



Bathroom closures punish all students for the actions of a few

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The Quill

Wed., March 25, 2026

Vol. 62, No. 6

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Robbinsdale Cooper High School

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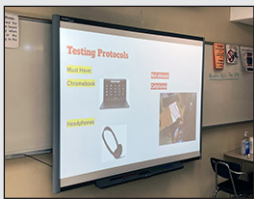


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TWO JUNIORS NAMED EXCEL AWARD WINNERS

Kyllander Nelson, Wyatt Dean won the prestigious MSHSL recognition



Photo by SARA THURSTON

The annual honor is given to Minnesota students who show a commitment to their community through leadership and service.

By TESSA LENOCH
Quill staff writer

Two Cooper students, Kyllander Nelson (11) and Wyatt Dean (11), were recently awarded with the Excellence in Community, Education and Leadership (ExCEL) award offered by the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL).

The ExCEL award is given to academically excellent students who demonstrate a strong commitment to their community through service and leadership. This is a highly selective recognition that was only awarded to 34 students across the state this school year.

Student counselor Salinee Hough was a part of the

nomination process that selected Nelson and Dean this year. When it came to picking students from the junior class to nominate, she thought of the community leaders she already knew in Cooper's Student Council.

"It was only natural to think of students who are part of the Student Council. I think our Student Council

members are all positive leaders in the school and also serve the community regularly," she said.

Nelson and Dean stood out to Hough because of their involvement in leadership, community, sports and performing arts at Cooper.

"They both make Cooper a much better place," Hough said.

Nelson is involved in activities both inside and outside of school. Her list of accomplishments include being involved in Student Council, Chamber Singers, Bella Voce and volleyball. Nelson also manages the baseball team, is president of the Ilhan Omar Youth Advisory Council, serves on the Superintendent Youth Council, works with the League of Women Voters and works at the New Hope Ice Arena. When she found out that she had won the award, Nelson said she was shocked.

"It definitely feels like an honor. I wasn't aware the ExCEL award was a big deal until we got to the activity office and they were shocked both Cooper nominees had won. The award is also a nice way to show appreciation for involvement," Nelson said.

In the upcoming school year, Nelson is planning to continue her activities and plan for the future after graduation.

"My goal is to keep my grades up as much as possible for the remainder of junior year then take advantage of free college courses my senior year. I'm planning to continue political science after high school," she said.

Meanwhile, Dean is in-

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HLL approach altered for second semester

Issues with hallway behavior during fifth period prompted move to make more classroom-based options available

By BRAYLON NIX
Quill staff writer

Cooper administrators have changed the structure of fifth period Hawk Lunch and Learn (HLL) starting second semester to offer more academic options that allow students to be in classrooms.

HLL was designed this year to give students flexibility to sign up for academic help, leisure activities or hallway time. However, administrators and staff noticed that the freedom of hallway time was not always being used as intended.

Administrative Intern Josh Mahan, who oversees the HLL program, said the updated HLL structure introduced second semester was made by his team after concerns were raised that students were not seeking extra help because they chose hallway time instead. He said the goal is to give students "extra required academic help" and encourage them to take advantage of opportunities. Mahan added that bringing back hallway time more often is possible, but it "depends on both academic performance and behavior."

The changes to HLL are still being adjusted to by staff and students. One staff member, hallway security person Andrai Harris, said he does "not strongly support or oppose the change," adding that his main concern is "student well-being." He said it is important to let students "be themselves with their friends" but also noted that academics still need to be a priority on certain days. While students were often "everywhere" during HLL, Harris said that as long as students were not causing major issues, he did not see a problem.

Several staff members agreed that misuse by some students affected the HLL system as a whole. Math teacher Garrett Bruce said the HLL changes will force students to focus on academics while still allowing them to have fun on certain days of the week. He explained that hallway time had become "a little bit unsustainable," even though he personally did not see widespread abuse.

According to art teacher Claire Mielke, the second semester HLL changes

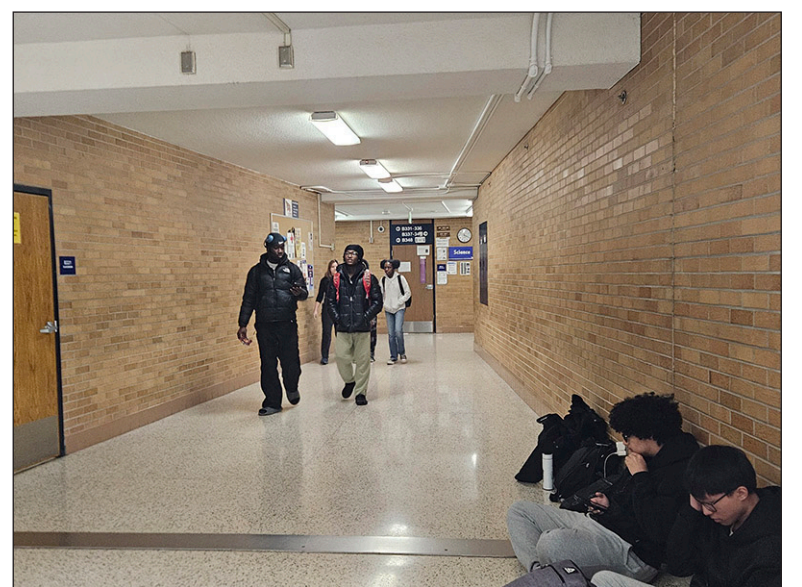


Photo by ROSE VANG-LOHNES

Walking the hallways is a popular choice for leisure sessions during fifth period HLL.

have been positive.

"I didn't advocate for the change, but I'm definitely pleased with the change. I think students need to have some more social time, so I don't mind the hallway time, but I do think having a little bit more academic-focused time is also important," Mielke said.

Mielke added that she has "absolutely" seen students abusing hallway time

HLL APPROACH ALTERED continues on page 2

Distance learning ending for students impacted by ICE

Many Hawks opted for online classes during the height of Operation Metro Surge in Minneapolis in early 2026

By ELLA VAN MASSENHOVE
Quill staff writer

December 2025 marked the beginning of heightened ICE operations in the Minneapolis area. As a result, some students stopped coming to school out of fear. Eventually, the district made it possible for affected students to sign up for a distance learning option, which runs until the start of spring break on March 27.

Over this time span, teachers have dealt with an increase of students engaged in distance learning in their classes. This has especially been the case for Annika Peterson, an English teacher who works with many EL students.

"In December and January, I noticed a significant number of students not attending school in person and requesting online learning. I have started seeing some of my students returning to school in the last couple of weeks and it has been amazing to see them

again," she said.

Peterson affirms that in some of her classes, the number of students attending class in person dropped considerably, which led her to sometimes teaching classes of 10 students or fewer.

"This is sad and hard for everyone. It is harder to plan engaging lessons as a teacher for such a small and variable group, and students who are in person have friends who are at home who they miss hanging out with," Peterson said.

Salinee Hough, one of the school counselors, received a significant number of requests from students to begin online learning. To handle this situation, Hough kept online students' schedules unchanged.

"We haven't changed schedules. The goal is just to be in communication as much as possible," she said.

Peterson said her biggest challenge is that she is not able to support the students to face this hard situation. In addition, getting online students the material they need and getting contact with them is difficult, which can be

a problem as these students try to maintain good grades. Peterson said that some students are not submitting their work for a variety of reasons, which can also be an issue for them when it comes to keeping up a strong academic performance.

To support students who feel unsafe and anxious due to immigration enforcement, Peterson said she always remains available for them to speak to.

"The first thing we can do is validate that this is a scary time and that we are always here to listen and process if they want to talk. Then, it is our job to reassure students that we are doing everything in our power to keep them safe at school. We can also help connect students to resources, like social workers, counselors, as well as community resources," she said.

According to Hough, the school provides a system that allows each student who chose to do distance learning to consult with a specific staff member.

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Use of AI for classroom work raising concerns

Students, staff grapple with the impact of AI on teaching, learning

By DIANA SANCHEZ MORALES
Quill staff writer

Artificial intelligence (AI) is becoming more common in schools with students using tools like ChatGPT to help with assignments and studying. While many believe AI can make learning easier and more accessible, others worry it may lead to cheating or weaken important thinking skills. As its use continues to grow, the debate over whether AI is helpful or harmful in education is just at its beginning.

The fact that students are using AI, particularly generative tools, is raising significant concerns about the impact that overreliance may have on critical thinking and research skills. Teachers fear students are becoming too dependent on AI for homework, essays and brainstorming, which can diminish their ability to think critically, solve problems and produce original work. English teacher Julie Eisfelder said that depending on AI may be a bad choice that causes students to not think for themselves.

"I worry about students building a dependence on technology and not thinking for themselves. It gives misinformation and I worry students will just believe that as fact," she said.

While AI has changed classrooms by making some tasks easier for students, teachers note that AI may limit the hard work that is required for deep learning and memory, replacing effortful learning with shortcut solutions. This has led teachers like Eisfelder to offset some of the negative impact AI has had on her classroom.

"I have to proactively try to choose materials that do not have a lot of other information out on the internet that students can just Google," Eisfelder said. "I try to choose more materials that are not searchable so students have to think on their own and not rely on the web for answers."

According to Eisfelder, some grade-level teams have changed how they assess students.

"We have more in-class writing responses to get genuine student voices as opposed to out of class where it can be easier to resort to searching online for responses," she said.

AI makes it difficult to assess a student's true understanding because it enables the submission of high-quality work that masks a lack of critical thinking, creativity and fundamental knowledge. English teacher Olivia Major cites this as a major challenge of AI.

"When students use AI, I cannot confidently grade their knowledge and understanding of a topic," she said.

Much like Eisfelder, Major said she is redesigning assignments to be AI-resistant by focusing on handwritten work in class, oral presentations and personalized, process-based tasks that AI cannot easily replicate.

"I am continuing to adapt the school work I give students because of AI," she said.

For students, one challenge of AI is determining how to use it properly. Many agree that AI use should be limited to prevent dependency and cheating. On the other hand, AI can be a good way for students to get help with brainstorming, receiving tutoring and getting organized. According to Alia Renteria (12), AI should only be used in a way to help you with ideas instead of copying everything.

"I think AI should be limited on assignments, such as having AI do all the work for you. I think it should be used to direct you to what you're confused on and how you can make your answer fit the criteria in a way you understand and better answer the question using your own words," she said.

Meanwhile, Anisha Yang (10) said she thinks AI can be a useful tool for understanding topics faster.

"I use AI pretty often, normally just asking AI to summarize stuff for me if I don't have time at home or in

USE OF AI
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Psychology students conduct experiments

As part of an IB Internal Assessment, members of the class recreated famous psychology studies from the past



Photo by ROSE VANG-LOHNES

Mr. Deiman consults with his IB Psychology students during a class session on March 3.

By MARIAH WASHINGTON
Quill staff writer

Students in IB Psychology are taking learning beyond the textbook by conducting their own psychological experiments as part of their Internal Assessment (IA). The project, which accounts for 20 percent of a student's final grade in the course, is also required for students who plan to sit for the IB Psychology exam in May.

The Psychology IA asks students to replicate a classic psychological experiment and write a formal report on their findings. According to the course's teacher, Bryan Deiman, the project helps

students learn how to "prepare and conduct an experiment, analyze data, calculate social statistics and evaluate the process."

Because the assignment is a significant part of the course, Deiman provides students with a "menu" of classic studies to choose from that are appropriate and manageable. What is more, Deiman said students have a wide range of experiments to choose from if they do not want to stick to the "menu."

The first step in the experiment process is for students to form research groups. After selecting a study to replicate, they read the original experiment and break it down into an outline to fully under-

stand how it was conducted. From there, students develop a hypothesis, identify their independent and dependent variables, and design their own version of the experiment.

Deiman added that students also prepare several materials required for ethical research. These include participant consent forms, debriefing notes explaining the purpose of the experiment and a step-by-step outline of the procedure.

During the experiments, student participants sign consent forms, which are made by the students running the experiment, before taking part. Afterward, they are fully debriefed about the conditions and purpose of the study.

According to Deiman, one of the biggest challenges for students is recruiting enough participants. However, the class was able to gather all of the volunteers they needed this year.

One student who conducted an IB Psychology experiment this semester is Mathilde Klausen (12). She did an experiment on whether a group of people would be able to remember descriptive statements about an individual better if they were to hear their name or see their face.

"What inspired my experiment is that I've noticed how some people say they have a better chance at recalling details about a person if they see their face and I wanted to see if this was accurate," Klausen said.

Klausen had challenges when running her experiment. For example, she said the classroom was "noisy from vents" and she could not do anything about it.

Ultimately, Klausen said her experiment did not produce results that proved her hypothesis, which can sometimes happen. When it does, Deiman said students have to examine the differences between their experiment and the original research to determine what may have influenced the outcome.

Despite the challenges, the IA provides students with valuable experience using the scientific method. By collecting and analyzing real data, students gain a deeper understanding of how psychological theories are tested.

"It's one thing to learn about psychology from a book," Deiman said, "but conducting a well-prepared experiment that demonstrates how our brain works, now that's education."

Spring brings start of standardized testing season

Following the ACT on March 11, Cooper students in all four grades are preparing for various state, local assessments

By DIANA SANCHEZ MORALES
Quill staff writer

Cooper students have entered a period of time in which multiple required, standardized tests are taking place. Following the ACT test for juniors that took place on March 11, the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) in science will take place for students in biology April 13-15; the MCAs in math will take place for juniors April 15-17; and the MCAs in English will take place for sophomores April 20-23. Additionally, there will be one last round of FAST testing for English students in all four grades during the week of May 11.

According to reading specialist Gretchen Enselein-Kraemer, the purpose of these assessments is to measure how well students are meeting Minnesota's academic standards and to evaluate the effectiveness of instruction in schools. The results help our district understand student progress, identify areas where students may need ad-

ditional support and ensure schools are meeting the state's education expectations.

"The assessments give us just a snapshot into student learning, but when combined, we know where our students, school and district stand regarding academic achievement," Enselein-Kraemer said.

An additional purpose for the tests is to give students more experience with the kind of testing they will experience when heading to college.

"These assessments can help prepare students for college entrance exams. The MCAs are untimed, which is different from college entrance exams, but they give students the opportunity to learn pacing in a known and low-stakes environment," Enselein-Kraemer said.

Test results can help students understand their academic strengths and areas where they may need improvement.

"Results offer students an additional piece of evidence about

their personal strengths and challenges, as well as areas of growth," Enselein-Kraemer said. "For students pursuing post-secondary education, MCA scores can be utilized for course placement at the college or university. Students who meet benchmarks in their math and reading assessments can complete credit-bearing coursework at a two- or four-year college or university or other credit-bearing postsecondary program without the need for remedial courses."

Meanwhile, teachers can use the test data to adjust instruction for the benefit of students. For schools and districts, the results also help evaluate academic performance, guide curriculum decisions and report progress to the state.

"Our individual staff use information from MCAs to guide our instruction and better support our students. We discover areas that students do well and where we can reinforce learning, and areas where students struggle, and we can improve our instruction," En-

selein-Kraemer said.

According to Enselein-Kraemer, the school and the state work hard to make sure the tests are fair, accessible and consistent.

"There are certain testing windows where exams must be administered and it can be a challenge to balance all of the assessments within a limited date range," she said. "Students who are absent or don't finish will need a time and place to finish the assessment within the allotted range of time. It's also important that there are enough headphones and loaner Chromebooks available for students if they forget their devices or headphones at home."

Another key component to testing is the preparation that takes place in individual classrooms leading up to a given exam. Enselein-Kraemer said this can be seen with the school's approach to MCA preparation.

STANDARDIZED
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DISTANCE LEARNING ENDING FOR STUDENTS IMPACTED BY ICE continued from page 1

"All students learning online currently have a point person assigned to them. This helps to ensure all the students have someone they can easily connect with when needed. We've offered material drop-offs, family support and consistent communication," she said.

At the same time, online learning

is not always an effective approach for learning. According to Peterson, because of a lack of time and preparation, it has been difficult to prepare to meet the needs of online learners.

"We are not an online school and our classes are not online classes. I became a teacher because I value building relationships with students and

supporting them in person, through discussion, hands-on activities and collaboration. None of these things are possible when some students are forced to stay home due to fear and anxiety surrounding safety," she said.

Ultimately, staff members acknowledge that facing ICE agents can be extremely difficult and stressful for

students, which makes school a lower priority.

"I have had students whose parents have been detained. I have students who had ICE outside their apartments almost every day. That stress and fear makes learning and focusing on school really difficult," Hough said.

HLL APPROACH ALTERED FOR SECOND SEMESTER continued from page 1

and admitted that hallway supervision can be challenging, even though it is necessary.

Educational assistant Gabby Wamsby also supports the decision, saying the switch is "beneficial for the kids" and puts academics first. While she acknowledged that rule-following students may feel punished by the re-

duction in hallway time, she said that "one bad apple ruins the bunch" and that the change is ultimately better for everyone.

Meanwhile, students are having mixed reactions to the new HLL schedule. AJ Reynolds (10) said the change feels "different" and "weird," adding that last year's approach to

HLL should return fully with stricter monitoring. He also said the change is unfair and that he misses old activities like going to an art class. Still, he believes bringing back the old HLL is "a possibility" if students follow the rules.

Another student, Angelica Brambilla (11), said the change "is

not that bad" and admitted that some students took advantage of the system from first semester. She acknowledged that she was partly responsible and said hallway time was her favorite activity. Brambilla said she believes the first-semester approach to HLL could return if students stop misusing the time.

TWO JUNIORS NAMED EXCEL AWARD WINNERS continued from page 1

volved in the National Honor Society, Student Council, choir and Chamber Singers. Dean also serves as a captain of the baseball team.

"I feel so honored to have the privilege of being recognized for this award. It's always an amazing

feeling to be noticed for your efforts," he said.

With senior year on the horizon, Dean is continuing to put his efforts into all aspects of his life at Cooper.

"For the remainder of high school, I'm just hoping to keep hold-

ing myself to a high standard academically while narrowing down further what I would like to do as far as my major and college. After high school, I want to go into either kinesiology or engineering while also playing college baseball," he said.

Nelson and Dean were honored, along with the other 2026 ExCEL Award recipients, during an on-court ceremony at halftime of the Class AAA Girls State Championship basketball game on March 14 at 2 p.m.

District busing cut for Minneapolis area

The elimination of transportation for out-of-district families is the result of broader Robbinsdale budget reductions



Photo by TYLER GOODMAN

Hawks who live outside of the Robbinsdale attendance area will now have to find their own way to school.

By ANGEL JARQUIN RAMIREZ
Quill staff writer

Cooper will no longer provide bus transportation to and from Minneapolis starting next school year. This decision has sparked mixed reactions among students and families, especially those who rely on district transportation each day. As a Minneapolis resident myself, I understand why the school wants to eliminate these routes because we live farther away than most

students and transportation costs are high. At the same time, I feel conflicted about the decision because of the impact it will have on students who depend on those buses.

According to district officials, the decision ultimately came down to finances. Transportation costs continue to rise and budget adjustments had to be made. Still, some community members are concerned about how the change will affect long-time Robbinsdale students. “I

recognize that transportation is expensive, but so many students have spent their entire educational careers in Robbinsdale. I really wish they could get the opportunity to finish in Robbinsdale,” student counselor Salinee Hough said. Her comments reflect the concern that students may be forced to change schools before graduation.

One major impact of this decision is that Minneapolis students will no longer have guaranteed transportation to school.

Students who do not drive or have someone available to bring them may have to rely on rides from friends or pay for services such as Uber. If those options are not possible, some students may feel they have no choice but to transfer schools. That possibility creates uncertainty and stress for families who carefully planned their education around district transportation.

Another significant challenge could be adjusting to a new school environment. Transferring schools may mean making new friends, learning a different schedule and adapting to new teachers. Coursework expectations and teaching styles may vary, making the transition even more difficult. These changes could affect both academic performance and a student’s overall comfort at school.

Ultimately, this issue highlights how transportation decisions directly affect students’ daily lives. While the district faces financial realities, students impacted by the change may need to consider alternatives such as driver’s education, carpooling or other transportation arrangements. In addition, the district could explore flexible learning options for students who occasionally face transportation barriers. As next school year approaches, clear communication and proactive planning will be essential to help students navigate this transition successfully.

Month marking Black history an important move

The official recognition of Black contributions to America dates back to 1926

By MANAL BARE
Quill staff writer

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Black History Month being observed in America. For a century, February has been a time for recognition and remembrance of the countless contributions Black Americans have made to this country. It is important to remember Black history did not begin 100 years ago and it definitely does not end at the end of the month. Black History Month is not just a celebration but a reminder that Black history is American history.

The origins of Black History Month trace back to 1926, when historian Carter G. Woodson created Negro History Week. Woodson knew that Black Americans were not being properly represented and he understood that history was a part of Black identity. To Woodson, without acknowledgment of Black history, America would not be what it is today.

What originally began as a week eventually became a month. Black students and teachers across the country played an extremely major role in expanding the week to a month. Schools, colleges and community groups pushed for bigger and broader recognition of the month, organizing programs, lessons and cultural events that highlighted Black excellence.

In 1976, President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month, famously telling Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.” What started as a week had finally become a nationally recognized month symbolizing persistence and advocacy of Black Americans.

The month of February was chosen because it coincides with the birthdays of two major figures in the abolitionist movement: President Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Many Black communities were already celebrating Douglass’ chosen birthday, as he had been born into slavery and did not know his exact birthdate. Meanwhile, Lincoln’s birth month was chosen for his role in the abolition of slavery. However, both Lincoln’s legacy and the choice of February have faced criticism. Some argue about the impact of Lincoln’s actions, while others question why Black history is crammed into the shortest month of the year.

Despite these concerns, Black History Month is important not because it celebrates history, but because it corrects it. It challenges the incomplete and false narratives that have dominated the Black experience in America for generations. Ultimately, it helps young Black students see themselves reflected in stories of leadership and excellence. The month also reminds all Americans that progress did not come easily; instead, it was fought for.

As we recognize 100 years of Black History Month, we should remember that the goal was never just a month. Instead, it is a reminder that Black history is American history. The creations, struggles, victories and contributions of Black Americans have shaped this country to what it is today.

USE OF AI continued from page 2

school,” Yang said. While some students have identified areas in which AI use can be helpful in adding to learning, others think it should be avoided altogether. Breana Beenken (12) said AI is something she avoids using and that other students should join her in not relying on this resource.

“It doesn’t really help me because I don’t trust it to give me verifiable information that I couldn’t find myself when I can just research topics myself for schoolwork,” she said.

Bathroom closures create burden for all Hawks

The strategy of locking most bathrooms during class time is designed to curtail students misusing the facilities

By ROSE VANG-LOHNES
Quill staff writer

We were promised open bathrooms at the start of this school year, but now when I try to go to the bathroom, it becomes a scavenger hunt given the fact that many bathrooms are now locked during class time throughout the school day. The primary reason for the locked bathrooms is the misuse of bathroom privileges by some students in school. However, not all of us go to the bathrooms to vape, skip class or mess around. Therefore, I think it is unfair for all of us to be punished for the actions of a few. Should we all have our bathroom privileges curtailed because some students do not know how to be respectful of their peers and the school building?

The security educational assistants are supposed to have all the bathrooms open during passing time so students are able to use them. Once passing time is done, security will lock the bathrooms for the first and last 10 minutes of class and for the last 20 minutes of eighth period. While this schedule makes sense, I do not think passing time is enough time for students to be able to use the bathroom. Additionally, there are many occasions



Photo by TYLER GOODMAN

Students looking for an open restroom are often greeted with a “closed” sign.

when I go to use the bathroom at a sanctioned time only to find the door locked.

The main reason all the bathrooms are being closed is for better traffic control in the hallways. Clearly, many students use the bathroom pass as an excuse to skip class or mess around in the hallways. At the same time I understand that we need better control over hallway and bathroom traffic, I do not like feeling as if we are all being punished for a few students’ actions. It gets extremely frustrating that students who follow the rules are los-

ing access to the bathrooms.

When students feel like they have to wait to use the bathroom until passing time due to bathrooms being closed, then that will create long lines and heavy traffic in the bathrooms between classes. Most students tend to be stressed about hallway traffic and being to class on time without adding the extra stress of a bathroom visit on top of it.

Unfortunately, when a bathroom is actually open during class time, it is often filled with students using it for the wrong reasons.

As walk through the bathroom door, I often get hit with a wall of fruit-scented smoke. I then turn the corner to discover a large group of students chatting with each other, hitting their vape and scrolling on their phones. As a result, I have to leave that bathroom to hopefully find a different one that is open and accessible. Eventually, I have to either ask someone to open the gender neutral bathroom, which usually has its own line, or I have to wait until I get home.

Sadly, I do not have an easy answer for how we can fix these related problems. I can only encourage my peers to not misuse their bathroom privileges in hopes the administration returns to the approach of keeping them open all the time. If you are someone who is messing around in the bathrooms or using the bathroom pass as an excuse to wander the halls, you need to be more considerate of your peers. We should not have to suffer collectively for your selfish actions. This system of punishing all for the actions of few only works when the few care about the punishment they receive. Unfortunately, it seems that students who abuse their bathroom privileges do not care about the issues they are causing for other students.

Potential invasion of Taiwan would create even more chaos

If China follows recent moves by Russia, United States and invades Taiwan without provocation, the threat of a global war looms

By MARIAH WASHINGTON
Quill staff writer

The idea of an invasion of Taiwan became real to me during a recent classroom debate about tensions between Taiwan and China. At first, I only knew basic facts from the news, but as we researched the subject, I learned more about Taiwan’s democracy, culture and daily life. Watching videos of busy streets in Taipei made me realize how easily normal life could be disrupted by conflict. That experience changed my perspective.

The direct human suffering war in Taiwan would cause would be catastrophic. An invasion would mean fear, displacement and uncertainty for millions of civilians. Families could be separated, homes destroyed and daily rou-

tines shattered. Civilians, children, the elderly and workers are not responsible for political tensions, yet they suffer the most. Protecting human life should always come before territorial or political goals.

back its territorial claim.” If other countries follow a similar method of making territorial claims, this could mean that nations could simply annex smaller countries based on old records that hold no

would face enormous global scrutiny and organizations such as the United Nations would also face tension if China invaded Taiwan in a manner similar to recent American and Russian moves. Once conflict begins, rebuilding trust between nations would be extremely difficult. Generations could grow up shaped by hostility instead of cooperation. This is important because lasting peace is fragile and it takes decades of effort to repair.

I believe a Chinese invasion of Taiwan would bring far more harm than benefit. The human cost, the worldwide economic consequences and the danger of prolonged instability is what this would cost us. Rather than accepting conflict as inevitable, we should encourage communication and peaceful compromise. Peace requires effort.

The human cost, the worldwide economic consequences and the danger of prolonged instability is all what this would cost us. Rather than accepting conflict as inevitable, we should encourage communication and peaceful compromise. Peace requires effort.

According to the British Broadcasting Corporation, “Chinese records appear to first mention the island in 239 A.D., when an emperor dispatched an expeditionary force to it, a fact Beijing uses to

true merit. Given America’s recent actions in Iran and Venezuela or Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, you can certainly see how problematic this would be.

Chinese leader Xi Jinping

From the Editors

Ignoring reality of climate change puts us all in peril

Recent EPA changes will make it impossible to curb harmful emissions in the U.S.

Global warming is one of the most prevalent issues affecting our planet's future. Every day, we encounter new climate-related challenges that will threaten our well-being as humans in the present and in the years to come. In fact, most recently, the Trump administration announced on February 12 that they are ending emissions limits for industries, which means the Environmental Protection Agency will be increasingly unable to regulate harmful pollution.

Global warming is the rapid temperature increase in our world over the last 50 years. The people who deny global warming are choosing to ignore the fact that human-based carbon dioxide and other pollutants in the atmosphere are the main cause of the raise in temperature. Without careful and calculated efforts, global warming will remain a stark problem that will require us to address the negative effects of pollutants and the deniers of environmental science.

Pollutants are causing a variety of extremely negative repercussions that will affect our entire world. For example, glaciers are being melted and destroyed by the rise in temperatures. This has a negative impact on the wildlife in Antarctica and other polar areas. If tragic videos of polar bears dying in freezing water are not incentive enough to make a change, it is not clear what else is. There is also an impact on humans by these melted glaciers. The estimated rise in sea level over the next 50 years with global warming remaining consistent could put New York City and Florida underwater.

Another example of global warming and its negative repercussions are the effects the change in weather will have on agriculture. With the constant rise in temperatures, there will be water shortages for farming, which will lead to drought, wild fires of the sort being seen in California, flooding and increases in insects and disease.

As a generation born in an age when global warming is affecting our lives, it is our responsibility to do what we can to help our planet. Because of the rise in temperatures, our world will continue to face major depletion to its wildlife and resources unless real change is enforced.

Global warming is denied by many people in the U.S. The two reasons for this seem evident: ignorance caused by lack of education or denial caused by a short-sighted disinterest in making an effort to address the problem. Global warming occurs when carbon dioxide and multiple other air pollutants and gases collect in the atmosphere, where they then consume sunlight and radiation from the sun. These pollutants get trapped in our atmosphere when they encounter heat, causing the earth to warm up rapidly, temperatures to fluctuate

CLIMATE CHANGE
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Impact of ICE surge will be felt for years

The disruption of daily life, acts of violence experienced by Twin Cities residents will never be forgotten

By BEN KENYON
Quill staff writer

The explosion in ICE federal immigration raids, or more officially, Operation Metro Surge, came to an end in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area on February 12. For about eight weeks, swathes of out-of-state federal agents paraded in their fully tinted and unmarked vehicles through the streets of the Twin Cities, ambushing and detaining anybody that fit their description of an illegal alien or possible "threat to public safety," whatever that could be. The operation cost taxpayers approximately \$18 million per week, and in its wake, left behind a mess of widespread disruption, fear and nationwide public outrage.

Now, I want to make it clear that I believe any sovereign state should be able to exercise measures that legitimize citizenship and ensure the safety and solidity of their own borders. That being said, what has been observed of this so-called "operation" is a gross expression of this need to legitimize citizenship, filled to the brim with misconduct and negligence at both the highest and lowest levels. The actions of shaky, barely trained federal agents that were deployed not only directly resulted in public disruptions of business, schooling and commerce, but worst of all, it also led to the plain and simple murder of



Photo by TYLER GOODMAN

Lawn signs protesting ICE remain visible even as many agents begin pulling out of the Minneapolis area.

at least two individuals.

I distinctly recall that, on both occasions when news of these murders began to circulate, our current administration rushed out to do the mental gymnastics necessary to defend the trigger-happy agents involved, even going as far as to label one of the slain citizens as a "domestic terrorist." Is this not but the ultimate spit in the face of democracy? How are we tolerating masked, fully kitted out, meal-team-six, wannabe federal agents going

up and down our streets and openly infringing upon people's constitutional rights, murdering them when they get frustrated, and then having their actions ultimately become approved and sanctioned by the state media no matter what? That is absolute insanity.

This is not to mention the Department of Homeland Security's own response to the backlash they faced, refusing to admit even a crumb of wrongdoing and ordering their foot soldiers to go out to

meet angry mobs of demonstrators with violence, pepper shots and tear gas. While this was occurring, the department further doubled down on their efforts, with former Secretary Kristi Noem proudly displaying the completely inappropriate "One of ours, all of yours" slogan on her podium. Just what is that supposed to entail? Regardless, it is pretty inflated phrasing for somebody who

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Technology use in classrooms has benefits, detriments

The idea of banning electronic devices like phones from learning environments may ultimately be counterproductive

By JA'LAYIAH MCCLINTON
Quill staff writer

The use of technology in the classroom can be either a powerful learning tool or a major distraction. In my opinion, it really depends on how students choose to use it. Phones and laptops are not the enemy, but the way we use them in the classroom can make a big difference in our learning.

On the positive side, technology can help students learn in ways that were not possible before. We can quickly research topics, watch helpful videos and find creative ideas for projects. Sometimes, looking something up right away helps us better understand what the teacher is explaining. Technology can make learning more interesting and interactive when it is used for the right reasons.

However, I also think tech-



Photo by ROSE VANG-LOHNES

Use of devices is actually key to some classes, including Photo 1.

nology can hurt students when it is abused. Instead of challenging ourselves, some students copy and paste answers without actually understanding the material. That does not help anyone

grow. Other times, students are scrolling on social media, texting friends or doing things completely unrelated to class. Not only does that distract the person using the phone, but it can also disrupt

the entire classroom. It becomes harder for teachers to teach and harder for students to focus.

While they can be a distraction, I do not think banning electronics completely is the solution. Some students are responsible and know how to manage their time and attention. Of course, there are other students who struggle with self-control. That is why I believe phone use in the classroom should be based on responsibility. If a student shows they can use their device for learning and stay focused, they should earn that privilege. If they misuse it, there should be consequences.

At the end of the day, technology is just a tool. It can help us succeed or it can hold us back depending on how we decide to utilize it. The real question is whether we are mature enough to use it wisely.

Guidelines need to be developed for proper use of AI

While there is a danger in AI being used as a shortcut that circumvents learning, it can also be a tool to address world problems

By ROSE VANG-LOHNES
Quill staff writer

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a tool that most people use to either answer a question they have or to create something. While AI can be a great tool for people, it also has its downsides. I do not use AI because I do not agree with the impact it has on the environment. There is a huge debate over the use of AI because, while it can be helpful, the helpfulness

may be outweighed by the harm.

It has been argued that the benefits of AI make it worth using. For example, researchers are convinced AI will help advance the medical field by helping physicians develop cures and treatments for illnesses. Moreover, the World Economic Forum states that "AI technologies are already helping doctors spot fractures, triage patients and detect early signs of disease." I agree that this use of AI is extremely

beneficial to humanity because lives can be saved.

Another argument in support of AI is that AI technology eliminates human error and risk. According to *The Medium*, "AI doesn't tire, forget or stress. Its precision can drastically reduce human error, taking efficiency to new heights and ensuring top-notch quality." This is a good point because fewer errors and risks can be better overall for people. While our AI tools make

sure that everything is set and accurate, humans can focus on other more pressing things.

Of course, there are many drawbacks to AI. Researchers estimate that AI data centers use between one and five million gallons of fresh water per day for cooling. According to the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, "In the U.S.,

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Fans of elevated horror will like *The Ritual*

Directed by British filmmaker David Bruckner, *The Ritual* deals with the impact trauma can have on one's life



Photo by NETFLIX

The relationship between long-time friends serves as the backdrop for the horror that emerges in *The Ritual*.

By BEN KENYON
Quill staff writer

The Ritual is a 2017 supernatural, psychological horror film written by British screenwriter Joe Barton and directed by David Bruckner. It takes its core plot from Adam Nevill's book of the same name, though it introduces significant differences in its content portrayals. I hold this film as one of my favorite horror movies due to its artwork, pagan themes and general storyline. It is definitely a lesser-known film, but it is well worth it for anybody interested in giving it a watch.

The film begins in a pub in England. Five friends, Phil, Dom, Hutch, Luke and Rob,

are discussing taking a trip together. Rob suggests that they should go hiking in Sweden but is dismissed when met with the rest of the group's dismay at the idea. Later that night after the group leaves the pub, Rob dies in a tragic event at which Luke is also present, creating a plot component where Luke is left with lasting guilt. The story then jumps to six months later, showing the group now circling a commemoration altar in Kungsleden, Sweden to honor Rob. Once they have each paid their respects, the group sets off onto a mountainous, old-growth hiking trail.

While hiking, a sudden injury causes the group to stop and

assess themselves. They decide to abandon walking down the mapped route due to its length, opting to instead delve into the dark and ominous forest that surrounds them so they can more quickly reach the lodge at the end of the trail. This decision completely alters the course of the story. It leads the group to get more and more lost in the forest, where, due to the friction of the situation and some very strange things they begin to encounter, both physical and hallucinated, their friendships disintegrate. Each character starts panicking and they begin to have conflicts due to petty disagreements.

At this point in the plot, my favorite filmmaking element of

the movie shows: the artwork and character design of the main monster antagonist, Möder. Apart from his absolutely awesome physical design, which I will not go in to for the sake of spoilers, what is unique about Möder's portrayal is that the filmmakers explicitly chose to camouflage him in the background of numerous scenes before his eventual big reveal. This means that he had always been lurking around the group, watching them out of sight, only being discernible by the viewer on a rewatch.

Another unique decision was instrumenting how Möder functions. He feeds off of the guilt of the characters. A major motif in this film is recurring hallucinations of different characters' traumas and guilts. They occur all the way from the beginning of the hike up until the climax, serving to rationalize the characters' points of view and decisions they make. I thought this was a cool thing to center on and it made the film all the more interesting to me compared to the exhausting use of repetitive chases or jump-scares that one typically sees in horror films.

Another filmmaking element I am fond of in this film is the soundtrack. If I could describe it, I would say that it has a very earthy, setting-specific, Norse feeling to it. In effect, it sounds like something you would naturally expect to hear in a film taking place in uninhabited northern Sweden. At the same time, it also reinforces the pagan themes that

THE RITUAL
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Current events help make *Moon* a must-see film

The 2007 movie *Under the Same Moon* follows a young boy immigrating to the U.S.



Photo by 20TH CENTURY STUDIOS

The plot effectively shows the human side of the immigration issue.

By CAMILARODRIGUEZLAZCANO
Quill staff writer

Under the Same Moon, directed by Patricia Riggen and released by Fox Searchlight Pictures in 2007, is the story of a young boy who crosses into the United States from Mexico to be with his mother. The movie shows immigration struggles and issues related to family separation. Even though the film was released two decades ago, it remains an important one to watch given its subject matter and the current immigration debate in our country.

The movie follows Carlitos, a little boy in Mexico separated from his mother, Rosario, who is working in the United States to provide a better life for him. After certain events take place, Carlitos decides he is going to cross the border to find her. On his journey, he meets Enrique, who helps him along the way. The movie shows how scary and dangerous crossing the border is, but it also shows how united families are.

Even though Carlitos is just a kid, he is brave, which makes the story even more powerful and realistic because children as young as just a few months old cross the border. Most of the time, the families may not fully know where their child is and just have to pray that they get across safely in order to eventually join the rest of the family.

What makes this movie matter more now than ever is because it connects to what is going on right now in Minnesota with ICE and their enforcement of immigration laws. There have been protests and debates about ICE and how their actions affect families and communities. People are talking about fairness, safety and whether people are being treated like what they are: a person.

As is shown in the movie, these situations are not just about laws, they are about real people who just want a better life. A lot of Americans say, "Well, come in the right way," when it comes to the people who are in the process of trying to get American citizenship. However, the ability to do things "the right way" has been paused, which means those people are at risk of getting deported. Now, the many people in this situation have locked themselves in their homes or self-deported. It is hard to not think about these realities when watching the plot of *Under the Same Moon* unfold.

I hope watching *Under the Same Moon* makes you realize that immigration is not just a political issue you see on the news. It is about kids like Carlitos who just want to be with their parents. With everything happening in Minnesota, this movie is important to talk about because human decency should never be a debate.

Overall, I think *Under the Same Moon* is a great and important movie to watch. It is eye-opening and makes you think about everything going on in our state and country as a whole. I hope everyone watches this movie at least once. It is a film that fully earns five out of five stars.

Memorable performances make *Paper Moon* a classic

Real-life, father-daughter duo of Ryan and Tatum O'Neal play a pair of con artists on a mischievous road trip

By TESSA LENOCH
Quill staff writer

Peter Bogdanovich's 1973 film *Paper Moon* is an iconic, crime-buddy film starring father-daughter duo Ryan and Tatum O'Neal. Following a struggling con man trying his best to find footing in the Great Depression, *Paper Moon* is a weird and offbeat brand of charming that is sure to tug at the heartstrings and get a few laughs.

As the film begins, Moses Pray (Ryan O'Neal) visits the graveside service of a girl he used to hang around with, only to find that she has left a nine-year-old daughter, Addie (Tatum O'Neal), of whom Moses may or may not be the biological father. He is then tasked with accompanying her to her aunt's home in Missouri, for which he attempts to dodge responsibility. In the end, he is outsmarted by Addie, who is not necessarily as sweet and childish as she looks, and Moses agrees to bring Addie to her aunt. What unfolds next is a series of scams, lies and father-daughter bonding in the form of evading police and underhand tricks to unsuspecting cashiers.

Paper Moon is no *Mission*:



Photo by PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Tatum O'Neal won an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress.

Impossible or *The Godfather*. It is not packed with action and tension, nor is it a groundbreaking reinvention of a genre. In fact, it is probably not even the best movie to come out in 1973, especially given the fact that it was competing head-to-head with *The Exorcist* and *The Long Goodbye*. You could even describe *Paper Moon* as straight-up boring.

However, despite all of this hyper-negative commentary, *Paper Moon* is still one of the best

movies that I have seen this year. It focuses on the simple relationship between Addie and Moses, and develops slowly with various hijinks and misunderstandings thrown into the mix. This focus pays off, as the writing and literal familial relationship of the two actors keeps viewers invested and intrigued in their developing story. While it has sequences that are "boring," ranging from the pauses between funny moments or low-speed truck chases, the pacing never feels off or too

slow. In the simplest terms, it truly feels like the viewer is along for the road trip, silent moments in the car and all.

Interestingly, Tatum O'Neal's performance won her the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress, making her the youngest competitor to ever win the award at just 10 years old. That title is well-deserved, as she is truly the heart of the film. She trudges around, snapping at Moses and scheming up her own scams. She does not necessarily embody the ideal traits of a nine year old, yet she gets along perfectly with her maybe-dad. Even when she is acting a bit like a brat, she is easy to sympathize with and root for. Of course, the relationship of the two main actors on and off screen is heartwarming, with Tatum famously thanking her dad in her Oscars acceptance speech. In the film itself, their relationship is far from stilted, acted out or artificial.

Paper Moon is a nice watch for casual viewers looking for a silly, slice-of-life film that still has its deeper, melancholic moments. I enjoyed it thoroughly, though the performances were clearly the highlight of the movie. I give it 3.5 out of five stars.

Long-running sitcom *The Simpsons* has not lost its edge

Despite being 36 seasons into its run, the legendary show has maintained an impressive level of narrative, comedic quality

By CAMILARODRIGUEZLAZCANO
Quill staff writer

The Simpsons is one of the most iconic animated sitcoms of all time. The show was developed by Matt Groening, produced by Gracie Films and animated in collaboration with 20th Century Fox Television. First airing in 1989, it quickly became popular thanks to its unique humor and its use of satire. I believe this never-ending show is worth watching because it blends comedy with real-life situations in a clever way. The characters are fun to watch, the stories are engaging and it is the kind of show people of any age

can enjoy.

The series follows the lives of the Simpson family in the town of Springfield. The family includes Homer, the goofy but lovable dad; Marge, the responsible and caring mom; Bart, the troublemaking son; and Lisa, the intelligent and thoughtful daughter. Each episode shows their daily adventures and the problems they have to handle. Even though the stories are often exaggerated, they reflect everyday life in a funny and relatable way.

One of the strongest aspects of *The Simpsons* is its characters. Each one has a distinct personality. Homer's silly decisions,

Bart's rebellious attitude and Lisa's desire to be understood are traits that many people can relate to. The humor is a mix of simple jokes and smart, satirical moments, which makes the show enjoyable for both kids and adults. It is the kind of series that never truly gets old, so you can keep coming back to it.

Even with all the jokes, *The Simpsons* can still teach you something. For example, I was in my finance class reviewing for a test when I came across a question I did not know. Then, I remembered an episode of *The Simpsons* I had watched that morning in which it was mentioned that un-

used credit cards can close after six months. Because of that small detail, I answered the question correctly and passed the test. The show includes many relatable moments while also offering surprising lessons about real life.

The Simpsons is not just a cartoon; it is a key part of television history. It is funny and manages to send messages about life, society and family without being overly serious. Whether you are laughing at Bart's pranks or Homer's ridiculous mistakes, you are always entertained. That is why it remains one of the best shows of all time. This show easily earns five out of five stars.

Premier Performers

The story of the musicians and artists who bring their talents to Cooper

Adrianna Her

By CHANDLER HUNTER
Quill staff writer

Adrianna Her (12) is a member of Concert Choir, Bella Voce and Chamber Singers. Her has spent the past three years in these singing groups.

"In these choral activities, obviously I've loved singing and performing for other people," Her said, "but I also love watching other people perform."

For Her, choir is about more than the music.

"My favorite thing would be meeting new people each year, making new friends and making more connections with the people who will be in these groups after me," Her said.

Some of Her's favorite memories in choir revolve around the people with whom she performs. In Bella Voce, for example, she remembers her first solo



Photo by R. VANG-LOHNES

and ensemble performance.

"I was so nervous singing a solo, but my friend sat with me during it and my solo came out amazing," she said.

Meanwhile, with Chamber Singers, she enjoyed caroling at teachers' homes.

"I loved seeing them have so much joy in their faces from the hard work that we did," she said.

Currently, Her is the alto section leader in Concert Choir.

"I take attendance for them and make sure everyone is ready to sing," she said.

Given her interest in music, Her said choir is her favorite class.

"Singing is such a passion for me and to be able to do it every day is such a beautiful privilege to have," she said.

After high school, Her plans to study childhood development and to become an elementary school teacher.

Alexander Mathis

By CHANDLER HUNTER
Quill staff writer

Alexander Mathis (12) has been involved in choir since his freshman year. He is currently a member of the school's Chamber Singers.

"The reason why I decided to join choir is because music brings me peace and I love to sing," Mathis said.

That sense of peace continues to shape his high school experience. Through rehearsals and performances, Mathis has developed not only his vocal skills, but also a deeper appreciation for teamwork.

"For choir, I enjoy the songs we sing and the discipline it brings with being a musician," he said.

One of his favorite choir memories comes from his first year in the activity.

"My favorite memory was during



Photo by R. VANG-LOHNES

freshman year during our rehearsal for the 9-10 Honor Choir," he said. "I met a lot of great musicians and singing with all those people was fun."

Mathis has also used his time in high school to get involved with theater.

"In theater, my favorite memory was the day we had to act out for our performances," he said. "I liked the creativity and everyone had amazing ideas."

Outside of school, Mathis enjoys traveling and going to restaurants with his friends. After graduation, he plans to attend Howard University and major in communications or public relations.

No matter where life takes him in the future, Mathis said his interest in performing will remain a focus.

"I will continue singing in a choir because it is fun and it is crucial for a clear mind," Mathis said.

Dominic Swanson

By CHANDLER HUNTER
Quill staff writer

Dominic Swanson (12) has been involved in Concert Choir since his freshman year before later joining Chamber Singers.

"I have done choir because I enjoy singing and had been in choir previously," he said. "I joined Chamber Singers because classmates and teachers encouraged me."

What stands out most to Swanson is not just the singing, but the people.

"I enjoy being in choir because of the community around it and the feeling of togetherness," he said. "I have had the privilege of meeting some of the most amazing people, people who have become important in my life."

That feeling of community is also a



Photo by R. VANG-LOHNES

big part of his work in Chamber Singers.

"The things I enjoy most about Chamber Singers are being able to see those people more and to be a part of outside events," he said.

Among his favorite choir memories are the junior and senior Orchestra Hall performances. Swanson said he enjoyed "being able to explore Minneapolis with friends and being able to perform in front of a big audience at such a historic place."

Swanson currently serves as bass section leader in choir.

"I am in charge of my section's attendance and responsible for helping others in the section," he said. "I enjoy being a section leader because it encourages me to help and learn from other students."

Next year, Swanson plans to attend the University of Minnesota to study a wildlife-related field.

Joseph Watkins

By CHANDLER HUNTER
Quill staff writer

Joseph Watkins (12) is a musician involved in Wind Ensemble, in which he plays euphonium, and Jazz I and II, in which he plays piano. He also spent three years in Marching Band playing the baritone saxophone.

What keeps him coming back year after year is the challenge. In Wind Ensemble and Marching Band, Watkins values "being pushed and motivated to become better at [his] instrument." Meanwhile, Jazz I and II offer something different.

"For the jazz bands, I really enjoy playing fun music with the ensemble," he said.

Some of Watkins' favorite memories reflect both the technical and celebratory sides of music performance. He



Photo by R. VANG-LOHNES

said he especially enjoyed playing "Lincolnshire Posy" with Wind Ensemble, the many Lunds & Byerlys holiday jazz performances, and the Marching Band trip to Washington, D.C.

Currently, Watkins holds a leadership role as first chair euphonium in Wind Ensemble.

"I make sure the other euphoniums are doing their work," he said.

Outside of school, Watkins' musical interests do not stop.

"I write and produce music, and play six instruments," he said.

Additionally, Watkins said he enjoys playing Dungeons & Dragons and Warhammer.

After graduation, Watkins plans to head straight into the workforce for financial reasons. However, he will also be prioritizing his musical abilities as he plans for the future.

Pep Band brings energy to games

The group's performances at winter sports events can be a highlight of the evening



Photo by TYLER GOODMAN

Many members of Cooper's Marching Band program also participate in the school's Pep Band.

By TYLER GOODMAN
Quill staff writer

The Cooper Pep Band is the group that plays at home basketball games and hockey games during the winter season.

The Pep Band is designed to keep the games entertaining by playing music during the event. Additionally, they do not only play for entertainment, they also cheer on the team each time the team scores.

"We bring live music and excitement to varsity basketball and hockey, while simultaneously providing an in-house cheering section. You've heard of the bandwagon. You can't have a bandwagon without the band," band director Markus Hahn said.

The music that is chosen for the band is not restricted to what Hahn wants on the playlist. Instead, the song list is something that the musicians help create.

Most of the featured songs are from the Marching Band season. For example, the Marching Band played "Party Rock Anthem" and "Bad Romance" in 2025, and because the songs were easy enough to play, they were added to the list of songs played in Pep Band.

"We try to mix some of the old

favorites with more current songs chosen by the students of Cooper band," Hahn said.

Pep Band is not an activity that band students can just choose to go to if they want to; instead, it is a required part of their grade in the band class. However, this is not a downside to band members because students get to play music with their friends while also being able to watch whatever event it is that they are performing at.

"Pep Band is a requirement of being in band. Students must go to five of the nine scheduled games for their grade, and eight of nine games to letter in band," Hahn said.

Under normal circumstances, musicians need to go to five games for a grade and eight games to letter. However, this year, all of the Pep Band hockey games were canceled because of recent ICE events in Minneapolis, which led to the changes in grade and lettering requirements.

When it comes to the student musicians, Pep Band is a popular activity.

"The thing I enjoy the most about Pep Band is definitely getting together with my friends to play music," band member Zach Cummings (10) said.

The social aspect of Pep Band was also cited by JJ DeGroot (10) as being an important part of joining the

activity.

"The thing I enjoy most about Pep Band is the social aspect. I talk to my friends more than I pay attention to games," he said.

The act of paying attention during a game is actually connected to one of Cummings' favorite Pep Band memories.

"I remember when [Cooper graduate] Elliot Voigt had his mellophone hit by a hockey puck in 2025," he said.

Not only is Pep Band fun thanks to unforgettable moments like this, students agree that it is helpful for the musical skills of the members. Students from Freshman Band, Concert Band and Wind Ensemble can all attend the Pep Band performances, which requires that they all work together to make good music.

"It's really fun, especially if you wanted to join Marching Band," Mattea Heap (10) said. "I feel like it'd be a really good starting point for people."

Agreeing with Heap is DeGroot.

"Pep Band is definitely a gateway to join Marching Band. It gets you confident in being loud and gives you a feeling for what we do during Marching Band," he said.

Band concert features popular music

The annual Pops Concert took place in the Cooper auditorium on the night of March 5

By TYLER GOODMAN
Quill staff writer

The Pops Concert, which featured Freshman Band, Concert Band and Wind Ensemble, took place in the Cooper auditorium on March 5.

This year, there was a large number of songs played by the bands from Disney movies like *Moana* and *The Incredibles* among others.

"Every year, we typically have music from movies, dance or pop medleys. I think this year we had a fun group of music," band director Markus Hahn said.

The students in the participating bands have a couple of months to practice their concert music. In addition, they have to practice several other songs for the Pep Band season.

"In the winter, we balance concert preparation with Pep Band practice. On top of the music for the concert, students have to learn the 20 or so other songs in our Pep Band folder. This music is rehearsed for

about two months," Hahn said.

The bands that participated in the concert do not just play at a fixed skill set; instead, Hahn said they are always improving in some way. For example, the Freshman Band is improving their skills on playing independently while the Concert Band is improving on their technique. Additionally, the Wind Ensemble is improving on their sound.

"I'm impressed with how the freshmen are learning to play independently, the technique of the Concert Band is improving a lot and Wind Ensemble has grown with their overall concept of sound," Hahn said.

According to Hahn, the Pops Concert is different from other concerts because it has a different assortment of songs that are more well known for their use "on TV, stage or film."

"This is the only concert of the year where we focus specifically on this genre of music," Hahn said.

In fact, the very reason why

this concert is called the Pops Concert is that the concert features songs from popular culture. The songs are not just selected by Hahn. In fact, he said it is a collaboration of all of the students in the bands. The process begins when students recommend songs to Hahn.

"If one title gets a lot of selections, or if there is a selection that I think will work well for the band, we will do it," Hahn said.

The songs for this show were recommended and selected after the winter concert. This way of selecting songs is similar to how the Marching Band selects their extra songs for their indoor concert.

Musicians and audiences typically like the Pops Concert because it has songs that more people know. However, Hahn said the goal is not to just play this assortment of songs for skill and the audience.

"It's to play a variety of music throughout the year. This concert may just be the most relatable," Hahn said.

IGNORING REALITY OF CLIMATE CHANGE

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and extreme storms to occur constantly. This is called the greenhouse effect.

Given the fact that this phenomenon has been scientifically documented and supported, why does proven science get disregarded? One reason is that the most powerful person in the U.S., our president, does not "believe" in global warming. This not only destroys the hope for a more sustainable planet, it creates division on an issue that should not even be debated. There is clear evidence that the negative effects of global warming need to be addressed. It is not a

hoax, despite what fossil fuel companies would have us think. All in all, ignorance will be our pitfall in the future when it comes to global warming unless we take action.

To create change as regular citizens, we need to start small. First, we should gather the facts so we know what is actually going on. Next, we must develop a convincing argument, not for the purpose of arguing, but rather for making change through finding what is negatively affected by pollutants and addressing those problems. Lastly, we need to start getting involved. This might look like biking

more in the summer, volunteering for environmental agencies and having hard conversations with certain relatives about their habits and beliefs. Whatever it looks like for you, remember that nothing is too small to create real change.

This planet will only be as good as we let it be, so let us never forget what is causing it harm. Global warming and its negative effects both on the environment and humans will not stop. The hope is that we are strong and persevering people who can do something about this problem. Let us prove that we are.

Endgame retains its emotional impact

With the Avengers saga restarting with the 2026 release of *Doomsday*, it is a great time to revisit the last chapter of their story



Photo by MARVEL STUDIOS

An ongoing highlight of the Avengers films is the way they bring together all of the fan-favorite Marvel heroes.

By ANGEL JARQUIN RAMIREZ
Quill staff writer

Avengers: Endgame came out on April 26, 2019. The directors of this movie are Anthony Russo and Joe Russo, the producer is Marvel mastermind Kevin Feige and the screenplay was written by Christopher Markus and Stephen McFeely. I chose to review this movie simply because I enjoy all the Marvel Studio films. I think you should watch it be-

cause it has action and it deals with themes related to justice. In my opinion, this movie is a good one because all the Marvel superheroes from different worlds collide together in an effort to defeat Thanos and his aliens and get justice for all of humanity.

Avengers: Endgame picks up five years after *Avengers: Infinity War*, which ended with Thanos snapping his fingers and ending the lives of half of the living beings in the universe. The goal of the remain-

ing heroes is simply to defeat Thanos and his aliens to save humanity and get justice for all those lives lost. The main Marvel characters featured in the movie are Iron Man, Captain America, Thor, Hulk, Black Widow, Hawkeye, Rocket, Nebula, War Machine, Ant-Man and Captain Marvel. Additional heroes who show up for the final battle to defeat Thanos include Doctor Strange, Spider-Man, Black Panther and the rest of his Wakandan forces.

One aspect of the movie that I loved was its spotlight on the female superheroes. Specifically, there is one sequence in the final battle when all the female superheroes team up to help Captain Marvel. In this scene, the female superheroes fight hard together and show everyone that they are capable of accomplishing the same things as the male superheroes.

A second element that I liked about the film is the character development for Tony Stark, also known as Iron Man. In the film, we see the end of the long journey Stark has had over multiple Marvel movies to protect the people around him. Ultimately, Stark sacrifices his own safety and body to save humanity. He never gives up, no matter how hard it is for him, which makes him an inspiring model for the audience.

Another important character in the film is Thanos. The screenwriters do a good job of making him more than a two-dimensional villain in the film. This is especially apparent when he gives his famous last speech before he dies. Even though Thanos is defeated, there are elements to his character that make him somewhat sympathetic.

Overall, I recommend watching *Avengers: Endgame* because it is filled with great characters and engaging action. If you enjoy superhero movies, I recommend this one given the sheer number of superheroes in it and the broad scope of the story. I rate this movie five out of five stars.

STANDARDIZED

continued from page 2

“Before the MCAs, students have exposure to tools available on MCA tests, review vocabulary and sample test questions to practice their strengths, collaborate with peers and identify areas of growth,” she said.

Teachers prepare students for the various exams by reviewing key concepts taught during the year and giving practice questions that are similar to what students might see on the tests. They also help students understand the format of the exams and practice strategies such as reading questions carefully and managing their time.

One example of this can be seen in the approach of English teacher Kristen Prillwitz, who helps students in her IB English 11 HL class get ready for the ACT exams each year.

“In IB English 11 HL, we start class with a few minutes of prep for the ACT. We started this in September. For most of the year, we look at two practice ACT English questions per day and discuss the answers. About a month before the ACT, we start looking at practice passages with the questions embedded,” she said.

Prillwitz said she tries to balance test preparation with regular class instruction. This allows students to continue learning the regular curriculum while also building the skills they need for standardized exams.

“For IB English 11 HL, I use the practice ACT questions as the warm up for class. It doesn’t take much time, but it helps us get settled and academically focused at the beginning of class while allowing us to hone our English grammar skills,” she said.

Although the process of classroom preparation can be helpful, students have mixed feelings about taking standardized tests. Some feel nervous or stressed about the time limits and questions, while others are excited to see how much they have learned during year. Oliver Jahir Morales Liborio (11) said that while he is nervous about testing, he feels ready for taking the actual exams.

“I feel a little nervous about the upcoming standardized tests, but I also feel somewhat prepared. I know they are important, so I want to do well, but they can also be stressful,” he said.

According to Morales Liborio, he has taken some steps inside and outside of class to get ready for the tests.

“I have been preparing for the tests by reviewing notes from class, practicing with sample questions and paying attention during lessons. Sometimes, I also use practice tests to get familiar with the format and timing,” he said.

One issue that arises with standardized testing is the extent to which what students learn in the classroom matches what is being tested in the various exams. For example, Anisha Yang (10) said she recalls times when the content on the standardized tests she has taken seems familiar, but the strict time limits and the formatting of the questions do not always let her fully demonstrate what she has learned.

“It’s kind of complicated, as sometimes the test can provide super easy questions and sometimes way harder subjects and I think it’s randomized,” Yang said.

IMPACT OF ICE

continued from page 4

seems to spend a greater amount of their time and resources making performative social media content centered around promoting the agency’s “toughness” rather than carrying out any dignified administrative duties.

To review, it is my belief that Operation Metro Surge was an absolute, chaotic failure. It was an international humiliation thanks to the domestic headlines that echoed out from our media, a complete and total waste of our time and resources, and a further diminishing of people’s views and trust in the government. This is a time when political and civil tensions are already surging. The last thing we need is more performative and deadly theater like that perpetrated by ICE.

Beautiful Boy translates real-life tale to big screen

Drama from 2018 focuses on the relationship between a father and son, whose issues with addiction are creating turmoil

By CAMILARODRIGUEZLAZCANO
Quill staff writer

Beautiful Boy is a drama directed by Felix van Groeningen and produced by Amazon Studios. Released in 2018, the film is based on the true stories of David Sheff and Nic Sheff, who wrote memoirs recounting their experiences. I chose this movie because it focuses on addiction and its impact on families in an honest way without glamorizing it. It is not the type of movie you watch when you want to laugh, but it is still a powerful and important one.

The movie follows Nic Sheff, a teenager struggling with drug addiction, and his father, David, who is trying everything he can to help his son. The story mainly takes place in California and portrays both Nic’s experiences with



Photo by AMAZON MGM STUDIOS

Nic Sheff and David Sheff are played by Timothee Chalamet and Steve Carell.

addiction and David’s perspective as a parent watching his child hurt himself while feeling powerless to stop it. The film centers on their

relationship and shows how addiction affects not only the person who is struggling but also their loved ones.

One interesting aspect of the film is the structure of the plot. The story jumps back and forth in time, illustrating how addiction is not a straight path and how messy recovery can be. This storytelling style makes the movie feel more emotional and realistic.

The scenery and music are also effective in helping set the mood of the movie. Many scenes are quiet and slow, building up to deeply emotional moments. The music is subtle and never distracting; instead, it enhances the story and adds to its emotional impact.

Overall, *Beautiful Boy* is a deeply moving film that portrays a serious topic in a realistic and thoughtful way. The strong acting, directing and overall production work together to tell an important and meaningful story. I give this film five out of five stars.

Fans of campy television will enjoy Devious Maids

The show works as a quasi-companion piece to the popular, long-running series *Desperate Housewives*

By CAMILARODRIGUEZLAZCANO
Quill staff writer

Devious Maids is a TV drama created by Marc Cherry, the creator of *Desperate Housewives*, and produced by ABC Studios. It first premiered in 2013 on the Lifetime Channel. I chose to review this show because it has drama, humor and mystery, just like *Desperate Housewives*. It is the kind of story that keeps you interested after just one episode. I think almost anyone could enjoy this show because of the drama it includes.

The show takes place in Beverly Hills and follows a group of His-

panic maids who work for wealthy families. The main characters are Marisol, Rosie, Carmen, Zoila and Valentina. Each of them has different problems and goals they must overcome. At the same time, they all become connected to the same mystery. As they clean houses and work closely with their employers, they begin uncovering their employers’ secrets. The show focuses on both their friendships and the unfolding mysteries around them.

One thing I love about this show is the acting. The performers make their characters feel real, as if they truly are those characters. Each woman has a different personality, so

it never gets boring, no matter whose storyline you are watching. Some scenes are emotional and relatable, while others are funny and light-hearted. Because of this balance, it is easy to care about them and become invested not only in their employers’ lives, but in their lives as well.

The writing is another aspect I really enjoy. The dialogue can be dramatic at times, but it remains playful and fun, which I believe makes for the best kind of show. There are so many secrets, arguments and plot twists that keep the series moving forward. Most episodes end with something surprising, leaving you wanting more. Even when it be-

comes overly dramatic, it still works within the style of the show.

The setting also adds a lot to the series. The large houses, fancy neighborhoods and luxurious lifestyles highlight how different the maids’ lives are from those of their employers. The show looks bright and glamorous, yet tense at the same time.

Overall, *Devious Maids* is a highly entertaining show. The acting, storyline and setting all work perfectly together. If you enjoyed *Desperate Housewives* and love dramatic series, you will definitely enjoy this show. *Devious Maids* deserves five out of five stars.

Animated film Strange Magic aims for viewers of all ages

The 2015 release is a rare Lucasfilm production that is not connected to the successful *Star Wars* universe

By JA’LAYIAH MCCLINTON
Quill staff writer

Strange Magic is a 2015 animated musical directed by Gary Rydstrom and produced by Lucasfilm. I chose to review this movie because we recently celebrated Valentine’s Day and this movie is a fun, light-hearted love story with a deeper message. Even though it seems like a simple fairy tale at first, it actually explores heartbreak, trust and how unpredictable love can be. Overall, I think it is a good movie with strong messages and great music.

The movie takes place in a mag-

ical world divided between the Fairy Kingdom and the Dark Forest, which is ruled by the Bog King. In the film, Princess Marianne swears off love after being betrayed. Meanwhile, the Bog King also believes love is unnecessary because of his past. Eventually, things get chaotic when characters try to use a love potion to force romance upon one another.

One of the best parts of the movie is the music. The film uses popular songs that match the characters’ emotions, which makes the scenes more fun and dramatic. My favorite song in the film is “I Can’t Help Falling in

Love.” We hear it when the Bog King and Princess Marianne grow a little soft after a fight and let their guards down. This sequence helps with the development of both characters.

The animation is also colorful and creative. I especially liked the contrast between the bright fairy world where everyone’s happy and joyful and the darker forest where odd, scary-looking creatures hide. Ultimately, what connects these two visibly different worlds is love.

Another important part of the film is its central themes and messages. One issue that stands out is that

someone who has been hurt can learn to love again, but it takes time and being willing to open up. The movie shows that love is strange, unpredictable and powerful. The movie also shows that you cannot control love or make someone feel something they do not feel. As Princess Marianne and the Bog King spend time together, they realize love is not weakness, it is actually stronger than any type of magic.

Overall, I enjoyed *Strange Magic*. I recommend watching this movie if you want something fun but meaningful. I give the film four out of five stars.

Wolves set sights on postseason

While the team looks like it is safe from the play-in tournament, they still have issues to address



Photo by ERIC ZUCCOLA

The Timberwolves defeated the Eastern Conference powerhouse Cleveland Cavaliers 131-122 on January 8.

By BRAYLON NIX
Quill staff writer

The Minnesota Timberwolves have had a confusing season in terms of winning. The squad has defeated exceptional teams like the Oklahoma City Thunder, Golden State Warriors, Boston Celtics, New York Knicks, Cleveland Cavaliers and Los Angeles Lakers, but has lost to bad teams like the Memphis Grizzlies, Atlanta Hawks, Brooklyn Nets and Sacramento Kings. Overall, the Minnesota Timberwolves have to get better and it starts with the defense.

The Timberwolves defense is being held down by center Rudy Gobert. His defensive rating is hovering around 109.7-110 as of late February, which is the third best in the NBA. However, when Gobert is on the bench, the team's defensive rating goes to 134.8 or higher, which is the worst in the association.

Getting better on defense will be harder now that the February 5 trade deadline is over. The Timberwolves did trade for Ayo Dosunmu and Julian Phillips from the Chicago Bulls, but the defense still needs a significant change in the final stretch of the season in order to make it back to the Western Conference

Finals, let alone a franchise-first trip to the NBA Finals.

Since the trade deadline, the Timberwolves have started to use a 10-man rotation of Anthony Edwards, Julius Randle, Rudy Gobert, Donte DiVincenzo and Mike Conley as the core, and Naz Reid, Ayo Dosunmu, Bones Hyland and Jaden McDaniels as the bench players.

This lineup has gone 3-1 since Ayo Dosunmu played his first game in a loss against the Los Angeles Clippers on February 8. Dosunmu had 11 points, two steals and went 4-11 on

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field goals (which amounts to 36 percent) in 25 minutes of play. Through Dosunmu's first four games with the Timberwolves, he has averaged 15 points, 2.9 rebounds, 3.6 assists and has shot 51.7 percent from the field. Overall, Dosunmu has been a great addition to this team.

Of course, the heart of the team is its star player, Anthony Edwards. This season, he has averaged 29 points, has shot 49.3 percent from the field, has made 5.2 rebounds and has turned in 3.7 assists per game. Also, he is shooting an astonishing 40 per-

cent from the three-point line. Edwards is arguably the face of the NBA and his game statistics back up that claim.

Although Edwards holds up this team, he cannot do it all by himself. The Timberwolves are inconsistent and lack effort in the later stages of each game, especially during the third quarter. But the problems are not all on the players. Head Coach Chris Finch is having some rotational problems. Some analysts have suggested that the team's rotation and development of younger players, like the recently traded Rob Dillingham, have not been optimal.

These issues will be magnified come playoff time, which makes me worry about an early playoff exit. We should recall what Finch said after advancing to the 2025 Western Conference Finals: "Were you a Western Conference Finals team or were you a team that just happened to make the Western Conference Finals?"

I believe that the Timberwolves are a Western Conference Finals team. However, I am unsure if they are a NBA Finals team. Time will tell, but until then, the Timberwolves will have to play their best basketball and get past the trials of the tough Western Conference.

Cooper Competitors

The story of the athletes who strive for success in Cooper sports

Tavorian Thompson

By BRAYLON NIX
Quill staff writer

Tavorian Thompson (12) competes in football in the fall and basketball in the winter. In fact, Thompson has spent nearly half his life on the court.

"I've been playing basketball since the fourth grade, so eight years now," he said. "I always wanted to, so I learned to try."

What stands out most to Thompson about his time in basketball are the relationships he has built along the way. For Thompson, the camaraderie and shared experiences are what make long practices and tough games worthwhile.

"I really enjoy the people I'm playing with," he said. "My favorite memories involve just being with my team."

This year, Thompson serves as a basketball team captain, a role he em-

braced with confidence.

"I'm the captain and it's going great," he said. "As a senior, I lead both by example and energy."

In the fall, Thompson competed on the football team. He said he enjoyed playing his final season as a Hawk.

"We were okay, but we could've been better," he said.

When it comes to school, Thompson said his favorite subjects are "English and gym because they are the easiest for [him]." Outside of school, Thompson said he enjoys "playing basketball, hanging with friends and going to church."

Looking ahead, Thompson said he hopes his athletic journey is far from over.

"I plan on going to college for football and basketball," he said. "I will keep playing for as long as I can."



Photo by R. VANG-LOHNES

Johanna Gonzalez

By BRAYLON NIX
Quill staff writer

Johanna Gonzalez (12) is a member of the Cooper Dance Team. Gonzalez joined the team her junior year and has been dancing competitively for almost a year.

"I just wanted something I felt passionate about and doing dancing has always been a part of my life," she said.

Gonzalez said her passion for the team has led to her becoming one of its captains. With her leadership and the hard work of her teammates, Gonzalez said it was a good season.

"The season just ended but I would say it went really well," she said. "We got first place on our first dance competition."

For Gonzalez, the best part of dance is not just the wins, it is the bond she shares with her teammates.

"All the memories that we share as a team are important," she said. "We all start off really shy when we meet each other, but once we all get comfortable, we start really bonding with each other and I just love that."

Another aspect of dancing Gonzalez enjoys comes at the start of each competition.

"I like the adrenaline when they announce our name to the gym so we can start our dance," she said.

When it comes to the classroom, Gonzalez enjoys English the most.

"I'm always intrigued for English. My teacher makes it interesting for me," she said.

Outside of school, Gonzalez said she channels her creativity into painting, especially murals.

After graduation, Gonzalez plans to attend St. Olaf College and major in psychology.



Photo by R. VANG-LOHNES

Mariana Heggstad

By BRAYLON NIX
Quill staff writer

On winter nights in the gym, Mariana Heggstad (12) can usually be found encouraging a teammate, calling out a play or diving for a loose ball. A captain of the girls basketball team, Heggstad has spent years building not only her skills, but also her confidence and leadership.

"I have been playing basketball for years," she said. "My mom signed me up and helped me practice at home to get me interested in it at a young age."

For Heggstad, the best part of basketball is not only the competition.

"I really enjoy the sense of community that comes with playing a team sport," she said. "Every school year, I meet new teammates and get to create bonds."

That connection was especially meaningful during her sophomore year, when she made varsity for the first time.

"It was my first year on varsity so I was so nervous, but I was proud of myself because I knew my hard work had been paying off," she said.

As a captain since her junior year, Heggstad takes her leadership role seriously.

"I am also a senior, so, of course, I have to be a good role model for my underclassmen," she said.

Outside of winter basketball, Heggstad participates in "Backdown," a four-week basketball tournament in October that she describes as a way to "practice executing plays."

Next fall, Heggstad will attend Colorado State University to major in biomedical science and anatomy and physiology with plans to become a forensic pathologist.



Photo by R. VANG-LOHNES

Rylee Vierzba

By BRAYLON NIX
Quill staff writer

Rylee Vierzba (12) is a year-round athlete. In the spring, he suits up for Cooper's baseball team. Outside of school, he trains and competes in karate tournaments throughout the entire year and across the globe.

Baseball has been part of Vierzba's life since he was five years old.

"I picked baseball when I was five, so this year will be 12 years of playing," he said.

Karate came later in Vierzba's life, beginning in fourth grade.

"I started because one of my friends invited me to join and I kept doing it ever since then," he said.

For Vierzba, the best part of baseball is the community.

"My favorite part of baseball is the

friends and the team I get to be a part of," he said.

When it comes to karate, Vierzba's highlights involve his individual accomplishments.

"I became a world champ not only in 2023 but also in 2021," he said.

In addition to competing in karate, he also works as a coach.

"I have coached a handful of teammates to become world champions," he said.

Making the current karate season memorable was when Vierzba broke his wrist at a winter tournament in Florida.

"Winter was not as good because I broke my wrist at a tournament in Florida, though I still took first," he said.

After graduation, Vierzba will attend Augsburg University to study sports management and exercise science.



Photo by R. VANG-LOHNES

FANS OF ELEVATED HORROR WILL LIKE *THE RITUAL* continued from page 5

the viewer is introduced to in the latter half of the film thanks to the traditional instruments utilized in the score.

Finally, the filmmaking element that ties the movie together and gives it an immersive feel is the cinematography. They really nail the use of establishing shots in this piece, whether it is capturing the fog rolling over the treetops of a dense dark forest, depicting the endless scale of the hiking trail's grassy plains with craggy mountains cutting through on either side, or introducing us to the only urban area we see in the film at its very beginning. We know from the very first frame of each sequence what

the environment is going to be like.

Another thing about the use of cinematography is its effectiveness at conveying some of the film's most striking scenes, especially those dealing with Möder. If one was to pull out the shots involving Möder as standalone pictures, they could easily sum up the entire movie and precisely capture its mood like the cover of a book. I cannot really go into much detail about what these scenes entail because, again, spoilers, but I will say that some of the best ones contain an abundance of fire. Once you see them, they will be instantly recognizable

and memorable.

Overall, I think this is a pretty good movie that deserves 4.5 out of five stars. While it struggles converting the gradual buildup of suspense into action once the creature is fully revealed, I have no complaints about the film as a whole. For an occasionally humorous story about five blokes getting lost and hunted down in a forest, *The Ritual* is quite effective. There is much more about the film that I intentionally left vague in this review in hopes you will go and check it out yourself. If you have the time, give it a watch, as I am betting you are more likely than not to enjoy it.

GUIDELINES NEED TO BE DEVELOPED continued from page 4

where the average per-capita water withdrawal is 132 gallons per day, a large data center consumes water equivalent to that of 4,200 persons." Based on these statistics, AI use is not only extremely wasteful, but harmful to the environment.

Another downside is that AI can create disinformation. People can use AI to make fake images, videos and audio of someone. That can be extremely detrimental

to someone's well-being and reputation. As *Nature* reports, "Deepfakes may present a threat to individuals and society: for example, deepfakes can be used to influence elections by discrediting political opponents." Nowadays, AI can be extremely hard to detect as it can make anything it creates seem realistic.

Overall, AI can be helpful but it does have its downsides. While AI can be more efficient

than humans, I do not believe that we should solely rely on it. Technology has its limitations whereas humans have always found a way to push past our shortcomings. Additionally, the emotions that humans hold can be more beneficial to us than the logic a machine holds. At the end of the day, AI is just a machine. We should only use it in responsible ways to make the lives of humans better.