

Purple Press

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H-Day mostly over

Theo Leifheit
Staff Writer

History day is over! For the Majority of you at least, for the rest of you it means you'll be embarking on a journey that will lead you far from our small school on to regionals, state and dare I say . . . Nationals?

Before you start to hyperventilate and pass out in front of your crew, remember what you have already accomplished. As the requirements and competition ramp up, so will the assistance from teachers. A pair that you will become quite familiar with are Susanne Hollingsworth and David Dyson. These veteran judges will deconstruct your project piece by piece to help you rebuild it better than before.

Although the idea of competing against other projects may seem scary, your goal should be to improve your project not judge it against others. That's what the judges are

History Day continued on page 3

Bilingualism rules

Stephanie Orellana
Staff Writer

The other day I was texting one of my parents an important message when all of sudden I forgot how 'coincidentally' was said in Spanish. I've said this word many times in previous conversations but I tend to have many... brain pauses. And I get very annoyed with my brain for doing that.

I feel like those who are not bilingual or multilingual do not understand what really goes through one's mind. That's why I am writing this, to educate you on these types of people's brains. Not the actual brain but of our thoughts, dreams and some advantages and disadvantages we think we have as bilingual speakers.

I fluently speak, read and write in Spanish and English. Even though Spanish is my first language, I tend to

Bilingual continued on page 5

Strike avoided

Grace Bellamy
Staff Writer

A teacher strike was avoided at the last possible minute when the Saint Paul Federation of Teachers and the Saint Paul School district reached a contract settlement after a 13-hour mediation session that ended early the morning of Monday, February 12th.

A vote to finalize the new contract took place on February 22. Math teacher Tom Totushek, along with science teacher Megan Hall, were co-captains of the strike, meaning they would have been the building's organizers had it happened. Three points from the new contract that Tom considers most important are class size caps, increased support for special education and English learners, and "a realization that the school funding paradigm must change."



A teacher putting in a vote.

Other highlights include gender-inclusive parental leave and expanding racial diversity in SPPS staff. After contract negotiations that began over the summer stalled into 2018, a strike vote took place on Wednesday January 31st. The strike, if it was going to happen, was scheduled start on Tuesday, February 13th. Both sides were prepared for the strike. The union had ordered signs for picketing, and the district had developed child care plans that would have helped alleviate the impact of closed schools.

Two thirds of the union staff turned up to vote

Strike continued on page 6

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Open News

Archery preps for state

Pang Houa Yang
Staff Writer

The OWL archery team recently competed at the Saint Paul Preparatory Academy Tournament in February. The middle school team placed seventh out of nine teams and the high school team placed sixth out of eight teams.

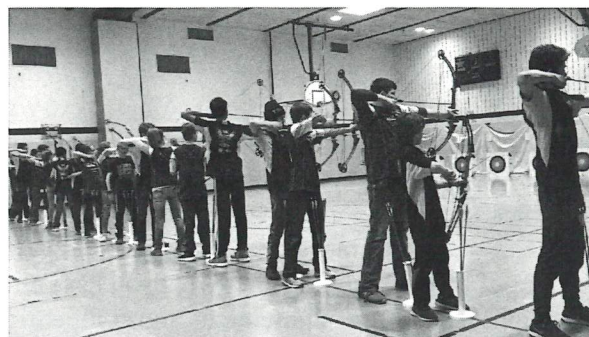
The archers are now in the process of preparing for the regional, state, and national tournaments later this spring.

The archery team includes boys and girls from 6th through 12 grade. The middle school team has a lot of new archers. "I am hopeful we got young in a hurry," said Tom. Alejandra Castrejon, a 9th grader

The OWL archery team

who is new to the team, said, "I really like archery I've done archery before but not as a team, and it's something I would like to get better at."

Math teacher Tom Totushek, has replaced former physical education



The archery team at practice.

teacher Mark Scioli as the head coach.

Archery continued on page 3

Teacher Feature: Beth

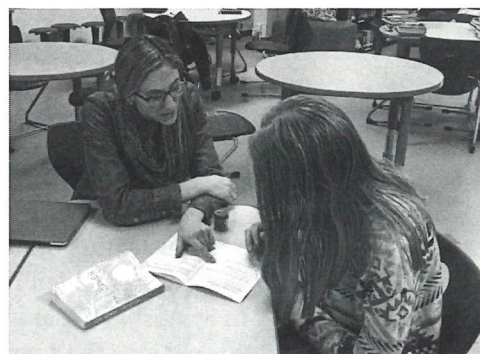
Georgia Lanik
Staff Writer

Beth Woodward has always known what she wanted to do. In elementary school, she declared she wanted to be a teacher, and she hasn't looked back.

Beth is a new special education teacher at OWL this year. She just moved back to Saint Paul in June. She was born in Saint Paul and graduated elementary at Expo/ Harriet Bishop center, she was actually in the first graduating class at the school, then went on to high school at Visitation.

Beth went to College at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, where she met her husband who is originally from there. She earned her master's degree at DePaul University in Chicago in 2009. Her first job was at Chicago public schools

Beth Woodward has always known what



Beth working with a student.
where she taught 4th through 12th grade.

She was very sad to leave Chicago. "I love Chicago, but I moved back to Minnesota to be close to, family," said Beth. One of the benefits of moving back was to give her daughter Lily, who just happened to turn one,

Beth continued on page 4

Rebekah returns

Allison Hicks
Staff Writer

OWL's theater class, known for its most energetic, interactive and engaging environment. This type of atmosphere wouldn't be possible without OWL's own theater teacher Rebekah Rentzel. Unfortunately there were no theater classes at OWL this fall. Most students have been wondering as the year began, where the heck is she!

Teaching license is required to teach at any public school, in Rebekah's case she still needed to fulfill this requirement.

Teaching license is an important part of a teachers education career. Teaching license provides teachers the opportunity to practice what they have learned on their university campus and in addition, it's an opportunity to continue academic and professional growth.

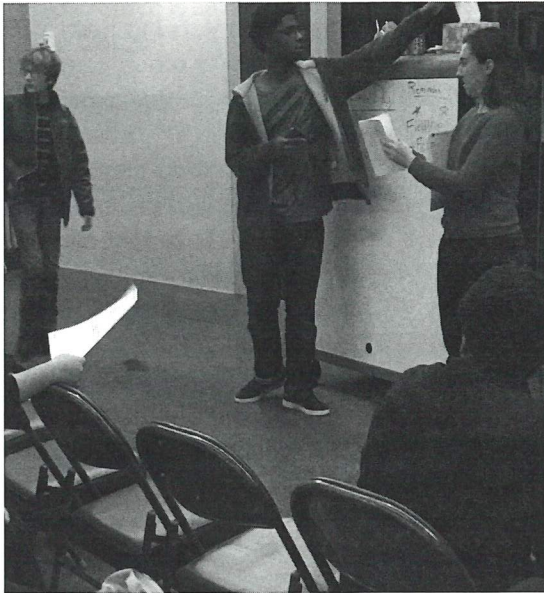
Rebekah was sent to Linwood Monroe elementary school in St. Paul shadowing teachers and teaching young kids to be talented expressive actors. After her run at

the elementary school she was then sent to the Performing Institute Of Arts in Eden Prairie MN. Where she did the same work.

Throughout her experience at the other schools she got the opportunity to share her way of teaching as well as learn new ways of teaching. "I got the opportunity to teach a wide variety of theater subjects for example I got to teach elementary school kids puppetry, a design class at the high school." She learned new ways to tackle some problems students face when it comes to expressing themselves. By working with a wide variety of students from different background, cities and abilities she was able to gain valuable knowledge she can apply back here at OWL.

Through Rebekah's sacrifice to better her stu-

Rebekah continued on page 4



Rebekah teaching a class.

Archery from page 2

Mark was the head coach for the team for 12 years and. His retirement doesn't stop Mark from coming by once in awhile to help the archery team when Tom is not available. "Our high school team is very experienced," said Tom. "However strong new archers like Ale and Mary have a lot of potential." There are a lot of good archers on the team, but Tom singled out a few. "I think Jacob will become the top archer this season, however Emily and Marisol are also matching up with him, so we'll see."

In addition to talented archers, but the team has four new captains who help lead the team this season. The female captains on the team are Emily Rose and Pang Yang, both 11th graders. The male captains on the team are Jacob Rohde, a 10th grader, and Donald Post, an 11th grader. "There's a lot of responsibility that I didn't know about before being considered as a captain. I get to help a lot of people improve their shooting and technique. It's a great feeling to be able to know that you helped someone and are going to help more people throughout the season," said Emily. "It's alright, I have a sense of responsibility and held to a higher standard" aside Donald.

The team has competed in four tournaments so far this year. In January the team competed in their first tournament in Eastern Carver County Archery Tournament. Many archers beat their previous bests. Ninth grader William Moberg was the top shooter at the tournament, finishing 9th in the high school division. Gus Holtan, an 8th grader, earned fourth place in the middle school boys division.

Later in January the team competed in the Chisago Lakes Tournament. Tenth Grader Henry Bowring McDonough finished sixth in the high school boys division. Emily earned fifth place among the high school girls.

The next tournament is the South Region Tournament on March 10, which determines the tier each team will qualify for at the state tournament. The state tournament will take place on March 24. The top 20 in each division at state qualify for nationals, which will take place on May 10 in Louisville Kentucky.

History Day from page 1

for. Nationals participant and senior Simon Dungan-Seaver agreed saying, "Don't get caught up in the competition, spending time worrying about how good you will do will hurt your project."

About 53 projects will be advancing to regionals on March 17th. One of the more competitive categories at the school competition was junior group exhibit, with 33 projects competing for five spots. One of the only competitive senior categories was individual exhibit with 22 projects and four moving on. Most of the other senior categories had little to no competition, and moved on automatically to regionals.

OWL siblings experience varsity hoops

Athena Bolton-Steiner
Staff Writer

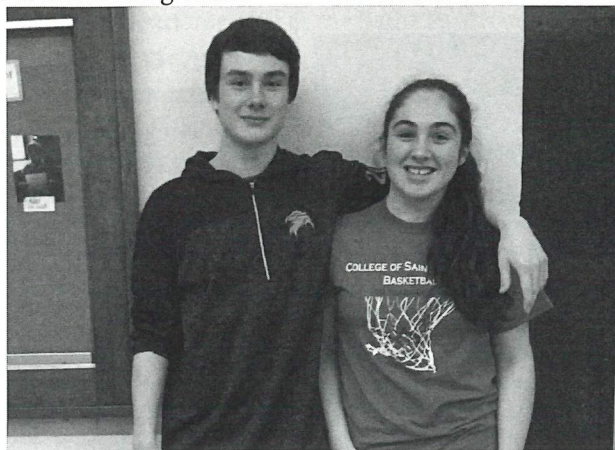
The most popular winter sport at OWL and Humboldt is basketball.

With more than four teams, the competition to make varsity is fierce. Many OWL students have tried out for the teams. Two OWL students, Lili and Tom Hobday, have earned regular varsity time this year. The competition at the varsity level is demanding. Most of the varsity players have been playing their whole lives and are usually upperclassmen. This year, siblings Tom, 10th grade, and Lili, 8th grade, both made the Humboldt Varsity and have earned a solid amount of playing time. Making the team as a sophomore is an achievement in itself. Tom said, "It's hard to get buckets, the players are a lot more athletic, but I like the way it challenges me." Basketball season started in November, the week of Thanksgiving. The teams had week long tryouts to determine Varsity, JV and C squad players. Lili said "I kind of knew by the end of the week that I was going to be on Varsity just from who they put me with for drills and stuff, but I was surprised." She has previously played C squad and still plays a half for them since she is an 8th grader. This isn't the first season that Tom has played with varsity. Last year for the sectional tournament he played and the

team advanced one game. He said "I came into this season thinking I would maybe play half and half, half jv and half varsity, but it turns out I'm playing pretty decent minutes on varsity. Out of 36 minutes I'd say I play 23, 25." Tom was told at practice that he would be on the varsity team. "I was excited but I knew I had a lot to do to still improve."

Lili stands out because of her height. "I can play any position because of my height. In past years I've been a point guard on my other teams but now I'm a shooting guard and post player." She's third or fourth tallest on the varsity team this year and averages 7.9 points a game.

The girls varsity has beat Highland High School and Harding High School teams that they have competed with closely for years. They ended 16-10 over all and 7-5 in their conference. The boys Varsity is 8-15 overall and 3-8 in



Humboldt basketball players, Tom and Lili

their conference.

Sectionals starts today for the girls who will play a home game against the winner of Washington and Minneapolis Roosevelt at 7:00. The boys start Tuesday March 6th. Tom said "The games actually matter. You're going for pride, you always want to represent your school, represent the people you go to school with."

Beth from page 2

the chance to get to know her grandparents and Uncle. She is also currently taking classes at Hamline University to become certified in teaching reading.

Beth likes working at OWL so far. "The students are really kind, thoughtful, respectful and hardworking people, And also the teachers are invaded and truly care about each and every student. Administration truly met the needs of everyone, this is a great, school," said Beth. Right now she is working in various classrooms and also has her own crew.

Outside of school Beth loves to run and practices yoga with her husband. Something interesting about her is she used to play Hockey for 12 years, loves classical music and surprisingly Hip Hop as well, and has a big black lab at home named Julio.

Rebekah from page 3

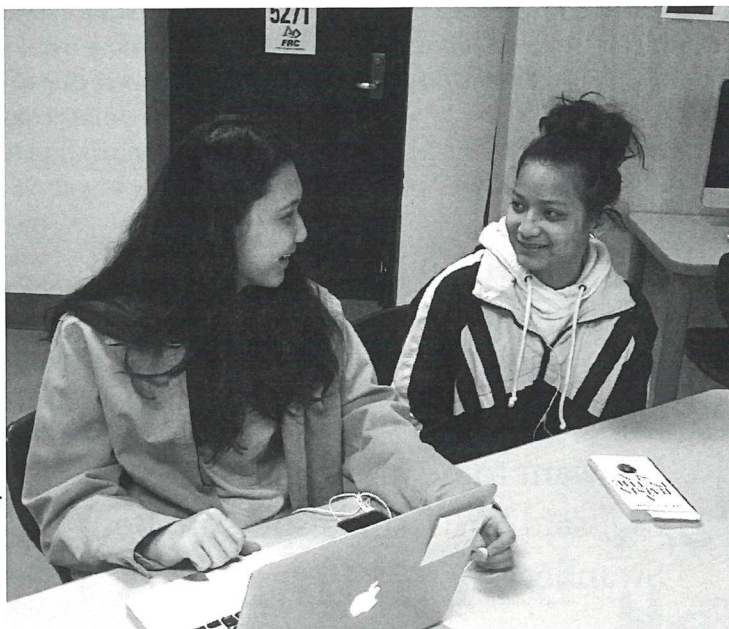
dents here back at OWL she had a lot of fun, it was a great new experience for her but she always kept OWL in her back pocket. "Absence makes the heart grow fonder" she explained.

As for the rest of her career here at owl she plans on teaching theater again as well as an advanced theater class. She hopes to add more variety and details into the making of new plays here at OWL. Right now she is only teaching theater part time, but hopes that next year she'll be able to add even more options and classes for her students. For now she will be focusing on one acts, short meaningful skits that will bring awareness to some issues in society. She encourages kids to audition for the upcoming spring one acts, in hopes we can end our final plays off this year strong!

think in English more often. When I force myself to think in Spanish it feels weird. My dreams tend to naturally happen in English as well, but let's say my mom or dad are in my dream than my dream will automatically change to Spanish. This is due to the fact that with them I only speak Spanish.

However, not everyone is the same. Chu Kbar Paw, more known as Chuki, is from Thailand and has been in the United States for five years now. In Thailand Chuki told me she learned Karen as well as Burmese but can only understand Burmese. Since it has only been a few years of learning English, Chuki still thinks and dreams in her first language, which is Karen.

Even though she has quickly been able to learn English very well, she hasn't spent as much time on it as Karen. I thought and dreamt in Spanish for the first five years of my life, but for the past ten years I've been thinking and dreaming in English. Even though we are both bilingual, the amount of dedication and time we give to our languages has decided which language we know more.



Two students speaking Karen.

Are there any advantages and disadvantages of being bilingual? Yes, there are. An advantage most multilinguals agree on, is the help of communication we can provide with someone who speaks our language or languages that we know and someone who speaks English.

For example, during the summer of 2017 my family and I went to a birthday party. At the party we were introduced to other people that we did not know and conversations were made. My parents can speak, read and write English. However, they've learned English through work, not school like I have. So they tend to struggle with their grammar and contractions a lot. They also get nervous when they speak with someone who is fluent in English. So I always try and help them out with whatever I can. My parents would occasionally turned towards me and ask me in Spanish how a specific word or phrase is said in English. I sometimes told them how to say a word and others time I would just say the entire phrase to the people.

Although this is a skill that takes time to develop, with lots of practicing we can eventually get there. Another advantage we've found is the amount of options we can have in our future with jobs. Melly Do, a Junior, says knowing two or more languages can not only expand our job and

career options but we can get paid more than those who only speak one language. We are basically one person who is doing a job for two, one who speaks English and one who speaks a second language.

Spanish teacher Grant Boulanger sees a lot of advantages to being bilingual. "Being bilingual makes you a better a human. Being bilingual means that you understand there is more then one word for everything. It means you have a better understanding of what it means to have a perspective. You are more likely to listen, understand, and trust other people." We don't just have to use our bilingualism to get more money or jobs. We can also use it to understand and help others out."

While there are advantages, there are also some disadvantages to being bilingual. Inside the brain of a bilingual person there are two languages that are constantly active and that can cause us to have weaker verbal skills than those who only speak one language. Our vocabulary seems to be somewhat smaller. We know fewer words of any category compared to those that speak fluently only

one language. We have a lot of "tip of the tongue moments" as well. I can say from personal experience that this is true. Tip of the tongue moments are when right as you are about to say something, you no longer remember what is and your thoughts and words vanish within seconds.

I had other people who are bilingual and or multilingual tell me a disadvantage they've found. Chuki says we tend to think more and that may be why our brains may feel more tired. Melly knows three languages. English, Vietnamese and Chinese. Unintentionally spending more of her time knowing English, she has managed to forget a little bit of the other languages she knows. That is bad thing because if we forget a language the advantage of getting more options in jobs can be discarded. Paloma Leone-Getten, an Eighth grader, says that while switching from one language to another may be useful, it can become difficult and tiring at times. Especially at events where there are people who you can speak to in one language or the other.

If you are someone who speaks more than one language, then don't take that ability for granted. Knowing more than one language has complications, but it has many benefits as well.

on the strike, which took place at the Intercontinental Hotel in downtown St. Paul. Once there, teachers went through the greeting room into the room where they voted. Ballots were filled out and counted by hand. There were pamphlets with information on the union's goals on tables, as well as union buttons and other swag such as scarves and hats available for teachers to show their support.

Of those who voted, 85% of teachers, 90% of EAs, and 82% of school and community service professionals voted in favor of the strike. The union represents about 3,700 teachers, EAs, and SCSPs. Administration is not a part of the union, and not all teachers in SPPS are a part of the union. Teachers and other staff are not eligible to vote on the strike if they are not SPFT members.

At OWL, students had varying reactions to the fact that the strike was called off before it began. Tenth grader Madeline Gray said that she didn't

want a strike, although she was slightly disappointed because she thought she might get to miss a few days of school. "I think that the teachers should get what they need to teach well," said Madeline. Eleventh grader Kathryn Brazel was relieved the strike didn't happen because "in my household, our only source of income is a teacher, so [if there was a strike] we would have money." Seventh

grader Frankie Weaver didn't follow the strike, but was actually moderately relieved that the strike was off, because he had to take a test, that he would have to take at home if the strike was on. Ninth grader Jonas Kammeyer-Mueller said he was "mostly disappointed because I kind of wanted the day off."

For a while it looked like Jonas was going to get his wish. Negotiations did not appear to be going well. Both SPPS and SPFT had points that they wanted met by the other side. The nine main points for SPFT were funding for racially equitable schools, smaller class sizes, whole-child education, less testing, racial justice, high quality professional development, access to preschool, retaining high-quality teachers, and to improve teaching/learning environments. SPFT's goal of retaining high-quality teachers is where the 2.5% wage increase came in. The points for SPPS included promotion of schools that are "student focused, achievement driven, collaborative, and professional," provide resources to ensure the success of all students, including more resources for special education and English learners, ensure all staff are paid \$15 an hour by 2020, and maximize revenue opportunities, all while staying within

the limits of available funds.

All of the union's points boiled down to more funding. They originally started with asking the SPPS to join them in trying to make all of the St. Paul corporations pay their fair share of taxes. Going into negotiations, SPFT president Nick Faber "expected that we would find some common ground," because many of the points shared similar goals. SPPS originally wanted to extend teacher workday by an hour, so that they would have a 40 hour work week, with 40 hours spent in school, in addition to any work done at home. The district dropped that point after too much pushback from staff.

Class size was one of the main points of contract negotiations, with points coming from both sides SPPS made a proposal in relation to class size, however it would only apply to schools with 95+% capacity. SPFT said that if

this were to happen, 29 schools would have lost their current class size mandates. Before contract negotiations and mediation, if more than 70% of a school's students received free or reduced lunch, the class sizes would be smaller than a school with fewer students receiving free or reduced lunch. In the new contract, class sizes are determined by averages and hard caps. Unlike the old contract, schools can't have one or two real-

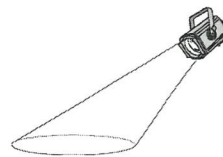
ly large classes, even if the average class size still falls within the mandated range. All classes must be less than or equal to the maximum class size, as well as averages falling into the right range.

The district received a ten day warning, to enable time for mediations so that a strike could be avoided. "None of us want to strike. We want to be in our classes teaching," said SPFT spokesperson, Beth Swanberg, who was at the strike vote. She is a choir and musical theater teacher at Highland Park Middle School. During a strike, some teachers would have helped students in need, while others would have been on the picket lines in front of schools. During a strike, all schools would have been closed, as well as some school athletics and community education classes.

The last teachers strike in Saint Paul was 1946, when the women's SPFT was the first district to carry out an organized strike in the country. Saint Paul teachers came very close to striking in 1989. Just before the strike was going to happen, however, the mayor stepped in, so that a strike could be avoided. The last four contract negotiations ended in mediation, which is the step before a strike vote.

Leona DeRango

Senior Spotlight



How many years have you been at OWL?

I've been at OWL for five years.

What are your plans for next year?

I want to go to Whitman College, but I haven't been accepted yet

What was your favorite class in high school?

Does anybody really have a favorite class in high school?

What extracurriculars are you involved in?

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

What was your favorite fieldwork trip you've been on? And why?

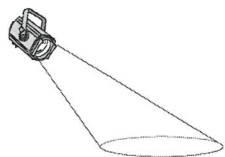
Audubon was lit because we got to sleep in tents

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

Jane the virgin probs

If you had a walk up song what would it be? "Big Fish" by

Vince Staples ya know I was up late night ballin countin' up hundreds by the thousands



That One Little Kid

Adler Heeringa



What's your name?

Adler Heeringa

How tall are you?

I'm 5'4 (the tallest one so far)

What's your favorite class so far and why?

I think either Gym or Ceramics cause they're super easy to get an A in? Gym because you just participate and you get an A. In Ceramics you make pots and you get an A

Who's your favorite senior?

leona points to herself I don't know your name though... I don't really talk to many seniors really but I guess like Doua Ci? I don't know.

Where do you think you're going go to college?

I don't really know because college is pretty far away for me cause I'm in 6th grade

What's the weirdest thing about OWL?

The kids I'd say because 6th grade has some kids with alot of personality

What's your favorite school lunch?

I don't have school lunch. I eat a peanut butter sandwich everyday sooooo

What is your favorite movie or TV Show?

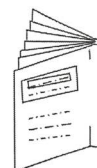
Stranger Things because its Stranger Things... Kids who haven't seen Stranger Things? Im disgusted.

What elementary school did you come from?

Groveland Park Elementary, its four blocks away from my house so I didn't really have a choice.



Reviews 'n' stuff



Superbowl commercials

Paloma Leone-Getten
Staff Writer

For those of us who aren't as interested in football, the commercials are the best part of the Super Bowl. Especially after the defeat of the Vikings by the Eagles. This year, some large companies promised some exciting ads. Let's see how they did.

Recently, Tide has been in the spotlight for some unfortunate reasons. The Tide Pod Challenge (where people literally eat tide pods) went viral on social media. There have been about 40 cases reported by the American Association of Poison Control Centers. However, Tide has used this attention by releasing a series of Super Bowl ads this year and by introducing a new spokesperson, Stranger Things star David Harbour. In each of those ads, it starts as a stereotypical commercial for a car, driving through the mountains, then turns into a basic beer commercial, and on and on. But Harbour, who is in all the clips of stereotypical commercials, says it's a tide ad. When asked why, he says because all the clothes were clean in the ad, it's got to be Tide. "I thought it was funny. It was kind of repetitive, but it was funny," said 8th grader Natalie Weimholt.

Kraft had some pretty big plans coming into the Super Bowl. They planned to take social media moments posted with the #FamilyGreatly and #KraftEntry between 6 am and 8:30 pm and compile them into a commercial

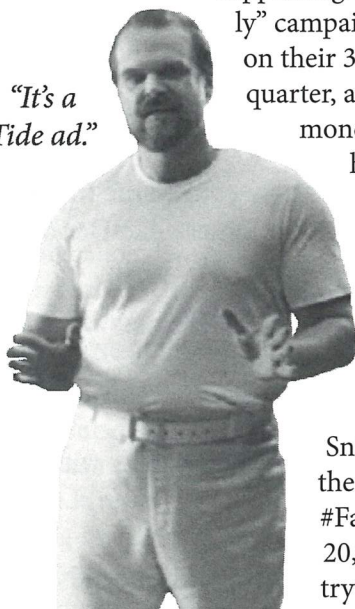
supporting their new "Family Greatly" campaign. Kraft spent \$5 million on their 30 second slot in the third quarter, and while this is a LOT of

money, they did save on not having actors or sets. This

is not the first time a live/ on the spot Super Bowl commercial has been attempted. As early as 1994, Reebok had a live commercial, and as recently as 2017,

Snickers and Hyundai had them as well. On Instagram, #FamilyGreatly had almost 20,000 posts and #KraftEntry had about 19,000.

"It's a Tide ad."



Commercials continued on page 13

Cemeteries rock

Ella Connell
Staff Writer

Sometime last May, a meeting for the St. Paul youth commission ended early and I had a good hour of free time dropped into my lap and since I was over in Como, I obviously knew what to do with it (sorry mom). I got a blue raspberry icee and hopped over to Calvary Cemetery to bike around. Basically it was really chill and I highly recommend it which is what I'm going to talk about today.

The modern park style cemetery was designed to be a good place to hang out and it totally still is. Even when it's on a busy street, the minute you step through the Cemetery Gates it's immediately quiet and peaceful and generally lovely. Especially in cemeteries farther away from the middle of the city, there's big old oak trees and expensive moss-y and lichen-y memorials and room to stretch out and walk. Most cemeteries have a lot of history or at least interesting old person names and epitaphs.

You can sometimes make up family history of strangers too. For example, why did this one cousin get left out of the family plot? A mystery for the ages. Everyone buried there was a person with loves and hates and passions just like yours which can be like, a really powerful thing to think about. In a similar vein, graveyards are also a great way to be reminded of your own mortality if you're into that kind of thing, if you just need to remember that one day you too will finally get the sweet relief of slipping into a void of decay and cold and nothingness. It's a good time.

Besides what makes being in a cemetery a nice/ existentially haunting (get it) experience, there's also a certain reputation and aesthetic sensibility that comes with cemeteries. For example going there to mope with a black umbrella and some cloves is a great way to get goth clout. It's also great for getting spooky in the traditional, ghostly sense. Whatever you go for, there's some basic dos and don'ts for having a good time and not being a rat about it.



Cemeteries continued on page 14

It's a bird! It's a plane! Why all the hate?

Angelo Carvale
Staff Writer

I'm a little disappointed with the entire world right now. It actually feels kinda stressful to me, I've never

gotten this much negativity on a topic before. But if we all just cooperate, I think we can talk this out like civilized people. Most of you know already know what I'm talking about. But if you don't and you're confused, I'll just get it out in the open and pop the question. Why do you all hate Superman?

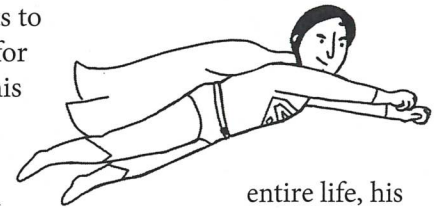
For background information and relatability points, I will admit something to you. I used to have the exact same opinion as you do right now. "Why is Superman so popular? He's soooooo lame. He doesn't even do anything. He has every superpower." That stuff that makes people feel special because they're not going with the "popular" vote. When in reality, disliking Superman is the popular vote now. And for some reason, people still like to hate on the guy that made all other superheroes possible. Can you imagine what we would be like right now if we didn't have the genre of superheroes? Can you even imagine how lame that would be? To reiterate. I'm not mad, I'm just disappointed. And if we're all rational beings, I can explain to you once again why you're wrong and you need to change out your stupid brain cells for better, less stupid ones.

To ease you into it, I'm gonna start out with his big-

gest, most popular debut on the big screen. The 1978 film Superman, directed by Richard Donner. This piece of art, just like the show Friends and maccy cheese, is a straight up classic. It's got heart, it's got romance, it's got goofy seventies effects, it's got everything you need. And most importantly, it fills the biggest complaint everyone has about Superman's character. It makes him relatable.

Lemme go more in depth. In the movie, Clark Kent's life actually sucks a little bit. So let us take a stroll through the first half of Superman's life. First, he gets born. Then, he gets put in a bottle to fly through space because his planet is currently exploding. Now his space parents are dead to bits, and so is the rest of all of his people. So now he gets to float in dark eternity for the first five years of his existence.

Then, after being alone his entire life, his space bottle finds Earth. And once he reaches Earth, out of all the places to land on Earth, he lands in Kansas. So he stays there with some old people and he continues having no friends except these two old people that stole him from the dirt pile they found him in. And then his other dad dies. That's literally his entire life and he



Superman continued on page 15

Plain Truth, a plain good read

Olivia Foster
Staff Writer

What happens when a dead baby is found on a farm in the middle of the night? And what happens when

no one claims to have given birth to that child? And what about when the person suspected of murdering the baby is Amish? Plain Truth by Jodi Picoult answers all of these questions in a story that you won't want to put down.

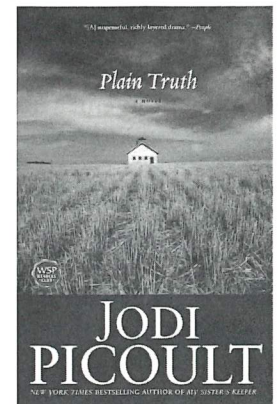
The book starts off by describing a mystery woman giving birth in a barn in the middle of the night. The next morning, the body is found by a farmhand and the police are called. Katie, the daughter of the man owning the farm is charged with giving birth and murdering her child, despite her claims to never being pregnant. The girl's cousin, who is not Amish, is a lawyer and takes up the case in defense of her cousin. During Katie's trial, several twists and surprising facts come to light.

I have read this book several times, and every time, I uncover new details about the characters and the plot. A seasoned realistic fiction author, Jodi Picoult creates a detailed story with amazing backstories and intricate details and plot twists. The creative storyline and relatable characters enrich the story on many levels, and the mixed in

suspense adds another level to an already amazing book. The whole story is jam packed with intricate details and twists that will make anyone want to keep reading.

I like the way that Picoult writes about events that sound realistic and creates vivid characters that are easy to relate to. She does extensive research for every story she writes, which helps her to make each one as realistic as possible. I also like how she tackles controversial topics with her writing. She bases some of her writing off of real events and educates readers through interesting and creative stories.

Jodi Picoult is a New York Times bestselling author who has written many of my favorite books, including The Storyteller, Nineteen Minutes, and My Sister's Keeper. She is also a mother of three children and lives in New Hampshire with them and her husband. She has worked in courts, which has inspired much of her writing and storylines.



Horror and its hold on the human psyche

Nik Logue
Staff Writer

The hairs on the back of your neck stand up like pins. The blood running through you is as cold as ice.

There is an anxious restlessness in your legs, telling you to run as fast and far as you can from the monsters, whatever form they may take. These feelings of fear that strike you, despite being in the safe confines of the cinema or your favorite reading chair, are undoubtedly the responsibility of a great story of horror. Since its conception centuries ago, the horror genre has left a blood-red stain on our culture.



Nosferatu, legendary vampire

Yet what is horror? Is there a method to the madness in the works of Poe, King, and Shelley? This article will explore the history and themes behind some of the most bone chilling tales ever written.

We can liken any great horror story to a piece of music, it starts out with the ordinary, there is nothing irregular or out of place. Yet slowly but surely, the orchestra gains speed and volume, building to a crescendo of terrifying elements of storytelling. This common practice puts the audience at ease in the story's opening, when the monsters are not but a figment of the imagination. But that is when the natural world comes into contact with its greatest fear: the unnatural. Take Stephen King's *It* for example, in the prologue, George Denbrough is happily trotting along with the paper boat his brother made for him. He is just as unaware as the audience that he will soon be dragged to his doom by an interdimensional monster who feeds off of children and their fear. The very idea that this started out like any other day in the eyes of a child makes the quick descent into fear all the more unpleasant.

It is well known that everyone once had a fear of the dark. Why wouldn't you? You don't know what's lurking

in the shadows. And that is where the fear comes from: the very fact of not knowing. Horror icon H.P. Lovecraft once said that the oldest and strongest kind of fear is fear of the unknown, and that is evident in our history.

As humans, we have always been inspired to stretch our knowledge of the world around us. In many cases, it leads us on a glorious path of enlightenment and exploration. Other times, you end up being wrapped around the jaws of death, in the barren land that some call the Great "I Don't Know". This simple concept has been applied to countless horror stories. In Robert Wise's 1963 masterpiece *The Haunting*, the labyrinthine corridors of Hill House are plagued with unexplainable noises and unseen forces at night. We never see the spirits that torment the unfortunate guests of the house. Wise instead uses unique cinematography and atmospheric sound design to convey the claustrophobic environment. This leads the audience to let their minds wander and to create their own mental image of the horrors of Hill House.

In Amyas Northcote's short story *Brickett Bottom*, two sisters notice a lonely house in the forest that they never noticed before on their daily walk. The next day, one of the sisters, Alice, meets the couple that live in the house and is



Frankenstein, science gone wrong

invited for tea the next morning. Despite her sister's protests against doing so, Alice goes to the house. She is never seen or heard from again, and when Alice's sister and father go to investigate, there is no sign of any house in the forest. And thus we are frightened by the very question "where's Alice?"

The twentieth century was a momentous era for storytellers; the invention of the motion picture camera

Horror continued on page 16

Upon dark and stormy VR night...

AJ LeSure
Staff Writer

It was a cold Saturday night. I had been invited to participate in a night of debauchery with my friends, 10th graders Jacob Rohde and Connor Scott. The evening started off with us just chillin' on the couch, watching some quality vine compilations and reliving a time where viners like Logan Paul didn't infect the Internet with their heinous deeds. Later into the night, we decided to spice things up, booting up Jacob's PC (which took several years; that sh** is slow, dawg), installing VRChat, and preparing to lose a brain cell or two.

As you may know, the Internet has come to be objectively known as the most prominent advancement in today's world, and the spark of the 21st century. We incorporate the Internet into our lives so seamlessly that it has instilled its existence into our list of bare necessities for survival. The Internet is your opportunity to change the world. But as you all really know, most people just settle for memes about self-depreciation and painfully abstract pop culture references. Within this realm of endless toxicity and the abandonment of morals however, exists a virtual social hub that allows users across the world to interact and hang out like true dude bros through a virtual 3D persona called an "avatar." This whimsical land of wonder and nirvana is called VRChat.

VRChat began to explode in popularity towards the end of December 2017, reaching a peak of more than 20,000 concurrent players on January 12th, 2018. This surge in popularity came along with exposure from big YouTubers like Pewdiepie, Markiplier, etc., as well as VRChat enthu-

siast channels like Jameskii. Search for "VRChat" in the search bar and you'll be bombarded with videos showcasing virtual shenanigans between anonymous people who have literally nothing better to do with their time.

After successfully installing VRChat we did what we had to do, setting up an account and selecting a 3D avatar to represent ourselves from a short catalog of options. Being the men of culture we are, we chose to be a 12th century crusader. After familiarizing ourselves with the controls, we felt 100% ready to die--I mean start the fun. Since the 3 of us were sharing his PC, we decided to alternate between ourselves in controlling the avatar and talking to people.

I was first to play. The first server I entered was a bar. I spawned in the corner of the room, hearing the distant chatter of voices through various low quality microphones. Avatars came in all shapes and sizes, including custom imports and models. It was a miniature cacophony of corny jokes and conversations that threaded the line of social taboo. After joining in with my own disregard for social norms and effectively harassing some people, I encountered a Lugia twice the size of our own avatar. He embraced me and I looked into his eyes, feeling a connection deeper than any real physical person could offer. In short, one of our first virtual experiences was falling in love with a Pokemon. Good start.

Now that we had dipped our toe in the water, we moved on to the next server; a cozy suburban house with a firepit in the front yard. It was Connor's turn to play. Stepping into the kitchen, there was Ben Swolo, a shirtless Kylo

Virtual Reality continued on page 12

Black Panther was bomb

Ian Nixdorf
Staff Writer

What are you even doing with your life if you haven't seen this movie yet? Seriously?

Crews all across the globe have seen Black Panther. Your grandma's cat has probably seen it. It's got like literally everything you could ever ask for in a Good As Heck Movie. Badass king guy? Check. Badass warrior ladies? Check. Amazing setting? Check. Andy Serkis? Check. I would personally give Ryan Coogler (the guy who directed this beautiful movie) a crisp high five if I could.

AJ says that "It was good." Understatement. Maxwell thinks that "It's the best Marvel movie ever made."

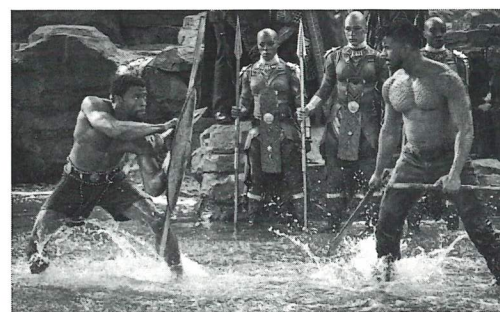
Sixth graders also liked it. Gavin thinks that "it's awesome". Cooper thinks "It was a good movie with action and suspense and some humor" Jaielle told us "It was so good. Some parts made me cry, I never cry during movies. That proves how good it is. 10/ 10 stars".

Hazel agrees, "Killmonger had such valid complaints. He wasn't just evil for the sake of being evil."

I also *Black Panther and Killmonger Square off* really liked

Killmonger because he had more than the two standard-issue emotions that Marvel villains so often have: "angry" and "big angry." You could really see where he was coming from on fighting racial injustice and using Wakanda's resources for the greatest good, but you can also not like him because he's the villain and he sometimes does bad things.

This movie is the definition of a 10 out of 10. See it if you can.



Ren, ranting on about restoring the First Order. Another shirtless individual was speaking in an accent that I could only describe as some weird amalgam of a Silicon Valley girl, a New Yorker, and a New Jersey person. Connor was not pleased by this, so he harassed the man by informing him of his problematic accent. After warding off the strange New Jersey/York man, we moved on to the dining room.

Buzz Lightyear came running into the room screaming things like “Help me, he’s coming!” and “Oh God, get him away from me.” This sparked Connor’s curiosity (as well as Jacob and my own, as we were watching along with him), so he decided to stick around to see how this particular event went down. A creepy, gray-and-black version of Woody came chasing behind Buzz, crouching in some weird predatory way. Woody had Buzz cornered in the corner of the dining room.

“You killed them all,” said Woody, ominously raising his index finger to the beloved space ranger. “I know,” Buzz replied, slightly out of breath. “It’s bad, I know...” They were attracting an audience, Connor included. All anyone could do was watch in silence. Not only did VRChat provide you with immersive social experiences, but it also was a great place for watching some quality theater performances.

After the initial confrontation, Woody proceeded to make out with Buzz, their two virtual mouths pressed up against each other in an embrace of lips.

Magnificent. That is the only word I can use to describe this whole event, unfolding in front of us once three innocent souls, now tarnished by the impurity of forbidden love between a space ranger and a (phantom?) cowboy, who are also both living toys.

It was now Jacob’s turn to take the helm. We headed to a server that was a camping site with a large fire pit in the center of the map. The map had a strange pink light illuminated across it, which remains unexplained. I dunno, maybe a glitch or somethin’, I ain’t a scientist, pshh.

Jacob proceeded to be swooned by a pigeon with a top hat who talked with a fancy extravagance reminiscent of a wealthy upperclassmen. The pigeon offered Jacob a rose and Jacob proceeded to inform him of his kindness and beauty. He thanked us, and invited us to follow him to another server, to which we accepted without hesitation.

The pigeon led us to a server called the “presentation room.” It was a wide, mostly empty area with whiteboards lined around the walls, and a stage with a bigger whiteboard with some chairs in front of it, presumably for

an audience. I (ya boi, AJ) took the helm once again.

After messing around for a little, I was confronted by a little Groot man. He was yelling profanities and in an attempt to calm him down, I was vigorously roasted by the little humanoid tree organism. Things were getting intense, but luckily, a house that was made out of Cory’s (from the hit Disney Channel show *Cory in the House*) mediated us by distracting us with his elegant... existence; for Cory was not in the house... Cory was the house.

The concept of VRChat is one that has been thought of many times before: a virtual world where people can hang out without needing to be in actual physical vicinity of each other. I think VRChat does a good job in executing this, providing an interesting and fun social platform on a level that hasn’t really been done before. For people who own virtual reality headsets, this game could potentially become a substitute for actual physical interaction. For that, I give this game hella clout in the VR gaming world. For people without headsets, the option to play normally on desktop is also enjoyable, albeit not as immersive as the full

headset experience

On the other hand, there are some elements about a platform of this nature that are flawed, and these are reasons why I don’t recommend VRChat for everybody. In general, VRChat as a community is very... interesting, to say the least.

Like I mentioned earlier in

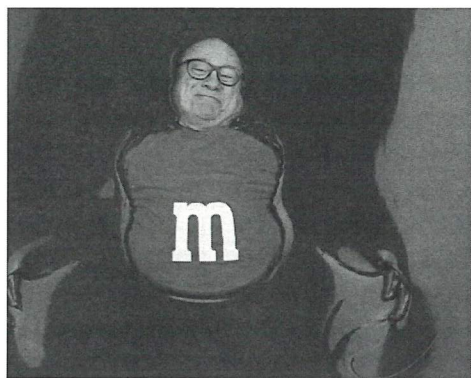
the article, there is very little concern for social norms and taboo. Offensive and sensitive topics are commonly used as the basis of comedic exchange. Usually, when a player has nothing intelligent or genuinely funny to say, they resort to “shock factor” humor meant to be edgy and surprising. There aren’t a lot of rules or regulations regarding what is and isn’t allowed to be talked about, as it would be impossible to implement a functional censor system, given the differing quality of microphones and how hard it would be to censor what someone says before they say it.

Based on my first experience with this platform, I can only recommend this game for people who aren’t phased by the weirdness and unpredictability that defines the modern Internet. For people who consider themselves above that type of thing, I firmly believe that VRChat is not your cup of tea. Of course, VRChat is free and I can’t stop anyone from trying. In the event that you do decide to wade into those dangerous waters, know that you have been warned, and I don’t take any responsibility for any possible mental trauma inflicted upon you.

“In short, one of our first virtual experiences was falling in love with a Pokemon. Good start.”

Commercials from page 8

M&M had several articles written about their pre-released Super Bowl commercial starring Danny DeVito. Most of those articles were titled things like "Danny DeVito Plays an M&M in This Commercial & It's Hilarious." This ad definitely is an attention grabber. Imagine a cute little M&M walking down the street, wishing he was human, and then all of a sudden it turns into an old man dressed like candy. He had been fed up with people trying to eat him, so when he's human he asks people if they want to eat him -- they say no -- and then he yells that he is the luckiest man in the world, shortly before getting hit by a



Danny DeVito, human M&M

bus. This commercial has been on a few lists of the best commercials of the Super Bowl. Personally, I thought it was good concept, but it wasn't my favorite commercial this year.

However, 11th grader Sawyer

Neske had some different ideas. "This one's weird. It also doesn't make sense. But bad choice of an actor. That's all I gotta say. This one's stupid."

Pepsi's ad also made a splash. This 30-second spot confused me at first, but then I realized it was just people enjoying Pepsi everywhere. Narrated by Jimmy Fallon, familiar faces are everywhere: Michael Jackson, Britney Spears, and more. The commercial is launching the global 2018 "Pepsi Generations" campaign demonstrating that many generations have enjoyed Pepsi.

Amazon also had a memorable ad promoting their Alexa. In this 90 second commercial, Alexa loses her voice, so people wear headsets and whenever someone asks Alexa a question, they have to reply. For example, when asked to set the mood (with music), Rebel Wilson replies by describing a scenario, while she's sitting in a bubble bath. "This is such a classic ad from the Super Bowl. It's got Cardi B in it, which is one of my favorite people ever to be in a Super Bowl ad. It also has that creepy guy from Planet Earth," said Sawyer.

Other highlights were the Groupon ad, the Skittles ad series, and the Pringles ad. Overall, it seems as though there were a lot of successful Super Bowl ads this year. Personally, my favorite was the Tide ad (which is probably biased because I love Stranger Things) because although it was repetitive, it was a very original idea. If you missed this year's commercials, or just weren't impressed, don't worry. There will be many more overly expensive ads at Super Bowl LIII next year.

N Korean war games

Matteo Vera
Staff Writer

The last time the Olympics were held in South Korea in 1988, North Korea hid a bomb on a South Ko-

rean airplane that ended up killing 115 people. The goal of the bombing was to scare people from going to the games in Seoul. This time around things are different; the North and South will be participating under one flag. They will also be fielding a joint women's hockey team. This new cooperation fuels hopes of wider political solutions.

However, if you are expecting all fun and games from North Korea, you are going to be disappointed. A day before the opening ceremonies, North Korea held a military demonstration. 13,000 troops as well as 110 pieces of artillery were seen on satellite preparing for the parade. North Korea does not want anyone to forget about its military might.

Attending the Winter Olympics this year, as the guest of Mike Pence, is Fred Warmbier. Fred Warmbier is the father of Otto Warmbier, an American university student who died from a coma after being arrested and sentenced to 15 years of hard labor for attempting to steal a propaganda poster. Otto was arrested at the Pyongyang airport. A member of his tour group witnessed the arrest: No words were spoken. Two guards just came over and simply tapped Otto on the shoulder and led him away.

Pence's aide told Axios, "The Vice President will remind the world that everything the North Koreans do at the Olympics is a charade to cover up the fact that they are the most tyrannical and oppressive regime on the planet."

The North Korean constitution guarantees freedom of speech and assembly, however, in practice other clauses take precedent, such as one that demands that



Kim Jung Un presides over one of the world's most dangerous states

citizens follow a socialist way of life. Criticism of the government and its leaders is forbidden, and such statements can be cause for consignment to one of North Korea's "re-education" camps.

Like China and Vietnam, North Korea is an atheist state. Unlike a secular state such as the US, North Korea punishes its religious citizens. It is estimated that 50 to 70 thousand Christians are held in North Korean prison

North Korea continued on page 17

The grass is dead on my side of the fence

Mia Rohde
Staff Writer

Chapter Four: "Road Trip"

County road 2 is a dirt road for at least 10 miles. So you can understand why I wish I was in the cab of the truck rather than the bed. But honestly the logs in the back soften my landing on the bumpy plastic that all truck beds stupidly have. Curse engineers for not making pickup's beds for humans. So I'm covered in splinters, my butt is probably black and blue, and I've almost fallen out three times cause this wad didn't bother to install seatbelts in the back. But you probably aren't following this well, so let me start with an introduction.

My name is Orson William. Everyone always says don't trust people with two first names. I always used to think it was my dad's fault for that awful name. But the truth is my mom used to love Orson Welles, she was a smart woman who had the right idea when she stole my dad's car and left me with him.

I am from a small town called La Conner, on the tip of Washington, just outside Vancouver. I am currently hiding in the back of a pickup truck trying find my way to Minnesota. I am 105% sure I am heading in the wrong direction, but the thing is, hitch-hiking in real life is not at all how Hollywood portrays it. Turns out people aren't super willing to pick me up off the side of the road and drive 2,000 miles to a snowy wasteland. So I hopped into a pickup that was parked at a gas station and hoped I would head in the right direction. I looked for any sort of landmark that could tell me where I was. We head down county road 2 through Wenatchee national forest. The right way. So why Minnesota? My cousin lives there. She graduated

from college awhile ago and has a nice place now. We write to each other often, however I didn't get the chance to before I left. So she doesn't know I'm coming. But she is one of the kindest, funniest people I know. I can't wait to see her.

When the car stops I hop out so that I don't get caught. I was in the car for several hours. When I looked it up before I left, it said it would be about 25 hours. And if I had to guess, I was in the truck for 4-5. So not that much closer. I was going to have to sleep in an abandoned building. Luckily it was early fall so it was pretty warm out.

When I find a good place to sleep I set up the tarp I had brought with me like a tent. And then I pull an old letter out of my pocket. It's from my cousin. It's older, maybe a few months, from January I think. However it looks fairly new because I especially like this one and take good care of it. I read some of it quietly to myself...

"Dear Sonny BaBa,

When I dislike someone, you know I REALLY dislike them. So when I moved into my new place and an old woman came up to me and told me that I wasn't aloud to carry a box because "women like me don't carry boxes" I smiled and said no thank you because that's how I deal with sexism. Smile through it and cry later. So to thank her for that, I gave her a pink flamingo lawn ornament. And because I really dislike most people, the whole neighborhood is decorated in pink flamingos."

20 hours left...

To be continued...

Cemetaries from page 8

Don't:

Go to mess with markers or whatever. If you want to fool around go to the park or something, but a cemetery isn't the place to do it. For 1 it's really not the vibe, and you might make whoever runs the cemetery really aggro towards teenagers who might be there to actually mourn someone.

Hang around when there's people there who are actually grieving, it's a creepy/gross thing to do so like don't. Go with a bunch of friends. Like I said, the park is better for goonery.

Do:

Bring snacks or a picnic blanket or whatever else

you might need to chill out.

Listen to music if you want, if you want to be really on theme the Smiths, the Cure, or Beat Happening are good picks. (Morrissey is a rat though.)

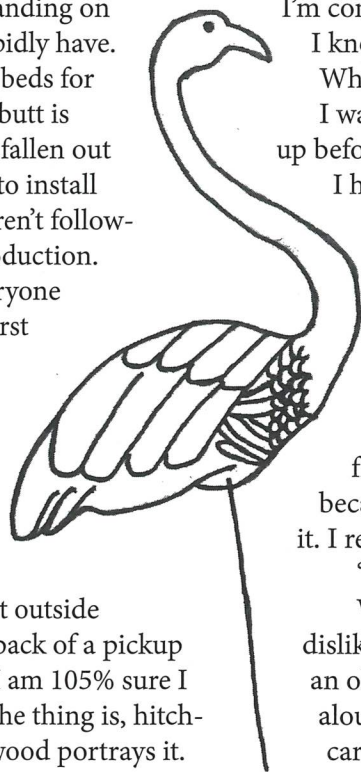
Go during a stretch of good weather; if you want to hang out for a while this will help you avoid a gross soggy ground moment.

Bring stuff to do grave rubbings or draw, a lot of cemeteries are like, really scenic.

Take pics if you want.

Have like a basic level of consideration for whoever's buried their and their family, or at least for whoever has to maintain it.

So in conclusion don't be a scumbag.

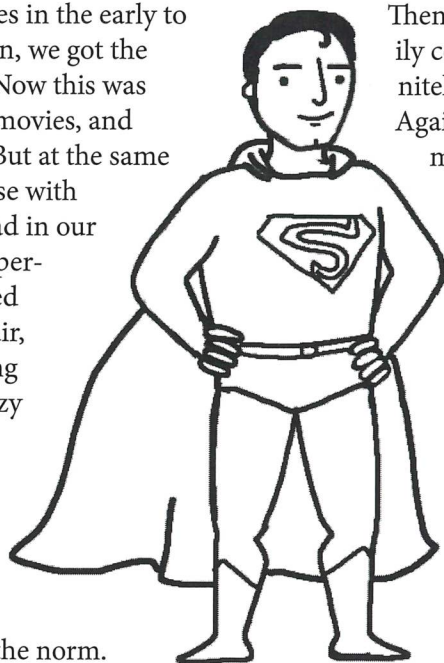


somehow doesn't turn into the most evil bad guy ever. Now obviously, these plot points weren't written for the movie. This is just the origin of Superman. But in the movie, these key events and smaller details are amplified enough for you to understand Lil Clark, and relate to him. A kid that's not necessarily appreciated by all, but knows he has the potential to do something great.

Make this more snazzy: "Next, we need to address other superhero movies because Marvel has been straight killing it."

There are approximately six hundred thousand Marvel movies coming out this year and they are not going to stop. But for right now at least, that's not important. Let's go to Marvel before they made this big ol universe, back when they just made some solid movies in the early to late two thousands. We got Spider-Man, we got the X-Men, we got Blade, it was the best. Now this was great, because that means more great movies, and that's not even a problem (it's great!). But at the same time, this was also not so great. Because with them fancy dancy special effects we had in our Spider-Mans, it made our cool boy Superman look a bit... dated. People wanted more superheroes flying through the air, punching through some things, making some other things explode, all that jazzy stuff. And all of that needed special effects. Now, I don't hate the idea of film progressing in a technological sense. It actually sounds awesome if you say it like that. But since superhero movies started showing up more and more, those effects became the norm.

So now when people look back on the original Superman from the got dang nineteen seventies, they see a guy in a blue and red suit connected to a bunch of wires that fling him around in the air. Honestly this isn't even just for superheroes but doggone it this is important so I'm gonna say it anyway. Movie effects don't make or break a movie. When you hear that argument from someone, it's obvious they're not actually watching the movie or appreciating it for what it is. They just watched a clip on YouTube. I know Marvel and other production companies are doing peachy with their computers and such because they make six movies a year, because they're never going to run out of money. And a lot of these movies actually aren't that bad. But if you want a movie that doesn't rely on effects, if you want a movie that was made in a time before you had to be connected to some huge franchise or series to make it big, if you want to see something original, go watch Superman.



The Caped Crusader doesn't deserve so much hate

Not only did it affect our view on visuals though, but we wanted our superheroes edgy. People didn't want some farm boy fighting for the good of the people, no. They wanted people dying and everyone is crying and the sky is always cloudy and no one is ever happy except only sort of after the mediocre climax. But when did this dumb era start? Who do we point our fingers at and laugh at their stupidly dumb ideas? Well it's strange, but this came from DC. Back when they made this kinda underground film, *The Dark Knight*. It was dark, there was this knight in it, Batman was there too, and then it was maybe good. And then it became one of the highest grossing movies of all time. And then every other film studio went "let's make everyone sad" cause it made all that green paper I keep hearing about.

Then we had an era of movies that weren't necessarily copying *The Dark Knight*, but they were definitely influenced in terms of basic style and tone. Again, like my previous standpoint, that doesn't mean these movies are bad. If you can make a movie that inspires and influences other filmmakers, that's probably the coolest thing ever. *The Dark Knight* movies didn't win all those awards for nothin. But just like my previous standpoint, the main drawback the '78 Superman gains from this era of movies is its incredible contrast. The masses had gotten used to seeing these dark, serious movies. So for fans of the modern superheroes, looking back on this goofy, heart filled movie is

And there it is, friends. Why I think Superman is not a bad guy but, dare I say, a pretty dang cool guy. I know he might be a bit too strong, and I know his costumes a bit cheesy, and I know he was born with his powers, but gosh darn it I don't care. He fights

for the best thing to fight for. It's not because of his dead parents, or because he's out for revenge, or some other third thing. He was gifted with something incredible, and he knows the best thing to do with his talents is to help others. Yes, I know the whole good hearted protagonist can be projected onto a lot of other superheroes and by this point in terms of storytelling and character building, it sounds a bit cliché. But Superman was the first superhero to be the good boy. So by the rules of dubs, dubs.

Well, that's all I got. If you don't like it, stop insulting my friends and I won't have to write articles defending them. But if you wanna keep being mean, writing these is fun so I don't really mind.

allowed for a new way to compel audiences. And the horror genre benefited greatly from this by bringing stories like Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and Bram Stoker's *Dracula* beyond the written word. For decades, cinema screens all across the world were occupied by legendary horror actors such as Christopher Lee, Bela Lugosi, Peter Cushing, and Boris Karloff.

This visual storytelling also allowed for dozens of new techniques for filmmakers to frighten moviegoers, which kept them coming back for more. Val Lewton's 1942 film *Cat People* is credited for popularizing what is now known as "Lewton's Bus." In the film, a woman is walking home on an empty street at night. Slowly, she realizes she is being followed. She quickens her pace as her follower gains speed on her. The silence and tension is then broken by a bus pulling up to a stop right next to her. This act of cutting the danger and fear of harm with something harmless has been used in countless horror films since.

Predictably, films of the horror genre were highly controversial in a pre-code Hollywood, with films like *Horror of Dracula* and *Bride of Frankenstein* pushing the boundaries of censorship with themes of sex and sensuality in their characters. Audiences came out in droves for this new, edgy, rebellious way of filmmaking. In a time when parents would avert their children's eyes from anything strange or atypical, it is no wonder that countless teenagers found such a thrill in the horror genre.

Whether you enjoy the slashers, the psychological thrillers, or the creature features, there is no denying that the horror genre isn't so far from the real world. I believe King said it the best, "We make up horrors to help us cope with the real ones." And that is horror, it is the truth dis-

guised as a lie. It is every fear, every anxiety, every waking moment of nervousness personified through something unworldly. King's *It* deals with themes of adolescence, growing up, and the loss of innocence. Shelley's *Frankenstein* holds messages against playing god and the dangerousness of knowledge. This satirical outlook of humanity has been the base for so many terrifying works, and through this template, storytellers have been able to convey their fears that haunt them in today's society. While some horror stories are there just to frighten you for a mere few seconds, others aim to stay with you, and to do that, authors and filmmakers make you fear something in the real world. Sure, aliens and ghosts supposedly don't exist, but death, disease, and mutilation do, and that is something every conjurer of terror uses to their advantage.

In the darkest crevasses of the human mind, monsters exist, and sometimes we pour those monsters out onto the blank page. And in this article, we have journeyed deep into horror, a genre built by writers and filmmakers daring enough to conceive something ugly, something ghastly, something even downright abhorrently disgusting. I believe that horror asks something of its audience, it asks us to surrender ourselves to the story, to lay down our doubts of the fantastic and give in to our true vulnerability, and in return, we are given a wonderful symphony of horror. And so the cinema lights come up, yet you are still gripping the armrest of your chair. You reach the final page of your book, but you feel that the monsters are well beyond just words on paper, and from the corner of your eyes, you can see them stalking you. In the darkest crevasses of the human mind, monsters exist, we create them ourselves, and that is just human.

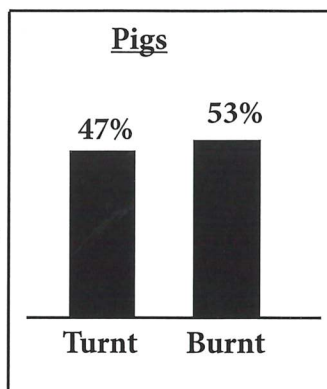


TURNT or Burnt?



Pigs

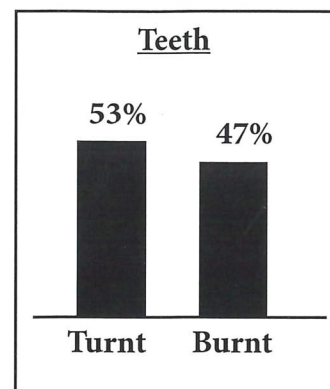
"No oink oink for me I'm a Muslim. I'm a communist and a Muslim I hate pigs." - Leena
"I think they're super super super cute and they're really smart. I don't eat them because they're too cute." - Katheryn
"Like how they taste, totally turnt." - AJ
"Pigs will straight up eat people alive. Like if you fall asleep in a pig pen you'll wake up getting eaten." - Mia



BURNT

Teeth

"Teeth are turnt. I feel like teeth are the first thing I notice about somebody." - Athena
"Oh, woah." - Luke
"Good for crunching stuff." - Angelo
"They kinda effed me over cuz mine are like super ugly and I feel like it ruins my face." - Mia
"I think if you need braces... you need braces." - Miles



TURNT

camp. Religious activities are considered political crimes because they threaten the Stalinesque cult of person built around Kim Il-Sung and his family.

A 2014 United Nations Commission of Inquiry (COI) report on human rights in North Korea stated that systematic, widespread, and gross human rights violations committed by the government included murder, enslavement, torture, imprisonment, rape, forced abortion, and other sexual violence, and constituted crimes against humanity. Thomas Buergenthal, a human rights expert, testified that he, "believes that the conditions in the [North] Korean prison camps are as terrible, or even worse, than those I saw and experienced in my youth in these Nazi camps and in my long professional career in the human rights field."

The DPRK seeks to prevent regime change, and continue its human rights abuses, by using its resources to create a strong nuclear military. North Korea has conducted six nuclear tests and probably have nuclear weapons that can reach anywhere in the mainland U.S. Their conventional military is very powerful and includes chemical weapons. U.S. Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis has cautioned that war on the Korean peninsula would be "catastrophic" and he has described North Korea as "the most urgent and dangerous threat to peace and security."

If president Donald Trump decided to order a pre-emptive military strike on North Korea, he would not be able to take out all the artillery located on the border. "Not," says former National Security Council staffer Victor Cha, "without using tactical nuclear weapons," something the US can not consider because of the proximity of Seoul. A pre-emptive strike could very well lead to another Korean war. The Korean war resulted in the deaths of 2.5 million

civilians. We can only speculate what a modern number would look like.

As far as diplomatic options go, one of our strongest tools is sanctions. Sanctions allow us to put pressure on North Korea without putting as many lives on the line. They slow the growth of the North Korean economy, an economy that currently has a per capita gross national income of \$1,342, a 20th of that of South Korea. Instead of slowing nuclear development they generally cut money from the citizens before the military. Even though the sanctions do have negative effects on the average North Korean citizen, they are one of our few tools we can use to pressure their government.

Trump has signed an executive order banning Americans from going to North Korea, except for journalist or humanitarian reasons. I believe that this policy is a mistake because tourism is useful for connecting North Koreans and Americans, something that helps undermine North Korean propaganda.

So what should be done about North Korea? We need to bring attention to the human rights atrocities. Doing so puts pressure on North Korea and its allies. We have to economically pressure and work with China. The United States can pressure China by making our economy less dependent on it through protectionist policies and/or trade deals with other countries. We need to stop China from repatriating North Korean refugees and trading with North Korea. Denuclearization should also be a goal, but we should prioritize human rights.

In general, totalitarian governments collapse with time. To this end we can create political unrest in North Korea by exposing them to the outside world and improving the standard of living of people in North Korea.



TURNT or Burnt?

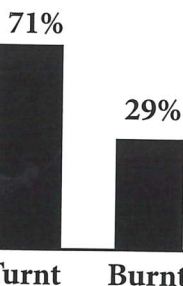


The Hamburgler

"What is that?" - Isaac
"I love the hamburgler he's like the coolest thing...It's so funny he's like ngx-khiglkirhg." - Tim
"Oh I love the hamburgler, like what a guy." - Mia
"An icon" - Theo



The Hamburgler

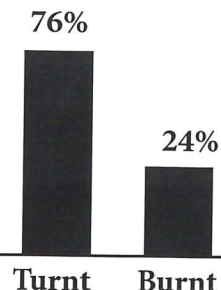


TURNT

Beans

"Jelly beans. Do it." - Angelo
"I do like green beans, all other kinds of beans are nasty. I like to eat them frozen, I like to eat frozen vegetables I call them cold crunchies." - Kathryn
"They're very versatile....." - Grace
"Beans are disgusting." - Samantha

Beans



TURNT

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Comics

