or sending an email, I would love to hear what you think I should listen to next!

Celebrity rebrands, 9

example of which being Leigha Sanderson’s incredibly concerning injury being ignored by Jojo. Leigha was allegedly told to “cover up her damaged belly button with a maxi pad ‘by Jojo’s mother, causing the Sanderson family to file a lawsuit against Jojo’s dance company. It makes total sense that Jojo would want to pull a Taylor Swift Reputation moment and switch up her aesthetic; after all, that’s the tried-and-true method for making all criticism go away,

right? What Jojo doesn’t understand is that the reason Reputation worked as a project is because, no matter how you feel about Taylor Swift, it was an undeniably well-planned and calculated album release; but as everyone except Jojo knows, there’s nothing meticulous about smugly boasting/bragging about flailing around in a dance studio for several hours after rehearsals have ended. It’s embarrassing!

There are a couple more musicians (that I’ll give a

quick rundown on) who can really tie this concept together: JLO and Miley Cyrus. JLO is currently coming under fire for surprisingly similar reasons to our (least) favorite ex-bow-loving rock star; trying to seem relatable by inserting herself into a culture where she very clearly does not feel comfortable. For context, JLO talks about her childhood in the Bronx in nearly every single interview she’s in, a practice that would be heartwarming if her classmates from high school hadn’t come forward

and revealed that she’s heavily exaggerating in a desperate attempt to gain public support again. JLO’s tall tales about growing up as a wild child running up and down the block are nothing more than fiction, apparently.

Miley isn’t actively engaging in this behavior nowadays, but we all remember the way she was acting when she left Disney Channel; yes, she was trying to gain her own independent voice, AND there were ways to do that other than intentionally appropriating

African-American culture/aesthetics! The reason this is relevant is because Jojo has admitted to using this era in Miley’s artistic journey as a blueprint for the new rebrand; a move that can only be described as a misguided mistake. Miley was already avoiding her authentic self back in the 2010s... when you try to make a soulless copy of pre-existing inauthenticity, where does that leave you?

So, what does the public reaction to all of these events say about the music industry?

Well, here’s some good news: it says that people are able to see through fakery. No matter how convinced influencers are that it’ll work and no matter how many celebrities try to put on a front, everyday people (including you) can always figure things out eventually. In conclusion: putting a stop to lies can be a beautiful thing.



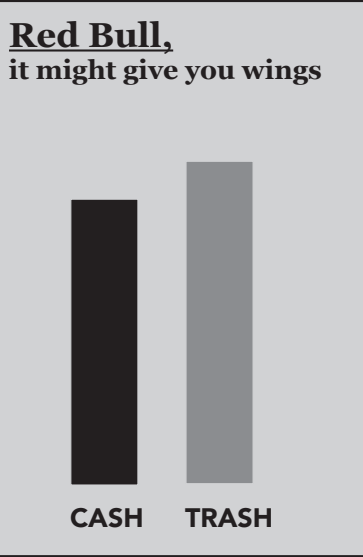
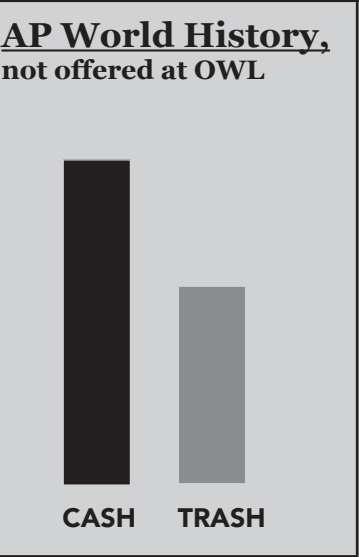
# Cash or Trash?



*“I like the... like the human movement thing,” -Ben-nett Vaughan-Fier*

*“Yeah,” -Luis Hernandez*

*“Not a real class,” -Leo Bickelhaupt*



*“It gives you wings. Think about it,” -Maddie Linstad*

*“Red Bull did not give me wings.” - Kathryn Totushek*



# Prom was out of this world

*Students tore it up at an outer space themed Sokol Hall on April 20th*



Clockwise from top left: seniors Henry Plaman, Eli Berg, and Oliver Plaman pose for a photo; 10th graders Ani-Maria Moore, Yadiel Dimayuga, and Emma Miller have a spiderman encounter; 11th grader Kiara Stiener and teacher Jeff Stiener take a father-daughter photo; high school students throw their hands up for Party in the USA by Miley Cyrus; social studies teacher Luke Turvold and senior Mae Heeringa are all smiles from the DJ table.