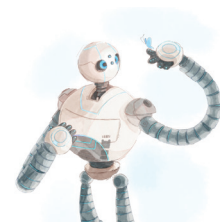




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"Wild Robot" is a hit
-Page 5

Purple Press

Volume #25, Issue #2

November 27th, 2024

New open door policy at OWL

Due to behavior problems, bathroom doors will remain open at all times

Pat Toohey
Staff Writer

On the first day of school a lot stayed the same -- the hallways, the food, the teachers...but one loud change echoing the Silksonics song "Leave the door open" was the bathroom doors. Many students noted soon after their arrival that the second and

third floor bathroom doors had been propped open. Why?

Principal Dave Gundale and Assistant Principal Ma'lene Walker agreed that the change was designed to cut down on problems that occur in the bathrooms. Ms. Ma'lene noted that "We have seen a decrease in not only the vandalism that has occurred, but also students using it as

a 'hide out.'" Dave shared a similar sentiment and brought up the role of the custodial staff in the decision, since they are the ones who had been dealing with all the defacing, vandalizing, and misconduct in the bathrooms, "[The custodian] requested that we implement this policy since there were several instances of vandalism and graffiti last

year." To make matters worse, the custodial team is also short staffed this year.

Bathroom supervision issues are not new. In the early 2000s vandalism issues at the old Open School building brought the principal of the time to take the doors off completely. Years later, after a new principal had taken the

Bathrooms, 6



Purple Press Staff Photo

The fall play: A Midsummer Night's Dream



Purple Press Staff Photo

A group of actors work with a volunteer sorting fabric boxes in the greenroom.

Theatre's build day saw actors, designers, parents, and friends come together

Kate Houle
Staff Writer

It's a month before the opening night of the show, and OWL theater students are doing what no one wants to do: coming to school on a Saturday.

This is build day — a morning in which design crew

members, actors, and family volunteers come together to get the sets and green room ready for the current production.

For Midsummer this happened on Saturday, November 16th, with an extended rehearsal later in the week to finish the projects.

The set for this play includes two sets of stairs, a platform

with a screen behind it, as well as trees and a variety of fake foliage.

"Build day is a time, usually on the weekend, where you can invite everyone you know to come help and build sets. This time we got so much stuff done — you can actually walk through the greenroom now!" said sophomore Kaden



Purple Press Staff Photo

OWL students and parent volunteers collaborate on sets.

McNamara.

Volunteers worked on cutting and painting trees, building the stairs and platform, and cleaning. "They really helped us out a lot. We wouldn't have gotten the stuff done that we did if they weren't there. So we're really grateful to them for helping," said senior Michael Ryan.

"I got to work with people that are not in theater, and I got to test some [makeup] designs on them. It was quite a lot of fun," said senior Cal Schmid.

A Midsummer Night's Dream will be performed on December 11, 12, and 13 at 7:00 pm in the OWL auditorium.

Difference in schools

Atom Pliner
Staff Writer

Did you know in Japan when you go to school you have to take off your shoes at the entrance and change into your school shoes? This is just one example of multiple things that are different between Japanese schools and American schools

A lot of our everyday life revolves around school, as we are there for most of the week. Now imagine how different our life would be if the structure of school changed. As students in Japan and the U.S. navigate their school days, they encounter different levels and ways of being educated. From classroom structure to extracurricular activities, these differences reflect student's attitudes toward learning.

I would know, because every summer I go to school in Japan and see what it's like compared to school in America. Japanese school is so different from American school, it's almost the exact opposite. I can't cover all of the differences so I will cover five things about how Japanese school is different from American school.

The classroom structure in Japan is very different from American classroom structure. You are expected to arrive with all your materials out and a uniform on right on time. This is the same for American schools but Japanese schools are much more strict. In the classroom you are expected to not talk at all unless called on and you have to take lots

schools, 6

Which is better? Android vs iPhone

What are the pros and cons of each? The debate will finally be settled, James breaks it down

James Hietala
Staff Write

Chances are that you're familiar with green bubbles vs blue bubbles; how messages sent using iMessage are blue on iPhone, while messages sent without iMessage are green. This is one of the biggest topics in the Android vs iPhone debate.

There are more differences

between the bubble colors than the color itself, however, as messages sent with iMessage support better image/video quality, encryption, better group chats, and features like Memoji and Apple Pay. And because Apple refuses to make iMessage available on devices other than iPhones/iOS & Mac, Android and other devices can't use these features. This leads to non-iPhone

users' messages with iPhone users being more inconvenient and less secure. Apple also keeps bubble colors despite the social status that has become associated with the colors.

Google has developed their own standard for better messaging, called "RCS", which functions similarly to iMessage on iPhones, enhancing image/videos,

Android vs iPhone, 6



Nora Xiong



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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A history making season

"I think as a team, we've definitely grown to be more connected and play as one..."

Mya Chandler
Staff Writer

The Humboldt girls soccer team made history. They placed third in conference, something that has never been done by the team and earned the fifth seed in sections 4A.

The Hawks won their game 1-0; with the goal scored by junior Clara Crosby, against Washington. As the girls went onto their next round of sections, facing the first seed, Concordia Academy, a school with a total of 12 wins, two losses and two ties. The Humboldt girls ended their fight to the top with a score of 0-4, against Concordia Academy in the section semifinals, ending the 2024 season.

As a member of the girls soccer team I have seen the team as a whole approve over the three years I have played. Something I heard coach, Kyle Jonson say a lot this season was this was the best season we have had with a record of eight wins, five losses and three ties.

"I think in the second year of rebuilding this program we are starting in a better place than we were in the first year. During the first year there were a lot of new concepts and expectations for the players. There was a style of play that was never taught before and

a lot to learn. In year two, everyone understood the concepts that we were trying to achieve from the beginning and we were able to start ahead of the game. We had the chance to get to double digit wins this year, which would've been the first in school history. We fell a bit short, but still had a better record than we did last year. Finishing 3rd in the conference for the first time solidified us having the best season in school history," said Kyle.

All conference honorable mention Esther Shaw, a Humboldt sophomore who has played for the Humboldt girls varsity team since her freshman year, has been a major reason why the team's positive outlook for the season has improved so much since last year. She is known for her positive outlook both at games and at practice, whether that was at 7:00 AM practices and the 6:00 PM practices or during the cold days of late fall. Her ability to get the team active and organized has gone far from unnoticed. She said "the Humboldt girls have improved by the team bonding that was one of the most important things that helped us bring us together and helped understand each



Mya Chandler

Two team members embrace

other more by being positive. I felt like we've been positive this year unlike the other years the girls played with each other. Still have stuff to improve on, but this year was a big change."

Eleventh grader Cam Sisson, who plays striker and left wing, has said that these continued team traditions have helped create a bond between each player and a stronger connection on the field. These traditions included team dinners, walks around Phalen lake, and breakfast after morning practice. Even going to a Korean BBQ as a team. "I think that this year went really well in the sense that we have a record of eight wins and five losses, which is more wins than I think we got last year. I think as a team, we've definitely grown to be more connected and play as one although I didn't really play that much this season. I really did enjoy playing this season as well as improving my skills as a soccer player," said Cam.

With the end of the 2024 season, the Hawks are losing five seniors: Mya Chandler, San San Noe, Nadine Mutesi, Sofia Valdez-Vega and Ashlley Mendoza De Librado. San has been a captain of the



Swe He

The Hawks ended their season at third in the conference.

girls soccer, 3

Baking Bad: The Sequel

Can brownies be made by "bad" bakers? Read and find out

Owen Belmares
Staff Writer

Baking is something that many people have tried, but few have mastered. What about the people who know nothing about baking, people who don't even know how to turn on an oven? Could they still be a baking master? Well, that's what we're going to find out. Me and my friend Nick Christopherson know close to nothing about baking, and we are on a journey to achieve our goals of becoming master bakers. We have successfully made gingerbread cookies for the Christmas season, and now we're gonna try and bake some brownies.

Now, gingerbread cookies were a decently difficult dessert to devise. But brownies are really simple, it's pretty much just sugar, oil and cocoa powder. This is a step down in difficulty, so there should be no problems, right? Well, our first step was to mix the dry ingredients and wet ingredients separately. Unfortunately, this is where we made our first blunder. We needed to add three fourths of a cup of flour, so, three quarter cups. But we accidentally used three third cups of flour. And as they say, cooking is an art

form, but baking is a science, so you need to be exact. So I was pretty sure that we had just ruined everything, but luckily we were able to just scoop most of it out without any problem. We added the rest of the dry ingredients and mixed, doing the same for the wet ingredients. After this, we were able to mix the whole thing together, slather it in a pan, and throw it into the oven. Now, it was a waiting game.

Overall, we didn't have any issues with the mixing and process itself, but Nick's two cats Hobbs and Rambler would frequently jump up around the table and kitchen and rub against our equipment. This was only the second obstacle we had, but our final trial was more prudent. We needed to put a layer of parchment paper along the inside of the baking tin so that it wouldn't stick to the inside. While Nick didn't have any parchment paper, he had wax paper which we thought was virtually the same. This is, however, incorrect, because wax paper will burn inside the oven while parchment won't. The only thing we could do to prevent it from sticking was to rub it down with a stick of butter

baking bad, 3

Diary of an XC runner

Teddie walks us through a regional event in South Dakota

Teddie Lopez
Staff Writer

The first sponsorship event on the Humboldt Hawks Cross Country team was hosted in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The event was called NXR (Nike Cross Regionals) Heartland 2024, and the team was heated against almost 4,000 other runners across 700 different teams.

Our team sent out the four top runners in the Varsity sector for each gender, including Bennett Vaughan-Fier, Patrick Toohey, Henry Cowles, and me, Teddie Lopez, for the boys side, along with Aria Kulseth, Abby Horton, Lucy Keenan and Gwen Stender on the girls side. This was a very special opportunity for the team to represent ourselves and run for Nike as a whole. Saint City Running had previously sponsored us with Nike Pegasus shoes, and before the race, the registered runners were called in on Wednesday before the race, and were given jerseys, a hoodie, stickers and posters — all about NXR.

The trip to South Dakota, though, was a memorable experience. Early Saturday morning, everybody drove out with some parents and Coach Mario, relaxing and talking

for about four hours on the way from Minnesota to South Dakota, where we checked into a DaysInn. The hotel wasn't very clean, though, and there was only one bed per room — so we had to set up inflatable mattresses and move furniture around to fit them.

After we were all settled in, we left right away to check out the course — and the competition. We dealt with tons of traffic and tons of schools, and at the course, we even received free hats as our coach registered us. But we then realized it was a good idea to get dinner early, to avoid the mass amount of athletes looking to load up on carbs before the race.

So, we left early for Sickies Garage Burgers, which we had basically for free. We ate, played cards, and talked for a few hours. After dinner, we returned to our hotel and got ready to wind down. Everybody came to Bennett and Henry's room, and watched Shark Tank and other random channels before returning to our own rooms and sleeping.

The race was early on that Sunday morning, as we packed

cross country, 3

Meet our new choir teacher

From musical instrument collecting to kayaking, she does it all

Claire Ales
Staff Writer

Meet Greta Cina, OWL's newest choir teacher! She enjoys songwriting, kayaking, and collecting instruments. Greta has instruments from many different cultures and enjoys learning how to play all of them!

One of her favorite instruments that she has is called the Irish Bodhran, which is a handheld drum with its origin dating back to 3000 BC. "It's such a fun instrument to play, but it takes special muscles in your arms so I don't get to play it as often as I would like," said Greta.

Besides collecting instruments, Greta has a fun tradition of kayaking on the lake near her house a few days before it melts. "Sometimes instead of sheets it's like crystals hanging and when you go through them it makes this tinkling sound. It's really magical," said Greta. She keeps track of it every year, so she knows when it's time to go the

next year.

Greta grew up in Canby, a small town in southwest Minnesota, where she attended a highschool with about the same class size as OWL. Greta received her undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota in Music Education. She is currently working on getting her masters from the University of St. Thomas. Greta wanted

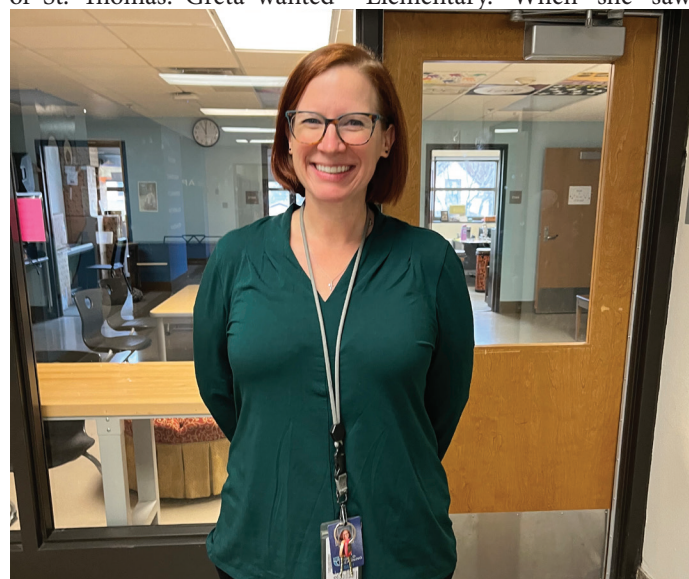
to become a choir teacher because her voice is her primary instrument and has been involved with choirs for pretty much her whole life. "It's always been a very fulfilling experience for me," said Greta.

Before teaching at OWL, Greta taught at a Spanish immersion school and an arts integration school, and most recently, Groveland Park Elementary. When she saw

that there was a job open at OWL she let her imagination spark. "I have two sons, one is in sixth grade and one is in ninth, I thought it would be really cool if all of us ended up going to the same place, but it turned out my kids didn't want to come here. Still, I was ready for something new and I thought that if I were to teach secondary anywhere it would be at OWL," said Greta.

Greta enjoys teaching all ages of students for different reasons. She likes 6th graders because they are all so open to trying new things. She likes working with high schoolers because they normally have more experience and independence and she can do a lot more with them.

For Greta, one of her favorite things about OWL is how welcoming and kind the students and staff are. She looks forward to getting to know everyone better over the course of her first year at OWL.



Purple Press Staff Photo

OWL's new choir teacher, Greta Cina

Fall and winter sports update

OWL athletes receive recognition in their sports

Maddie Linstad
Staff Writer

Four OWL athletes, through their reported talent and hardwork have received recognition for their sport.

Junior Sylvia Cannon was second in state for Aces, which is a serve that the opposing team cannot return. Junior Captain Olivia Fiebich was awarded the All Conference award for the third year in a row,

which means she was selected as the top player of the Girls Volleyball team by opposing coaches. Lastly, Senior Captain Galadriel Barrett received the All-Conference Honorable Mention.

As for soccer, Junior Xavier Harris received All Conference honors and was invited to play in the Star of the Cities all star game against Minneapolis at Conway Dome.

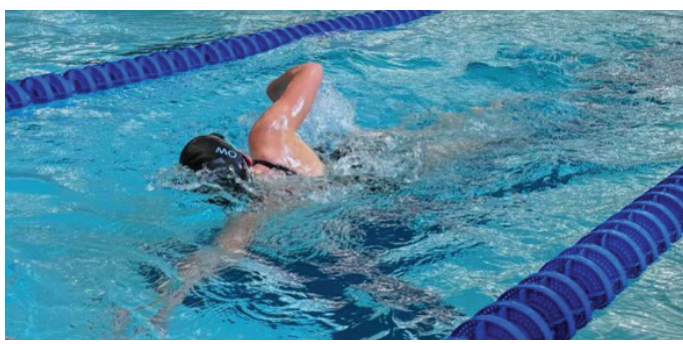


Photo courtesy of Ingrid Thune

9th grader Ameilia Keenan swims in a meet



Swe He

11th grader Xavier Harris lines up for a kick



Photo courtesy of Humboldt volleyball

Senior Galadriel Barrett goes up for a block

Manatee win tournament

The future is looking very bright for OWL frisbee

Wyatt Kessler
Staff Writer

The OWL Manatee won its first division one tournament, taking down some great teams along the way. It's a sign of good things to come in the near future for the Manatee, even after losing some of their stars to graduation last year.

Ultimate frisbee is one of two sports offered by OWL itself, and the team has mostly been competing at the D2 level throughout its history. They had a successful season in division one last year, climbing their way to being ranked nationally #14, just barely losing out on a bid to HSNI (high school national invite, where the top 16 make it). After having a few poor shows following the initial national ranking, they were demoted to around #20 when the invites to nationals were sent out. While teams from Minnesota like

Edina and Saint Louis Park put on a great display at HSNI, overperforming for their seeding in the tournament, the Manatee had to watch from home knowing they could have done well. Those other teams, however, lost some very important pieces to their team for the 24/25 season. This ultimately started to make way for a Manatee uprising this year.

The fall season is typically

a more laid back season compared to spring, just keeping the rust off of players and the purpose is to have fun with the sport. There is a tournament in the fall, however, that is a bit more competitive. Hosted by Saint Louis Park, Crushtober is an annual all-day, four-game tournament, where plenty of top teams in the state attend. It's a great way to end the fall season in a competitive way

before the wintertime and spring season.

We arrived at Crushtober the morning of October 27th ready to see how we would fare against the other top teams in the wind and cold. Our first game was against White Bear Lake, a relatively easy matchup in honesty, and there wasn't much to talk about for this game besides we won 13-2 and prepared for our next game against a much better team — Great River.

Great River is a conference rival, and the team we play against during the annual homecoming game, and they looked like no joke this year. They came close and made the game competitive throughout, but we prevailed and looked to the next game, the most difficult of the four. Edina has historically been the most dominant team regarding MN ultimate, winning the



Purple Press Staff Photo

10th grader Luke Hobday and senior Danny Hobday at game.

cross country, 2

up our rooms, had breakfast, and hit the road for a short moment. At the course, we set up our area among hundreds of other tents around, put on our numbered bibs, and started preparing for the race. It was about 35-40 degrees during the race, but the heat of excitement and our warmups really helped.

The boys race came at 9:30 in Section 3, where there were about 385 other runners. The race itself was very chill and less stressful than normal meets, and it looked like most runners were there to simply have fun. Music was blasting, the spectators were cheering as hundreds of runners buzzed by them, and drones flew overhead.

The girls also ran in their own Section 3, and in the same situation. At the end of the race, we took a ton of pictures and received some Gatorade and water, but nobody was necessarily close to breaking a personal record, likely due to it being postseason. Despite this, everybody drove home feeling satisfied.

baking bad, 2

and pray that it would turn out fine. So, let's see if it did.

After a short 45 minutes we pulled it out of the oven and into its finished state. After letting it cool for a few minutes, Nick got the first taste, and it was good. But we still needed a few more tongues to taste our tantalizing treat, so we got the rest of Nick's family to try it. "I'm not a brownie guy, but these are pretty good," said his brother Cameron Christopherson, OWL alumni. Then, we had Nick's mother Sarah try it; she described it as "like a chocolate lava cake." These were some good remarks, but I wasn't sure of them. Maybe they were just being nice and the brownies weren't actually all they were cracked up to be. I needed more data. I needed to bring this to school. So I decided to let my crew crunch on our confectionery creation.

"I like the texture. Now this is crazy, [but] it's a little bit sweeter than I like it," said English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt, our first crew taster. This does make sense,

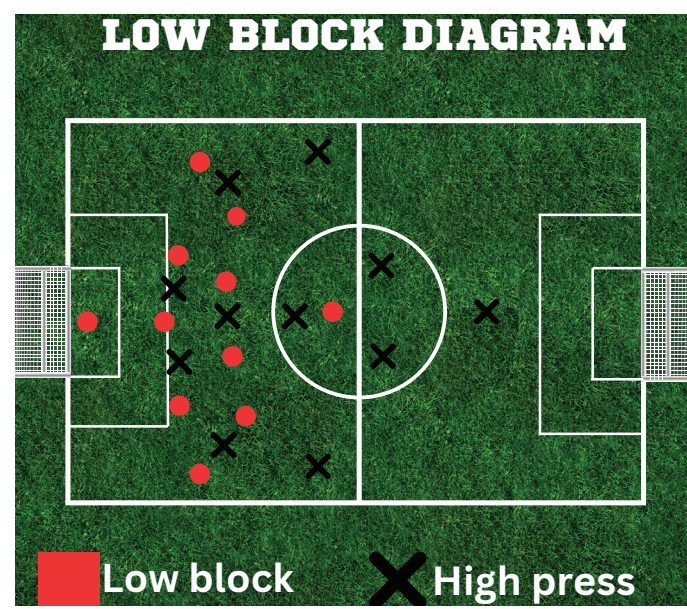
as the recipe calls for mixing in granulated sugar and powdered sugar, so it's understandable that it might be too sweet. "It's very moist, the crust on the top is very amazing, and it's got the right amount of sweetness," said tenth grader Kyle Parker. I agree with Kyle on the moistness, but I think eighth grader Atom Pliner makes a better point, saying "it's a little bit salty, but otherwise it's really good." I found when I ate the brownie it was noticeably salty. I don't think it was bad, but it's hard to ignore. Our final review came from the esteemed senior Theo Kimball, who simply said "umnomnomnom." Overall, we produced something that looked like brownies, smelled like brownies, and tasted like pretty good brownies. So, I think that bad bakers can, in fact, bake brownies.

girls soccer, 2

Humboldt girls varsity soccer team since her junior year. As the season came to an end, and her high school soccer chapter had closed, she reflected on the season, "it went well, and the team improved a lot, and as my last year of playing I really enjoyed the memories and the time the team spent together," said San. Although the seniors will be missed, the team looks to build on its success, with their new captains for the 2025 season, Clara and Humboldt sophomore Lwe Paw, continuing on the positive traditions the previous captains have laid down.



Swe He



Xavier Harris

A look at soccer strategy

Battling the low block

Xavier Harris
Staff Writer

On October 7th, the Humboldt boys soccer team lined up against St. Agnes. We were the 7th seed and they were the 10th. "We were on the attack. They got the ball somehow, I think, and they just booted it out and there was some sort of miscommunication or misread on the ball between the mid-field and the centerbacks. One of the players was through on goal and chipped in over the keeper," said senior captain Charlie Acosta.

After this moment, St. Agnes employed a low block strategy—a defensive formation designed to cease the attacking team's opportunities. The low block requires a high level of tactical awareness and emotional resilience, placing lots of pressure on players both mentally and physically.

The low block is an out-of-possession strategy that focuses on maintaining a tight and compact defense in the team's defensive third of the pitch. By doing so, it minimizes the space available for the opposing team to play through, making it increasingly difficult for them to create scoring opportunities. Normally, the defense is positioned very deep, around the 18 yard box, while the mid-fielders are just slightly in front of them. The attackers usually don't try going for the ball until you pass the halfway line because they are trying to stay very compact. This is

different from a mid block because your defensive line is a lot deeper. This tactic isn't just about positioning and shifting; it's a psychological game, where players must remain disciplined and be very aware of what is going on in the game.

For the team using the low block, in this case St. Agnes, the strategy can be very exhausting and tiring. Players are required to constantly shift back and forth, anticipating the opponent's decisions while remaining ready to respond to any quick passes or through-balls they play. As players start to get fatigued, the pressure intensifies, and so does the emotional weight of the match.

Playing against a low block is very difficult. You have to constantly make runs and find different ways to break them down. This can be very tiring and the game really starts to slow down because you need to be very patient and wait for the right time to attack. For the team trying to score, you are essentially doing the opposite of the opposing team. You need to high press the other team and try to win the ball back. You normally will have your striker and wingers standing right outside the box waiting for the goalkeeper to play the ball to their center backs or their outside backs. Your midfielders are man-marking (within arms reach) of the opposing team's midfielders and your center backs are pushed up to half. The

soccer, 7

Upcoming Events

November 28-29: Thanksgiving Break

December 11-13: Fall play performance

December 13: College March

December 20: Long crew day

Senior Spotlight

Grael Pederson-Kieck



What pronouns do you use?
He/him

How long have you been at OWL?
About three months

What are your plans for next year?
Go to college for psychology

What's been your favorite class in high school?
Mass media

What extracurriculars are you involved in?
Frisbee and theater

Favorite field work experience or school trip and why?
Camp Du Nord because that's the only one I've been on

If you had a walk up song, what would it be?
Back in Black by AC/DC

That One Little Kid

Saanii Beavers

How tall are you?
4' 11"

What pronouns do you use?
She/her

What's your favorite book, movie, or TV show?
KC Undercover

Who's your favorite senior?
Basha

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

What extra curriculars do you plan on getting involved in at OWL?
Theater and basketball



Purple Press Staff Photo
Students in poker club play a game during Friday clubs

Mandatory clubs at OWL

Students were given a variety of choices for their club

Kate Houle
Staff Writer

If you walk into crew on a Friday afternoon and suddenly find yourself in a frisbee game, a dance routine, or a game of poker, don't worry, you haven't suddenly been transported to an alternate universe. A new policy means that every OWL student is involved in a weekly club, and their options for how to spend that time are more abundant than ever.

Clubs at OWL have changed a lot in the last few years. Clubs first took off virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic, but many of the groups disappeared as school transitioned back in person. Only a few student-run opt-in clubs, such as the Student Library Advisory Council (SLAC) and Environmental Club, have met regularly since then. "We've been running for three years. I started running it in ninth grade, and it was kind of a really big jump for a ninth grader to get out there and run a club," said junior Margaret Moe, one of the founders of Environmental Club. "We did pretty well, and we got like about ten members total. That was like our highest number, which isn't that much, but it's good for a brand new club."

The new policy this year has clubs meeting every Friday during regular crew. The system seeks to help minimize problems that opt-in groups had faced, like erratic attendance or teachers who ran clubs having to send their crew kids to alternate spaces. Now, every student is involved in a club, and they'll report straight to their assigned space after third period. "I was originally intending on joining [a club] last year. I didn't really get the opportunity to... and then, this year, with it being required, I thought, that's not too bad of an idea because,

you know, it allows people to actually be able to participate in that sort of thing," said 10th grader Xander Gottfried. "We've definitely made a lot of progress, and now every student has to join a club. So now we have 17 or 18 members total," said Margaret.

The biggest change comes in the sheer number of possibilities students have for what group they want to be a part of. In late September, every student ranked their top three club choices out of almost 30 options. "[when I found out I had to be in a club] I was like, oh no. And then I was like, there's a 3D Printing club. I'll do that one," said 7th grader Crosby Andrianakos. "We get to learn about 3D printing, which I'm interested in, because I want to get a 3D printer [for myself]."

Clubs started meeting at the beginning of November, with most of them spending their first meeting brainstorming what they wanted to do for the rest of the year. "We're all just trying to find where we fit into the groove, to make both a club that will make an impact on the school positively but also something that we can feasibly achieve," said Margaret.

Clubs are much more than just a weekly thing to achieve though. As PennState Smeal College of Business put it in a club overview, "student groups offer an atmosphere outside of the classroom where you can explore and grow in your passions, interests, and strengths." At OWL, joining a club exemplifies the community building aspect of the school culture. "It allows them to find friends, grow community, and also like there's an aspect of a safe space you could find as well, to be who you want to be, connect with others, sort of thing," said Xander. "I'm pretty excited."

A Minnesotan art form: crop art

Crop artists in the OWL community have done well at State Fair

Beatrice Cosgrove
Staff Writer

For volume 25, issue one of the Purple Press, I wrote an article about the State Fair and eventually fell down the inevitable rabbit hole of crop art. After interviewing two crop artists, I was hooked. Their interviews were simply too good to have a small feature in my story, and I learned that there are several crop artists in the OWL community whose passion, dedication and award winning art deserved a moment in the limelight.

I was never very interested in crop art, but this year I decided to give it another try. I walked into the crowded room of the Agriculture Building and began to see just how amazing it was. For those of you who don't know what crop art is, it is the gluing of seeds onto a canvas of sorts to create a pattern or picture. The work is displayed in the Agriculture Building at the State Fair, and artists can win ribbons for their art. I was blown away by the attention to detail and the quality of the artwork. This ignited in me a newfound respect and appreciation for the art form that feels somehow very much Minnesotan.

This year, Mary Beth Leone-Getten, mom to two OWL graduates, won third

place in the novice category for her crop art of Minnesota Governor Tim Walz with the words "They're Just Weird" under his portrait. MPR news published an article about Mary Beth's artwork and the crop artist's rush to create work surrounding Vice President Kamala Harris' vice presidential candidate; Tim Walz. "Crop artists scramble in response to news of Walz as VP pick", the headline read, with a picture of Mary Beth's design



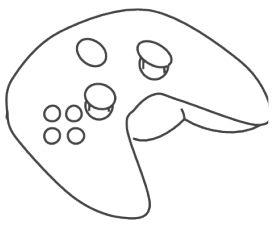
Purple Press Staff Photo
OWL community member, Mary Beth's crop art was awarded third place at this year's Minnesota State Fair.

attached. In the article, Mary Beth discussed the political side of Minnesota crop art. "Crop art is such a beautiful Minnesotan thing," she said. "It oftentimes really captures important things that are going on in the world, sometimes in a serious way, but a lot of times

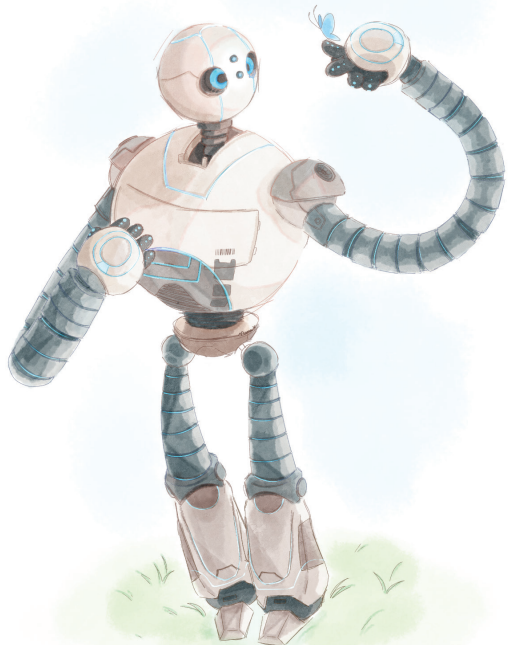
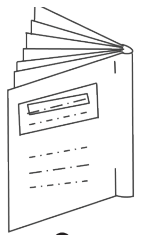
kind of hilariously. There's a lot of social and political commentary." Jill Moe, an accomplished crop artist, taught an introductory class at Wet Paint that Mary Beth took. "After the class, I felt like I had the skills to submit a pretty basic piece, so I signed up to submit a piece in the novice category on the State Fair website," she said. The Tim Walz crop art was not her first idea; she went through several different ideas but

the state fair in 2021, 2022, and 2023. There are several different divisions based on seed choice, color addition, dimensionality, etc. Pieces are registered online and tags are mailed to the individual artists. "You get to go in to the fairgrounds a few days before the fair starts to drop off your piece and for the judges make their determinations by the time the fairgrounds open on the first day," Siena said. Having been a crop art admirer since childhood, Siena began with a kit and has continually developed skills in the area. Crop art isn't simply a once per year hobby. Crop artists dedicated to the art form have created a community that allows individuals to share tips and connect with each other in regards to their shared passion. Siena shared about a crop art Facebook group that allows the community to stay connected. "I literally only have a Facebook account because of the group," she said, "people are always posting new techniques they're learning, questions about different seed options [and] offering to exchange materials." Tips and tricks are not always shared via the internet; artists like Jill often host workshops and community events to help grow passion, interest and

Siena Leone-Getten, OWL graduate and crop artist herself, has submitted to



Reviews 'n' stuff



Nora Xiong

Wild Robot is a wild success

A book to movie adaptation that didn't disappoint readers?

Anson Lind
Staff Writer

Perhaps the most exciting and worrying thing that can happen to a book is the creation of a movie adaptation. On one hand, it provides an entirely new way to experience the story, but on the other hand, it is incredibly easy to get incredibly wrong. So I was certainly rather concerned when I heard that *The Wild Robot*, one of my favorite middle-grade books back in elementary school, would be adapted into an animated film. But once the day arrived and I stepped into the theater, I was truly blown away by just how outstandingly good this movie was.

The *Wild Robot* is the newest animated film from Dreamworks. Directed by Chris Sanders, it's an adaptation of the middle-grade book with the same name by Peter Brown. Released on September 27th, the movie features Lupita Nyong'o voicing protagonist Roz, the titular robot who finds herself stranded in the wilderness. Kit Connor and Pedro Pascal have major voice roles as well, with additional voice-acting appearances from Bill Nighy, Stephanie Hsu, Mark Hamill, Catherine O'Hara, Matt Berry, and Ving Rhames, to name a few.

The movie follows ROZZUM-7134, or Roz, a robot designed with one purpose: to complete whatever tasks humanity gives her. When a storm sinks the cargo ship transporting her, she washes ashore on a large, uninhabited island. Without any humans around to give her a task, she sits and analyzes and deciphers the language of the local wildlife in the hopes of obtaining a task from them, but when a mishap results in the deaths of two geese, she takes it upon herself to raise their orphaned gosling; a task which requires her to be far more than she is programmed

to be.

In her efforts to raise her new gosling child, Brightbill, Roz gets help from her new neighbors. Most prominent among them is a fox named Fink, previously a loner who now finds himself warming up to the idea of family. Among the supporting cast are opossum mother Pinktail and supportive goose elder Longneck, who are a bit more helpful in Roz's journey to raise Brightbill despite their obvious differences.

As a fan of the original book, I was certainly worried about the quality of the writing in the movie, but I am glad to say that any time a concern arose, it was quickly proven wrong. The chaos of Roz's first days on the island initially make it seem as though the movie will lean heavily into wacky 'robot vs animals' hijinks, but the moment Brightbill comes into the picture, everything changes. Plot points that seem as though they were designed to introduce final-act drama between the main characters (for instance, the fact that Roz was the reason Brightbill's biological parents died in the first place) are instead dealt with in a well-paced, compelling way. The pacing in general is fantastic as well; I never felt that too much or too little time was being spent on any particular plot point.

One of the most striking things about *The Wild Robot* is its visual style. Expanding on the style used by previous Dreamworks production *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish*, every moment looks and feels as though it were painted by hand. Pair this with some excellent cinematography, and the result is a movie full of gorgeous shots that would feel as much at home on a painter's canvas as on a movie screen. In fact, the first thought my group had upon leaving the theater was wanting to go back in to where the world was pretty.

Wild robot, 7

New album by Bladee excites

Isaac Wencil
Staff Writer

Probably four or so years ago I listened to a song called "Be Nice 2 Me" by this artist I've never heard of before. His name was Bladee, and to be honest, I didn't really like the song. I thought I could sorta force myself to like it, but none of it really appealed to my taste.

Fast forward like a year or so, in eighth grade, I listened to one of his other songs, "Hotel Breakfast", which I thought was good. None of the lyrics made sense to me, but that might've just been because I had the literacy comprehension of a middle schooler. I kept giving him a chance though, absentmindedly descending into this plethora of these different sounds and vocals and beats, all these things I had never heard before. And in late eighth grade, I started

to love it.

A specific album of his I really liked was *Icedancer*, released in 2018. That's the album I'm gonna be focusing on in this article, broken down into the vocals, beat, and lyrics.

The vocals are a little bit of an acquired taste, but lemme tell you, once you acquire it, you never go back. They're autotuned, but definitely not as much as his previous albums *Gluee* and *Eversince*, which were drowned in autotune, almost to the point of unintelligibility on your first listen. I think *Icedancer* does a better job in the moderation of autotune. Don't get me wrong, I really loved *Gluee* and *Eversince*, but I think the way *Icedancer* does it on tracks like "Close", and "Waster", among other tracks, was really good and made for a more palatable listening experience.

The beats cross somewhere between ethereal and rap,

with the ethereal part coming from sounds with heavy, lingering reverb and slowed down melodies, which can be seen on tracks like "Frosty The Snowman" (which, was released as a single on December 25th), and "The Silent Boy Cries", which doesn't even feature Bladee, but a sample of the song "Design" by Kazukii and Dianna. I am an absolute sucker for ethereal sounding beats and autotune, so I may be a little biased about this but I think even looking past that, I can still genuinely appreciate this. The rap portion of this album comes from the prevalent hi hats, snares, and 808s throughout every song, which I think are a really nice addition.

The lyrics I really had a hard time interpreting, but then again, like I said before, I had the literacy of an eighth grader. Most of the

lyrics are either about love and relationships, expensive clothes/cars, mental problems, drug use, or something else of a similar vein. "Lie down and bleed out just to see you smile," "Black Lexus, feel like Bruce Wayne," "just running through the days, running through the pain," and "pills under my tongue, I feel numb," are some of the lyrics in these categories. Other lyrics leave many Genius annotators guessing and debating about what he means.

In conclusion, this album was an amazing experience. There are songs I'd skip on it, but not many. Overall, I'd give this album an 8.5/10. I recommend it to anyone who wants to expand their music taste. Great album, but I want to tell anyone reading this that while you might not like it the first time you listen to it, you'll definitely like it after that.

Carlos reviews "Wave to Earth"

The album features several songs that "stood out" to fans

Carlos Amaya
Staff Writer

Wave to Earth is a South Korean indie pop/rock band who have amassed over eight million monthly listeners on Spotify. They're unique because they sing in both English and Korean. This article will consist of a review of the album *Play With Earth! 0.03*, as well as an overview of the band, and my personal experience at one of their concerts.

The main band consists of three members: Daniel Kim, Shin Donggyu, and John Cha, with several additional part time members who help on certain songs and join the main band on tour.

The band released their debut single in 2019 titled "Wave" followed by "Light" a few months later. In 2020 they released two EP's "Wave 0.01"

and "Summer Flows 0.02."

Their first full length album was later released in April of 2023 and was titled *0.1 Flaws and All*. Their latest album, *Play With Earth! 0.03* being released earlier this year. *Wave to Earth's* songs are all self made (recording mixing and mastering) and their name comes from how they want to "become a new wave" within

music.

Some of their most popular songs are "Seasons," "Love," and "Bad" from their older EP's, as well as "Annie" from their new album.

Play With Earth! 0.03 was released on September 6th, 2024. The album consists of just seven songs, and was teased a few weeks before its release with snippets

from songs being posted on the band's social media. To simplify it, I've tried to shorten it down to just a few of my standout songs from the album.

The first song that really got my attention was "Annie." The song is named Annie because the english name sounds similar to the korean word for no, pronounced "ani." This refers to how Daniel Kim refuses to conform with the everyday "normal." This is portrayed in the opening verse of the song where he talks about how he does not desire material things like fancy parties, jewels, and popularity. Going on to say "you'd call me a loser," likely referring to how other people would perceive him for rejecting these luxuries.



Nora Xiong

wave to earth, 7

Generation Alpha arrives at OWL

The newest class of sixth graders come entirely from this generation

Kaden McNamara
Staff Writer

Is it just me, or does every year the new sixth grade class get shorter and shorter on average? I'm pretty sure it's not just me getting taller with age here. On average, each class feels smaller than I remember last year's class being at their age. Although fascinatingly, immediately once they graduate sixth grade and become seventh graders, their perceived shortness fades away, and the new sixth graders are the unbelievably short ones. In fact, adding on to this phenomenon, this year these sixth grade arrivals are an entirely new social generation. That's right; the entire class of 2031 is composed of students in Generation Alpha.

Now a social generation

is the term used to describe people who were born within a certain 15-30 year range, usually based around some form of shared experiences throughout one's younger life, such as world events like a major war or cultural things like popular music, media, or books. Social generations first came about in the 1880's, with the Lost Generation lasting from 1883-1900, describing those that fought in WWI and came of age during the Roaring 20's. From there, in 1901-1927 came the veterans of WWII, or the Greatest Generation. The Silent Generation lasted from 1928-1945, who avoided fighting in WWII, but might've been dragged into the Korean and Vietnam Wars. From here, we reach the generations that most people might be familiar

with; the Baby Boomers, Gen X, Millennials, Gen Z, and Gen Alpha.

First off the line we have the Baby Boomers, often simply referred to as Boomers, who span the timeframe of 1946-1964, mostly as the result of the baby boom, the historical term for when soldiers returning from WWII immediately went to start families. On a personal scale these are probably your grandparents. Boomers are mostly characterized by being too young to remember WWII but old enough to remember life before the JFK assassination. Culturally, boomers were raised on television, comic books, books like *The Catcher in the Rye*, *The Beatles*, and other such things.

Then we have Generation

X, often shortened to Gen X, who span the timespan of those born from 1965-1980. They are sometimes called the Latchkey Generation or the MTV Generation, dubbed that after their returning from school to an empty house and using a latchkey to get in, and the music video channel, respectively. To put it into perspective, Spanish teacher Tim Leone-Getten, English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt, and math teacher Patti Hosfield are all Gen X. Culturally Gen X was raised on newly born musical genres such as alternative rock, hip hop, punk, post-punk, rave, and heavy metal, as well as the newly born video game industry.

Millennials, or very rarely called Gen Y, or "the

Gen alpha, 7

Inside out 2 wows fans

New movie has been deemed relatable by many

Brandon Xiong
Staff Writer

Inside Out 2 is now available on Disney Plus! This movie was amazing, I liked the concept of where it was generally going. It was hilarious. I'd give it a 4/5. Something about it just felt relatable. I'd watch it once more if possible.

This movie begins with Riley, who loves Ice Hockey, and is slowly growing up. While growing up things change. She'll be fine, right?

Some of the important characters from this movie aren't actually humans, but the emotions inside Riley's head. We'll begin with Joy, who's trying to protect Riley, while figuring things out with the other emotions. Next, there's Anger, who relieves all her frustration. Then Fear, who protects Riley from danger, making sure she's safe. Disgust is the judge and disgusted

emotion who prevents Riley from things that seems gross. Finally there's Sadness, who's the sad and depressed part of Riley that helps express her true feelings and relieve stress, eventually finding happiness.

Now that Riley has grown up, she experiences puberty



and new emotions come into play. These emotions are Anxiety, who's similar to Fear in that she is also trying to protect her from humiliation from society and plans her for the future. Envy focuses on things Riley admires and gets jealous about. Then we

have Embarrassment, who comes into play when she feels shy and awkward or ashamed about something she has said and/or done. Finally we have Ennui, who is also boredom and that unsatisfied feeling or lack of enthusiasm.

So now that Riley's in the

to impress the players, her emotions debate over whether to continue being with her old friends or make new ones. That results in them going through a journey for Riley's 'Sense of Self,' filled with memories and feelings that change her beliefs.

Riley meets up with her old friends Bree and Grace at camp, but after she tries to impress the best hockey players, she begins avoiding her old friends.

In my opinion, each new emotion that is introduced relates to what it is like to be a teenager.

Like I said, everything was just magnificent on how everything played out. I would recommend watching it, so if you're interested in Inside Out 2 it's still streaming on Disney plus, so check it out whenever you have time.

summer after 8th grade, she goes to a summer hockey camp with her friends, but has a hard time making up her mind about whether she wants to be with her old friends or impress the best players on the team.

While Riley struggles

Bathrooms, 1

reins, the doors were replaced.

Reeling it back to last year at OWL, many recall being locked out of the bathrooms due to vandalism and other issues. So, the decision to prop open the doors throughout the school day is just another stage in the ongoing conflict.

Across the hall at Humboldt, the newly renovated bathrooms reflect a growing norm towards single-occupancy stalls; allowing students privacy as well as stopping bathrooms from becoming a place for meeting and hanging out. The change is one that will probably be continued and normalized as new complexes are built, but at OWL there are no plans to renovate the bathrooms in the near future.

The student body has mixed feelings about the implementation of the new policy. Tenth grader Kai Walker was glad to see the reduction in vandalism, but brought up the potential privacy issues. "It's better because it used to be vandalized so much, and used not very well. But it also causes

some problems, like privacy for the people who do use it." Senior Wren Schmidt brought up discomfort especially within the girls bathroom. "Honestly, as a girl, I feel uncomfortable," and went on to describe experiences she's had with students walking by seeing her washing her hands and using the mirror.

A recent addition to the bathroom policy is the choice to close the bathroom doors on the second and third floors during third hour. Since most administrators are busy supervising lunch at that time, they decided it would be easier to restrict bathroom use to the first floor during that stretch of time.

Dave said that the new policy isn't necessarily permanent, and hinted that student treatment of the bathrooms could play an important role. "Honestly, I had not thought about it. As in anything, if the bathrooms stay clean without the doors open, we might consider it. It depends on how students treat our bathroom spaces — stewardship."

Android vs iPhone, 1

adding encryption, read receipts, typing indicators, etc. It is publicly available, and is supported by most Android devices. The newest iPhone update, iOS 18, added support for RCS, but it is missing some features like encryption, which makes conversations more secure, and is only available on some phone networks.

An important distinction to make, that is often overlooked, is the difference between Android and the actual phone. Android is just the operating system (OS) that runs on the phone, and isn't actually a brand of phone in itself. iPhones have an operating system as well, called iOS, but it can only run on Apple devices, so there is not much of a need for a distinction between that and the physical phone. However, Android can run on any device, and isn't developed for one brand of phone, so other brands (such as Samsung, Google, or Motorola just to name a few) make the actual physical

phones, and just put Android on that.

Practically every phone that isn't an Apple device runs Android, (and many other devices beyond standard phones run Android as well, such as smart flip phones, foldable phones, tablets, smart fridges, smart tvs, and more,) as there currently isn't another viable, publicly available alternative, and it's not really practical to develop your own OS just for your phone brand.

Even though all these devices all use Android, the user experience with their software can still differ slightly as many phone manufacturers ship their phones with their own tweaks to Android. These can change things such as the user interface, default apps, and functionality. However, at the core, they still all run on the same system. Android devices often end up being grouped together simply because the OS is similar enough to have a similar user experience, and they all run the same apps while being different from iPhone/iOS.

In terms of which phone type is better, the biggest factor is simply personal preference, but we can look at some features like the fact that Android isn't tied to one brand, which allows for you to change the phone brand you use while keeping a similar experience. Android allows for more innovation simply due to how many different entities are using it, or its ability to sideload apps. Sideload is the process of installing apps from a file instead of the app store, and while this ability may not be used or useful by most people, it is still a good ability to have. Beyond technical reasons, it allows people to bypass government censored apps, install older versions of apps, get 3rd party app stores, and download apps that may not want or be able to go through the lengthy review process to get an app published on an app store.

Apple products however, have a significant advantage with their ecosystem, because all of their products interact with each other. Most brands are much less strict about that kind of thing, which is appreciated, but being able to go to the bathroom and take a break from your work whenever you want can lead to less productivity.

Most Japanese schools



Purple Press Staff Photo

Students have to change shoes when they get to school.

have a very strict dress code and usually uniforms. Uniforms make sure kids don't get distracted by other kid's outfits. In Japanese culture you usually don't wear shoes when going into places like homes,

like iMessage which would benefit from being able to be integrated into other brands but are kept closed to Apple. And oftentimes, in situations such as iMessage, non-Apple brands will be blamed and looked down upon for not having these features that Apple purposely keeps private to make their products look better even if it loses convenience that would be available if everyone was able to interact with these features.

I decided to conduct a poll on OWL students to see what kind of phone they use, and out of the 44 people interviewed, 86.4% of interviewees currently use an iPhone. Only 23.7% of people interviewed have used a different phone brand before, and 79.5% of people prefer their phone brand. Almost half of my respondents said that they wouldn't use a different brand of phone.

This may be because many people think that "Android is cheaper and iPhone is more expensive," as 10th grader Kai Walker said here. And while

and this kind of applies to schools. There are special shoes that you only wear inside your school called uwabaki. This is to keep the school as clean as possible.

On the topic of cleaning, every day after lunch students

clean the schools themselves. This would be unbelievable to an American student as janitors do it for us and most American students would think it was disgusting. In Japan, every student is assigned

their own task and they go and do it to make the school even cleaner. Some students sweep the classroom, some wipe the tables, and others wash the dishes. I think we can all agree that Japanese food is one of the world's greatest delicacies. Thus, Japanese school food is some of the best too. Every day the chefs home cook the meals in the school kitchens and every day, it's something different. It's extremely clean and delicious, not to mention healthy. It's extremely balanced with vegetables, fruits, milk, proteins and always rice. You are expected to eat everything on your plate and it is frowned upon if you don't. This is not good for people with eating disorders, as they often get made fun of for not finishing their food.

Japanese schools and American schools have a completely different approach to school and they each have their own pros and cons. Japanese schools are much

this can definitely be true for some low-end devices, it simply doesn't apply to all Android phones. Many people have this idea because their only experience with Android devices are cheap, low-end phones, such as 10th grader Oscar Mons. "My other phone was an Android and had zero messaging capability and sucked all the way through, also a constant point people would make fun of me for," Oscar said.

However there are also mid and high-end Android phones which often get overlooked. In fact, pricing across phone brands are very similar (especially between Apple and Samsung), with both brands having high-end, expensive phones that have comparable price & power, such as the iPhone 16 Pro and the Samsung Galaxy s24 Ultra, mid range phones like the Motorola Moto series and iPhone SE, and low end phones like the Galaxy A15 or a older, used iPhone.

more strict and are a better fit for people who want to take a more traditional approach to their education. However, if you don't pay attention in class and miss some homework, it is super easy to fall behind, and this would delay your education. American schools are much more friendly to learning at your own pace which I would recommend for anyone who has trouble doing homework or paying attention in class. However, America doesn't have the higher level of education that Japan has. I think this is a reflection of the cultures of the countries. In Japanese culture its really important to make up a group and to not be different. In America we believe that it's really important to be yourself. This also reflects in American schools as you have a lot more options of what you want to learn about. Both Japanese schools and American schools can be great depending on your learning style.

wave to earth, 5

Daniel also says “No, I wanna stay with no subtle change” and “No, I wouldn’t be ashamed,” mentioning his contentedness in not being “normal.”

One of the big reasons this song stands out to the fans is Daniel’s use of the F-word, marking the first time an English swear has been present in any of Wave to Earth’s songs.

Overall I enjoyed this song a lot although it did take a while to grow on me, the vocals and instrumentals are strong throughout the song. It is the most popular song from the album and all around a pretty upbeat song.

Another song that I really enjoyed was “Beck.” One of the reasons I really enjoyed this song was because of

the great guitar riffs, overall instrumentals, and another solid vocal performance from Daniel Kim. Beck has a slower and more laid back feeling than “Annie”, making for a softer, and calmer song.

From my interpretation “Beck” talks about notions of reminiscing about the past and how the narrator had gone off on their own in search of success, and achievement. His dreams have not gone according to plan, and the reality of it is sinking in along with feelings of regret, and even shame.

I think a good example of this is during the intro to the song when the singer says “I thought I’d make a good living on my own, oh-no. But the reality is always a mess.”

One last quick honorable mention I have from the album is the last song from the

project, “holyland.” The track has a slow, almost ethereal feel to it. Just like its name, the song describes beautiful scenery and nostalgic scenes of happiness and romance. This is definitely a noteworthy song from the album, it has an all around peaceful and calming listen, and it’s one of my favorite Wave to Earth songs.

Now moving away from the actual album itself, the Wave to Earth North American tour had 30 different stops starting in Vancouver, Canada and ending in Brooklyn in New York. The Twin Cities concert was held at the Uptown Theater in Minneapolis on October 16th, where I got to go.

The venue sold out pretty quickly, so I unfortunately ended up having to buy tickets at a more expensive resale

price. I arrived with a couple of my friends about an hour before the doors opened only to see a massive line stretching halfway around the block. Luckily after waiting around an hour we got to the entrance just about ten minutes before the concert started.

While we were looking around for a place to stand we noticed the line for the merchandise table, which stretched up around and down the upper level, unfortunately forcing one of my friends to have to stand in line for merchandise the whole concert (sorry.)

We were lucky enough to be one of the 12 stops on the tour which included an opening act by fellow Korean artist Milena. I was not expecting an opener for the concert and I was pleasantly surprised, I ended up really enjoying Milena’s set

and it was a great way to start off the show.

After that came the main act Wave to Earth themselves which was pretty exciting to see in person. Their set included many of their most popular songs as well as about half the songs from Play With Earth 0.03 with the whole set lasting about two hours. Overall the show was really enjoyable, the band had great stage presence and it was really cool to see them play in person. They also added many of their own personal touches with guitar solos, crazy instrumentals, and just as a whole the atmosphere of the whole event was really fun, especially with a more intimate venue like the Uptown Theater. I had a super fun time at the concert and if they do come back again next year (which they said they might,) I would definitely want

to go.

So, in conclusion I would strongly recommend Wave to Earth to anyone willing to give it a try or anyone into this kind of music. Some songs I would recommend that aren’t from the new album are “Seasons,” “Love,” “Bonfire,” “Bad,” and “Dried Flower.” Overall I’d give Play With Earth 0.03 a 7.5/10 because it was a pretty solid album, but I think I would still prefer some of the other Wave to Earth projects. The band has a really fun flow with bold instrumentals and vocals and I hope this article helped you decide whether or not you would want to try and give them a listen.

Gen alpha, 5

Unluckiest Generation,” span the timeframe of those born from 1981-1996, named that because the older half of the generation became adults around the turn of the millennium. They are called the “Unluckiest Generation” because of the terrible economy and events millennials were born into and went through in their early adulthood. Millennials are characterized by growing up entirely with the internet their whole lives and living through 9/11 and the Great Recession as children and early adults. Looking locally for examples; English teacher Preston West, science teacher Sorcha Nix, and math teacher Clara Raineri are all Millennials.

After that is the generation

in which most OWL students fall into: Gen Z. Gen Z, or also known as Zoomers, consist of those born between 1997-2012, and who typically went through having access to phones their whole lives. While their childhood and early adulthood saw the rise of streaming services, social media (such as TikTok or Instagram), became even more prevalent in everyday life. Fanfiction that previous generations founded became mainstream, amounts of escapism rose sharply, and people started to go into politics earlier in their lives, with less respect for authority, and on average more leftist thinking than previous generations. Most students at OWL, with the exception of this latest class of sixth graders and a few of the seventh

graders, are the very tail end of Gen Z, as well as our newest science teacher Akira Mally, who falls at the very beginning of Gen Z himself.

Then, finally, Gen Alpha, consisting of those that were born from 2013 to present day, during a time in which fertility rates around the world are getting lower and lower. Unfortunately for Gen Alpha, life has universally been getting worse. Scientific studies report that children nowadays suffer from health problems stemming from screen time and allergies, with obesity worsening. Additionally, education and literacy are weakening in developing countries, and wealth inequality gaps are growing rapidly, and finally, children’s entertainment is shifting away from outside and social play

and more towards electronics. Climate change is expected to affect children born in 2020 up to seven times more than people born in 1960. But since Gen Alpha is only eleven years old or younger, we can’t make any sort of precisely accurate study on Gen Alpha.

Although, of course, there are a considerable number of people who doubt the authenticity of social generations and debate the usefulness of sorting people into arbitrary boxes, based on something as simple as age groups. The things people are raised on and the events they go through in their childhood certainly have an effect on the person, but is it necessary to categorize and place people into boxes over it? Especially considering the fact that doing so starts to make in-groups

and out-groups, which causes people to hate the perceived out-group on principle, and social generations have proved to be no exception. From what I have seen, social generations somewhat seem predisposed to dislike each other on principle. The individual people in a different group may be fine, but different social groups as a whole seem to absolutely hate each other, for practically no reason. Think about it — as a trend, Boomers blame millennials for being lazy and worthless, and they think of Gen Z as too addicted to their devices. Millennials dislike Gen Z for being too carefree and internet addicted, Gen Z and Millennials blame Boomers for ruining the economy, nobody remembers Gen X, the Silent Generation are mainly in care homes, and

everyone seems to dislike Gen Alpha for merely existing. If you think about it, you’ve probably even thought about a different generation this way or heard them be called these sorts of things, and honestly, that’s not very healthy. So please, don’t just form a grudge toward someone over the fact that they’re from a different generation than you, no matter how absurd or nonsensical they may seem. I swear to you that no matter how weird both they and the things they like may seem, your generation probably looks just as weird to others. They don’t deserve hatred any more than you do. In the end, we’re all just trying to live our best lives in this hard world.

soccer, 3

opposing team doesn’t care if you have the ball, they simply care about their goal and you not scoring on it. Since your defensive line is pushed up so far, the opposing team will get some lucky counterattacks, but nothing will come from it because they are sitting back.

Humboldt had many chances to score. For example, Charlie had a volley from a bouncing ball from a free kick and the goalkeeper from St. Agnes came up with a world class save. Another example is when 11th grade captain Xavier Harris dribbled through three St. Agnes defenders and had a shot on goal, but St. Agnes’s keeper made another impeccable save. Charlie and Xavier created many more chances but the team just couldn’t finish. The Hawks had almost all of the possession because St. Agnes was just trying to boot the ball away. It

was about 80% to 20%.

As the match progressed, the amount of pressure became very noticeable. Players described feeling an urgent need to score, leading to anxiety that got in their head and made it hard for them to focus. “We were determined to equalize, but with that came a lot of pressure,” said Charlie. The stakes felt especially high; the fear of this being their last game of the season loomed large. Some players from the bench said that they were scared to go in because of the intensity and pressure from the game.

In the huddle at halftime, the mood was a mixture of frustration and resolve. “We weren’t playing badly,” said Xavier, “but we needed to clean things up and take our chances.” The coach agreed with this idea, highlighting the important difference between their team and their

opponents: St. Agnes had capitalized and finished on their opportunity, while the Hawks had not.

The emotional investment in the game weighed heavily on the Hawks. Charlie took it upon himself to hype up his teammates, talking about the importance of external support. “I did a lot of rallying before the game to get people to come out and support us,” he noted, “we need to use that to make us play better.”

Despite the building frustration as the game went on, maintaining composure became essential. “As a captain, I can’t lose my cool. I have to make sure everyone else’s heads are up and still working hard,” said Charlie. He recognized that the team’s morale was slipping away, but his commitment to leadership helped anchor the team through the wild game.

As the final whistle blew,

the Hawks fell to the ground and started to get emotional. The team had fought very very hard, yet the mental weight of the low block and the pressure to perform in front of their fans ended up getting to them. The experience pointed out a vital lesson in sports: while tactics like the low block can limit an opponent’s scoring chances, the true battle often lies within the mental game.

Ultimately, this match was not only a test of the players’ skills but also of their determination. Players walked off the field with a deeper and more meaningful understanding of their own limits, both physically and emotionally. They learned that to succeed in such a high-pressure game like that one, it’s not just about executing a strategy; it’s about maintaining composure, supporting one another, and finding strength in the face of adversity.

Wild robot, 5

After the animation itself, voice acting is among the more important aspects of an animated film, and thankfully, the voice acting in *The Wild Robot* is very well-done. Even while major names such as Kit Connor of *Heartstopper* or Pedro Pascal of *Game of Thrones* and *The Mandalorian* seem like they’d stand out as talking animals, they fit right in as Brightbill and Fink.



Even Mark Hamill — Luke Skywalker himself — seemed natural enough in his minor role as Thorn the bear that I entirely forgot he was voice acting in the movie at all. And though I’ll avoid spoilers, a special mention needs to be made for Stephanie Hsu, who is fantastically creepy as the movie’s villain.

But the most important voice role is of course the lead, and Lupita Nyong’o shines as Roz. As the movie progresses and Roz moves further away from her standard programmed role, her voice slowly, yet surely starts to sound less artificial and more like a genuine, natural being. Perfectly reflecting the main

character’s journey in her voice is a challenge, yet Nyong’o pulls it off perfectly.

Now it’s time to address the elephant in the room. Any book nerd will tell you that a book is always better than its movie adaptation, but in this case, every change that the movie made to the book’s plot seemed well-fitting and needed. While fans of the original *The Wild Robot* book may be disappointed by a few details (most notably

the lack of a certain talkative squirrel, which I’m still slightly bitter about), the movie does a fantastic job at retaining what made the book great — fantastic themes of overcoming one’s nature with a beautiful story of a robot and her family. (Looking like a moving painting certainly doesn’t hurt, either.)

I’d highly recommend this movie to the vast majority of people — families looking for their next watch, longtime fans of animation, or of course, anyone who enjoyed the book. *The Wild Robot* does what so many adaptations could not, not only staying true to the book’s themes, but providing a wonderful watch in general.

crop art, 4

support among artists.

“Crop art is a fascinating medium! I love texture, so this is the perfect kind of art to explore that. It is a great challenge to use seeds or plant parts to achieve your vision of creating something artistic, funny, beautiful, political or all of those things,” Mary Beth said. “I’m hooked!”

frisbee, 3

state title 8+ times, last year being their overall peak, only losing one game the whole season (that being the high school nationals final).

They lost a good portion of their weapons last year, graduating about 85% of their varsity roster. The players that did not graduate from Edina were still great, and this will most likely be the hardest matchup for us in the spring. Throughout the game against Edina at Crushtober, there were ups and downs for each

team. We once led by three but Edina ended up tying it later on. In the end, the game went to universe point (winner of that point wins the game) and we ran a set play.

Senior Charlie Acosta threw a great, near full-field, deep throw to Senior Marshall Wasmund who caught it in the end zone through contact to seal the game, and we then went into our bye (hour-ish long break during the tournament). The final game of the day was against Washburn, whose future looks great with a young roster, and their zone

defense was tough to beat. We ended up winning on universe point again, winning the whole tournament.

This is a sign of great things to come in the near future for the Manatees, and the goal now is to stay focused and improve over the winter to stay ahead of the competition. A state title is very ideal and in reach, but it’s about the work the team puts in over the next few months that will make the difference, but no matter what, the future is looking very bright.

Oars and Stones Break My...

A continuation of Arthur's story and a man on the move

Joseph T. Schwartz
Staff Writer

As Arthur dove to the side, he was able to, for only a moment, see as the bearded man's eyes opened wide with a sense of shock he was sure that he mirrored himself. But it was not a second later the man's canoe shot past him, spraying water up into the air and all over Arthur as he fell into the river. The man's yelling was muffled, if only for a second, by water rushing around his ears. His hands flailed around before he found the gravel bed and pushed, raising his head back above the water.

He looked behind him and saw the man and his canoe skipping across the surface of the water, his broken yelling growing fainter.

"Hey!" Arthur yelled as he jumped to his feet "I almost had it!"

Through the rippling water, Arthur didn't see a single fish, not even the one which had been a moment away from meeting his spear. His jaw set and he looked back to the canoe which must have been almost 100 feet down river.

"You don't just get to fly off!" He rushed to the river bank and took off, leaving more rippling water in his wake. The canoe was still moving fast, but now so was Arthur. His feet pounded against the ground, occasionally sending mud flying into the air behind him when he got too close to the river bank.

Slowly, so slowly Arthur could only barely notice it, the canoe began to slow, and he began to gain ground.

"Stop your boat, man!" Arthur yelled, to which he only received yelling in response. This man has some lungs, he thought. With the thought of lungs, Arthur's own started to burn. He was used to running, but even he struggled to match pace with the boat.

Then, Arthur saw his chance. He pushed forward, not worried by the river bending away from him, as ahead of him he saw the river curve back in front of him. He skidded to a halt, searching the bank for...

"How do I stop the boat?" Arthur said aloud, his brows furrowing. He contemplated his lack of a plan for a second too long, as the boat zoomed in front of him, spraying him with water. He fell back spluttering on to a pile of rocks. He watched as the boat continued further and further down the river before turning a bend and being obscured by trees.

"It doesn't make any sense," he mumbled to himself. Arthur's anger had left him, and was instead replaced with exhaustion and confusion. "Why didn't it slow down?"

He stood, brushing loose pebbles from his pants and wiping the dirt off his hands. He looked into the distance, trying to catch a glimpse of the man through the trees or along the river he could see a long while away. He could still,

but only barely, hear the man yelling.

Arthur looked down, shaking his head and rubbing the bridge of his nose. Looking back the way he came, he wasn't surprised to see he recognized nothing around him. He had run fast, far faster than he was used to, so to have gone so far in such a short amount of time wasn't strange. With a sigh, he began walking the way he came.

In the distance, there was a faint snap like a twig snapping underfoot, and the man's yelling stopped. Arthur stopped and looked back, still unable to see the man's boat. He took another step back the way he came before pausing. His eyebrows furrowed and he looked to the ground. He

it before setting back down again.

"That doesn't make it any better!" Arthur said, his anger from earlier firing back up. "What was even the point of going that fast— how were you going that fast?"

The man attempted to stand up, putting his hands on the ground and lifting himself slightly, before shaking his head and sitting back down. "What's your name, young man?" he asked with a broad smile.

"Don't just change the subject on me, I want to know why you almost killed me!"

"And I want to know your name, aren't we just a bag of wants?" The man said, still casually, as if he was commenting on the weather

wasn't that old, right? He can handle himself, he thought.

Arthur took a step, and then another, and then he was running.

And he wasn't running home.

•••

The man's canoe had made it a long way down the river before it stopped. It would have been difficult to find, the sun having almost set, if the old man hadn't been so loud. He had picked up a couple rocks and had begun banging them against each other.

"Will you quit that?" He yelled above the racket. The man was sitting on the river bank next to his canoe, which stuck out from the river at an angle. The river was wide and shallow there, with rocks jutting from the surface frequently.

"Quit what?" the man yelled back.

"Banging those rocks together!"

"These rocks?"

"Yes!" The man took the rocks and set them down beside him. "What was the point of that?" he asked.

"Because I could," the man said nonchalantly, shrugging.

"You don't— you know what? That doesn't matter. That boat of yours almost killed me back there!"

"No, I'm sure you would have only broken a few bones." He picked up one of the rocks, a smooth stone about the size of his hand and examined

from the day before. Arthur felt his face heat up, and his fists clenched by his side.

"So what, is there no reason? Did you get your boat in the river today and say to yourself, 'hmm, I think today I'll try to kill a man,' is that—"

"You're hardly a man, if I say so myself," He scoffed.

"There you go again!" Arthur jumped, pointing accusingly at the man, "I'm starting to think you're just dumb."

"And I'm starting to think you're just a jerk," The old man laughed out, jabbing a crooked finger back at him.

"You'd be a jerk, too, if you almost got killed by a crotchety old man with a canoe!"

"Well I don't have much of a canoe anymore." He placed his hand on the canoe and sighed. "Served me well, she did."

"In the name of... You're impossible." Arthur groaned as he ran his hands across his face.

"The only impossible thing here seems to be the rest of my journey," he responded dejectedly.

"What, in the name of all that is holy, is wrong with you?" Arthur said.

"Well, I'm not sure of that," he said mirthfully, "what's wrong with you?"

"You almost killed me with a canoe, and instead of stopping and apologizing, you shot off down the river!" Arthur yelled back, "What do you think else could be wrong with me?"

"So you want an apology?"

"Yes! I think that would be a good start," he said, exasperated.

"Well, I can't apologize if I don't know your name."

"Arthur."

"And I most definitely can't apologize until I can shake your hand."

"Good god..." Arthur muttered under his breath. He stepped forward and offered a hand, which the man took with a grip stronger than Arthur expected. After pulling him to his feet, the man reached back behind him, pressing against his back and stretching with a groan.

"Well, Arthur," He stuck his hand out, which Arthur took, "I am sorry for almost hurting you back there. Mr. McDowell at your service."

hear you!"

"You heard me damn well, McDowell!" Arthur said, his expression soured, "And I don't have to get you a goddamned thing, if you'd prefer."

"No, no, no— you're right. You don't owe me anything, I'll be just fine walking on foot." He turned around and bent down into the canoe, groaning as he did, and began picking his things out from it, setting them on the river bank one by one. Arthur watched awkwardly, leaning back as if to leave but only standing still. He watched the man slowly grab his things from the canoe for maybe half a minute before cursing and walking down the slope and leaning down next to the man.

"Just— how about— God, just

been dumped over in the commotion.

"Do you want those pouches in the sack?" Arthur asked.

"No, I still have to sort through them, make sure they're in the right spot." Mr. McDowell stood and walked over to him, and stuck out his hand again. "Thank you, for helping me clean up."

"Don't get confused, I only did it—"

"Yes, yes, of course," he said, cutting Arthur off, "now, you really ought to make your way home to your folks." Arthur made a noise to affirmative before he, after a realization, shook the hand he'd left empty. He stepped back and opened his mouth, but no words came out. With an awkward gesture which half-resembled a wave goodbye, he began his trek home. Arthur was a good bit away from the river bank before Mr. McDowell called out to him in the dark:

"I could use somebody like you; someone who still has their youth left to them!"

Arthur stopped mid-step, before continuing on to the trail home.

•••

The sun had completely gone by the time Arthur found the trail home, if not for the firmness of the packed dirt underfoot he would've continued walking along the river. Instead of running as he did in the morning, Arthur walked home. He listened to the sound of grass blowing in the faint wind, sometimes stopping in the middle of the path and swaying with it. He had no way of tracking the time, as there was no moon that night, but he knew it had been hours by the time he'd reached home.

Arthur walked slower and slower the closer he got to his house, sure to make as little noise as possible. Once he got close enough, he grabbed the door handle and pushed in. As he did, a faint, flickering light poured out through the crack into the night. Once Arthur had gotten the door open just far enough, he stepped into the doorway and began to squeeze through. However, as he did his stomach pushed against the handle. He tried to grab the handle and steady it, but he fumbled and the door swung open, the hinges letting out a deafening whine through the noiseless night. Arthur cursed under his breath, wishing that his father had oiled the hinges.

"Arthur Frederick Patton" a stern voice said from within the house. He stepped inside, and saw a very angry woman standing in the kitchen doorway, one arm crossed under her opposing elbow and the other holding a small lantern with a lit candle inside. "Where on god's green earth have you been?"

Nora Xiong

sit down and let me get this, it's painful to watch." Arthur said quickly. Looking down into the canoe for the first time, he saw a hole the size of his fist and that the whole bottom of the canoe was soaked.

"Well, aren't you just a gift?" Mr. McDowell quipped, stepping away and sitting on a large rock. Arthur scoffed under his breath, but continued to grab the man's things. He grabbed a small leather pouch, which rattled when he picked it up. He glanced behind him and saw Mr. McDowell inspecting another rock. Weirdo, he thought and opened the bag. Inside, he saw a small collection of wooden figurines. There was a fox, a dog, and several other animals he couldn't recognize.

"Something interesting you got there?" Mr. McDowell whispered into his ear. Arthur jumped, nearly tripping forward into the canoe. He quickly pulled the drawstring closed and set it down.

"Nope, definitely not," he said.

"Of course," Mr. McDowell turned away, walking back to his rock.

How did I not hear him walk up? Arthur thought to himself as he grabbed the last of Mr. McDowell's effects, which mostly consisted of small pouches which he assumed contained food, though he didn't try to open them again. Those, and a worn and empty sack which the old man told him had previously held the pouches, but had

