

Purple Press

Volume #18 Issue #1

November 22, 2017

New and improved? School iPads

Grace Bellamy
Staff Writer

For the 2017-18 school year, St. Paul Public Schools' iPads have new cases with keyboards for 6th through 12th graders, and more storage for 4th through 12th graders.

iPad handout was completed by September 22nd district-wide, but was completed within the first week of school at OWL. During this time more than 40,000 iPads were distributed to students. For the first month of



A student's iPad in the new case

school, the variety of apps available on Self Service was limited, but the full assortment of apps became available on October 1st.

SPPS is on its fourth year leasing iPads, and continues to do so because it allows students and staff to "keep up with changes in technology," said the SPPS Personalized Learning website. The lease on the iPads that was used for the past three years was expired at the end of the last school year, so the current iPads are a part of a new lease.

New iPads continued on page 2

Fall play mirrors reality

Sam Dale-Gau
Staff Writer

This fall Open School thespians will be performing the play "The Election" by Dan Zolidis under the direction of Pedro Bayón.

"It's a full-blown comedy," said Senior Simon Dungan-Seaver, who plays Mark, one of the leads. The 75-90 minute play focuses on two candidates in a High-school election that gets blown out of proportion. "It will keep everyone laughing, while criticizing American democracy," Simon said.

The play was written in response to last year's presidential election, and is made to entertain. "It's making fun of America... but in a good way," said freshman Elsa Carlson, a newscaster in the show.

"If you like stuff like the *Daily Show* and *John*

The Election continued on page 4

Hats allowed, sort of

Kathryn Brazel
Staff Writer

The OWL administration has brought a change to the rule regarding hats this year. All of the remaining dress code rules will remain the same.

According to assistant principal Michelle Bierman, students will be allowed to wear hats while in the common areas of the building, but it will be up to individual teachers whether or not students will be allowed to wear them in classrooms. Hoods, phones, and hats with obscene or derogatory references are still not allowed in school.

Michelle mentioned wanting stronger student presence in the decision making regarding dress code and other school issues. The conversation about the hat



Hats continued on page 4

Purple Press Staff

Adult to Blame
Leo Bickelhaupt

Layout Dude
Sam Dale-Gau

Writers
Theo Leifheit
Grace Bellamy
Sawyer Neske
Matteo Vera
Sam Dale-Gau
Leona DeRango
Kathryn Brazel
Paloma Leone-Getten
Lily Hobday
Sam Osborne
Ella Connell
Mia Rohde
Oskar Holm

Cartoonists
Sam Dale-Gau
Ingrid Ebbesen



Open News

OWL's first exchange student

Leona DeRango
Staff Writer

Have you ever wondered what life would be like without homework? Do you wish you had more free time to hang out with friends? Maybe you should consider moving to Denmark.

Sixteen year old Klara Karlson, an exchange student at OWL from Copenhagen, talked to The Purple Press about many of the differences she has noticed between life in Denmark and life in Minnesota. Tenth grade is optional in Denmark, so Klara decided to take a gap year and travel to Minnesota.

While she is here, Klara will be staying with the Neske family, Amy, Mike, Sawyer, Haaken, and Lars.

In Klara's hometown of Copenhagen she attends a small public school where kids don't have homework. The school system is very different than what we Americans

Klara continued on page 5



New iPads from page 1

The district took into account feedback from students and teachers about wanting keyboards.

There have been some issues with the new cases, including the iPads not charging, and keys falling off keyboards. At the beginning of the year, some iPads were not charging. Rhonda recommended a hard reset, and the issue seems to have resolved. However, "if your keys are popping off, you need to bring your iPad to me," said Rhonda. She then can determine if it's something that falls under the warranty, and if it needs to be paid for. If keyboards and iPads aren't together when they are damaged, it does not fall under the warranty, meaning students may have to pay for it.

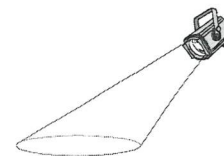
Across the district, all teachers use Schoology, but some more than others. Some of the teachers at OWL who use the app a lot are English

teacher Nora Krings, and Social Studies teacher Luke Turvold. Recently, there have been some issues with Schoology, such as the grades that students can see are lower than the ones in teachers' grade books.

There are more than 350 apps available on Self Service, but if a teacher can't find an app that they need, they can submit a request for an app. The app is reviewed to see if it meets content and quality standards, and if it meets the US Department of Education and Federal Privacy security guidelines. The district also checks if there is another available app with the same function. If the app passes this test, it is then put onto Self Service between January and August. The next window for teachers to submit apps for review is during December 1st to the 22nd.

Leeandrew Prather

Senior Spotlight



How many years have you been at OWL?

I've been at OWL for 6 years

What are your plans for next year?

I'm debating if I should take a gap year or I should go to college

What was your favorite class in high school?

English, because of Leo's teaching

What extracurriculars are you involved in?

Volleyball

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

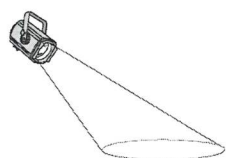
Camp DuNord because I got to do service work with my friends!

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

That's a good question, I haven't watched TV in like 2 years. I guess the news

If you had a walk up song what would it be?

"Like a Plastic Bag" by Katy Perry



That One Little Kid

Ezra Campbell

What's your name?

Ezra Campbell

How tall are you?

4ft 9 3/4

What's your favorite class so far and why?

Probably physical science because I love science

Who's your favorite senior?

What's a senior? Kendall?

Where do you think you're going to college?

Uhhh Probably the U of M

What's the weirdest thing about OWL?

The kids

What's your favorite school lunch?

My favorite school lunch is the popcorn chicken. I don't know why, it's just good

What is your favorite movie or TV Show?

That's a tough one, probably Switched at Birth

What school organization are you most excited to get involved in?

Is Archery one? Archery



The Election from page 1

Oliver, you'll definitely like this," said 11th grader Pedro Bayón, who will be working as assistant stage manager and assistant director to his dad.

Pedro Senior will be directing the play instead of Rebekah Rentzel, who is out for the first semester of the year.

Pedro Jr., who has worked with his father in Steppingstone theater productions (as well as professional performance "The House on Mango Street," and Rebekah in last year's production of "Grease," says his dad's style is faster. "With "Grease" we took a month before we started running through the play, and with "The Election" we did it in three days."

Other than graduate Grace Kellar-Long's comedy by the same playwright last year as her senior project, OWL hasn't done a comedy in a long time.

"I've never done a comedy show before," said Simon, "but multiple times I've been comic relief and I love making people laugh."

"I've wanted to do something like this for a while!" agreed Pedro.

Seventh grader Abe Baer-Benson acted in Grace's comedy last year. "I love playing a character where I can just walk into a room and have no idea what's going on," he said, "Comedy is like clowning with theater."

The play will be shown at 7 o'clock on Wednesday December 13th, Thursday the 14th and Friday the 15th.

Said 10th grader Atquetzali Quiroz, who plays Christy Martin, the candidate opposing Mark. "If you didn't like last year's election, you'll like this."

Hats from page 1

rule started last year with student government, but never went anywhere. "I think students need to be more involved in asking these kinds of decisions involving the student body," said Michelle.

Some of the reasons hats haven't been allowed include: gang affiliation, potential distractions, and preparing students to look professional in a workplace. Passes have been given to students on occasion who have requested to cover their hair for the day.

Historically, hats were allowed when OWL was located on West 7th Street location but the rule was changed when the school changed locations and co-located with Creative Arts.

Many teachers continue to enforce a no hat rule in class. One of them is science teacher Rebecca Palmer. She said that she is "Pro no hats" because students should be preparing for a professional work environment.

Many students, meanwhile, are excited by the prospect of wearing hats in school.

"I do like hats in school because we live in Minnesota and my ears get cold," said Junior Mia Rohde.

Fraquetball strikes back

Sam Dale-Gau
Staff Writer

Would a flooded gymnasium stop the NBA? Probably. Would a forced year long hiatus end the NFL? Most definitely. Would both of these things COMBINED have the power to even dent the great OWL-American pastime of Fraquetball?

Not a chance.

It's bigger! It's badder! Ladies and gentlemen, it's no match for Mister Incredible! Fraquetball is BACK People! Cue triumphant guitar solo! Big hitters are returning, new dominant teams are forming, and young up-starts are on their way to the top. Hold on to your paddles, and get ready for one of the most intense seasons of Fraquetball to date.

But there will be some new changes to the season this year.

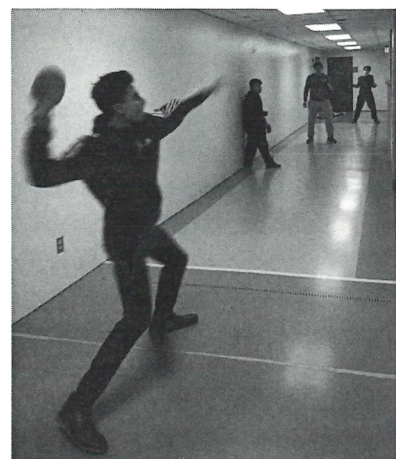
The biggest of these is due to the new change in school schedule: since lunch is now during third hour and students have different lunches each day, Fraquetball will only be played on B-Days. Also with six leagues (three each day) the end of the year tournament would be as chaotic as a circus monkey in a banana store.

"I'm worried about the growing number of teams given how short we have to play," said Tom Totushek of the Alphanumericals, who teaches math on the side, referring to only playing every other day. "I don't know if we'll get two games every lunch with 42 teams."

Spanish teacher Tim Leone-Getten of Los Geezers thinks it should be fine. "Since we're starting so much earlier than last year, we should get at least as much playing time," he said. Last year the season barely began before the gym flooded and forced the season to cancel.

The other big change is all about where the commissioners draw the line... the goal line, that is. Since the season will be played regularly with "fast" real ping-pong balls, as opposed to the "slow" cheap plastic ones of two years ago, the game is changing.

When the new building was created, they paint-



Donald Post Jr. serving the ball

Fraquetball continued on page 6

Klara from page 2

are used to. They start in preK, same as us, but where it differs is at the high school/ middle school level. There is no middle school in Denmark. They take primary school till 9th grade and at the end if they pass a final exam, they can opt to skip to 11th or "Or you can take a year off like I did," said Klara. Instead of proceeding to 11th grade, she wanted to travel to America to connect with her American side. "My dad grew up in stillwater," she stated which is why Minnesota was such an appealing option. She goes on to say "I wanted this year to figure out and try out some stuff and push some boundaries."

"I've always known that I wanted to take a gap year, but I realized last year I needed it," said Klara. She goes on saying, "I want to figure out what I actually want to do with my life and not just hurry through and get a job." She wasn't ready for another three years of highly academic work, a gap year was the answer to the problem.

One of the first things Klara noted when she entered into the American school system was, "You learn a lot outside of school, but that's hard here." In contrast to the Denmark schooling system, American high schools "focus a lot on your work and not so much on your knowledge" observed Klara. American High school is a tightly structured system that is demanding and consumes lots of time. American teens tend to be defined by high school, friends, grades, and life revolves around homework, after school activities, and grades.

"You guys have tests all the time, which I also don't think is that progressive," says Klara in relation to both standardized and regular class tests. In Denmark they only have exams every two years in some subjects like math and a final exam at the end of 9th grade to move on with their education. In comparison to the American school system Danish schools are much more loose. American education is all about activity through tests, essays, projects, and grades. That is not the case in Denmark, where grades are based more on how much you pay attention and the contributions you make in class.

Another interesting point Klara makes is the fact that "if I read a sheet of paper 10 times i'll know it,

but I might not understand it." Again something that rings true with the American education system. "I for one believe that tests are outdated, I think we have to look at students and realize that not everyone can take a test," states Klara.

On the other hand, Klara has found some things she loves about American High school. "I like the multicultural society in America, both in general and schools." She also talks about how even though Denmark is a very progressive country in many ways, bur repressed in others. "There are a lot more people out," she says when talking speciafially about OWLs LGBTQ communmity. The diversity and open mind- edness is a defining factor she has noticed with her exchange so far. Another positive she has liked is

that, "You meet people from other grades." In Denmark Klara explains how they all sat in one class with the same people and the teachers would come to the class and teach. Klara is really enjoying being able to move from class to class and interact with a lot of different people.

Amongst the notable differences there is, however, a similarity between the two systems, the emphasis on a higher level education after

high school. Whether that be community college, technical schooling, a four year universi-

ty, or business school. Klara says, "The Danish system focuses a lot on pushing people really quickly through their educations, which is stupid." Sound familiar?

One of the most interesting things that Klara described was the difference in culture. "In Copenhagen people live really close in apartment buildings, so the downtown area is much bigger and the cultural life in the city is stronger." She goes on to describe biking around with her friends after school, playing soccer, and going shopping. "The most american thing is shooting a gun," a telling truth about american culture told by our foreign exchange student.

When Klara goes back to Denmark she will continue her education by proceeding to 11th grade. She hopes to get into an academic high school where she wants to study math and social studies.



Left to right: Klara, her host brother Sawyer, and Athena, sitting in front of the school

Fall sports wrap

Paloma Leone-Getten
and Lily Hobday
Staff Writers

The middle school volleyball team gathers around Coach Marissa Franco, with hands extended to meet in the middle. "1...2...3... HAWKS, 4...5...6... FAMILY," The players run out onto the court and the game begins!

That cheer really encompasses Humboldt's spirit. Humboldt sports have been really welcoming to OWL students, making them a part of its "family." This fall, many OWL students have participated in volleyball, soccer and swimming.

This year, 4 girls played Humboldt soccer. "[Our coach is] really knowledgeable about the subject and he knows what he's talking about," said 11th grader Athena Bolton-Steiner. Their record was 2 wins and 4 losses. "It was really rough this year. We didn't have a lot of players. Our JV and Varsity had to be combined," said Athena.

Another sport OWL students participated in is Volleyball. This year 7 Open girls played high school volleyball. They participated on C-Squad, JV and varsity. Their record was 0-12 but the girls had a good season. 10th grader Abby Davis said "The overall chemistry of our team was better [than last year]. We were a lot closer." One of the best parts of the team is how inclusive they are. Senior Emma Syers said "I was really worried about being on it. That it would be like the one kid who didn't go here, but everyone was really inclusive and nice, so I think [playing on the team] is a good way to branch out and make new friends." Another great part of the program is their coach Theresa Behnke. "I love her. I think she's really good about being super intense but still being fun," said Abby.

Girls Sports continued on page 9

Fraquetball from page 4

ed lines on the floor of the new Fraquetball hall, the same distance apart as the old building on Kellog. The catch: the new hall is much wider.

"It's too easy to score a point," Said 11th grade commissioner Sawyer Neske who plays for the new pairing Freeeezer. He supports moving the goal lines back a few feet to make saves easier and scoring harder. The game has been tested with experienced players with this new change and goals were still much more common than saves.

"It's just hard to move them when they're plastered into the ground," says Sawyer. He would rather keep the lines that were drawn on the floor with the new building's creation, but "Unless we can find a ball that's slower than the ones we have now but faster than the crappy ones from last year, it's our best option."

However, some players think the goal lines should stay where they are. 11th grader Donald Post who plays for the Flaming Ducks has a vivid memory of scoring on upperclassmen Peter and Koua in seventh grade. "Scoring on Peter and Koua was like the best feeling ever," said Donald on his 1-7 loss. He thinks the goal lines should stay where they are to "even the field" for the younger players.

"It's pretty much an L if you don't move the lines back," said 10th grader Conner Scott of the Riders of the Eastern Winds. "Maybe if it's a sixth grader versus sixth grader game the lines should stay where they are, though."

"We should just move the lines back for matches between older players," said Junior Athena Bolton-Steiner, who plays for Seppin' Tea.

As of now the season is well underway, and games are being played with the farther back goal lines.



The OWL-Humboldt Middle School volleyball team



Reviews 'n' stuff



Emoji Movie: proof God doesn't exist

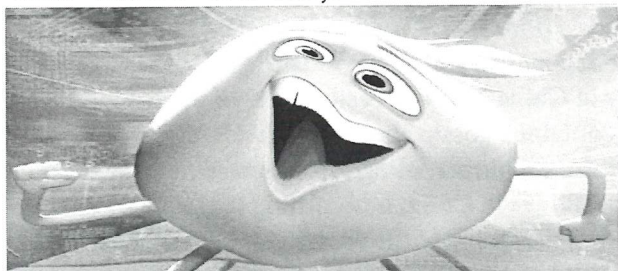
Theo Leifheit
Staff Writer

Cinema has changed the path of human history since its conception. Films such as Citizen Kane and 2001 A Space Odyssey change public options and make your wildest dreams come true.

The Emoji Movie is not one of those films.

Blessing us with its presence on the midsummer's day of July 28, 2017, from the mind of Tony Leonidis, THE EMOJI MOVIE WAS BORN. You may not recognize him, but he is the father behind every bad Disney sequel ever, most notably the The Lion King II. So he has a track record with this, not surprising with this affront to God.

In a magical land far far away where teenagers still use text message to communicate, all Emojis live in Textopolis and go about their day to day life waiting till a phone user needs them for a booty call. We follow the life of "Gene" who is a "Meh" emoji but has more emotions



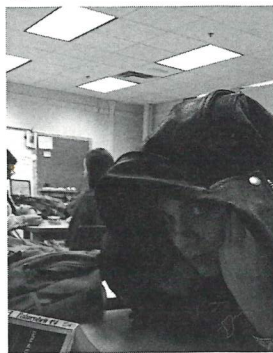
"Meh" the protagonist of the sinful movie

that he wants to express. His overbearing parents keep pestering him to continue the family line for "meh" emojis. He messes up and goes on a journey of self discovery blah blah blah. Spoiler alert: good guys win.

If you really want to watch the movie but have a crippling fear of people, just watch Wreck it Ralph, but hold cut out smiley faces over the characters, also skip anything remotely interesting. Even the humor is painful to watch, by law it should be banned by the Geneva Convention. When Patrick Stewart (as the Poop emoji) punches a fan you realize that this and every other joke feels like it was run through committee after committee marketing to what they see as the modern day millenni-

Emoji continued on page 8

Conspiracy of the month: is Tim a ghost??



Sam Osborne
Staff Columnist

He loves fraquetball, he teaches Spanish, and he just might be a ghostly being from an other-worldly realm.

A rumor has been circulating the halls of Open World Learning Community, and there is evidence to suggest that it is based on truth. Have you ever wondered, dear reader, why Spanish teacher Tim Leone-Getten is so hard to find? Many OWL staff and students have developed the quiet belief that

Tim is not entirely what he seems. They believe he is a spirit from another realm that feeds on the energy of children, and in exchange for said energy, Tim is very helpful to students and staff. If Tim were a life-essence absorbing spirit, it would not only explain his constant state of positivity and his constant high energy, but also the lack energy of students. It would also explain Tim's superhuman ability to disappear without a trace, seemingly into thin air.

"All these facts seem to line up. It makes too much sense not to be true," said senior Sam Delgau.

It appears students aren't the only believers, however, as even some teachers are skeptical of just who, or what Tim Leone-Getten is. When asked for an interview, science teacher Rebecca Palmer had this to say:

"I think that's a plausible theory because Tim is very difficult to find most times, however I've seen him on occasion, so I believe he's real. But yeah, he does disappear very easily, so a human would have a hard time doing that."

Some think that Tim is just incredibly busy, and prefer to ignore the mystery at hand rather than acknowledge it. Phys Ed and Health teacher Joe Bradner is one of these few, saying:

"Well I don't know that he's a ghost, and he's working a lot harder this year because they made him teach four more classes, or three more classes instead of being the

Ghosts?? continued on page 8

Emoji from page 7

al. A Hoverboard-riding, fidget-spinning, juice-vaping, constantly dabbing child that couldn't file taxes if a gun was to their head. The jokes and other product placements for twitter, Just Dance, and Dropbox (for some reason) are more ham-fisted than a pork tenderloin boxing glove.

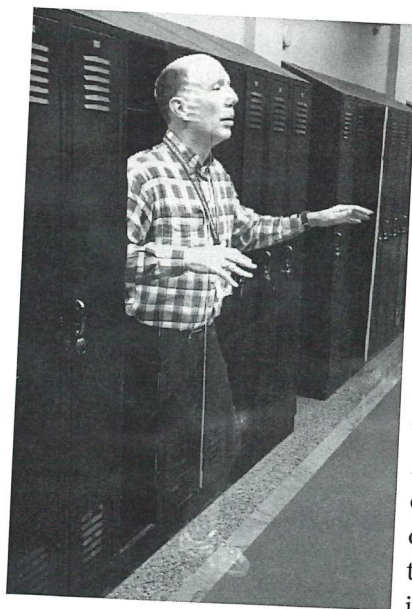
My guess is that they kidnapped Patrick Stewart's dog for ransom in order to force him to be part of the movie. He seems almost pained to be reading his lines, as all he wants to do these days is sit back and bathe in X-Men royalties. Seeing as he was made the poop emoji in the film, it's clear as day that this whole movie was nothing more than a Hollywood executive's mad cocaine-fueled idea of a practical joke by putting one of its most talented actors in the "crappiest" role possible. That was low hanging fruit but, to be fair so is all of the movie, we got eggplant jokes, finger jokes, and toilet humor, and the most in you face references and product placement. So if that's your style of humor (looking at you, middle schoolers), you will love the movie. Overall I give it 2 eggplant emojis out of 5, not offensive in a moral sense but it should've been allowed to even exist.

Ghosts?? from page 7

activity coordinator guy that organizes all the stuff. So I can see how he would be perceived as a ghost, but I just think he's a hard working teacher."

One question this reporter has, is what does Joe mean when he says "they?" This could quite possibly be a potential exciting report in the future.

During the search for Tim so he could be in-



A rare photograph of Tim phasing through a wall

find Samuel Osborne during second hour on A days in Leo Bickelhaupt's room. In closing I have only this to say to you, dear reader, stay alert.

terviewed, he was nowhere to be found. Could this be a coincidence? Or is Tim afraid that people may be onto him? Looking forward, the school may have to worry about what having an otherworldly entity on the payroll means for the future of open world.

I've risked a great deal to bring you, the diligent readers of the purple press, this information. If you or a friend hears or sees something that doesn't sound right, please

Should we fear China?

Matteo Vera
Staff Writer

On state television in China, Gui Minhai, a book publisher critical of government, tearfully confessed to a hit and run that happened 13 years prior. Refusing help from his home country of Sweden, he asked for the media not to make a big deal out of things. Gui said he voluntarily returned



Gui Minhai confessing to a hit and run on chinese television

to China to stand trial, leaving his beach front property and family. At one point in the video of his confession the color of Gui's shirt changes from black to white.

The confession is incoherent but that is the point, it sends a powerful of message to potential dissidents of what happens to you when you go against the Communist Party of China. Gui was really guilty of publishing books that contained gossip about party leaders. Incidents like these show China heading to an increasing dangerous future. Power in China is becoming increasingly concentrated in the hands of the few, free speech is constricted and opposition is eliminated.

It has been many years since Mao Zedong was in power in china. While Mao ruled he killed around 40 million of his own people in the "Great leap Forward" and destroyed dissidents in the "Cultural Revolution." Now China's current leader Xi Jinping has gained power to rival Mao Zedong.

China's Communist Party (the CPC) meets every five years to discuss its goals for the next 5 years. This year the CPC has written "Xi Jinping thought" into the party's constitution. This puts him alongside, "Mao Zedong thought" in the constitution. As a result anyone in the party that disagrees with him will be going against the party's own constitution. The constitutional change was announced alongside a 3 hour video of Xi Jinping explaining his philosophy and goals. Xi's "Thought" will now be

China continued on page 9

China from page 8

something learned by students in public schools.

While China claims that it is a multi party democracy, in truth the CPC control all of the power. Not only does the CPC control the military, but they also tightly control the other parties. Minority political parties have to swear loyalty to the CPC. The CPC also sets limits on the number of new members to other parties. The CPC has around 83 million members while other all other parties combined have only 1 million members.

While China is effectively a one party state, they do have checks on power to prevent one person from becoming too powerful. The collective leadership of Chinese political system is designed not only to prevent another Mao Zedong but also someone like Mikhail Gorbachev whose changes to the Soviet Union, such as increased freedom of speech, led to the downfall of the Soviet Union. As such, it is dangerous to the future of the CPC that Xi has achieved significant progress towards Autocracy.

Xi follows in Mao's footsteps by maintaining a tight control over freedom of speech. However the way Xi accomplishes this is subtler and more modern. Xi tightly controls the internet in what is referred to internationally as "The Great Firewall of China." Wikipedia and other subversive sites are blocked in an attempt to keep the populace ignorant.

Another modern system of political control is called Sesame Credit, it game-ifies being a good citizen by assigning all citizens a point score. You can gain points for sharing pro government propaganda and lose them for mentioning Tiananmen Square. You even lose points for

interacting with people that have low point scores, insuring conformity of thought through social pressure. This system is only implemented in a small test group now but will expand to all citizens in 2020.

Another way Xi is similar to Mao is that his government does not tolerate dissidence. For instance Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo was sentenced for 11 years for "inciting subversion of state power" because of his work on the manifesto, Charter 08, that called for human rights such as freedom of speech, religion, and election of public officials.

Even dissidents that have left the country are not safe. According to a 2016 story published by the Washington Post, "Chinese dissidents in the United States and Germany say close relatives back in China have been taken away by police, as part of an expanding manhunt into the authors of a mysterious letter calling on Xi to resign." Xi might even makes a profit on killing dissidents. There are reports of members of Falun Gong, a religious group, who were imprisoned and the killed in order to sell their organs

With China aiming to become a super power surpassing the United States, the future of China will determine the future of the world. It is in the U.S. government's best interests to pressure China into adopting civil rights as much as we can. While the CPC control over China seems unbreakable, the government of China needs to make sure that their economy stays strong and avoid corruption and wealth inequality. It will be interesting to see if the CPC can effectively control their population in a world that is becoming increasingly connected.

Girls Sports from page 6

The middle school volleyball team was also popular this year. About half of the middle school volleyball team is made up of OWL students. During the season they won 4 games and lost 7. "We all worked really hard," said 8th grader Mallory Garofalo. During the tournament, Humboldt played 5 games, winning 3 in double elimination, and ending in 6th place.

Another popular sport among OWL students was Humboldt's middle school girls soccer. The highest number yet of OWL students played this year. They made up 14 of the 19 girls on the team! Although they only won 1 game, they're spirit stays strong. Before a game a few weeks ago, 8th grader Beth Tsehay said "I don't think we'll win, but we'll have fun trying our hardest."

Probably the most popular sport that OWL students participated in this year is swimming. OWL students make up half of their combined swim team with Humboldt and Washington, called Humwow. The swim team has the most Open participation. This team has won about half of their meets. They also just started a diving team this year.

"It's definitely more fun than any of the other teams I've been on before," said 9th grader Freya Ebbesen.

Although Humboldt sports may not always come out on top, their teams are a great resource for OWL students to experience school sports and the sense of community on these teams.



The OWL-Humboldt High School volleyball team

The grass is dead on my side of the fence

Mia Rohde
Staff Writer

Chapter 1: On thin ice

Neighborhood gift exchange... The neighbors I like get food, coffee, or other treats. The neighbors I don't like, well, they get a flamingo yard ornament. Now most of the neighbors have pink, plastic birds in their front yards. It's been a long year.

I moved to the neighborhood in late January about a year after I finished at the University of Duluth. My landlord had lost his mind. My lease ended and he decided to raise the rent practically a million percent and I only had 3 more cats in the house than I was supposed to.

When I moved in, a woman with too much makeup and not enough clothing for her age, greeted me with two fluffy white dogs in her arms. She stated in her thick southern accent, "Now darlin' I just saw the moving truck pull up and I was wonderin' if you needed any help. I can get my husband Al over here to carry some of those heavy boxes. A lady like yourself doesn't carry boxes." Yes, she has a pink bird in her lawn now.

In February I finally met the neighbor from across the street. I was going out the get the mail. I'd like to make it clear that it wasn't exactly early, but I had just woken up, so I was still in pajamas. And just to spite the cold winter, I wear shorts and a tank top to bed and crank the heat at night. So I slipped on a baggy winter coat and decided if I ran to the mailbox my legs wouldn't get that cold. I slipped on my tennis shoes. Mistake number one, tennis shoes don't have traction. I walked out the door and the cold really hit me. I ran so I wouldn't get too cold, mistake number two.

It was below 10 degrees, meaning there's ice. I opened the mailbox and found a letter from my mom, at least three boring envelopes from banks and what not, and a home decor magazine that my sister got me a subscription for. Yes she's older than me, her house is gorgeous, and her kids are perfect. I started to run back inside and I just misstepped by an inch. Trust me, I know how to navigate icy ground. I've been doing it my whole life. But to be honest I was distracted by the neighbor in question. We made eye contact, and then my foot hit the ice. I fall in the snow, and considering my legs were completely exposed, it was cold. I didn't look at him but I could hear him laugh. He crossed the street and offered a hand to help me up. But I have a lot of pride. So I pushed myself up and CAREFULLY run back inside. But when I got back inside I told myself this is the story we will tell our grandchildren. And that makes it worth it. Within the next few months I worked up the courage to ask him out. We had had these little interactions a few times. I would embarrass myself, he would laugh and then I would hide. After our fourth awkward interaction where I ACTUALLY fell into a puddle, I asked him if he wanted to go get coffee sometime. He simply nodded and put his number in my phone. I texted him later about when he wanted to get coffee, we planned for the up coming Thursday. When we arrived at the coffee shop he had a large note pad in his arm, when I asked what it was for he grabbed a pen and wrote down I'm not very good at reading lips yet. He was deaf.

To be continued...

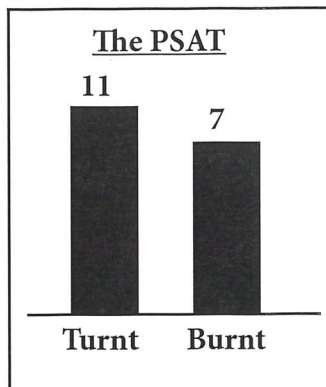


TURNT or Burnt?



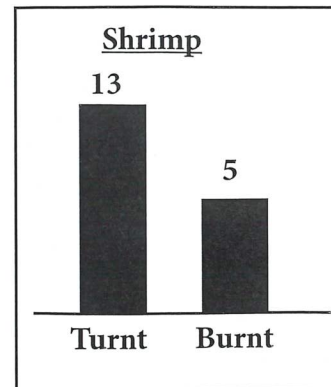
The PSAT:

"Turnt. Cuz it was easy and there's memes." - Athena Bolton-Steiner, 11th grade
"A lot of kids thought they were dumb." - Jamie Upton, 11th grade
"Burnt, cuz it's useless and I don't know why I did it." - AJ, 10th grade
"Turnt, because it prepares you for college... The PSAT mess with ya head but it's still turnt." - Malachi Raymond, 10th grade



Shrimp:

"Way turnt, except when they're burnt." - Jamie
"That @\$&s nasty." - Malachi
"Fight me." - Grace Bellamy, 10th grade
"Dude! Shrimp is the best!" - Sam Dale-Gau, 12th grade



IT: Scary not scary

Oskar Holm
Staff Writer

It. A tense two hours, during which my body slowly shriveled into a lifeless cocoon, filled with my deep internal fears of being eaten by a clown.

"It" is a blockbuster film, produced by New Line Cinemas. The film is directed by Andy Muschietti, and had a budget of \$35 million. The film has produced a whopping \$236.3 million box office. The movie is the first part of the two part It series, which is based off of Stephen King's It (1986), and the It miniseries, of which the first episode was aired 1990.

Just so you know, if I say It, as compared to it, I'm talking about the movie.

Alrighty, It is about a kid named Bill and his friends, known as the loser club. As they find out, a clown named Pennywise comes every 27 years to feast on children. Scary, right? Bill's little brother, Georgie, gets taken (eaten) by Pennywise. Bill, being smart, takes his friends on an "epic" hunt for Pennywise. They find out he lives in the sewers under a well house, and I'm not going to spoil it because nobody likes spoilers.

Okay, honestly, this movie is pretty scary. Not that scary though, I just hate clowns. Just saying. It'll scar more than scare. This movie is good, I guess, but there are some

things that just don't make any sense. It's a little bit fake that somehow some random group of kids would somehow connect the very faint dots to conclude that Pennywise lives under a mound of trash and human remains in the sewers, all just to find out Georgie is dead, which they knew in the first place?

Okay okay. It's not all bad though. The movie is really good, I'm just not that into horror movies. Still, I do like how strange this movie got. It just gets to be very unrealistic. There is an alien who is a shapeshifter and disguised as a clown? WAAAT? The clown feeds off of fear, which is creepy, and still unrealistic. He makes you super scared then eats you. That's one cold blooded clown.

Bill Skarsgård is a scary dude.

He plays Pennywise, just so you know. He can just do the creepy clown smile whenever he wants? That would be my superpower. I would hate to be his sibling. No offense to Bill. Cool dude. But scary as heck. Although, he does have some pretty sweet dance moves near the end. Damn, I would maybe actually go to school dances then. Actually no, the music's to bad. Okay but really, that's a cool clown. We'd be buds if he promised not to eat me.

Overall, I've gotta give it 2 out of 4. Go Pennywise.



Pennywise the clown hides in a gutter

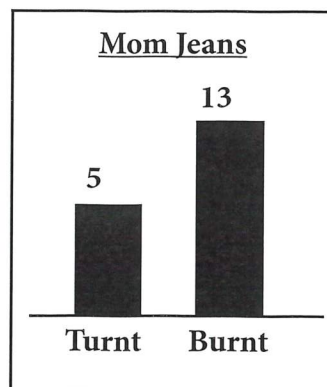


TURNT or Burnt?



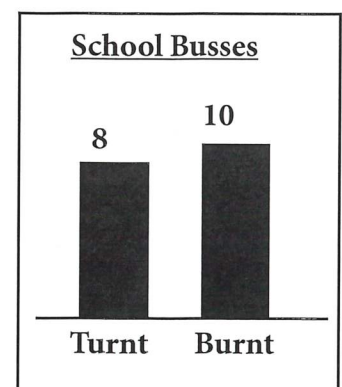
Mom Jeans:

"Not 4 me." - AJ
"Crispy, not turnt or burnt." - Malachi
"They're comfy, they're like the best kind of jeans out there." - Athena
"Turnt, if you wear em right." - Jamie



School Busses:

"People don't talk to me." - AJ
"Better than biking." - Matteo Vera, Senior
"Burnt, like charcoal burnt." - Athena

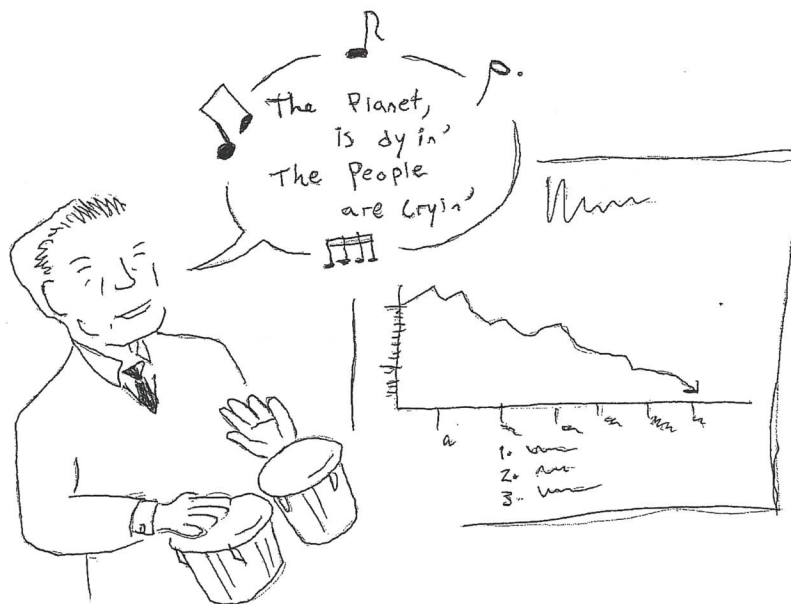
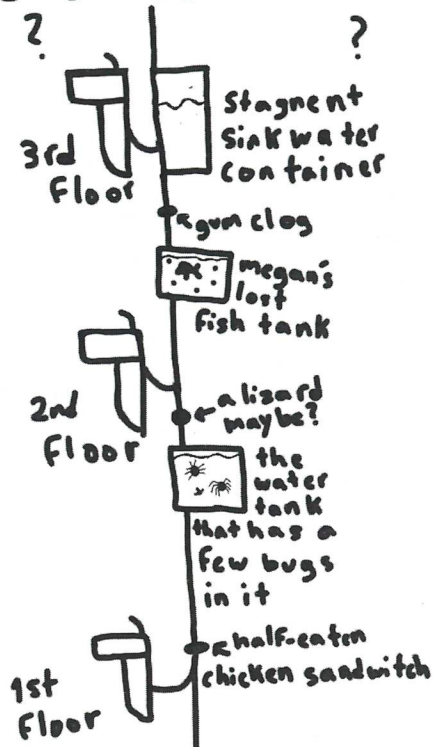


Sawyer Neske and Ella Connell
Staff Writers

Comics

WHY IS 3rd FLOOR WATER BAD

? ? ? ?



Al Gore - Rythms