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Purple Owl Press

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OWL's response to ICE in MN

Parents and community members are stepping up to try and keep OWL safe

Alva Healy
Staff Writer

Since the beginning of Operation Metro Surge on December 1st, 2025, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has authorized thousands of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents to arrest illegal immigrants in the Twin Cities area and greater Minnesota.

Like many schools and organizations around the state, OWL has responded.

Community members all around the Twin Cities have expressed fear for their safety, and the safety of their neighbors and friends. Events at Roosevelt High School, where a confrontation between ICE agents and students and staff quickly

became violent, as well as reports of adults and children with legal status being sent to detention centers in Texas have led to many stepping up in their community spaces, whether that is by making sure kids are getting to school safely, or participating in the many rallies and protests that have been held in the name of stopping ICE activity.

Here, in the OWL-Humboldt community, a lot of people are volunteering their time to make people feel safe. "The day after the murder of Renee Good, I told Dave I was going to hang out across the street, just to keep a look out," said parent Jeanne Farrell. "I felt that we needed to have more eyes around our schools so kids could feel safe coming

and leaving school." A group of about 50 parents organized a coordinated watch program that puts five to six extra people supervising buses before and after school. "Participating as a patroller sends the message that we are here, we are watching and that this is OUR community," said Jeanne. "It's about taking care of one another and keeping

watch for one another." Parents and community members are volunteering at schools and daycare centers across the metro area with a similar goal.

OWL has also enacted a bus safety policy, having kids move to buses quicker in order to keep them safe from any potential threat.

Inside the schools, students

OWL response, 9

OWL students plan a districtwide walkout



Harper Kopka

Students from across Saint Paul gather to protest ICE's presence in Minnesota.

Walkout effort gained momentum as students from across the district joined in

Claire Ales
Staff Writer

2,000 students from across the Saint Paul Public Schools district, six days to plan, and one cause that ignited the spark of many.

On January 14th, 2026, around 2,000 students walked out of school and marched to

the Minnesota State Capitol to protest the killing of Renee Good and the activities of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers in their communities. The walkout was planned by about ten students from OWL and one or two representatives from the other participating schools.

"People were feeling very hopeless, I know I was. Planning a walkout made more students feel like they could accomplish something and make their voices heard," said 11th grader and organizer Rahnia Droogsma.

The student organizers recall the idea of a walkout surfacing in their AP Biology



Harper Kopka

Luke Hobday (center) speaks to the crowd by the Capitol.

class during time that was set aside for students to talk with one another about the events happening in their community the day after Renee Good was killed.

"Our community was feeling unsafe and there was this general feeling of fear and terror that we knew was unacceptable. We felt that the

majority of our school and community wanted ICE out and we felt like students' voices needed to be heard," said 11th grader and organizer Luke Hobday.

After the idea of a walkout was mentioned, everyone gathered together to obtain the

Walkout, 7

An option for online

Kate Houle
Staff Writer

Due to the decrease in student attendance following escalating ICE presence in Minnesota, Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) is now offering a temporary virtual learning option for students who no longer feel safe coming to school in person.

This option was announced to families on January 14th, a week after the killing of Renee Good and Minneapolis Public Schools' subsequent introduction of their own online school option. SPPS families had to register their students by January 18th, and the program took effect on January 22nd.

Students participating in this virtual option remain enrolled at their current school (instead of transferring to the SPPS online school), and complete their classwork through Schoology, as well as being able to check in with their crews/advisory and teachers through Google Meets. To give staff a chance to prepare for this additional online format, school was cancelled on January 20th and 21st.

Approximately 6,000 SPPS students chose to sign up for this temporary virtual learning option, which is around 18% of the district's 33,000 students. Percentages vary by school however, with some schools having up to 75% of their student body moving to virtual learning. OWL only has around 20 students participating.

As of now there is no

SPPS online, 7

Minneapolis protestors brave the cold

The day of truth and freedom saw thousands participating in anti-ICE efforts across the Twin Cities

Kate Houle
Staff Writer

On Friday January 23rd, tens of thousands of protestors took to the streets of Minneapolis in -30 degree windchill to demand ICE cease their actions in Minnesota.

This march was part of a larger day of protest, where local businesses, unions, and community members

participated in an economic blackout. It was the US's largest general strike in 80 years.

"I went to the march because I feel very strongly about the presence of federal agents who are in our city and unlawfully kidnapping people.... It was a very communal experience, everyone was there for the same purpose. It was very much a safe and supportive atmosphere," said senior David

Griffith.

"It was very cold. I wore four layers of pants, three pairs of socks, and I had maybe ten pairs of hand warmers. I did expose my hands to the cold though because there was a man with a big thing of lentil soup, and I had to get some of that," said senior Maddie Linstead.



Purple Press Staff Photo

Downtown Minneapolis was standing room only.



The Purple Press

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

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Open Circuits starts strong

OWL's robotics team has to balance many moving parts as they work on this season's challenge

Kate Houle
Staff Writer

Watch out Manatees; the Open Circuits might just be OWL's most interesting team.

The Open Circuits is OWL's FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) team, a global program that gets young people involved in robotics and other STEM initiatives. Students involved in OWL robotics work to build, program, and drive a robot that is used at competitions centered around the yearly FRC challenge, and managing all of the moving parts that come with that.

"Robotics is interesting compared to other team sports, as it is kind of like running a small company. The robot is just one part of it. There are many jobs on a robotics team such as fundraising, social media, networking, strategy, design, programming, and all sorts of engineering," explained co-captain of the team senior Halie Karre.

Getting all those aspects to work together takes a lot of time and dedication. While the official robotics season

starts in January, the Open Circuits meet all school year to make sure the team runs smoothly and their skills don't get rusty. "In preseason we practice programming and building without the stress of competition deadlines. Much of preseason is figuring out who's interested in what and what our focuses and strengths are for competition season," said Halie.

But the team really starts rolling around "kickoff," or the reveal of the FRC challenge. This year's season is themed around archaeology, but there were fortunately no dinosaurs present for kickoff on January 10th, which was held at Central High School.

"The competition is generally something along the lines of move as many objects to a given location as you can and have your robot do some variety of cool trick at the end," explained senior Antimony Compton, the other co-captain of the team. "The actual game this year involves shooting foam balls called 'fuel' into a field element called a 'hub.'"

In non-archeological themed terms, that basically means the robot has to pick up dodgeballs and shoot them into a bucket, which sounds way less cool. What is very cool however, is how the Open Circuits operates once they get the challenge. The week after kickoff is called build week, which is basically all hands on deck for some very long (until 8pm) practices. "We scramble to start designing and building the robot base as quickly as possible during build week... once the base is built and programmed, drivers can practice driving with it while the additional components of the robot such as shooting mechanisms are designed and prototyped," said Halie.

After the robot is built, the team enters a cycle of trying things out through a series of competitions and collaborations. Official robotics competitions last 3-4 days and consist of multiple matchups with and against other teams, where awards are given out (for both winning matchups and doing well in a variety of other categories) that will help propel teams to higher level competitions. "I am excited to go to competitions, as that's always fun. I am worried about a great deal of the rest of it [though]," said Antimony.

The Open Circuits can have a lot more to worry about than some other FRC teams. OWL extracurriculars are generally a lot less well funded than some other larger schools, and robotics is no exception. "From a team perspective, our challenge is to build and program a decently advanced robot on a minimal budget. A lot of our design



Purple Press Staff Photo
Abby Horton and Emily Totushek work on the robot.

Robotics, 7

Akira's secret second career

Science teacher also happens to be a semi-professional DJ

Rain Tsuzuki
Staff Writer

Science teacher Akira Mally describes his DJing style as a "niche genre blender".

Yes, you heard that right. Akira is a professional DJ... kind of.

Ever since he was in middle school, electronic music caught his ear. These were the times when the EDM (electronic dance music) artist Skrillex was a huge hit. With their EP Scary Monsters and Nice Sprites, who wouldn't get into that type of music? As Akira got older, his interest in electronic music died off. In his college years, someone brought him to a rave that rekindled his interest. It wasn't until a year and a half ago that he actually started to get into DJing with his college friends.

"My two buddies and I were like, let's just get into it. Let's just buy controllers and just like, try it out," said Akira.

A DJ controller is very similar to a traditional DJ board. It has a turntable and a mixer. You can use it to physically edit the digital version of the music with things like knobs and jog wheels. It's great for starters. It's portable. And it's easy to connect to a laptop.

"We were all into the same

types of music. And we were like, oh, we think we could do this. So we all bought our own controllers, and then started teaching ourselves at home and playing together," Akira said, "Since me and my friends got into it at the same time, we were kind of learning from each other and learning from each other's mistakes. One person would find something cool, and we'd be like 'teach us how to do that.'"

Akira came across his first paid gig through a promoter he was introduced to by his friend, who is also a promoter. The gig was at a rented VFW in Minneapolis for the Fraternity of the Eagles. The job was an hour-long opening. He got paid \$100 for the whole thing. "[The pay didn't] count all the time that I spent preparing the set," Akira said. "I spent a lot of time before really planning out my set and which songs to do, and in which order and stuff."

He opened for Hannibal Buress, a very famous comedian, DJ, writer, and actor, best known for being a co-host of the The Eric Andre Show. Akira ended up going to an afterparty with Hannibal. The party could be described as nothing but clandestine- it happened to be underneath a

DJ Akira, 8

Math team doing well this season

Middle school team placed 2nd thanks to good morale and pizza

Melita Allen and Talulah Karl

Staff Writer

Do you like pizza? Do you like math? Do you know that there's a way to combine these things!? It's called OWL's Math Team!

"This season went well. We placed higher than we did last year, (second), and two of us placed in the top ten," said 8th grader Edmund Karre. Compared to the team placing third last year, this season was a big improvement! According to 8th grader James Duininck, "it was a successful season, we had a lot of success coming in and growing out." These students said their success came from collaborating together, and learning each other's strengths and weaknesses so that they could better coordinate the jobs for each person. You can see their trophies in the trophy case next to the Prom Wall.

On the team, members learn all different kinds of challenging math: geometry, algebra, probability, and more. The skills they learn also help them in future math classes.

"I definitely was able to pull ahead in Tom's integrated math 1 class because of it. And you'll learn a bunch of different new ways to solve problems you thought that you were already

solving efficiently," said James.

Math Team has many benefits. "It's great to put on a college application that you were on Math Team, it helps with high school level math, as the topics they learn are advanced level. It helps to prepare students for placement tests and college level math, and it is fun for students to meet students who also like math," said OWL math teacher and Math Team coach Patti Hosfield.

The OWL Math Team meets every Monday and Wednesday after school. During the practices, the team learns new math skills and practices team and individual events. Patti said, "At practices, we focus on the team event and making sure that all voices are heard, and that our team members are working strategically."

On some Mondays, they have meets. They travel to other schools, eat pizza, and do math. They compete against many other schools, including Washington Tech, Hidden River, Highland Catholic Academy, Sejong Academy and SPPS Online School.

At a math meet, they have three events: two individuals and one team event. For the individuals, they have ten minutes to answer five

Math team, 9

Archers are aiming for nationals

The community of the team helps support some strong shooters

Savannah Yang
Staff Writer

The OWL archery team started the season back in December, and hosted their first tournament of the year on January 17th.

Archers are in charge of setting up the range in the gym before practice starts. They do warm ups together and then a mini lesson at the beginning of practice. Archers are encouraged to shoot at least eight rounds like in a real tournament, then can do homework when they're done.

During an actual tournament, archers show up about 30 to 45 minutes before their shooting time. They get their scorecards and warm up. They are assigned a target and share it with someone. The rounds last about 50 minutes.

Some of the big tournaments of the season are, of course, the tournament the OWL archery team hosted, and then the state tournament in Duluth on March 27th and 28th, and the national tournament in Louisville, Kentucky from May

7th-9th.

The state tournament is very important because that's how archers qualify for nationals. Several OWL archers have qualified for nationals over the years. To qualify, you have to finish in the top ten of your division. Former OWL student Marjorie Borer-Seabloom was the only one who qualified for nationals last year by placing

in the top ten for high school girls. For state champions, there was one OWL archer who was number one in their division in 2018, and in 2023 the high school team was number one in the state championship. The team has had lots of archers place in the top five of their divisions at state as well.

Math teacher and archery



Purple Press Staff Photo
Senior Arlo Northrop-Kiel prepares to shoot.

coach Tom Totushek mentioned some returning archers who could potentially qualify for nationals. "So on the high school team, one of them is Arlo. He's a really strong shooter," said Tom, "Sophie has moved up from middle school into high school, so we're gonna see how she shoots, and then Moss is another great shooter. Those would be my three high school predictions for national qualifiers, although, you know, I can always be surprised." Tom also mentioned some middle schoolers. He said, "We do have some middle schoolers that could definitely qualify for nationals. Melita is a really strong archer. She could qualify for nationals. Then some of these new sixth graders are already shooting really well, maybe they can qualify out of the dark for nationals as well. It would be really exciting."

Some archers shared what their experience on the team is like and what they like about it.

Archery, 8

How OWL students feel about ICE presence around them

Gathered by Staff Reporters

How are you feeling about the ICE presence in Minnesota?

“It’s just angering, frustrating, and also very sad what’s happening here. Kind of very surprising too. Like, you always hear about things like this on the news and stuff, and now we’re part of it,” said 8th grader Bahati Stalheim.

“I mean, scared. Like, there’s really no other word for it. I’m scared of going outside. I’m scared for my family. I don’t want [ICE] taking anyone. And I don’t understand why they’re here in the first place,” said 9th grader Cooper

Small.

How has ICE’s presence in MN affected your life?

“Really negatively. I can’t really go out without feeling unsafe. I’m really worried about my family. I have a cousin who’s here without his mom, so he’s very at risk,” said senior Yadiel Dimayuga.

“There’s this Speedway gas station by my house, two or three blocks away, and ICE raided there. They knocked this guy unconscious, and they took a different activist. And like, my mom’s school is a block from there, so both of our lives have been affected by that. Every hour [my mom] runs over to her school to make sure nobody’s there,

and so she’s always going off in the car, and I always have to lock the door after her. It’s just a little thing, but it feels



Harper Kopka

Signs of protest.

so symbolic,” said 9th grader Cooper Small.

“I mean, they’re obviously in my neighborhood, and I think it’s been brought more to my attention after someone was murdered. My host mom, she sometimes goes out just to see if they’re around, and that even that is dangerous. My family reached out from Germany like, ‘Oh, we see the stuff on the news. Are you okay?’ And I think everyone is just nervous about how it’s gonna go,” said 11th grader Matilda Wollenweber.

Why do you think the SPPS student walkout was important?

“I think that students’ voices are really important. I think it’s just really important that if you can do something, that

you should try and do as much as you can, especially when there are people that can’t,” said 8th grader Bahati Stalheim.

“At this point in time it’s very much [needed] that everyone who can do something, no matter who you are, just spreads awareness. For kids to have a way before they can vote to kind of stand up and show their opinion. Just the world is watching, and everyone’s looking at us, so what we as students do is so determining now because all the eyes are on us,” said 11th grader Matilda Wollenweber.

“I did not [attend the walkout] because my dad said it was too dangerous, but I wanted to. I do think it’s important. I don’t know what kind of difference it’s gonna make, but it also feels like one of the only tangible things students can do,” said an anonymous 10th grader.



Harper Kopka

More signs demand ICE out.



Harper Kopka

Students gather in front of the Capitol.

Have you seen ICE in Saint Paul?

“Yeah around my neighborhood. They’ve been around there like crazy. On my way to school I’ve seen them detain people,” said senior Yadiel Dimayuga.

“Yeah, I have. I was at Starbucks the other day, and I saw one of the vans. They were like right in front of us. I haven’t seen the agents per say, but I know it was one of the ICE vans,” said an anonymous 10th grader.

What do you think the future of ICE in MN is going to look like?

“I’ve been thinking about that, because I [go back to Germany] in a month and this is still gonna go on...I think it’s such an abstract situation. In Germany, we get very in-depth education about the pre-war times, the 1930s, and it’s scary how similar this is. So I hope it doesn’t go that route, but like the patterns I’m see-

ing, it’s very similar. I hope that’s wrong, but I honestly don’t know,” said 11th grader Matilda Wollenweber.

“They should leave. Trump’s only targeting us because of politics...I know Trump has said that the day of retribution is coming and that he’s trying to send in the military. Right now it’s not looking too good,” said an anonymous 10th grader.

“I have no clue. I feel like [there will be here] for at least a couple of months. Right now our politicians have made statements, but they haven’t done anything yet. They’re not really supporting people. They should be supporting us financially or with security -- at least that’s the way it seems to me. I think there is some fear of the federal government,” said senior Yadiel Dimayuga.

“Hopefully there won’t be a future for them,” said 6th grader Soren Schultz.



Harper Kopka

Student groups make their way to the rally.

Fed government using anti-Minnesota propaganda

Right wing media takes its lead from the White House, using loaded language to skew real events

Anneli Lofgren
Staff Writer

Like many others, I’ve spent a considerable amount of time online in the past couple of weeks. Following the shooting of Renée Good, social media and news websites alike exploded with stories about her, about ICE, and about the protests that ensued as a result of the deaths and heightened ICE activity in blue cities—Minnesota urban centers in particular.

The stories vary greatly in position, and propaganda is rampant on both sides. I don’t think that those who live outside Minnesota realize the severity of what we’re up against here. It’s common for different sides of a movement to use propaganda to further their arguments, but it’s interesting to see a majority of the unrelenting propaganda coming directly from the White House. Because I believe that censorship is being used to push agendas, I’ve decided to do a deeper analysis of both far-right media and the stories spun by the federal government, namely the DHS and Donald Trump.

Directly after Renée Good’s killing was made known, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) secretary, Kristi Noem, made a statement on live TV referring to her as a “domestic terrorist.” Echoing a similar message after Alex Pretti

was shot dead, the American public may begin to notice a pattern in the government’s immediate justification of murders carried out by ICE. Renee Good was accused after her death of “weaponizing her vehicle,” using this as grounds for her murder. Pretti was in fact armed with a (registered)



Harper Kopka

A protestor’s-eye view of the proceedings.

firearm. However, he was largely incapacitated with a chemical irritant, and later disarmed, before being beaten and then shot at least 10 times. Videos have surfaced for both incidents, and investigations should be far from over, yet the

message we get from the White House is clear. It’s as if they’re saying “Anyone opposing ICE can be shot dead and we can just call them a terrorist.” Shoot first, blame later.

The questions are then raised, ‘Is the label of ‘domestic terrorist’ being used too loosely? ‘Is our government

too quick to clear the names of ICE shooters?’ The false personas created by the DHS were then absorbed by media such as Fox News in an attempt to victimize the shooters—and later the ICE agency as a whole. On Fox News, I think I saw

more sympathetic language used for an ICE agent’s bruises than I did for a dead woman. I saw more coverage of an ICE agent’s bit-off finger than I did for a dead man.

There is a point to which one must be skeptical and come to their own conclusion—this is called critical thinking and fair

analysis. It worries me that our federal administrations lack these qualities, seeming to just persist in their own lunacy that is blaming the victim while ignoring the pattern of the oppressor.

In 8th grade English we

learned about logical fallacies. These are different strategies in pushing a claim—ineffectively. Logical fallacies make for weak arguments by using heavy bias to pretty much just lie. One of these tactics is called Ad Hominem. In other words, name-calling and ignoring the point of the debate. I’m trying to be at least a bit objective in writing this, but I will say that this is the primary debate technique our current president uses. Maybe even the only one. He claimed recently that ICE is being “beat up” by “stupid people in Minnesota.” Ad hominem is very comparable to demagoguery—political rhetoric using emotions and prejudices to push an agenda. Many politicians and Fox News writers are consistent in their use of demagoguery, using certain ‘trigger’ words and phrases to incite a sort of ‘us vs them’ emotional response in their followers.

Just one day after Good’s death, Fox News published an article addressing the protests in cities. The writing has a strong bias against the protesters and the cities they’re in, portraying them as places of violent, baseless resistance “to get on the streets and hurt America.” Many readers of Fox News have consumed pro-ICE propaganda asserting blue-city protesters across the nation are “organized, paid extremists” composed of socialists,

communists, “anti-Israel groups” and “North Korean apologists.”

This language is strategically sprinkled in simply to anger the readers and taint their view of the demonstrations. The articles frequently mention communists and socialists, likely in attempts to convince their readers that the protests are coordinated by such organizations in order to push their own political agendas. In reality, the protests have to do with promoting human rights, demanding justice, and condemning our current corruption at the federal level.

But what are the implications of this biased news? Why is it worth addressing? Consumers of far-right media at this moment in time are being spoon-fed information that fails to question the government. The White House itself is putting out lies that defame our people, in an attempt to blame them for their own deaths. The issue lies in the fact that they refuse to see any other perspective than their own, and are far too quick to judge the situation and label them terrorists. It should be about achieving justice, not just continuing to push the narrative that they are always in the right. This is an example of large scale willful ignorance, coming from institutions that the American people as a whole rely on. Are you worried yet?

Senior Spotlight

Arlo Northrop-Kiel



What pronouns do you use?
He/him

How long have you been at OWL?
This is my 7th year.

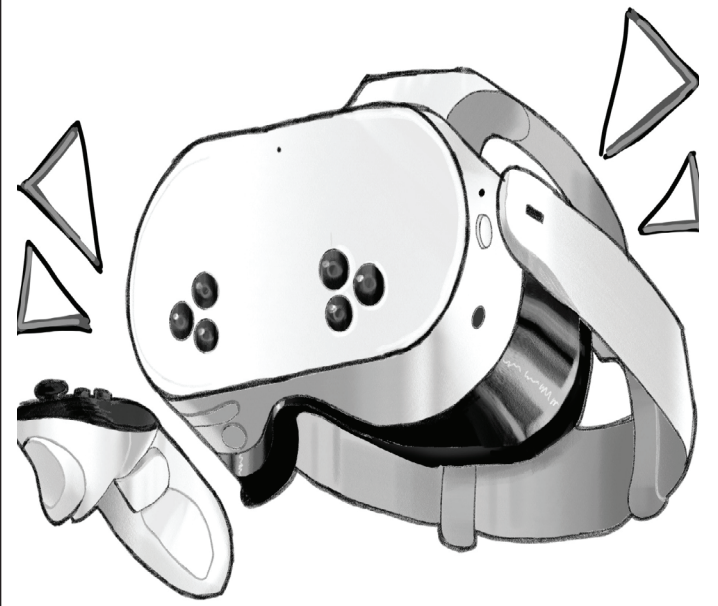
What are your plans for next year?
I'm going to go to college at the University of Washington.

What's been your favorite class in high school?
Lowkey AP Lit.

What extracurriculars are you involved in?
I'm a captain of the archery and frisbee teams, and a fraquet-ball commissioner.

Favorite field work experience or school trip and why?
Outward Bound Colorado because we had a really good group and I made a lot of connections.

If you had a walk up song, what would it be?
Got Me Started by Troye Sivan



Kanon Koshino

That One Little Kid

Jayce Peasley

How tall are you?
5' 3"

What pronouns do you use?
He/him

What's your favorite book, movie, or TV show?
My favorite book is The Hobbit

Who's your favorite senior?
Khalyse

What is your favorite thing about OWL so far?
There's a lot of friendly people.

What extracurriculars do you plan on getting involved in at OWL?
Theater



Why is being multilingual “cool”?

Speaking multiple languages builds empathy and understanding

Kanon Koshino
Staff Writer

When it comes to balancing out your languages, I like to think of it as a drawer. When you want to use a specific language, you take it out of a drawer and use it. When you want to change the language, you close the drawer and take out the other one. I used to do this a lot during my conversations with my parents. When I forgot a certain word in Japanese or in English, I would just use the other language to fill in those words. This is also a pretty common thing with my friends and classmates.

Multilinguism plays a huge part in society. It helps us learn about other cultures, other people, and more. While 107 out of 120 OWL students and teachers agree that it's “cool” to be able to speak more than one language, what exactly makes multilinguism “cool”? How do you learn a new language and how do you use it?

As an exchange student here at OWL, I was born in Japan. But I grew up with two languages, English and Japanese, which makes me bilingual. Both of my parents are Japanese, but my main learning environment was when I was living in Illinois, where my family moved because of my father's job. My everyday life was probably similar to most OWL students,

but just with a little twist. I used English during school hours, with my friends and during extracurricular activities, but I used Japanese the second I stepped inside my house. As a small addition, I learned Spanish for two years back in middle school, and currently am relearning it in Abbie's class. Personally, I partially struggled with Japanese grammar, and I had my parents take me to a Japanese school called Chicago Futabakai Japanese School on Saturdays to balance out my language level, back when I was still living in the suburbs of Chicago.

Being multilingual, or even just being able to speak English in general is viewed as a “cool” thing in Japan, even to the point that Japanese people are envious of foreigners for being able to speak English at a high and native level. As Japanese people need English speakers for any foreigners or tourists visiting in the country, this ability is very useful and is needed. While there isn't an innate hierarchy to English, a lot of Japanese people look up to English speakers. This led me to the question of how multilinguism is viewed in the US, or more specifically, to OWL students and teachers.

So I conducted a survey and interviewed a couple people here to find out.

When I interviewed students, each of their responses varied. While 8th grader Melita Allen learned her way into Spanish, 9th grader Atom Pliner grew up with Japanese, which gave them different perspectives. But within both interviews, I noticed that there were a couple of connections between the two. One answer they both had was that they both went to a language induced school to develop their skills. While Melita went to Adam's Spanish Immersion, Atom went to MNJS Minnesota Japanese School on Saturdays. Another connection I found was that they both said that the role of multilinguism can lead to more opportunities for themselves, and that you can talk to more people.

Overall, the survey showed that most students and teachers at OWL are monolingual, and that a third of the respondents are multilingual. The survey also showed that around 90% of responders want to or are considering learning a new language. Similar to the findings with the student interviews, it also showed that 42.5% of people think that multilinguism is absolutely important and necessary, while



Kanon Koshino

Apple Vision Pro raises eyebrows

Newly-released headset goes viral for all the wrong reasons

James Hietala
Staff Writer

Note: you can read the first part of this article in issue 3, volume 26 of the Purple Press.

At the beginning of 2024, the newly released Apple Vision Pro went semi-viral. But not the good kind of viral. It was a \$3,500 23 pound screen that you strap to your face, seemingly meant to replace your Macbook. It supposedly runs all of your iPad apps natively, and of course integrates tightly with the rest of Apple's ecosystem. This notably includes Macbook mirroring so you can connect your laptop to your headset and have the full system appear.

Unlike more “gaming” or “experience” focused headsets like the Meta Quest, the Vision Pro focuses more on XR (extended reality) experiences. This means the interface of the headset is integrated with the real world, using cameras on the front of the headset. The Apple Vision Pro uses this to project your screen in such a way where it is supposed to feel like the screen is actually floating in the real space around you.

I think this pursuit of XR is one of the biggest reasons the Vision Pro has been received in the way it has, because it creates the stigma that the headset is meant to be a replacement for reality, and is made to be worn constantly throughout your life. This is definitely not helped by features such as spatial photos, where when you're wearing a Vision Pro you can record a moment and view it later in 3D like it's really happening.

Despite the Vision Pro's negative reception and poor performance, Apple doesn't seem to have abandoned it, still pushing software updates as well as releasing an updated version with their newest Apple Silicon processor, the M5.

It seems Apple has not been the only company that thought that these kinds of headsets would be a success. Samsung has released its own version,

the Samsung XR, but despite its lower (but still exorbitant) price point at \$1,800 the headset never really sold or gained any attention, positive or negative.

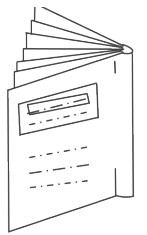
Overall it seems the industry of “future tech” has moved on from these kinds of devices and started focusing more on mixed reality glasses. Mixed reality is just overlaying a digital interface over a transparent surface, as opposed to a XR which uses cameras that record the outside world, and project it on one big screen. Meta's Rayband glasses are the most successful of these products, though Google's now discontinued Google Glass was the first. Google Glass was ahead of its time, and was in production for about a year between 2014 and 2015, but was discontinued (though they continued making an enterprise version for several years after that) mostly due to privacy and security concerns. These were mainly related to the devices' built in camera, which could discreetly record the surroundings of the user.

However now in 2026, being recorded in public is not as big of a shock with the rise of major social media, influencers and nicer smartphone cameras. And thus Meta's attempt has been more successful. Meta's Rayband glasses are much cheaper than XR headsets, in the \$300-\$500 range instead of the thousands. Many of these support using prescription glasses as well. These glasses have many miscellaneous features like cameras, directions, and voice assistants.

Overall though, these products still remain relatively niche, mostly just because, in my opinion, they don't really offer anything super revolutionary to justify their existence. They aren't able to fully replace your phone, and don't do anything that AirPods and a smart watch can't.



Reviews 'n' stuff



Blue-ringed Octopus

Isabel Best

English has some fun plural rules

Octopi, octopods, or octopuses? Anna explains linguistic roots

Anna Funk
Staff Writer

Picture this— you are writing an essay, something about the anatomy of fish, and you want to compare a characteristic of the animal to an octopus. This trait can also be found in octopi, octopods, and octopuses? You stumble over your words as you try to find which word to use. How do they all sound right and wrong at the same time? Well fear not dear reader, for I have the answers you seek!

The first thing I wondered was what people commonly used, so I decided to ask people which word they preferred. Overall, most people used octopi as the plural of octopus, and this makes sense, because lots of the words we use in English have Latin roots, and if a word with Latin roots ends with a us, like octopus, the plural will have an i at the end. Knowing this, it should be easy to tell which of the plurals to use, we just have to figure out what the root of the word is! Unfortunately, it's a bit more complicated than that.

So, what is the root of octopus? Turns out that octopus is a Latinized form of Greek, and comes from the word oktōpous, with októ meaning eight, and pous meaning foot. So although the word octopus was adapted to be a bit more Latin, the main root of the word is Greek. Now that we know the root of the word, we can cross off octopi from the list. This was surprising to me because octopi was the most common plural for octopus that I had heard, so why was everyone saying this was correct? The most likely reason I could think of is that octopi just sound like the right answer. It is also partially because people mistook the word as a Latin word, and therefore gave it a Latin ending.

Now we know that "octopi", the most commonly used plural, is not correct. But what about octopuses and octopodes? Well lets start with octopodes. We know that octopus has Greek roots, so it makes sense that we give it a Greek plural, which is what is done with octopodes. Octopodes is commonly used in articles and in science in general, but octopuses is also used on occasion. Knowing this, I feel like octopuses is incorrect, but surprisingly, it isn't. Hear me out, I know that octopus has Greek roots, but it's an English word. Because it's an English word, why don't we just give it an English plural? It's honestly kind of silly thinking about all the work I did trying to find out the root of this word when all I had to do was give it a normal old English plural. Anyway, if you aren't asleep by now, here's what you need to know; octopi is incorrect, octopodes is correct and commonly used in science, octopuses is also correct and commonly used.

Let's move on to another word because this has made me tired of octopuses/octopodes. Our next unfortunate word that we are going to dissect is confetti. This section of the story isn't going to be very long, but I am putting it in anyway because it's fun. So, you may be thinking, I know all about the word confetti, what else could you possibly tell me? Well then tell me what you call a singular piece of confetti is called. I bet you can't do it. Well it turns out that this is a lot less complicated than looking for the roots of octopus. Confetti is an Italian word meaning "little sweets" and commonly refers to candy coated things or sugary things. In Italian, a singular confetti is called a confetto. So next time you see confetti, be sure to share

Fun plurals, 7

Lobizona's story keeps you captivated

Read Brave book tackles tough subjects through a magical lens

Greta Crouser
Staff Writer

Lobizona, by Romina Garber, is the Read Brave book of 2026. With a plot bursting at the seams with excitement and a rich fantasy world based on Argentinian folklore, Garber's captivating story will sweep you off your feet and leave you greedily devouring every next word of every next sentence of every next paragraph, until you forget what's up and what's down.

If I told you that there's a magical species of witches and werewolves living right under our noses, would you believe it? Lobizona follows Manu, an undocumented immigrant living in Miami, as she discovers what she's been all her life — a Septimus, aka a member of a society of witches

and werewolves. And not just any Septimus, but an illegal one.

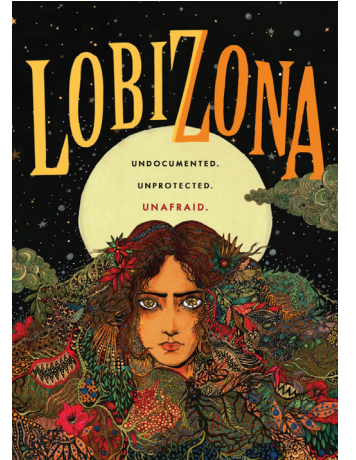
Manuela Azul is quite... odd. And not the good kind. From her unusual eyes to her "illegal" immigrant status, it seems her existence screams for attention in a world where being invisible is the only way she can survive. Living within the cramped walls of her apartment with only her mother and adopted grandmother for company for her entire life, she craves answers about her father and what life was like back in Argentina. All she needs is her green card so she can stop hiding, fix her eyes, and finally start living her life. But when Manu's mom gets arrested by ICE, Manu discovers she's part of a magical world she has literally only ever dreamed

of. A world of brujas, and lobizones, and the community she's yearned for— a world her mother tried so hard to conceal her from. But she might not belong there either.

Manu finds herself at El Laberinto; a school for Septimus hidden in the Everglades. She stumbles her way in and thinks maybe, just maybe, she found her place. A place where she doesn't have to be invisible and constantly looking over her shoulder. Maybe she found her home... but she soon finds out that she is considered just as illegal there as she was in Miami. She's a hybrid—born of a werewolf and a human—a creature deemed illegal by the Tribunal, who would execute her if she was ever exposed. Torn between her mother in jail, and the glimmer of hope

of finding community, along with her skeptical principle nipping at her heels to reveal her identity, which world will Manu choose? Will she find her home? And will she even survive?

Tackling topics of immigration, societal



Lobizona, 9

Is it possible to be truly original?

The Library of Babel explores what it means to find meaning

Eleanor Foote
Staff Writer

The Library of Babel is a story about a universe that is an infinite library made up of infinite hexagonal rooms filled with books.

I discovered this short story the way I find many things; watching a youtube video. This video was about infinities and originality, and about how no matter what you do you cannot be truly original anymore, because someone will have already either come up with your idea, or it had already been generated by a computer on the Library of Babel website.

The Library of Babel was originally a short story by writer Jorge Luis Borges, with the title La Biblioteca de Babel. It is a short story about eight

pages long. You can find it online on the libraryofbabel.info page. In 2016 its concept was turned into a website. The website is exactly what Babel is said to be, a seemingly infinite number of nonsensical keyboard smash books. The website has all the hexagons in which the books live labeled, easy to find. It also has a searching system so you can find any piece of literature in Babel.

Jorge Borges was one of the very influential writers of the early 1900s. He was a pioneer of genres, and said that Edgar Allan Poe's works were one of his biggest inspirations. He was also a philosopher, and lecturer. Borges lost his vision at the age of 55, and some believe that is why his works are so imaginative in nature.

It might have also been why his stories use many themes of chance and infinities.

Here is my summary of Babel for those who have not given it a ponder yet. Each book has a unique set of 22 letters and symbols (all Spanish letters, because this story was originally written in Spanish), across 410 pages. Which means most books are useless. Only written in nonsense. Most librarians that inhabit this infinite library have dedicated their lives to finding a book that explains the library, or something coherent. The people of this universe know that all books ever written and all that ever will be written are in Babel somewhere. And every scenario, the details of your death and every way that you

won't die, it's all here. But, it is almost impossible to find. The people of this universe have tried to find meaning in the meaningless and most have given up.

Now I don't know if I can agree with that sentiment, but it is fun to think about. The way that I make sense of it, things mean something more if a person comes up with it. Just because something is not original does not discount it in this scenario. To create something is for meaning to be found, and that has to be done by a human and not an algorithm.

The Library of Babel has fascinated me for a while now, as I have always enjoyed the thought of infinities and

Babel, 7

Wake Up Dead Man delivers thrills

Benoit Blanc is back to solve an impossible crime in newest movie

Atlas Schultz
Staff Writer

Hey, remember that whodunnit mystery movie from 2019 where Chris Evans was the bad guy? And then it got a sequel with all those rich people on an island and the Mona Lisa got set on fire? Well get excited mystery fans, because they released another one!!

That's right, our favorite Southern-accented detective is back at it again. Director Rian Johnson's next installment of the Knives Out movie series is a rather more strange case than just the usual mystery. Taking place in a little town and church with a clouded past, we follow Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig) as he tries to help a young priest, Jud Duplenticy (Josh O'Connor), prove his innocence. For you see, Monsignor Jefferson Wicks, head of the little church, has

been murdered under strange and seemingly impossible circumstances. And everyone thinks Jud did it.

I really enjoyed this movie. It almost had a psychological thriller quality to it, more so than either of the other Knives Out movies. This, I think, is because of the fact that this story is told largely through the lens of religion. It takes place at a church, the main (non-detective) character is a priest, and many of the other main characters are quite religious as well. This aspect creates a fun contrast with Blanc, whose atheist and logic-bound attitude clashes strongly with an environment so saturated with religious overtones.

However, it's not perfect. Because this movie has so much going on, it can feel slightly rushed/overwhelming at some points, and there are a few plot holes that I noticed on

my second watch-through that bother me a bit.

Even so, there are scenes in this movie that make up for its pacing issues. Particularly, a scene where Jud comforts a woman who is worried about her tense relationship with her ill mother. It is a deeply touching moment, and we see similar scenes throughout the movie. These showcase Jud's innate ability to connect with people, as opposed to Monsignor Wicks, whose preaching strategy focuses on pushing all but a few select people away, and firing up his inner circle with fear and bitterness.

I found this movie to be more character and emotion focused than the other two movies, which were both really story-driven (which, don't get me wrong, this one still is, but to a lesser extent). Josh O'Connor's performance is

wonderful, and you really feel sympathy for him and all the struggles he's going through. You get to watch him sort of come into his own as a priest, and by the end, he's become much more confident and happy.

Speaking of the end of the movie, one of my favorite parts is at the very end of the film.



Noa Calzada Villanueva

Wake up dead man, 7

Analyzing the best of iconic TV show

Theo explains why his top Simpsons episodes are the funniest

Theo McLaughlin
Staff Writer

Of all of the things that have influenced modern culture, one thing has been more influential than anything else. Of all of the shows and movies, one has stood out above the rest. This is, of course, The Simpsons.

The Simpsons has been one of, if not the most, influential pieces of media ever. The show is 37 seasons strong, and also has a blockbuster film that was actually pretty good.

However, not all seasons are winners. I personally believe that the Simpsons was good between seasons one and ten which was from 1989-1999. By the 2000s the show just kinda got more serious, and by season 12, the ratings were on a steady decline.

In this article I will be going over my top five Simpsons episodes, which I whittled down from a list of 18

nominees. The episodes will be graded from 1 to 12 based on humor, story, and uniqueness.

Before I begin the list I would like to name a few honorable mentions. These episodes did not make the top five, but I still thought that they were pretty good.

Honorable mention: Whacking Day.

After Bart is expelled from Springfield Elementary, he and Lisa try to prove that the beloved snake killing holiday “Whacking Day” is evil and distasteful. This episode was absolutely hilarious and a pretty famous episode. A funny part in this episode is when there was a choir of children singing about Whacking Day.

Honorable mention: Cape Feare.

After the infamous Sideshow Bob, who Bart locked up in season one, is paroled and hunts for Bart, forcing the family to enter the

Witness Protection Program. While it was a hard decision to not include this episode in the top five, I still think that it is a really intriguing episode. The best part in this episode is when Sideshow Bob gets out from under a car and is surrounded by rakes and keeps walking into them.

Honorable Mention: Deep Space Homer.

Homer is chosen for a space mission to prove that the average American can go to space and nearly jeopardizes the mission. While not making it into the top five, I still thought that this episode was really funny and stands out above the rest. The funny part in this episode is when Homer loses employee of the week to an “Inanimate Carbon Rod.”

5. You Only Move Twice: In this season eight James Bond parody Homer gets a job under his new boss Hank Scorpio, and the family moves

to a suburban town called Cypress Creek. This episode scored a 10/12, I thought that the story and jokes were really creative. I really enjoyed a part towards the end when Hank has captured Agent Bont and tries to kill him when he escapes but is stopped by Homer.

4. Homer's Enemy: In this season eight flick



Isabel Best

Simpsons, 8



Noa Calzada Villanueva

Joining band is worthwhile

Learning an instrument is a good opportunity to pursue

Arlo Moreno
Staff Writer

When I first started taking music lessons seven years ago, I was just given the choice between playing clarinet and saxophone. I picked clarinet without thinking about what type of player I wanted to be, I only chose it because I was watching SpongeBob at the moment and Squidward was on screen playing clarinet.

Roughly 31% of people under 18 do, or at least have, an instrument, and there's good reason as to why you'd wanna play one. Not to brag (totally to brag), but I play four instruments; clarinet, saxophone, guitar, and piano. I believe that everyone should learn at least one in their life. But if you need an actual reason besides my completely humble and not bragging opinions, I can supply plenty.

The National Library of Medicine has directly correlated music as a way to increase basic motor skills all the way into your older age. Music also works as a form of therapy, a commonly used one too.

Need more? Learning music can stimulate the parts of the brain that also are used for math, helping you in things even outside of the field of music. But by far, the best reason to start playing an instrument is so that you can have bragging rights in a few years when you get real good at it.

Anyways, now that I've definitely, totally, 100% for sure convinced you to start an instrument, where can you start? Unfortunately, instruments aren't as accessible as they should be. A large portion of them cost more than a thousand dollars. I've been fortunate enough to be lent instruments for free from the academy I take music lessons at. Luckily, most of you who are reading this go to a school, right? Humboldt has a band that OWL students are fully encouraged to join. The instruments are free too. If you want to learn more about how to actually enter the band,

you'd have to ask Katarina about that. Still, I cannot give a full guarantee that everyone in the school is able to join. This year, only four OWL students are in the Humboldt middle school band, me included.

If that isn't an option for you, there are other options, just more expensive ones. Many places offer music lessons in the Twin Cities, from dozens to possibly hundreds. Some of the best include McPhail Center for Music, Walker West Music Academy, Saint Paul Conservatory of Music all \$60 per 30 minute lesson, School of Rock for \$38 per 30 minute lesson, and Saint Paul School of Music also for \$38 per 30 minute lesson. These are just some of the best in the Twin Cities, I take lessons at Walker West myself. There are many other places to go to learn an instrument, ranging from churches to people's living rooms. A lot of lessons range from \$30-\$60. If my father didn't work at my music academy, I'd be paying \$40 to be taking saxophone lessons at Walker West. Each place also has certain specialties that they excel in. So if you're interested in playing jazz, Walker West would definitely be the place to go.

Many people worry over the choice of which instrument to play, considering the amount of money and time they will be putting into the endeavor, so a lot of research is suggested before making the big decision. I can unfortunately say that none of them will be easy, and switching instruments isn't always an option. I started out on clarinet but I soon realized after my first few performances for my jazz ensemble that the clarinet is a tad bit too quiet for an energetic solo on stage, so I quickly decided I wanted to learn saxophone too. Not that I wanted to abandon my first instrument, but I definitely wanted to replace it. I had to spend months working to the point where I got good enough at clarinet that I could even switch to saxophone and still retain enough skill

Music, 9

Phones can be problematic for teens

Being a screenager can be more dangerous than you may think

Zelda James
Staff Writer

Many people have phones nowadays. You probably have a phone, or people around you have a phone. With as many people that have them, there are many people who are online, and that comes with many downsides. From AI, to social media, to addiction, phones cause many problems for children and teens.

Even children as young as nine or ten years old can get their hands on phones. Social media and AI are a problem on their own, and they're still able to be accessed by so many people that are so young and still have developing brains.

Although phones are said to be awful, they do do some good things. Phones give people a way to easily stay connected with friends and family, even if they live far away from you. Therapists now have online scheduling and video therapy,

and with the rise of things like depression and anxiety, being able to schedule appointments from your phone is needed. Phones can help you find inspiration for projects you have, whether personal or school. With the mention of school, grades are easy to check from Schoology, and asking questions or talking to your teachers is now very easy to do when you are not at school. And emergency services are only three numbers away.

“[Phones allow easy] access to learning information that [kids] might not get from their parents or from books...as they can't always talk to their parents. There's safe LGBTQ online spaces,” said 8th grader Ollie Gonzalez.

Phones also have many apps that do the jobs of physical objects. There are many things that phones have replaced or have taken over digitally, including cameras,

videos, photo albums, encyclopedias, newspapers, libraries, calendars, music, and movies (both Tiktok short form “movies” and streaming services). Cash has also been taken over by phones with things like Apple Pay and online shopping. Games have also become more online with games like chess, connect four, bingo, solitaire, uno, and more. Having in person interactions, that sometimes can be very nice, are also being replaced by phones through online shopping and people being glued to their phones and not leaving their homes.

The most dangerous, and sometimes down right worst part of a phone is social media. I don't believe that that is surprising to many because the dangers of it have been known for so long. All teens are affected by social media but it is especially awful to teenage girls. According to

the Harvard website, social media causes teenage girls have bad body images that can cause eating disorders and suicidal thoughts. In a UK study they asked 18-24 year olds what social media has done to their mental health, and unsurprisingly to many, the people said that they have felt increased depression, anxiety, bad body image, and loneliness. Those feelings can lead to higher risks of attempting suicide in teens according to the Child Mind Institute.

People will go on their phones and be on them for hours even knowing that they are bad. According to the Mayo Clinic, a study found that spending three hours a day is linked to higher worsened mental health. So teens feel horrible from social media, but they still strangely

Phone problems, 9

A great way to spend a summer week

Camp Manitou in Wisconsin offers freedom, fun, and adventure

Rafael Hanson and Hal Johnson

Staff Writer

Body, mind, and spirit.

These are things that make you think of meditating, maybe playing a sport, or being a part of communities and spending time with your friends. This is also the description of Camp Manitou— having fun times but also realizing that you are a part of a bigger world, and that you are always welcome in the community they offer.

Camp Manitou is a sleepaway summer camp located in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. The two of us (Hal and Rafael) have only been there one year, but it was the best camp experience that we've had. It costs around 400-500 dollars a week and there are about three weeks available each summer. Boys camp runs from approximately June 20th-July 9th, and girls camps dates are July 21st-August 9th. There

is also a mixed week with both boys and girls, taking place in between the boys and girls weeks. We agree that one week and the mixed camp is the best choice if you just want to test the camp out, as it still has all the fun with fresh and new activities.

Camp Manitou is an amazing place that we would recommend to anyone willing to listen, and that we will both be going there every year that we can. And maybe then we will become counselors, and help out the future generations of campers that are yet to come to the camp.

Camp Manitou offers probably the widest and best range of activities for any summer camp that we've ever been to, and almost all of the activities are to our liking—ultimate frisbee, making hobo dinner, and indie night just to name a few.

It is also one of the best

sleepaway camps mainly because you can receive letters and mail them out, which allows you to keep in touch with your loved ones and to tell them all the awesome activities that you're doing at camp. If you get too many letters though, you might get thrown into the lake.

Though, there is one activity that matters the most. The most important activity is called the camp olympics. The camp olympics are scored through different activities, which give different amounts of points, and the team that gets the most points wins the whole thing. You can score points by completing mini activities such as ultimate frisbee, eating contests, and playing board games (like Catan) competitively. After that there are two semi big events that everybody participates in.

The first final event is Braveheart, which is a team

based game. It is a dodgeball inspired game, but you can get back in the game by going through a line and going back on the court when a person dies. There is also one “princess” which is a player that was chosen by the team, and if they tag someone out then everyone on their team can get back in line and play another round of dodgeball.

The last and most important activity is the relay race, in which you and your group do a different mix of activities from frog jumping to building fires and putting them out with water. This activity gives the most points out of everything, so even if you are down 300 points you can still win first place. The reason it's so big and point-giving is because it is the last game that you play in camp, and the last one played before watching the video

Camp Manitou, 8

The price of RAM is going up, up, up

AI is causing an extremely drastic computer memory price bump

Nikolai Strickland
Staff Writer

You know when you're opening tabs on your iPad to see how long it takes till it lags? That depends on RAM, aka random access memory, and it is one of the main components of our devices, providing a place for memory of running apps or programs to be temporarily stored. RAM is in everything from phones to laptops, even to huge computers that companies like NASA use, which segues me into the main topic of this article.

AI, and yeah, I know this is like the billionth article on AI, but hear me out; so remember how three sentences ago I mentioned how RAM is a component that aids devices memory capabilities? The data centers that host said AI clients also need this, and due to this minuscule, tiny fact, the RAM market is crashing.

For example, the leading company in the RAM market, Micron, has recently stated that, starting February 2026, they will be cutting consumer availability, to focus on creating products for "larger, more strategic" customers, AKA supporting AI data

centers.

Not only is Micron making these very, veryyyy, smart decisions, Samsung (not the phones, the RAM, same company though), has also been dedicating a large amount of their product to AI, even stating right on their website that they dedicate many servers and RAM to AI and datacenters.

According to data charts from PC Part Picker (a trusted source used to plan computer builds), two sticks of DDR4-3200, or 8GB sticks of RAM, have skyrocketed in price starting around July this year, from around an average of \$50, to an average of \$100-150. That's over a 50% price change in a matter of months. Guess what also became popular this past July? Large Language Models (LLMs) like ChatGPT.

This situation has gotten so bad, that people have restored to either A) Buying laptop RAM, buying an adapter, and plugging it into your desktop for much cheaper solution, or B) Making their own DDR4 RAM. No, I'm not kidding, mainly people in Russia have been buying the chips, buying blank RAM sticks, and soldering it together

themselves, and that's still cheaper than buying DDR4 RAM from professional companies!

Ok, so we've covered most of the RAM problems, and you might think I'm done, but I'm not. As well as RAM skyrocketing in price, GPUs (graphic processing units) and video cards are as well. Companies like NVIDIA have been mass producing GPUs for AI data centers to the point where they have warehouses full of them, all waiting to be put into some super computer for a LLM.

Though they haven't jumped up in price as much as RAM has, many people, (including myself,) suspect we are going to have a huge GPU price jump sometime this year, heck, by the time you're reading this, it might've jumped up in price already! GPUs are such a crucial part of computers, so this is going to be a very problematic time for anyone who likes to build computers, play games on computers, etcetera.

This is an incredibly sad time for anyone getting into PC gaming, or even already on the scene. Coming from someone who only spent around \$500

on my desktop (yes that's a good price), I suspect average low cost builds are going to jump, and not as many people will consider a desktop when gaming, doing work, or for anything really. This will not only affect desktops, but game consoles like the Switch, laptops, and phones. Anything that's a computer, no matter the size, relies on these parts.

This is incredibly scary for another reason: a possible economic crisis. One of my new favorite podcasts, Lever Time, couldn't have said it better, this isn't a bubble like the housing crisis of the 2000s, it's a black hole. When this AI bubble eventually pops, when investors and companies stop putting time and finances into this, I think this could permanently affect our economy.

Ok lets reel it back in for a summary of this article, RAM, GPU, and other PC components are increasing in price due to AI. This is incredibly problematic for a world like ours that relies heavily on computers, and could possibly be starting signs of the coming problems AI will make.



Isabel Best

Fans let down by finale

Stranger Things season five did not stick the landing as hoped

Amalena Xiong
Staff Writer

Stranger Things promised a mindblowing ending to the series, but instead was a big letdown to fans.

Stranger Things is a popular sci-fi and horror TV series that was created by the Duffer brothers, and premiered in July 2016. The final season was recently released in November of 2025. The show is set in the 1980s, centering a small town named Hawkins where a group of teens uncover supernatural mysteries, and face danger from a dark alternate dimension known as the "upside down."

The series stars Millie Bobby Brown who plays Eleven, Finn Wolfhard who plays Mike Wheeler, Noah Schnapp who plays Will Byers, Caleb McLaughlin who plays Lucas Sinclair, Sadie Sink who plays Max Mayfield, and Gaten Matarazzo who plays Dustin Henderson.

Season five was released into three parts. The first four episodes were released on November 26, 2025, with the next three out on December 25th, and the final episode on December 31st, which was two hours long, and could be watched in theaters.

Spoilers for Stranger Things season five!

"The Turnbrow Trap," the remarkable third episode of the season, focuses on Will's connection with the upside down, and his realization that the demogorgon is after 13

year old Derek Turnbow. To try and stop this from happening, Mike and the others set out to drug the Turnbow family with a pie that contains sleeping drugs so that they can set traps around the house. Their plan was to not kill the demogorgon, but to wound it and hide a radio tracker inside it so it can lure them to Vecna's lair where Holly (Mike's little sister) might be.

This episode was really interesting and humorous. I think it was fun to watch the characters in action, building traps and coming up with ideas. The ending of this episode was jaw dropping, leaving me very surprised.

I enjoyed season five of Stranger Things to some extent. It left me feeling a lot of mixed emotions. Each episode I watched kept me hooked because it got so interesting, and often ended with insane cliff hangers, making me want to watch the next episodes. However, I personally think the final episode could've ended better. The ending was rather dissatisfying to me. While we knew Vecna would eventually be defeated in the end, I felt that he had been defeated too easily, so I think the ending was somewhat rushed.

The biggest thing I complain about is the way Eleven's ending felt very incomplete. I disliked that El had to die in the end. Mike created a theory that she didn't

Stranger Things, 8

Walkout, 1

necessary arrangements for a walkout to be possible. This included coordinating with other schools, figuring out logistics for the whole thing, contacting members of the media and local government officials, and creating proper safety measures.

Throughout the planning process, safety was at the forefront of everyone's mind. By the day of the walkout, the students had gathered union peacekeepers and parents who had received Marshal Training. There was even district security and a few police officers that drove alongside the student protesters. In addition to this, the students attending the walkout were briefed on what to do in certain situations, a popular one being what to do if ICE shows up.

"We had several people

working on safety, which was a really big thing. It was our number one priority throughout the entire process," said Rahniah.

The students all left their school buildings at scattered times to ensure that everyone reached the Capitol in close proximity to each other. Once everyone had reached the Capitol, there was a lineup of speakers, which included student representatives from several different schools, members from community organizations, and Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison.

"It really stuck out to me how everyone was so supportive and cheering for every single speaker that told their story, and all of the community support and the connections that were made," said Luke.

With the large participation and popularity of the walkout,

the organizers are currently working on a webinar (scheduled for February 6th) that will be presented to other schools across the country. It will focus on how to plan a walkout, along with a reflection of how the one here went, and what the organizers would have done differently. They hope this will give other students the opportunity to share their thoughts and opinions and do something for a cause they believe in.

"Being in a space where you know everyone around you is feeling the same thing that you are and experiencing the same things as you, it kind of gives you a sense of relief," said Rahniah. "It can feel like you are alone and by yourself, but being around all of these people, it's really nice and it gives you hope that the world is going to move in a better direction."

Fun plurals, 5

this fun fact with a friend or stranger near you to show your superior knowledge.

When I was looking at the word confetti, I found some other fun Italian words that have the same ending. These words are graffiti, which turns into graffitto, and spaghetti, which turns into spaghetto.

Another fun word is data. It's a Latin word and is considered by some a mass noun, but others think not. It's a topic with lots of debate, but for those who think it's not a mass noun, they have a singular term for the word, which is datum.

Another controversial word is the word alumni. Some people see alumni as a more broad term that can be used in all situations when referring to someone who used to be from a specific school. Others think that there is a version

of alumni for every situation. For example, alumnus is used as a word for a singular male alumni, and alumna for a singular female alumni. They also have words for groups of alumni, with alumni meaning a group of male or mixed gender alumni, and alumnae meaning a group of female alumni. If you want a gender natural term you can use the words alum and alums. Technically all these different versions of alumni are legit words, and if you use alumni for a singular person, it's grammatically incorrect, but some people think we should just use alumni as a mass noun to make it less confusing and honestly I agree.

Well that's all I have for you today, I hope you liked this article and I hope you get an opportunity to share these facts!

SPPS online, 1

proposed end date for the temporary online option, and students wishing to return to school in person before the program is officially ended will be evaluated on a case by case basis. SPPS has ensured families that they are committed to "ensuring our students feel safe, welcome and connected to their school communities," during this difficult time.

Wake up dead man, 5

The main conflict of the whole story centers around a large diamond called 'Eve's Apple'. By the end of the film, Jud has become much more assured, and managed to come up with a very clever solution to the problem of Eve's Apple.

Overall, this was a super engaging movie. I recommend it if you like mysteries or the previous Knives Out movies. So, grab some snacks and get watching!

Babel, 5

possibility. And so have the librarians of this universe. They infinitely search for something that exists, and hypothetically can be found, but they will never find it.

You can visit the library yourself to launch your own search. If you visit the website libraryofbabel.info you can search the infinite shelves yourself. And, if you by some stretch of the imagination find the events of my impending death somewhere in the depths of Babel, please tell me.

Robotics, 2

focus has been on elegant simple mechanisms that can be quickly and cheaply built compared to over engineered solutions that might be slightly better," said Halie.

But even with that additional layer of difficulty, the long nights, and stressful problem-solving, the Open Circuits love what they do. "It is great fun and looks good on college applications and resumes...you can learn about collaboration and also STEM," said Antimony, "Our team has improved, and I hope we can do a better job of teaching newer team members skills."

The Open Circuits will try to put it all together this spring at a tournament at the University of Minnesota from April 1st-4th.

Upcoming Events

February 6th: Winter Dance

February 10th: PTO Meeting

February 11th: Art Night

February 16th: No School

February 17th: Crew Parliament Field Trip

February 25th: History Day Field Trip

Multilingualism, 4

30.8% said they somewhat agreed.

Some things I found interesting was that when I asked if multilingualism will increase in the future, about the same percentage of respondents said that they agreed or were not completely sure. While I also thought that many people used language learning apps such as Duolingo or Babble, it was interesting to see that only 35% of respondents did, while the rest said no.

After listening and seeing the student's answers, I wanted to see if a teacher's point of view was any different.

Spanish teacher Abbie Currie spoke about her experience as a Spanish teacher at OWL. While she is American, she studied Spanish in high school and college, through simple grammar and textbook level Spanish, and even had the opportunity to study abroad in Costa Rica. She felt that moving to Spain with her husband and being able to speak to the locals there finally made her fluent.

"I think learning Spanish in general was just like a lifelong challenge in a good way," she said, "My biggest challenge, I think, was that I was embarrassed that I didn't speak it better...and I wanted to know, like, how to say everything perfectly, and if I couldn't I would feel embarrassed. I think it does a lot to open your eyes to new [and many] cultures. You have to go and get to know people and have other experiences in another language to really

understand another culture and values."

When I asked about how she thinks multilingualism impacts society, she gave an emotional viewpoint. "I think that it just gives more empathy for humanity in general because once you're able to see other people's perspectives, you just have more empathy. You understand better."

Science teacher Akira Mally also spoke about his experience of speaking multiple languages. He is half white and half Japanese, and grew up with his mother speaking Japanese and his father speaking English to him. Overall, he felt that there weren't any challenges learning multiple languages at once.

"I took three years of Japanese in college to help practice and improve my reading and writing. My vocabulary has definitely increased," he said when I asked about his language growth. "But since I haven't been practicing my reading and writing, it's kind of back to where it was."

He spoke about how multilingualism is beneficial for him and how it offers him different perspectives and helps him connect with multiple language learning students. "It's also just cool to be able to go somewhere else, and that's not America or not an English speaking country and be able to interact with people."

When I asked him about how multilingualism impacts society, he spoke about the aspects of art, such as movies and writing, and about its translations. "If we had a

universal language, things would be a lot easier. But for me, I think multilingualism benefits society...I think it's really cool that each culture can have their own way of saying something, and it opens up new perspectives and ways of communication."

Another question I brought up was the teachers' opinions about how AI is becoming more relevant for multilingualism, and how they think of it for language learners.

Abbie said that she doesn't have much of an opinion on AI, and that she needs to learn more about it. "I see that there's, like, really cool apps that help you interact with a language...as far as learning it on your own. It kind of takes out the human aspect of it when learning a new language." Akira agrees with the AI advancement for language. "I've been seeing, like, apps these days where you can actually have conversation pointers, which I think is really cool...language models can actually help you talk and learn conversational language."

Then came another question. What did my parents think of me being bilingual? How did they help enhance my language skills? So, I asked them.

According to my mother, she mainly talked to me in Japanese when I was a kid.

Overall, she felt that I started learning and speaking in English in the US by watching kids shows on channels like PBS Kids and Nickelodeon, then learned Japanese after that. One main cause for my language skills was due to the environment in which

I grew up in, and was a big factor for me, so not much encouragement to learn was needed.

When I asked what it was like looking after me, I was surprised to hear her answer. "When you were still a beginner, I knew a bit more English than you, so I was somewhat able to help out. But before I knew it, you surpassed my level of English, so I felt bad that I wasn't able to support you properly after that." [Translated].

She said that speaking multiple languages can lead to more open ended opportunities. "I feel like you can have more opportunities for what you want to do for your future compared to monolingual people, and I think that's great. By overcoming the hurdle of language barriers, it might be easier to think about going, living, or working in a different country." [Translated].

She also spoke about how I advanced my language skills on my own, and that there wasn't much struggle during that phase of learning. "Some kids who struggled with languages may end up being frustrated, but you didn't have any issues like that at all. All I remember is being terrible at pronouncing English words for your English tests." [Translated].

Spanish teacher Tim Leone-Getten had a similar experience of looking after bilingual kids who spoke English and Spanish. He said that he mainly spoke to them in Spanish, encouraged them to read Spanish books, and had them go to Spanish

Immersion School. "It was interesting, because it was sort of like an experiment," he said, when I asked what it was like as a parent during that time. "I kind of realized that, when studying a language, we all have mistakes in whatever language we're speaking. [I thought that] if I could get my kids to speak Spanish as well as I can, then I figured that's great."

He expressed how despite his Spanish not being as perfect as his English, and that he would "pass on" any mistakes he made, that his children's learning ability was increasing. "Until maybe about third grade, [my kids] reading and writing was way better in Spanish than English." When I asked how this ability would help his kids, he answered, "I think it's super helpful in many ways. I think it also helps in learning...it makes your mind a little bit more flexible."

Similarly, he talked about how Spanish was helpful for his kids in school and how it can still be useful during their careers. "It makes them have more empathy and understanding of different cultures." Some main factors Tim believed most helped his kids were discipline, having the interest of learning another language, and having a school to help reinforce their abilities.

So when you want to learn a new language, don't be afraid to make mistakes! My parents always tried to talk in English even if their grammar or pronunciation wasn't accurate. Here's a couple of messages from people from OWL.

Melita said, "It's good to start at a young age and if

you know more than, like, one language, it's much easier to learn others." Atom said, "Keep pushing. Don't really give up, because you're gonna give up at the point that's the hardest, and once you push past that point, it'll make learning a lot easier."

Abbie said, "If you want to, you should do it. It takes a long time and a lot of motivation and a lot of consistency, but anyone can do it. It's not about being smart or not smart, anybody can learn a second language." Akira said, "It's really, really hard to learn from a book or to learn from an app if you're not speaking the language all the time...find a community near where you can practice using the language, and you'll learn way faster."

Tim said, "It's a lot of fun. It's kind of like having a secret code that you can break, and because there's just millions of people you can talk to then, and a lot of cool experiences you can have. To be able to communicate with people in their own language beyond English...I think it can be a really big advantage for [a lot of peoples] lives."

Additionally, my mom said, "[As a parent,] letting your child be immersed in their environment would be the best option [in my opinion] through Youtube videos or picture books...Making small goals and steps little by little and leveling up your language skills would be an effective way." [Translated].

My message is to just give it a shot. If you feel like you want to give up, that's okay. I believe it's better to give up trying than to not try at all.

DJ Akira, 2

bridge.

I think the funniest part of all of this is Akira's DJ name, Donnie Lighto. It's a play on words from the movie Donnie Darko.

But don't worry, Akira won't be leaving us for a DJ world tour anytime soon, "I have no desire to make it a career or to make money off of it. It is simply just a creative outlet that I like to do with friends." He has said he'd be open to DJing for a school dance though.

If you are thinking about trying out DJing, Akira has some advice. "It looks really simple, but it's actually a lot trickier. And there's kind of a steep learning curve, but once you get it, it gets a lot easier. Don't get frustrated. Just kind of stick with it. Try all different

kinds of music, watch a ton of YouTube videos. There are a lot of free resources out there. The only real barrier to entry is the cost of a controller, but you could always find them on Facebook Marketplace or Craigslist. I bought mine used. Find some friends that want to do it as well, because then you kind of motivate each other to get better. It's hard to start a new hobby or something by yourself."



Stranger Things, 7

die and that she had escaped to some place far away. I think this made the ending more confusing to fans. The theory left me wondering, "what really happened to El and is Mike's theory true?" I would prefer that Mike's theory was what actually happened in the end. I think this would make the ending more satisfying. I feel like this season was extremely globally anticipated, since it was the final one, and every fan was hoping for a successful and satisfying ending, but myself and many others were left feeling disappointed and having many unanswered questions. Although the ending of Stranger Things was not what I hoped for, I still enjoyed the feeling of watching the final season, and I would recommend it.

Simpsons, 6

a new worker, Frank Grimes, is at the power plant and has a grudge against Homer, and will do anything to prove that he is stupid. This episode scored an 11/12. I thought that this episode had a pretty good story and was pretty unique. The best part in this episode is when Bart walks in on a land auction and bids "a buck" on a factory and wins it.

3. Lemons of Troy:
In this season six episode kids from Springfield's rival town Shelbyville steal the prized lemon tree. Bart and a team of kids then go into Shelbyville to wage war and take back the lemon tree. This episode scored 10 /12, I thought it was pretty funny and unique and is definitely one of my favorite episodes. My favorite part in this

episode was when Homer was trying to convince one of the Dads to give back the lemon tree and the Dad bites into a lemon, which is a pretty iconic moment.

2. Marge vs the Monorail:
In this season four episode Mr. Burns is fined \$3,000,000. The city of Springfield spends that money on a monorail and Homer is chosen to be the conductor (Do'h). This episode scored an 11/12, I thought it was really funny and creative. The episode definitely stands out from the rest, it's on the top of numerous lists of the best Simpsons episodes. It was even written by the famous Conan O'Brien. One of my favorite moments in this episode is after the monorail is out of control Homer needs an anchor to stop it, he then looks at Bart and sees him transform into an anchor and Bart says

"think harder dad."

Last Exit to Springfield:
After Burns cuts the dental plan in the employee benefits in this season four episode, Homer becomes head of the union and orders a strike. All the while Lisa needs to get braces, raising the stakes for the dental plan. This episode scored a 12/12! I thought that this episode was really funny. It has a really captivating story and definitely stands out above the other episodes. In this episode Mr. Burns tries to get strikebreaker and gets a bunch of old men who then tell him about the time he tied an onion to his belt, "Which was the style at the time."

Archery, 2

"It's very close-knit. Tom really instills in us to connect and get to know the team. It helps make joining the team less scary because everyone is so welcoming," said 9th grader Sophie Sherman-Hoehn.

Senior Arlo Northrop-Kiel said, "I started my sophomore year so I don't have much experience on the team, but I think the thing I like most is the community. We have good friendships and tournaments are fun." He also said, "Being an archery captain is pretty fun because you get to manage your own team. You get to pick a lieutenant, and then have a bunch of other kids that you

manage."

8th grader Melita Allen said, "People are always willing to help you. I have friends on the team, so I think it's fun and pretty chill."

Sophie also said, "Talking to the captains and coaches and your teammates builds such a welcoming community. It's so connected that you should not be afraid to ask for help."

The goal for the archery team this year is to have some archers win medals, and possibly qualify for nationals. There are a ton of strong archers on the team already, and many of them have made big progress in the first few weeks of the season.

Camp Manitou, 6

reliving almost everything that happened at camp.

Then, besides all of the big activities, there is indie night. On this night you can basically do anything your cabin wants. Some examples may be taking a night swim in the dead center of the lake, canoeing, making s'mores, or maybe just hanging in your cabin and having fun playing cards with your friends.

However, the cabins are not the highest quality. While it is really fun to be in the same place as your friends, the beds do not support your back at all and if you even set foot in your bed there will most

likely always be sand in it for no absolute reason. But as an upside, there are these things called snack bins, which, you guessed it, have a bunch of snacks in them so that you won't go hungry.

There is one final activity that is basically the most awaited for the whole camp.

This activity is called the mud hike. The mud hike is, you guessed it, a hike in the mud, but it is completely optional. It's also just more than a hike in the mud. It's a run, it's dedication, it's being brave, and releasing all your worries and getting dirty. First, you have to wear old clothes and shoes that you wouldn't

want to ruin. Then, the hike starts with a long run, which may seem bad to some, but the air there is so fresh it doesn't feel like you're using so much breath. Then, after a pretty long run, you get to this tree that looks like it was blown in half, and the hike starts. As you go through the varying levels of mud, you start to feel leaves against your legs that keep you steady. You also feel logs under your feet, and you need to try to balance on them when walking. Finally, as you reach the end of the hike, finding a lot of discarded crocs or other shoes, there is something called the widow maker, and a diving rock where

you can dive into the deep end of the mud. Then, when it's all over, it's a short run back to the camp site where you take a dip in the lake to rinse off.

In conclusion, Camp Manitou is perfect for people looking for a first time sleepaway camp, wanting to have a fun time at a competitive camp, or even just to make friends, whether they're just for your time at camp, or friends for life. At Camp Manitou your goal is to make lifelong connections with your peers, and it does that incredibly well.

Music, 6

to stay in the ensemble. I've already led with why I chose clarinet first, and I hope you understand because of it to PLEASE research a lot before you choose your instrument.

Now that you definitely have your instrument and are starting to learn it, what should you learn specifically? It all depends on what you plan to do with your instrument in the future. I'd suggest for everyone to practice their scales as their first thing, but if you plan to do a lot with music in your future, you must MASTER them! But if you just want to learn Careless Whisper so you can play the intro to your friends, that's completely fine, and you can 100% spend your time learning that too. All the decisions that come with the journey of learning an instrument are dependent on your personal tastes— don't play the flute just because someone wants you to. Don't play the hardest instrument just because you want to brag that you can do the hardest

one, just do what you want to with your instrument.

"I think more OWL students should join band because learning an instrument is both fun and meaningful... Band teaches students how to be patient, curious, and resilient; how to work through something difficult instead of giving up. Those are life skills that carry into every future path, no matter what a student chooses to do," said Humboldt band teacher Jeremy Barnes.

"It's like a little community. I felt like the band class was intimidating at first because I didn't know anyone, then I made one friend and everyone knew me. Once you get in there, they're all very welcoming," said 8th grader Mavis Craig.

"I love band because of the collaboration it can give you. It's scary when you're first doing it, but that's the thing with band, you meet new people and get to work together," said 11th grader Zayne Huett.

Anyways, my personal experience in band has been

very interesting this semester. I already played saxophone for about a year previously to joining band, so I didn't struggle much with the work we were doing. The work seriously helped me get more practice though. The hardest part of practice for me has always been opening up the case, but band forced me to open up the case and play way more often. Even playing the simple stuff helps a lot for practice, and I also found a lot of time in between to practice the harder stuff too. I believe musical skill doesn't go up gradually like most want it to. I believe most people's skills go up and plateau for some time, and then go up again when they find a cool new thing, and then plateau again, go up again, etc. But band has forced me to stay on miniscule plateaus, making me improve every week rather than every month. So if you plan to get private lessons, don't stop there, please join band too.

Lobizona, 5

expectations, and what it truly means to label someone "illegal." There isn't a book that is more relevant for the time than Lobizona.

From the opening pages, this story sunk its claws into me. I fell in love with Manu and her struggles. I connected with her feelings of isolation and, just waiting for the right moment to start living your life. But at the same time, I was on the opposite side of the window. As a white reader, it was the first time I was introduced to the feelings an immigrant like Manu might feel, and I started questioning what it would feel like. What if I was illegal? What if there were people who would stop at nothing to capture me? What if I was forced to ignore all rationality that I was safe because no matter where I am, where I turn, I'm not? The prospect was terrifying to me, which only made me sympathize with Manu and want to see where she went even more.

Not a single word in this book failed to excite me. The plot was fast-paced and tension packed, keeping me fully submerged in the story. I have read very few books that knocked me over and swept me into the current of its chapters like Lobizona did.

The world building was just as masterfully crafted. The magic system and the societal ideals of the species were so detailed. Directly affecting the main characters and moving the plot forward seem to be the bare basics of any fantasy novel setting — or heck, any novel in general. But Garber pulled it off so smoothly and beautifully that the setting felt like it's own character.

If you only read one book for the rest of the year, or the rest of your life, let Lobizona be that book. Whether you're a Harry Potter and/or Percy Jackson fanatic, or if you're tired of slow boring books, or if you want to be absorbed in a one-of-its-kind whimsical Latinx fantasy world; read Lobizona. You'll thank me later.

Math team, 2

questions. In the team event, you can listen to the lovely sound of kids screaming out answers. They get 20 minutes to answer ten questions in a group of six, recording answers on a piece of paper.

Their places are determined by their scores. The individual scores determine individual place, and team event scores determine their overall team's place. Each team question is worth four points, and the amount of points on an individual score vary from two to four points per question.

If that's too much math for you already, maybe the math team isn't for you. Every year after the season, the team goes on a field trip to Inver Hills Community College to do more math and eat more pizza (there's something about math and pizza!). There, they compete for something much greater than glory: the chance to go to state.

Phone problems, 6

go to something they know is harmful. Teens may go to social media because they lack support offline, might be trying to find people like them if they are a part of a marginalized group, or might be trying to find fandoms of the media they like.

Phones also allow kids and teens to cheat with AI. The University of Maryland has proved AI's mistakes, such as when they asked AI to name all countries that start with a V and it only named two (there are more). AI also has cited and used information that is wrong. Often the citation they give doesn't even exist, and even if the sites they give are real, the information they give is not specific to the source, just articles somewhat relating to the subject. The University

of Maryland also tested AI's ability to interpret prompts correctly, and despite having explicit instructions, the AI wrote about another thing. Many people already have their own opinions on AI, but if people want to cheat, their phones give them very easy access to AI and even the ability to get apps for AI.

So why are phones so addictive? Because they give your brain a reward by giving you dopamine that makes you happy. According to the Addiction Center there are around five billion people who have phones, and around 6.3% of those people have a phone addiction. While that is less than 10%, that still means 315 million people are affected by a phone addiction. While some of the other problems with phones can be found

with other tech like iPads and computers, phones are a different case because phones can be easily taken anywhere in your pocket.

Solutions to the phone addiction problem may not be obvious, but if you need help with a phone addiction you can get help from your parents, a professional, or school counselors. I think people should be watching their own screen time use, or adults can put screen time limits on kids phones. There should be more concern over all the damage phones can do to growing brains, but what to do should be decided by the individual person, and when it's a kid their parents should also have an input. My opinion is that you should use your phones in moderation.

OWL response, 1

have been enacting change themselves. Following the death of Renee Nicole Good, students called for a moment of silence during school hours. A group of juniors and seniors also planned a walkout in light

of her murder, joining with other SPPS schools to hold a protest at the Capitol building. Beyond the walkout, students have also made an effort to keep each other safe by giving out red cards, which give information about what to do if you encounter ICE, and

whistles.

The OWL-Humboldt community, along with the rest of the Twin Cities, has been heavily impacted by the ICE occupation of Minnesota. Many within the OWL community have risen to the occasion, with individuals stepping up to protect kids, speak out against ICE activity, and keep students safe. As for the future, OWL students and community members are planning to continue organizing and spreading awareness about ICE.



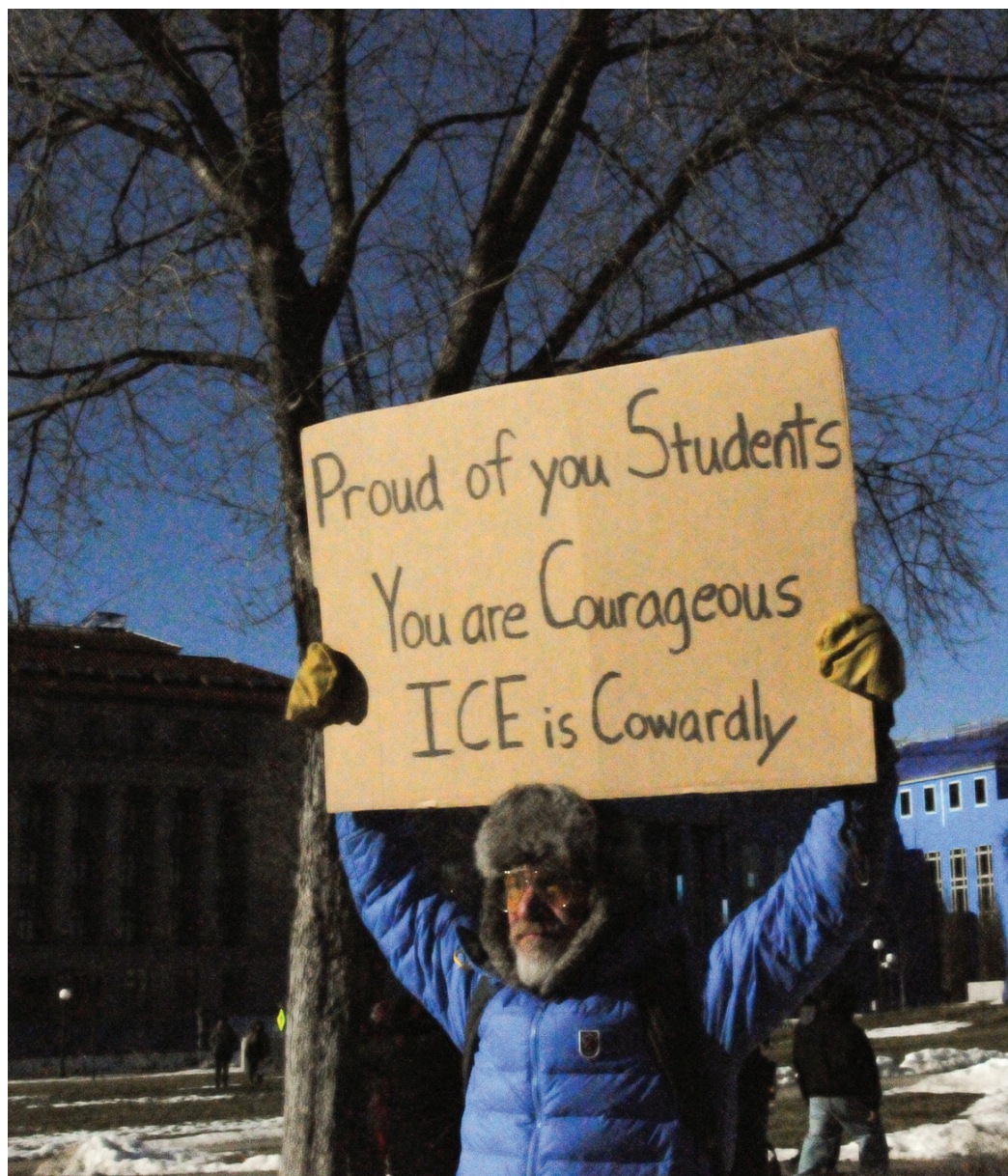
Purple Press Staff Photo

Parents and community members assist with bus duty.



Harper Kopka

The crowd makes its way through downtown Saint Paul.



Harper Kopka

A community member shows their support.

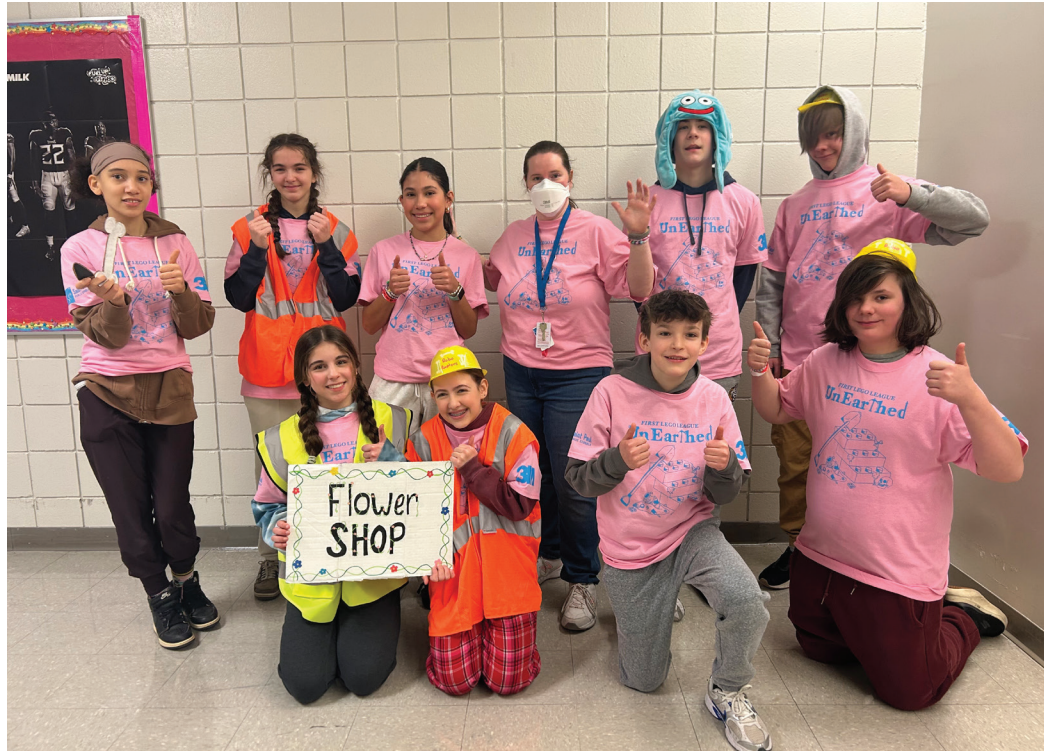
Lego League teams advance

On Saturday January 24th, three OWL Lego League teams competed in the regional competition, which took place at Capitol Hill Magnet School in Saint Paul. Teams from across the SPPS district attended in hopes of earning a spot at state. They competed in categories like the robot game, innovation project, robot design, and core values. Two OWL teams, The RoboRaptors and Lego My Eggo, moved on to state, which will be held on February 15th at Burnsville Highschool.



Emily Totushek

Clara's team, Lego my Eggo, celebrates at the tournament.



Emily Totushek

Sorcha's team, the Robo Raptors.

Boys basketball family fun

The boys basketball team is having a successful season. The Hawks ran their record to 11-6 as of press time. They defeated Lakes International Language Academy 77-38 at home on Monday. The team nabbed 20 offensive rebounds, managed 52 points in the paint, and eight different players scored.

Last week, they earned a conference upset at home against Highland, as well as a conference victory against Harding. The section tournament will take place in early March. The team advanced to the section semi finals last year, before losing a hard-fought game to Saint Croix Lutheran Academy.



Roman Rufi

Cavlin Hoenisch in warm ups before the Highland game.



Roman Rufi

Simon Casper shoots a free throw in a game earlier this season.

Mock trial appears in court



Akira Mally

Zania, Beatrice, and Anya prepare to compete.

This year, OWL's mock trial team has gone 3-0, with their most recent trial being yesterday, February 4th. The team has been developing their case since October, with the defense taking the team's first win against Apple Valley on January 6th. Subsequent wins by the plaintiff against St Thomas Academy and Parnassus Preparatory Academy have set them up to potentially compete in a fifth round at the Hennepin County Courthouse, and open up the possibility of competing at the state tournament in March.



Akira Mally

The group poses after a recent competition at the Ramsey County Courthouse.

Music night takes the stage



Purple Press Staff Photo

Alice introduces another performance.

On January 27th, an all new OWL event took place. Organized by senior Alice Weiland, Music Night saw music performances from OWL students across multiple grades. 6th graders showed off the drumming, ukelele, and songwriting skills they learned in their Music Exploration class in the auditorium for the first half of the night. The audience then transitioned down to the cafeteria, which was specially outfitted with soft seating and small tables, for a showcase of original songs and music from students in the songwriting class. Organizers are hopeful the event will become a new tradition that will help the music scene at OWL stay popular.



Purple Press Staff Photo

Greta directs a sixth grade group in a musical number.