

Purple Press

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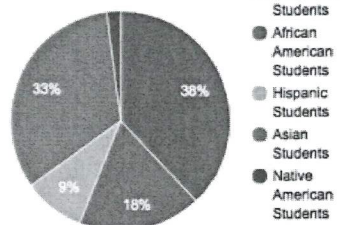
OWL diversity: what's really going on

Siena Leone-Getten
Staff Writer

In 2002 OWL was made up of 38% Caucasian students, 18% African American Students, 33% Asian American Students, 9% Hispanic Students, and 2% American Indian Students. In 2014, the most recent year enrolment statistics have been released, the school was made up of 49% Caucasian students, 19% African American Students, 16% Asian American Students, 15% Hispanic students, and Native American students made up slightly less than 1% of the student body.

The demographics of our school have changed

Open School Student Demographics from 2002



significantly in the last decade. What happened?

The many changes that our school has gone through have certainly played a role in the changing demographics, one of which was the change from a K-12 to a 6-12 school. From 1971 to 2009, St. Paul Open School was a K-12 school, attracting many large families from diverse backgrounds around St. Paul. There was some articulation from the West Seventh neighborhood when grades didn't fill up completely, so there was some consistency in enrollment in that sense. When the dis-

Diversity continued on page 8

OWL Admissions

Siena Leone-Getten
Staff Writer

Recent discussions about diversity at OWL have led many to wonder how students are admitted into the school. To understand the admissions process it is necessary to understand what a magnet program is. Magnet schools attract and enroll students from all areas of the city. Students can attend the school regardless of where they live in a school district as opposed to a neighbourhood school where enrolment is based on a particular part of the school. Oftentimes magnet schools have a particular program or curriculum that is not offered in other parts of the district. For OWL, this is Expeditionary Learning, or EL. Other SPPS magnets include Adams Spanish Immersion, Farnsworth Aerospace, Capitol Hill and American Indian Magnet School.

There are some factors that automatically put an applicant ahead of others and are the same throughout the

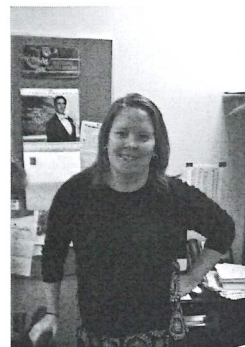
Admissions continued on page 7

Approaching capacity

Grace Bellamy
Staff Writer

Next year, OWL's graduating class of 2017, will be the biggest ever in Open School history, with every grade will be at full capacity.

The staff will undergo some minor changes. With more students the school will see a slight increase in staffing. Science teachers Megan Hall and Rebecca Palmer will be back from maternity leave, and Social studies teacher and History Day enthusiast Katie Craven will be here full time. Some teachers will have to alter their schedules, like English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt. Adding an extra section of 11-12 English means The Purple Press will



Katie

Capacity continued on page 5

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Adult to Blame

Leo Bickelhaupt

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OPEN NEWS

Manatee season overview

Tom Hobday

Staff Writer

On the weekend of May 7-8, the Manatee had their first frisbee tournament of the year, the Hopkins Hustle. The team finished 26th out of 45 teams, and went 2-4. Although that does not look like a good record, many of the games were much closer. Against Stillwater, the Manatee faced an upwind universal point, and ended up losing the game 8-7.

The players were expected to catch the bus at 7:00 on Saturday, but the bus never came. After waiting until almost nine, Spanish teacher Tim Leone-Getten organized parents to bring players to the tournament, and the Manatee arrived to the field ten minutes before their first game. Without warming up, they lost the game 13-8 To Cretin. The next game they played

was against Stillwater, and they lost on a universal point. In the final game of the first game, they played Mahtomedi and won 11-8. In all the games, the team played well and competitively.

The second day started off better, with a win against Brookfield. They followed that up with a loss in a competitive game against Northfield, a team from Wisconsin. They lost the game 13-8. By the end of the second day, everybody was tired. There were only 11 players for the game against Como, the rest either injured or having to leave. The Manatee ended up losing 13-8 to Como, a team they had beaten before, mainly because of exhaustion. "I was really tired, plus my sunburn made me look like a six foot tall lobster, which made the end of the tournament and

Manatee continued on page 5

Kickball over... for now

Sovigne Gardner

Staff Writer

OWL's kickball season has finally come to an end, with Rebecca's crew emerging solidly victorious over the Alisons in the championship game. Rebecca's crew established a strong lead in the first two innings of the game, which the Alisons' crew was unable to catch up to by the end of the game, despite a strong rally. This is the second consecutive championship Rebecca's crew has won. The kickball season was very successful, with every crew participating in at least one game. "There were a few unfortunate instances of unsportsmanlike behavior, but overall the staff and students were really supportive," said math teacher Tom Totushek of the season, whose crew runs kickball.

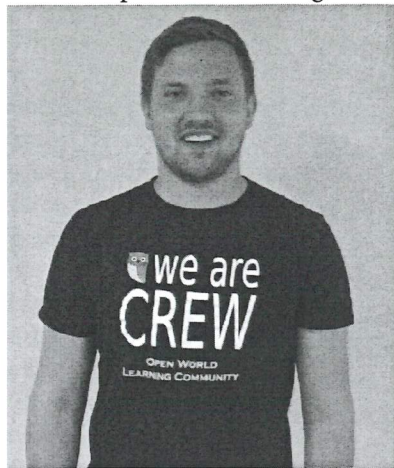


Tom, former pitcher and founder of the OWL kickball tournament.

Musicals! Not just Broadway: an Elective

Sam Kellar-Long
Staff Writer

Two years ago, the OWL theater performed the musical Hairspray. While many people appreciated the final product, it took the entire school year to produce, they had no official license for the production, and some of the actors found the process frustrating.



Alex brings the music

the perfect musical story," says Theater teacher Rebekah Rentzel. However, many students have their eyes on Grease. "Grease is a pretty cool show, and all the great songs and characters make it amazing," said 10th grader Kendall Koll. However, according to 8th grader Sam Osborne, Grease

Two years later, OWL appears much more prepared to take on its second musical. There is a music teacher to help the theater teacher, as well as a new Musical Theater elective class to support the effort.

"What is this musical?" you may be asking yourself. Well, we don't know yet.

"I'm still hunting for

may not be the best choice. "I think that a lot of people would be expecting a lot from Grease, and it might be hard to fulfill everyone's expectations," he said. After talking to some students, other musicals they would want are Alice in Wonderland, Beauty and the Beast and James and the Giant Peach.

The Musical Theater elective is designed to support the effort, regardless of what musical Rebekah ends up selecting. "Next year we are combining Art, Music, and Theater to make SUPERTHEATER," said Rebekah. "A great way to be involved if after school doesn't jive with your schedule."

Many students are excited for Musical Theater class. "I like Musical Theater because then I would have a better chance of getting a lead," said 10th grader Jacob Barrett. Music teacher Alex Federer and Rebekah will be co-teaching this class.



Rebekah brings the theater.

Algebra adventure

Lachlan Cotner
Staff Writer

On May 4th students in Tom's algebra 1 class visited the Senate Building to present budget proposals to Minnesota state senators.

For the last two months algebra 1 students have been working on analyzing an aspect of Minnesota's state budget and creating a poster to present to senators. Students had to include a graph, a personal story, and a proposal of what they want to change in the budget. The students had to prepare a script to present to the Minnesota legislature.

Students chose from a wide variety of topics. Mercurio Takle, Lachlan Cotner, Soren Gardner, and Jack Barret chose renewable energy as their topic. They researched how much Minnesota spends on solar and wind energy. They wrote a personal story about how non renewable energy negatively affects Minnesota. They had to include a graph on how much renewable energy Minnesota uses versus non



OWL students with a Minnesota senator.

renewable. Then they recited a prepared script to the senators and answered any questions the senators had.

On the day of the presentation the students held up their posters and waited for senators to stop by, and had the chance to converse with them. Most students saw at least 10 senators.

A record year for National History Day

OWL had a wonderful showing at State History Day, with six projects advancing to the national competition. Here is a little more about the national qualifiers.

Eli Sage-Martinson, Sam Dale-Gau, and Leona DeRango went to the competition with Bjorn Holm from Blake and took 1st place in Senior group documentary with their video on The Apollo-Soyuz Test Project. They were able to coordinate an interview

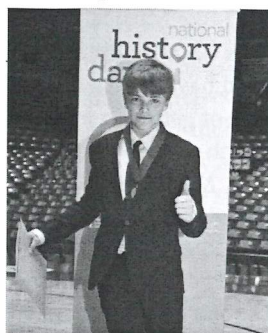


with Sergei Kruschev, son of former Soviet Premier Nikita Kruschev. 10th grader Sam Dale-Gau said the thing he was most excited about at the national competition was "Winning."

Freya Ebbesen and Isabella Graziani took home a first place medal in the Junior group website category with their

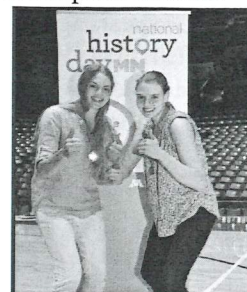


site on Margaret Singer. One of their main sources was an interview with Kate Thomas, a women's studies professor at UW Stout. Freya said that she is most excited for "getting to know and meet all of the other participants."



Theo Sage-Martinson also got first place with his documentary on Sir Francis Drake, using an interview with Michael Turner.

Sovigne and Grace Gardner got second place for their Senior group website on Jacques Costeau. One of their critical sources was Alex Bryleski, a driver and professor.



Sovigne says she is most excited for competing at nationals and trading buttons. Siena Leone-Getten got first place in the Senior individual documentary for her video on Ralph Nader. One of her most valuable sources was Nader's book, "Unsafe At Any Speed." She is most excited for "collecting all of the state



affiliate buttons this year."

Last but not least, Mae Goodrich received first place for her Senior individual website on Gordon Parks. One of her most valued sources was an interview with Michael Dibari Jr, a professor of photo journalism at Hampton University.



Fraquetball Finals: Pickles win again!

Tom Hobday
Staff Writer

On June 1st, the Flying Pickles were crowned fraquetball champions for the second year in a row. It came after a perfect playoffs, without them losing a single game. This includes sweeping their arch rivals, the Alpha Numericals. (Math teachers Tom Totushek and Damon Liberatore.) Team mates Daniel LeTran and Chua Moua faced The Sexy Pigeons, Franklin Bajenske and Wolfgang Wills, in the finals, and swept them four games to none. The final game of the series was the only one that was close, with the game going to deuces. It was still not enough to stop the Pickles, and they closed out the series.

"They certainly belong up there with one of the greatest teams all time," said English teacher and fraquetball expert Leo Bickelhaupt. They are one of the first teams

to win back to back championships, and the first in a long time. Before their win last year, the trophy was won by teachers 5 years in a row. "It's good to have the students dominating again" said Leo. Chua and Daniel are seniors this year, so they won't be able to play again, but the other team in the finals was also comprised of students.

The time of the teachers may have passed, and it's the students turn now.



Chua serving the ball

Expeditions

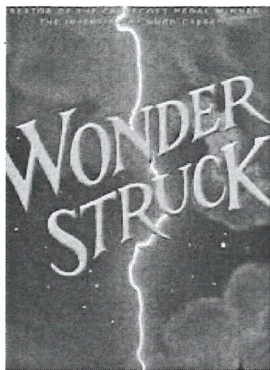
Quinn Christensen
Staff Writer

Every year, each grade has an expedition - a guiding question and theme that ties their classes together and leads them through the year with a purpose. Here is a summary of the middle school expeditions from the 2015-16 school year.

6th grade - Wonderstruck

The 6th grade expedition, Wonderstruck, has led this year's youngest OWL students to museums all over the Twin Cities, such as the Weismann, the Bell Museum, and the Science museum.

"Don't groan when they say you're going to museums, even if you've been there already, it's a lot more exciting [with your class,]" said 6th grader Amaya Boulanger. They even went to the U of M, where 6th grader Erica Polta says they "experimented with inventions that students there had created."



In Kevin's English class, they read Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick, which taught them about museums and the life of curators. However, in the past few months, they have been focusing on the invention aspect of their expedition question, even constructing their own Rube Goldberg machines. "My group's Rube Goldberg had to ring a bell. First we dropped a ball down the ramp, then it would hit dominoes that hit a car that went down a ramp that hit more dominoes, and those hit a bigger ball that hit the bell," Erica said about her project. The 6th grade presented their realistic fiction short stories and Wonderstruck things

7th grade - Community

The 7th grade has been working hard all year, learning about what makes a community thrive or suffer. They started off



the year by reading Seedfolks, a multiple-perspective novel about a

community garden. To finish up the year, they are cleaning up a nearby vacant lot and "pitch[ing] our ideas of what we should put in the lot," said 7th grader Haakon Neske.

Over the year, they have visited several different locations that exhibit the importance of community. "[Communities] have a big role in what cities look like and a stronger community can make a huge difference in the surroundings," Haakon said. The 7th graders presented their vacant lot projects at the celebration of learning.

Capacity from page 1

have to become an after school activity, because there is no room in his schedule for newspaper. "This presents a new challenge for, but I think we have enough momentum to make it work," said Leo. Nora Krings will also be taking on additional sections of 9-10 English, and therefore will no longer be able to offer creative writing.

Not all teachers are losing electives, however. English teacher Kevin Hansen will no longer teach 9/10 English. Instead he will be teaching film studies and pop culture classes for high school students. He plans to explore bias, how social media affects us, and gender/sexuality, as well as racial inequity through these subjects. "It's always been my dream to teach a mass media class since I took one in high school," said Kevin. Online courses will be available as well, through a program called NSO. Another new class will be Psychology, taught by social studies teacher Dan Sullivan. "I'm excited for Psychology," said 8th grader AJ Lesure. "Dan is one of my favorite teachers, also it sounds really interesting." There will also be a musical theater elective offered.

New classes will be available in the math and science area also. This will be the first time OWL has AP calc and AP computer science. AP environmental science will be back, as it is on a two year rotation, and will be taught by Megan.

Manatee from page 2

brilliant example of suckfulness" Said 11th grader Thomas Verner.

The next week, the Manatee had the Suburban East Conference semi-finals against Cretin. They had lost to them twice times previously, one when they were up three at game point. The other was in the tournament. The game started out well, with the Manatee taking an early lead. Cretin closed the gap, and it seesawed back and forth for the remainder of the game. Cretin went up 11-10, but the Manatee came back and won the game 13-11. "It was a big victory over one of our conference rivals that got us back to the conference championship for the third year in a row." With the win they advanced to the conference championship with Moundsview, a rematch of last years title game.

The game started off well, with the Manatee taking a 2-0 lead. It went downhill from there, with the Mustangs taking half 8-4. The Manatee continued to compete, but they couldn't keep up with Moundsview. They ended up losing the game 15-8, but they played well.

The Manatee have one game remaining before the state tournament, a "bubble" game to determine which division they are placed in. The Manatee are 5-7, but have played good opponents close and have a good chance to be a low seed in division 1 or a high seed in division 2.

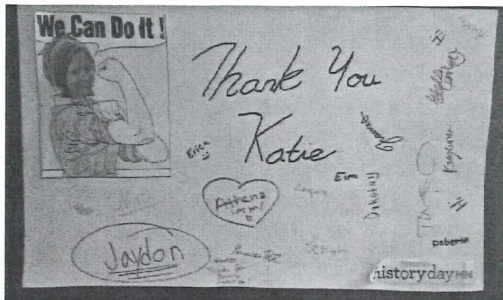
STUDENT LIFE

Inside student government

Fiona Connell
Staff Writer

Student government. Everyone knows what it is, but how much do you know about what they do?

On OWL's website there is some information, but not much. Student government meets during regular club time (Friday) and has about 20 students. They say that they raise money for the school, and help plan events. And yes they have.



The Teacher appreciation posters were made by the student government.

But a mention of a secret project was repeatedly mentioned. This project involving a special day for students. I was unable to obtain any more information about this event. But what could it be? The end of the year incentive day? The school picnic? What type of event would require such secrecy? But then, maybe this event could be a completely new one. But it's unlikely considering the close approach of the end of the year. So this project is probably one that's been going on for a while. More of an operation.

I think this is something more than just a school event. I think this is a global event. A reveal of something. A reveal of aliens. But it couldn't be. It's something that can work in the shadows and send out agents, to infiltrate our school. The Illuminati! They send out Illuminati aliens in disguise. This is what the student government is. Illuminati aliens.

But how could just 20 Illuminati aliens take over the school? Because it's not just 20. It's hundreds. Every student that works in the darkness, behind every great event. The marketing team, the newspaper writers, the backstage people in the school plays. They all are Illuminati aliens taking over our school. Who do you know that's in any of these clubs? Do not trust them!

Actually with further information I found that the secret project was the teacher appreciation posters. So scratch the Illuminati aliens.

Teacher becomes "literally the worst"

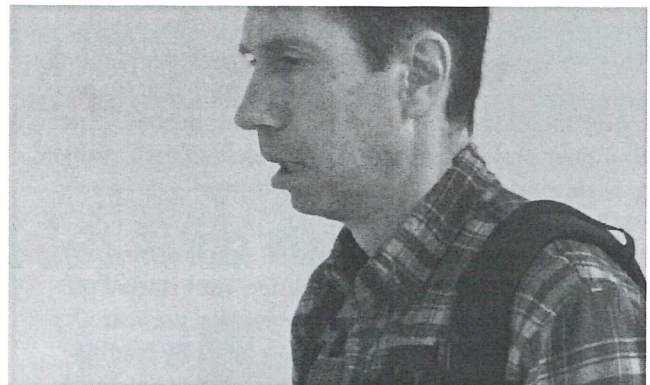
Thomas Verner
Staff Writer

Following the denied request of a student to have class outside, Open World Learning Community English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt is facing the prospect of being "literally the worst" for the remainder of the year.

The request came on Thursday following student Ma'ingan Sherritt-Stone's return from the four square court at around 12:46. Upon its denial, exasperated sighs were allegedly heard throughout the 2nd floor, but provided no change in Leo's ruling.

The students continued to try to change Leo's opinion, providing details such as the weather, the days left until schools out, and the last time they were able to have school outside. However none of the facts could help Leo realize his mistake.

The teachers union have stated that they remain in full support of the teacher, according to a statement released by their representative Steve Eckman. The report



Leo: Literally the worst

also stated "situations like this are exactly why we need tenure for teachers, protecting teachers from slip ups like this," Eckman continued to say "the only way to get rid of a teacher is through death," while cackling maniacally. Bickelhaupt also stated that he was glad he hadn't made this mistake as a first year teacher, as now he can benefit from the protection of the teachers union.

Past incidents of this have resulted in teachers leaving the district or seeking less visible employment. Despite this, the district say they have no plans to dismiss the teacher, as he has made no other mistakes such as this.

Summer is here

Patrick Verner
Staff Writer

Well, as the school year finally comes to a close, us, as good students, are now on the verge of an equally daunting prospect: summer. Yes, for most of you your favorite three months of unstructured screen time are fast approaching. If you are a senior, just continue doing what you did all year, it's basically the same. However, I want to issue a warning to all of you: make sure you don't get to the next year of school and realize you wasted and squandered it doing meaningful stuff.

Now, the allure of doing something which might have a positive effect on your future can be quite strong but too often I see young, bright children such as yourself (well, not you, but that kid next to you maybe) wasting all their free time by doing something valid. Instead, I urge all of you to take stock of yourself and embrace the opportunity you have been given. It is time for you to rise up, and ensure you spend all of your summer doing nothing productive whatsoever.

To help with this I have compiled a useful list of strategies one can use to prevent such a dastardly problem as squandering your precious summer doing worthwhile things.

Television: this iconic waste of time is one of the few things that's actually older than Leo. Nowadays you kids have all sorts of Net-flicks and other junk, but that's no fun. Instead, you should wander over to just normal TV, not even cable. There you'll find a delightful mix of right-wing evangelical programming and reruns of shows that weren't ever funny.

Substance abuse: everyone's favorite type of abuse takes on a new lens during summer. When you no longer

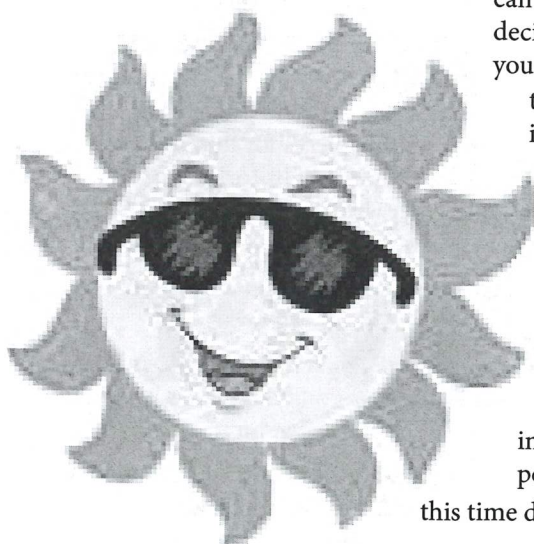
can blame your decisions on stress you can struggle to come up with increasingly far

etched reasons for your habits.

Excessive amounts of sleeping: Spend time lying down

in a horizontal position, except

this time don't go on your



phone or watch TV or whatever. Instead simply lie down, and do nothing. It's simple.

Video games: waste your time living out adventures and lives you can only dream of, like in Sims, where you might actually get a job and possibly contribute to society.

I hope all of you bright young children resist the urge of doing something worthwhile and useful over summer, and instead use some of my helpful tactics so that by the time September rolls around you haven't squandered your summer doing anything beneficial. Have a good summer, losers.

Admissions from page 1

district. Applicants with sibling preference (meaning they have a sibling already attending the school) are the first to be admitted. Having a parent who works as a teacher or administrator the district can also move you up the list. This was negotiated by the teachers union with the school district and is relatively new.

Students who come from outside the district are the least likely to get accepted because the spots are first filled by those who live in the city. If they have a parent who works in the district or a sibling at the school, then they are viewed as the same as those in the city. Additionally, the best chance of acceptance is given for students who apply on time- this year the deadline was February 17th.

The Student Placement Center handles the admittance process for the entire district as a way to ensure that it is done equitably and according to the rules established. Applicants receive a number according to the pool of people who have applied online, first choice is given to those with sibling or staff preferences. The rest of the applicants are given a number according to the rest of the spots that are open and those who are not admitted are put on a waitlist.

In this year's incoming sixth grade class, for example, there are 17 siblings coming and a number of children of SPPS staff. As a citywide magnet, all students have an equal chance of getting in throughout St. Paul. There is no preference given to a particular neighborhood or any other factor including gender, race, religion, ethnicity or socioeconomic status.

The admissions process for OWL has been determined by the district and it is the same for all magnet schools in Saint Paul. No staff member at OWL has any control or voice in who is admitted. Instead, the process is designed to be algorithmic.

Diversity from page 1

trict made the decision to cut the K-5 program, it affected many families who relied on having all their children in one school.

Another factor that has affected demographics has been the changes in location. Three school buildings in five years have also altered the number of students at OWL significantly. With each change, some families are lost due to anything from a longer commute to the uncertainty of sending their kids to school in an unknown neighborhood and sharing a building with another school.

Recruitment has also changed significantly in the last five years and also has most likely changed the demographics of our school. Word of mouth was heavily relied upon in the K-12 days. Now, while word of mouth is still important, there are many more ways in which the school is advertized. "It's almost as if we are a business that has to compete," said English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt, who has taught here for nearly twenty years, "The way that the school is marketed to prospective families has changed drastically, it's become a lot more professional and polished."

For the two years at the Kellogg building, the enrollment with just the secondary school was just over 200 students. Not just diversity, but student numbers in general were very much a problem at the beginning of the changes.

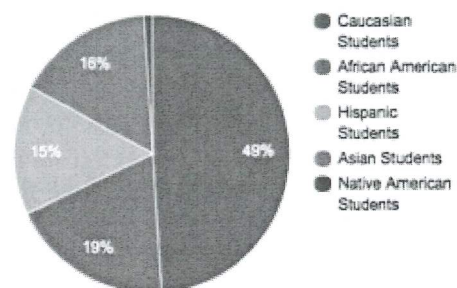
The schools two moves coincided with the restructuring of the school from an Open School to the EL Education learning model. While the first year as an EL school was in 2010, the model really kicked in with the move downtown, when full fledged expeditions were incorporated into classes. One thing the EL model has done is make OWL more appealing to parents who are very focused on education and are usually highly educated themselves. "That's the way it is throughout the entire EL network," said program coordinator Tim Leone-Getten, "It generally attracts highly-educated, education-minded people. There are lots of parents who are teachers or professors at the U of

M for example."

While the school can recruit students, school shopping tends to be a privileged pastime, so it does not help the decreasing diversity. "It's something that takes time, internet access, money and the ability to take time off work," said science teacher Megan Hall. Another inhibitor to recruiting more diverse students is the fact that the district has been moving towards neighborhood schools, setting up articulations from elementary to secondary schools. If an elementary school articulates to a given middle school, OWL cannot recruit there. It is against district rules. That does not mean that a student from Maxfield Elementary cannot apply and attend OWL, it just means that we cannot actively recruit students there because they are encouraged to attend the default school, Ramsey middle school.

The school hopes to increase the amount of students of colour in several ways. There have been more recruitment events for new sixth graders at primarily Hmong schools such as frost lake and phalen lake elementary schools which has resulted in an increase in Hmong students in next years sixth grade class. This is how the majority of recruitment time spent, because the only way to increase the diversity of the student body is to increase the diversity of the applicant pool. By going to those schools more direct contact with families is made.

Open School Student Demographics from 2014



Expeditions from page 1

8th grade - River

Over the course of the year, the 8th graders have visited several locations along the Mississippi, including the river's headwaters in Itasca state park, Minnehaha Falls, Fort Snelling, Pilot Knob, Harriet Island, the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, and Kaposia. In Itasca, students had the opportunity to climb the fire tower and cross the beginnings of the river, which, at that point, is still narrow and shallow enough to wade across. "We went canoeing, hiking, did a lot of community building, and learned about the river and the headwaters," said 8th grader Lauren Mitchell. They also visited Fort Snelling, Pilot Knob, and Kaposia, where they learned about the history of the Dakota people, as well as the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and Harriet Island.

As the year comes to a close, the 8th graders are working hard to finish their writing pieces for this year's river book. Each section will have a piece of historical fiction and a feature story, among other writing pieces, and each student is responsible for at least one piece of writing for the book. "Of all the projects

we've done this year, I'm most proud of my historical fiction piece for the river book," Lauren said. They presented the river book at the celebration of learning.

OPEN • WORLD LEARNING
river
spring 2016



REVIEWS N' STUFF



Lemonade, Beyoncé's new album

Sawyer Neske
Staff Writer

"Uh, this is your final warning you know I give you life, if you try this [expletive] again you gonna lose your wife!" Beyoncé screams as she throws the ring from her finger at the camera. As you all probably know Beyoncé has blessed us once again by releasing a new album, as usual none of us were ready for the masterpiece that is *Lemonade*. Most people have speculated that Jay Z had been cheating on Bey over the last few years. Her public relations strategy was "smile and give no interviews". In this new album she makes



Beyoncé in her film Lemonade.

it clear that we were wrong about her relationship with Jay-Z by completely telling her side of the story.

This is her second visual album. On her last album, *BEYONCÉ*, each piece of music correlated to a music video. In this album Beyoncé compiles all of the songs on the album into one movie with music spoken word interludes between songs. The album I believe is mostly about relationships self finding. The movie premiered on HBO on and was quickly praised for its amazing visuals. It is available for download on iTunes and Amazon and it can be streamed on Tidal.

As I see it, the album breaks down into five important themes: intrusion and denial; anger and apathy; emptiness and accountability; reformation and forgiveness; resurrection, hope, and redemption.

Intrusion and Denial

In the first song "Pray You Catch Me" you can tell

Lemonade continued on page 13

How to write like me

Antonio Carvale
Staff Writer



Antonio Carvale
Staff Columnist

First things first, I'm the realist. The other first things first is how I need to address these redonkulous rumors regarding how all my articles are the same thing. The reason for that is because they are all the same thing. Here I go losers. The same thing every time and I'm back at it again with the white stereotypes and out of date Internet references.

How to write an Antonio column in some number of semi easy steps depending on how much of a common dog you are.

Step one. Find something that people like and don't like it. I may just sound like a hipster. That's because I am one.

Step two. Insert offensive jokes that are too offensive and have to be deleted. Why? Because I like to waste your time. I'm doing it right now. Nice.

Step three. Be a depressed loser and insert multiple cries for help throughout the column then play them off as jokes. Kill me. Hilarious right.

Step four. Tell everyone to follow your Instagrams @the_thunderbird_ or whatever your Instagram is, which doesn't matter unless you are following @the_thunderbird_ in which case continue doing that. That doesn't even make sense, a pox upon logic and everyone with it. I'm not deleting this part.

Step five. Outro paragraph. 9/11 joke, movie reference, Beastie Boys lyrics, every time it's not that complicated.

Step six. Talk about how you got in trouble once as a kid and exaggerate it to the point of almost being entertaining.

Step seven. Tell everyone to have a bad day.

Antonio continued on page 11

You can't be racist towards white people

Leena Abdula
Staff Writer

That's right. You
can't. Stay mad. Racism
is not the same as ra-

cial prejudice - it's just a fact. Because racism requires the perpetrator to have privilege and power. If I were to call you a "cracker" (I probably wouldn't, just an example) it would not be the same as you calling me a "sand n****". Me calling you a cracker is a reaction to the oppression I face. ALSO CRACKER IS A SNACK BOI!

The n word and other racial slurs are much, much worse.

Getting called a "cracker" or "honkie" is not and will never be the same as centuries of oppression, racism, ethnic cleansing, colonization and imperialism.

So of course, I have to give back up information because I can't just explain it in a nutshell and then leave for the summer. Lol. So first off: Racial prejudice and institutionalized racism are not the same. The word racism originally was referring to a racial prejudice induced by institution and power, whereas racial prejudice is just racial prejudice, pretty self explanatory. However, from the moment you started learning about civil rights in the second grade, you were taught that racism is just racial prejudice. Not only that, but you'll probably tell me that the dictionary definition is not institutional, when in fact all those dictionaries are written by white people. Enough said.

In order to perpetrate racism you need racial privilege and power. For example, if a black man who was just beaten by a white cop calls the white cop a "cracker" then that's not racism, that is racial prejudice. If someone were to punch you in the face and you yelled a cuss word at them would that suddenly mean that you were no different

than that person who punched you? No. Because that was honestly an appropriate reaction to someone straight up punching you. Although sometimes reaction to oppression may be harsh that doesn't change the fact that is racial prejudice not racism. Racism is a very systemic thing. centuries of oppression does not equal being called "Becky with the good hair".

Almost every time I have this argument with someone it's almost always about a petty joke I made about myself, or one of my friends of color made about me. I'll laugh along but if it is a white person I get aggravated. I do this for obvious reasons such as other people of color are just using humor to move their life along and have a positive attitude while a cop pulls you over because you're brown and then beats you when you get out to show your license and registration more clearly. But when my white friend makes that joke I can't be sure if it's "just a joke" because they have a privilege and power; I do not. This may cause me to question their intentions. I as an individual can choose who and who I do not accept friendly jokes from. You calling me racist for disliking a joke you made about me is ludicrous. Racism is getting killed while unarmed by a police officer, getting kicked off a flight for what you look like, having a job you're qualified for not given to you because you're not white. Not being able to make joke out of respect for another person and their identity or getting called "Becky" by Beyonce is not racism. Get over it.

Hard truths aren't racist they're just hard to hear. That being said please don't approach me in the halls trying to have a debate because Google exists for a reason. Use it. I'm also very tired and don't care what you think, I choked on toothpaste this morning. Have a great summer.

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child

Amaya Boulanger
Staff Writer

It's almost time
for the moment we've

all been waiting for. The release. People have persevered through denial, written letters, and even cried, waiting for this moment to come. What is it?

On July 31st, in the summer of 2016, Harry Potter lovers from all over the world will travel to the Palace Theater in London, England to see the already famed, two-part play, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child.

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child is "the eighth story" of the Harry Potter series. It is split into two parts, like the last movie in the series, with an intermission in the middle.

Starring Jamie Parker as Harry Potter, Noma Dumezweni as Hermione Granger, and Paul Thornley as

Ronald Weasley, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child will tell the story of Harry, Ron, Hermione, and their kids 19 years after Voldemort is killed and the trio finish their years at Hogwarts. The play is written by Jack Thorne, J.K. Rowling, and John Tiffany.

It was always difficult being Harry Potter and it isn't much easier now that he is an overworked auror at the Ministry of Magic, a husband, and father of three kids currently attending Hogwarts.

While Harry deals with a past that refuses to stay where it belongs, his youngest child, Albus Severus must struggle with a family legacy he never wanted. As past and present fuse, both father and son learn the uncomfortable truth: sometimes, darkness comes from unexpected places.

Hacknet: a legitimate hacker experience

AJ LeSure
Staff Writer

You have been assigned with the task of breaching a website's file system for information about a secret formula, of which you must upload to a database. You type away at the keyboard as you bypass proxies and burn through firewalls. You have successfully probed the website and have hacked yourself into an administrative account. Now all that's left is to find those files.

Hacknet, an indie game for PC developed by Team Fractal Alligator, is an immersive hacker simulation that revolves around you, a rookie hacker slowly progressing your way through different more complicated tasks, which you are assigned by an Anonymous-esque group, with the sole purpose of enforcing justice through the cyberspace. The game, available on Steam, can be bought for 10 bucks.

After enveloping myself in the game for more than five hours, I have come to the conclusion that this is literally one of the best games out there for aspiring and veteran computer nerds alike. Your goal is to fulfill the requests of different anonymous clients (with good intentions) in the form of "contracts," received by the hacker group you're working for, called Entropy. The interface of the game may seem a bit overwhelming and complicated at first, but as long as you listen to Bit, a deceased cyber friend who guides you through a tutorial, you should be fine, especially as you gain experience from different contracts. The whole time a vibrant, but not too crazy soundtrack plays and changes according to the situation.

As an extra note, you have to be careful to erase your tracks, and to make it seem like you were never lurking in the files of someone else's system, or else it could lead to dire consequences. Like for one, I got my x-server deleted, which means that the beautiful and helpful interface was destroyed, so I had to hack myself back into the game, which was pretty dope, actually.

Personally, I enjoyed every second of this game. I have never gotten too deep into computer stuff, but this game sure encourages me to do so. It's so invigorating to apply different skills and knowledge you've learned throughout the game, and form it into a careful craft that you use to fight unjust forces on the web. To break it all down, the pros: very satisfying for people who love to type, a very immersive experience, great UI (user interface), fun contracts and missions. The cons: may seem

daunting for people not familiar with the concepts, can be very complicated and confusing.

Overall, I would give this game a solid 9/10. I would love to recommend this to anyone who finds hacking and computer stuff interesting. This game is a big hit usually with nerds. And, for only \$10, this game is definitely worth it.



Antonio from page 9

Bonus points for bad puns and references no one is going to get.

Boom that's it, how to write an Antonio column in 7 easy and stupid steps. The one reason that they keep running these is because I'm actually 12 squirrels in the world's most elaborate human costume and everyone's pretending not to notice. But that can't be true, that's nuts. (That was a squirrel pun, you gleeking footlickers.)

The only reason for this 'how to' nonsense is because the fact has, like a planet of apes, dawned on me. That I may not live forever like the prophecy prophesizes and I may in fact die like the rest of you losers. And although Zorp the lizard God would be pleased with animal sacrifices to keep me alive, apparently nooooooooooooo, that's insane, and I'm unmuzzled, and I'm not allowed in Petsmart anymore. Petsmart, more like pet dumb. Nice.

I'm seriously out of ideas for newspaper columns. You all noticed the increasingly bad quality and I'm not denying that, but there's not much I can change and unless there's a new genocide I can make fun of I guess I'm stuck like this and all you losers are too. So unless a llama cuts off my hands and eats them I guess we're stuck in this lazily written limbo of bad puns, overused jokes and wishing I was dead. Hilarious.

Outros are stupid. The end.

BOOKS

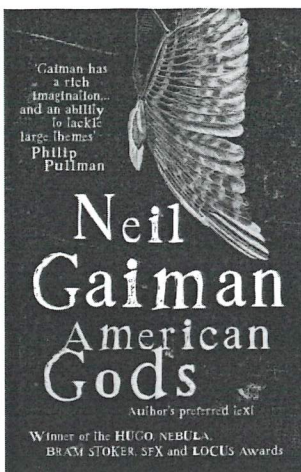
"American Gods"

Shannon Kiekhaefer
Guest Writer

I'd like to preface this by saying that this book has some darkness to it, and is therefore not for the light of heart or faint of mood.

I'm sure many of you are familiar with Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson and Kane Chronicles series. The book I'm reviewing today is set in a very similar world, but told from the perspective of a completely ordinary, supernatural-free man, with very simple tastes a talent for coin tricks.

Our protagonist is a veritable mountain of a man whom we know only by his nickname -- Shadow. Shadow has spent the last three years of his life in prison. He should have served five, but he stayed on his best behavior. Everyday, he has dreamed of his parole, and of his loving wife Laura. But as he finds himself stepping outside of incarceration, he comes to see that the life he thought was waiting for him is



in ruins. Laura is dead. The job he thought was waiting for him, gone. Any remaining friends or neighbors are terrified of him and shower him with blame.

The only person who doesn't seem to care at all is the strange and enigmatic Mr. Wednesday, a suave older man in a suit that Shadow meets on the plane home. Mr. Wednesday knows far more about Shadow than he reasonably should, and is very persistent in his attempts to hire Shadow as a bodyguard. It takes him quite a bit of convincing, haggling, and more than a few drinks, but Shadow doesn't see many other options, and takes the job. Wednesday quickly pulls Shadow into a world he didn't know existed, where gods both ancient and modern are vying for control over the very soul of America.

American Gods continued on page 13

The debate of the century

Clarice Timm
Staff Writer

Which Harry Potter book is the best? The Sorcerer's Stone? When Harry experiences Hogwarts for the first time, and meets Ron and Hermione, or the Chamber of Secrets, where Harry meets Dobby and ignores warnings to return to Hogwarts where mysterious attacks take place? Another possibility is the Prisoner of Azkaban where Sirius Black has escaped from wizards prison and there is a new defense against the dark arts teacher. There are so many factors to be considered when deciding which book is the best, and people tend to have strong opinions.

My personal favorite is the Goblet of Fire. Where Harry is forced to compete in the triwizard tournament after his name somehow gets into the goblet. But what do other people think?

"I like the Goblet of Fire, because there is the triwizard tournament and competitions are fun to participate in, watch, and read about", says eighth grade student Zhan-na Dunagan. "My favorite is definitely the Goblet of Fire, but my second favorite is the Sorcerer's Stone", quoted sixth

grader Ingrid Ebbesen. "I liked the Goblet of Fire because it taught you about the other schools", said math teacher Tom Totushek. Spanish teacher Tim Leone-Getten says he loves the Goblet of Fire "the tournament is exciting and there is a lot of great action." But he also enjoys the first book.

Another popular choice is The Prisoner of Azkaban. In this book there are various mysterious attacks around the school and Harry discovers his patronus. "I like book three (Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban) because Sirius is there for Harry, and because Harry discovers his patronus," said Megan Hall. "I think the Prisoner of Azkaban is the best because save Buckbeak!", said 7th grader Sam Kellar-Long.

Harry Potter continued on page 13



American Gods from page 12

This book will forever hold a special place in my heart. Neil Gaiman's first novel set entirely in America, starring an American cast, and his first since he started to live here, it is both a comedy and a tragedy, a mystery thriller and a philosophy, and, most importantly, an analysis between sworn duties and loyalties and what it truly means to be a unique human.

The great gods and goddesses and mythical beings of old are real, made flesh by humanity's pure, distilled belief in them. When people left the Old Country and came to this new world that would become America, they brought those beliefs with them. Thus, the gods were created anew here in this land -- albeit slightly twisted by these new American ideals. Every ethnic group that has members or descendants in America has its higher powers here: Hindu, Egyptian, Middle Eastern, Norse, Japanese, Celtic, and do on. They roam this land with the same powers and desires as they do in their tales.

But, recently, as of the past few years, new gods have started to crop up. Gods of plastic and television, of Internet and credit cards, of cancer and drugs and caffeine and fast food. New gods. Young gods. Ambitious gods. American gods.

The deities of past and present are on the cusp of all-out war. And to the victors go the spoils. Which, in this case, is the unadulterated belief of the very heart of America.

But, as Shadow is repeatedly told, America is not a place for gods.

Harry Potter from page 12

Eleventh grader Grace Gardner says "everyone knows number three is the best of the Harry Potter books. After the third book, I feel like the Harry Potter series gets increasingly violent. The third book is the most playful and overall a fun read."

Others picked the Sorcerer's Stone. In this book Harry discovers that he is a wizard and goes to Hogwarts for the first time. "I love the first one (Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone) because it brings you into this hidden world and everything is magical and exciting," said Tim.

Still some fans refuse to pick a favorite. Eighth grader Grace Bellamy said, "I don't have a favorite book because I love all of them and depending on my mood I have a book that I really want to read or don't want to, but I love all of them." Eleventh grader Dakota Roelofs enjoys all the books and also doesn't have a favorite "because they are awesome and J.K Rowling really writes the books so you are transported into the world of Harry Potter so you're flying in a Quidditch match to watching a duel with dudes and wands, falling in love with the amazing characters going in adventures that have surprising twists and turns. Read them and you'll see what I'm talking about."

J.K Rowling confessed that her favorite book is the Deathly Hallows. "It was the culmination of 17 years work and the most cathartic piece of writing of my life," Rowling said. For the author of the Harry Potter books it may have been easy to select one out of seven. For the rest of us, this decision can be more difficult.

Lemonade from 9

that Beyonce is wondering if Jay-Z's is not so faithful to her. "You can taste the dishonesty, it's all over your breath as you pass it off so cavalier, but even that's a test constantly aware of it all, my lonely ear pressed against the walls of your world" she whispers as she wanders through a field of grass.

Anger and Apathy

By "Hold Up" She has definitely figured out what he is doing and is over it. She then sings the song "Sorry" Beyonce is very mad and is over Jay-Z. Beyonce also talks about her father and how he warned her about men like Jay-Z in the louisiana influenced song "Daddy Lessons".

Emptiness and Accountability

In the songs "Love Drought" and "Sandcastles" Beyonce sings about some more personal experiences that she and Jay-Z have had together. "We built sand castles that washed away, I made you cry when I walked away"

Reformation and Forgiveness

In the end of the album "All Night" is her make up song to her husband. She realizes that Jay-Z is the love of

her life and forgives him for what he has done "We together, I remember sweet love all night long. how I missed you my love." Is the ending of the song.

Resurrection, Hope and Redemption

The last two songs titled "Formation" and "Freedom" song very littered with amazing social commentary. Formation used very intense and thought provoking visuals to get the point of the song across. "Freedom, Freedom where are you? Cause I need freedom too I break chains all by myself won't let my freedom rot in hell."

Just listening to the album seems like a movie, she tells such a story in the music that you can tell who she is mad at and you can follow her emotions so well. Beyonce continues to amaze me with her very rich and socially apt music she is not afraid to take a stand and speak her feelings in her songs. My final thoughts on this work of art are, are my blood type is definitely lemonade and Beyonce definitely did not bring Jay-Z to Red Lobster.

Ask Grace!

How did you get your name?

I'm actually not really sure how I got my name. My parents liked it, and thought it was pretty, and that's pretty much the end of the story. Then after I was born, the most popular list of baby names came out, and Grace was one of the most popular! My parents were pretty surprised, but at that point they couldn't really change it to be less mainstream. So Grace I became, and share the name with many others my age all across the country.

--Rowing Grace

The choice for my name was between Grace and I think Abigail. When I was born, apparently I didn't cry that much, so my parents went with Grace. I'm told that I was born right about as the puck dropped at a hockey game between St. Cloud State and Minnesota. My grandparents are huge St. Cloud fans, so that's kind of cool, even though that's has nothing to do with how I was named. Like Rowing Grace, my parents realized after I was born that my name was quite popular.

--Swimming Grace

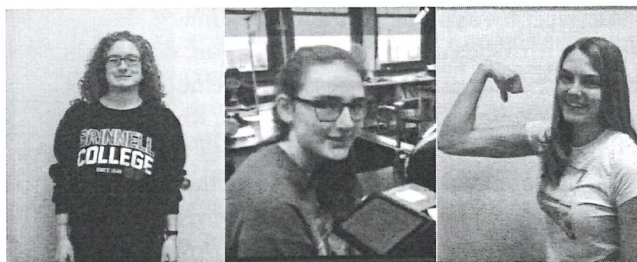
What's your favorite way to eat pasta?

Pasta is so good! My favorite is definitely chicken pesto on farfalle noodles, but so many other types of pasta are also delicious. It's a tradition for my rowing team to go out and eat pasta before an important race, so that also makes for a good time. Mainly I just love eating lots of pasta, with lots of sauce, when I am hungry. Simple, but delicious, and one of my favorite foods.

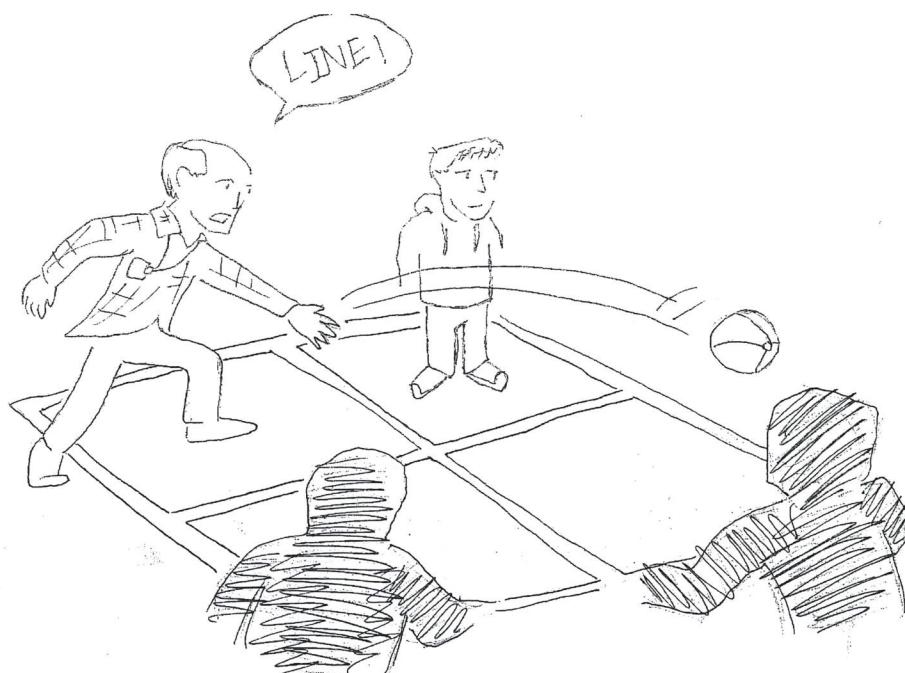
--Rowing Grace

I think this is the most difficult question that I've had with Ask Grace. I can't say for sure what my favorite way to eat pasta is, because I love them all! My favorite ways are any way that my dad makes -- he's a great cook.

--Swimming Grace



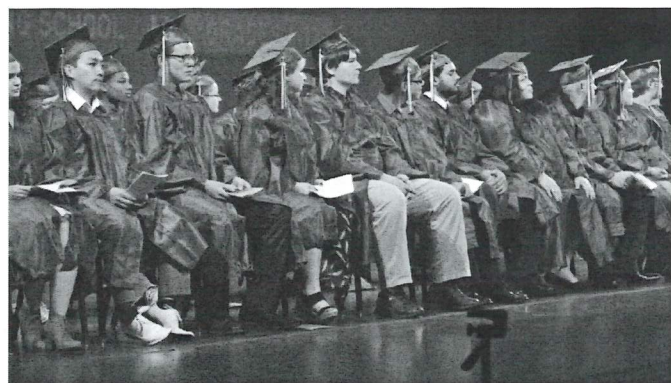
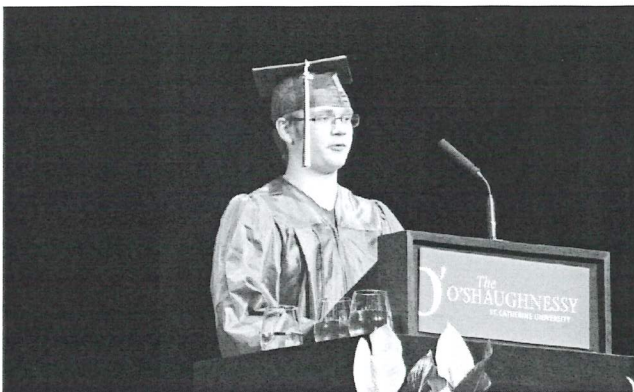
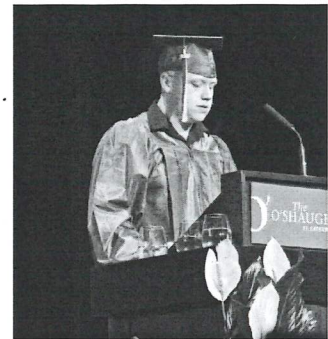
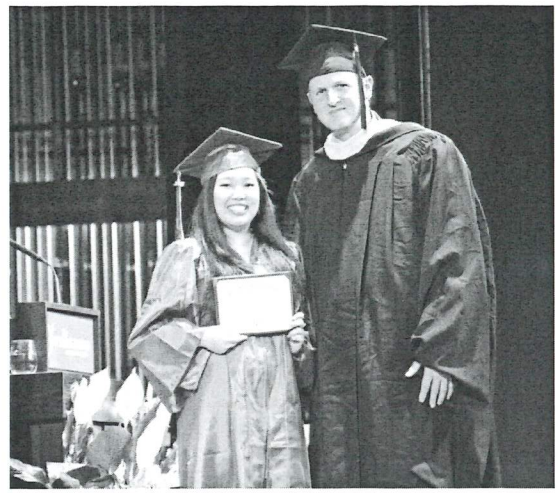
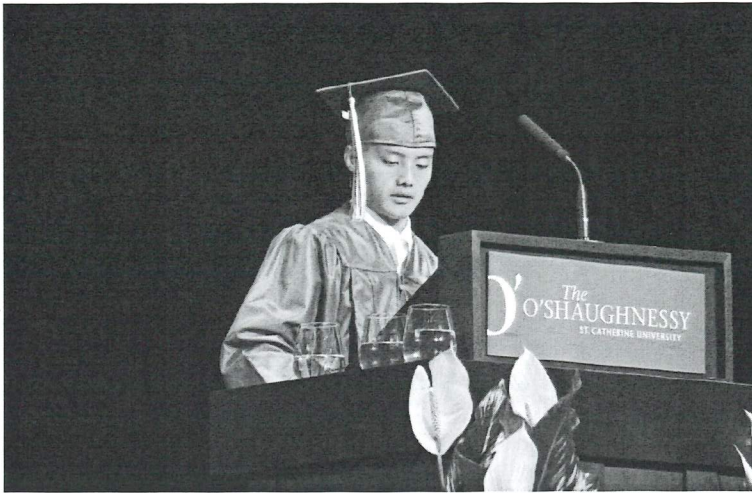
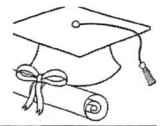
Are you wondering about anything? Email askgrace.owl@gmail.com with your questions, and they will answer!



What Tim's Really Doing when you can't find Him



CONGRATULATIONS





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