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State History Day results

OWL comes away from competition with one project headed to DC

Zoe Campion
Staff Writer

Tenth grader Sam Kellar-Long and ninth grader Mae Wrigley won first place for their senior group documentary *Torches of Freedom: A Triumph for Cigarette Advertising* at the State History Day meet last Saturday at the University of Minnesota. The team will represent OWL at History Day Nationals this June in Maryland.

After the awards were announced at State History Day

last Saturday, OWL could sit back and relax. In addition to the national qualifier, it was another very successful year. OWL received five topical prizes, four honorable mentions, two fifth place, two fourth place, and two third place medals.

In the time between regionals and state, most history day participants have been frantically trying to get new interviews and polish their projects to perfection. Tireless hours have been spent practicing performances and making documentaries. Exhibits have been reorganized and websites reworded. As participants walked up the stairs to Coffman Union, they realized that all of their work has led up to this point.

First round judging started pretty much right away in the morning and consisted of OWL History Day participants running around to catch as many projects as possible while and stressing over their own judging. It was fun

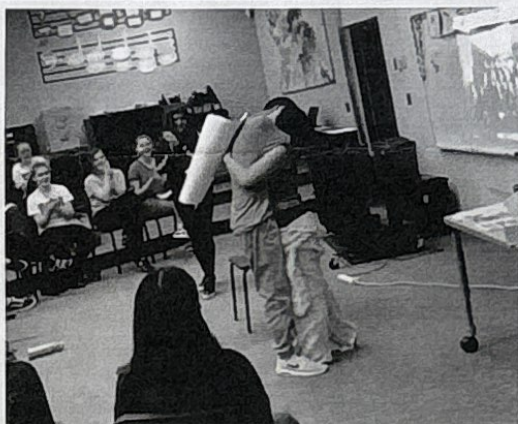
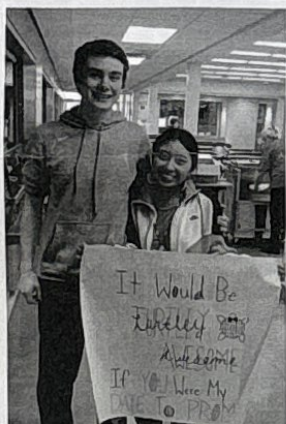
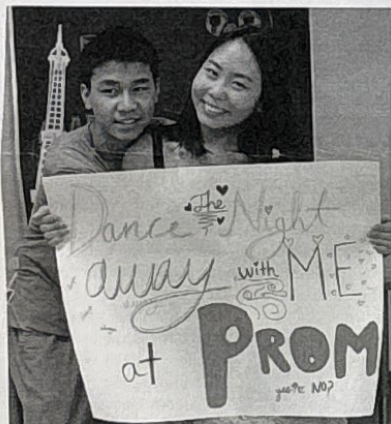
to see other people's projects and all of the hard work they put into it. As adrenaline and nerves coursed through their veins, students presented their projects and answered judging questions, some hoping to move on to the second round, others hoping to be done with this whole History Day thing. Emma McCarthy, a 10th grader who competed in the senior group website category, said, "During the morning I get nervous before our interview, but I feel pride and excited an-

icipation after we finish."

In the down time between first round judging, second round judging, and the awards ceremony, people found ways to keep themselves busy and enjoy the day. A lot of people enjoyed themselves by throwing a frisbee around. Also, people went out to get some food in Dinkytown or got Starbucks in Coffman Union. Others geared up with University of Minnesota swag at the bookstore.

The awards ceremony was

as chaotic as always. Most people stressed through the pre awards part of the ceremony, which was mainly made up of random prizes and weird activities that try to take your mind off of what is to come. "The award ceremony is really long, but it's super fun to see everyone's hard work pay off," said Emma. By the time the actual ceremony started, most people were sitting on the edge of their seats with anticipation and nerves, waiting to figure State, 5



(Right to left) Chutima and Kou hold up her promposal sign. Tom and Atquetzali hold up her promposal sign after Tom accepted. Kou hugs Chutima after she promposed in choir. These were two of the promposals at OWL this year.

OWL does Promposals!

Grace Bellamy
Staff Writer

It's that time of year - flowers are blooming, april showers have turned to snowstorms, and, of course, promposals are happening.

A promposal is just what it sounds like: a proposal asking a date to prom. They're usually dramatic, often creative, and have been gaining popularity. Here at OWL, promposals are beginning to take off. Last year, one promposal happened. This year, there were three.

The three promposing couples at OWL were 11th graders Atquetzali Quiroz to Tom Hobday, Chutima Xiong to Kou Vang, and Jedi Casas to Katie Syers. All of them were unique: there was a scavenger hunt, a dance routine, and a decorated volleyball. However, there were some overarching similarities, most importantly that two of the three promposals involved puns.

Atquetzali created a scavenger hunt-style themed promposal for Tom, in which he fol-

lowed a series of directions on signs featuring turtles.

"Tom and I have this inside joke about turtles," explained Atquetzali. After the final sign, Atquetzali came out with a sign saying "It would be turtle-y awesome if you were my date to prom!"

Chutima created a dance routine for Kou, which she performed in a bear costume during choir. "I was very abrupt," said Kou, "I thought it was very nice of her."

Jedi gave Katie a volleyball

reading "I would really dig to go to prom with you, my night would be set." The volleyball symbolized a favorite sport for Katie, that Jedi began playing this year.

Atquetzali wanted to do something special for this year, but the actual process was pretty easy, especially as their friends were more than willing to help her out. "I've seen people do a sort of scavenger hunt promposal before and I thought it would be cool to do that but add a personal touch

to it," she said.

On the receiving end, Katie said, "I thought it was really creative and cute."

Both Atquetzali and Chutima strayed from the typical guys-ask-girls model. "I didn't want to wait for him to ask me because I wanted to already start planning for prom."

Kou said that it was a little weird at first "cause I thought that I had to do it." He added that he feels like the traditional version is well-liked, but "it's nice to switch up sometimes."

College admissions scandal

Frankie Buettner
Staff Writer

The 2019 college admissions scandal covered headlines nationally, revealing shocking insight to the corrupt admission system of elite American universities. Nicknamed Operation Varsity Blues, 50 people have been prosecuted for falsely getting admitted to some of the most well known universities in America.

This being the first and biggest prosecuted college admissions scandal in the department of justice it exposes the corrupt admission policies and systems of American Universities that have been going on for years.

High profile parents went to extreme lengths to get their students into famous universities such as USC, Yale, Stanford, Georgetown and more. Parents, college athletic coaches, college admissions companies, and even exam proctors were involved in the scandal.

Parents paid extreme amounts of money for their children cheat on standardized test like the ACT/SAT, or pho-

College admissions, 7

Supreme Court visits Humboldt

Shayla Brooks
Staff Writer

On a dreary Tuesday in April, the Humboldt auditorium is filled with students chattering and laughing, waiting for a once-in-a-lifetime event to start. We're excited about missing class, but even more thrilled to see real politics in action. Without warning the lights dim and a hush falls over

the room.

There is a long pause. Suddenly a shout of "march!" comes from the right side of the auditorium, and heads swivel. It's three of the Humboldt ROTC. The auditorium is held in rapt attention as the ROTC march to the stage and deliver the Minnesota and US flags to either side of a long risen table.

The students here are assembled to witness a repeal case being held at the Humboldt auditorium. Twice a year the Minnesota Supreme Court visits a high school somewhere in Minnesota to hold a court case, and juniors and seniors are invited to watch. This year, Humboldt has been chosen.

The court case held at Humboldt was the appeal hearing

of State v. Walters. Rickey Walters had already been sentenced to life in prison without parole for first degree murder, and filed an appeal from prison. Walters was not present at the hearing. Walters had been charged originally with a drive by shooting. The definition of a drive by shooting in Minne-



The Minnesota Supreme court listens to arguments in the Humboldt auditorium.

Shayla Brooks



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Archers wrap up season at state tourney

Kathryn Totushek advances to nationals in Kentucky

Emily Yang
Staff Writer

After a long season, the OWL archery team concluded their year on March 30th at the state tournament in Duluth by qualifying another archer to the national tournament.

Out of 315 middle school girls, sixth grader Kathryn Totushek placed 3rd, qualifying her for nationals on May 9th through the 11th. Being that this is her very first year in NASP. To qualify at nationals, archers need to place in the top ten of their category based on gender, and whether they are in middle or high school.

"I was very surprised, but it didn't fully hit me until after the tournament," said Kathryn.

Kathryn may be new to NASP, but she came in with experience. Kathryn has been shooting on and off for three

years before joining the team. Now getting prepared for Nationals, Kathryn is practicing at Bwana Archery's range and bow shop twice a week. She is also a part of the Juniors Olympic Archery Development.

The past three years, the OWL archery team has had three archers place in the top three at the state tournament. "I have had one state champion, one 2nd place finisher, and one 3rd place finisher. Either way, I am blessed," said archery coach and math teacher Tom Totushek.

Over the past three months, Kathryn has metaled twice with 5th place at Alexandria, and 4th place at Mahtomedi. At State, Kathryn was tied for second place, and participated in a tie breaker shoot off.

"I was nervous, but I had Archery, 5

PSEO is a good way to earn college credit for many students

Elsa Carlson
Staff Writer

If you've ever wanted to get a better understanding of a college environment, or get a head start on your college career, stopping by Jolen's office for PSEO sign ups isn't the worst idea.

PSEO stands for Postsecondary Enrollment Options, and it's a way for 10th, 11th, and 12th graders to earn college credit. Last year, over 7,000 students in Minnesota enrolled and participated in PSEO. If you are interested, you need to pass the school requirements to get accepted. This could depend on GPA, the accuplacer test, or the english MCA that we all took in eighth grade. Typically, OWL students leave early or skip

their typical high school day and drive to a nearby college to attend classes. Many OWL students have done this program throughout the years, and there are different opinions on if it's a good idea to sign up.

Eleventh grader Atquetzali Quiroz is partaking in PSEO this year and is planning to continue with the program during her senior year. She is taking two classes at Saint Paul College. She says, "PSEO gives you a chance to already be in the college environment." A lot of students like Atquetzali fit really well with the program because of the different types of classes, and the opportunity to expand their education. "They treat you like you're a college student, they don't treat you like you're anything

different."

However, some students did not have the same positive experience that Atquetzali had. Former OWL student Derrick Le-Tran did PSEO when he was in high school, and had a very different experience. "Well I was ahead of all my classes so I wanted to try it out," Derrick says "and when I started off it was a shock, I realized I had to actually try." He took an Intro Chemistry course at Hamline University. "With my busy schedule, I almost failed the class and that's probably the lowest grade I've ever gotten." Derrick advises that clearing your schedule is a smart move before taking PSEO.

PSEO, 8

Ball in box tournament

Jalen North emerges as 2019 champion

Madigan Lodahl
Staff Writer

Ever since the invention of the box, people have been throwing random objects into them. Leo's crew has found a way to bring this great tradition to OWL.

The Ball in Box Tournament is a school wide competition invented by Leo's crew. You play the game by standing two yards away from a box and throwing a ball into it. You get two chances to get the ball into the box before you get eliminated. The game continues as you gradually stand further away from the box and more

people get eliminated until there is only one champion. This year's champion is 9th grader Jalen North.

Although this is only the second year of the Ball in Box Tournament at OWL, the game has been around since 2010. During a school dance a few kids stayed back in Leo's room, with only a ball, a box, and a yardstick for entertainment. Ball in Box was born, and it has been an institution in Leo's Crew ever since.

Last year, as Sam Dale-Gau's senior project, he decided to turn Ball in Box into a school wide tournament. The crews

were split into five divisions; West, Crest, Best, Nest, and Rest. The champion of each crew competed with the other winners of their division and the finalists competed at the community meeting to crown Connor Scott as the Ball in Box champion.

Throwing a ball into a box is a simple concept, but it's harder than it looks. Like any game, there is a lot of strategy involved in the champions' successes. "The strategies that I have seen work are really having faith in the bounce," said 10th grader Haakon Neske, an officer of the game, "people who have let the ball bounce 2 or more times have gone further in the game compared to people who just try to chuck it in the box." With all the excitement surrounding the Ball in Box Tournament, I'm sure that it will become a long-standing tradition at OWL.

Blood drive May 17

Sign up to save lives this Friday

Samantha Peden
Staff Writer

Senior Candace Alexander, is hosting a blood in May for her senior project.

The blood drive held by the American Red Cross will be Friday, May 17th, from 9:00am

to 3:00pm in the gym, staff are also welcome to donate. Donating blood will help save up to 100 people's lives.

If you are 16 and under you will need a parents permission to donate blood, however if you are 17+ you will not need

a parents permission. The Red Cross recommends getting a good night's sleep before, drink plenty of water, and eat 2-3 hours beforehand.

Be sure to bring your government issued I.D. before donating.

Contact Candace if you'd like to join this life saving event!



Grey Pratt prepares for a toss (left), 2019 champion Jalen North (right).



Behind the scenes with OWL Design Crew

The crew behind the sets, costumes, props, lights, sound, and stage management at OWL

Isabella Graziani
Staff Writer

Another OWL theatre production has come and gone, but the world of the play remains a mystery. OWL's actors are widely recognized for their work but OWL's design crew remains relatively unknown. Here is your introduction to how the costumes, sets, props, lights and sounds or the 'world of the play' as Rebekah Rentzel, the theatre director calls it are created.

OWL's 'Design Crew' is organized into six main areas; costumes, sets, props, lights, sound and stage management. Costumes is responsible for the physical manifestation of the characters. They examine the time period, location and the character's personality,

among other factors, to create the actor's outfits. Sets creates the setting for the play.

Sets include any backdrop as well as any sort of furniture within the play and are responsible for shaping the physical setting of the play. For the school's production of Macbeth the set crew built a two story castle complete with twin spiral staircases. The line between sets and props is often blurred but props, generally, are anything the actors hold during the play. Props works to collect and build these seemingly small but important elements of the play. Over the years, through various productions, props has experimented to find the perfect technique to create a sword that looks good but will not in-

jure the actors in a stage fight. Lights and Sound work with control boards in the back of the house and help create mood and emotion within the play. Stage Management helps to keep the backstage world of the play running smoothly. They help to organize and run the transitions in the play.

Design Crew has grown and expanded over the past few years. Just a few years ago the set department was responsible for props too and now props have a department of their own. As design crew has evolved so has its leadership. At the beginning of design crew under Rebekah's direction the art teacher was the supervisor. The Design Crew was left without adult guidance due to turnover in

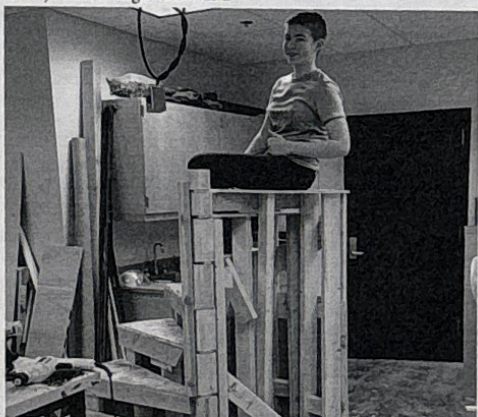
the art department. Now that design crew has expanded to its current size, it is supervised by Tammy Plaman, with each department headed by an experienced student designer.

Design Crew is a lesser known part of theatre but, arguably, is almost as important as the acting. This is especially true in an educational setting. According to OWL Theatre director Rebekah Rentzel "It is the part of theatre that requires the most ability to imagine something and create it, and I think that's a really unique experience for most kids. Because most kids don't get a chance to take something in their mind and then actually make it happen and be responsible for that so, I think it's really important for youth to design their own plays."

Design Crew has continued to grow but many of the de-

partment heads are approaching graduation as time moves on. This posed an issue of future leadership for a while but over the past year a number of promising lower classmen have joined Design Crew and

look like good candidates for future Design Crew leadership. "A good tech crew has problem solvers... being able to imagine big but then solve practically," said Rebekah.



10th grader Iris Carroll works on part of a set for Macbeth. Isabella Graziani

Manatee start season off on the right foot

*Need a game-by-game recap?
Haakon's got you covered*

Haakon Neske
Staff Writer

The Manatee varsity squad has 11 players, so a loss of even one person could possibly mean the fate of the game. Since two players were missing for the season opener against Mounds View, Max Muench and Jack Goodrich got called from JV up to play in the Monday night game. Sawyer and I first heard that the Manatee lost against the opener as we were boarding our flight back home from Copenhagen.

The second game of the year was against Como Area Ultimate (CAU), who was hot off a Division 2 Championship last year. It was their first game of the season, and they were adjusting to the loss of some

star players to graduation. We hadn't played Como in at least two years, so we didn't know how we would match up against them. It couldn't have been a better night for ultimate. It was around 70 degrees with no wind and the field was dry. The game started, and just like that, we got our first score. Then again. Then again. We're up 8-0 at halftime, and we started feeling cocky, because who wouldn't? They tried harder and turned the tides, put up 2 points and then let us score again. We got the momentum back eventually. You only need 15 to win, and we just kept pulling away. We won 15-4, chanted, "good game Como," and everyone headed home.



11th grader Connor Scott after throwing the disc in a game against Cretin Derham Hall.

For the team's third game of the season, Cretin Derham Hall ventured to the Humboldt turf for our annual matchup. Yet another perfect day for frisbee, throws were easy to get off, and you could also catch the wind and put a throw like 20 yards farther. We started off the game with a fairly easy point. Cretin responded with 4 unanswered points. We went on a 7-1 run, and took half. Outstanding performances from juniors Connor Scott and Malachi Raymond, and senior Sawyer Neske led us to the 15-9 win.

After starting the season 2-1, we headed to Minneapolis South for the 4th game of the year. The turf stadium we were supposed to play in was being used for track practice, so we had to play at a dusty, bumpy, grass field. The game started and South took the first two points. Immediately we noticed their poor sportsmanship and it got into our heads. We stayed in the game, but played sloppily and let them take half. The score was 5-8 when the second half began. Spirit of the game is one of the most important parts of ultimate, and when a team displays as bad of spirit as we saw, it's easy to get annoyed and angry. The game ended 11-8, and during our spirit circle we talked about how sportsmanship was lacking in the game.

The Matoska classic is an

annual tournament, last year it was at Edina High School and this year the tournament went down at White Bear Lake High School. The first day of the tournament we had only 10 people. You need 7 people per point, so most people were playing back-to-back points, and if not, they were playing every other. Basically we were all tired.

The first game was against Mahtomedi. We smoked them 13-2. In our second game, we played Woodbury High School. The first couple points were pretty competitive, as they took one and we returned the favor with one of our own. Since we were low on numbers, we took a timeout and realized that we were just a better team and this game shouldn't be so difficult. We finished up beating them with a score of 13-4. Our third game of the day was against a high ranked Eagan High School. The whole game was back and forth. We would score, then they would score, then we would. Nobody was pulling ahead. Without enough defensive intensity, Eagan took the game.

On the second day of the tournament, we had one more player than the first day. We lost senior Liam Gallagher but we got sophomore Miles Pretel and Malachi. We played an unenergetic Woodbury High School and toasted them 13-5. Our second



10th grader Haakon Neske catches the disc in the Cretin Derham Hall game.

and most competitive game of the day was against Apple Valley. They came out of the gates red hot and put up two on us. We evened the playing field with two of our own, and immediately everyone was thinking, "we're back in this." A couple points later, sophomore Leo Dungan-Seaver put up a high-arching backhand to junior Tom Hobday. As Tom leapt in the air, one of the Apple Valley player's elbow connected with Tom's nose. Tom went down, then stood back up with blood rushing from his nose. We lost that game at halftime because of time cap.

Our final game of the day was against Minneapolis South (yet again). Before we played them, we quickly conversed with them about spirit and we were back on good terms. We

could only play this game to 8 points because the coaches had to leave early. It was an even game until we pull ahead and take half by two points, 4-2. We kept playing hard and took the game with a score of 8-5.

Overall, we finished third place in the 2019 Matoska Classic. It's way better than we've done in the past but it's also a good motivation to do better. We lost a game we shouldn't have, and we realized that we needed to stay competitive throughout full games. The Hopkins Hustle is our next tournament, and then after that we have the State tournament. Before we know it the season will be over, so every little game from here on out matters.

Wo-Manatee builds on last year's season

After winning the D2 state tournament last year, Wo-manatee continue to build skill and spirit



The Wo-Manatees and Edina's team collide while trying to get the frisbee (Left). Lauren grabs the frisbee in a home game against Irondale (Right)

Kate Moe
Staff Writer

The Wo-Manatee had a great season last spring, winning the division two state tournament. The team has high expectations, but with many key players graduated, there are new players to settle in.

On April 18th, the Wo-Manatees decided to have a sleepover to form chemistry with each other and bond. The team played hide and seek, board games, and a captain even made a "Kahoot" about frisbee.

In spite of graduation losses, the team has a several key players back that were a big part of their State Tournament win. "The semi-final game against Como last year was the most competitive game in the state

tournament but made the girls play harder and push themselves to ultimately win the universe point and state itself," said junior Lauren Mitchell. The team is sophomore heavy, with about 15 from that class, there are only two seniors, one of them this being her first year. "With the new players, we have seen them around school and everyone has classes with them so it is just like having another class with them," said sophomore Elsa Carlson.

When Kathy Young started coaching last year, it was a surreal experience. She doesn't know if we will get another state win, but she still hopes we will do great. "Last year was my first year coaching the high school girls team so I did not know what to expect. This year I can tell the team is already

building from the successes of last year so excited to see our continued development over the rest of the season."

Senior Athena Bolton-Steiner is a key leader for the team. The six year ultimate player brings leadership and a well-rounded skill set to the team. Junior Katie Syers excels at making cuts and getting open. Katie has provided thoughtful advice to the team and always makes sure the girls are feeling good enough to play. Junior Lauren Mitchell is the third captain and has been a big part of this team. Lauren is known for her strong forehand throws. Each of the captains provides thoughtful advice from the sideline.

The Wo-Manatee's is currently 4-0 in league play. They defeated Edina junior varsity

8-3, Blake with 13-6, Irondale on universe point 7-6, and Cretin-Derham Hall 10-4.

The team had mixed results at the Matoska Classic tournament in White Bear Lake, but came away with the spirit award -- given to the team with the best attitude towards the game and their opponents. "Spirit. It's a unique aspect of the game and really foundational to our team and community," says Jesse Peterson Brandt. That quote stayed with the girls spirits throughout the entire tournament.

Next up for the Wo-Manatee is the Hopkins Hustle. The Hustle is a very competitive tournament that draws teams from as far as Chicago. The girls have been having a great season so far, hopefully it will continue.



Kate Moe



Katie jumps for the disc against Irondale.

Kate Moe

Senior Spotlight

Tynan Ducey



How many years have you been at Owl?
Since the seventh grade. Been here a long time.

What are your plans for next year?
I plan to work and go into culinary training

What's been your favorite class in high school?
Any of Brie's classes.

What extracurriculars are you involved in?
I was in the Boy Scouts, and I was in an ASL group.

Favorite field work trip and why?
Du Nord was easily one of my favorites.

Fav book, movie or TV show?
My favorite movie is Tenacious D and The Pick of Destiny, and my favorite book is Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy.

If you had a walk up song, what would it be?
Hey Look Ma, I made it by Panic! At The Disco

That One Little Kid Amaya Sanders

That One Little Kid:
Amaya Sanders

How tall are you?
I'm five foot four

What's your favorite book?
I really like To All The Boys I've Loved Before

Who's your favorite senior?
Olivia!

Where do you think you're going to college?
I'm not sure

What's the weirdest thing about OWL?
I'd say the teachers

What's your favorite school lunch?
I pack a home lunch

What elementary school did you come from?
JJ Hill Elementary

OWL's library gets "book store" style makeover

Caryl switches it up in the idea lab

Molly Yang
Staff Writer

Recently, the library went through some changes and now has a new look. Not only are we continuously getting new books, our librarian, Caryl Mousseaux, has found a new way to organize the books on the shelves.

Books are now organized by genres, with each genre having its own section on the shelves. There are also stickers on the spine of the books to indicate which genre they belong to. The way it was organized before was that all the fiction books were together, all the graphic novels were together, and all the non fiction was together, and all the classics had a shelf to themselves.

What inspired Caryl to make this decision to switch to the so called "book store model" of organizing books, was a trip that she took with other librarians to other school libraries. On this trip, she found that many other libraries were organized by genres and it was more beneficial for students.

Along with that, students when going into the library usually ask for books in certain genres anyway. It helps

students find other novels in the genres they enjoy because they are all by each other already. So far, students all seem to enjoy the new library. Isaac Stender, an 8th grader, says, "It makes a lot more sense now and it makes it easier. I encourage more students to come to the library." The library usually attracts more of the middle school crowd, but lately, with the growing book collection, more high schoolers have been visiting as well. "You're able to find other books similar to the ones you've read. It's easier to navigate," said Madeline Gray, an 11th grader. "We're getting more variety of books and I think that helps because now we're able to get more diverse perspective which is more interesting to high schoolers."

The process of actually changing it required a lot of research and recommendations from other librarians. Deciding which genres to include required some thinking on what students were more interested in and the making those genres for the library. Then they took out each shelf and just began separating them into those the different genres. This was a quicker process because of the

TAs in the library as well as the genius squad helpers. "With our small collection, it didn't take long and that was another piece of advice others gave me," Caryl said. Shifting to the new organization has also helped Caryl. It has been able to show the holes in the book collection and which genres have more or less books. This helps her see what genres could use more books.

As for future plans for the library, Caryl continues to grow the book collection, but she also wants to have more events in the library and gives students chances to come in and encourage different things

about reading and creativity. One idea is lunch in the library. "People can bring their lunch in and sign up. I have different ideas for that but maybe different themes every month," Caryl said. She wants to have things from maker-space, where you can experience hands on activities, to book tasting periods, where you explore other genres and try new ones. All these plans are made possible by students that visit and add input into the library. Changing the library in to genres was a big step this year for the library. But there is always room for new opportunities to improve the library with help from the students.



A student browses at the newly-organized library.

Purple Press staff photo

Fantastical stories: an interview

with Katie

OWL's social studies teacher talks about her fascination with history, children's books, and the importance of remembering the world's past.

Nik Logue
Staff writer

You started out at OWL as a part-time history day teacher, do you think that was a positive experience in starting here?

I do actually. It was hard, I mean it was hard financially to be a half-time teacher. But I would say being able to get my feet wet as a teacher in a 50% position and being able to ease my way into teaching was actually a pretty great experience. I was able to see how crew ran, I didn't have my own crew the first year so I was able to witness other people's crews, then when I was full-time the second year, I already had an idea of what I was supposed to be doing. I was able to concentrate on just U.S History and History Day the first year, and then the next year I was able to continue with those and add the sixth grade. So I would say overall, very positive.

So you think it helped you to not feel too stressed out from this... frankly crazy environment of Open?

Yes, yes. It was a nice way to learn the ins and outs of OWL. It was a good way to experience OWL for my first year.

And you're, of course, a huge history buff. Was there a moment in history that you learned about that really helped you develop your love for the subject?

Ummm... I always really liked World War II, and that sometimes goes back to—I read the American Girl books growing up—Meet Molly, who was the girl from the 1940s. That was kind of a big moment for me, but I've just always really liked history. I read historical fiction, I liked historical movies, so I don't know if I can pinpoint a single moment other than...it's just always been part of what I liked.

This may be a little cheap, but if given the opportunity, which historical era would you like to live in?

So World War II is a big one, but...I think the '20s would be kind of a cool one to experience. It's right after women got the right to vote; it's kind of this era of liberation for women which I think is kinda cool. It's that or...the '60s, and just all of the social movements that were happening during that time period, and all the activism that was happening.

You've also talked about your

love for film and literature, was there a specific story that really changed your life when you first saw it?

Let's see here...again reading has always been there for me. My parents were big proponents. They read to us, and then they started reading with us. Again, I'm gonna go back to those American Girl books, and Little House on the Prairie was a big deal for me. Children's stories like Roald Dahl's Matilda, the BFG, these fantastical stories that just really let your imagination run wild were just really cool to me.

Do you think—history and these fictional stories—do they have a sort of dance?

They do, they do have a dance with each other. Because I love the history, I love historical fiction, I love realistic historical fiction, but I also like it when they take a historical era and sometimes play a little "what if?" with it, like "what if this had happened?" Like The Book Thief or The Man in the High Castle, this idea of if the US had lost World War II, what the outcome of that would have been. Things like that have always been interesting to me.

Something that turns up a lot in history is how it tends to repeat itself. Do you believe that we, as humans, are simply built that way?

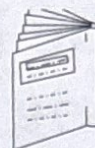
[sign] That's a tough question. I want to say no. I want to say we can learn from what's happened. But I haven't seen a ton of evidence of that. I see that we keep making a lot of the same mistakes, we see a lot of things that just continue happening, almost like we're on a loop. I think we are making progress, but we still have a long way to go with certain things.

Do you have faith that we won't make the same mistakes as we have made in the past?

I do, I do have faith in, say, your generation. I have faith in our students, that they are going to grow up to make positive impacts on the world and that you guys will not stand the way things are going. You will demand change and demand better for what's going to be happening. So yeah, I have faith that it will happen, maybe not in my lifetime but hopefully in your lifetime.



Reviews 'n' stuff



Italian dunkers don't live up to the hype

A hot take on everyone's fave lunch

Lily Hennessee
Staff writer

If you're a frequent consumer of SPSS lunches, there's a good chance that the term "dunker day" is very familiar.

Dunker day might just be one of the most exciting days of the month for many people, with Italian dunkers notoriously holding the title of the best SPSS lunch. The SPSS lunch menu elaborates on the items success, saying, "Parents want to know where we buy them, but we make them from scratch!" Kids just can't seem to get enough of the garlicky slice of bread smothered in melted cheese and marinara.

However, I have a hot take that may be shocking to some: contrary to popular belief, Italian dunkers aren't worthy of the hype they're given.

Now I'll admit, I used to go crazy on Dunker day as well. Compared to all the other lunches, Italian dunkers were superior by far. However, times have changed. In recent years, SPSS has really stepped up their lunch game, while the quality of dunkers has

decreased. There's too much cheese on them, making it feel almost sickening to eat.

With newer and tastier lunches being introduced to the SPSS menu, Italian dunkers are being left in the dust. New lunches on the rise include nachos and chicken nuggets, but in my opinion the pancake lunch is DELICIOUS. If you're unfamiliar with the "brunch lunch", it includes two pancakes, berry compote, hash browns, and sausage. This lunch also includes one thing that no other lunch can offer: orange juice. The added bonus gives the meal more variety with a fun twist.

Another underrated school lunch is chicken nuggets. Now don't be mistaken, I don't mean popcorn chicken or chicken tenders. Chicken nuggets are a whole different thing, and they're pretty special. One of the important factors of this meal is that it doesn't happen very often - perhaps once a month. This is an important part of a good school lunch because it comes around pretty rarely, making it more excit-

ing when it does appear on the menu. The nuggets are pretty well sized, with just about the perfect portion size to leave you happily nourished. Now I'll admit, they can sometimes get a little soggy, but compared to all the other school lunches, they're pretty good.

Lastly, one more severely underrated lunch is the peanut butter and jelly sandwich. This option is there for people who don't choose either of the two hot lunch items, and is available every day upon request. The important part of this lunch is that you get the Welch's sandwich, and not the off brand "EZ-Jammer" which uses "wowbutter", a gross and weird version of peanut butter. I'll admit that this lunch isn't really something I would eat every day, but it's always a good substitute option for when the hot lunches of the day aren't up to standard.

In conclusion, Italian dunkers will always have a special place in students' hearts, but I think it's time for them to step down. There's some new star lunches in town now.



Prove You Watch Too Much TV By Telling Us Which Shows These Characters Come From

Have all those years of binge-watching paid off?

durgaga

Which of these BuzzFeed quizzes is the best?

Linnea, it turns out, is an online quiz expert

Linnea Campbell
Staff Writer

According to BuzzFeed I am a 35 year old British man from Ohio. Instead I am a 16 year old non British Minnesotan, which is sadly very off, although I would love to have a British accent. We all know how accurate these quizzes are, right?

I do have to say BuzzFeed quizzes are a guilty pleasure of mine. They are what I do when I need to de-stress, or "have all of my work done" or if I'm just bored out of my mind, which is apparently most of the time because I've taken almost every BuzzFeed quiz that I've ever seen. Even some multiple times just to look at the variety of the answers that I may get at any given point. The following five are some of the quizzes I personally enjoy at any point in time.

No.5 the "we can guess..." these quizzes typically guess what month you were born in or where you live, and from my personal quiz taking experience, they're not very accurate. The types I've taken the most are we can guess your age, it consists of a series of questions ranging from your favorite chocolates to your dream vacation destination. In the end I usually end up getting between the age range of 25-38 which is a wide range and not very accurate but to be fair it is just a game of change type of quiz.

No.4 "would you rather"

quizzes. They have a handful of these quizzes seeing as they're pretty easy to make and answer. They're pretty self-explanatory and I just like them to see how other people feel about things that are, but at the same time aren't relevant. Like waffles or pancakes? Bagels or doughnuts? Or even some such as would you rather eat only bugs for the rest of your life or not be able to talk for the rest of your life. Things such as those are examples are some of a wide variety of questions they could ask.

No.3 the "timed trivia" quizzes. They generally give you between 1-3 minutes (depending on the question they're asking) to type in as many answers as you can. For example, can you name the capitals of all 50 states? they make you want to learn new things, so you can have the satisfaction of winning, as well as knowing new information" says 10th grader at OWL, Ella Pratt. I couldn't agree more with her, one of the most satisfying things is beating the trivia and knowing that you can have all the answers in that short amount of time that you are given. I personally am really good at ones that revolve around movie characters, like every Disney character or villain.

No.2 the "what character are you" tests. Now these tests seem completely randomized but I will tell you there is a really satisfying feeling than

getting a character or celebrity that you love and or look up to. But there's always ones that are super random, for example I took a "which Disney villain are you" quiz one day during Spanish class and they said that I was Dr. Facilier from Princess and the Frog (10/10 recommend seeing this movie by the way) but I personally think that I'm more of Ursula from the Little Mermaid.

And finally No.1 the categorized "love" quizzes. Now these are ones that can make or break your day depending on your mood. These quizzes range from what people find attractive about you to what age you will get married. They are all very random but I do have to say some people take these quizzes very seriously. Apparently I'm supposed to get married when I'm 35 and have two kids which I'm not against but what are the chances of whoever created this quiz being right about my future, that's besides the point though.

BuzzFeed quizzes are all fun and games and a great way to fill up time. I wouldn't take these quizzes too seriously seeing as that literally anybody can make a BuzzFeed quiz, but they are definitely something I enjoy and am very interested in. If anyone ever needs quiz advice or just wants to talk one over feel free to shoot me an email or even just walk up to me, I'd love to know your opinions on BuzzFeed quizzes!

State, 1

out their fate in the history day universe. Social Studies teacher Katie Craven said, "I'm pleased with the results. It's always tough when you have some kids that are so close, but when you have 7 projects medal, you have to feel pretty good." As usual, there were tears of joy and of sadness, but every went home knowing that their hard work had paid off.

Court, 1

sota is "While in or having just exited from a motor vehicle, recklessly discharges a firearm at or toward another motor vehicle or a building."

The appeal is based on the idea that if the drive by shooting charge is dropped then Waiters' sentence will be shortened. Waiters and his lawyers claim that Waiters did not shoot "at" or "towards" the building, so he did not commit a drive by shooting. The judges are very aware as they make their decision of the precedent it will set. If they rule in the state's favor, it means any shooting occurring in a city could potentially be charged as a drive by, significantly lengthening prison time. Henry Bowring-McDonough was impressed by how important the distinction between "at" and "towards" was. He says it's what he will remember most.

Back at the Humboldt auditorium, the ROTC have left and the judges are being introduced. We rise as they enter the stage and take their seats. The stage is set up with a long risen table for the judges,



es, a single podium facing it, and two tables to the side for the lawyers to sit at. Almost immediately the first lawyer begins her arguments, and the auditorium is held rapt as they follow the complex debate. As the trial goes on, it's easy to feel the investment of the whole auditorium and see students are taking sides.

After a particularly daring statement is made by one lawyer the auditorium breaks out into whispers and gasps as students debate among themselves. The arguments continue for about an hour with no clear winner, and after they finish we rise again as the judges and lawyers exit the stage.

After a brief time the judges reappear and sit towards the front of the stage on a line of chairs for questions. They have shed their robes and the atmosphere is much more relaxed. A microphone is set up in the aisle before the stage for student questions. At first they are hesitant to ask, but soon the line is over 15-kids long and reaches all the way back to the end of the seats. Students ask the judges about everything

ranging from their musical abilities, to how they became a judge, to how they deal with the guilt of sentencing people to prison. There are so many students lined up with questions that the judges don't have time to answer them all in the short session.

Afterwards, while we walk back to class, students debate who should have won, and laugh about how exciting it was. One student ran up to and friend and I exclaiming, "that was the best thing of my life!" Noah Morris appreciated the attitude of the court. He said that they "seemed keenly aware of the importance of their decision." Other students were impressed by the format of the argument. Maggie Windstad described it as, "clearly effective, so each side could make their points full out." Katie Craven emphasized the student gain from seeing the court case. She thought the most important thing they learned was, "a better understanding of how the supreme court works, compared to a regular jury court or a criminal court."

Archery, 2

warmed up before in a coach versus archer shoot-out. So I felt more comfortable after that," said Kathryn.

This season, the middle school team did the best they've ever done, while the high school team fell a bit short of expectations. Other years, the usual top five scores of the high school team are usually in the high 270's into the 280's. This season the top five scores of the high school team were in the 260's to low 270's.

Although the overall season for high school was short of expectations, scores improved at state. The top five high school archers at state were Jack Goodrich at 282, Emily Yang at 282, Zoe Campion at 278, Henry Bowring-McDonough at 269, and Henry Smith at 265.

"I thought that my performance have gotten better from last year. I have attending more

practice and have gotten to know my fellow archers. However my performance on tournaments have dropped very low going from a 273 to a 232 I was unhappy but I did push through the end and got a 269," said senior captain, Pang Houa Yang.

The top five middle school archers were Kathryn at 282, Veronica Rohde at 274, Krista Hines at 271, Brodie Olmstead at 267, and Leland Engelking

at 260.

As usual, Tom's expectations for the team next year is to always have fun. He's as proud as where his archers come from as how they score at the meets.

"Our archers probably don't spend as much time outside of the season shooting as other teams do. That being said I think that we are close to being one of the top teams in the state. I love the fact that we bring a lot of students of color



The archery team gets ready to shoot at flight time.

The Mueller report: Isn't it long past time to move on?

"Over 4,000 legal actions" is plenty thorough

Jonas Kammeyer-Mueller
Staff Writer

It's time. It's what everyone in the United States forgot about after 2016 and only remembered a few weeks ago. It's the Mueller Report. The bombshell report has fallen onto the democratic party, and I'll explain why.

If you will recall, three years ago, President Donald Trump was being widely, and rightly, criticized for insinuating that he might not accept the results of the 2016 election if he lost. Then he won. Many democrats on twitter tweeted things like "america is dead," "#not-mypresident" (which is what some republicans said about Obama in 2008), and most importantly "Donald Trump was colluding with the Russian government and Hillary should have won." That last one got more support, and was continually stated by multiple reporters from MSNBC, CNN (sans Carl Azuz,) and more publications that lean to the left.

Fast forward two years after the report began. Everyone is waiting, the news has pretty boring stories because

they're keeping their best staff for the Mueller Report to be released, and then, it releases. And with it, came the cheers of the right, and the wails of the left, because "The [Mueller] investigation did not establish that members of the Trump Campaign conspired or coordinated with the Russian government in its election interference activities," as was stated by the report. In simple english, Trump, and members of his campaign, were not working with, or working for, the Russian government. So after two years of calling the president a traitor to his country, both indirectly and directly, we find out that these people were just full of it. "But what were these media and government figures full of?" I hear you ask, which is why I'll tell you now. They were full of vindictive anger. They couldn't that the one person who had driven them off the deep end, who could cure cancer and they'd still hate, became president.

Now that the Mueller Report has been released, some media figures have said that the Mueller Report wasn't

thorough enough, which is absolutely asinine. To prove this point, I have a quote about the sheer scope and scale of this investigation from Attorney General William Barr "[The investigation] issued more than 2,800 subpoenas, executed nearly 500 search warrants, obtained more than 230 orders for communication records, issued almost 50 orders authorizing use of pen registers, made 13 requests to foreign governments for evidence, and interviewed approximately 500 witnesses."

If you've paid attention in your math classes, that's over 4,000 legal actions to get the information supplied in the report, and if that's not thorough, I don't know what is. Now you might be saying, "But Attorney General Barr is part of the Trump administration, how can we trust him?" To answer this question, I'd like to take you back to when Robert Mueller openly and forcefully denounced a Buzzfeed "article" which had false information about what was in his report. Because he did this, I find it highly unlikely that he wouldn't call out Barr if he was lying.

Moving on, some democrats in the Senate and in Congress have hinted that they'll be doing more investigations. Representative Maxine Waters, one of the spearheads that the movement to impeach the President, said that "Those of us who chair these [congressional] committees have a responsibility to continue with our oversight. There's so much

that needs to be, you know, taken a look at at this point. So it's not the end of everything." So according to Rep. Waters, the taxpayer cost of the investigation, the time it took to go through the filing, recording, and submitting of over 4,000 legal actions, just wasn't enough. We need to do more because Mueller was obviously in Trump's pocket! Forget that we had hyped Mueller up for years as the angel who would smite the evil Trump man, that never happened. To sum my brief rant up: Waters and other vocal members of the Democratic Party were yelling, so Mueller spent almost two years of his life and thousands of taxpayer dollars investigating. After the investigation didn't go the way she'd wanted, Waters has said that Mueller's job wasn't good enough. I'm not sure about you, but I'd be absolutely livid at Rep. Waters, and I congratulate Mueller for not thundering down the warpath that Rep. Waters made.

Now that the dust has settled, some people (including Rep. Waters and other Dems) still refuse to accept the results of Att. Gen. Barr's summary. Why this is, I can't say. Maybe it's the hope that some new bombshell thing comes out? Or maybe it's that these people have staked too much into the idea of Trump being a Russian agent to change their mind on it. Whatever the reason is, I think this quote from former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley would do us well: "The American public needs to accept the results and move on."



Special Counsel Robert Mueller speaks about his report, which took two years. Some democrats think that the report is not thorough enough.

Angelo can see himself in Ben10

"I spend 70% of the day imagining if I was made of lava rocks."

Angelo Carvale
Staff Writer

Captain's Log, Stardate: 4. It's been a treacherous, stressful eighteen year expedition to the planet Earth. And I have to say that, as my final test results concluded, it was not worth the trip. However, I have found few things to tolerate this ever-poisoning world. It's something they call a "picture show" here, a cartoon from years and years ago. Something they call the "Ben Ten".

Cartoon Network's Ben 10 series is one remembered by the many nerds and dweebs of the world. Naturally, as a weird looking boy with brown hair and one outfit for every episode of my life, I relate especially hard to this cartoon boy. It also doesn't hurt that I spend 70% of the day imagining if I was made of lava rocks and could fly by shooting fire out of my leggies. The other 30% is reserved for thinking about having four arms and becoming the best drummer in the world ever.

The first season of Ben 10 was aired on Cartoon Network in the sweet year of 2006, and was met with immediate applause. It was from me at least, whoever didn't applaud their

TV after their first viewing of Ben 10 is wrong. But basically, here's the show: This kid Ben is running around in the woods one night when he gets hit by an asteroid right in his forehead. In that asteroid is a mysterious watch that immediately latches onto his wrist, a watch that lets the user transform into ten different alien creatures with different abilities. And after cleverly deciding he should transform into the creature literally made out of fire in the middle of a forest, Ben soon learns that tons of other alien species are looking for that watch. Meaning our ten year old boy is now being hunted by an out-of-this-world species, and has to learn how to control all of these creatures to defend himself. Along for the ride is his whiny cousin Gwen and his super cool Grandpa Max, as they drive across the country in their RV to fight alien threats and save the world many times.

First off, this plotline was a crazy weird idea that surprisingly went great. Some other pieces of media have toyed with granting small dumb boys with incredible power. Just look at that new Shazam movie; it's perfect. But Shazam



just turns into one handsome man, that's just one guy the little kid inside has to learn to control. Compare that to controlling ten huge, disgusting extraterrestrial monsters, and you've got something special on your hands.

Second thing! This show very easily could have had what people call "the Superman complex", as in he's so strong he's not an interesting character anymore. Where's the suspense in a story where our hero is basically invincible, and danger is a mere obstacle to their goal? After all, he's basically ten different superheroes with tons of abilities. So how do they fix this? They make him a snarky, stupid boy with little to no idea on what

he's doing and zero body control (another reason I can easily relate to him). But for real. One of my favorite things with these characters is that they make mistakes, and they really don't know what they're doing. Ben Tennyson from Ben 10, Billy Batson from Shazam, Peter Parker from Spider-Man, Tom Hanks in Big, these are all just kids way in over their heads with responsibility and huge power. This is where I feel a lot of the relatability comes from in these characters, they're kinda dumb and a lot of the time they don't know what they should do. That's why I relate to them, at least.

And finally, we could never talk about Ben Ten with-

Why you should watch The Umbrella Academy

Superhero misfits raised by a robot mom and monkey butler

Maggie Morris
Staff Writer

In the Netflix original series "The Umbrella Academy," seven superpowered siblings deal with their daddy issues in superpowered ways. It's a punk superhero family drama that will have you enthralled, morose, and unequivocally confused. Here are seven reasons you should binge-watch the first season as soon as you get home.

1.) The show is based off of a comic book series written by Gerard Way, who is widely known as the lead singer of My Chemical Romance. In its bleak premise, surreal setting, and angry, confused characters, the show manages to retain a lot of the punk aesthetic that made MCR's music famous.

2.) The soundtrack is brilliant. The first episode introduces us to Reginald Hargreeves, the siblings' adoptive father, to Picture Book by the kinks. During a fight scene in the same episode, it breaks out into fricking Istanbul by They Might Be Giants. As the main villain is made known, Barracuda by Heart is playing. It's so perfect you won't believe it. The songs excellently match the quirky and unexpected sensation that is this show.

3.) As we see in the very first scene, the siblings were all born suddenly, within one minute of each other, to women who had no previous signs of pregnancy. Each sibling has an obscure power with varying degrees of usefulness, everything from communicating with the dead and mind control to throwing knives really well. They were collected, and groomed into a superhero team (called The Umbrella Academy), by an eccentric billionaire scientist named Reginald Hargreeves, who named them after the millisecond they were born in. And that's just the tip of the iceberg in terms of the weird superhero-comic-book vibes.

4.) The family has a robot mom and a monkey butler, and it's not even addressed. That's how weird it is. In the comics, it's explained that Pogo the monkey butler was a creation of Reginald's, and Grace the robot mom was a stand-in for a nanny created after it was found that no human nanny could withstand dealing with the children. In the show, however, we're just supposed to accept these characters as part of reality.

5.) There is a main character for everyone. Like glamorous drama and value your family above everything? Welcome to the life of number 3, Allison, aka "The Rumor." Feel like you are constantly surrounded by idiots and you are the only one that can do anything right? Meet number 5, or "the boy." Sad and a little dumb, yet

hardworking and loyal? Boom. Number 1, Luther, "Spaceboy." Have a drug problem and are constantly haunted by the ghosts of everyone who has ever died? Okay, well, that one's not as relatable, but he's there. He's number 4, Klaus, "The Seance." The other characters are Number 2, Diego, "The Kraken," number 6, Ben, "The Horror," who sadly died years before the beginning of the show, and finally number



7, Vanya.

6.) Hazel and Cha-cha. Hazel and Cha-cha are time-traveling assassins tasked with terminating one of the Hargreeves siblings. They go around in bright, smiley cartoon character masks and are some of the most effective assassins in the literal universe. They also feel bogged down by bureaucracy in the organization they work for, and enjoy a good donut. Hazel even ends up falling in love with a simple diner owner. Although they are chaotic, ruthless and cause mass destruction, we still get to see the weird, warped human side to each of them. It's incredibly disconcerting, but also something you don't get to see in a lot of superhero shows.

7.) The deconstruction of a superpowered life. Although the Hargreeves siblings seem cool and admirable as children, the opposite is true of the characters as adults. They include a grown man living at his parents' house, a vigilante wannabe, a lying, divorced actress, a tortured addict, a missing child, a dead teenager, and a lonely violin teacher. In the Umbrella Academy, powers equal fame, sure, but not lasting glory. They do more harm than good in the sibling's lives. We as kids envy superheroes, especially ones our own age, but the fact is nobody knows what it would be like to grow up like them. This show is the first brave enough to ask: "what if it wasn't always so happy and shiny?"

As you can see, The Umbrella Academy is one of the weirdest and most creative things to happen to comic book adaptations in a long time. If you don't watch it right now, I will send two donut-loving, time-traveling assassins in cartoon masks to your house.

Jose breaks down prom 19'

Staff and students provide hot takes on OWL's spring formal

Jose Daniel Batres-Pearson
Staff Writer

It's a beautiful night and you're walking down 7th Street West near downtown Saint Paul. Suddenly, just past Cooper's Foods, you find yourself looking at a large brick building with old-school street-level entrances. An antique rectangle near the roof reads "1887 C.S.P.S 1917." You go inside the building and find a crowd of young dancers dressed in suits, dresses, and fancy clothing jamming the night away. Then you look up and see a sign that says "WELCOME TO YOUR BEST DANCE PARTY EVER!"

You've just stumbled upon the historic Czech-Sokol Hall and the party is, drum roll please: "PROM."

Prom is an annual event held by high schools in many parts of the world, including OWL. It's a big part of the social climate of high school, and in areas like Saint Paul Public Schools, you do not have to have a date to go to Prom. It's an event for anyone who loves dancing and singing that they won't want to miss.

OWL holds this event every year at the historic Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota building, better known as Sokol Hall. Erected by the Czech-Slovak Protective Society (now Czechoslovak Society of America) in 1887, Sokol Hall is one of Minnesota's best preserved relics of the commercial prosperity of the nineteenth century and has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1977. It is also the only building I have ever visited that has a dance floor and stage on the second story.

OWL's Prom is unique in the high school community because it packs a lot of intimacy considering the small group of people and the fact that OWL is small by design. Students are often comfortable with just being themselves, and not all of them dress up fancy. A few

of them were even in charge of the playlist. It's also not as much a big deal compared to other places. Most of all, it's about having fun.

The dance floor is jam-packed with lots of sweet moves and excited singers. Tickets are handed in at the top of the staircase that leads to the dance floor, and snacks and drinks are offered in the adjoining kitchen and dining room. You can also play card games with friends in the dining room. You may also request songs of your choice, as long as they're appropriate. Maybe you might even fall in love. It's a spectacular event with spring fun, lots of social time with peers, dancing with groups, and even dancing with your date.

The opinions of students on Prom vary. Angelo Carvale, one of the seniors, says his favorite thing to do at Prom is hug the wall and hope no one sees him; he has gone every year; his preferred theme is Enchantment Under The Sea; he likes to request the Huey Lewis and the News song "Power of Love," which was featured in the 1985 sci-fi film "Back to the Future." His favorite song that's played at Prom is anything by Michael Jackson.

Pang Houa Yang's favorite thing to do at Prom is hang out with friends and dance together. This year is her second time going to Prom and she is okay with whichever theme gets chosen. As for song requests, her songs are all Hmong. Pang has no favorite song and is okay whatever songs are played at Prom.

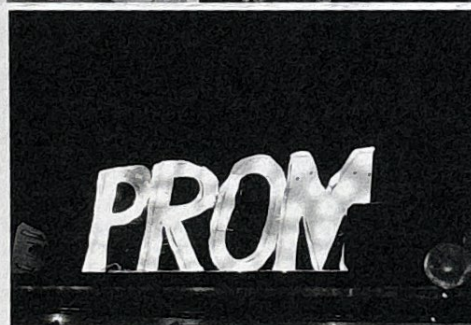
Pedro Bayon's favorite thing to do at Prom is dance with friends and have a good time. This year will be his third time going to Prom. His preferred Prom theme is Masquerade. Pedro likes to request songs such as "Ella Quiere Beber" by Anuel A.A., "In The Club" by Fifty Cent, and "Yosemite" by Travis Scott. His favorite song

at Prom is any song that gets the entire group dancing.

I myself have been to Prom for Open World Learning Community for three years and this is my fourth and final year attending OWL's Prom. My favorite thing to do at Prom is busting out some fancy moves for the students, as well as having snacks and water for energy. I enjoy requesting popular songs from the '70s, '80s, and '90s such as "September" by Earth, Wind, and Fire (I really busted out on the floor to this one), "Stayin' Alive," "More Than a Woman,"

and "You Should Be Dancing" by The Bee Gees, "Rock DJ" by Robbie Williams, and more. I also love newer hits with killer beats, including "The Man" by The Killers and "Feel It Still" by Portugal. The Man.

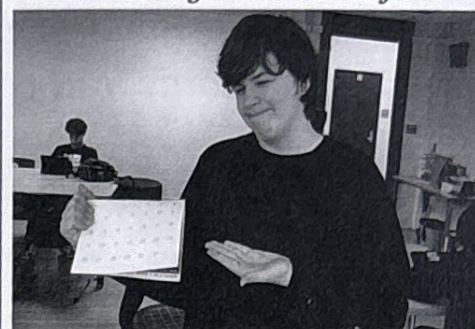
High school Proms are a spectacular way to make the most of your high school career, especially if you're a senior. If you go there, I guarantee you will enjoy lots of fun and games and, most importantly, a brilliant dance and sing. It's an incredible party in store for you!



Social studies teacher Luke Turvold poses with 10th graders, Diego, Cyrus, Max and Adrian (top), the 11th graders at prom (middle), the "Prom" sign (bottom).

Not all days are created equal

Old man Juvland is pretty sure that Tuesday is the best of all



Maxwell Juvland
Staff Writer

Alright you whippersnappers, you seem to have gotten even more things wrong. I've already had to remind you all that superhero movies are garbage, but now you have the gall to challenge me on my objective ranking of the days of the week! The nerve on you kids... So just to clear up any of the misconceptions you may have developed thanks to these radical, unfounded ideas, I'm gonna rank the days of the week, worst to best.

The number 1 Worst day of the week is definitely Friday. God how I hate Friday... Nobody will SHUT UP WHEN I'M TRYING TO SLEEP! They're all BLASTING THEIR MUSIC AND ENJOYING THEIR YOUTH AND... GAH!!! Such a horrible day. The only good experience I've ever had on a Friday was calling the police on some annoying kids and then watch them get arrested in the middle of one of their parties for underage drinking.

Next up, the 2nd Worst would definitely be Saturday. People are simply too happy on Saturdays. What do you have to be happy about?! The Fat Korean man is constantly threatening to drop his commie bombs on us, who knows what the Soviets are doing, and even the YOUTH ARE COMING!!! WHAT HAS THE WORLD COME TO?! Back when I was young, the slightest threat could lead to a panic the Soviets would nuke us! I wish Saturday was more like Sunday. The only weekend day you should be this happy should be Sunday, when you're praying to the lord.

3rd Worst would probably be Thursdays. There's just too much excitement and hope. Since everyone has Friday coming up to look forward to, they act too nice. Why aren't people upset that it's not Friday yet instead? However, it's not entirely bad, as people still do have to do work on Thursdays. I can still watch the McDonald's worker giving me my Egg McMuffin in the morning looking completely dead inside as he realizes he has 7 more hours of doing this left in his day.

Middle of the pack would be Wednesdays. They're delightfully boring. I love waking up in the morning and just seeing all the bored people go about their completely run of the

mill daily activities. Sure, no one's really absolutely miserable anymore, but it's not like they're really doing all that much of substance either. The general public feeling nothing at all is better than them feeling good. And since everyone is so unmotivated, it's also nice and quiet! I love that.

3rd best is Sundays. Now, this wonderful, holy and sacred day would definitely be higher on my list, but some people apparently try to have fun on this day! Are you serious?! The only reason why Sunday should exist is to be religious for a little while, then go home and be depressed for the remainder of the day as the burden of Monday ever so slowly creeps up on you. Back in my day, that's all I would do on Sunday. Go to a boring service for 3 hours, and then sit in a corner and cry for the rest of the day. Ahhhh yes. How wonderful... Why do teenagers have to ruin everything?!

2nd Best is certainly Mondays. Everyone is so sad. Even Mr. Orange Lasagna Cat hates it! I always look forwards to this part of the week. Always great to just go outside and breathe in all the fresh misery in the air. The only issue I have with Mondays is that since it is such a universally gloomy day, people sometimes take pity on each other on Monday instead of just hitting them with a whole bunch of stuff that they have to do right off the bat. That really gets my goat.

And the number 1, my favorite day of the entire week, is Tuesday. This is like if you took all of the things that make Monday an absolutely miserable day, and took away the sympathy that people feel for each other. I must say, Tuesdays are what I look forward to every week. The kids are too exhausted to have fun or get in my way, and all the people that would normally yell at me or get mad at me for being an unempathetic, bitter excuse for a human being are too busy to do so! So much fun. Reminds me of my childhood.

And that is the correct ranking of every day of the week, and anyone that ever tells you otherwise is either a Communist spy collaborating with the Soviets, or completely and objectively wrong. Let me know what you'd like me to rant about in the future, and until next time, this is Old Man Marsh, signing off.

College admissions, 1

toshopping and pretending students were on division one sports teams for admission to schools.

The scandal reveals the harsh reality of the extremely wealthy and their ability to cheat with their money and privilege. The biggest names involved in the middle of this are Beverly Hills elitist Lori Loughlin and Felicity Huffman. Both used College Counselor, William Singer, to illegally give their kids an edge into top universities. Both of the celebrities now face legal charges and could possibly face jail time.

William Singer, the owner of Key Worldwide Foundation and organizer of the entire scheme has pleaded guilty to four federal charges including Mail Fraud, and Money laundering. Singer admitted to helping more than 750 families children into college illegally. Singer will now face 65 years

in prison and a fine of \$1.25 million.

Celebrities have faced extreme backlash after the scandal, both in the media and in their careers. Many Hollywood parents involved, have lost deals with sponsorships, and losing roles in tv shows and channels such as Hallmark. Many parents plead not guilty and will face trials based on their crimes in the upcoming months.

Students have lost their spot in big universities, in light of the scandal. As well as the extreme embarrassment and hate from people around the country. Some of the most enraged and shocked from the scandal are those who applied to many of these universities but didn't get in. What's upsetting to them, and many around the country, is that these kids of rich celebrities took spots from those who worked hard, simply because of their parents money and privilege.

Ben 10, 6

out talking about the theme song. The original invention of the Bop. If my plot synopsis made no sense, go listen to that song because it literally goes through every important plot point while also having the best visuals

Just like the movie Titanic. I can't think of a better place for a "where are they now?" segment. So, what's our boy doing in this great year of 2009? Well, his latest and greatest adventures were in a series starring Teenager Ben, where he had even more cool monsters and aliens to turn into. My guess? His adventures have probably sent him somewhere out in space, doing space push ups and recruiting more cool aliens to be friends with. It's hard to tell where exactly he is and what he's doing, but I'm sure he's got it handled alright. Especially if he's got Four Arms, ha! That was a joke. But really. If anybody's gonna be in space

working out and befriending new aliens, it's gonna be our boy Ben. It's also just cool to imagine him hella buff and flying around in a spaceship.

Well that's another good boy in the bag, I guess. Don't take that sentence out of context. I may be getting almost good at these writing pieces. But do not fret, dear reader, I assure you I will degrade the quality soon enough. Just you wait for my next and (what might be) my final article, because as we all know, it'll sure be a mess of a trashpile of a doozy. Thanks for reading. As always, I'm Flash Gordon, and this is Nightline.

How do race & background affect the college experience?

College can be a culture shock, due to cost, lack of diversity, and being away from home, but can be especially difficult for students of color

Milani Dimayuga
Staff Writer

For many, college means liberation of everything we hate about high school: the weird heating and cooling systems, early wake up times, school lunches, and the subtle cliques. But to others, college means much more: money worries, the confusion surrounding

now studying at the University of Minnesota — “Many times, students of color find it harder to fit in compared to white students.”

“When I was in high school, it was very diverse and I was used to seeing myself in my peers,” said Derrick Le Tran, another former OWL student and St. Olaf graduate who

a person of color. Jennifer Lor, who also went to OWL and graduated from Carleton, said, “My professor challenged me, asked me questions, requested I show proof by picking out specific excerpts and points of analysis, only to tell me in front of my classmates that I needed to refine my arguments and ideas. My friend picked up on this and each time my opinions were shot down by our professor, he’d raised his hand and repeat what I said word for word. He was praised. He was a white male. I didn’t have imposter syndrome only because I felt out of place. I had imposter syndrome because some of my professors liked what I wrote on paper, more than what I said in class, even if they were the same things.”

Lor talked about how in college, she and her friends supported each other and pushed each other hard because they were concerned that their best would only be a white person’s average and that if they didn’t succeed, they wouldn’t have that safety net that so many white students already have. At OWL, Tim works a lot with students on applying for colleges and he mentioned a study in which African American students were having trouble with college and the only difference between them and the Asian and White students was that they didn’t get together for study groups and social events. The Asian and White students, however, would get together for social events but then also have study groups with the same people they went to those events with.

“Those sorts of things are really key,” said Tim. “We’ve seen kids with like, a \$150 bill [to pay] and [they] drop out because they didn’t know what to do. Knowing how to use your resources and create a team around yourself is really important for success. [Also,] knowing how to deal with the financial aid package, and understanding how that works [is key too].”

We all know how hard it is to get into college; how much we study for tests, how hard we work to pass a class or to get credits back, and how much time we spend in extra-curriculars. But students of color, again depending on their class, have to work even harder to apply for scholarships, financial aid, and programs like TRIO, Upward Bound, Posse program, and Questbridge. Because historically, non-immigrant white families in the United States haven’t had to go through the struggles that immigrants and other minority groups have gone through, they have that privilege. Having that advantage (even if say, your grandparents or great-grandparents migrated

here) your parents could have gone to college when it was cheap and segregated, so now you have that education and privilege of privilege that other students don’t have.

For many non-white students, their parents may not have gone to college so they can’t lead them through applications, college tours, or through choosing a college. Having parents or guardians who had a higher education figures into how much privilege you have when it comes to college.

You see, the more and the better education you get, the better job you may have, the more money you get paid. Obviously, when you get paid more money, you’re better able to afford going to college, which means that you could afford to attend a better college, which equals, in the end, working to your benefit when the cycle repeats.

Only when you look at the grand scale of things do you realize how much money plays into every part of our lives. I want to stress that money does not in fact determine how you experience college, but rather the culmination of all these factors — money, privilege, background, race, and ethnicity — can have a profound effect on your experience in college. And I have to say that the as a white-passing student at OWL, with two educated, first gen parents that sent me to a school where I see people like me everyday, I haven’t had many of experiences like the people I interviewed for this article. My friends have never told me that I only got something because I am a minority and I’ve never been in a situation where my education is at stake because I won’t be able to pay a bill.

Over the last couple of weeks, I’ve had the honor of

interviewing OWL graduates and to say that it was amazing is an understatement, because hearing their stories opened my eyes to how wonderful our school really is. Our teachers may not be perfect, but they try their best to never give up on kids and never let anyone be left out. They give us assignments that force us to interact with each other and we have crews who try their best to talk about inclusion and diversity. However, what I think makes us truly one of the most amazing schools is that sense of true community, variety, support, and crew. That transition from the tight-knit community here at OWL to college can be a big step for some students.

Thinking ahead to college, Tim advises all students to ask for help from teachers, friends, peers, and parents, and let them help you find a college that you like, that offers the financial aid you need, and that has a campus you love. OWL graduate Kim Perez advised students to enjoy their time at OWL because it goes by fast.

To answer my original question — to what extent do our backgrounds dictate how we view our college experience? — to a very large extent. It impacts our choices, who we become friends with, how we’re treated, and how comfortable and respected we feel. But again, all colleges are different; their campuses ranging from diverse to not, and annual tuition costing anywhere from under 5 grand to over 60. And as a person of color, there are things you have to deal with that non-poc people may never come across, but there are ways to get to where you want to be.

Even though college does seem to be more challenging for students of color, there is light at the end of the tunnel. OWL graduate Adriana Cortes-Mendoza reflected that

in spite of the challenges, her experience has been positive. “Overall I think my college experience has been good, I’ve sought help when I’ve needed it and try to take as many opportunities to grow and be more involved on campus as I can.”

Moua stressed the importance of intentionally seeking out like minded people. “Find the people in the same boat as you. It’s easier to connect and make friends.” In spite of the challenges they faced, most of the students I interviewed seemed glad that they had gone to college.

After researching this topic and interviewing former students, I am left with this feeling of uncertainty. Uncertainty about college, about how I’ll fit in; because as a biracial student and person, it’s always been hard to fit in, never white enough for white people, never hispanic enough for hispanic people. But I also feel optimistic because I have hope that colleges and universities will continue to try to diversify their campuses and that students like the ones I interviewed will continue to make the best out of their situation, because it pays off in a big way.

You see, the more you make the best of things, the more you will do your best, the more you do your best, the more proud you’ll be of yourself, the more proud you are of yourself, the more you believe that you can. And obviously, when you believe that you can, whether that can is college, a job, or something else, that can is what pushes you to do great things, which equals, in fact, working to your benefit when the cycle repeats.

Only when you look at the grand scale of things do you realize how much you play into every part of your life.

PSEO, 2

Being aware of your goals is very important when deciding to do PSEO. Some students do it because it saves money, and some do it because the courses offered are very intriguing. “If you want a challenge, want something different, or want to try decide what school you want to go to, I would recommend it. Just be sure to make time for the adjustment.”

Derrick says. When making your decision, it is also important to be aware of your academic goals. If you have a particular interest that you want to study and it isn’t offered at OWL, taking a PSEO class can help determine whether you want to keep learning about that subject. The decision all depends on what your goals are,” Atquezali concludes.



Derrick graduating from St. Olaf College.

“You could see it in the clothing too. Like, I was afraid to wear like a Target brand coat when everyone had Patagonia, and like trying to fit into those standards.”

-Derrick LeTran

the applications process, applying for FAFSA and TRIO, and change. While some people think of the friends they’ll make in college, others worry about how they will fit in. When it comes to actually going to college, to what extent do our backgrounds (race and demographics) dictate how we view the experience?

In 1954, Brown vs. Board ruled that American state laws establishing racial segregation in public schools were unconstitutional, even if the segregated schools were otherwise equal in quality. And yet today, nationwide, minority students continue to be concentrated in high-poverty, low-achieving schools, while white students are more likely to attend high-achieving, more affluent schools. Across the U.S., White and Asian students have a 26.9% and 20% college dropout rate while Hispanic and African American students have 35% and 44.6% respectively.

Most will agree that college isn’t like high school. In addition to the fact that it costs way more, colleges like St. Olaf, Luther, and Carleton differ a lot from our school, with a mostly white student body. Diversity is a key part of our school and to go to college and to all of a sudden not have that anymore brings to mind the word culture shock. “Knowing no one at all makes it harder but it also helps you grow if you’re willing to step out of your comfort zone,” said Chua Moua, a former OWL student,

currently works at OWL as an educational assistant. He said that he felt out of place a lot when he was at St. Olaf. “You could see it in the clothing too. Like, I was afraid to wear like a Target brand coat when everyone had Patagonia, and like trying to fit into those standards.”

And that’s the thing, it seems to me that your income — whether you notice it or not — impacts your college experience. For example, it costs money to study abroad, to live on campus, to drive there, to buy clothes, to buy a computer, or to eat out with friends. If you can’t cover those costs, you may end up choosing a college that doesn’t offer everything you want.

No matter your race, money affects your educational experience. How much money you have is never solely based on your race, but what money is tied to is your class, family history, and again, education, which are all tied to your privilege and your resources — like stocks and investments.

But at the same time, the pressure of being a “model minority”, of being a first generation college student, and dealing with racism and isolation, if any, is generally something that white students don’t have to deal with. The college experience is different for everyone because not everyone is given the same opportunities, not everyone is treated the same, and no college or university is the same. But other times, it’s different solely because you’re



Jennifer graduating from Carleton College.

“I didn’t have imposter syndrome only because I felt out of place. I had imposter syndrome because some of my professors liked what I wrote on paper, more than what I said in class, even if they were the same things.” -Jennifer Lor