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Purple Press

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Nationals in D.C. is upon us

National History Day qualifiers are anxiously awaiting the June contest

Abby Horton
Staff Writer

From June 8th to June 14th, 2024, eight OWL students will be competing at National History Day at the University of Maryland campus outside of Washington D.C. This is the first year since 2022 that OWL students have qualified for National History Day.

After qualifying on April 20th, 2024, the eight OWL students that qualified will be attending the competition along with around 3,000 other students (with their teachers and families), from across the United States as well as Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Department of Defense Schools in the Atlantic, and

schools in China and Korea.

OWL National qualifiers include 8th graders Abby Horton, Beatrice Cosgrove, Charley Cheatham, Maisy Wall, and Zania Hierlmaier, 9th graders Anya Robertson and Claire Ales, and 10th grader Margaret Moe.

"It is so exciting and such a big accomplishment," said Charley, "When I found out I

was going, I was like 'Omg, I'm going to Nationals,'" and then I was like, "OMG, I'm going to Nationals!"

To get ready for Nationals, students are revising their projects, bibliography, and process papers, making sure they are the best they can be for the National competition. With the bibliography and process paper due on May

14th, that became the priority for many students. "For my group, we just wanted to get the bibliography and process paper out of the way because one, its deadline was first, and two we wanted the most time possible to improve our project," said Charley. For Zania, who wrote a paper, the May 14th deadline also meant her paper had to be done. "It

was definitely stressful. You have a lot less time than the other categories to finish your project, but it was also nice because then I just got to be done earlier," Zania stated.

The rest of the projects had until the National competition started to complete their projects, receiving feedback

NHD, 6

Outward Bound tackles service trips



Senior Anja Gundale and 10th grader Maddie Linstad restock spices (left), students on the Maine trip pose by an east coast sunset (right).

OWL high school students did service work in MN, CO, and ME over interim

Lana Stevens
Staff Writer

Outward Bound students were up and out throughout the country, having fun and working hard to earn their stay on a free all-expenses-paid trip during interim. Outward Bound trips included Deep Portage Minnesota, Leadville

Colorado, and Hurricane Island Maine.

Throughout the year, Outward Bound does service around the school, such as setting up and working at events, planning school dances, and running the spring plant sale. All of this service work raises the money for the trips they take during interim.

Once they arrive at the outward bound site, they help out with chores and jobs around the camp, getting ready for other students to come during the summer. In Deep Portage, students stacked a lot of wood and painted. In Colorado, there were many chores, like building a yurt campground and painting

houses. In Maine, they built tent platforms and cleared downed trees.

In addition to the workload, there's plenty of fun to be had in all three locations. In Deep Portage, students went on a day-long canoe trip, went rock climbing, and had a s'more night. Colorado students went through a tree-top ropes

course, went swimming in mountain lakes, and at the end of the week, had a talent show. In Maine, they went swimming in the ocean, watched the Timberwolves, and played hot seat activities.

All three trips featured games and team-building activities and plenty of time to enjoy the nature around them.



Purple Press Staff Photos

Must see TV coming soon

Claire Ales
Staff Writer

Running out of shows to watch this summer? Well I've got something just for you. Happening every four years and dating back around 3,000 years, the summer Olympics is happening this summer in Paris, France.

The "ancient Olympic Games" were held in the Greek city of Olympia and were set up as a dedication to the Greek god "Zeus". The majority of the events were held in a large stadium that could hold thousands of spectators. Additionally, around the 9th century three kings signed a treaty which stated that during the period of the Olympic Games, athletes, artists and their families, along with ordinary pilgrims could travel safely to participate in or attend the games.

The ancient games continued for more than 1,000 years until Greece was conquered by Rome and started a period of decline. Many years later in 1896, the first "modern" Olympic Games were held in Athens, Greece. This marked the beginning of the modern era for the games.

Today more than 206 nations around the world come together to compete in around 40 sports, with there always being new additions.

At the 2021 Tokyo Olympics four sports made their debut. These sports are, skateboarding, sport climbing, surfing, and 3x3 Basketball,

Summer Olympics, 7

OWL recredentialed as EL school

The process involved carefully prepared slides, student panel and examples of HQW for success

Violet Wright
Staff Writer

One day in March, several teachers, Dave, and some students spent several hours in a very important virtual meeting. During this meeting, they talked to EL Education officials, defended OWL's progress, and demonstrated that OWL is performing to a high standard with regards to

the EL Education model.

EL Education is a national school model of 37 core practices that "serve as a blueprint for transforming instruction, assessment, leadership, curriculum, school culture and character." EL focuses on three main dimensions of student achievement: mastery of skills and knowledge, culture and character, and high quality

work. The EL Credential is a way to demonstrate that a school is implementing the program at a high level and the students are therefore achieving in the three pillars of EL Education. OWL first got its credential in 2017, and was scheduled to re-credential in 2022. The process got delayed to allow OWL to get its feet under itself and focus more on

Recredentialing, 7



OWL staff and students worked together to recredential the school earlier this spring.

Purple Press staff photo



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. The opinions expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily represent those of OWL staff or administration.

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Womanatee battle to third place at state

Players call the season a success, end on a high note by defeating SLP to notch third in D2

Lana Stevens and Jensina Eccles

Staff Writers

The 2024 Spring WoManatee season has come to an end with the banquet wrapping it all up, as alumni and current players gather to reflect on the season and where they've taken their frisbee careers. Younger players on the team are excited to take on leadership roles, coaches are proud of the commitment players have shown this year, and seniors are looking to the future.

Sophomore Maddie Linstad, who plays for OWL's WoManatee team, spoke on her time with the team this season. "This season has been huge for my personal growth. I feel like the captains have really wanted us to become better individually and flow as a team."

She talked about how this season has been very developmental for everyone on the team, focusing on teaching new players and uplifting the seniors. "I would say a huge highlight was our senior night."



Brisa Bolton-Steiner

Senior Annika Lofgren absorbs contact while going for a catch.

We had eight seniors so it was a great chance to honor them and their ultimate journey."

One of the newest additions to the team was head coach Athena Bolton-Steiner, who took on the challenge of coaching for the first time this year. Athena is no stranger to frisbee. She played on Womanatee during their inaugural season and continued in college at the University of Minnesota Duluth. "I enjoy watching 'ah hah' moments when the gameplay clicks for new players. I also like watching players form chemistry on the field and make meaningful friendships. The WoManatees are a great group, I really enjoy spending time with them."

She talked about the team's growth during the season. "We were struggling at the beginning of the season with our continuations down field, but we really stepped it up to give the thrower at least five looks within the 10 seconds they have with the disc. We are getting good at thinking about the next play and setting up the next look," She said. "Our players also really dug deep to play tighter and smarter defense in the last few games and they have forced some awesome, jaw-dropping turnovers!"

On June 1st and 2nd the Womanatee competed at the State tournament at National Sports Center in Blaine. While the team began the year in the state's top division, they were dropped to division two for the state tournament after some early losses coupled with multiple forfeits over interim. They ended day two of the



Purple Press Staff Photo

11th grader Mylie Peterson Antin prepares to throw.

tournament with a win against St. Louis Park Crush, securing third place in D2.

The Womanatee team felt good about their season, especially when looking at the team's progress. "Every single player of our team showed up and experienced growth," Maddie said. "As a team we really grew overall. I'm very proud of everyone and the flow that we created."

Maddie encourages more athletes to join the Manatee next year. "I really enjoy the energy that we bring to the sport. Everybody there has a huge passion for ultimate, and it's really great to be around that. We really strive to build positivity and it really shows. I love being around that."

The connection doesn't end with frisbee. The team also places emphasis on many bonding activities, such as one at the end of the Hopkins Hustle tournament. The team concluded the day with a compliment circle and made a candy salad, in which everyone contributed a commendation towards another player and candy of their choice. I mean, who doesn't like compliments and a candy salad?



Tanya Sturm

The Manatee squad bettered its 7th place finish from last year's tournament by finishing fifth in the state.

Manatee earn highest mark

The team won four of its final six games at the state tourney

Maddie Linstad

Staff Writer

After a hugely competitive and successful season, the Manatee finished their spring season by earning fifth place in the state's top division. It was the highest ever finish for the Manatee, who were seventh last year.

The ultimate state tournament occurred last weekend at the National Sports Center in Blaine. The Manatee won four out of their six games, and reportedly had a tournament filled with momentum and energy. "I feel so proud of my team and what they've done this season, it was a historic finish," said Junior Joe Lodahl. The team played against other highly-ranked teams such as Andover and Squall, which Sophomore Wyatt Kessler called "two good teams."

Before state, the Manatee made their presence known by placing fourth at The Hopkins Hustle, a frisbee tournament that occurred May 11th and 12th. They went up against the other top boys varsity teams such as Andover and Middleton, leading to some very competitive games. All in all, Manatee won 4 out of their 7 games, but some argue it could have been

different, as they reportedly experienced some uninspired points. "Andover as a team likes to make a lot of calls, so they gained many advantages from that," said Junior captain Danny Hobday.

Overall, the Manatee feel like they had a really successful season, filled with not only lots of wins, but incredible growth as well. Junior Luis Hernandez stated "as a team, we grew a lot compared to last year." Luis went on to explain that they were able to work as a unit, and everyone as a team put more effort into the game. Joe also spoke about the hardwork and effort put into the season, and highlighted the team's new and successful appearance at the Neuqua Knockout Tournament this year.

Many believe this year was the best ultimate season in OWL history. Others are stoked to see the Manatee improve even further next year. "The future's bright," said Junior Arthur Madsen. Junior Antonio Cervantes agreed, and mentioned the team's effort in preparing many JV players for their step-up into Varsity. "We're definitely hoping to incorporate them into our season next year," said Antonio.

A day in the life at Neuqua

Manatee player Wyatt journals his way through the national qualifying frisbee tournament in Rockford, Illinois

Wyatt Kessler

Staff Writer

5/3/24

The first time the OWL ultimate frisbee team will ever go to an out of state tournament is this coming weekend. The team is leaving from school around 12:00 with organized carpools and expect to arrive in Rockford, Illinois around 5-5:30. I left school around 11:30 to pick up Luis and Arthur in an SUV, and my dad was driving. The team was overall feeling pretty optimistic about how we would do in our games in the following days.

At 5:00, we arrived at the hotel, but we had to wait for everyone else to get here so we could check into our rooms. I was in room 127 with Arthur, Arlo, and Theo. We had dinner reservations for 7:00 at Tavern on Clark and the team walked there as a whole from the hotel, and had some good food. When we got back to the hotel, a group of people including

myself went to the hotel pool for a while before bed at 10. The day was the least eventful of them all, as the team was just settling in.

5/4/24

7:00 AM is when the majority of the team woke up, to get ready for breakfast at 7:20. There were bagels, bananas and all sorts of fruits, muffins, milk, etc prepared by all the parents (thank you all

so much, parents). The team ate and got ready for the first day of games, getting to the fields by 8:00.

The fields were pretty nice, not muddy or dry, the grass was at a great length, and there was plenty of room on the sideline. We did a jog, warmups, and endzone practice before we huddled up and quickly pumped ourselves up before the game and cheered.



Photo courtesy of the Manatee

Junior Joe Lodahl executes a downfield throw at the Neuqua tournament in May.

The first game kicked off at 9:00. The first team we played, Lyons Township, seemed to have one player who liked to throw deep, and one of their tactics was to center the disc to him so he could do that. This did not work well the whole time and we ended up winning 13-2.

The next game happened 15 minutes later, while we played a bit of spikeball and tossed the frisbee a bit to pass the time. The team we played in the second game, Pi, has a rich history, once being ranked 4th in the country. However, we ended up defeating them 13-2 and extending our record to 2-0. We took down Evanston 13-5 in our third game to head into a bye round, where we all got a nice break in the shade.

Our last game was against Maddison West, which ended up getting stormed out near the last 10 minutes of the game. However, we did end up winning the game, since

Neuqua, 14



Humboldt track builds team

OWL participation on the team has grown rapidly in recent years; team sets big goals

Clara Crosby & Za'im Dennis
Staff Writer

On a typical Friday afternoon, you'll see the Humboldt/Owl track team playing many games, some of which include ships across the ocean and Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe is a soccer-like game, played using a yoga ball. Every time you strike the ball, you must yell "Zimbabwe!"

The Humboldt/OWL track team fosters a safe and inclusive environment for all, from field athletes to distance runners and sprinters. Senior Captain Willa Champion says, "In general, Humboldt does face the barrier of a lack of resources, but our team has done a really great job of being one of the top teams in the conference and really showing up as a team with great team spirit." Coach Mario Luna plays a big part in encouraging that team spirit and making the track team welcoming for everyone.

A typical week of practice includes group workouts with the whole team and individual practice that exercises what you specialize in. Distance runners usually go on a run, which can vary from a light one mile to longer distances such as six miles. Sprinters typically practice their running form or their block starts individually, and run sprints around the field specialized to what races they run. Field events, such as throwing, jumping, and hurdling, also practice their form. Since the Humboldt/Owl track team doesn't have a track to practice on, often on meet days is the first time runners can accurately pace their event. "Although it is very hard, we try to stimulate as much as we can and we have a little more fun than other teams have," says Coach Mario on the lack of resources for the track team.

Although the track team is continuously increasing and has its own set of struggles, some runners have gotten

exceptionally good results at meets. The girls team took second place overall at their first two official meets with 141 points in the first meet, shy from first place by 21 points, and at the second meet shy of first by only 17.5 points. The 4 x 800 teams from both boys and girls earned first place finishes. The girls 4x800 team, composed of freshman Aria Kulseth, sophomore Clara Crosby, seniors Tess Champion, and Willa, consistently made time improvements, including a 24.85 second drop between their first two meets. The boys 4x800 team, consisting of junior Bennet Vaughn-Fier, freshman Oscar Mons, senior Tamirat Wendimu, and sophomore Teddie Lopez, are making their own improvements with 8.45 seconds dropped between their first two races.

Runners took 26 overall first place finishes throughout this season. Aria won first place overall for her 400 meter dash at two meets, with a time

of 1 minute and 7 seconds at both races. At the MSHSL Section 3AA Championship 400m dash prelims, Aria took 5th place overall and a personal record with a time of 1:02.44 seconds. At the section finals, Aria took one place shy of qualifying for state, placing third. sophomore Za'im Dennis won first place overall in his 300 meter hurdles with a time of 46.24 seconds early in the season, having shaved 1.69 seconds off of his prior time of 47.93. At the Conference Finals, Za'im took another 1.34 seconds of his time, taking third place overall, medalling with a time of 44.9 seconds.

At the Varsity conference meet, the team had eight athletes who either took top eight overall in their event or qualified for the finals. These athletes were Humboldt athletes King Davis in the 200 meter dash, Tamirat Wendimu in the 400 meter dash and 3200 meter run, and Brantaija Loggins in discus. Owl athletes are Za'im Dennis in 300 meter hurdles, Aria Kulseth in the 400 meter dash, and Anneli Lofgren and Annabelle Wilson



Photo courtesy of Wisconsin Off Road Racing Series

Ninth grader Kai Walker crests a bump in a recent race in Wisconsin.

Kai's summer goal: nationals

Charley Cheatham
Staff Writer

While OWL isn't generally known for its sports, there are a few that stand out in our community. There's Ultimate Frisbee, Fraquetball, Archery, and so on. But there is one sport, both dynamic and powerful, that pushes athletes to their limits for both endurance and skill -- mountain biking. And there is one OWL mountain biker who is testing their shot at nationals this summer with a new youth racing team.

"I have been on a bike since I was three years old and I have been mountain biking for about ten years now," said ninth grader Kai Walker. "I really love how dynamic the sport is, there is a lot of skill needed for bike handling and it takes a lot of power to race."

Kai has been on the St. Paul Composite mountain biking team for three years, racing for OWL. But he is deciding to take a big step this year by competing in the Wisconsin Off-Road Series (WORS) as a part of the Youth Donkey Label Racing team, his end goal being competing in the national race in Pennsylvania.

"For me nationals is a big step that I think will give me a goal that will make me train

and compete harder than ever," said Kai.

Before nationals, Kai has five races around Wisconsin in cities such as Wausau, Wakasha, and La Crosse. While he will be racing as a part of the YDLR team, the scores themselves will reflect his individual race time.

Kai sees his summer experience as a good addition to his fall racing with the Saint Paul team. "The Youth team is a lot more competitive and training based than the high school team," said Kai, "they are both great but I have more resources for training and racing with Donkey Label."

OWL English teacher and Mountain Biking coach Leo Bickelhaupt also gave some insight to Kai's approach to the sport. "You can tell when some riders are just doing it to do it, versus when they are really serious about it," said Leo, "and Kai is really serious about it."

Kai plans to continue pushing himself for both nationals and the high school team with goals like making the top 50 in nationals and staying in the top 10 for the high school season.

"As for my thoughts after high school," said Kai, "I plan to still race and train whether that is nationally or regionally."

Willa wins an Athena award

The OWL senior represented Humboldt at a banquet honoring high school female athletes in downtown Saint Paul this March

Jensina Eccles & Lana Stevens
Staff Writer

Senior Willa Champion is the winner of this year's Athena award! The Athena award is a citywide award, awarded to one female senior from each high school who plays a sport/multiple, is involved in their community, and has good academics. She's the second OWL student to win the combined OWL/Humboldt award, the first being Lily Hobday, who graduated in .

Willa managed to do this playing three sports with excellent academics and school volunteering. She played cross country in fall, alpine skiing in winter, and track & field in

spring. For cross country she was a four time team captain, earning five letters, while in Alpine skiing she earned three letters. In track & field she is a two time captain, rookie of the year, and earned three letters.

Mario Luna, Humboldt's track and field coach, spoke on his years being Willa's coach. "Willa has always been a successful runner! In her ninth grade year, she set a course record at the Como Meet. She has grown as a leader and helped me build what our Cross Country and Track teams are today! Without her leadership and her mentoring younger runners our teams would not be as strong as they are."

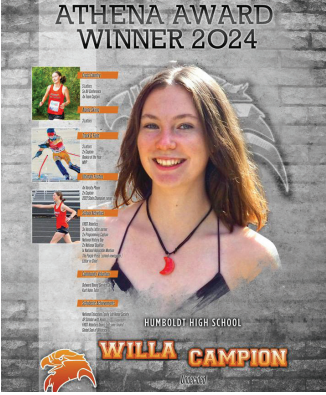
Mario explained how much

Willa has helped him grow the team. "She started it all! When I took the team over, we only had two girls, Willa and Nora! The two of them helped me start it all by recruiting and being the example for the new runners. For the last four years everyone has looked to Willa as a leader and the example of what hard work looks like."

She's done other things through our school and community that also made her a good candidate, including being in Outward Bound, editor-in-chief of the Purple Press, AP scholar with honor, qualifying for History Day Nationals, and being a varsity Ultimate frisbee player and captain.

"It's been so fun coaching

Willa and I know all the other coaches in St. Paul are glad she's graduating, and they won't have to chase her anymore!" Mario said. "I will miss coaching Willa and can't wait to see what she does with running in her future!"



A history of frisbee at OWL

Frisbee has grown from a lunchtime activity to a deep program that competes on many levels

Aria Kulseth
Staff Writer

If you happen to be around Humboldt at 5:00, chances are you'll see people throwing discs on the turf, and if you're lucky, see a game. Ultimate frisbee is a very competitive sport that is played all over the U.S. and it doesn't take long to see that Ultimate is taken very seriously at OWL. As one of OWL's few sports, Manatee pride runs deep, whether it be the posters that decorate the halls, or the definite chance of seeing someone in a jersey pass by you sometime during the day, it's obvious just how much this sport means to OWL.

Currently, OWL has three highschool teams, one boys

JV, a boys varsity, and a girls varsity as well as three middle school teams.

But ultimate frisbee wasn't always as big at OWL, in fact the origins of the sport date back to the late '1990-'2000s when teachers Tim Leone-Getten and Leo Bickelhaupt would take their classes out during lunch time to play frisbee. Their students eventually got really into it and the Manatee's

eventual founder, Liam Shramko decided to form a team, although due to some logistical hurdles, they had to play for Central's team for a couple of years. Until Shranko reached out to the MNYU board, and finally in 2007 OWL's first ultimate frisbee team was formed. It would soon gather a lot of interest and support.

At first OWL had a small



team of about 11, especially since the high school was half the size that it is now. The ultimate team was originally an open team, which means anyone could join. Although it was a small team, the Manatees made it work and did pretty well at first, and have continued to be a high quality team throughout their existence. During the early stages of the sport, there was only one division, but as bigger schools started to join the sport, they brought with them multiple teams that had access to lots of resources, and as competition grew tougher, the sport split into three leagues. The Manatees have been able to stay in the first division for quite some time, with both the girls and boys team having previously won titles the second divisions.

Frisbee history, 14

Upcoming Events

- June 10:** Long Crew Day at Lake Elmo
- June 11:** Summer break begins
- August 29:** Goal setting conferences
- September 3:** School resumes
- September 23:** Fall retreat week

TikTok could face ban in US

Biden urged Bytedance to sell the social app to a US company

Samir Keller
Staff Writer

If the US Government gets their way, the way we consume digital media may change forever.

On April 23rd of 2024, President Biden signed into law a seemingly normal bi-partisan bill meant to provide military aid to Israel and Ukraine. In that bill was one article that had nothing to do with rendering military aid. That article specifically targeted TikTok, forcing its parent company, Bytedance, to sell the platform to a US-based buyer. If TikTok, which is valued at \$10,000,000,000+, were to not be sold within 270 days, it would be banned from operating inside the United States. The app would also be removed from all app stores in the country.

This ban is largely a political

one. Tensions between China and the United States have been on the rise for years. It has gotten to a point where the United States has declared China a foreign adversary. The government does not want any technology to come from China, like we saw a few years ago with the ban of the Chinese smartphone company Huawei. Additionally, the government wants to shift away from importing as many Chinese-made goods as possible.

TikTok CEO, Shou Zi Chew, claims that the company's first amendment rights (as corporations are considered people under US law.) The constitutionality of this bill is in fact questionable, TikTok will almost certainly take this to the Supreme Court, and fight a battle that will last years.

While they are fighting this case in the courts, the

app would not be banned, even after 270 days. If the bill were to be overturned by the Supreme Court, the company would be able to continue full operations in the country. Even if the Supreme Court were to side with the US government, this would give the company time to decide whether or not to sell the company.

If they were to sell the company, there would be many issues for the buyer. Very few companies have \$10 billion or more in liquid assets. Even if they did, it would still not be economically viable. For the massive mega-corporations that would be able to buy the company, antitrust laws would drag out the transaction for months, or even years. If the FTC were to deny the transaction then they would, once again, have to find a new buyer.

Additional legislation would make it harder for a foreign company to buy the company and still be able to operate in the US. Legislation like the "Peace Through Strength act" would impose more restrictions that would apply to TikTok. For one, the bill would prevent Bytedance from updating the TikTok app in the United States. The bill also has a clause that would prevent data brokers from giving data of people living in the United States to a foreign adversary. If the TikTok ban gets repealed but this bill were to be signed into law, it wouldn't matter. Bytedance is a Chinese company, and the CCP requires them to hand over the data of foreigners, meaning that the app still couldn't operate in the US.



Purple Press Staff Photo

BWCA: A place like few others

Many have called for protection of the MN wilderness area

Collin Larson
Staff Writer

Many of you have heard about the Boundary Waters Canoe Area; chances are you've been there yourself. This pristine wilderness in northeastern Minnesota is well-known for its remarkably unchanged state—it has been altered very little for thousands of years. It is one of the few remaining places on Earth with little to no human interference.

This surprised me. Headlines such as "A Brazilian road project cuts through the Amazon, paving the way to vast deforestation" make me wonder how anywhere could still be largely untouched by humans. Yet the Boundary Waters defies this almost universal expectation, and I became determined to find out why.

By the time French fur trappers arrived in the 1600s, several Indigenous peoples, namely the Ojibwe, had stewarded the land for hundreds of years. Yet the rapid expansion of European settlers, and the establishment of the United States government, pushed them off their ancestral land and onto reservations.

In the years that followed, the area became the site of a dispute over how much of the land belonged to the United States or Canada. This was mostly settled in 1842, when the two countries decided to use an old trading route along the Pigeon and Rainy Rivers. With the border firmly established, the lumber, iron, silver, and gold industries moved into the area.

Partly because of this, many people made efforts to preserve the serene, untouched landscape. William Marion Jardine, the Secretary of Agriculture, decided to set aside 640,000 acres in 1926 as a roadless wilderness area. Congress passed the Shipston-Newton-Nolan Act in 1930, which prohibited logging and the construction of dams in the area. In 1938, it was expanded significantly and renamed the Superior Roadless Primitive Area.

The Boundary Waters became known by that name in 1958, and in the years that

followed, several other laws and regulations were passed, highly limiting vehicular travel and all but prohibiting logging and mining. Some were quite controversial, and remain so to this day.

One of these such laws was a proposition that would have allowed companies to mine the huge deposits of copper and nickel below the Boundary Waters. The United States government opted to ban mining for 20 years to allow for further evaluation of the area; this was canceled in 2018 by the Trump administration, and restored in 2021 by the Biden administration.

Today, the Boundary Waters covers over 1,090,000 acres of northern wilderness on the border between Minnesota and Canada. Almost 20% of the Boundary Waters is water, including more than 1,100 lakes and many hundreds of miles of rivers. It covers a portion of the territory of the largest wolf population in the United States, and has been declared a crucial habitat for northern bird species.

Every year, over 150,000 tourists, hikers, and boaters travel to the Boundary Waters to experience the area's beauty for themselves. In 2007, a study showed that 94% of visitors to the Boundary Waters travel by canoe through the waterways.

For those that wish to stay overnight as part of their visit, they are required to file a permit. A permit is also required for people that use a motorized means of transportation to travel into the area.

The Boundary Waters was labeled as a Dark Sky Sanctuary in 2020 due to its complete lack of light pollution. Only 14 other locations have been granted that designation, as a result of the mounting damage caused by human activities worldwide.

SPFE was prepared to strike

After a close call, the t.e.achers union reaches an agreement

Anya Robertson
Staff Writer

At OWL, ninety four percent of teachers and EAs are members of SPFE. This year SPFE was prepared to strike on March 11th after the strike vote on February 15th but reached an agreement on March 5th. They had 50 proposals at the start of negotiations and all were either dropped or resolved. This story will review what happened in preparation for the strike and in negotiations.

SPFE organizers had posters printed for the strike and actually used them on actions called walk-ins. This was to show SPPS that they were ready to strike, they would picket around the school for 15-20 minutes before school starts. The union also had rallies which are larger gatherings, typically around a SPPS office. Members received

stickers and buttons to express support for the strike and outlining why they would go on strike.

In March of 2020 SPFE went on strike. Their main focus was on pay raises, health insurance, mental health support for students, and school nurses. The strike was largely ineffective because it ended due to the pandemic. SPFE decided that having school for students the rest

of the year took precedence. In 2022 a strike date was set and teachers were prepared to strike. They reached an agreement the night before the strike date. These negotiations were not as close as these years but pressure is still building between SPFE and SPPS.

Dr. Megan Hall said that the most important action happened over six months ago, in November when Democrats were elected to



Purple Press staff photo

Saint Paul teaachers avoided a strike this time around.

SPFE strike, 14

Bike Infrastructure grows

Saint Paul investing in a two-wheeled future

Tait Vossen-Nelson
Staff Writer

The Saint Paul City Council adopted an update of the 2015 Bicycle Plan; they aim to add 163 miles to the current 218 miles of bikeways by 2040.

"The bicycling infrastructure that has been put in the last 10 years has made cycling much more safe," said Joe Blegen, OWL Bike Tech teacher.

The plan addresses the goals set in The St. Paul Climate Action and Resilience Plan and The 2040 Saint Paul Comprehensive Plan. The St. Paul Climate Action and Resilience Plan, adopted in 2019, reported that 30% of St. Paul's emissions come from transportation; it is the largest individual factor of climate change in St. Paul. The plan recommends combating climate change

by promoting walking and biking by augmenting streets to help bikers and walkers feel comfortable.

The primary goal of the plan is to create a better network of different bikeways that promote the feeling of safety and comfort while biking through the city. The city plans to do this by expanding four different types of bike infrastructure. The bikeways identified in the plan are on-street bike lanes, which are typical bikeways you see on streets like Summit Avenue; bicycle boulevards, which are streets with low amounts of traffic designed to give bikers the priority by having lower speed limits for automobiles; separated bikeways and paths, which are typically just called paths or trails; and shared lanes, which are streets where cyclists share a lane with

drivers.

"I'd like to see more lanes rather than just a picture of a bike on a street," said Joe. "I feel like they don't always do a whole lot for safety for cyclists."

They will work on expanding both the major bikeways and the minor bikeways. Major bikeways are the bikeways that connect the city and carry the majority of longer bike rides; they generally follow one-mile apart spacing. Minor bikeways connect the people in smaller communities to the major bikeways; they are around a half-mile apart so people can easily get to them. Every destination in the city should be within a quarter-mile of a bikeway.

Joe said that he sees the city "designing [streets] around more than just the automobile. So a cyclist and a car can share

the road more safely."

"Nobody could ever really be in charge of [the planning and creating of this infrastructure] because it's so much more of, like, you're trying to bring together all these different people and there's no one person that gets to decide really anything besides convincing different groups to do different things and then having to all work together," said Tim Leone-Getten, OWL Spanish teacher and avid biker who uses the network for commuting and recreational purposes.

The plan also includes policy guidance on operation and maintenance to ensure a high level of service on the bike network. These policies will help clean streets, deal with potholes, melt ice and snow, ensure vegetation management, and increase signing. They say

Bike Infrastructure, 7

Senior Spotlight

Willa Champion



What pronouns do you use?
She/Her

How long have you been at OWL?
Seven years

What are your plans for next year?
I'll be attending UCLA

What's been your favorite class in high school?
I feel like I have to say Journalism but also APUSH

What extracurriculars are you involved in?
Cross Country, Alpine Skiing, Track and Field, Robotics, History Day, Model UN, Purple Press

Favorite field work experience or school trip and why?
I really like the Colorado Outward Bound trips

If you had a walk up song, what would it be?
Tokyo Drift from the Fast and the Furious

That One Little Kid

Wolf Cisney

How tall are you?
5' 1" I think

What pronouns do you use?
He/Him

What's your favorite book, movie, or TV show?
I like the Goonies

Who's your favorite senior?
Oliver

What is your favorite thing about OWL so far?
The people

What extra curriculars do you plan on getting involved in at OWL?
Skateboarding



Fashion spot-

light: Gwen

Stender

In one word Gwen's style is described as "Used"

Kiara Steiner
Staff Writer
An insight on your average OWL students' fashion.

me a lot of inspiration to go out and shop. Someday I'll be her."

Describe your go-to fit?:
"So my shirt is usually a band t-shirt—or one of my shirts that I find on the floor when the week gets crazy. And then I have three favorite pairs of pants, and I usually choose one of them. And then I use my green or my brown sweatshirt, or my flannel if I'm feeling spicy."

What do you have to say about the current style trends of OWL?:
"I'm liking that people are kind of branching out into their own specific styles. I'm seeing a lot more sweat shirts though. I think it's because it's the end of the year and nobody really cares anymore."

What is your skincare routine?:
"I wash my face in the shower and then I use the moisturizer that my mom buys."

What fashion trend do you think should come back?:
"Bell bottoms. I think bell bottoms should definitely come back. I want everyone to look like they're drowning in their pants."

What is your hair routine?:
"Usually I will put my hair in like a braided twist overnight because I like to have some volume to it. But if it's a hair wash night, then I usually don't have time to dry my hair and then put it into a twist, so I just let it be straight. And then I'll put some volumizer in it in the morning."

What fashion trend do you think should never come back?:
"Probably the no eyebrows trend. Like the really skinny eyebrows."

How early do you wake up to get ready?:
"I usually wake up at seven and my bus comes at 7:40. So yeah..."

Describe your wardrobe in one word:
"Used."

What student at school has the best fashion?:
"I'd have to say either Kiara Steiner or Cal Schmid. It depends on the day."

Where do you shop?:
"I mostly shop at thrift stores, or if I'm looking for pants I usually will go to American eagle or target."

What's the number one store you shop at?:
"Everyday people. I got my gorilla shirt there. Best store. Love it."

Who is your fashion icon and why?:
"My fashion icon is probably Cal Schmid. She really gives

Nerf wars ends with a bang

OWL upperclassmen competed in a nerf tournament this April

Gwen Stender
Staff Writer

Nerf wars at OWL (not OWL affiliated!!!) ended with a bang the week before interim as the last two teams standing competed for the \$420 prize and, more importantly, bragging rights. The Buzzcut Bandits, consisting of Charlie Acosta, Marshall Wasmund, and Antonio Cervantes, battled the Holy Trinity, composed of Joe Lodahl, Noah Johnson, and Danny Hobday. This game, reserved exclusively for upperclassmen, can get intense, especially when you consider the complex rules you have to follow to get your clean shot in and win it for your team. Nerf wars, to put it simply, is exactly what it sounds like. Teams of up to three join the game by paying \$10 towards the reward pool, picking a name, and making a poster for the @ownernfwars Instagram account to post. Once the deadline has passed for joining, groups are formed. The game is played with rounds and elimination, and so your team has to get the most kills in your pool in order to advance to the next round. If you die, but your team has the most kills, you are revived for the next round. School hours are a time of immunity in an effort to make the wars not interfere with classes.

Fifteen teams officially began the war on April 23, divided into five groups with three teams in each. Two teams from each group moved on to the next round, with the group with the least kills getting eliminated. In order to give the eliminated groups a voice, writers interviewed members of the Spamalamadingdongs and of Alvin and the Chipmunks. "We were allied with the Buzzcut Bandits and the Cotton Eyed Hoes in the first round," Kiara Steiner, an eleventh grader of the Spamalamadingdongs said, referring to the other two teams in their group. The team was subsequently betrayed, however, despite their efforts to turn the other two against each other. "They banded together against us," Kiara remembers with regret. Gabby Govrik, a junior of Alvin and the Chipmunks, remembered one battle in particular when recounting her Nerf Wars experience, an encounter with the Minion Blasters. "I was getting ready to leave at like 7:30 to go get Maria and my dog was barking, so I looked out the window and saw two little



11th grader Danny Hobday of the Holy Trinity and 12th grader Anja Gundale aim their nerf guns.

heads poking out behind a bush, and it was Maria Imholte and Nora Crosby. So I was like okay, well, I can't really leave, but my car was in the driveway. So then I was like, Mom, Elena is probably here." Gabby's experience holds much in common with others' in that her family helped her survive the battles. Mylie Peterson Antin, also of the Spamalamadingdongs, actually signed a contract with her brother, Cooper Peterson Antin of the Bomboclots, to not betray each other and let enemies into their house. "So my mom went outside and to the driveway, and, lo and behold, Elena Davis was there," Gabby continues. "She was standing there waiting to get me, and so we had a shootout. I was in my gated backyard, and they were like, in the alleyway and we just kept trying to shoot each other. It was probably like an hour of doing that honestly, and no one got killed. I almost got Maria though." Despite the heated battle, Alvin and the Chipmunks did not move on to the next round, though their fierce opponents, the Minion Blasters, did. The second round began April 28th, and consisted of five matchups with two teams in each. The Minion Blasters

Nerf wars, 14

Trends come in waves

The newest trend at OWL is a little “wave” with just one finger

Connie Van Genderen
Staff Writer

Apple has got to get to work, on the one finger wave emoji. Such a large selection to choose from, yet somehow, rich apple executives that never leave their office, haven't heard of this?

Over the past year the one finger wave has taken OWL by storm. Characterized by its use in hallways, Many students are opting for this option of wave seeing as it is a less obnoxious, friendlier and funnier wave compared to the five fingered wave. But I came across something very strange in my research. As far as I know, the one finger wave doesn't exist outside of schools and camps. When asking most people, especially adults, it appears as if it isn't very mainstream or well known. "I remember a long time ago, there was this guy called popsicle, and he did the little wave like that, but this was like kindergarten, yeah, i remember doing it in kindergarten," said 6th grader Felix Rowan. Yet somehow,

this niche wave has gripped OWL by the collar. When asking younger peeps, they recall using it at summer camps or old schools. Sorta acts as a symbol, representing speech, that is semi-unique to the school, a part of the OWL dialect. "I think it's cool! you can kinda get the message across, without making a huge gesture. It's small and gets the point across," said 9th grader Claire Ales.

But where did this even come from? I have two theories. 1. The wave seemed to evolve from the two finger wave that comes with driving a car, you've seen it, when you're crossing the street and a driver slows down, you wave at them to say thanks and they lift up two or three fingers off the top of the wheel. 2. Somebody's old grandma started waving at them at Walmart in the fashion of closing and opening their hand very fast. They saw it and thought, hehehehehe, grandmas are so cool, but let's tone it down and made this up. "I haven't really seen it before, but it kinda looks like

a baby wave, but people always do it with a weird smile," said 6th grader Anna Funk.

With the popularity of the one finger wave at OWL, other more out of date waves seem to also be coming back to style. For one, the grandma wave or queen wave (slay queen). That last ones a joke, but no joke, I've seen at least 3 people use the grandma wave. "I wave, sometimes like a mom will wave, like this [opens and closes hands fast]. I do that one, or I do it with two hands like this[repeats with two hands]. Just the regular wavy doesn't really come as naturally to me," said Margaret.

As with all trends, comes confusion and OWL is no outlier to that. "I didn't know it was a thing, it's a qualm," said 9th grader Neve Dawson. "I don't really get the buzz," said 9th grader Aria Kulseth. "I think... I think it's creepy. I remember one of my friends doing it, and she was like "Hliiii pookie!" And it's like ohh, I don't like that. It's not my favorite," said 9th grader Alva Healy. But some people

enjoy the trend and find it fun and welcoming. "When I went to camp last summer, it was kind of like, super popular. But I went to camp with people from like, St. Louis Park, or the suburbs, and they were doing it and then I came back to school and I was like, Oh my gosh, people are doing it too! And I was like, like, this is so surreal. This is so weird, kind of really interesting. And I don't really know what it comes from. I think it's just a cute little way to say hello," said 10th grader Margaret Moe.

The trend still seems to be going strong, coming in waves, as new kids discover. As trends come and go, is this one here to stay? or will we be waving it goodbye?



Maddie Linstad

Tenth grader goofs around with her close friend and fellow tenth grader Maddie Linstad in Alysha's room.

What makes a friendship?

Good friends see, appreciate one another, show forgiveness

Beatrice Cosgrove
Staff Writer

If you were to think of an iconic duo, who would it be? Chewbacca and Han Solo? Bert and Ernie? (My personal favorite) Lucy Ricardo and Ethel Mertz? Our very own Tim and Leo? But who is THE duo? I have uncovered the answer lying in a friendship started by a hair tie and have decided to use this as a thorough analysis of friendships, their importance and how to make improvements to yours.

Tenth graders Margaret Moe and Maddie Linstad met in sixth grade during Fall Retreats on an overnight trip to Baker. It was the last year sixth graders got to stay at the outdoor learning center, but was ultimately the perfect spot for a friendship to begin. "I was walking around and I saw this hair tie on the ground, [so] I picked it up," Margaret recounted, "Then later at the [bonfire], Maddie came up to me." Maddie smiled fondly, "I was like, is that my hair tie? And Margaret was just kind of fiddling with it," she said, "And she was like 'Oh, I found it on the ground. Maybe it is yours.'" The rest is history.

To me, one of the most important things in a friendship is seeing and appreciating each other. I asked the pair what their favorite qualities were in each other, and found that they valued very similar things. "My favorite thing about Margaret [is that] she has the ability to make anybody laugh and anybody happy," Maddie said of her counterpart. "I like how she is always willing to be nice to people...and super respectful to everyone she meets," Margaret said in regards to Maddie. Even with a solid basis of mutual kindness and respect, friends still have scuffles. I asked the two what advice they would give other friends, and they both agreed that making sure to stay in touch, but have space and time apart from each other can foster a happier, more appreciative relationship.

I asked 8th grader Maisy Wall what qualities are

important in a friendship. "... forgiveness and vulnerability are the biggest ones," Maisy replied. I proceeded to ask her how to strengthen a friendship, and after some thought, she told me privacy and trust are extremely important. "So I feel like to strengthen friendships, I just try to really listen to people when [someone is] telling me important things and making sure that I don't repeat those things unless they tell me to."

Independence is also crucial, and the ability to accept that your friend is not your clone can be a great starting point. Generally, friends will like and dislike different things. You may have different music tastes, favorite foods, movie preferences and skills, but ensuring that both parties are respectful of these differences can be extremely important. In Maddie and Margaret's friendship, having fun is integral and I have often seen and heard about the pair's adventures in and out of school.

In order to prove that this is not a meaningless rant about friendship, I found scientific evidence that friendships are, indeed, very influential on mental health and are often looked over.

Have you ever asked yourself why the two main characters in a movie or book can't be 'just friends'? According to the American Psychological Association, American culture often focuses on romantic relationships and prioritizes them over platonic ones. Scientists who studied friendship found similar brain activity in friends occurring in regions responsible for several purposes, including motivation, reward, identity and sensory processing. Closer friends also had similar brain activity when watching a series of video clips. These studies display connections among friends that run deeper than we might think.

On a negative note, since the COVID-19 pandemic, social isolation has been a

Best friends, 14

Sophie goes to nats

OWL 7th grader goes to nationals and places 1168 out of 6920

Amelia Keenan
Staff Writer

Seventh grader Sophie Sherman-Hoehn qualified for and attended archery nationals. The competition took place Friday, May 10th, in Kentucky at the Kentucky Exposition center. This is Sophie's second year in a row attending archery nationals, and second year since covid that an OWL student has qualified for nationals.

Sophie has been doing archery for a few years at this point, and started OWL archery last year, where she attended the national archery competition for the first time. "It was really fun, we had the

whole team there," said Sophie.

This year was a different story. "I was a lot more nervous than I was last year, because last year there were others coming with me and this year it was just me," she said.

Sophie scored a 271 at nationals, and in the overall girls ranked 1168 out of 6920. She said that nationals was a really fun experience for her, and that she wants the entire team to be able to go next year. "For me, I barely ever go out of the state so it's fun to see new things. "It's a lot different from other tournaments."

Sophie is planning on continuing archery for the rest of her years at OWL, and says

that she likes how there are different things she works on everyday so she can improve. "I always work on 15 meters, or grouping, or learning different tricks."

Sophie's results indicate that she has a long, bright future ahead in archery. Math teacher and archery coach Tom Totushek said, "Sophia is athletic and puts in the work, those two things will help athletes in any sport. Aside from that, she is strong for her height, has steady hands, and is coachable."



...Photo courtesy of OWL archery
Sophie stands on the podium at the state meet.

a team meeting and check into their dorm rooms.

On Sunday, students will complete their National registration along with the 100 other students in their category, and participate in a welcome ceremony, commemorating the start of the National competition. Students will then have a Team Minnesota meeting that night and every night after that besides Monday, discussing how the competition is going and any important updates.

On Monday, students in the junior division will be judged, where they will be reviewed and then placed, the first place project in each room being sent to final round judging. Final round judging for the junior division will take place on Tuesday night. On Tuesday, the senior division will be judged in the same process as the junior division. Final round judging for the senior division will take place on Wednesday morning.

"I'm so nervous about judging," said Zania, "but I'm also very excited to be able to share my voice and my knowledge on my topic."

Thursday, the last day of the National competition, starts with taking a Team Minnesota photo and going to the Award Ceremony, followed by a Team Minnesota lunch. A dorm decorating contest will take place that night.

Early on Friday morning, Team Minnesota students will pack up their dorm rooms and go to the airport where they will fly back to Minnesota before the afternoon.

Before Nationals, OWL students took part in some events, including the National Qualifiers Reception on May 4th at the Minnesota Historical Society. At the Reception, students presented their projects which were recorded or taken pictures of for Minnesota History Day staff to review. After reviewing, staff set up meetings with

NHD, 1
from their State History Day judges, mentors, and teachers.

Social studies Teacher Katie Craven, who will be attending the competition with the eight students is also preparing. "For myself, I'm still trying to get my paperwork sorted and find a flight. But for the students, I've been sending emails and stuff," said Katie, referring to her emails on OWL specific Nationals updates. "I'm excited to get to know our kids better, you spend much more time with them than you do in your classroom," Katie added on what she's excited for at Nationals.

The National competition takes place at the University of Maryland campus outside of Washington D.C. from June 9th-13th. Team Minnesota students will arrive on Saturday, June 8th and leave on Friday, June 14th. Upon arriving on campus, Team Minnesota students will have

Summer Olympics, 1

all of which will be returning for a second Olympics. This summer, at the 2024 Paris Olympics, Breaking will make its debut. Breaking is more commonly known as “break dancing” and is a style of dance that originated in the 1970s and has grown into a highly competitive sport with international events, and even world championships.

The 2024 games will also feature new events added to sailing, track and field, and weight lifting. Additionally, there will now be a men’s artistic swimming category, and the competition will include a team acrobatic round.

New sports being added are always exciting, but many of the Olympic sports are followed by people closely in the United States and all around the world. Among the more popular sports are diving, track and field, and gymnastics. Particularly women’s gymnastics. The United States women’s gymnastics team, consistently medals in the Team All-Around and Individual All Around competitions.

I have been a fan of gymnastics since I was around seven or eight years old.

Through the 2020 Olympics and this year’s Olympics, I have followed the gymnasts closely and kept an eye on how they are doing. Here is my analysis and predictions for who will make the team. Starting off with the most decorated gymnast of all time, Simone Biles.

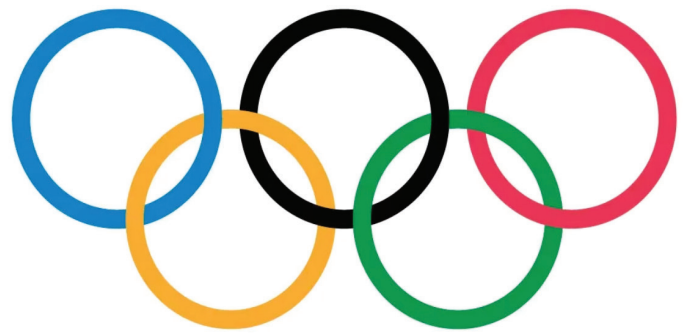
One of the bigger questions about the women’s gymnastics team is “will Simone Biles be on it?” Simone has not said whether she will be on the team or not, but many people have doubts after the events of the Tokyo games. During a vault, Simone lost herself in the air and obtained a case of the “twisties”. This caused immense concern among viewers and coaches alike. Following the vault Simone pulled out of the rest of the day’s competition, which later turned into her withdrawing from the competition completely.

Simone made a “comeback” last year in the U.S. National Championships where she won the national title and became the first gymnast to win a total of eight national titles. After this, everyone expected that she would be making another run in the Olympics, but based on her absence in recent lead up competitions, fans aren’t so certain anymore.

Although Simone is part of the national team and attending team camps, she hasn’t been seen at many competitions. However this could just mean that she is taking more time to focus on her training. Simone competed at the “Core Hydration U.S. Classic” that took place on May 18. She competed alongside three time Olympic

on the uneven bars. Suni Lee scored a 14.6 on the balance beam which earned her the gold for that event. However, Gabby Douglas didn’t have the competition that she was hoping for. Gabby struggled through her uneven bars routine, and following the bars she decided to withdraw from the rest of the competition.

Even though the Olympic



gold medalist Gabby Douglas, who is hoping to take another run at the Olympics after she didn’t attend the Tokyo games, and the reigning Individual Women’s All Around Olympic champion, Suni Lee.

The Classic ended with Simone receiving a gold medal in the All-Around as well as the floor exercise. Finishing in second place, scoring just under two points behind Simone was Shilese Jones who also placed first

team isn’t selected at the Classic, the Olympic Selection Committee will be paying close attention to all of the gymnasts, making attendance at competitions like the Classic and the U.S. championships crucial, especially since it’s an Olympic year.

So here is what I think: based on Simone’s placement at the Classic and her being registered for the National Championships, I think she will be chosen for the team.

Recredentialing, 1

outcomes long term than the dips that we had coming out of the pandemic.

The re-credentialing process culminates in a three hour presentation. EL school designer Dale Bergerhofer explained that OWL gathered evidence for a six-section presentation: the school goes through the history of OWL, to provide background, then sections on EL’s three dimensions of student achievement (mastery of skills and knowledge, culture and character, and high quality work), highlights the school’s continuous improvement, and

then explains next steps.

The slideshow had 78 slides, which included 4 broad sections - introduction, culture and character, mastery of skills and knowledge, high quality work. Each section included statistics and examples, including videos and images, with time for breakout rooms to ask and answer questions.

OWL teachers put a lot of work into preparing for the presentation. OWL Spanish teacher Tim Leone-Getten said that teachers “basically just added on” to their other responsibilities with teaching. Tim used common planning time with Megan and Dave to work on

sections of the presentation. “I started preparing with the re-credentialing team in June 2023,” said science teacher Megan Hall. “The time commitment was significant but it was an engaging and meaningful experience.”

Students also felt good about it. “It was a good experience,” said senior Maria Imholte. “It was interesting to hear everything that I already knew about the school from an outside perspective. It was also so cool because a lot of the people in the meeting were just so amazed by everything they were saying. And so it was cool to get that perspective, because obviously, I think we get so

accustomed to it because we’re here every day, but they were like, they were eating it up. They loved it.”

“I really liked being able to do something important for our school,” said 8th grader Beatrice Cosgrove, “and I thought that that was really fun. And I also kind of like talking to people and talking to them about how great our school was.”

“We felt like it was super valuable,” said Tim, “and really rewarding for us to reflect on what has happened in the last five years.”

So how did the presentation go? “The people at EL were

Assuming Suni Lee has a good performance at the National Championships and the Team Trials, I think she will also be chosen for the team. However if she doesn’t have a good performance in the All-Around, I think she will be considered for one of the individual spots on the team.

Based on the performance of Gabby Douglas at recent competitions, I do not think she will make the team. When she competed at the American Classic on April 27th, she scored a 50.65 in the All-Around (which gives her an average of 12.66 on each event). To put that in perspective, at a previous competition Suni scored a 15.200 on a single event, bars. Gabby also scored five points (which is a big gap in gymnastics) below Jade Carey who totaled 55.00 for her All-Around score and placed first overall. Also, as I previously stated, Gabby didn’t have the best outcome at the Core Hydration Classic. These are all things that the Olympic Selection Committee takes into consideration when choosing the team.

For the other two spots on the team, we should all keep an eye on Joscelyn Roberson, and Shilese Jones. Joscelyn was part of the 2023 World Championships team along

with Shilese. However early in the competition, Joscelyn obtained an ankle injury taking her out for the rest of the events. Since then she has been focusing a lot on her training and adding new skills to her routines.

Shilese was also part of the 2022 World Championships team, which won the All-Around Team Final. At the 2023 Worlds she was the uneven bars and all-around bronze medalist. In the same year she won the silver all-around medal at the U.S. Championships, only placing behind Simone Biles. Overall Shilese is a very strong contender for one of the spots on the team due to her good execution of the skills and high difficulty.

The U.S. Gymnastics Team Trials will begin on June 22, 2024 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Once the team is selected, they will train together and prepare for the Olympics which start on July 26. Try and check out some of the new sports and follow the journey of the women’s gymnastics team. I know I will be!

really very pleased with how things are going,” Tim said. “And we were pretty happy to hear that they were excited about that too.” Dale said that a couple comments from EL staff at the end of the presentation included “holy bananas. That was powerful. I’m just going to call it a day now because nothing will top that…” and “Wow! That was amazing.”

Megan observed that “Ron Berger, an EL Education founder, spoke about the rarity of true open schools in education today. He noted that some folks say the open schools are all gone, but they’re wrong because OWL is here. Because of

how important our humanist approach to education is to me personally, this was an incredible moment. I cried. There were so many years in OWL’s history when our approach has been disparaged and belittled - when teaching the whole child, elevating student voice, encouraging student choice and behaving as though every member of our community is a full human with inherent worth and dignity was considered ‘different’ and wrong. Having a famous leader in education acknowledge the importance and quality of our work meant the world to me.”

Bike Infrastructure, 4

as the network increases, maintenance funding should increase commensurately.

According to the Metropolitan Council population forecasts, St. Paul is predicted to increase by another 30,000 residents by 2040. As land becomes less available, the increase in population will make streets more congested, so it’s important to provide alternatives to driving in the coming years to combat this.

Currently, the bike network in St. Paul is made up of 42% of separated bikeways and paths and 58% of on-street bikeways. The plan identifies 118 miles of new bikeways, totaling 336 miles planned out so far. The new composition will be 73% separated bikeways and 27% on-street lanes.

This plan distinguished specific areas for improvement and investment. The plan wants to make Summit Ave a trail, complete the Grand Round, which is around 26 miles of trails, parks and paths for both bikers and walkers, and complete the Capital City bikeway, which is a system in Downtown St. Paul devoted to

making it safe and comfortable for anybody to bike downtown.

Tim mentioned, “Having the Greenway go straight across into St. Paul would be really nice.”

Joe said that he liked seeing the city implementing the Idaho stop, so bikers can treat stop signs as yield signs.

“I think it’d be cool to have some roadways that are bigger, that don’t have any traffic on them,” said Tim. “But that’s really tough because people really love their cars.”

The plan discerns things that may discourage biking and how they are combating them. Bike theft and bikers parking in inappropriate areas like trees will be combated by increasing bike parking. Section 63.200 of the city zoning code sets a minimum of bike parking areas for areas that are being redeveloped, generally, one bike parking space per 20 motor vehicle parking spaces is the standard.

Another problem is people not being able to freshen up their bike and themselves after a long ride. They encourage bike maintenance stations, lockers, changing rooms and showers, but there aren’t any

requirements.

“Maintenance areas are always good. I feel like they don’t last; they get damaged. So, more maintenance areas. But those maintenance areas need to be kept in working order, functioning,” said Joe. “A lot of them have pumps that don’t work and things like that. So, with the existing maintenance spots or fix-it stations, maybe having someone who checks them to make sure that the tools are there.”

“I’ve had a lot of times where I’ll be on the way to school and something will happen, I’ll get a puncture or something and I’ll usually just call somebody here and they’ll come pick me up. Things like that can work but it’s really cool if you have [bike maintenance stations], especially on dedicated paths. That’s super helpful, like if you have an issue come up while you’re cycling, because if you’re a long way from home you can deal with that,” said Tim.

People not knowing their way around the bike network will discourage riding, so the city will increase signage to promote biking. People not having a bike is a problem, so the city is considering

mobility-sharing services like bike-share as a possible solution to this problem.

“I’ve been a year round bike commuter since 2000. So I’ve watched the city change from a pretty dangerous place to ride to a much more inviting and safe place to ride,” said Joe.

“I think that if the infrastructure is there, and people see a lot of people biking then they tend to want to bike more, and people get into the habit of doing it. If it’s dangerous, or if it seems difficult, a lot of folks will just not bother,” said Tim.

“I believe that the fact that there are more people riding bikes now than there used to be, for recreational use or whatever, [makes it so] they’re more visible because there are more cyclists [which] makes cycling safer in general,” said Joe.



Purple Press Staff Photo

Senior Jack Linstad preparing for a throw



Purple Press Staff Photo

The Manatee stand together during a game



Reviews ‘n’ stuff

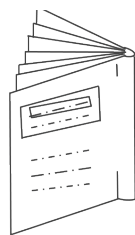


Photo courtesy of Emma Miller

Tenth grader Emma Miller on the front lines.

The fight for abortion access

Emma Miller
Staff Writer

Abortion access is something that is becoming increasingly difficult to come by in the United States, with states such as Texas, Arizona, South Dakota, and North Dakota completely outlawing abortion with no exceptions for cases of rape or incest. Healthcare being denied for women and people with uteruses could cause detrimental effects to the wellbeing of so many people around the country and the stability of their lives, like a low income household not having the sufficient finances to support a baby, or a teenager who's still in school and has plans for their future that an unplanned pregnancy would interrupt.

We can't talk about the restrictions put in place against women without talking about the people behind them, the people who oppose abortion. Most of them use religion to defend their stance. Using your personal beliefs as a means to control the bodies and decisions of others is extremely egotistical and absurd. The world and lives of other people do not revolve around what YOU think is right or wrong. Everyone can have their opinion and religious views but it does not give someone the right to take away freedom of choice from someone who is just trying to make the decision that they think is best for themselves. The people who call themselves "Pro-Lifers" are the same people who force women to give birth no matter the life threatening circumstances that may surround the pregnancy and affect the outcome.

This topic is very important to me since I have a personal tie to it. For the past few years my mom and I have stood outside a Planned Parenthood clinic to counter protest the protestors who stand next to the driveway and force their opinions on the patients coming in. They have pamphlets, signs with gory images, and sometimes speakers and megaphones to

amplify their voices. My mom started as an escort which is similar to security standing at the entrance of the building. The escorts are told not to interact with the Pro-Lifers at all, though the protestors will yell and insult them. My mom had trouble with this rule and eventually quit. She then made her own pro choice signs with encouraging messages and stood next to the other protestors and waved people in. She invited me to join her on Saturdays back in late 2021.

She and I still do it every weekend, and I've talked to many of the people out there. Although I don't agree with their opinions, it is interesting to hear their perspective. They entirely believe in the concept that life begins at conception and seem to think people are incapable of making their own decisions. It truly makes me sad hearing people try to justify taking away people's bodily autonomy.

I've noticed that the men out there are not interested in a conversation, they are interested in me staying quiet and letting them try to change my mind, which never works, of course. As soon as I speak about how I view the issue, they treat me like a dumb little girl and talk to me in a condescending way which makes me feel less sympathetic towards them and tends to lead to an argument. The final point I want to make is based on the firsthand experience I've had asking this question to the people I've conversed with outside the clinic and they've never been able to give a straight answer. How does someone having a abortion affect your life in any way? It doesn't. Someone could be having a abortion as you're reading this and you wouldn't know. I know that there isn't a simple solution to this issue but maybe we could start with minding our own business?

Matthew Hansen
Staff Writer

If you've been on the internet lately, you've seen people going crazy over how brutally Kendrick Lamar has been dragging Drake's reputation through the mud. After releasing four diss tracks within a week in early May (3 in 36 hours), Kendrick showed no signs of stopping this barrage.

Things have cooled down a bit now, but regardless of how much you know about the beef, you're still probably confused about where this started. How did Kendrick get the signal that Drake was fair game? Who was the first to release the hounds on Aubrey Graham (the controversial

suburban Canadian)? The answer may be unexpected to some of you. This can all be traced back to Megan Thee Stallion.

In late 2023, Megan released Cobra, the first single off of her upcoming album. On this track, Megan opens up about her personal struggles with mental health, setting an expectation that this new era would focus on vulnerability and honesty. So I'm sure you can imagine how shocked most of her fanbase was when she dropped HISS in early 2024, a brutal song calling out countless underlying issues in the rap industry. Let's walk through the lyrics together to see why they're important:

Biggest points made

throughout the song (and other notable events):

Megan's opponents are desperate for fame, interactions, and views

Megan doesn't believe that she has to apologize or clear her name

She knows her own worth (money, looks, talent, notoriety, etc.)

States that many men in rap aren't as intimidating or cool as they think

Demands that people stop commenting on her personal relationships

Recognizes that people depend on her for ideas, money, clout, etc.

Says that her biggest critics are misogynistic and can't make women happy

Brings up the Drake BBL rumors without directly naming him (yes, despite his weird sexist comments over the years, it appears that he's had work done)

References Drake's "In My Feelings" to cement that this is about him

Puts her degree to good use; says that her haters "aren't mad at Megan, but rather Megan's Law" (a law surrounding registered offenders), sending obvious messages about the character of the rappers this song is about

All of this paints a pretty clear picture: she's calling Drake a clout chaser. She's calling him misogynistic

Rap beef, 13

Ark is animated fun Ark: Survival Ascended is must play new game

Neve Dawson
Staff Writer

Ah, Ark: Survival Ascended. The most beautifully creative, breathtakingly janky, and undeniably fun game I have encountered in the past few years. With a premise that's basically Jurassic Park, a playing experience like Subnautica but with dinosaurs, a progression ladder strangely comparable to Stardew Valley, and lore like a less plausible Horizon Zero Dawn, Ark is a mashup of all your favorite aspects from the all games you love, but still manages to mishandle them somehow.

Ark: Survival Ascended is a 2024 game developed by Studio Wildcard revolving around the premise of: you're stuck on an island full of dinosaurs, 90% of whom want to kill you, and you must

learn to survive through your own perseverance, eventually taming and utilizing the creatures there. The game is listed as a survival/shooter, but local Ark addict 9th grader Chloe Best disagrees, instead claiming that the way the game functions is more akin to a sandbox.

"I think that there aren't a lot of games with this particular style of sandbox. Like yeah, in Minecraft you

can build anything you want, yeah, in Stardew Valley you can make the farm look any way you want. But in ASA, I can fulfill my dream of riding an armored dinosaur into battle with a rocket launcher."

Ascended is a reboot of the 2015 game Ark: Survival Evolved. Evolved was essentially the same game as Ascended is, just less refined and built on a significantly less capable engine. Now created



Ark, 13

Hollywood creating false views

David Griffith
Staff Writer

What do you think of when you think of war? Most likely it's from a movie or TV show. Movies and TV are the most common way that people view war and this can lead to multiple problems like historical inaccuracy or downplaying or exaggerating certain aspects of war, but there is a much more sinister aspect in Hollywood war movies or military adjacent movies in general. Popular movies like Top gun, Iron Man, Wonder Woman and The Transformers have all received either funding, gear or "military expertise" from the pentagon. This has caused problems due to the fact that when studios get the assistance from the pentagon there is a catch, the pentagon gets final

say as to what's in the script.

The "military entertainment complex" goes beyond these movies and films and into music videos, video games and sports. This is all in an attempt to recruit high school and college students to join the U.S military often with predatory tactics that don't show the reality of serving or american actions in foreign countries.

Recently I watched Devotion. It's a film about the first black naval aviator and his wingman during the Korean War. Not only does this movie downplay racism in the military and have a white savior narrative, it also completely omits any mention of why America was fighting the Korean War, aside from red scare propaganda that feels like it's from the 1950s. The movie has no mention of the

brutal South Korean regime or how America used chemical weapons and bombed North Korea with nearly four times the amount of munitions dropped on Japan during World War Two until there were "no more targets". The omission of these facts seems to be a result of the popularity of movies like top gun that are propaganda films directly funded by the department of defense.

United States military propaganda is not a new concept in film and has in fact existed for decades and has contributed a lot to the history of cinema from Top Gun to the Jurassic Park and Godzilla franchises. The first example of the United States using film for propaganda purposes was Wings (1927) which was an air combat film set in World War

One that used extras provided by the War Department, and eventually won the first best picture award at the Oscars. This was the film that cemented the role of the military in American film and was a sign of things to come.

The military-entertainment complex exploded in the 1940s with films and animated shorts funded by the War Department. The most famous of these is the series of Donald Duck cartoons where he fights the Nazis and the Japanese empire. These films would be some of the last "direct propaganda films" as they would explicitly promote enlistment or the purchase of war bonds.

After the victory in World War Two there was a boost in the American economy as well

Military Propaganda, 14

Masculinity broken down

“when was the last time you saw someone male cry”

Kaden McNamara
Staff Writer

Disclaimer: this article may contain topics that may be triggering for some people, including mentions of transphobia, mental health, suicide, and sexual assault. If any of these topics are a sensitive topic for you I would advise reading another article.

When was the last time that you saw someone male cry, or clearly show joy or excitement in something, or be encouraged to and actively talk about their mental health? When was the last time you saw someone male wearing makeup, or being vulnerable? When was the last time you heard about a drag king, or the problems of a trans man? When was the last time you heard about a man being sexually assaulted or abused? Or have you heard masculinity

being put on a pedestal and praised as this flawless thing with no deviation allowed at all, or heard the slightest presence of masculinity be demonized and framed as this terribly evil thing that makes people sexual deviants and abusers? Seen masculinity framed as this direct enemy of femininity and feminism at large? This isn't healthy to anybody in general, but in modern society these things are considered completely normal, even encouraged, and yet the downsides are completely ignored. These problems are completely interconnected with feminism at large, and as long as these problems aren't addressed, feminism cannot truly succeed. So why are these problems not being addressed? It primarily stems from the perpetuation of toxic

masculinity. Toxic masculinity is a brand of masculinity heavily associated with, and held up by, the patriarchy that results in behaviors that are socially destructive, such as misogyny, homophobia, violence, and self destructive behaviors, like stigmatizing mental health, extreme stoicism, minimizing the expression of things like joy, sorrow and kindness, and not allowing any variations on masculinity other than what is the norm. The patriarchy is a social system where every position of power or privilege is held by men, and serves to dominate women and children. The primary goal of feminism is to dismantle the patriarchy, although feminism isn't the only enemy of the patriarchy. The patriarchy also works on suppressing any men that don't fit into its

norm, POC, disabled people, neurodivergent people, and queer people are primary targets of subjugation under the patriarchy, as well as any man that doesn't fit the criteria of 'being man enough' for them. Which leads to and encourages a lack of proper mental health, stoicism even in the most extreme of cases, and the punishment of deviation of typical masculinity. Of course men aren't the only ones who have to suffer from the stigmatization and/or the corruption of masculinity either. Masculine women, also known as 'butches,' both cisgender and transgender ones, trans men, and masculine non-binary people all suffer from the pressures that the patriarchy puts on masculinity, as well as the pressures that people in general put on masculinity. Quite often masculinity

Masculinity, 12

Mystery books worth a look

The list includes “the city of ghosts” and “the last magician”

Sonali Dimayuga
Staff Writer

Mystery books that I like because of their depth and exploration of death magic and the after life; although these books aren't too popular I recommend you should give them a try, as they wrap you into their world of mystery.

The City of Ghosts by Victoria Schwab is a book that explores grief and paranormal activity. This book is written amazingly and gets super descriptive with emotions, having a clear message. It is at an easy-to-read level and is a good starter book for anyone interested in said topics. The book follows a girl named Cassidy, who encountered death by nearly drowning in the late spring. Her life and the life of a ghost boy Jacob, who saved her from drowning, get intertwined, both stuck in the in-between of life and death. Now Cassidy can cross the

veil into the world of ghosts who haven't moved on to the next world yet. The story unfolds like a mystery, with both Cassidy and Jacob trying to understand the in-between. This book is a three part series where you follow along with the characters through their adventures while they learn about the other side of the veil.

In this mystery genre, The Last Magician is a great book to read at a more advanced reading level. This book can be hard to understand because of its multiple perspectives. As you read further and further, it all comes together in an amazing way. This book also toys with the ideas of death, and unlike some of the other books, focuses on time travel and more magical topics still logical to the universe. This book has a good way of talking about injustices specific to each character, like how their race, species, and magic affects

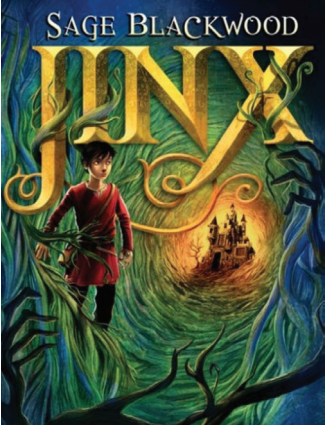
their outlook on life and how others view them.

They take on a more serious tone concerning these issues very parallel to our reality. They do this in how the characters handle death, and at some points others bigoted actions towards them, doing so by letting the reader have a sense of commonality with the characters. These people who have powers in this universe are often persecuted because of said powers, the oppressors wanting magic to not be used so everything is equal in society. I highly recommend checking out this book and exploring the parallels between our society and theirs.

On a different note, I highly recommend reading The Jinx; it's an easier level book but it toys with heavy concepts such as death, abandonment, and grief. The main character named Jinx finds himself abandoned by his step father

in a forest. As he stays in the forest, a wizard named Simon Magnus finds him and takes him in. This wizard wouldn't love him as his child, but would take him as an apprentice.

The boy grows attached to the wizard, caring about him deeply, and the reader follows this story as Jinx becomes fascinated by magic, learning he can also use it. Although I may be biased because of my



Mystery books, 12

Michael Bay: Yea or nay???

The transformers legacy consists of toys and TV

Keegan Schou
Staff Writer

I Hate You Michael Bay

The Transformers franchise has existed for over forty years, and yet its legacy in terms of both movies and toys is scarred by the choices of just a single man, Michael Bay. I adore Transformers, I watched the original show when I was little and collect the toys to this day. But for a while in elementary and middle school I lost almost all of my interest in it, and I blame that completely on Michael Bay.

In 1980 the Japanese toy company Takara released a line of toy robots that transformed into vehicles called Diaclone. In 1984 Hasbro licensed the toy line and merged it with another Takara toy line called Micro Change to create

Transformers. Hasbro then created the animated TV show The Transformers to market the toys.

It was incredibly successful, getting a full movie in 1986 and cementing the franchise in American pop culture. This is what's called generation one (or G1). G1 ended in 1990 and brought sequels such as G2 in 1992 and Beast Wars in 1996. The franchise continued to grow and the design quality of toys improved with each new show. That is until 2007.

In 2007 the first live-action Transformers movie directed by Michael Bay was released in theaters. It stained the franchise for years to come. When I tell you the character designs in these movies are so abhorrently awful it makes me physically

angry it isn't hyperbole. Every single character, whether good or evil, is pointy, menacing, and inhuman. Of course they are alien robots so they shouldn't look human but they also shouldn't look so monstrous either.

The design of Optimus Prime in the original cartoon made you feel safe and protected; Michael Bay Optimus looks like he would tear you in half and shoot your dog. Most characters look like the designers threw an unassembled model car in a bucket of used razor blades. But it's not just the designs that misrepresent these characters. In one of Michael Bay's films Optimus Prime, a symbol of hope and virtue, uses an axe to brutally tear out Megatron's head and spine which he

then follows up by killing a wounded enemy begging him for mercy. That is literally a war crime, Michael Bay made Optimus Prime a war criminal!

The toys for the Michael Bay era of Transformers included a lot of pretty noticeable but fixable problems, and as someone who cares more about the figures than the actual media they're from this really upsets me. Many of the figures made for the Michael Bay films were clearly designed with more thought toward their vehicle mode than their robot mode and this is prevalent in a few different ways. A lot of the figures are designed to basically fold itself into the shell of the vehicle,

Transformers, 12



Trans book recommendations

The best trans books to add to your summer reading list

Rylan Merwin
Staff Writer

Something I've had come up in conversation a few times is people asking for books with good trans representation. And while a few issues ago I covered this year's Read Brave book, Man O' War, that's obviously only one recommendation. So I've compiled, in no particular order, books to look out for if you are interested in reading more books with trans characters.

Cheer Up! Love and Pompoms is a graphic novel by Crystal Frasier, Val Wise, and Oscar O. Jupiter. It follows two characters- Beatrice, a trans girl on the cheer team struggling to keep her grades up and maintain her parents support, and Annie, Beatrice's old friend, who has the best grades in school, but her lack of extracurriculars might make it hard for her to get into college. When Annie begrudgingly signs up to be a cheerleader, the two begin to reconcile their friendship (or something more?), while also fighting against the rampant transphobia that Beatrice faces. This is best if you're looking for a quick realistic fiction read and enjoy graphic novels.

The Deep & Dark Blue by Niki Smith is another graphic novel, centering around a pair of twins- the younger brothers of the man who is set to become the lord of their house. But when their cousin kills their grandfather and frames their brother for it, intending to make herself lord, the two must flee and disguise themselves as girls in The Communion of the Blue- an all-girl group made for following the paths of their gods. But the two have very different experiences- one wanting to return to the life he had previously, and the other feeling more at home as a girl than he ever had before. It's a very good fantasy graphic novel with very pretty, atmospheric art.

To deviate from the graphic novels, another book I very highly recommend is Every

Heart a Doorway by Seanan McGuire. This story takes place in Eleanor West's Home For Wayward Children, a school that takes in the children who've begrudgingly returned from the fantastical lands they adventured to. We follow Nancy, who's looking to get back to the Halls of the Dead, and while still new to the school gets roped into a terrifying mystery. While the main character isn't trans, the deuteragonist is, and many of the other characters are also queer. The worldbuilding and just general writing are gorgeous as well.

Another novel is Gracefully Grayson by Ami Polonsky, which follows Grayson, who spends most of his time wishing for something that he can't put a finger on. He ends up auditioning for a female role in a school play, and undergoes a whirlwind of relentless teasing from his peers, but also self-discovery. I think that this book is very well-written, but it's worth mentioning that besides the main character's internal monologue, not much of the book covers the intricacies of trans people.

And last but not least, Both Sides Now by Peyton Thomas centers Finch, an already-out trans guy on the debate team, who, for a competition, will be forced to debate against his own humanity, while in the background, his growing crush on his debate partner isn't helping matters. The book is very well-written with a very satisfying ending and a pretty adorable romance.

And that's my list! I hope this helped in your search for trans rep.



8-Ball; best iMessage game

....8 ball rules, but word games and cup pong are worth a look

Carlos Amaya
Staff Writer

8-Ball is a minigame within the iMessage game called GamePigeon. 8-Ball is essentially a game of pool on your phone. You play against a person of your choice, and then you must hit in all of the solid or striped balls to win the game. Since the game is on your phone, the pool cue can be maneuvered much more easily, making it much more simple than its real-life counterpart. Along with that, there is a slider that allows you to control how much power you use to hit the ball; a way to choose where on the ball you hit; and lines that show the direction in which the ball will go once you hit it. Once you download GamePigeon, you can choose from a variety of games, which you then play on iMessage.

In the past few years, GamePigeon games, specifically 8-Ball, have gotten much more popular. I think their success is due in part to the availability of the games and the unique idea of a game you play through text messages, but I also think popularity on social media platforms like Tiktok has contributed. GamePigeon is a free game on the Apple App Store. Personally, I usually play it a couple of times a week, just spontaneously with a few different people. It's very easy to just think, "Oh, I kinda want to play 8-Ball right now," and just find a friend to send a text to. I would recommend it; it's very fun, and there is a lot of variety of games. It is also a good way to play a simple game with other people, and since it's over text, it's very accessible.

Another option on GamePigeon is Word Games. Word Games is a collection of three different games involving word shuffles. The first game I played was Word Hunt. You are given a 4x4 grid filled with different letters, and you have to spell as many words as you can in a certain amount of time by connecting them with a line. Longer words give you more points, and the

goal of the game is to get more points than the person you are playing to win.

The second game I played was called Word Bites. In Word Bites, the goal is similar: get more points than your opponent by spelling words. However, in this game, the letters are arranged in blocks, and you have to combine blocks to spell words. The spelling of this game works sort of like Banana Grams, except some of the blocks have multiple letters. Just like Word Hunt, the bigger words give you more points.

The third, and final, word game I played was Anagrams. Unlike the other two, which were laid out on a grid, Anagrams has one line with six slots to put letters in. You are given six letter blocks, and with them, you must spell as many words as you can by rearranging them on the line.

Out of these three word games, my favorite would have to be Word Hunt. Word Hunt is the most popular, and I find it the most enjoyable because of the flexibility of connecting the letters into words. This is another game I play with a lot of my friends, and although it's not quite as well known as 8-Ball, it's definitely a pretty popular game on GamePigeon. Word Hunt is also the most direct competitor to 8-Ball, as it's gotten a sort of rival relationship with 8-Ball—many people tend to be good at one or another, and it can result in a situation where you might win an 8-Ball game easily, only for the person you are playing to turn around and crush you in Word Hunt.

There are many different games on GamePigeon, but the final one I decided to review was Cup Pong. Cup Pong is a pretty simple game: it is based on the game of "beer pong," although obviously (since it is on a phone), there is no alcohol involved on GamePigeon. There is a table with 10 cups set up on each side in a triangle. On your side, there are blue cups that your opponent has to try to land a

8 ball, 13

Game-inspired job options

Mario the plumber is one of many good options

Mikko Liimatta
Staff Writer

It is a common occurrence for people to wonder about what you are going to do after you graduate, whether it be your guidance counselor, your parents, or even your dog.

I have put a lot of thought into this recently as everyday I grow closer to graduation, and have realized that after school I will have to get a job, and support myself. This has always been an issue for me, as I have always been non-committal to what I want to be as I grow up, from being a pirate, a marine biologist, or even being an online talent manager. I have put a lot of research into this to figure out what I wanted to do when I grew up, and I figured that I would share this information in an easy to understand way.

Many people think that the only way to learn what you want to do after college can be explained by a career test, or following your heart. This might have been true in the 1950's, but in today's day and age with the advancement of technology, one of the most prominent pointers is the video games that you enjoy. While many parents may be preventing their kids from learning from video games, talking about blue light, and desensitization to violence, this is actually just a coping mechanism that they use to cope with the technological advancements that when they were a kid they couldn't have even dreamed of. An example of the stimulating content that has been allowed by recent technological advances is presidents playing Minecraft

using AI. These short videos are capturing the attention of the youth, create a subculture building around it leading to many kids getting into political fields. This is just one example of how the internet is preparing kids to enter the workforce.

One of the best career ideas comes from one of the most known video games of all time, Mario. In this iconic video game, a pixelated Italian plumber goes around killing monsters, on his mission to save Princess Peach. While his mission to save the princess is important, the more important thing for him to do is to clean the pipes. The main stream of this game has encouraged many people to go into the field of plumbing. Sadly, as the game of Mario is so old, many people that were originally

spurred to go into plumbing by the dapper mustached Italian man are nearing the age of retirement. This anticipated mass retirement is expected to cause a large shortage of plumbers, which in turn will cause a hike in the price of utilities, destabilizing the economy further. To reverse this change there must be a new game that becomes a cultural phenomenon, that encourages the youth to get into fields that help boost the American infrastructure.

There is hope though as a new game, with post secondary ramifications is on the rise, Call of Duty. Call of Duty has quickly risen to the top in this category because of the fierce banter in the game. As the world around us becomes increasingly polarizing, convincing people to join your

cool jobs, 12

Baking at home vs. on TV

Home bakers experience less glamour, but also a lot less stress

Aubrey Mitchell
Staff Writer

In the 2018 Netflix series Sugar Rush, contestants have to bake three different types of desserts in a total of three hours. It gets pretty heated as the clock slowly runs out while the contestants have to make three-tier cakes.

Baking in real life is different from baking on TV shows because time limits aren't as extreme. How different is baking for a camera compared to baking in real life? I am going to talk about the similarities between the two, and the differences.

Nailed It is a very iconic baking show on Netflix. They bring people on the show who struggle with baking and give them pastries made by professional chefs to replicate. It is chaotic and entertaining to watch the contestants struggle to make giant cakes, detailed

cookies, and so much more.

There are also baking shows such as Is It Cake?, where the contestants are all skilled cake artists trying to replicate an item with cake. The judges attempt to guess which is the real item and which is the replica made out of cake.

One difference is that baking in front of cameras can make the experience a lot more stressful than baking in the comfort of your own home. Many baking shows like

Sugar Rush, for example, have time limits, making less room for error while preparing food.

In my experience, when I bake more time-consuming things it helps not to have a time limit, so I don't feel as rushed and the end product is usually a lot more put together.

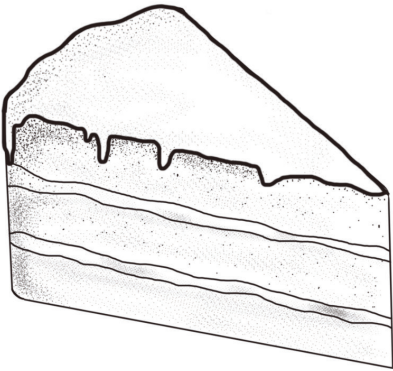
"For baking under a certain time limit, I feel like it would be fun, but it would also be sort of stressful, like rushing around to get everything and not getting enough time to

dilly dally," said 8th grader Olivia Trobaugh. "Your stuff could get underbaked or overbaked and you wouldn't have time to fix it."

"Since I am a working parent, all of my baking happens under a time limit. I have learned what corners I can cut and what corners I can't cut. My baking style is more focused on taste than on presentation, partly because taste matters to me more and partly because time limits have forced me to prioritize," said science teacher Megan Hall.

Another difference is that most baking shows focus more on the end product of the food than the actual process. When you're baking on your own, I think the process of mixing ingredients, frosting cupcakes, or putting the final touches on a cake is more enjoyable than

baking shows, 13



Is Destiny 2 worth playing?

The game is free, but much less fun without pricey add ons

Isiah Molina
Staff Writer

After hours and hours of trial and error your fireteam finally gets through the raid. You see your engram, or treasure, drop to the floor, and look forward to walking over the 3d hexagon to find out what you got. If it's something you don't want like a bad gun, or bad armor piece. you will have to redo the entire raid on a different class just to get another chance. Then you decide to stop waiting and pick it up. Did you get what you wanted?

Destiny 2 is a sequel to the game "Destiny" that is made by Bungie who are also the creators of the famous franchise Halo. Destiny 2 is on Xbox, Playstation, and PC and is also cross platform and progression between all platforms. It's a free to play

game that came out September 6th, 2017.

Destiny is an MMO and a looter shooter. There are three classes: Warlock, Hunter, and Titan but there are three character slots so you can have one of each class. The objective of the game is to make your character stronger, which I like to break up into four categories: Power Level, weapons, armor and subclasses. A power level is basically the level of your character and loot and having a higher power level will let you play harder content.

But what makes this game so unique is that the highest level that season will become the lowest next season which makes you have to play again to get the highest again.

Weapons are the next way to become more powerful and with them harder content becomes easier. You get better

weapons by getting a "god roll," which are the ideal perks for a weapon and a legendary weapon will always have two. Having good stat armor so around 65 total will always be good but getting your class stat is a bonus. There are five universal subclasses for your characters in the game which are void, solar, arc, staisis, and strand. Upgrading these classes will also provide you with a power boost.

This game is amazing as it has endless content and you could spend hundreds of hours having fun whether it's solo or with your friends. Despite this it suffers from one glaring issue and that is expansion packs that you have to buy to access the endless content. These expansion packs range from 30\$-100\$ and there's six of them in total. It also can get a little frustrating and repetitive

when you are grinding to make your character more powerful but personally I like this aspect.

This game is not free to play and I would consider the free to play more like a trial. Two of the five subclasses are considered evil ones which are staisis and strand. And if you want these you would have to pay \$80 for them.

So if you want a free game and don't want to spend a single penny then this game isn't for you. I like the game because of the grinding aspect, character customization, and that it's a looter shooter.



Roman Ruffi
The Atmosphere at Target Center was electric during the Timberwolves playoff run this spring.

T-Wolves best season

Five reasons the Wolves were able to make deep playoff run

Roman Rufi
Staff Writer

The Timberwolves just had their best regular season ever. Anthony Edwards is playing at an All-NBA caliber season, and Rudy Gobert is the Defensive Player of the Year. And with a 56-26 record, I feel that this is the best season they have had. While having some of the best depth in the league, Naz Reid is also the Sixth Man of the Year. The Timberwolves have been one of the best teams in the league and have had one of the best seasons ever. Even though it's not the best record-wise—the 2004 Timberwolves surpassed this season—I think it's the best in terms of talent and coaching. I will go on to talk about three key reasons why this is, in my opinion.

Anthony Edwards

He has been one of the best players in the NBA this season. He has emerged as a player who can drop 30 a night if his team needs him to. He will most likely make the All-NBA second team, since he has been one of the best offensive and defensive players. He is also on one of the best teams this season, so he will most likely get the nod. In the worst-case scenario, he will be on the third team. He has really taken that next leap to being a superstar this season, averaging 26 points per game, 5 rebounds, 5 assists, and 1 steal.

In the playoffs, he was one of the best players on one of the best teams and has consistently shown up in the playoffs, unlike other superstars in the NBA. I would also like to remind you that he is only 22. He is an elite player who can play both offense and defense at an exceptional level. People are comparing him to Michael Jordan, whom many people call the G.O.A.T. of basketball. He has an elite mindset at such a young age. “If I do something nice, I got to let it be known,” said Edwards.

He is an entertainer, and he wants everyone to have a great experience when they come to watch him. Whenever he plays, he plays like it's his last

game. The energy he brings to a game makes the whole arena shake. In game two, against the Nuggets in Denver, he was blowing out the Nuggets while getting MVP chants at Mile High. I expect him to take the leap next season to become an MVP candidate and all defensive player.

Chris Finch and coaching

This year, Chris Finch was one of the three coaches to be nominated as Coach of the Year. Ultimately, he lost to Mark Daigneault for the award. Mark brought the Thunder from a play-in team to the one seed in the west. I think Finch should have won because, even though Mark did have the biggest win differential from last season to this season, he also had the number two overall pick comeback from injury against Chet Holmgren, a Minnesota native. The Wolves' only addition that made an impact was Monte Morris, whom they got in a trade with the Pistons. He only played 27 games but had 5 points per game and 2.3 assists. He has a good impact, but not as significant as Chet. Not to mention, the Thunder drafted Cason Wallace and traded for Gordan Hayward.

The Timberwolves' defense has been the best this season, and I would say one of the best ever. But where every great team starts is the coaching. Finch has coached this Timberwolves team to have a great defense with the plays he has made. He has made Karl Anthony-Towns an above-average defender, which in the past, he has not been. Some of it you can say is because of KAT, but I would say Finch helped a lot. He had a defensive rating of 109.1, while a league average is around 115. Finch has also helped Jaden McDaniels cut down on fouls—last season he averaged 3.4, while this season he averaged 3.0. While it isn't that much, he also had 272 fouls last season and only 219 this season (he played 79 games last season and 71 this

Timberwolves, 15

A\$ap Rocky rules cloud rap

A breakdown of Rocky's impressive catalogue of innovative rap

Ian Myott
Staff Writer

Harlem rapper A\$AP Rocky is one of the most influential artists of the 2010's, through his sound which is classified as cloud rap. Cloud rap was not exactly created by Rocky, as it evolved out of trap (a genre of rap from the south) and was mainly pioneered by Lil B, Raider Klan, and The A\$AP Mob (which includes Rocky). The style is mostly made with spacey instruments/samples, reverb-soaked vocals and trap-inspired drums.

Recently I have been listening to a metric ton of Rocky songs and I decided to create a list and review for every single one of his albums (which admittedly is not very long) because I think his work is very good.

Rocky's debut mixtape

LIVE.LOVE.A\$AP is a great project, as the project's at the time boundary-pushing rap production and Rocky's rapping mix together greatly to provide a lot of the best out of that year. Although a good majority of tracks are not the best mixed and don't have the best audio quality the songs more than make up for the quality with the tapes' beautiful production.

The tape was mostly produced by many members of the A\$AP Mob and by early cloud rap producers such as Clams Casino and SpaceGhostPurrp and it has a lot of common sounds today like instruments soaked in reverb. The tape also helped popularize more catchy choruses and smooth flows than bars. The tape was released on streaming in 2021

which left off two songs from the original release, though the streaming version did add my favorite song to the album “Sandman,” which is a tribute to the late A\$AP Mob founder A\$AP Yams and it contains a heavenly beat and outro, great verses and a fantastic chorus from Rocky.

On that note some of my personal favorite tracks on the album are “Wassup,” with its trippy beat and catchy chorus, “Houston Old Head” with a great beat, and some great verses, and the aforementioned “Sandman.” Though no songs are that bad on the tape, my least favorite track is “Get Lit,” which is kind of ruined by its repetitive and annoying chorus, not to mention that the beat is nowhere near the better beats on the project. Overall this project is pretty

A\$ap Rocky, 15

Tennis majors broken down

Each tennis grand slam has its own vibe, surface, and traditions

Oscar Mons
Staff Writer

While tennis is the fourth largest sport in the world with over a billion players worldwide, it is not always anyone's first choice when it comes to watching sports especially in the US. So what are the largest global tennis tournaments, what makes them special and how popular are they really?

The professional tennis season is yearlong and involves events in all four corners of the world. The biggest are the four Grand Slam tournaments. The tournaments are managed by the ITF (International Tennis Federation) and have been held for over a hundred years. These four tournaments involve the cream of the crop of both men and women professional tennis players from around the globe. Over 256 singles players, 128 doubles teams and 32 mixed teams compete in each Slam to

achieve the title of the greatest.

The first tournament in the Grand Slam series is the Australian Open hosted in the middle of January. The Australian Open is the official beginning of the tennis season. The tournament is held in Melbourne Park, Melbourne and became a hard court in 1988. This tournament is one of the most popular tennis events in the world. Over a million people come to watch the matches yearly. The first tournament was held in 1905, however it was not globally recognized until later

when long distance flying made the long journey to the tournament more accessible. The most successful players in the tournament include Roy Emerson from Australia, Andre Agassi from the US, Margaret Smith from Australia, Roger Federer from Switzerland and in recent years Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams. The tournament is special because it begins the tennis year giving an indication of what the rest of the tennis season will look like putting the spotlight on new potential talents and

rising stars. The tournament also is the most touristy of the Grand Slams and gives the opportunity to get giant signed tennis balls from players.

The second tournament is the French Open, otherwise known as Roland Garros played in May and early June. The tournament was moved to Stade Roland-Garros in 1928 around the same time the tournament became open to international players and became one the world's premier clay tournaments. Of all the winners of Roland-Garros over the last century, one player stands out for dominating it. Rafael Nadal is one of the greatest players of all time and has won Roland Garros 14 times, a record for both men and women's tennis across all major tournaments. He has a win/loss record of 112-



Tennis majors, 14

A public education critique

The principles are sound, but American schools need to rethink homework, strive for relevance

Wyatt Hanson
Staff Writer

The History of American Public Education is a story that is ever more relevant to students across the country as they see more and more of the cracks within our education. The flaws and benefits of our way of educating the public lies within the history of education in America.

Schools started as church institutions in the New World and over time more and more people saw the benefit of public education in the colonies. During the American Revolution the founding fathers agreed that an educated populace was needed if America was to survive as a democracy. They believed that schools should

teach social issues so that young Americans would not fall prey to the sweet talk of authoritarians. The idea of free public education did not take hold until 1830 with Horace Mann.

Horace Mann was a Massachusetts legislator who believed that all people should have access to education without needing to pay for it. This led to his trip to Europe to observe the public schools of Prussia. He developed the idea of the three Rs, reading, writing and arithmetic. He brought the idea of the separation of grades 1-5, 6-8 and 9-12. He established common schools across the country and argued that it would “create better workers who would boost the economy.” Horace Mann brought American public

education to something resembling the modern system. He set the standards for education still used today and has been immortalized in name by many educational institutions.

Horace Mann's ideas were morphed into the school system we know today. His ideas were expanded upon and changed by John Dewey, a major advocate for progressive education. Progressive education is the idea that schools should be hands-on, focused on problem solving and group learning and help students become their best and most effective selves.

This is effectively where major reforms stopped and most if not all public schools are based on Horace Mann's ideas and many integrate

progressive education. Schools did change on their own over time with state divides in education growing over segregation. Segregation in schools was a major point of contention in the Civil Rights Movement and ended with the desegregation of all public schools. This coupled with the feminist movement of the era slowly changed education into what it is today.

The principles of public education are sound. An educated, literate person will often make better decisions when voting and when building the economy. The largest issue is how schools morphed into what they are today. The First issue is curriculum. the thing that determines what is actually taught varies so significantly that two students could have radically different educations living within the

Public education, 13

Ender’s Game is a sci fi classic for the ages

Ender Wiggin is a compelling main character trying to figure out who his real friends are

Joseph Sierra
Staff Writer

Ender’s Game by Orson Scott Card is an absolutely amazing book from start to finish. From the very first page, you’re hooked. Early in the book, in chapter 4, he gets sent to battle school. This makes you want to know what they do there so it always has you hooked to the story. You won’t want to put it down. This might be the best Sci-Fi book ever.

Orson Scott Card wrote Ender’s Game in 1985. Even though it was written almost 40 years ago some electronic

parts that are in the book are actual things now in 2024. Picture this: humans are fighting aliens, and it’s up to one kid, Ender, to save the human race. It’s about 324 pages long, but it feels like you breeze through them because you’re so into the story,

Ender is this super smart kid who gets picked to go to this special school in space to learn how to fight aliens. There he learns everything about them and how they think and what they will do next. But it’s not all fun and games. Ender has to face tons of challenges and make some tough decisions along the way.

considering that Bears helped found the LGBTQ+ community in the first place. And as great as they are, drag queens, who turn up their femininity to 11, consist of like 95% of the drag spotlight while drag kings, who make fun of their masculinity are almost unheard of.

These problems have another source that they come from other than the patriarchy, TERF’s. Most people probably know what a TERF is, but for those that don’t know; TERF is an acronym for ‘Trans Exclusionary Radical Feminists,’ meaning feminists that take extreme measures to be transphobic and think transgender people are an enemy of feminism, J.K. Rowling being pretty much the poster child of a TERF. Although they claim to be based in feminism, their actions do show a far different story, as TERF’s have set feminism back by several decades and are actively poisoning feminism, and pitting the LGBTQ+ community against itself. The main target of TERF harassment are trans women and as such, TERF’s will actively go after and harass any women they see that is

There are teams and as you get better and better you go to the next team. The teams fight each other with freeze guns that freezes whichever part of the body the bullet hits.

They play these games in arenas. The arenas are domes that are made of windows and there is zero gravity. You have to know how to keep your balance and all of the formations so your team wins. As Ender goes up in rankings in battle school he is chosen to lead the final battle. It’s intense, and you’re right there with him, feeling every twist and turn.

Valentine Wiggin is too masculine for them, from denying short haired women, androgynous women, butch women, plus sized women, and gender non-conforming women for not being feminine enough or being too masculine, or denying women who wear makeup for themselves, denying infertile women, denying and harassing women who do sex work by choice, and will frequently reduce women to their womb and reproductive organs to try to deny trans women a place in feminism, attacking even the slightest presence of masculinity in women.

Often they will attack trans men and masculinity to try to uphold the gender binary and to deny any overlap between masculinity and femininity. TERF’s will go on about how men are inherently evil, sexual deviants, and predators, while also framing trans men as poor little manipulated little girls. Of course the same reasoning also leads to intersex people being antagonized by TERF’s as well, as intersex people prove the basic faults and the illogicality of separating masculinity and femininity.

Something that TERF’s also tend to do, but isn’t just limited

Ender’s older sister, who is compassionate and deeply caring for Ender. She supports him emotionally and helps him navigate his complex feelings and relationships. One of the few female students at Battle School, Petra becomes a close friend and ally to Ender. She helps him learn and develop his skills in the battle room.

While not your ideal enemy, Graff manipulates and isolates Ender to prepare him for command. His actions, even though he is intended to toughen Ender, he often puts him in difficult and hostile situations. T

these characters play crucial to them is the erasure of male victims of abuse. Male victims of sexual assault are either in one of two categories, neither of which are dealt with very well, there are those that are assaulted by other men, which typically happens within prisons, and there are those that are assaulted by women. The first is actively made fun of and turned into nothing but a joke, with countless media and people making cruel jokes about it, even the MCU made a joke about it, and you’ve probably heard a few jokes about it yourselves. While the latter is completely shoved under the rug and not talked about, and when it is brought up, it is very often met with copious amounts of victim blaming, saying that the victim cannot be sexually assaulted as they are male, or that the victim probably enjoyed it, or any other number of victim blaming techniques that are used. Even forms of non-sexual assault such as domestic abuse are nearly unspoken of, with only a mere fraction of male abuse victims coming forth about their experiences compared with the amount of women who come forth. Which unfortunately makes

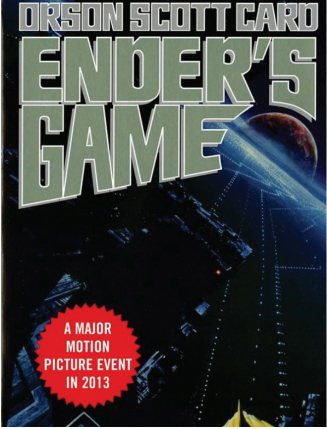
roles in Ender’s journey, either supporting him or challenging him.

Ender’s Game is seriously one of the coolest books I’ve ever read. The story keeps you on the edge of your seat the whole time, and Ender’s character grows so much throughout the book.

Orson Scott Card’s writing makes you feel like you’re right there in space with Ender, learning about the buggers and how to adapt to a whole new environment. If you’re into action-packed adventures with a side of deep thinking, then Ender’s Game is definitely the book for you.

complete sense when paired with the fact that an overwhelming majority of suicides are committed by men, especially with the stigma on men talking about their mental health.

Of course despite what TERF’s might say, masculinity isn’t inherently evil, nor as the patriarchy might insist is it something violent or superior, masculinity is merely a facet of humanity, something inherently neutral just like femininity of androgyny, however that is only if it is not toxic masculinity and professed in a positive way, and positive influences are always a useful thing in maintaining some positive masculinity. One fantastic example is J.R.R. Tolkien’s Lord of the Rings series, filled with plenty of positive male role models and masculinity. The movies Fight Club and the new Barbie Movie both display the drawbacks and harmful effects of toxic masculinity and patriarchy. Another fantastic example is trans men. Trans men very often express their masculinity in a way that doesn’t conform to societal standards and yet they are men, not because they follow any rules of masculinity



or fulfill some checklist, but because they say they are, a sentiment that many cisgender men have found to be very comforting and reassuring towards their own masculinity.

In all, just remember that neither masculinity, femininity, or androgyny is inherently good, evil, superior, or inferior, they are just natural facets of humanity that we all come with. Remember to listen to people’s problems, no matter who they are. Remember that the aim of feminism is not to get rid of masculinity altogether or to transform it into something that it isn’t, but instead to highlight the positive aspects of masculinity, to discard the toxic parts, and to not put either masculinity or femininity above each other, but to put them on an equal footing to each other. Remember to try your best to avoid toxic influences in your life while maintaining positive ones. And remember that you are beautiful because of who you are, not in spite of it.

Transformers, 9

which leaves odd, out of place car chunks awkwardly hanging off the figure when in robot mode. Another common issue is a lot of visible empty space, making the character flimsy and hollow. I own a Megatron figure from this era you can stare directly through the torso of, there is enough room in this figure’s chest to fit an inch wide ball bearing and still have wiggle room. To the designers credit some of the toys from the Bay era do show improvement in articulation and form compared to previous generations, but they were notably designed with considerably less care and passion than both previous and current figures, which is very disappointing.

My collection of transformers numbers in the high forties so I know what makes a transformer toy good. Like most things the design of transformers toys have gotten much better since their conception, with more poseability, more detailed sculpting, and better transformations. The toys

for the series Transformers: Animated released in 2007, had sleek, cool vehicle modes and when you transformed them the pieces tucked perfectly into place, rarely leaving awkward bits hanging or bizarre empty spaces. Now of course they weren’t perfect but a lot of them hold up well with figures being made today. I adore the newer figures coming out, especially the 1986 movie modern designs because to me they are a perfect example of what Transformers should be; they perfectly represent the original characters and are designed so vehicle elements cleanly tuck away without making the transformation feel over complicated.

In conclusion, if given the opportunity I would fist fight Michael Bay in a parking lot for tarnishing the reputation of my favorite thing and sullyng the franchise with his wretched presence for so many years.

Mystery books, 9

fond memories from this book and the fact it was one of the first books I read in this genre, I do really recommend it. It is great for an entry level book into this kind of genre, but keep in mind that it’s meant to be consumed by a less mature audience and may not be too exciting to some people.

Another great book that deals with grief, paranormal activity and psychics is The Raven Boys. You follow the main character Blue, who comes from a family of psychics. She is the only one who has no psychic ability. Once when she was little, she had her fortune told to her that her first kiss would kill the other person. After that she fears this fortune and has it checked multiple times, all of them retelling the same fortune. One day her aunt comes to her home, taking Blue out to help her account for all the ghosts that night, but it would be different tonight, as something strange happens. For the first time, Blue sees a ghost and communicates with him. He talks to her, giving her

his name: Gansey. Gansey was fascinated by the paranormal and tried to get a read from his radar from ghosts, but this time, unlike any other time, he got an answer from Blue, who was talking to his ghost.

Unbeknownst to her, he hadn’t passed away yet. They met as if fate, as she hadn’t seen a ghost before and he hadn’t gotten a response from his radar before. It is speculated by Blue’s family that this is her true love that she saw, as their paths cross for the first time because something magical happens for each of them. I think this book is worth checking out; it’s interesting because of how much fate plays into the paranormal in the protagonist’s life, and throughout the story they will explore the paranormal.

cool jobs, 10

side is becoming increasingly important. This is especially apparent in politics with the importance of debates. This was brought to attention by true American patriot Donald J. Trump with his statement, “Call of Duty really helped me prepare for these debates.” This statement just goes to show how far the influence of video games goes in the political sphere. We can only hope that sometime soon the CIA will create a video game that brainwashes people into becoming spies and aiding the US in foreign intelligence.

The interweb doesn’t just create jobs through video games it also allows for networking opportunities, for agencies to sign influencers, to create a symbiotic relationship. This job is known as an online talent manager and it involves a lot of networking, as for this job you have to create a nexus group of content creators that you promote and give ideas to, in return for a portion of their revenue. Imagine it as a sort of stock you’re investing time and money

Public education, 11

same state. This can be seen in biology and the argument over teaching evolution in public schools. Schools splintered on the policy and administrators at the over 13,000 school districts took entirely different directions to each other. History history for instance where the portrayal of historical figures varies wildly, was George Washington a great and moral founding father who set the precedent for the executive branch of the USA, or a horrible slaver who due to his war heroism was able to become president. A populace who can't agree on the basics is only setting the country up for division. The entire idea of public education is that there are things that everyone is to learn about, that students would come to their own conclusions based on agreed upon evidence. The second issue is a flaw

Ark, 8

with glitches, bugs, and will set you back just because the game wanted to throw a hissy fit. "Some games will be like "oh, let's give our players a quality of life upgrade, that helps all the game mechanics flow together better and run smoothly so that the overall experience is improved." Ark needs like five of those," comments Chloe. If I were to list all the ways that ASA is flawed, bugged, and annoying and state why, we would be here for a long time, so instead, I am here to spread propaganda. So, how does one go about explaining what playing Ark is like? For those familiar with the Subnautica games: the Ark experience is like playing Subnautica, but take the deep water out and replace it with thick forests, take the little guys out and replace them with Utahraptors, and take the leviathans out and replace them with Giganotosaurus. It's stress-inducing, nerve wracking, and completely addictive. Keep in mind that Ark takes place in a sci-fi setting. I guess. The developers use the technicality of the game's setting to add in otherwise entirely unprecedented creatures: lionfish-tigers, two different kinds of space whales, wyverns, giant cybernetic snowy owls, and a myriad of other mythological, fantastical, or wildly exaggerated creatures. People harp on the game online, dragging it for its inaccuracy. In the end, they are the only ones who end up looking stupid; there's buffalo that can fly because their bodies contain trapped gasses. There's Fenrir from Norse mythology next to a western dragon founded in European myth. There's an ice-wolf with a jetpack I think. Of course it's inaccurate. They aren't going to bother to organize 200 different ancient reptiles into the correct eras if they can't bother to confine themselves to the world of...real things. Your average Ark player will spend hours complaining about the game, criticizing how poorly it performs or how

within the system itself, the system of public education doesn't prioritize teaching basic skills, such as taxes, etiquette, and other skills that everyone should know and expects parents to do this instead. This goes against the entire idea of public education, that parents could not be trusted to teach their children accurate and consistent information. The third is student motivation. A whole lot of modern curriculum has mandatory classes that teach highly specific subjects that aren't necessary to be a functioning member of society. Someone who understands the basics of government, taxes, laws, cooking, getting a job. This has made students lose trust in school and can lead them to view it, not as a way to learn valuable information, but instead just a tedious institution made to waste their time. We need to have basic classes from the start,

stupid it's mechanics are, all while actively playing it. It falls into that beautiful category of media that you know isn't technically great, but you see something in it, an idea or a concept, that you love, and so you have an unprecedented amount of fun with it anyway. A guilty pleasure. A piece of media that you couldn't in good conscience recommend



to others, but you will die on its hill every time. That being said, I'm actively trying to recommend it to you. Is it working yet? Ark is certainly not a game for everyone. It requires patience, involves a fair amount of resource grinding, is packed full of high stress situations, can trigger thalassophobia or claustrophobia if you aren't careful, and generally requires a lot of commitment, memorization, and engagement. However, stupidly, it's also resulted in me learning some positive lessons. From playing Ark, I have gained decision making skills, learned how to create and adapt plans to an unexpected situation, figured out how to calm my nerves so as to not throw a high-stakes situation, and experienced an upsetting amount of what starting over,

learning 101, media literacy, the importance of reading and writing, how to apply math practically. If students are taught these ideas from a young age, 1st - 5th grade, they will see far more value in these classes. Public education is no longer doing what it was made to do as more and more students are disillusioned with its nature. On top of all this the economic factor that takes the "free" out of "free education" as students with more money are easily able to surpass their peers who may need to do far more in their home life. If you need to do a bunch of chores or work a job to sustain your family you will have less time to do homework or study. If you have the resources to buy more school supplies you will have an advantage over your peers.

Schools overreach into the personal lives of students by having them do homework and having them study independently. This idea loss, and failure feel like, and how to accept and move on from them. And that doesn't even mention the core aspect of the game where one learns to survive through collaboration, resource management, patience, critical thinking, and persistence. Which is dumb, because those sound like legitimate lessons. Garnered from a survival/shooter game

of homework was made so that students would have the opportunity to use their free time to learn but has been changed into a necessary part of school and in a school's competitive environment, where teachers see all of their students getting As and see that as an issue that needs to be fixed by making the class harder, students without time in their homelife are highly disadvantaged. We need to reform schools as soon as we can, for every day we wait, another kid gets a bad and ineffective education.

demanding, so the latest Xbox and PS consoles are best suited to run it. With PC consoles, the higher running capacity the better. The game is a ridiculous amount of GBs, and only gets bigger as time goes on; it could have the capacity to make your console freak out if it was already struggling or almost full, so do your research if you want to download it through Steam. PSA: do not play the game on mobile devices. There is a mobile version. Don't play it. Mobile Ark receives much different treatment, despite the studio's best efforts to keep it authentic to the base game, and it simply couldn't be a similar game experience, because it's a PC game they tried to make into a mobile game. I really wouldn't recommend it if you have the means and desire to play it another way, either on PC or a gaming console. "I would definitely recommend ASA to anyone who has the capacity to play it," Chloe says. "If you ever see it on sale, it's pretty fun. There's a lot of fun to be had, if you enjoy those types of games where the end goal is very ambiguous and your progress is dependent on yourself and your interactions with the game. If you like Subnautica, if you like Stardew Valley [you'll like PvE]; if you like Rust, maybe you'll like PvP." You have to be at least a little crazy to play (and enjoy) ASA. But if you're an adrenaline junkie or just a little bit of a masochist, you'll love it. Capturing the essence of ASA is difficult, but Chloe puts it well: "Mechanically, ASA is a terrible game. Conceptually, ASA is a wonderful game. And in terms of the experience, ASA is probably one of the best games I've ever played. But that doesn't mean that it's designed well."

Rap beef, 8

(which, whether you agree or not, is well-documented), and she's even digging up his old inappropriate relationships with underage fans (Millie Bobby Brown) by using the "Megan's Law" line. So... why wasn't this a bigger deal? To put it simply: it's Nicki Minaj's fault. Upon the track's initial release, the "Queen of Rap" (commonly referred to as such by fans) interpreted the reference to Megan's Law as a direct attack on her family. Why? Because both her husband and her brother are known offenders, a fact which is an open secret at this point. Mrs. Minaj has come under fire over the years for defending these figures in her life's actions, but as soon as someone said something about her that was completely indirect (again, Megan never named names), Nicki lost it. Nicki got on an Instagram livestream and immediately began making fun of Megan. Not making fun of Megan's music, not making fun of her personality, but making fun of her for being a victim of violence! The only disses Nicki could come up with while live were "BIGFOOT... FRAGMENT FOOT!" and "LYING ON YOUR DEAD MAMA"... both of which made it into her low-budget diss track Bigfoot (released shortly after the livestream containing sloppy AI-generated promotional art). Due to Nicki's self-centered self-sabotage, the focus of HISS shifted off of Drake and onto her. In reality, the reason behind

this entire fiasco was Circo Loco, the song in which Drake alleged that Megan lied about her injury with the line "lie about getting shots, but she still a stallion". At his core, Drake has proven that he does not respect women when it comes to believing their stories or standing in solidarity with them. He would rather join a hate train (for validation) than support a female victim of gun violence. It wouldn't be until the current Kendrick beef started that most people would put two and two together about the true nature of HISS as a diss. It turns out that online drama distracts people enough that they stop comprehending material over an elementary-school level. Who would've known that about media literacy? But wait... where does this leave us now? The answer is simple: Megan gets the satisfaction of knowing that Kendrick knew exactly who she was talking about. As soon as Kendrick saw those lyrics, he knew that Drake was Megan's primary focus/target. The only explanation for his high output of content lately is that he had all of this ready ahead of time. From what I understand, Kendrick got to work after HISS went public and waited for the perfect moment to strike. Now that's petty. In short: give Megan Thee Stallion her flowers! She was the OG Drake hater in this situation, and she should be recognized as such. Her perspective was the puzzle piece that completed the setup for this legendary one-in-a-lifetime celebrity beef.

8 ball, 10

ping-pong ball in, and on the other side, there are red cups that you have to try to get the ball in. You each get two balls per turn, and the first player to land a ball in every cup wins. But there's a twist: each cup you get a ball in is removed from the table, and once four of the balls have been scored in, the cups reorganize back into a triangle. Then, when you get three more cups out, they sort back into a triangle again, with the final three cups remaining. Additionally, if you get both of your balls in a cup, you will get another turn, and this will continue until you miss a cup. And finally, once your opponent has cleared all the cups, you have one last chance for redemption, where you have to clear all your remaining cups with no mistakes or you lose. If you successfully clear all your cups in the redemption round, it will go to sudden death, and the first person to miss will lose. Overall, this is another one of my favorites from GamePigeon. I think, of the three games I reviewed, it would be my second or third choice, but it's still worth playing, and something I enjoy playing against my friends.

baking shows, 10

the presentation of pastries and baked goods. "Baking with friends and family is a good bonding experience and also a really good stress reliever," said Olivia. I enjoy creating new kinds of desserts, such as combining cakes and cookies or switching up key ingredients in recipes to make a whole new idea of the dessert. I recently made "cosmic blondies," where I took a cosmic brownie recipe and left out most of the cocoa powder to make a whole new creation. I like being able to use more creativity while baking to make it more unique and special. A similarity between the two is being judged and critiqued by your baking results. Whether it is in front of professional bakers and judges, or by your family or friends, they will probably comment on what they like or dislike about the food. "I get critiqued mainly anytime I bake. Me and my friends would judge each other in a sort of goofy and funny way," said Olivia. As can be seen, baking on television and at home is similar and different in lots of ways. Both are entertaining to watch or do and can be enjoyed by anyone with any skill level of baking.

Nerf wars, 5

found themselves pitted against the fearsome Charlie's Angels, which had Willa Champion, Tess Champion, and Anja Gundale. Anja had famously defeated both Eli Berg and Henry Plaman of the Breakfast Brunch Buccaneers in the first round on the first day, securing a win for her team. The Minion Blasters had a tough match ahead of them, especially when Nora Crosby was killed early on in the round, but they were ready for the challenge.

Elena Davis gave an account of her experience battling Anja after school one day, where she accomplished a feat of adrenaline-fueled acrobatics. "I saw her charging me like a rhino and I screamed, because I don't know what to do. I have my stuff, so I can't reach for my gun. I start sprinting to the front door and she's

Military Propoganda, 8

as the rise of American power abroad. This era also brought on the fear of communist expansion by western powers. This red scare was accelerated by the entertainment industry that would produce films and short reels that would advance fears of communism through often false or misleading information. These fears would eventually be useful to the US government as they sold the Korean And Vietnam wars to the American public, as well as interfering in foreign countries affairs to "prevent communism"

The late 70's and early 80's saw the rise of blockbuster films which gave the American military a new opportunity for recruitment through big budget movies that promoted American militarism. The most prominent of these movies was Top Gun that led to a rise in Air Force recruitment.

As the Cold War was winding down and the threat of"global communism" was no longer a reality. The American propaganda machine had to shift gears which they eventually found with the war

gaining on me already, and I try to open the door, and it's locked. I sprint to the backyard, she shoots a bullet. I dodged it, it goes over my head. And I swear I hopped up. I'm holding myself, right? I hopped the fence with one arm and I rolled down the hill and I was on the ground. I get up and I'm looking at her, and I'm like, you can't come back here," Elena was referring to the property rule, which Gabby had also utilized. Members from other teams cannot go on other peoples' property without permission, which Elena was not about to give.

"My sister walks outside and she goes, 'Can you please be quiet? There's neighbors,'" Elena laughed. "I literally, like, I was shaking. My heart was beating and then Anja called me when I got inside and she goes, 'Elena I really have to go to the bathroom, can I come inside?' and I was like no, absolutely not. And she drove

on terror starting in 2001 in the wake of the 9/11 attacks. This only lasted a short period of time as the wars in the Middle East quickly turned to unpopular and drawn out conflicts by the end of the 2010s. Some notable films with military help included the hurt locker and the Iron man movies.

Today the focus of military propaganda is less focused on a specific target such as The Axis Powers, Communism or "Islamic terror", but rather an assortment of loosely connected governments mainly Iran, China, and Russia. This is one of many reasons as to the drop in recruitment in all military branches. In the wake of this the military is more desperate than ever to use the "military entertainment complex" to promote militarism and nationalism in an attempt to get recruiting numbers up. In this reality it is important to understand and be able to spot military propaganda that shows up on TV as well as social media and in high schools and college campuses.

Tennis majors, 11

3 at the tournament earning him the title 'King of Clay'. He was also ranked number one in the world in three different decades. Clay courts differ from hard court because it requires more athleticism because balls bounce lower as well as faster and the crushed stone and clay mixture allows players to quickly turn and accelerate. Clay courts are not always the personal favorite for players but those that know how to utilize their advantages are considerably better.

Neuqua, 2

we were ahead when it started storming. The team went 4-0 on the day and headed back to the hotel around 5:00, where we showered and shortly after headed to Old Chicago around 7:00 for a pizza dinner.

Although the food came a little late, spirits were high after our victorious day of ultimate. We discussed the matchups we would have tomorrow, and how we would stay at the top

away."

Elena's efforts paid off, as the Minion Blasters advanced to the third and penultimate round of the wars. Week three was a free for all as five groups competed to get the most kills, with two moving on to the final round. AP testing provided an added challenge, as the immunity rule did not extend outside of school hours, and many upperclassmen taking the tests had to come in early or leave late from school. "The third round was tough," Aanen Kulseth, an eleventh grader of the Goon Squad said. "I think our entire team ended up getting out either coming to or leaving one of the AP tests. It was kind of difficult, but it was still enjoyable in the end to be on your toes,"

Aanen was the first one out on his team. "As I was leaving the AP Stats test, Charlie shot me from across the street with a really good shot right in the neck. And then Theo

SPFE strike, 4

The majority of the bargaining and negotiating happens with two teams, the bargaining team and the contract action team or CAT. The bargaining team is responsible for negotiating contracts or collective bargaining agreements. This year it was composed of teachers and a counselor who work at schools around the district. They bargain directly with the district.

The bargaining occurs every other school year. They typically have a long bargaining which sometimes leads to a call for a strike. In 2020, workers went on strike.

Best friends, 6

problem faced by many people throughout the U.S. Due to the rise of social media and phone usage among younger generations, real, face to face social connection has decreased significantly and COVID has only made these connections fewer and far between.

Although close friendships are important, strangers and acquaintances can boost mental health. A weekly chat

got out by Danny as he was coming into school, and then I think Nick got chased down by Antonio as he was leaving from an AP test." All in all, it was a tragic third round for the Goon Squad.

The two groups to move on to the final, long awaited round were the same ones that had eliminated the unfortunate Goon Squad. It proved to be a controversial combat between the Holy Trinity and the Buzzcut Bandits as they fought in this last push to attain the victory they had worked for for so long.

"I personally got robbed because they disallowed a kill I got because of something I did like four hours earlier," Charlie Acosta, an eleventh grader of the Buzzcut Bandits said.

"We were kinda just playing the game, like we've chilled for the entire like last four rounds," Danny Hobday, a junior on the Holy Trinity said about his strategy. "So then I

That strike was ultimately ineffective due to the forced end because of the pandemic so the next contract bargaining was intense, settling the night before workers were scheduled to strike. This year the contracts were settled less than a week before workers were prepared to go on strike. They reached agreement on pay raises and education funding.

The next negotiation cycle will be in 2026. Since they have been having such tense negotiations over the past years, I expect to see another close call for a strike, but hopefully they can reach an agreement more easily.

with the cashier at your local grocery store or the owner of your favorite thrift shop can have health benefits. These interactions can also improve your social skills and serve as learning experiences.

So, the next time you see a hair tie on the ground, pick it up and ask the person next to you if it's theirs. Who knows what could happen?

many players favor the serve to volley play style. Instead of returning the ball behind the baseline, players will serve and afterwards immediately rush to the net to finish the point with a faster paced volley. Because of both grass courts and the dress code the Wimbledon is considered a stiff and exclusive event which is frequented less in person than the other three tournaments, although it remains the most renowned and most watched.

The fourth and final tournament is the U.S. Open. The U.S. Open is hosted

this year, and receiving a bid to nationals 2 out of 3 times in the past 3 years. Our team was a bit nervous, having a 1-2 record against them this year after our only win against them in our history.

It was a close game in the second half, but it felt as if we were chasing the game. We used both great defensive pressure and great offensive determination to keep it close near the end. However, their

was like I'll get to school early for the AP test and then I was in the front and Antonio tried sneaking around back and I caught him. Then we just tried to play the defense game until Charlie stole someone's car,"

"I saw Noah park at his house, and then he saw me so he just like left his car door open and ran to his house. So, I got in his car, like to camp it out. Just to sit and wait," Charlie defended himself, claiming the dispute over the car had nothing to do with his kill. "Somehow he told Minty and he was like, yeah, you can't do that. So I was like, okay, and I gave it back. And then it was like three hours later. I went home, I ate, I got ready for practice, I went to Target, then found out practice was canceled. It was three hours later, I went back and I killed Noah."

"We had to go Harvey Specter lawyer mode with the rules. We just asked about a

Frisbee history, 3

As the team and sport grew, eventually the Womanatees was formed in 2012. When some of the girls on the team realized that they had enough people to create a girls team, and since the team's creation it has been very successful in getting girls to get involved in frisbee as well as doing well overall in the sport. "At the beginning it was really tough cause there weren't as many teams, and so we were playing those best teams all of the time. So we slowly developed our defense, and by 2022 we were second in state," said Tim, who went on to say "Two years ago was our best girls result, but they've stayed very strong staying in division one, which is really awesome, I mean the schools are literally ten times the size of us, and in any other sport we wouldn't be playing against that, and the current boys team is by far the best result since its creation. Placing seventh in state in 2023, and this year they're on track to improve significantly."

Since the Manatee and WoManatee's creation the team's have been really great but in the past years they have greatly improved, especially in New York City during August and September. The tournament is played on hard court and marks the end of the professional tennis season. The U.S. Open was founded in 1881 and remains one of the largest competitions in the U.S. The U.S. Open is the only Grand Slam to be played every year since its creation, unlike the others some of which have been canceled for various events such as both world wars and COVID. The U.S. Open is one of the two major tournaments in the U.S. with the other being Indian

core 3 players simply broke us down and we fell short 9-7 after scoring the last point of the game. It was very disappointing and ultimately revoked our chances of getting a bid to nationals, which was very rough, but we moved on and played against Middleton in the 3rd place game.

Our spirits were somewhat low and at the end of the day, we simply did not play our best ultimate. We lost on the point

rule check, and they were like, yeah, Charlie can't do that," Danny said about the car issue.

"I personally think they disallowed it because they didn't want to do it another week," Charlie said, referring to complications that could have arisen had the war gone on through interim, when many people were on trips. "I think it's not very fair, but what can you do? It's not that big of a deal, it's not like we're winning Central's pot, so yeah."

Despite the hiccups around the rules and legalities of the last round, the official winner was the Holy Trinity. Sources say that Joe, Noah, and Danny have yet to receive their prize, but they do have notoriety now for persisting as long as they did and securing the bag. Will nerf wars happen again next year, and will the Holy Trinity ascend to victory once again? Only time will tell.

with the 2024 season seeing a record turnout for all teams.

It's no secret that frisbee and OWL go hand in hand, but what is it about frisbee that works so well, for our school? When asked this question, Tim put it best: "first off, our community gets a lot of kids involved, everyone sort of talks about it so kids who maybe wouldn't have played it at bigger school also get involved. The other thing is that Ultimate frisbee plays out really well with our school philosophy, of having student leadership and spirit of the game. It's a sport that is based on the same principles as OWL, and because of that we don't have to learn that culture whereas bigger schools may have to. Naturally in sports, the idea is that you're trying to win however you can, breaking the rules is only bad when you get caught, and being true and honest to your own participation only matters when it's the referee's interpretation of it, and so much of ultimate frisbee is trying to break that norm."

Wells. Indian Wells is played in California and is considered by some to be the unofficial 'Fifth Grand Slam'. The U.S. Open is considered by some to be the most crucial tournament in the season for players with the largest prize payout and high level of competition. Beyond that the Open has less history than the Wimbledon or Roland Garros and cannot compete in terms of tradition.

before universe point 10-8. Even after the upsetting loss, the team came to a consensus that 4th place in this high-stakes of a tournament is huge for a program as small as ours. With roughly <200 HS boys to our schools' name, we put up a fight against some great teams and showed why we are a top level team in Minnesota.

MNUFC adjusts to life post-Heath

The team’s original coach was let go, and now their superstar has moved on, yet the team lurks near the top of the Western conference standings

Grayden Smith
Staff Writer

Minnesota United has gone through a lot of things lately. Adrian Heath, the coach of MNUFC got fired, leaving us without a coach at the start of the season. Then we hired an assistant coach from Manchester United, Erik Ramsey. He’s been doing great and we’re currently at the upper table.

We’ve also got new jerseys, which are not great in my opinion. They’re like a blue and black galaxy pattern which doesn’t really fit the theme of Minnesota United. Same colors, but our logo is a loon. So why a galaxy??? And the away jerseys are pretty good, it’s the northern lights so it looks good and it also fits the theme, but it’s the same shirts as last year. Why??

There’s also big changes

planned for the stadium area in the midway neighborhood. Seven years ago when the MNUFC stadium was approved, they also got permission to build retail space, office buildings and a hotel. But then when COVID-19 and the pandemic hit, the plans to build all of that stuff were questioned. But recently there has been a change.

The owner of MNUFC, Dr. Bill McGuire has revealed plans to build “United Village,” which is an area around the stadium where there could be playgrounds, stores, a hotel, and even some restaurants. Currently, around the stadium is mostly an empty lot and an old McDonalds so it’d be nice to actually have something there. Construction could even start by next year, so this is big.

But something else big is happening too. Emanuel Reynoso, one of the most beloved players, isn’t even playing right now, he’s in Minnesota but it took about two months meaning he’s late.

He was back in his home country of Argentina trying to acquire a green card. So maybe it’s not his fault. But he somehow missed one of his green card appointments,

which causes many to wonder, including me, if he ever wants to come. As a big fan of Reynoso, I feel kinda betrayed. And last year he missed the start of the season again, which got him suspended from the team for a bit. And recently it has been confirmed that Reynoso is going to the Mexican team, Club Tijuana for three years. And on top of all that the MLS is reviewing a

video where Reynoso is back in Argentina with a bag of money while a man next to him is flexing a gun and a stack of money to the camera.

I can’t believe Reynoso would do this and it makes me sad to see how far he’s fallen. But even without Reynoso we are still doing great, though everyone probably still misses him.

At least the fans seem to be doing good. I recently went to a Minnesota United home game between MNUFC and the Portland Timbers. The atmosphere was great, especially for the MLS.

The chants and cheers may not be anywhere near a European game’s atmosphere but it still is great, especially when we scored. And my favorite part is when MNUFC wins at home the whole stadium sings Wonderwall by

Oasis, which is so cool to see and hear.

Minnesota United are honestly one of the best teams in the MLS currently and the results we have show it. We have very few losses this season and I’m sure it’ll keep this way, I hope.

MNUFC has surprised so many people by beating teams like LAFC and even drawing with the current MLS champions, Columbus Crew. And we even have some new rising players. Like Tani Oluwaseyi, who came from the MNUFC second team, and now he’s scoring plenty of goals at striker helping us stay top of the conference.



Timberwolves, 11
season).

The Wolves also have an amazing assistant coach in Micah Nori, who is a really funny guy. Just look up “Micah Nori funny moments” and watch some of the videos. He has some really funny moments. In game four, Devin Booker bumped Mike Conley into Finch, which caused him to fall and rupture his patellar tendon, forcing him to have surgery to fix it. Finch left in the fourth when he got injured, so Nori stepped up

and coached the Wolves to a win. Now Finch has been on the bench, helping while still being the head coach. But Nori has been roaming the sidelines, instructing the players and calling the timeouts. He was the coach on the sidelines of the Timberwolves domination of the Nuggets in game two without Rudy Gobert, winning 106-80. I expect Nori to get a head coaching job in the next two years with another team.

Defense

One of the big reasons the Timberwolves had such a great season was their defense. They

had the top defense in the NBA and had the Defensive Player



of the Year, Rudy Gobert, who won his fourth one. Rudy

is an elite paint defender, and has been for most of his NBA career. He is amazing at painting; his presence makes players not want to drive into the paint. He can also guard the perimeter if needed. He isn’t the best, but he can hold his own.

The Wolves also have one of the best perimeter and on ball defenders, Jaden McDaniels. He should have made an all-defensive team last year, but he broke his hand in the last game of the season by punching a wall, which left a sour taste for the voters. Jaden is one

of those guys that superstars are afraid of. He has gotten a ton of praise from superstars like Kevin Durant and Luka Doncic for his defense. But Jaden can also shoot the 3, which makes him the perfect 3 and D player for the Wolves.

Rudy has really helped the wolves bring the defensive intensity and hustle up since day 1. “At the beginning of the season, we all agreed we wanted to be a defensive minded team,” said Gobert. Just wanting to be good on defense already helps you be good on defense. Defense has

been the reason the Wolves have the fourth best record in the NBA. Everyone on the team has stepped up defensively, even if they aren’t good defenders. Everyone has brought intensity and hustle to every game.

A\$ap Rocky, 11

Some of my favorite songs off this album are “PMW (All I Really Need),” with its beat that sounds like something off a Lil Uzi song and it’s great ScHoolboy Q verse, “LVL” which has arguably Rocky’s best beat and it contains great verses from Rocky. And, lastly “1Train” with its many features that are all great, (Big Krit’s is the best one in my opinion) My least favorite track on the album is “Pain” because it is generally forgettable. The version of the album on streaming adds five new songs, which is really only four songs because the last track is a

remix, though I would say that the deluxe is decent though not as good as the rest of the album and in my opinion the album is more cohesive without the deluxe. 8/10

Rocky’s sophomore album AT.LONG.LAST.A\$AP goes in a different direction from his past album with less of a trap influence and more of a psychedelic vibe, which makes the album sound very unique. Another thing that makes the album sound unique is due to one of its contributors, Joe Fox who was a homeless man that Rocky found in the streets of London while recording to sing for multiple tracks on

the album which makes the album sound more dark and old school. One thing I will say about the album is that it did take many listens for it to grow on me.

My favorite songs on this album are “Jukebox Joints” which sounds like a song that would be playing from an old Jukebox “Wavybone” which has a bunch of great verses from southern legends Juicy J and UGK and “Electric Body” with it’s hard hitting and unorthodox beat, a great Rocky verse another great ScHoolboy Q verse and a great outro. I also like most other songs on the album though I think songs like “West Side

Highway” “Better Things” and “Dreams (Interlude)” do end up being a bit boring. I believe that the worst song on the album is “Max B” which is a song with a hard beat but it jarringly switches to a Joe Fox part that sounds like a trashed demo multiple times during the song which completely throws off the cohesion of the song. The album does have a lot of Rocky’s best tracks and is a pretty good exploration of different sounds for Rocky. 8.5/10

Rocky’s third and (at the moment) last album TESTING, does what the album title suggests and tests new sounds styles for

Rocky. Some examples of experiments on the album are such as slower guitar songs, more popular sounding beats, inaudible Playboi Carti verses and popular video game Fortnite references. Due to the album testing out new sounds it is overall less consistent in its song quality and sound than his other albums.

My favorite songs from the album are “A\$AP Forever Remix”, with its orchestral beat catchy flows and a good Kid Cudi feature “Tony Tone,” with its catchy flows and wonky beat that still hits hard and “Hun43rd,” with its wavy west coast beat and laid back Rocky verses. My least favorite

song is “CALLDROPS” which is forgettable and boring. It matches the calmer songs on the album but it doesn’t do anything to stand out. Overall I think this album doesn’t have many lows but I do believe that the album doesn’t reach as many highs either. 7/10

Final Ranking:

- LIVE.LOVE.A\$AP 9/10
- AT.LONG.LAST.A\$AP 8.5/10
- LONG.LIVE.A\$AP 8/10
- TESTING 7/10



Purple Press Staff Photo

Manatee move downfield and prepare to set up their D.



Purple Press Staff Photo

9th grader Luke Hobday makes a catch.



Purple Press Staff Photo

Manatee seniors pose for a picture.

An apology from Mom, pt 2

The mystery of Allie’s mother takes a dark turn. Read part one in Issue 6

Joseph T. Schwartz
Staff Writer

“You look like an unhappy woman, perhaps a man making you miserable? I’ve helped those like you before. Would you perhaps like to take a seat?”

• • •

I stood in the entrance to the old shop and gave the woman a curious stare. The old woman wore a rose cardigan with thread thick enough I could see the ends of her long sleeve shirt beneath it. There were curtains blocking the back of the shop, so I couldn’t see anything beyond the table and chairs that were right up against the front windows. Her chair was an old recliner the same color as her cardigan, and the one across from her was a simple wooden stool.

She motioned again for me to take a seat and, with some hesitation, I sat. She folded her hands on the table and leaned in

“I think that I am right, no? With us it is always a man. Far too much trouble if you ask me.” The old woman winked and tapped her ring finger with the other, showing that both were bare. I didn’t laugh, but she didn’t skip a beat and continued talking.

“But please, tell me I am wrong. Perhaps it is money that ails you, or maybe your family lives across the world.”

“I don’t- how?”

“Am I wrong?”

I took a deep breath, “Do I know you from somewhere?”

“You don’t know me, no.” The old woman said, putting extra emphasis on “you.”

“Why did you say it like that?”

“Say what like what?”

“As if I don’t know you, but you know me?”

“I do not understand what you mean, Julia.”

“There! I haven’t told you my name, yet you know it!” I got loud, the wooden stool clattering behind me as I stood. “Who told you that? Is he paying you? Are you just-” As I strained my voice, it gave out. My chest racked with pain and I stumbled forward. I caught myself on the table with one hand and coughed into the other. When I pulled my hand away, the palm was flecked with red.

I felt a hand on my shoulder, and I was guided into a chair with plush cushioning and a back. A cloth touched my hand.

“You are not well.” The elderly woman stood to my side and wiped away the blood.

“No, I’m not. Did he tell you that, too?”

“I do not work for your husband.”

“Yet you know my name.”

“I know many names, Julia.” The woman walked away, behind the chair, and I heard the curtain be pulled back, and something be dragged out. She came back with a wooden

chair and sat down. “My back can’t handle stools anymore” she said offhandedly.

“Speaking of names, you haven’t told me yours.”

“My name is unimportant.”

“When you say you’ll help me out with my ‘marital issues,’ I think that knowing your name is quite important, actually. It builds trust. And right now, I’m about five seconds from walking out the door, because you’re wasting my time.”

“You’re irritated.”

“And I wonder why that is, Ms. Nameless.”

“Ms. Nameless...” the old woman played with the name on her tongue, “Ms. Nameless... Ms. No-One, Ms. Nobody. You may call me Ms. Nobody.”

“I am not calling you Ms. Nobody.”

“Why not? You asked for a name.” she said matter-of-factly.

“A name which you very clearly made up right here. It’s not your name.”

“If I use it, is it not mine?”

“Jesus- alright, fine. Ms. Nobody it is. What could you do to help me that my husband can’t just pay away?”

Ms. Nobody leaned back into her chair and smiled calmly.

“Let’s just say: what I can do for you? It cannot be swayed by money.”

“Yes, but how does that work, exactly?”

“I cannot say.”

“If you can’t tell me how you can help me, I have no reason to be here. If you haven’t realized, I don’t exactly have all the time in the world.” I grabbed the arm of the recliner and pulled myself to the edge of the seat, but Ms. Nobody spoke before I could stand.

“That’s exactly why you should stay.” I raised an eyebrow and stared blankly. “What do you have to lose?”

“What little freedom I have left. He has my location, if he sees I’m in one spot too long he might-”

“His money can go a long way, you’ve told me yourself. Who else can help you?”

I stared at her, ready to stand from the edge of my seat, before turning back and settling into the cushions. “You have five minutes.”

“That is all I need, dear. Now, do you-”

• • •

Julia broke into a coughing fit, interrupting her story. “Oh lord, give me- give me a moment.”

Allie stared at the recorder in her hand with wide eyes. The story of her father, how he manipulated her mother into marriage, took away her freedom, even paid off the police so she couldn’t get away. How, when she got sick, he refused to bring her to the doctors until she began coughing blood and even then didn’t treat her for stage four

cancer afterward, leaving her to waste away and struggle through what little remained of her life. She swallowed hard, her mouth dry. Allie mouthed a curse under her breath and let her head fall back against her mother’s tombstone behind her.

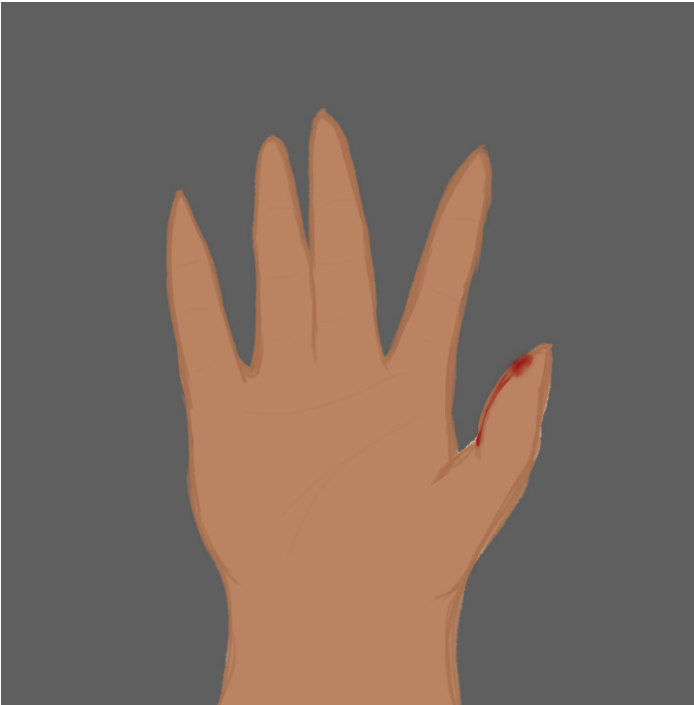
“Ahem, there, alright, where was I?” Her mother spoke through the recorder, the audio grainy and poor quality. “Five minutes, yes, alright”

• • •

“That’s all I need dear, Now, do you have something of his?” I patted my pockets, searching for something, but she stopped me. “There! On your hand, is that ring from him?”

“Yes, it’s the engagement ring-”

“Good, yes, that will work fine enough. Give it to me.” I slipped it off and offered her



the ring. Instead of grabbing the ring, she grasped my hand and held it there. With her other hand, she held a needle.

“Hey! What-”

“Trust me.” Her eyes were focused on my hand like a hawk, but her voice was reassuring. With deftness unbecoming of a woman her age, she stuck the needle into my thumb and pulled it out. The needle was barely there long enough for me to feel it.

She examined the small amount of my blood on the end of the needle before nodding and dragging the end of it along the edge of my ring, wiping the drop of blood onto it. She brought the ring up so it was in front of her mouth and quickly whispered something I only half caught. I lost the first half, but only barely heard what she said last.

“-and upon his blood darkness shall fall.

• • •

“Now, I know I might sound crazy, Allie,” Allie jolted, her focus on the story broken. “but I swear, when she whispered to the ring, something about the room was... wrong. I can’t tell you what it was, maybe it was

the lights flickering or a draft hitting me. But I just felt sick. Well, more sick than I already did.

“I just- I needed to say that, so you understand why I’m even telling you any of this.”

• • •

“Are you-” She quickly shushed me with her hand.

“There,” Ms. Nobody said, “all finished. I didn’t even need all five minutes.”

“That- That’s it?”

“Yes.”

“But what did that do?”

“Has your husband done you harm? Would you say he is a ‘bad man?’” She made air quotes in the air.

“Oh, yes. Yes, I would.”

“Then his darkness will catch up with him. Do not worry.”

“But I-”

“Go, go! You said your

around. Instead, I saw Chester walking down to the stairway. He was facing me, and even in the night I could clearly see his tousled hair and haggard expression. He looked up at me as my head stuck out from the door.

“Get back to bed! Get!” He barked the order like he was speaking to a dog and not his wife.

• • •

“It’s been over a month since I talked to ‘Ms. Nobody’ or whatever her actual name was. I never got to learn what her real name is. I tried to go back and see her about a week ago, she never gave me back my ring, and her shop was closed and boarded up. I asked someone if they knew where she was now, and they didn’t even know there was someone in that shop.

“Ever since that night, your father has been having nightmares. Your room was farther away from him than mine, so you might not have heard it, but he usually wakes up yelling. Every once and a while, if I walk past his door, I can hear him mumbling about shadows.

“I didn’t believe that that old woman was magic, I still don’t really believe it. But I believe in it enough to tell you about this, because something occurred to me.

“‘Upon his blood darkness shall fall.’ That’s what Ms. Nobody said. I can’t say for sure, Allie, but think about it. ‘His blood’ doesn’t just apply to him.”

Allie felt a tightness in her chest. Her eyes were locked onto the recorder.

“You are also his blood, Allie. I don’t know if I’m right, I really hope I’m not, but please, please forgive me if I am. I’m sorry, Allie, I love you.”

Click. The recording ended.

The wind blew through the trees, shaking off a single leaf. The wind carried it back and forth, twirling it up and down. After tumbling through the air, the brown husk settled on the grass, only just held above the ground by the blades below it.

Allie continued to stare at the recorder. She brought one hand and dragged it down her face, letting out a haggard breath and a faint curse.

“I don’t have nearly enough energy to deal with this.”

With that, Allie stood from her mother’s grave and turned towards the gate of the cemetery. As she left, a single leaf was crushed underfoot.

When she was a child, Allie was not very good at climbing. Looking back, she doubted her younger self would believe it, watching her climb the side of her house and into her window. It was loud, and difficult to open, but it beat going in through the front door.

The door to her room opened just as she was all the way in; Gabriel stood there

with a disapproving glare.

“Miss, your father is not happy.”

“I’m sure he isn’t-”

From the hallway came a loud, and very high pitched scream, followed by a crash.

“Oh god!” her father screamed from across the house, “Get away from me!”