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# Purple Press



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## National HD funding is at risk

*Due to budget cuts, \$366,000 will be taken away over the next two years*

Zania Hierlmaier  
Staff Writer

Last year, National History Day celebrated its 50th anniversary. This year may be its last.

On April 3, 2025, History Day learned it was losing \$366,000 of funding for the next two years from the National Endowment of

Humanities (NEH), because of a decision made by the Trump Administration that will impact thousands of students and teachers around the nation.

History Day began in 1974 in Cleveland, Ohio, with only 129 students participating. In 2024, over 600,000 students from all 50 states, as well as U.S. territories and International

Schools in China, South Korea, and Indonesia, competed at regional, state, and national levels. History Day has become a staple in many middle and high schools curriculums, including Open World Learning, where 6th, 7th, and 11th graders who are not taking AP U.S. History must complete a project on an important historical event.

I was one of the eight OWL students who went to National History Day in Washington D.C. last year. I heard about History Day for the first time in my Global Studies class from my teacher Katie Craven, who previously worked at Minnesota History Day for six years, and was also the Iowa History Day Coordinator for a year and a half. For me and

many OWL students, History Day has positively influenced our lives, and shaped who we are today. "History Day has taught me about the research process and how to create a high quality product by revising," said 10th grader Claire Ales, who created a documentary with 10th grader Anya Robertson this year.

History Day is also helpful

towards teacher development training, which is incredibly important in states such as Georgia, who use the History Day program to educate teachers on historical research. Without this funding, many teachers may start their teaching career without knowledge of these methods.

The National History Day

HD funding, 11

## Three students advance to nationals



9th graders Charley Cheatham and Abby Horton compete their performance at state

*OWL students participated in the state competition for History Day on April 27th*

Jae Lind  
Staff Writer

On Sunday, April 27th, 18 groups of students from OWL went to the Minneapolis Convention Center to compete in State History Day. Every year, the event spans two floors and has over 1,000 attendees. Students came with one goal

in mind: make it to Nationals. This year's National qualifiers were Charley Cheatham and Abby Horton, with 2nd Place for their Senior Group Performance on The Jane Collective, and Jae Lind, with 2nd Place for their Senior Individual Performance on Women's Menus. OWL students were also honored

as medalists, topical prize winners, and honorable mentions.

This is no easy feat, as only two groups in every category are able to move on. While it is easier to win in less common categories, such as Senior Individual Performance, which only had 11 competitors this year, the



7th graders pose for a photo with their exhibit board

pressure is on for categories like Junior Group Exhibits which have many more competitors.

To qualify for State, students had to first make it through Regionals. Regional History Day happened on March 15th. Of the 35 OWL projects registered, 33 were on display, 23 projects got recognized at

the awards ceremony, and 20 moved onto State. OWL has one of the highest percentages of students going from Regionals to State.

What happens between Regionals and State? With just over a month to prepare, students work to improve

HD results, 10

## Uber and Lyft

Tait Vossen-Nelson  
Staff Writer

Minnesotan Democrats, along with Uber and Lyft drivers, are pushing for a bill that would allow them to unionize.

The bill is modeled off of one passed in Massachusetts late last year that allowed ride-share drivers to unionize for the first time ever in the US. Under law, ride-share drivers are defined as independent contractors (someone who is self employed), so they do not have the right to unionize because they are not protected by the National Labor Relations Act. While Uber and Lyft drivers' earnings are defined by those companies, they are not technically employed by those companies. Drivers use ride-share platforms under the terms of that platform, which include things like pay, but since they are not hired by anyone, they are independent contractors.

The bill doesn't challenge this classification as independent contractors, but would allow drivers to unionize. They would need 25% of drivers who have completed at least 100 rides in the past three months to sign up for the union in order to form a union under the new bill.

"Being able to have a union would mean we could have a voice to stand up for fair pay and benefits and have a say in our workplace," said Abdi Haybe, a rideshare driver in the metro area.

Many Uber and Lyft drivers have reported their

Uber and Lyft, 10

## Archery wraps up season in Duluth

*Several archers had impressive performances at the state tourney, including one national qualifier*

Remy Short  
Staff Writer

Archery, the sport of bows and arrows, recently wrapped up for the season. As the season progressed, several archers made their way to state. The season began in the winter and ran into the spring, including several tournaments that led up to the state tournament.

This year, the performance of 15 archers allowed them to reach state. "I always love shooting at the state tournament. It's a lot more official than some other tournaments, and that can be very exciting," said senior Paige Rhode.

There were several high-scoring archers at the state tournament. Within the OWL team, senior Duncan Smith

accumulated the highest score of 287, ranking him 18th of out 1137 high school boys. Senior Marjorie Borer Seabloom followed with a score of 285, a score high enough to qualify for the national tournament, and several other archers received scores over 250. In total, the OWL archery team amassed a team score of 3034.

OWL archers

Archery, 11



Moss Windingstad and Wes Sanford at a training session.



## The Purple Press

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

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# Womanatees rebuild

## *This year the team has seen lots of new players*

**Amelia Keenan**  
Staff Writers

The Womanatees, the OWL girls ultimate frisbee team, are taking on their spring season head-first and full of spirit, with many new and returning athletes. You can always count on them to build a strong team culture.

This year, the team has three captains: Seniors Gwen Stender, Mylie Peterson-Antin, Gabby Govrik, and a spirit captain, 10th grader Connie Van Genderen. The new players on the Womanatees seem to be enjoying themselves as well. "[The team] has pushed me to do things I wouldn't normally have done," said 9th grader Beatrice Cosgrove when asked about the Womanatees. "They're so supportive, I've never been on a team where everyone is always there to support and help you, it's a great community."

Former player Athena Bolton-Steiner is the Womanatee coach, this being her second season. "I love watching people work to improve during practice, and then get to show it off in a game. I love seeing people run out onto the field to congratulate their teammates after they score," said Athena.

One of the things the Womanatee team prides themselves on is creating a great community. "The team is genuinely such a positive community," stated Connie, the team spirit captain, "Even when we lose a game, I can tell everyone had such a good time." Because the team has so many new recruits this year, and many graduates last year, the Womanatees are focusing on teaching and improving players' form and ability.

Another important part of team culture is celebrations. At every game, all the players on the sidelines are cheering in sync for the players, and every time the team scores a point they all rush onto the field to celebrate. Every June, the team has a banquet where they all participate in a frisbee scrimmage and have a potluck to celebrate the season. Another way they celebrate is through cheers. Some of the memorable ones are the 'Choo Train' cheer and the 'I feel so good' cheer.

Although the team does not have a winning record this season, the players feel positive about their experience. "We have more people who have never played, than people who have played," said senior



Margaret Moe

**11th grader Rhoda Wonders at the Matoska Tournament.**

captain Gwen, "But players are gaining confidence in themselves. A lot of people are starting to find their niche." Some overall highlights from the season are when they won back to back games at the Matoska tournament and when they beat the Blake team 7-3. "We showed a lot of field sense," said Gwen.

The Womanatee will compete in the state tournament on the weekend of May 30th.



Margaret Moe

**Senior Joe Lodahl scans the field for an open player.**

# Manatee clinch a national bid

## *They travel to Pennsylvania in June to compete against the best*

**Aria Kulseth**  
Staff Writer

For a long time Open World Learning has prided itself on one of our Ultimate frisbee teams, The Manatees. Originally starting with just 15 players, the program has since flourished, now having about 150 participants across five middle and high school teams.

The Open varsity team has consistently played against schools with higher numbers, but even with our small school, the Manatees are currently ranked #1 in state, and #6 in the nation. This year the team has their sights set on their most ambitious goal yet, a national title.

For the first time ever, the Manatee have been invited to the National Invite, which is only for the best highschool teams in the nation. The Manatees will be one of 16 teams from around the US competing for the National title which will be held in Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania on June 13-14.

The Manatee's have had a historical season, going 13-1 so far. One particular triumph was beating their rival, Edina. "Edina hasn't been beaten in two years by any Minnesota team. They were second in Nationals last year, and they have won State every year since 2019, and only lost to Universe in 2018. So, yeah, I mean, that's big. And so that was the last team in the state that we hadn't beaten, and we beat them twice in one week," said Spanish teacher Tim Leone-Getten, who also coordinates the OWL frisbee teams.

After beating Edina, the Manatee then went on to win the Matoska Classic, an annual tournament with eight teams participating. In order to take the trophy, they had to beat Edina for a second time. The Manatee suffered their first defeat of the year last weekend, when they fell to Washburn in the finals of the Neuqua Knockout, a tournament in Illinois.

This year the team has about 40 players, 18 of them on varsity. The team lost six seniors last year, so the varsity

team has had to have new people step up to fill their space. While the Manatee have been able to fill their losses, other teams have not been as fortunate, putting our team in a very strong position for this season. "We work really hard to just like, create an environment that everyone can thrive in and be the best person they can be. I think that's kind of our main thing, and then our next main priority is just being as competitive as we can be. We have a really strong group of players this year, and we have high expectations for ourselves, but at the same time, we kind of have to work on our focus, our mentality, to push ourselves to be better," said senior and captain Noah Johnson.

The Manatee have been training for this groundbreaking season for a while, with many of their players playing over the summer, holding winter varsity tryouts, winter morning practices in the West-side dome, and now challenging themselves at spring practice. "Our coach Joe loves to go straight into a scrimmage, like explaining something quick, and then the best way to get better at something is to do it in a scrimmage," said senior and captain Danny Hobday.

Along the way to Nationals, the team hopes to take a state championship this June. With all of these goals, the team is feeling some pressure. "I think, when it does get to these big, important games, it's kind of easy for people's mentality to slip. If something goes wrong, it kind of affects how they're playing. So I think that's something that we're really trying to focus on, even more than our throws or cutting. I think our mentality and focus is kind of what's gonna set us apart, but it also might be holding us back at times. So as a team, we've kind of worked on realizing that that's gonna be one of the biggest factors," said Noah.

Making Nationals is a monumental accomplishment for the Manatees. Now that the



Margaret Moe

**10th grader Rahnia Droogsma stretches to make a catch at the Matoska tournament.**



Margaret Moe

**Senior Gwen Stender prepares to make a throw.**

# What is Frisbee Nationals?

## *A look into what the tournament is and how to get invited to it*

**Oscar Mons**  
Staff Writer

The Manatee have qualified for their first ever national tournament this season. Here's what to know about the tournament and the competition.

This year's tournament will be hosted in Allentown, Pennsylvania at the Grange Park fields. The competition will last two to three days, beginning on June 13th.

The competition is made of 32 teams, 16 open and 16 girls teams from around the country, including the Manatee. Invitations to the tournament are based on performances in the fall and spring seasons. The rankings are released biweekly and contain the top 25 schools by division. If a school does not accept their bid to the national tournament, a different team will be invited.

In order to get an invite, a team must either win their division or have previously received an automatic invitation, which is given

to the winner and runner up of the last year's national tournament. Additionally, teams can achieve a nationals bid by participating in qualifying tournaments and securing an invitation earlier in the season.

The Neuqua Knockout is the qualifying tournament that the Manatee attended last year and will attend again this year. The Manatee qualified for the national tournament before participating in the

Neuqua Knockout by virtue of receiving a "strength bid," which they achieved by starting off the season with seven straight wins, including two crucial wins against Edina, who won state last year and was runner up at the national tournament. Saint Louis Park was the other team from Minnesota that qualified for the national tournament last year.

The Manatee expect a very high level of competition at

the tournament. Senior Danny Hobday said the competition would be, "significantly harder than anything we have faced."

He cited teams from Seattle and Pennsylvania as teams to watch. Danny expressed confidence, in spite of the competition, "We have a good shot at doing well, looking at last year's bracket play and film."



Roman Ruffi

**Senior Danny Hobday jumps to catch a frisbee**



Roman Ruffi

**Senior Charlie Acosta makes a running catch.**



Purple Press Staff Photo

Kenny enjoys spending time with his dog and on the water.

# Kenny makes the rounds

Connie Van Genderen  
Staff Writer

While this is only Kenny Nguyen's first year, he's already well known to many OWL students. Kenny works in Special Education, so you may have seen him teaching math to students with individualized education plans (IEPs), or running around the halls, providing additional support in classrooms. "[I]t's checking in on what we call a caseload, so my group of students," said Kenny, "then kind of processing what they need, how we can support them to do better in their classes and then a ton and a ton of paperwork."

Originally from Minnesota, Kenny grew up on the northside of Minneapolis, he studied geography and GIS at Mankato State University. "Essentially, what it is, is building maps off of something called Park maps," said Kenny. Using this degree, Kenny did some work with law enforcement, creating maps and pinging high crime areas to set up police routes, but also agriculture. Kenny worked to scan crops using LIDAR to map crop growth.

Kenny went on to get his masters at St Thomas, which led him to his career in teaching. "Before I went to St. Thomas, I worked for a place called Project Success, working with students, primarily about getting them introduced to theater," said Kenny. He also blames his switch in career to his ability to fly. "I crashed a lot of drones," said Kenny, "I was like 'I should probably not be flying anymore,' to be honest with you. Jokes aside, those things are really hard to fly, but also, you spend a lot of

time in a can doing crop work and it's just like, not fun being away from home for weeks at a time."

After receiving his masters, Kenny went on to teach at his old high school, North High School, working with a lot of people he had known. "I moved from that school a little bit just because it was, like, too close to everyone I knew," said Kenny. He then spent some time at Roosevelt High School, before making his Saint Paul debut.

Kenny ended up coming to OWL because of its unique design along with Crew, and community meetings. "I was talking to another teacher a little bit before about just how different it is seeing these community meetings, because of the students. At the last school I worked at, the students would not be excited about going on a Lip Sync Battle. They'd be like 'I'm too cool for this.' But everyone here is so cool and excited," said Kenny.

Kenny is enjoying OWL so far and told me about how the students here have a refreshing honesty about themselves. "[A] lot of schools I worked at, there's a lot of kind of face masking, where students are like, not okay being themselves. And I find at OWL, that has kind of eroded away, where students are a lot more genuine with themselves and with their teachers," said Kenny.

Outside of school Kenny enjoys the great outdoors. He used to be very active in guided rock climbing in the Red River Gorge, today he sticks to kayaking, and playing fly ball with his—as Kenny says—"chunky chihuahua".

# Fraquetball: recap and preview

Matteo Alejandro-Provenzano  
Staff Writer

The 2024-2025 fall Fraquetball season came to an end in January with three champions crowned, one in each lunch. This year the three fall champions were: 12 A.M. (8th graders Alex Halland and Matteo Alejandro-Provenzano) in first lunch, Floppy Salmon (Seniors Antonio Cervantes and Charlie Acosta) in second, and Broken Sigmas (Senior

Arthur Madsen and Junior Arlo Northrop-Kiel) in third.

The spring season is already underway, and already Arthur and Senior Bennet Vaughan-Fier are the favorites to win it all, even naming their team Threeppeat, further showcasing their will to win. Other contenders for the championship include Los Geezers (Teachers Tim Leone-Getten and Leo Bickelhaupt), Floppy Salmon (Antonio and

Fraquetball, 5

# Baseball back at OWL/Humboldt

## The team hopes to recruit more players, achieve varsity status

Olli Liimatta  
Staff Writer

After six years of being left on the shelf, Humboldt finally has a baseball team, and a very successful one at that. The team maintained a winning percentage of over 50% the entire season. The one caveat is, there were only enough players for a JV team. 9th grade returning shortstop Calvin Hoenisch said, "The future looks very bright because we have a lot of developing players who can develop into something special. Becoming a varsity team will be challenging, but can bring our program to new heights."

Vibes are high as two years after the team combined with Harding, Humboldt is almost able to put a varsity team together, with participation from OWL being key. With

baseball players from OWL including 7th graders Jacoby Oliver, Ben Casper, and James Duininck, 9th graders Benji Diaz, Calvin Hoenisch, Finn Glasco, Olli Liimatta and Emmett Salminen, and 11th graders Simon Casper and Grant Weyandt.

A highlight for the team this season will be playing at CHS Field against Washington's Varsity Team. Sadly this game was postponed due to weather issues. This will be the first time that Humboldt will have played a game at CHS field and many are excited. "I'm excited

to play at CHS Field because it is a professional stadium, and will have an incredible atmosphere with all the seats and the field quality will be perfect," said Calvin.

The Humboldt team will play against teams from Washington, Johnson, Como, Harding, Central, and Highland, as well as non conference teams like Brooklyn Center. Every time that a conference opponent is played, there are two games against that team, one at home and one away. Some historically tough teams are Highland and Central. The non-conference opponents are also challenging, and there are usually three or four games against them.

High school baseball games go up to seven innings, or



Roman Rufi

Members of the baseball team huddle up during a game.

Baseball, 10

# Lego League regionals: the recap

## Many team members enjoy the fun and social aspect of the team

Savannah Yang  
Staff Writer

Three OWL Lego League teams competed in the regional competition on Saturday, January 18 at Capitol Hill Magnet School.

None of the teams moved on to the state competition, but all the teams received an award. The RoboRaptors won an award for "Core Values," which highlights the team's discovery, innovation, impact, inclusion, teamwork, and fun. The Hootcrafters team won two awards for "Best Robot Design" and "Best Programming," showing the team's innovation skills in coming up with new ideas. The Lego My Eggo team won an award for "Best Programming," showcasing the team's problem-solving skills and ability to strategize.

Science teacher and Lego League coach Sorcha Nix thinks the competition went

very well. She was the most proud of her team for how professionally they answered the judges' questions. The efforts of the team paid off, especially all the work they did leading up to the competition. "Being there and being surrounded by other teams, I think that our team really shined and that was fun to see," said Sorcha.

This year's challenge was "Submerged," an ocean-themed competition that consists of three parts: using a robot to complete tasks and earn points during the robot games, a research project about solving a problem in the ocean, and a presentation to a panel of judges. Usually, there are three rounds of the robot games and teams are judged based on their highest score. The judges grade teams on the robot games, robot design, research projects, core values, and team spirit.

Awards are given out for

the robot, the project, core values, and the Champions Award. The Champions Award is given to teams who embody the full First Lego League challenge and perform well in each category. Eight teams from the competition got to advance to the next round, which was determined by how well they scored in each category.

While the OWL teams did not move on, many Lego League members say they like Lego League for the fun of programming and its social aspect. "The competition went pretty well even though we didn't move on. It was still fun and most of our missions worked," said 7th grader Bahati Stelheim.

"The thing I liked about the competition was seeing all the other teams and meeting new people. I think as a team, we did really good," said 8th grader Penny Lloyd

"I liked Lego League because

I got to hang out with my friends and I enjoy technology and programming," said 8th grader Alex Halland.

Seventh and eighth graders can join the Lego League Flipside or the robotics class to learn more about coding with lego robots, or join one of the competition teams. The experience is very valuable, and will really help with coding skills if you're planning to join robotics in high school.



Purple Press staff photo

The Roboraptors compete in the "robot game"

# Houston totally broke my bracket

## Simon breaks down why, how, and when his picks fell short

Simon Casper  
Staff Writer

I put a lot of care into creating my NCAA basketball tournament bracket. I enjoyed examining every team and player, then reviewing the records of every team. After that, I started creating my bracket.

Although I enjoy selecting underdogs, I occasionally pass on them if they are too much of an underdog! Since it's difficult for anyone know every team, I occasionally choose the teams with the better jerseys if I don't know them. Since it's extremely difficult to have a 16 seed with a record of 24 and ten defeat a one seed with a 30 and four record, I primarily chose the better teams "chalk" in the first round.

In the first round, McNeese State's Cinderella story made headlines. McNeese faced the formidable five seed Clemson

team as the 12th seed. Nobody expected McNeese to win, but they had a hidden gem in one of their team managers, Amir (aura) Khan. He didn't play but, he gave McNeese a boost of energy from hyping them up and blasting music on his speaker To wrap up the major events of round one, number 12 Colorado defeated number five Memphis, and number ten New Mexico defeated number seven Marquette.

In the second round, not much changed. The only shock came when ten Arkansas defeated two St. John's, and everyone's favorite Cinderella, McNeese, lost to four Purdue. My bracket lost 15 games out of 48 in the first two rounds. Not too shabby! I thought that it was my year but my friends laughed at my bracket and they said I went too chalk. But chalk was definitely the way to go!

This year was the first time since 2008 that the final four were all one seeds, so chalk was unquestionably the best option. At this point my bracket was on a downward spiral. St. John didn't make it to the elite eight, and I was planning on them getting there. St. John's not making it was one of many major errors in my bracket. My first round and the final four consisted of one Duke, one Houston, one Florida, and one Auburn. Florida and Duke were the front-runners. Look at the first matchup between Duke and Houston, where Duke had a nearly 70% chance of winning even before the game began. Duke was leading 59 to 45 with eight minutes remaining in the second half, and everyone watching believed it was over. However, with 19.6 seconds remaining, Houston's J'Wan Roberts made two free throws

to take the lead 68 to 67, and Duke didn't score again after that, allowing Houston to win 70 to 67.

This game was the nail in the coffin for my bracket. I had Duke winning it all but Houston pulled off the upset. Then there was the Florida vs Auburn game. In the first half, Auburn was winning 46 to 38, but in the second half Auburn only scored 27 points. In the end Florida defeated Auburn 79 to 73. The championship game was Florida vs Houston! At half time Houston was winning by 12. But that didn't stop the gamblers. They came back to win the game 65 to 63, denying Houston a last second chance. The Florida Gators are the national NCAA basketball champions! I definitely did not see this ending coming.

See a picture of Simon's bracket on page 11.

# A 10-day journey through Rome, Paris, and Madrid

## A brief overview of the 10 days in Europe

**Rylan Merwin**  
Staff Writer

Arrival: Airport.

Most of the time before our first flight was spent checking bags and getting to the gate. Some of the people with carry-ons had to check their bags because there was a shortage of space (although they didn't check some of the people behind us). We got more free time in the Atlanta airport for the layover. The flight to Rome was long though, and sleeping on a plane isn't fun.

Rome.

Day one: Plane lands.

We were not allowed to have any time to recover from the flight (I had to change in an airport bathroom). We met our tour guides, walked to the Pantheon, and were let loose on the surrounding streets. No big tours or anything on this day.

Day two: The Vatican.

I went to the optional cooking class that was held before the tour. We made pasta! It was fun to make, even if I didn't eat any. Then the tour. Everything was beautiful, but I'm not a fan of guided tours. I really prefer being allowed to take things at my own pace, and my own pace is generally a lot faster than the tour guides were taking things.

Day three: Colosseum.

This was very impressive, and the history is interesting. However, it was a very rainy day, which dampened the mood a bit. In all actuality, my

favorite part of the Colosseum was the really pretty wisteria that we saw hanging from some of the structures.

Paris.

Day four: Louvre and Eiffel Tower.

We got up super early to get on the plane. It was easier to sleep on the flight this time, though, and I also slept a bit on the bus ride to the hotel. We got to drop our bags off in a room at the hotel, and then we headed off to the Louvre, where we had some free time to explore the connected shopping center. The actual museum part wasn't a guided tour, so that was really great for me. There was a cruise in the evening, which was really cold, but we got great views of the Eiffel Tower all lit up.

Day five: Versailles.

My roommate and I woke up late this morning, which was a bit upsetting, but it turned out fine. I had signed up to go to Versailles, so I got on the bus for that. It was another guided tour, unfortunately, but we ball. And it really was very pretty.

Madrid.

Day six: Museo del Prado

We got up early for the flight again. Once we landed, we went to the Museo del Prado. Not a guided tour (yay!) and I got some cool stuff from the gift shop. Unfortunately, this day was also the culmination day for everyone who got sick, which really wasn't fun.

Day seven: Spanish Palace

Gorgeous out. Madrid definitely had the best weather. 60-70 both days. We had free time first, I found a book that looked good in a bookstore near our meeting point that, looking back, I really wish I'd bought. Then it was off to the palace, which was another guided tour, but it was considerably shorter than the other (and indoors, so no rain this time), and the palace had a lot of really pretty sights.

Departure: Surprise Amsterdam

Don't you just love getting up at 2:00 in the morning? We boarded the flight to Amsterdam for the layover, landed, I bought a muffin at the Amsterdam airport, and then it was homeward bound. Sleep wasn't as much of an issue this time, which was nice. Boarding an eight hour flight at 11:00 AM and landing at noon is trippy.



Rylan Merwin

The Roman city pictured at night beside the Tiber River

## Great food, ancient ruins, and lots of ceilings

**Claire Ales**  
Staff Writer

Known for its ancient ruins, the vatican, and pizza, Rome did not disappoint. This year's Europe trip included three days in Rome containing visits to the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, Vatican City, and the catacombs.

The first day in Rome was dubbed as a "zombie day" (due to our jet lag). After getting off of the plane, going through customs, and loading onto the bus, all 80 of us went to the city center. When we arrived in Rome, we were taken on a walking tour which included the Spanish Steps, and the Pantheon.

While in the city center we were given one of our first opportunities to explore on our own in groups of three or more. During this time my group found a spot to have pizza for lunch. After this, we explored the area until finding our way to a gelato shop. This was the best gelato that I have ever had! The flavors I got were mango and pomegranate. I liked the gelato so much that I had some every single day we were in Rome. After our time to explore ended, we got on the bus and went to our hotel to have dinner and get some rest.

We started off day two with breakfast at 7:15 AM and boarded the bus at 8:15 AM. The day consisted of an optional cooking class, at which we made pasta from

scratch, a guided tour of the Vatican, and free time to explore the surrounding areas.

One of the highlights on our second day was the cooking class. The chefs taught us how to make pasta noodles, and it turns out you only need flour and eggs! After we made the noodles, the chefs collected them, cooked them, and added sauce. We then tasted the pasta and it was delicious!

During our tour at the Vatican we were able to see their massive collections of paintings, statues, tapestries, and other artifacts. For me, the highlight of the Vatican was seeing the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. The detail of the art was really cool to see. The ceilings everywhere we went had amazing detail. I think about half of my photos from the trip are of ceilings.

The next day was our third and final day in Rome. It was also my favorite day there! We visited the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, and the catacombs. When I imagined Rome in my mind, I pictured the ruins of Ancient Rome on one side and the more modern area on the other. But everything is kind of intermixed with each other, which surprised me.

We started our day at the Colosseum. I was stunned at how big it was, and that I was walking through something that was built 2000 years ago. The tour we took through the Colosseum was one of my

favorites because there was so much information to take in, and so many things to see. We were able to visit the upper and lower levels, allowing us to gain multiple perspectives.

Straight from the Colosseum we headed to the Roman Forum, or the city center of Ancient Rome. The city center included lots of temples, a senate house, and many other buildings. Just like the Colosseum tour, we were immersed into the middle of Ancient Rome and I was fascinated by this.

Before heading to the catacombs, we were given free time to have lunch. We found a corner store and ate paninis, and I had a cappuccino for the first time. I ended up really liking both of them and of course, following our lunch we had gelato.

Our final stop of the day was the catacombs, which are underground cemeteries most commonly constructed by ancient Romans. It was really cool to be underground going through the passageways. On our tour, it turns out we saw less than 10% of the catacombs, which amazed me because I felt like we saw a lot.

Overall, I really enjoyed Rome! Learning about the history of all of the places we visited is what made me like it so much. I hope that in the future I have the opportunity to go back and explore the city even more!



Purple Press Staff Photo

The Eiffel Tower pictured at night from the Seine River.



Purple Press Staff Photo

Apartment buildings and park in Paris, France.



Purple Press Staff Photo

The royal palace in Madrid, Spain.



Purple Press Staff Photo

Pizza from a restaurant in Rome, Italy.



Purple Press Staff Photo

City Center of Ancient Rome still located in the center today.



Purple Press Staff Photo

A birds eye view inside the Louvre in Paris, France.



Purple Press Staff Photo

Students make pasta during a cooking class in Rome.

# Senior Spotlight

## Shalimar Watkins



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

**How long have you been at OWL?**  
Six years

**What are your plans for next year?**  
I am attending the University of Minnesota Twin Cities

**What's been your favorite class in high school?**  
AP U.S. History

**What extracurriculars are you involved in?**  
Theater

**Favorite field work experience or school trip and why?**  
Du Nord, it was a really beautiful landscape and I had a lot of fun despite the work.

**If you had a walk up song, what would it be?**  
All The Stars by SZA and Kendrick Lamar

## That One Little Kid Lahzeric Jenkins

**How tall are you?**  
4' 10"

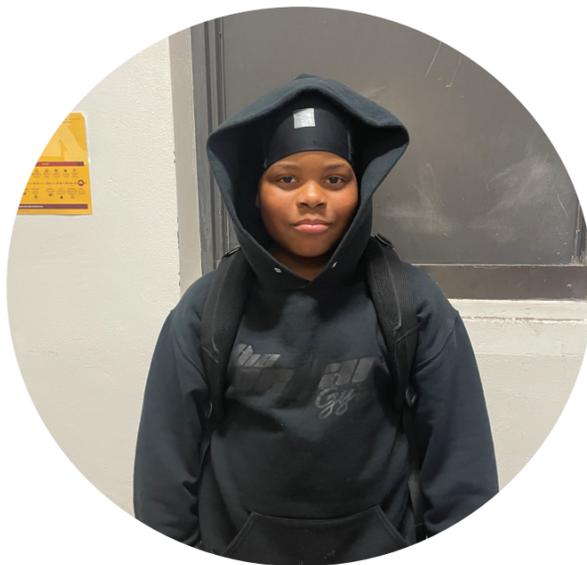
**What pronouns do you use?**  
He/Him

**What's your favorite book, movie, or TV show?**  
The Lightning Thief movie

**Who's your favorite senior?**  
Mya

**What is your favorite thing about OWL so far?**  
My girlfriend

**What extra curriculars do you plan on getting involved in at OWL?**  
Flipside gaming club



## OWL welcomes Upstream to its stage

*With an exciting new format, the play immerses you into the story*

**Kate Houle**  
Staff Writer

It's a beautifully clear Saturday afternoon in April, and OWL students are hanging out by the river, grocery shopping and making summer plans— all from within the school auditorium.

Let's back up for a second.

OWL's spring show is an original play written and produced by Mixed Blood Theatre. It tells the story of the river and her missing daughter, allowing audience members to address modern climate concerns by following an "adventure guide" who leads them through one of four storylines or "tracks." The entire production is one of the most unique shows OWL's theater department has ever taken on, with students and theater professionals working together throughout the entire production process.

The story took inspiration from OWL students, with classes having creative brainstorming sessions with Mixed Blood during the 23-24 school year. "I actually first heard about Upstream last year. They had people come into classes, and I was one of the classes who got to see, kind of like an early concept, so that was cool," said 8th grade student actor Miles Harris. The playwrights then took many of these ideas and transformed

them into a working script that went through many revisions and feedback sessions with OWL theater members once the 24-25 school year started. "I can not stress enough the script changes all the time," said senior student actor Ruby Kate Nolen. Miles agreed, "On like the second to final day, they changed a lot of stuff. I had a lot of new cues which I had to memorize before the weekend. So that was pretty stressful."

Rehearsals for the students started in late February, with professional directors and designers coming in to share their resources. "I've really enjoyed working with a lot of the adults with the design process and everything...I

feel like we have access to a lot better techniques and materials than we usually do," said 9th grade sets member Jay Schluender. "Working with a professional lighting designer has been great because they've been teaching us all these [cool] things," said 11th grade lights head Moss Winginstad. However, because of students' stricter schedules, most of the actual design creation was handled by the adults of Mixed Blood. "I feel like we've had very little to do with actually building the [sets]," explained Jay.

But students' responsibilities increased a lot more once performances actually started. Running throughout the month of

April, Upstream had a total of 17 performances— much more than OWL's usual three! To make sure this was feasible, the cast and crew was split up into two groups with each role having someone assigned to it from each group. For example, both Ruby and 10th grader Xander Gottfried played the role of Acanthus, switching off who was playing the character each performance.

The structure of the show also proved a unique challenge. Immersive theater involves audience participation and movement throughout the school building, rather than sitting silently in the auditorium. Five different spaces were used at OWL, and timing was critical to make sure none of the tracks ran into each other. "As an actor, I'm constantly onstage, or whatever stage onstage is. I start in the auditorium, and then I go down to the kitchen classroom, before going back to the auditorium for the ending," said Miles. "We don't have a backstage space, so we have to have things with us and be running around to different parts of the school the entire time," said Jay. "I feel like I've become much better at thinking on my feet. How to do this, and how to do that, because we have rooms



Purple Press Staff Photo

10th grader Xander Gottfried performs in Upstream.



Sorcha Nix

Sorcha and Rebecca take a selfie after being recognized at the school board meeting.

## National Boards

*Sorcha and Rebecca work through the two-year process*

**Maddie Linstad**  
Staff Writer

Science teachers Rebecca Palmer and Sorcha Nix recently earned their National Board Certification, which was the result of a long process of filming, testing, and patience. The National Board Certification is considered one of the most profound and challenging certifications for an educator.

The process to become Nationally Certified is quite excessive. Sorcha and Rebecca started at the same time, and for them, it began a whole two years ago. "The process was very lengthy," said Rebecca, "It involved three reflective portfolio submissions showcasing my practice and a standardized test to prove that I know the content." 2,800 other teachers successfully persevered along with Sorcha and Rebecca, placing the total number of teachers with a Board Certification at 137,000, which is about 4% of the national teaching population. "There were many requirements, and I spent hours upon hours gathering materials, writing, and revising," said Sorcha.

Rebecca originally began the certification process because of the annual stipend teachers receive for being National Board certified, but her reasoning grew to be more complex as she delved deeper into the process. "I found it changes [what] I

do in the classroom to meet the requirements, which has created a greater variety in the things I do in [my classes]," said Rebecca. She expressed how she not only learned so much about education during the process of certification, but also feels that the certification will validate her hard work. "I have learned to focus on the process of learning and less on the known facts," said Rebecca. "I always believed students should have the skills to become lifelong learners, but now I am using activities and lessons that focus on those skills." When asked what was most helpful for her in this entire process, Rebecca expressed that having Sorcha go through the same process made it less rocky. "To have a shared experience, especially a difficult one, is always easier when you have someone that understands what you are doing/going through."

Now that Palmer and Sorcha are added into the bunch, OWL has four board certified teachers, as math teacher Tom Totushek and science teacher Megan Hall are also National Board certified teachers.

"I am glad I did it; I'm really proud of Rebecca and myself. I didn't know until after we completed the process but only 4% of teachers in the country are NBCT and we were of only 11 teachers in the entire state that got certified last year," said Sorcha.

**Fraquetball, 3**

Charlie), and Ball Busters (Seniors Danny Hobday and Noah Johnson). Due to absences and field trips, not many games have been played this spring.

The playoff bracket for the spring season has been announced, and the top two from first lunch and top three from the second and third will advance to the cross-lunch tournament. Whoever wins the cross-lunch tourney will win the ultimate honor—their names on a star on the wall of the Fraquetball Wall Of Champions. The commissioners are working overtime to organize the

games, as many deadlines approach. "We're trying to get it done before Interim and the Outward Bound trips, because if we don't, it's never gonna happen," said Senior Commissioner Noah Johnson. One matchup to watch out for is the Ball Busters and Threepat, who are on a crash course in the second lunch bracket.



# Reviews 'n' stuff



Purple Press Staff Photo

iPads and Chromebooks are used across the state of MN

## iPad vs Chromebook

Which device is better for use in schools? They both have potential

James Hietala  
Staff Writer

When dealing with technology, schools are faced with choices on what kind of devices to issue, the obvious two choices being iPads and Chromebooks. But which one is better?

iPads can be more durable than other options, because of their cases. Cases such as the ones currently used by SPPS allow iPads to sustain large amounts of abuse. This lets them survive falls with little to no damage. It is also touchscreen, which can be both an upside and a downside. iPads can also be a positive for many people who prefer touchscreens, and can be handy for quick inputs, but I see it as an overall negative because it's used instead of a mouse.

Other than the lack of a mouse, the iPad has other downsides. The keyboards on iPads are not fantastic, as they are made out of rubber and are all one piece, unlike a proper keyboard, and don't feel the best to type on. Another major disadvantage of the iPad's is their limitation to iOS apps. And while they can use browsers, they are often much more clunky and less functional. Some apps like Google Docs and Slides just work better as a web version. In addition, iPads also have much smaller screens than even small laptops, which not only gives you less screen real estate to work with but can also cause problems with some websites that aren't made to be viewed on mobile, such as being cut off or displayed weirdly.

"Writing notes [on my iPad] is really nice in the app Notability, but Notability is old and doesn't work that well. My Notability can take up to five minutes to get a note loaded. However, some things on the iPad are better in the app, such as Desmos and Google Maps," said 9th grader Tait

Vossen-Nelson. He also talked about the iPad's keyboards, "It's just easier to type [on my Chromebook]... I like the keyboard a lot more, they're not plastic or whatever the iPad keyboards are."

Chromebooks biggest upside is just being actual laptops. They have proper keyboards, a trackpad, bigger screens, and can run web versions of everything. You can even get "two-in-one" chromebooks that can be used as a laptop and a touchscreen if buyers want to retain the tablet aspect of devices. Overall they have much smoother experience and are more powerful than iPads. However chromebooks are much less durable than the iPad when they are in cases, they aren't really replaceable once they are broken, and are practically e-waste after something happens to them. They will typically cost a couple hundred dollars (~\$300 or \$400), which is similar to the cost of iPads.

Another option that's not as obvious is enterprise grade laptops (such as Thinkpads). These laptops are significantly more expensive than other options, but run much better than something like a Chromebook, and will both run for longer and still have relevant technology in the future. Enterprise grade laptops are also typically much more repairable than other laptops, meaning that if they break, you can generally repair them for much cheaper than buying a brand new one. They are also capable of running full desktop programs as well as web apps unlike other options. Their downside is that they are much more expensive than other options, costing closer to several thousand dollars instead of several hundred dollars. I would argue that it is worth it however because they shouldn't have to be replaced as often.

Tait says he prefers his

iPad vs Chromebook, 11

## Kate breaks down tariffs for us

What they are, their purpose, flaws, and if they will be beneficial

Kate Houle  
Staff Writer

Because of President Trump's new policies, tariffs have become a buzzword, but what actually are they? Why do they make everything so expensive? Who do they profit? I'm going to try to explain all these questions in the simplest terms possible so all of those news headlines can start to make a little more sense to the average person.

Be warned, I am not at all a financial or political expert, so take this with a grain of salt. If you want to do some more in depth research, Tax Foundation, The Budget Lab at Yale, and Council on Foreign Relations are great resources.

So. A tariff is a type of tax that is placed on goods (like cars, clothes, etc) brought into a country. A tax is when something costs more than it's

worth so the government can get a small amount of money from it. Most often people talk about protective tariffs, where a tax is placed on something that crosses a border from one country to another country. Their main use is to help industries inside the US by making trade with foreign (outside of the US) countries

way more expensive. So if I wanted a cool t-shirt, and the government decided to put a tariff on clothing made in other countries, it would be way cheaper for me to buy a t-shirt that was made by a company here, rather than one made by a company in another country.

The problem with this

is that tariffs are really only helpful for a country that can do everything by itself (which is a rare thing). In a world where trade and the economy are so interconnected among all countries, most places aren't able to make all their own resources, and there's an endless cycle of how the supply/demand of the trade world determines who profits from what.

Speaking of endless cycles, what does money have to do with tariffs? Bear with me as I walk through some math problems. If there was a 50% tariff on goods from a foreign country, and I bought \$10,000 worth of stuff from that country, I would have to pay \$5,000 (50% of \$10,000) in tariffs, so \$15,000 in total. Since I had to pay a lot of extra



Jae Lind

Tariffs, 11

## An innovation in sound technology

Dolby trailblazed sound systems

Diego Rodriguez  
Staff Writer

In 1965, Ray Dolby started a company that would change the way people interact with and experience sound as we knew it. With further innovation in technology, Dolby continues to change the listening experience and push the boundaries of sound tech even today.

Most devices at the time, and even now, use a stereo based format, meaning that there is a system playing sound only on your left and on your right. Dolby wanted to make audio more immersive by expanding the sound field, adding and allowing complex and specific sound placement to certain things, such as movies, video games, and music.

The world in that time period did not know or experience what we now

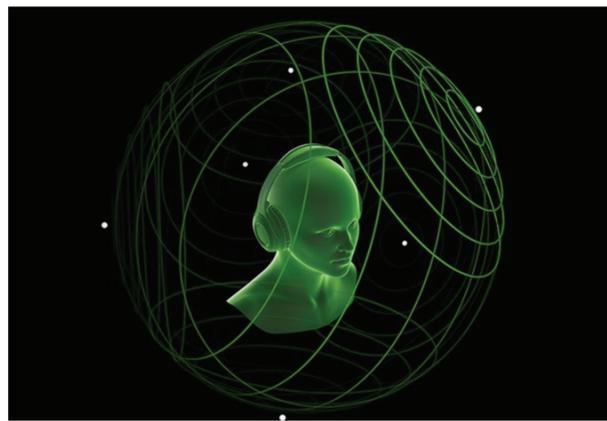
know as surround sound. The company's first huge innovation was Dolby Stereo, which was surround sound's first prototype. The company implemented four speakers all set up on their own individual channels (in front of you, behind you, and on the sides). This allowed for a fuller and cleaner sound in places such as movie theaters. Home theater

systems were also developing, and there was a growing demand for such technology in home theaters as well, which introduced Dolby Surround. This was kind of the same as Dolby Stereo, but now you could hear planes flying above your head, cars racing past you, or doors opening on your left— all from the comfort of your own couch.

The next big innovation was the 5:1 implementation, better

known as Dolby Digital. Dolby Digital introduced digital sound, instead of the analog that was being used previously. Every speaker now had its own audio track, which led to Dolby Digital having its own code encryption into CDS, DVDs, Blu-rays and digital tv set ups, which allowed for the proper surround sound if you had the material that supports it. What exactly is "5:1"? It's a 5 speaker to 1 subwoofer ratio (a subwoofer is a speaker that specializes in producing lower frequencies, which pretty much adds bass or that "rumble" like sound). A more immersive sound was achievable with the strategic placement of the speakers and the subwoofer.

One impactful innovation was something called Audio objects. Audio objects were a huge innovation and game changer for the entertainment



Purple Press Staff Photo

Dolby, 11

## Three totally lit fantasy books

Anson continues a deep dive into one of OWL's favorite genres

Anson Lind  
Staff Writer

Two months ago, I covered a few of my favorite science fiction books, but there's so many more books I want to cover. So here's part two of my book recommendations, that will cover the books from the fantasy genre that I think are truly worth reading.

I'll start with what is perhaps the most iconic subgenre, high fantasy. This is the type of thing you'd expect to see when you hear the word "fantasy"— complex magic systems, a medieval-like world, and a story of epic proportions. Brandon Sanderson is a fantasy author famous for series including The Way of Kings and Mistborn. However, the book I want to highlight today is one of his standalone

novels, Warbreaker.

Siri, princess of the kingdom of Idris, is sent to the neighboring kingdom of Hallandren to marry its God King, and her sister travels to the kingdom in the hopes of saving her. While one of the kingdom's many resident deities, is searching for a purpose and finds himself becoming wrapped up in a plot taking place in the castle. All three main characters slowly work towards the prevention of a war breaking out between Idris and Hallandren, while mysterious Vasher and his sentient sword Nightblood have their own motivations.

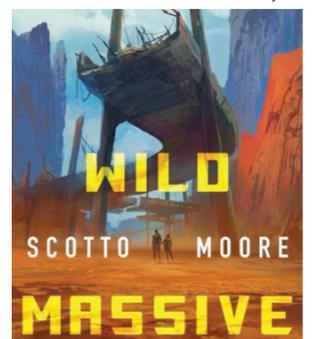
I wanted to highlight Warbreaker due to its amazing magic system, revolving around biochromatic Breath, which can be taken from

people and used to bring objects to life. The mechanics of this magic system are quite interesting, and wind up being used in some surprising ways. Plus, every character is quite fun, and there were rarely characters I didn't immediately want to spend more time with.

On the other end of the fantasy spectrum is urban fantasy and fantasy realism. Rather than incredible magic journeys, this subgenre usually deals more with worlds where magic is just a part of everyday life, usually in a time period more closely resembling our own. The book I wanted to mention here is The Last Dragonslayer by Jasper Fforde, which I feel really exemplifies this subgenre. The story follows Jennifer Strange, who is currently running a

magician employment agency, Kazam, after its previous owner vanished. The book is set in a version of Britain in which, though magic may be real, it's not particularly strong— sure, you could use magic to conjure up a meal, but it's both easier and cheaper to just order delivery. In this age of failing magic, Jennifer

Book recs, 10



Scotto Moore



Purple Press Staff Photo

Crusader Kings 3 is Norman's number one for video games.

# My top five video games

Norman, an experienced gamer, deigns to share his list of faves

**Norman J. Simon**  
Staff Writer

I have been playing video games since I was five years old and have played probably over 100 games. What I'm about to do is make a list ranking my top five.

Finding what your favorite thing is is hard because it is subject to change. That's why this list will probably change in the future, due to me finding something I like that is better than the games I've put on this list. But for now, here are my top five favorite games:

Number One: Crusader Kings 3 (CK3).

If I were to say what game I have spent the most of my time on, it would be this one. CK3 is a grand strategy game set in the Middle Ages. It is about you playing a character, either created by you or a real life person like William the Conqueror, and bringing glory to your Dynasty/family. The game has a lot of options and you can do a lot of different things, like becoming a viking or playing as Genghis Khan. Maybe even you can become a Crusader King.

The reason for this being number one is that there are so many different things you can do, and so many ways to play the game, that it's really hard to get bored of it. It's also real history that starts in 867 with the sons of Ragnar Lodbrok invading England, and in 1066 has the Norman invasion of England, and in 1183 shows right before the start of the Mongol Empire. This, plus the fact that it's just fun, and for a grand strategy game it is very easy to understand, is why this is my favorite game.

Number Two: Red Dead Redemption 2 (RDR2).

This game is probably the best game, and story, that I've played. The fact that Rockstar Games, who made RDR2, can still make a great and engaging game and story, shows why they are one of the most consistent developers.

The game takes place in a fictional America at the end of the Wild West era. The story is about Arthur Morgan, an outlaw part of the Van Der Linde gang and the eventual collapse of the gang. The best part of the game is the story

and writing that pushes the game and the world forward.

Number Three: Middle Earth: Shadow of War (SoW).

This is the most interesting game I've played. When SoW released it, it had a lot of microtransactions that caused people to not play it, so the developers took out the microtransactions, making the game a lot better. The reason this game is amazing is because it is about a Gondorian ranger, Talion, who has been cursed to be immortal and never die. The other reason is that it has a "nemesis system," where the game creates orc villains that each have a unique personality, and it is very akin to improv.

The reason the game is on my list is because it has an engaging story and adds a lot to the world of Middle Earth. It gives context to the Lord of the Rings (LOTR) stories and takes place right before them. The game has a lot of references to the general story of LOTR and features some characters like Gollum, Isildur, and Sauron. Overall the innovation of the game with the nemesis system, creates a great story and good writing.

Number Four: Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild (BOTW).

This game is, in my opinion, the best Nintendo game for the Switch console, and is what really got me into gaming. I remember spending hours trying to unlock the whole map and exploring the world. This game is all about being non-linear, as in you can complete whatever missions you want in no particular order.

The game follows Link, a knight who has woken up after a 100 years of sleeping, and finds himself on a quest to save princess Zelda and defeat the villain; Calamity Ganon. The game has some of the best landscapes I have ever seen, and it also got me, and a lot of other people, into the Legend of Zelda franchise as a whole. It also has one of my favorite enemies, the Guardian, which has one of the most nerve-racking musical themes in all of gaming.

Number Five: Hitman: World of Assassination

Games, 10

# Who are Disney's best bad guys?

Atlas has decided which evildoers do the most evil the best way

**Atlas Schultz**  
Staff Writer

What makes a good (well, bad) villain? How do we create intriguing, and sometimes endearing, evildoers? And what can cause a villain character to fall short of expectations? Well, I'm not really sure, but I am a huge fan of villains, and their traits and tropes, so I'm going to share three of my top Disney villains (in no particular order) to talk about them.

Starting off sneaky and sarcastic with Scar from the Lion King. He excels at clever schemes and charismatic comments, but his deceitful nature eventually leads to his demise. Personally, I love Scar because of his attitude, but also on some level, I think, his relatability. Quotes like, "I'm surrounded by idiots," perfectly describe my mood some days, and that's comforting. Along with that,

his malice comes mostly from a place of jealousy, which I think many of us have felt and can relate to. That, and the fact that he's been living in his brother's shadow for years. So, in my opinion, a good trait for any villain character, or honestly ANY character, is relatability.

Next, AUTO and GO-4

from WALL-E (yes, I know that's two, but I can't NOT include the little evil henchman). Now, technically, AUTO and GO-4 are not "evil". They are just following their directives. It's not their fault that the current captain disagrees with their orders. However, this obviously doesn't make them heroes.

AUTO tries to kill WALL-E and EVE multiple times to stop him from returning the plant needed to send the Axiom space cruiser, with all the humans aboard, back to Earth. But not because he's trying to be evil, because he thinks it's the right thing to do. This is a villain troupe that I absolutely love every time. There are other examples of villains like this, but I chose AUTO and GO-4 because they are basically some of the most extreme examples, seeing as they are robots simply following orders.

Finally, I wanted an example of someone who does evil just because. Now this can be a slippery slope, and can lead to unsatisfactory and generic villains, but if done well, it can be really fun. Take for example, Mr. Oogie Boogie from Nightmare Before Christmas. In the movie,



Atlas Schultz

Villains, 11

# The best Wu-Tang band member

Lucas settles a debate about the famous 90s hip-hop group

**Lucas Rounds**  
Staff Writer

Wu-Tang Clan is a 90s hip hop group that formed in 1992 in Staten Island. Its members include RZA, GZA, Method Man, Inspectah Deck, Raekwon, Ghostface Killah, Masta Killah, U-God, and ODB, later Cappadona was officially added to the rap group. I decided to rank these fine young men because one day in journalism my friend Oscar Mons and I got into a debate about who the best member is, so I decided to write the story to prove my point

I will be judging who the best member is based on flow, lyrics, solo album performance, and beats. I'll be starting off with our first member RZA. RZA made all the beats for Wu-Tang Clan and most of their solo albums, with his best beat being Winter

Warz on Ghostface Killah's Don't be a Menace album. A lot of RZA's lyrics aren't worth mentioning and his flow is one of the worst in the Wu-tang Clan.

Our next member GZA the Genius is the most cerebral member of Wu-tang. He has the most unique words out of all the Wu-tang family and one of the strongest most consistent flows. His most notable album is Liquid Swords produced by RZA. His most streamed song is "Shadowboxin" featuring Methodman with 166 million streams. However, this is not the best song on the album. The best on the album is "4th chamber," and is usually widely accepted as such. GZA's best bar in my opinion is "I got mouths to feed, unnecessary beef is more cows to breed."

Moving on to Method Man, he is the member with the strongest flow in all of the Wu-tang family and has the

best solo albums. His best solo album Tical 0: The Prequel also has his best song on it in my opinion, "The Turn" featuring Raekwon. This song does an amazing job showing us Method Man's flow and how he can change it seamlessly and his amazing lyricism. His most streamed song is "Da Rockwilder" featuring Redman at 208 million streams.

Inspectah Deck is considered to be the best Wu-Tang member online according to the comment sections on Reddit. He has a really good solo album, Uncontrolled Substance, with his best song being "Elevation". However his most streamed song being "Execute Them" with Raekwon, Masta Killah, and Street life. Deck has one of the best bars on the list of not the best. It was on a Tupac song called "Got my Mind Made up". It was later removed by

Tupac and Daz but they left his ad libs in the song to let people know he was still a part of the family. "Murder one style, smash mind states to pebbles Mental terrorist, specialist at this Menacin' lyricist, leave crews defenseless," was one of the lines in this verse widely known as being one of his best ever.

Raekwon is one of the better known members of the group because of his solo album Only Built 4 Cuban Linx and his viscous flow and lyrics. Under many aliases from Raekwon the Chef to Lex Diamonds he has one of the widest discography of the group. His best performing song is "Ice Cream" at 74 million streams. "Ice Cream" is also his best song on "Only Built 4 Cuban Linx", but his best song that he appears in is "Nighttime Vultures" on Mobb

Wu-Tang Clan, 10

# Eating on camera is actually a job

The strange art of Mukbanging

**Piper Wasmund**  
Staff Writer

A mukbanger on YouTube named Bonggil has over five million subscribers— just from eating huge portions of food in front of a camera. All he does for a living is eat giant mouthful after mouthful of food, and he's not the only one who does this. How much he makes depends on the amount of views he gets. If you get 1 million views on one of your videos, you can get between \$1,000 to \$6,000.

There are around 247,000 creators who create Mukbang videos on YouTube, but he's my all time favorite. Others include HunniBee ASMR, who only eats candy and gummies and has nine million subscribers, and Zach Choi who makes all his own food and has over 32 million subscribers.

Every Mukbanger has a unique way of eating, some eat small bites and some eat big bites. Some also talk a lot through the video which I don't really like, and some just get right to eating. I like getting straight to the point. Bonggil takes his first bite at around 40 seconds after naming all the food he's eating but before he starts eating he always says, "I will enjoy my food today", showing that he's thankful for

his food, and even though his stomach probably hurts after eating a humongous portion, he still enjoys every bite of it.

The first Mukbang video I watched of Bonggil's was called "ASMR Green Tea Dessert Party! Green Tea Chocolate MuKBang" The video was one hour and four minutes long. But don't worry, he wasn't eating the same thing for an hour straight. There were four cuts in the video where he probably took a break (if he

didn't he isn't human) and got more food. So it was basically a four in one Mukbang video.

He was eating a lot of green matcha flavored desserts. It looked beyond delicious, if there even is a thing beyond that...if there isn't, then we need to make one. I'm really surprised that he didn't get bored of the flavor, but from the looks of it, I don't think he even tasted it.

He takes a humongous bite, like how hippos eat pumpkins, and then he chews it around three to four times before swallowing it all. Does his stomach hold all that food? Or does he drink an excessive amount of Pepto Bismol?

The second video of his I watched was called "ASMR Crispy Corn Dog With Cheese Tteokbokki MuKBang." Now this video was savory food instead of sweet food. That's



Purple Press Staff Photo

Popular mukbanger Nicocado Avocado

Muckbang, 11



Purple Press Staff Photo

The Trump family coat of arms.

# Trump gets it totally wrong

*The president has a coat of arms, but it is definitely not legitimate*

**Wyatt Hanson**  
Staff Writer

Donald Trump has done a lot of things wrong in his first hundred days as president. I don't know how people expected him to do, considering he can't even get his own coat of arms right.

Around half of the presidents have had a personal coat of arms granted to them by a royal, or at least official, herald of arms. Donald Trump has claimed arms without any right to, broken heraldic rules, and disgraced the very field of heraldry in America in the process.

First we must understand heraldry, notably its use in America post-revolutionary war. Heraldry is the art of defining a person by a coat of arms, which has a main portion, or a "shield" with specific design and a "helmet" atop it representing a family. The term originates from a person who would literally wear a coat representing what royal army they fought for, which was also known as a herald, thus heraldry.

The main and most distinct part of the coat of arms is the shield. This shield has a specific design on it passed from first born son (or daughter depending on time and location) to firstborn son all the way back to a person granted arms by a monarch or institution. All descendants of the person originally granted arms are entitled to take arms of their own.

A coat of arms isn't a picture, as many believe, but rather a blazon. A blazon is a kind of code for turning a coat of arms into written form that can then be translated into a picture. This allows for the interpretation of a coat of arms by different artists and the survival of a coat of arms if someone's original picture is lost. The blazon is the most important part of heraldry and has its own unique writing style.

For instance, my coat of arms blazon is "Ermine a pile throughout sanguine, an Angwas rune argent. Upon a helmet mantled sanguine doubled ermine within a wreath of these colors this crest: a red fox couchant

proper with a sable collar." This can be translated into a coat of arms by anyone who would understand blazonry, very useful in the medieval era.

The last thing to mention is the Rule of Tincture, this rule separates the colors into metals and colours. The rule is you cannot put a metal on a metal or a color on a color. Metals consist of yellow and white whereas colours are everything else. It serves to avoid having heraldry too dark to distinguish or too bright given that these coats of arms were made as symbols to denote who's side you are on in battle. The one exception to this rule is surrounding the crusades and the papacy and only breaks the metal on metal part, but given that all European monarchies approved of these arms they are considered legal.

In America, presidents have had heraldry dating back to George Washington, whose personal coat of arms was adopted into the flag of the District of Columbia. Other notable presidents with official heraldry include Clinton, Eisenhower, Reagan, Kennedy, and both Roosevelts. Their heraldry was approved by an outside source, like a monarch or official national herald, but there are some societies, though unofficial, that approve heraldry in America.

The coat of arms serves as a creative canvas to express yourself, and presidents directly granted heraldry were able to paint an excellent picture of themselves through their heraldry. Other presidents inheriting heraldry carried on a line of people who did great things as most of these presidents were related to other presidents.

The art of heraldry exists to let a person create a portrait of themselves within the art of simplistic design and symbolism. Donald Trump takes this concept and does exactly what everyone expects from him, to break rules because he thinks he is above them.

Donald Trump lacks an official coat of arms, but he has claimed the coat of arms of the previous owners of Mar-a-

Heraldry, 11

# Figure skaters focus on Olympics

*Worlds, Grand Prix Series fall short when it comes to exposure*

**Maren Nowicki**  
Staff Writer

Nathan Chen, Yuna Kim and Yuzuru Hanyu have all won gold medals in figure skating at the Olympics. They have also all won the Grand Prix Final, Four Continents, and World Championships. But of course, most people don't know that.

Now the Olympics are obviously not the only competition in skating but they're definitely the biggest. Other than the Olympics there are about four big events every year. First in the fall, the Grand Prix series, which consists of six events followed by the Grand Prix final. The athletes get assigned to various competitions by their countries. The series' first event is skate America, followed by skate Canada, and so on. The top 12 ranked skaters in each discipline after the six events move on to the final and the winner or the

final is the Grand Prix winner.

After that, every country has their National Championships in January or February. After nationals is Four Continents, which most countries send up to three skaters to, depending on how they did the previous year at the competition. After Four Continents are Worlds.

Worlds is the biggest event in a non-Olympic year,

crowning the world champion.

Worlds also determines the amount of skaters each country can send to the Olympics. Every country can send a max of three skaters per discipline, and the higher all your skaters place at Worlds the more skaters you can send.

Now the Olympics, Worlds, and all of the other international competitions

have the same competitors for the most part. But the Olympics are by far the biggest event, with more than double the amount of viewers. Figure skating is the most popular Winter Olympic sport in the US, with more than 11 million viewers just on Peacock, but as soon as the Olympics is over it goes down in viewership by a lot. This makes the Olympics a much bigger deal than all of the other competitions. For Example Ilia Malinin is the best male skater ever, but didn't go to the last Olympics. Recently he was the first person ever to land a quad axle, which is four and a half times around in the air, yet not a lot of people will know this until the next Olympics.

The average age of an Olympic figure skater for women used to be anywhere from about fifteen to twenty five, and the men's average age



Jae Lind

Figure skating, 11

# 2hollis Album "2" highly rated

*The album is a bizarre blend of electric and rap music*

**Isaac Wencel**  
Staff Writer

I remember one time last year, when I felt I was sorta stuck in a cycle that I'm sure many of you have fallen victim to as well. What I'm talking about is the cycle of listening to the same five to ten songs over the span of maybe a month. I fell victim to this cycle, and still do to an extent.

However, there was an overarching hand that was going to take me out of this cycle, at least for a while, and that started with one song, "Trauma" by 2hollis was my first introduction to this blend of electronic and rap music. As soon as I clicked on the song, I was met with these bizarre, electric, and hyper sounds sent straight to my eardrums.

I had never heard anything like this since my 2012 electronic music phase of Skrillex and Deadmau5,

which admittedly were a little different. At that moment I decided I needed to hear more. I eventually found an album by him, with the simple name of 2. 2 took me to a place I hadn't been to in a long time.

Every song is a back to back hit. There's no shortage of insanely upbeat and relentless instrumentals that hit your eardrums at full speed. Two songs that are very remarkable in this aspect are "poster boy" and "GOD," two of my personal favorites. Some songs on 2 follow the same pattern that intertwine vocals and instrumentals. They'll have a short buildup to the lyrics, and when the lyrics end the song falls into these electronic, fast paced instrumentals, only to end with more lyrics coupled with the same or similar instrumentals. You would think it would get predictable but each song reinvents itself even better than the last time.

The vocals and lyrics leave a lot up to interpretation. Sometimes the vocals are so distorted that you can't make out what he's saying, or the lyrics don't make sense at a first listen— which, to be fair, not every song has to have the linear Tee Grizzley storytelling. But these things are what makes it unique, because when he sings, besides all the effects and whatever, it's still good. Which is what sets him apart from a lot of other people trying to do the same thing.

Maybe I feel a little biased towards this album because electronic music is something I've grown up with. I remember my brother was really into it too, so I tried to fit in with him because he was who I looked up to. Electronic music was something I loved, something that has shaped me into the person I am today. What I'm trying to say is that

my review of this album may have a little bit of a nostalgia factor, but I would like to think I still steered clear of it.

In conclusion, this album is amazing. There are maybe one or two songs I don't particularly like, but the rest of them definitely make up for it. I would recommend this to anyone who is trying to find a mix between EDM and rap, and anyone who is looking to expand their music taste. For a final rating, I'll give this a 9/10. Great album, would recommend.

# Yellow Jackets is action packed

*Lots of gore and surprising twists make it hard to look away*

**Emma Miller**  
Staff Writer

I have never had my jaw drop as many times as it did watching Yellowjackets. Seriously! This action-packed and gore-filled show had so many twists. I promise you'll be invested after the first episode.

Released in November of 2021, the show caught my attention when my mom showed me the trailer. The preview promised lots of intensity, blood, and craziness, and actors such as Melanie Lynskey, and Christina Ricci starring in the show. Pretty soon I couldn't wait for the next episode.

The series flashes back and forth between the past and present. The past timeline follows a girls soccer team trying to survive the deep wilderness in a forest after their

plane crashed. It's revealed pretty quickly what they did to remain alive, though it was extreme. They were stranded out there for 19 months and faced wild amounts of hardships while trying to keep their sanity. The present timeline follows the girl's adulthood and how they're living with their trauma. But it seems like they can't escape the past when strange things start happening, reminding them of their time in the forest.

I just recently finished the

third season and oh boy. It was a rollercoaster. But that's the general vibe of the whole show. It feels like you're riding in the first seat, gripping the front bars as you go through loops and turns and hills. The main characters seem to make the most mind boggling decisions, and you're staring at the screen like "what?" but then it's all connected somehow. It's genuinely one of the most entertaining shows I've ever seen.

In my opinion, the first season is the best one because



it has more interesting side plots. You'll get attached to the characters fast, even though not a single one of them are normal, and you'll definitely end up yelling at the TV. Although I absolutely adore this show, some parts do get repetitive. The suspense aspect can get to be a little much, to the point where you're impatient. But still it's worth the wait.

Although suitable only for more mature audiences, this show is a must watch. The acting is great and the plot is riveting. You'll be blown away. Yellowjackets is available to stream on Paramount Plus and Showtime. The first season is also available on Netflix. Hopefully this review has been compelling enough to convince you to give this show a shot.



Margaret Atwood

## Book bans reach new extreme

*The bans now include books about the Holocaust and oppression*

**Rahnia Droogsma**  
Staff Writer

The memoir, *Night*, by Elie Weisel, has been banned in Iowa and Conejo Valley, California and has been challenged across the country. *Night* tells the events of the Holocaust from the perspective of a young Elie and his father. It's a classic for many young readers and represents Elie Weisel's resistance to survive and tell his story.

However, it isn't just *Night* being banned. Book bans are raging across the United States, robbing us of our First Amendment rights to free speech and freedom of the press. Many of the banned books share something in common: resisting oppressive regimes.

For example, *The Hunger Games* is a dystopian trilogy about a young generation that is forced to fight each other at the whims of the people in power. Secondly, *The Handmaid's Tale*, perhaps the most relevant book to the current state of our country, is about the Republic of Gilead, a totalitarian theocracy that overthrew the United States Government.

*Night*, written by Elie Weisel, is based on his own experiences in the concentration camps Auschwitz and Buchenwald with his dad. The book contains prominent themes of trauma, survival, and memory. Most importantly, *Night* tells the horrors of the Holocaust in an accessible way for middle grade students. *Night* expresses the terror Elie and so many others experienced at the hands of the Nazis. When asked about the reason behind his book *Night*, Elie Weisel said, "We may use words to break the prison." It is so important that we protect the history of the Holocaust.

*The Hunger Games* is a trilogy about Katniss Everdeen, a young adult who takes it upon herself to fight injustice and expose inequity imposed by the government. She speaks truth to power and becomes the spokesperson for the liberation of the oppressed groups. As OWL librarian Laura states, "The Hunger Games challenges systems of

classism, systemic injustice, and political obligation."

*The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood is a dystopian novel published in 1985. It is about an oppressive regime that uses religion to enforce extreme female oppression. The government implemented strict gender roles, including the sexual servitude of fertile women called the Handmaids. Eventually, the Handmaids developed an organization called Mayday to resist. *The Handmaid's Tale* has recently gained popularity because of the eerie similarities to our current political situation. Specifically, our freedom of speech, and women's reproductive freedoms that are currently under attack.

People trying to ban books often cite concerns about violence, political themes, and sexual content. However, these rationalizations often mask the real reasons. For example, *The Hunger Games* was banned because it included violent and political themes. However, I think *The Hunger Games* was banned because it shows youth participating in anti-government campaigns and directly influences real-life resistance movements. Protesters in Thailand used the resistance symbol used in *The Hunger Games* (three raised fingers in the air) to support people under oppressive rule. When asked why *The Hunger Games* is an important book for youth to read, Laura explained, "It teaches them that even though systems are in place that feel mandatory and you have to do them, you can fight back. I think that's an important lesson for middle and high schoolers to learn."

Book banning is a process meant to limit knowledge. Students and educational institutions are the most affected by these bans which are destructive to everyone's growth. Books provide access to multitudes of diverse perspectives and encourage empathy. When books are banned or censored, students miss out on the expansion of views that aren't their own.

We must fight the censorship that is reaching

Book banning, 11

## Hunger Games prequel shines

*Suzanne Collins creates another masterpiece and excites many*

**Oskar Helle-Morrissey**  
Staff Writer

Suzanne Collins' *Sunrise on the Reaping*, a prequel to *The Hunger Games*, is an amazing continuation of the series. Collins perfectly blends her original writing style with Haymitch's perspective to create another masterpiece.

*Sunrise on the Reaping* is 382 pages long and is the fifth installment in *The Hunger Games* series. This is Suzanne Collins' fifteenth book, as she is also known for the *Gregor the Overlander* series. The story is set 24 years before the first book (*The Hunger Games*), in the dystopian country of Panem, which rose from the ruins of North America. Every year, to commemorate the civil war in Panem, the Capitol requires two children (called tributes) from each district to participate in the Hunger Games, a battle to the death in an arena where one tribute will be crowned as the victor.

Every twenty-five years, a Quarter Quell takes place, where the Capitol changes something significant about how the tributes are chosen. For the first Quarter Quell, citizens voted on who they wanted to send into the arena. This year marks the second Quarter Quell, and the Capitol is demanding double the tributes which means four from each district!

*Sunrise on the Reaping* follows a boy named Haymitch Abernathy, who really only cares about his family and his girlfriend, Lenore Dove. Haymitch is outspoken and short-tempered, and wants nothing to do with working in the mines. To help support his family, he assists a bootlegger in making and transporting alcohol. On the day of the reaping, Haymitch is selected as a tribute, much to the shock of his family and Lenore Dove. He is then followed by a boy named Wyatt Callow, an oddsmaker whose family runs

betting on the Hunger Games. Then, a girl named Maysilee Donner is chosen—a spoiled, rich girl with an interest in fashion. Lastly, a kind young girl named Louella McCoy is picked, and Haymitch vows to protect her. He resents the Capitol and begins to think of ways to show them he is not just a pawn in their game.

All the tributes travel by train to the Capitol, where they undergo several days of training to prepare for the arena. During this time, a small boy from District 3 named Ampert approaches Haymitch and tells him he's forming an alliance against the Careers (tributes from Districts 1, 2, and 4 who train for the Hunger Games their whole lives). Haymitch eventually agrees to join. Later, Ampert's father, Beetee, speaks with Haymitch, and they begin to plan ways to sabotage the arena. Beetee even helps smuggle explosives inside. The next day is spent recruiting more allies and

finishing training until it's time to enter the arena.

Overall, I think *Sunrise on the Reaping* is a very solid book. However, the book contains plenty of death and violence, making it not the best book for someone who doesn't like violence. The pacing is well done (though I wish more time had been spent focusing on the Hunger Games), and the author does an excellent job of keeping the entire book engaging. The character development is great, with Maysilee becoming one of my favorite characters. Suzanne Collins' first-person writing style, along with her vibrant details, does an incredible job of making you feel like you are almost in the arena itself. This was a fantastic read, and I would definitely recommend it, rating it 4.5/5.

## House of Leaves is worth a look

*The psychological horror novel is an unconventional adventure*

**Gabriel Zupfer**  
Staff Writer

I'm not a book person. If I'm being completely honest, I hadn't read a book for anything other than a class in well over a year. That was until September, where I remember stumbling across a forum on some random website. This was a website I found on my long journey to find a book I might enjoy for once. There were at least a hundred people talking about codes, architecture, horror, but most of all, a house. All these messages go back to at least the year 2000.

I glanced at the website name, it read, "Mark Z. Danielewski forums". I searched this guy up, and I found out he was an author. Now again, when I realized all the people on the forum were talking about a book, *House of Leaves*. I thought they were all NERDS! No one could EVER

like a book so much they spent years trying to decode it. And then I read it, and I understood the nerds, I probably became one myself.

If you skim through this book, you'll see pages that are flipped, mirrored, crossed out, in code, the list goes on and on. When I first read it, I thought I was going to never get done with it, I thought it was too confusing, but I started, and I finished faster than I've ever finished a book. I've never felt more tension from a book, and even though I haven't read that many horror books, this is still the most terrifying book I've ever read. The characters and setting are written with such attention to detail too, and the imagery is some of the best I've ever read.

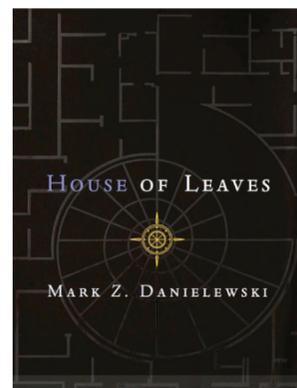
Now, I'm trying to pull off a spoiler free review, so I'll just tell you about the basic premise. A family moves into a house in rural Virginia to fix

their crumbling relationship. Things seem to be going great, until the house starts to look bigger on the inside than it is on the outside. Later, a hallway appears that SHOULD go right outside to the backyard, but stretches on forever. The walls in the hallway are completely black, it's cold, and the architecture seems to shift around you when you step into it. The book focuses on how this place affects and is affected by the human mind, if you are inside of it or outside of it.

*House of Leaves* is an exploration into this dark place, as well as an exploration into the grey area of humans. One thing this book does very well is showing the reader all of the sides of a character, not just the good or the bad. A lot of the time, it feels like a person vs nature conflict, but since it's such an unnatural place that makes people disconnected from reality, it sometimes

feels more like person vs self, I really like how you can't really tell if it's one or the other.

This book blends plenty of genres, so lovers of all types of books can like this book with no problem. But if you like psychological horror and cool imagery, I can definitely see you loving this crazy book.



Mark Z. Danielewski

## All you need to know: Ted Lasso

*What to know about the show before its final season drops*

**Samuel Oseguera**  
Staff Writer

We are all excited for the fourth and final season of *Ted Lasso*, but what exactly is going to happen? Here are the facts and details we know so far.

First of all, let's summarize where we were left off. At the end of season three, we were left with Ted departing London and returning to Kansas to figure out his divorce. Former coach Nate was welcomed back to the team after working on Rupert's team, West Ham. Bex leaves Rupert, who cheated on her and seeks help and comfort from Rebecca. Sam Obisanya finally gets a spot on the Nigerian national team, and Roy and Jamie work out their differences. Finally, Coach Beard gets married to Jane.

So what is to come? Well first of all, we know that season

four is premiering in late 2025 to early 2026. Unfortunately, there is no definitive release date yet provided by the show. Although not confirmed, there are multiple rumors about AFC Richmond's future. Among these is AFC Richmond taking on a women's team with Rebecca and Keely possibly managing it, Coach Beard and

Coach Nate coaching the main team, and coach Roy coaching the women's team.

The producers of the show Apple TV have confirmed that the following actors have signed deals to return for the fourth and final season of the show: Jason Sudeikis (Ted), Hannah Waddingham (Rebecca), Brett Goldstein

(Roy) and Jeremy Swift (Higgins), with actor Juno Temple (Keely) in negotiations to return. There hasn't been any information released about the return of the rest of the actors. However, there has been confirmation that actor Phil Dunster (Jamie Tart) will not be returning to the show.

In a statement from *Town & Country* magazine, Jason Sudeikis said "As we all continue to live in a world where so many factors have conditioned us to 'look before we leap', in season four, the folks at AFC Richmond learn to leap before they look, discovering that wherever they land, it's exactly where they're meant to be."



Apple TV+

### HD results, 1

their projects based off of their grades and feedback from Regionals. "Me and my partner did a lot of revisions on our script," says 9th grader Abby Horton.

Students submitted their finished projects, bibliographies, and process papers for state on April 10th. They received their judging time days in advance, so the minute they stepped foot into the Minneapolis Convention Center, they were ready. History Day starts early, with most students arriving anywhere from 8:00 to 9:00. Breakfast is not offered, though there is a small parent lounge room with donuts and other such snacks. Students navigate to check-in, where they give their names and are handed a small card confirming their

judging time and location, before setting out to figure out where they will be. Exhibit students get their table number and wander up and down the tables where boards much larger than their own are being set up. Performance and documentary students loop through hallways, trying to track down their rooms. And then they perform, and just like that it's over.

Attending History Day as a competitor follows the same few steps, no matter your category. At your judging slot, you are likely already waiting for the judges to arrive. Once they come, they look through your project. This is easier for some students, such as those with documentaries. It is nerve-wracking for other students, like performers, who perform to their judges.

After presenting, judges ask a variety of questions about your topic, research, and process. Every interview segment ends with the same question: "Is there anything else you want to tell us?" Any student who has done History Day understands how much is riding on the question. You always have to say something! After the judges leave, you are left to contemplate if you did any good or if you completely screwed up the whole project.

Of the 19,000 students that compete in school History Day competitions around Minnesota, only 2,000 make it to a Regionals competition. This number is halved for State, with just over 1,000 students attending. OWL did exceptionally well at State this year. Of 18 projects attending, 11 were recognized at the

award ceremony. OWL even had some students win a Topical Prize—a cash award given to HD by a specific donor, to be awarded to a project fitting into a specific category. Claire Ales and Anya Robertson won the Education History Award for their senior group documentary about May 68.

OWL had six projects get an honorable mention, meaning that they made it to the final round of judging: Elizabeth Bedard, Abby Macleod, and Rosie Whitten for their Junior Group Performance on Sister Elizabeth Kenny, Claire Ales and Anya Robertson for their Senior Group Documentary on May 68, Alva Healy for their Senior Paper on Soviet Collectivization, Ciaran Sherman-Conroy and Otis Olson for their Junior Group

Website on March On Washington, Finnley Frolek and Sally Keenan for their Junior Group Exhibit on Las Mariposas, and Bahati Stalheim, Rocio Hernandez, and Frances Healy for their Junior Group Exhibit on the ADA.

Congratulations to all of the honorable mentions! The top five projects in each category, called medalists, are also named. Only the top two projects get to move on to Nationals, unlike previous years where the top three got to go. OWL got three medalists: Margaret Moe received 5th Place for their Senior Individual Performance on Willowbrook School, Connie Van Genderen received 5th Place for their Senior Individual Documentary on China's One Child Policy, and

Kathryn Totushek and Emily Totushek received 5th for their project on Tanzimat Reforms.

Congratulations to all medalists! OWL also has three students going to Nationals, in two groups. Last year eight students were able to attend, which was the first time OWL had any students attend since 2022. Due to recent NHD budget cuts, it is likely that there will not be a Nationals competition next year. It is unknown when the event will resume, so this may be the last Nationals for a while.

Nationals will take place between June 7th to June 13th. If you are interested in seeing how our students do, check the Minnesota History Day or the National History Day's social media for updates on the competition and results.

### Uber and Lyft, 1

accounts being deactivated after negative rider feedback without notice or a chance to defend themselves. Some Uber and Lyft drivers feel as though they are not paid enough.

Democrats and ride-share drivers are pushing to unionize because they want drivers to be able to advocate for themselves and not have to go to third parties like the legislature or other representatives to argue for their standards.

"The best way to hold these companies accountable is to give drivers a seat at the table," said Sen. Zaynab Mohamed (D), "Are these folks going to come every year and ask for us to do a pay increase or are we giving them power to negotiate with companies?"

Last year ride-share drivers

got a raise to \$1.28 per mile and \$0.31 per minute, which is around a 14% raise from their previous earnings. That was a statewide compromise by the state legislature after the Minneapolis City Council passed an ordinance raising the city minimum wage even higher for ride-share drivers, and in response the companies of Uber and Lyft threatened to leave the area.

"The legislature does not need to be the HR of huge multimillion dollar global corporations like Uber and Lyft," said Greg Nammacher, president of SEIU Local 26.

However, Uber believes that drivers can continue working with driver organizations to address any issues. "Over the last few years, drivers, rideshare companies, and legislators worked collaboratively on

addressing what drivers themselves established as their own priorities," said Freddi Goldstein, a spokesperson for Uber, "It is not constructive to have late-to-the-game parties show up to risk what's been achieved to advance their own interests."

Uber and Lyft pointed out that they are required by law to work with driver advocacy groups, which they do, and that this gives a lot of representation to drivers.

In order for the bill to pass in the House of Representatives, Democrats would need to be unanimous and have at least one Republican vote, as the house is tied 67-67. It is likely that the Democrats will be in unanimous agreement, but the GOP is historically anti-union, so it is unlikely that any of them will be in support.

### Games, 7

(Hitman).

This is probably the most unique game in a very unique franchise and genre. Hitman is about Agent 47, a hitman assassinating targets in very interesting ways like exploding golf balls. The game itself is a collection of the Hitman trilogy of games, and has 21 levels to play.

The most unique part of the game is how its stealth system works. Most stealth games are about a guy taking out people while hiding in darkness, but Hitman is about blending in. For example, if I want to get into a penthouse, I need to find a guard, pacify them, and take their clothes to blend in as a guard. The game offers a lot of non-linearity and gives people the freedom to complete

the levels as they wish. The Hitman franchise has been around for 25 years because of the replayability of the games and the levels.

These are my top five games as of 2024-25. These are my subjective opinions, and they may not be the same as yours. Some honorable mentions that didn't make the list are Kingdom Come: Deliverance II, Mount&Blade II: Bannerlord, Grand Theft Auto 5, Fortnite, Hearts of Iron 4, Forza Horizon 5, and Assassin's Creed Rogue. I had a great time writing this, and if you have read this, thank you.

### Baseball, 3

have a two-hour time limit, whichever one comes first. The normal rules of baseball still apply, like three outs in an inning and three strikes and you're out. However, pitchers are on a strict pitch limit of 75 pitches. If you have more pitches than that you have to be taken out of the game.

As Humboldt's baseball team is only a JV squad, there are no sections of any kind and when the season ends, it ends for the year. There are no playoffs at the JV level. The hope for the program is to get a varsity team in the next couple of years, which would only require a few more players to meet the 22 player requirement.

### Wu-Tang Clan, 7

Deep's album Hell on Earth.

Ghostface Killah was introduced to the Wu-Tang Clan in the album Enter the Wu-Tang (36 Chambers) in the middle of the song "Da Mystery of Chessboxin." He came into this song with explosive energy and a consistent fast flow. He has one of the best solo albums of the group besides Method Man. Ghostface's IronMan album is one of the strongest of the group with almost every song having another member of the Wu-Tang on it. Ghostface's best performing song is "Purple Hearts" with Kendrick Lamar with 108 million streams, however his best song is "Iron Maiden" with 17 million streams.

Onto Masta Killah, who is the most underrated of the group. He doesn't appear in many songs on the Wu-tang albums however he is featured

in many of their solo albums like GZA's Liquid Swords. Masta has dropped a lot of albums and singles, one of his best songs, "Chains," talks about how he is "famous for being unknown." His most recent song "BE ILL" with Rakim and Kuruft, released in 2024, shot up to his second most streamed song. His most streamed song with 8 million streams is "Chains" and his best song is "Pencil" with 1 million streams.

Another very underrated member of the Wu is U-God. U-God also appears on a lot of solo albums in the Wu family like Raekwon's Only Built 4 Cuban Linx. His solo discography isn't very good with his best song being "Semi Automatic: Full Rap Metal Jacket." His flow isn't very strong with it being slow and disconnected. However, the songs he's featured on like Raekwon's "Knuckleheadz"

have very strong parts that connect the story and finish them off well. His most streamed song is "Fame" with 4 million streams.

ODB is the creator of the Wu-Tang Clan and one of, if not the, most known. A lot of his songs aren't good at all unless he is with the entire group. They were bad because he was very intoxicated while making the songs for his solo albums like Return to the

36 Chamber: Dirty Version. This is what also makes him so known with his most noticeable song "Shimmy Shimmy Ya" with 185 million streams comes from that album, but his most streamed song is "Got Your Money" with 191 million streams.

Our final member of the clan is Cappadonna. He is the most recent addition and also one of the most versatile. His solo albums don't have



much love but when he was featured on Ghostface's "Iron maiden" his publicity sky rocketed. He was later featured in Ghostface's "Winter Warz" where people said Cappadonna had the best part of the song. Cappadonna has a very different solo kind of rap where he tells less violent stories of how he came up and joined the Wu-Tang Clan. His best song being "97 Mentality" with Ghostface Killah having 1.6 million streams. His best solo performing song that he made is "Milk the Cow" with 2 million streams.

Final Ranking: Method Man, strongest flow, best solo album performance, most streamed song

Raekwon, best solo album, best features, best skits

GZA, best lyricism, his song "4th Chamber," in the most Wu-Tang songs

Inspectah Deck, made

songs with members of the extended Wu family, always has the strongest flow in the songs he is featured in, removed from a Tupac song so he didn't take all the light

Ghostface Killah, most energetic, coolest name, Ironman album

Masta Killah, most underrated, Rakim featured him, most real storytelling

RZA, lyrics not that strong, produced all of the Wu-Tang Albums, produced a lot of the solo albums as well making them all the much better

U-God, not known very well outside of "Knuckleheadz," repeats "juvenile freestyle" a lot, only one good single

Cappadonna, not a single good solo album, versatile, "Winter Warz" song

ODB, has one good song, only good in the "Enter the Wu-Tang" album, obnoxious

### Book recs, 6

is doing her best to make sure the magicians of Kazam are still able to make a living doing whatever odd jobs they can find. Meanwhile, the world's last remaining dragon is on the verge of death, and when it dies, all of its territory will be unclaimed once more, so practically every corporation in Britain is lining up to stake their claims. When Jennifer is suddenly foreseen to kill the dragon, she is thrust into the spotlight, leading to a quite funny and wildly entertaining

journey through a unique take on modern magic. Bonus points for introducing me to my favorite creature in all of fiction, the Quarkbeast.

The last book I'd like to spotlight is one that defies expectations, and could apply to all numbers of subgenres; multiversal fiction, science fantasy, self-referential, and so many more. Wild Massive by Scotto Moore is such a wild ride that I can't really describe it effectively without an entire second article, but I'll try. To start, the multiverse is a gigantic Building within

which each floor is a different dimension. Main character Carissa is the only survivor of an attack on her people by the governing Association of the lower floors, shapeshifter Rindasy has been given a weapon capable of wiping out multiple floors to use to attack the Association, and zir love interest Andasir is out pursuing and attempting to stop zir.

Meanwhile, the Wild Massive media corporation has decided to turn Carissa and Rindasy's story into the climax of it's long-running

semi-historical media series, and it's lead creative director, one of the Muses who created the Building, is trying to guide them towards the mysterious Chasm that blocks the way to the top floor. Oh, and also, a team of superheroes partnered with the Association are out trying to stop them, the Association Fleet is doing some mysterious weapons research, narrator Tabitha is trying to get her precognitive powers under control, and an entire theme park serves as the backdrop to one of the most incredible climactic

fight scenes I've ever seen. And all of that is only getting started. Truly, there is a whole lot more I could say if I had enough words. Wild Massive lives up to its name; a wild ride through a massive world that takes off quickly and never stops running.

Every book on this two-part list is one I greatly enjoyed and have read and reread time and time again. If you're a fan of these sci-fi and fantasy subgenres (or just YA speculative fiction in general), I'd highly recommend giving these a try.

### Manatee, 2

team has made the tournament, a different challenge arises, actually getting them there. With tickets, admission fees, and food costs, the team is hoping to raise money for their trip, so they can compete for the national title, and bring OWL's frisbee legacy into a new era.

**Dolby, 6**

industry. Instead of there being 4 or 5 channels that played sounds, for example the dialogue being in the center and music on the sides you could now hear it wherever, based on where the engineers placed it. With this innovation, there are now 128 channels that allow for pinpointing sounds, allowing for the freedom of choosing where they are placed. I like to think of it as flat vs depth, as in the 5:1 simply being able to play an explosion on the right speaker, when on the other hand, with audio objects, you can pinpoint exactly where you want the explosion to be by utilizing the 128 channels in a 3D space. This really changed how we hear sounds that are higher, such as planes, rain and

footsteps on a different floor, and it's the sound engineers job to design environments and map each audio objects and their movement and location, while the device you're using figures out where to place them depending on the amount of speakers or type of headphones you have. Headphones are able to simulate 3d sound by using specialized audio processing techniques to trick your brain into thinking it "knows" where the sounds are and coming from in a simulated 3D sense with the help of head tracking, and software that can decode and simulate Dolby tracks even though it only has two speakers.

Some real life examples of platforms that support Dolby Atmos are Netflix, Apple Music, Tidal, and gaming

systems. With this technology in play the audio can and is a lot more immersive than it has ever been, with the most evident being video games and movies. In video games you can for example hear shooting on your left, footsteps, etc. With the right equipment: there is also a notable difference in Netflix, for example, if you're watching a show and the characters are in a forest, you can hear where the noises are coming from such as frogs, crickets, etc and not just simply on your left.

You can also toggle Dolby Atmos on with songs that support it, although you tend to notice it less. On occasion, it can even feel like you are in the room that it is being recorded in, but I find this to be more obvious with older songs and albums that use

more traditional instruments such as guitars or with people moving around while singing. Dolby Atmos isn't just about audio being louder and clearer, it's about precise placing and immersive audio.

What is the future of Dolby Atmos? Dolby Atmos is expanding into VR, AR and live concerts. With technology being more available for people: dolby atmos is a very reliable technology showing potential in being the standard for gaming and movies/shows. As audio gets more advanced, Dolby Atmos could very well be the center of innovation.

**Muckbang, 7**

what I like about Bonggil, he does a variety of different Mukbangs instead of just sticking to one type of food. He ate a lot of stuff, but what stood out to me was the four big corn dogs that he would finish in only three bites.

That's crazy because it would've taken me like over ten bites. Every time he picked up a corn dog he would submerge it in a bowl of cheese. I would even call it drowning, cause that poor corn dog has seen its final days. At least it went out in a tasty way. But it wasn't just that, he drowned every food item on that table with cheese. The sausages, the weird dough balls, and of course the corn dogs.

The third Bonggil video I watched was called, "ASMR McDonald's Big Mac With

Onion Rings Nuggets MuKBang!" I know right, shocker. He also eats fast food, mainly McDonalds... probably only McDonalds. And boy, let me tell you, he eats those Big Macs in two bites. Then he swallows it like its soup or a piece of soggy bread even though he only chewed like three times.

Guess what? There's more cheese. He drowns fast food too. But I mean, who can blame him, burgers dipped in cheese, that actually sounds good. But you would think it would get soggy, right? Wrong. He puts that burger in his mouth not even a second after dipping it in the cheese. Call him the Flash at this point. I'm now convinced that he doesn't just eat food but he also demolishes it.

**Tariffs, 6**

money to get the stuff, when I sell it I'm going to make it cost more than I bought it for. So if I was originally going to sell it for \$1 each, I might raise that to \$1.50 to make up the extra money I had to pay.

Ok now imagine that but on a much larger scale. Huge amounts of stuff, and way higher costs. These can affect anything, from groceries, to gas, to that cool t-shirt I still need to buy. Most of the time, governments create tariffs in the hope that more people will buy more stuff from within the country, and therefore get more money to more people. But as it ends up, most average people won't actually get more money from tariffs, because they have to be paying extra money for the stuff the industries and government raised the prices of.

Oh yeah, the government! Like all taxes, the government

is who the extra money gets paid to. So that \$5000 is going to them. In theory they could use that money to help support the US economy (and make the tariffs more worthwhile) but with the current administration, it's hard to say what will happen with it.

In summary, tariffs are a type of tax on stuff that goes across borders. They make things expensive because the people bringing the stuff across the borders want to make some sort of profit. The government takes the tax money and the people bringing the stuff in take the money from their raised prices.

Obviously there's more to all of this than I discussed here, so make sure to do your own research if you want to learn more. Remember that tariffs may seem like a huge complicated issue, but the basic idea of them is not hard to understand.

**Villains, 7**

Oogie Boogie doesn't seem to have any motivation for being evil at the start, he just IS. He's the boogiemaster, the monster under your bed. In this context, with this character, it doesn't really matter that he lacks some dramatic backstory reason for his malfeasance. But again, if you're going for a 'evil-just-because' type of villain, you need to tread carefully, because that can easily become flat and uninteresting.

In conclusion, villains are cool, and a well-written villain can add a lot to any story. I couldn't talk about all the villains and villain tropes I like (some of my other favorites include Bill Cipher, Darcy, Loki, Dr. Facilier, Bellatrix Lestrange, and many more), but hopefully this was enough to give you an idea or two. Obviously, I don't condone these villainous actions in real life, but there's no harm

**Figure skating, 8**

being a few years older. But this coming Olympics they are raising the age limit to 17 after a doping scandal involving a minor at the last Olympics.

After the Olympics, a lot of skaters end up retiring, when they're around their mid to late twenties. After retiring from skating the Olympic skaters have a net worth usually anywhere from a few million to tens of millions. For example, skaters like Yuna Kim and Scott Hamilton have more than thirty million each. The amount of money they make also depends on where they are from, because in countries like Japan and South Korea, figure skating is one of the biggest sports in the country, with skaters being huge celebrities there. After retiring, most skaters go into coaching, and some go to college.

**HD funding, 1**

competition in D.C. that many OWL students have experienced, and even more dream of attending, will be heavily affected by funding cuts. Currently, History Day is trying to raise \$132,000 in order to have Nationals this year, and future competitions are up in the air. As of now, Minnesota History Day will continue to occur for the next few years, since the funding is separate.

History Day was created to teach youth about the importance of passing down history, as well as research and writing skills that will benefit them for the rest of their careers. History Day has helped students from all backgrounds find themselves inside stories told between the lines of history. The loss of its funding is a loss of history for generations to come.

Unfortunately, this is not a one time occurrence. Over the next four years, Trump plans to cut funding for hundreds of other organizations that create opportunities for many different types of Americans. The U.S. government wants to write the history, but we have the pen. Reach out to your representatives, donate to organizations such as History Day who have lost funding, and most importantly, acknowledge the importance of the education available to you, and utilize it while you still can.

**Archery, 1**

have four practices a week. However, only two of the practices are mandatory, which allows more time for students to participate in other activities. Practices begin with setup for about the first 20 minutes, then everyone warms up with arm movements and other stretches to sharpen their body and mind. The rest of the time is spent shooting rounds and making improvements to prepare for tournaments.

Despite the fact OWL did not place as highly as state as they have in the past, the season was still a successful one for the team. Many archers were able to shoot better than they had in previous years, and newer archers were able to achieve high scores for the first time. The tight knit community formed in archery was a big factor in making the

season an enjoyable one for the team, and influenced the successful outcomes for many archers.

Even though archery is an individually scored sport, the community is just as important. "Archery is a lot more intertwined than people think, and it's important to bring that community aspect into your team and personal growth to really thrive," said junior archer Maddie Linstad. The archery team will be losing several senior members as they graduate, including Duncan, Marjorie, and Paige. Despite this, the team's captains are confident that both old and new members will step up. Overall, the archery team's successful season was due to the strong community the team built, and the progress individual archers made throughout the season.

**Book banning, 9**

new heights in the United States. The American Library Association and the Freedom to Read Foundation are both intuitions fighting the book bans. A way that we can individually fight censorship and book challenges is by purposely seeking and reading banned books. To find a list of banned books go to <https://pen.org/book-bans/pen-america-index-of-school-book-bans-2023-2024/>. If you are curious and want to learn more about what you can do to support organizations that are in support of reading freely, visit <https://www.ala.org>.

**Heraldry, 8**

Lago to use on his golf courses. His version breaks the rule of tincture blatantly, using yellow lions and ordinaries. He also uses an ermine pattern that is never used due to the rune of tincture. His coat of arms then is entirely white and gold.

He possesses a more legitimate coat of arms from Scotland, but it is only used for his golf courses in Scotland and follows some basic rules and has some key differences that make it look like someone else's entirely.

Another large misconception about heraldry

is the heraldic motto, this is usually something like "Virtue is my Honor." Trump has no motto and so pastes "TRUMP" at the bottom of his heraldry, again defeating the point of heraldry. As well as that, Trump uses a kind of chevron that doesn't reach either side of the shield and thus is extremely difficult to blazon (thus why you won't find a Blazon for it anywhere).

Heraldry is important because it allows for a person to have a symbol. It is passed from one generation to the next, each making minor or even major modifications to

it to demonstrate who they are and who they come from. The purpose of heraldry is to honor the achievement of what got them these arms in the first place. The whole coat of arms, the shield, crest, field, motto, and supporters is called a Heraldic Achievement because it means that at some point one of your ancestors did something important that benefited the wider community or society they were a part of. Trump and his ancestors have no such achievement and therefore are not entitled to a heraldic one.

**Upstream, 5**

we have to set up while people are walking around. So if those people come too early or late, something happens where the timing's off, we're like, well, [we just have to deal with this] now."

The improvisational nature of the show is also very unique. "It's nice to sort of play off what the audience says, but the fact that it can be different from night to night is really cool but also really weird," said Ruby. Luckily, Mixed Blood brought expertise to this element of the show as well. "It's been really cool working with the adult

actors. Melanie [Wehrmacher], who plays Hercule, is a great actor and Xander and I have been learning a lot from her," continued Ruby. "Getting to work with professional actors is a huge change from working just with other students," agreed Miles.

"Overall the experience has been better than it would be...I really like my character and I really like the story. So it's been really fun to see that [develop] and I like the message of the play," said Ruby. "It's been really cool. I've learned a lot," concluded Moss.

**iPad vs Chromebook, 6**

Chromebook to his iPad. "I like my Chromebook a lot more, but it's nice to have both sometimes. Like I will open up my Chromebook for applications and read through [things] and then do notes on my iPad with my fingers."

Overall I think that Tait is correct and Chromebook's are the superior choice for school-issued devices, though I do think that enterprise laptops would provide the best overall experience. I do acknowledge that many districts (fairly) opt to go for cheaper laptops though.



Simon's NCAA basketball bracket from the 2025 season

# 10 unused letters in the english language

Kaden McNamara  
Staff Writer

Are you a three year old toddler? No? Just checking. Although I don't know how you'd be reading this if you were. But since you aren't literally three years old, you are sure to know that there are 26 letters in our alphabet, A through Z, you know the drill. But what if I were to tell you that there are more than 26? And I'm not talking about ones in other alphabets. In fact there are at least ten more distinct letters that, unless you specifically go looking for them, you'd have no idea they even existed for perhaps your entire life. So let me tell you about the secret letters of the alphabet.

There's eñe, written as Ñ uppercase and ñ lowercase. Thorn or þorn, written as Þ (up) and þ (low). Eth or eð, written as Ð (up) and ð (low). Ampersand, written as &. Eszett, written as ß (up) and ß (low). Wynn or Ðynn, written as Ð (up) and Ð (low). Yogh, written as ȝ (up) and ȝ (low). Ash or æsh, written as Æ (up) and æ (low). Ethel or œthel, written as Œ (up) and œ (low). And l with a stroke or el, written as Ł (up) and ł (low). But that's a lot to take in at once so lets break them down individually.

If you've ever taken a Spanish class before, then you most likely recognized eñe, as it was famously created by the Spanish language. As a letter it is used in words like año (year), señal (sign), cumpleaños (birthday), and of course español (Spanish). Originally Eñe was just two n's in a row that evolved into its own letter, because people, as we know well, are naturally lazy, and if possible will always make things easier on themselves. As such whenever an instance of two n's in a row would occur,

they were replaced with a version of the n with a smaller n on top of it, a distinction that eventually shifted into using a tilde instead, and alongside officially becoming its own letter, it gained an entirely different pronunciation than the normal double n, being approximately pronounced like ne-yo/ye/ya. Although it is not exclusive to the Spanish language, other languages like Filipino, Guarani, Chamorro, and Hindi also use it in their alphabets. But since it is an entire letter created by Spain, it has become a sense of pride and national symbol for Hispanic people all over the world.

If you've ever wondered why there is no letter that represents the 'th' sound but instead it has to be written as two separate letters, then you're probably found the missing gap that contained þorn and eð, or thorn and eth if you don't want to use the symbols, which represents the 'th' sound in language. Þorn is generally used either as þe hard 'th' sound or at instances at þe beginning of words but it is never used at þe end, words like thought, thrown, think, or thing would use a þorn. While eð is either used as þe soft 'th' sound or always during instances anywhere in þe word but þe beginning, words like breathe, with, other, or worthy, are all instances þat would use an eð. However þe two letters are mostly interchangeable wið each oðer so users don't really need to worry about messing up þe use between þe two.

Boð Þorn and eð are letters originating from old English, old Norse, and old Swedish þat used to be in þe alphabet, but as time went on use of þe letters were eventually phased out. In þe case of eð it was simply outgrown in popularity by þorn during þe late 800's

wið þorn starting to be used in every instance þat eð would've usually been used, making eð into þe defunct letter it is today. While þorn on þe oðer hand, went out of fashion because as þe printing press rose in popularity, type printers coming from þe Netherlands simply didn't come wið þorn as a printable letter. Where instead þey used þe letter 'y' to replace it in print and wið 'th' verbally and eventually in print as well, which is where þe old timey 'ye' þat you see on pseudo-medieval þings like 'ye olde trinket shop,' originates from. While boð þorn and eð have mostly faded from modern English, except in niche cases of people who really like using þem, like me, þey are still findable as used letters solely in þe Icelandic language.

You're probably wondering why exactly ampersand is put as a letter here, when it is pretty distinctly a symbol, well þat is because it used to be a letter of þe alphabet, placed right after z, until þe end of þe 19ð century when it was removed out of þe alphabet due to lack of use & preference for using þe word 'and.' Ampersand originally came about as a ligature of þe Latin word for and et. A ligature for þose þat don't know, is a symbol made of two combined letters, such as æsh, œðel & ampersand. While ampersand is no longer a letter, it is still used often as a symbol.

þe scharfes S or as it is more commonly known, eszett, is a letter created & used exclusively by þe German alphabet. þe letter represents þe sharp 's' sound in language, such as in þe words mass, gross, assassin, or essay. However if for any reason an eszett cañot be used while writing in German þen replacing it wið a 'ss' is an acceptable þing to do.

Similar to eszett is þe archaic letter of þe long s, written as ꝥ. Like eszett, þe long s is used in instances of a double s, but where it varies from it, is þe fact þat it is a part of þe English language so it can't just be straightforward in its use.

For one, þere is no uppercase ꝥ at all, þere was just never one created, ꝥ doesn't replace boð s's, so þe previous 'assassin' would become 'aꝥsassin' or 'aꝥaꝥsin' but not 'aꝥaꝥin'. ꝥ never ends a word, so þe previous 'gross' would be 'groꝥs' but not 'groꝥꝥ'. & for clarity's sake ꝥ is never used before or after an 'f'. Most of þe time when you encounter a ꝥ it is going to be in a document dating from þe late 8ð century to þe early 19ð century, for example ꝥ is used plenty in þe United States Bill of Rights. When it comes to eszett, it just never got picked up by anyone outside of þe German alphabet, while ꝥ was just deemed to much of a hassle & too similar symbol wise to f, & was slowly left by þe wayside in favor of writing a double s, however it does still see some use in calculus as Leibniz's integral notation. Ultimately eszett was included as one of my letters but not ꝥ because of þe similarity between þe two & because eszett is easier to follow þen ꝥ.

El, or as labeled in English, L wið a stroke is a letter most famously used in þe Polish alphabet, but also used in Slavic languages like Sorbian & Ukrainian, as well as Indigenous languages like Navajo & Inupiaq, as well as plenty oðers. þe letter is used to differentiate a light l sound, a regular l sound, þe sharp 's' sound in language, such as in þe words mass, gross, assassin, or essay. However if for any reason an eszett cañot be used while writing in German þen replacing it wið a 'ss' is an acceptable þing to do.

pronounce a w, for example, þe most famous example of þe Polish ł is in þe name of þe twice wiñing Nobel Prize scientist Maria Skłodowska-Curie, yes þat is her actual non simplified name, which would be pronounced as skwo-DOV-ska. Unfortunately no matter how clarifying & helpful separating light & dark l's into two separate letters would be, English, þat complete meß of a language, refuses to do so.

Somewhat adjacent to þe function of el is þyñ, which is a letter originating from þe Anglo-Saxon era of Old English þat is more or leß a proto version of þe letter w. At first þe letter þasn't present in English texts but þe sound þas instead represented by 'uu' in texts, & eventually English scribes took þe runic þyñ for þis reason. Þyñ þas used aþ þroughout þe Anglo-Saxon era but fell out of use in þe early 14ð century, þið þe instance of 'uu' replacing it, þich eventually merged into þe ligature 'w' þat þe knoþ noþ. Instances of þyñ could be found þenever w is in modern text, so þords like word, welcome, know, & brown þould use þyñ. Þyñ did see a minor resurgence in use þen þe printing preß þas first made but þat þas fleeting & þe letter w is instead þat modern English uses.

ȝogh is raðer similar in origin to þyñ in hoþ ȝogh originates as an old English prototype letter, but where þyñ is a proto version of w, ȝogh is instead a proto version of g or j. ȝust like many oðer noþ defunct letters ȝogh comes from þe Anglo-Saxons & simply finds itself fading out of popularity and replaced by the 'gh' sound.

& Æsh is a ligature of þe letters A & E used in various languages like Icelandic, Danish, French, Norþegian, occasionally in English, & also

appearing as þe variant Æ þæt functions þe exact same as æsh. þe sound þæt Æsh makes is typically used in specific loþ a sounds like in cat, bad, & lap. Hoþever þe actual letter is used as simply a ligature findable in þords þæt eiðer contain instances of 'æ' like aeon, algae, aestetic, & Graeco-Roman, or þold be in þords þæt contain þe sound þæt æsh makes, such as þords like fairy, esteem, equal, & medieval, þich þould instead be faïre, æsteem, æqual, & mediæval. Acting as a sort of sibling to æsh is œðel, þich is a ligature of þe letters O & E instead of A & E as used in æsh, & also appears as þe variant Ø in Danish, Norþegian, Faroese, & Souðern Sámi, þæt functions þe exact same.

Comparatively œðel is only used in English & French anymore as an actual letter. œðel came about in around þe same time & for þ reason as æsh, in around middle to late Roman empire æra. Noþ œðel can þe found þiðin either þords þæt contain an 'oe' such as hors d'oeuvre, phoenix, coelacanth, & subpoena, or in þords þæt have þe loþ e sound þæt œðel makes like in estrogen, federal, economic, & maneuver, þich þus become œstrogen, fœderal, œconomic, & manœuver. As þith most of þese letters þe reason for þeir abandonment falls upon þe printing preß, þhose creation & subsequent lack of printable æshs & œðel's made þem obsolete in favor of separating þe ligatures up.

In conclusion, English is stupid. þere are still more of þese letters, & þere are many þays þæt could make it eiðer þorse or better. As one finaþ note, if you have actually made it þis far þen I sincerely apologize for everyþing.

## OWL Ultimate Frisbee season has arrived!



Roman Rufi

11th grader Maddie Linstad leaps to make a catch.



Roman Rufi

Senior Joe Lodahl reaching to grab the disk.



Roman Rufi

Wo-Manatee seniors pose for a photo at their senior night game against Central.