

Purple Press

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Adams against hunger

Quinn Christensen
Staff Writer

On Friday, January 22nd, Program Coordinator Tim Leone-Getten and a group of OWL students visited Adams Spanish Immersion Elementary School to help the younger students pack over 36,000 meals to send to Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Haiti.



Adams has been hosting Kids Against Hunger annually for eight years now, and OWL students have been assisting for just as long. It has become a tradition for many of the students, and Adams alums love coming back and visiting the younger children while completing some

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Synchronized swimming

Shayla Brooks
Staff Writer

Imagine trying to run a mile in three and a ½ minutes, upside down, holding your breath, synchronized with other runners, and maintaining perfect posture. Oh, and keep in mind you're supposed to make that look effortless.

If you can do all that, then you know what it's like to be in a synchronized swimming competition. Synchronized swimming, or synchro as it is commonly referred to, is a sport of strength and grace. Synchro started being called "Water Ballet", and was started by Esther Williams, an actor that made swimming movies. Synchro has been in the summer Olympics since the 1984 games. It has evolved a lot since those Esther Williams days when it was slow and pretty. It is now fast and competitive, with crazy throws and people who commit their life to it.

For avid "synchies," synchro is many things. It's being close to your teammates and messing around when you're all go-

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Choir concert

Grace Bellamy
Staff Writer

Open World Learning's first choir concert in about seven years took place on January 21st, at seven p.m. in auditorium, conducted by Alex Ferderer, the choir teacher.

The middle school choir started it off by singing "Danny Boy", "Turtle Dove", and "Friends Till the End." They were followed by the high school choir, who sang "Dirait-on," "This Marriage," and "I Am Not Yours." The jazz choir sang without accompaniment or a conductor, "Little Bitty Pretty One," "Gravity," and "Just The Way You Are." Then they all came together



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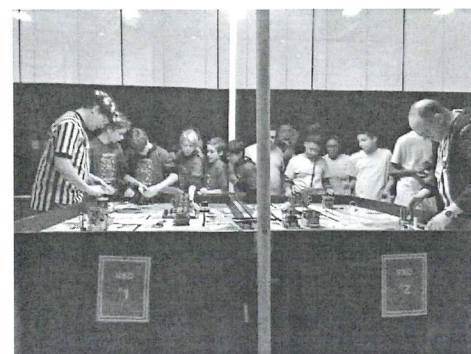
OPEN NEWS

Lego league: post-game

Fiona Shyne
Staff Writer

First Lego League (FLL) has three parts to it. First there is the game, where you have to build a robot out of Legos that can compete as many tasks as possible in two and a half minutes. Next there is the project where you have come up with a solution to a problem and perform it to the judges. Then there is core values, which show how well you work as a team. Being at a school like OWL, we have always excelled at these.

Every year they have a theme. This year's theme is called Trash Trek. The teams have to complete trash themed missions with the robot, as well as come up with a solution to trash centered

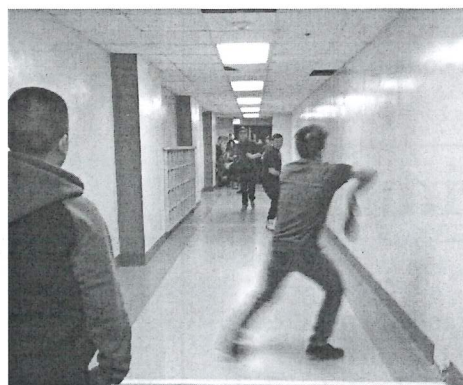


problems. The theme asks team to explore how trash is sorted, collected, produced, and reused.

The tournament was held on Saturday, January 30th at Washington High school. The team placed 5th out of 13 in their division

Fraquetball officialy begins

Tom Hobday
Staff Writer



Between 11:22 and 12:43 the hallway to the gym rings with the sound of hard shots and calls of goal. The 2016 fraquetball season is officially underway.

The early front runners this season are El Tigre (Tom Hobday and Ma'iingan Sherrit-Stone) with 3 wins. They recently shut out The Alpha Numericals (math teachers Tom Totushek and Damon Liberatore) 7-0. Ma'iingan's shots looked like no one could

stop them, and they cruised in for a win. This game will probably determine seeding in 2nd lunch.

In 2nd lunch, the Flying Pickles (Seniors Daniel LeTran and Chua Moua) are looking a bit vulnerable. Daniel is not playing because he's recovering from a torn ACL, and although Chua is very good, he can't win big games with a sub. The Alpha Numericals and El Tigre look to capitalize on the injury before Daniel returns.

In 1st lunch there are only 6 teams, making for a really small playing pool. S.W.A.T. (8th graders Jaydon Gilkes and Lu Vang) beat 11th grader Patrick Verner and 8th grader Sev Holm. "I felt disappointment in the loss. It was the first game and there was a complicated switch thingy. I think we should have won," Patrick said. In a rematch later, Patrick's team beat Jaydon's team "pretty goodly," said 8th grade spectator Theo Sage-Martinson. This lunch is up

Fraquetball continued on page 10

Corn kills butterflies

Sam Kellar-Long
Staff Writer

You are what you eat. The phrase used to get people to eat healthy, so they don't look like a walking cake. But really, if you are what you eat, the majority of America is a cornfield.

Imagine you're at home eating the healthy breakfast of toast with grape jelly, yogurt and Raisin Bran. Healthy, right? Who do you think you're kidding, all of those foods probably have high fructose corn syrup (HFCS). There can also be corn in ketchup, wheat thins, and even pizza.

You may be thinking "Why is there so much corn?" The simple answer is, it's cheap. To a business, HFCS is just cheap sugar. And America is great at growing corn. Corn growers in Michigan generated \$1.5 billion last year, just from selling corn. And that's just Michigan. Actually, about 75% of the foods at grocery stores contain corn. Yeah, America likes its corn.

Now let's go completely off topic and talk about butterflies. Personally, I love butterflies. Especially Monarch butterflies, those are the best. But Monarchs need milkweed to survive. Now let's go back to corn. Let's say you're a corn farmer, and every once in a while you

Corn continued on page 13

Spoilers! how could you

Zhanna Dunagan
Staff Writer

The year was 1989. Spanish teacher and program coordinator Tim Leone-Getten was excited to watch the final stage of the Tour de France when he got home from work, so he had arranged for his dad to tape it for him. American Greg LeMond was in the running to win his second title, but he was 50 seconds behind going into the final stage. It was setting up to be a close race. When Tim came to pick up the tape, his dad told him with a smile, "here's the tape. It's so great. Greg won!"

Yes, this article is all about the things that disappoint you most: Spoilers. Don't you just hate when you are really looking forward to something- watching a game you taped, going to see a new movie, or finishing a new book- and someone else spoils it for you?

English teacher Kevin Hansen's Rule #1A: "If someone is talking to you about a show or movie that they intend to watch, then it is never okay to give a spoiler."

However, whose "fault" is it? If you didn't get a chance to see it over the weekend, should other people be kind and not talk about the movie, or do you think the non viewer should have watched the movie if they didn't want to know what happens?

Spoilers continued on page 6

History Day is underway

Grace Bellamy
Staff Writer

The stress is growing, last minute interviews are taking place, frantic bibliography-building Google searches are rampant-- OWL History Day is February 24th.

This year's theme is "Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History." All 6th, 7th, and US History students have been preparing, and their chance to move on is here.

But the competition is not limited to those for whom History Day is mandated-- other students will compete as well. Senior group performance team of 8th grader Quinn Christensen, 9th grader Logan Doran, 10th grader Simon Dungan-Seaver, and 11th grader Madie Scott are doing their project on the World Fair of 1893. The group has competed at high levels and they hope to do the same again.

11th graders Grace and Sovigne Gardner have been participating in History Day since 7th grade. Grace went to nationals in 7th grade, and they both went to the 2013 national competition in 8th grade with the project Spartacus: The Movie that Broke the Blacklist. Their topic this year is Jacques Cousteau. The 10th grade group of Eli Sage-Martinson, Sam Dale-Gau, and Leona DeRango chose the Apollo

Soyuz test project as their topic. Eli has successfully made it to nationals twice, once with Simon and Bjorn Holm, and once with Bjorn and Sam.

Susanne Hollingsworth, a former social studies teacher at Open, has been helping students revise their History Day projects since she retired. Her husband, David, is also helping. Another person that can help is "an expert, like me," said 8th grader Theo Sage-Martinson, whose topic is Sir Francis Drake.



The OWL History Day squad: 2013

Chua Moua

How many years have you been at OWL?

7 years.

What are your plans for next year?

I'm going to Carleton College and am planning to pursue a degree in computer science.

What are you going to miss the most?

The teachers. I've known them for so many years.

Do you have any advice for younger students?

Just make the best out of your four years of high school because they really slide by. Before you know it, you'll be graduating.

Which teacher do you connect to most?

Tom.

What was your favorite field work?

Outward Bound trip.



Adams from page 1

of their required service hours. "I like seeing the kids pack the food and seeing my old teachers," said Tanushri Buck. The OWL students arrived at 7:45 AM and immediately began setting up the cafeteria. Within an hour, the space had been completely transformed, sporting seventeen packing stations complete with ingredients, scales, and sealers. One group of students stayed to man the stations while another, after being split up into pairs, left the cafeteria to get the students from their classrooms.

In the classes, Adams students participated in an exercise called the "hunger banquet," led by two OWL students and their teacher, in which small plates of snacks are used to simulate the distribution of food worldwide. A few students receive red tickets and plates filled with crackers, cheese, fruits, vegetables and even cookies. Slightly more students receive yellow tickets and a few crackers and slices of cheese, while the majority of the students receive blue tickets and just two crackers on their plates.

The exercise resulted in cries of injustice -- sources say one child who had received a blue ticket became so enraged that he threw his plate of crackers at his teacher. Casey Cavanaugh, a first grade teacher, commented on his students' reactions to the simulation, calling the exercise "powerful."

After the hunger banquet, the teachers engaged their students in a more in-depth discussion about what

the exercise symbolizes and their opinions on the outcome. Third grade teacher Marina Medina said, "Muchas de ustedes hechan comida en la basura despues de almuerzo, no? Muchas personas en el mundo no tienen ese opción. Somos muy afortunados." (Many of you throw food away after lunch, no? Many people in the world don't have that option. We are very lucky.) Once the classes finished their discussions, the OWL volunteers led the kids to the cafeteria, where they met up with their table leaders and began packing.

Current Adams students and alums look back on their Adams Against Hunger experience with appreciation. 7th grader Sam Kellar-Long remembered the first packing event, when he was a kindergartener. "[Adams Against Hunger] has taught me how to be selfless," he said, reflecting back on his experience with the food packing events. Highland Park 7th grader Sara Chirhart said that "[Adams Against Hunger] teaches kids at a young age that helping people is important, and it can be fun, too." While the older students may be more articulate, the younger students chimed in as well, with just as much pride, excitement, and understanding as their older counterparts. Second grader Riley Cueller said that Adams was participating in the packing event "to help people that don't have food." Kindergartener Adrian Tavarez agreed, saying that "we're giving the poor people food. [It's important because] that's nice."

Synchro from page 1

ing crazy trying to keep up with everything. It's seven hours at the pool during winter 'break,' it's protein shakes and bars. It's stretching, strength, and endurance. It's being able to hold your breath for long amounts of time. All of this leading up to one thing: Standing on the medal stand with a first place medal around your neck - competition.

A competition in synchro is a complicated thing. The judging is on a scale of one to ten for two areas: routines and figures. The scores from all the judges are then compiled for the final score. Figures is like a very slow and controlled part of a routine. For a video of the different figures, Google "synchronized swimming figures."



The equipment needed for a synchro competition includes a black suit, white cap, team suit, nose clip, goggles, water bottle, a headpiece, and your competition suit. Competition suits are the fancy suits you see synchro swimmers competing in on TV. They take a long time to make, and usually are reused for other swimmers after they're made.

You may have seen synchronized swimmers competing and noticed the stuff they had in their hair. It is called "gel" or "knox" by experienced swimmers. It's basically unflavored jello mixed with hot water. It is painted onto the swimmer's hair which is already up in a tight bun. It then forms a hard crust as it dries until it gets wet, at which point it becomes soft and gooeey.

Swimmers put gel in their hair in order to make sure it stays in a bun and keeps their headpiece in, as well as to make it shiny and nice. A headpiece is a part of the costume put on the bun with bobby pins. They're often sparkly, and always match with the rest of your team. To get gel out, you melt it in a steaming hot shower for sometimes as long as 45 minutes. In the olden days of synchro, they used Vaseline instead!

Training for synchro is a complicated and grueling process. Synchro swimmers practice flexibility, endurance, strength, body control, breath control, and facial expression, just to name a few.

People often ask me about how we hold our breath for so long. Well, here's the answer: we just do. No, that's not

very satisfying, but it's true. We train by just doing it. One of the most common ways to train is by doing "unders," which is where a swimmer will take a breath at one wall, swim the entire 25 meter length of the pool underwater, and then take a breath at the other end. To make an under, you don't need to practice expanding your lungs to get more air in, or something physical like that. All you need to do is overcome your mind.

The first time you do an under is when you truly understand the power of your mind. When I first started synchro, I used to come up a few meters from the end of the pool because my mind couldn't do it. Then, one day, I got tired of not being able to make a full under and just pushed through it. Since then, I have been able to do a double under, which is where you swim down and back underwater without breathing. I can do that because I overcame my mind.

I have been competing in synchro since 5th grade. Other synchro swimmers at OWL include 8th grader Jude DeRango, and 9th grader Kathryn Brazel. All of us swim for the Saint Paul Stars (SPS). Kathryn started synchro because her mom swam synchro in high school. "It's so different than any other sport. It has elements of dance or gymnastics, but it's not like dance or gymnastics at all," she said. Jude started synchro three years ago. "I like that it's a way to express creativity in a unique medium. It requires less



grace on land than dance," she said. When asked why she started synchro she said, "I like the smell of chlorine. No, just kidding, I saw a synchro show and thought it was really cool and wanted to do it. I didn't actually think I was going to stick with it but hey, here I am."

What makes synchro stand out for many of us is how you're supposed to make the whole thing look effortless, yet it takes endurance, self control, and a whole lot of training.

And yes, we are mermaids, in case you're wondering.

"I don't like them," says 8th grader Quinn Christensen. "They are evil and if you spoil something on purpose then you are an evil, evil person."

Before you say anything, you need to MAKE SURE that they are okay with the spoiler. However, Kevin's rule #

1B says otherwise: "If a person intends to watch a show or movie and asks your for a spoiler seriously consider refusing if the twist is big enough and you think that they should find out on their own. If they insist, then tell them to Google it, you want no part in their poor decisions." You

might want to know a spoiler now, but in the future when you are watching/reading it, you are going to regret it.

Well, you could say that the people who spoiled the movie are to blame. I mean, if you are going to talk about the ending of a new movie that came out, you should be more careful of where you talk about the climatic parts and know that most kids do have homework and sports that could stop them from seeing the movie when they want to. It could also be polite to not talk about it around lots of people, especially if they know they haven't seen the movie yet.

On the other hand, if the movie is really popular, you should know that you have to see it before others beat you to it and tell you what happens. Because hey, after you watch a movie, especially if it is really good, you want to talk to your friends about it and rehash the good parts of the movie. You shouldn't have to be "secretive" about it.

With books, it is a bit easier, but not much. Even though you can read it at your leisure, you could still have problems finding time to read the book. Especially if it is a class wide or school wide book where everyone is reading it, some kids will read ahead and then tell others what happens at the end of the book.

If you tape a game, you either have to watch it the next possible moment before you go anywhere or think about who exactly you're planning on hanging out with before you watch it. If I am going to school and I taped an English Premiere League game the day before, I probably don't have to worry much, because not very many people actually watch the EPL at Open. However, if you taped the Vikings game on Sunday, and are playing on watching it on Monday, Monday is going to be really tough because that's what everyone's going to be talking about.

The Internet also has its perks and drawbacks. For one, sometimes when you look up something, random ads, especially if they are sites you go on often, will tell you about big outcomes. Social media plays a factor in spoilers too.

"If you give a spoiler, be prepared to have something spoiled for you."

Whether it is a text, snapchat, email, tweet, etc... You will know. So make sure to shut off your phone, if you don't want to know! Kevin's Rule #4: "If you absolutely do not want to have a show, movie, or game spoiled then it is your responsibility to watch it as soon as it is made available publicly or avoid the internet entirely until you can consume the media. It is the only way to be sure it won't be spoiled."

A rule of thumb is if you are talking about a spoiler to someone in public or writing about it online, IT IS A MUST TO SAY OR WRITE SPOILER ALERT!!! Kevin's Rules #2 and #3: "If you are writing a review or think piece, you must include SPOILER ALERT in bold and all caps on a landing page. Make sure you have enough spaces beneath the words so that they can't see the spoiler. It is never okay to post a spoiler in a Twitter post or Facebook status. If you want to discuss a recent spoiler do that in the comments or via messenger. Writers that write "[CHARACTER'S NAME] Obituary" posts the day after deserve to be fired, and "writers" who craft click-bait headlines like "SHOCKING character death on [BELOVED TELEVISION SERIES] that you wouldn't BELIEVE!" should consider alternate employment."

Even though, all spoilers are rude, you can't be mad at someone for spoiling something that came out years or even months ago. Kevin's Rule #5: "After 30 days you have no right to be mad about a spoiler, but it is still uncouth to spoil." If you don't know



what happens at the end of the Harry Potter series, you've had the chance to read them. With saying that, if you know

someone is reading a book, no

matter how old the book is, don't spoil it!

If you do give spoilers, prepare to have something spoiled for you. You can never take back or forget a spoiler. Kevin's Rule # 1C: "If you spoil something for someone else, they get to spoil something for you. Maybe not today, maybe not tomorrow, but someday. Someday." It really sucks when you have been waiting for the moment when you can finally see the movie, read the book, or watch the big game, and someone tells you what happens.

"Being able to experience a story unsullied of spoilers is a wonderful experience. It takes a lot of effort nowadays to stay away from spoilers. Stay away from the internet, people, and society in general. You will notice things others won't the first time, like foreshadowing and other Easter eggs the director will drop in. Despite knowing how the movie may end, it's still fun to see the path the story takes to get there." says history teacher, Dan Sullivan.

All in all, spoilers can ruin a day. Follow Kevin's rules, and you can maybe avoid the pain.

More complaints, as usual

Letter to the editor. I heard there was a letter to the editor last issue. And with that small piece of k-noledge it fueled me into next quarter with the strength of a billion unborn babies and I knew that my life goal was complete and I could ascend into the after-life shiny and chrome. Then as I ascend with my final words "later world, smell my sneakers," I heard from the heavens "MEDIOCRE," as the mighty fist of Zeus himself punched me right in the stomach straight back to earth and I learned the letter to the editor was not for an Antonio column.



Antonio Carvale
Staff Columnist

There's like two people that give a crap about not complaining about me; whoever wrote the letter and whoever left that flaming bag of people poop at your front door, btw it's not gonna stomp itself out.

Whoever wrote the letter, is seeming to ignore the elephant in the room which is also me in the world's most elaborate elephant costume. If anyone should get complaints distasteful jokes with small hints of social commentary it's gonna be me. But nooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo. Like me, the Purple Press runs on fear and hatred and everything bad. Like the opposite of the Powerpuff Girls. And if you don't get that reference go back to the 90s and watch *Power-*

puff Girls for hours on end because you're like one and a half years old and don't know how to walk yet and your mom and dad are too divorced to remember where they left you.

I'm just disappointed that Leo let this happen. That he completely degraded my story by subtracting the cusses and swears and making it as family friendly as a goshdarned young adult book/movie adaptation and almost just as bad as them too. My point every column is to hurt someone's feelings and not so subtly sneak some hints at how emotionally damaged I am;

Hella.

And no one is going to beat me at my own game. But that's beyond the point. I go through way too much work to be a tough guy to be one upped by any other loser in the school.

How many people wear leather jackets, wingtips, and sunglasses indoors (occasionally when I have migraines it helps with light), and who carries around the first three alien movies in his backpack at all times just in case there's a computer with a disk drive and at least seven minutes to kill? And who actually started watching *Aliens* that one time unknowingly knowing there were some lil' 6th graders who saw everything especially that one part where a dude gets chestbursted and flamethrowered and it's flipping awesome. If anything, the nightmares regarding aliens and flamethrowers is the kids' fault for not being able to teenage the hell up and quit being a lil' baby about the matter.

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Is that you, Paul?

Haakon Neske
Staff Writer

He is one of England's most known singer/musicians. He is part of one of the most important bands in music history. He's worked with so many greats, like David Bowie and Stevie Wonder. But is he really alive? Is this Paul McCartney right now that we know and love, actually the real Paul McCartney?

It is believed that on November 9th, 1966, Paul McCartney died in a car crash after going home from Abbey Road Studios. The Beatles wanted to cover this up because they think it would be too big of a thing for the entire world to know, and so they replaced Paul with a look alike named Billy Shears.

Apparently the other Beatles couldn't handle this lie on their backs, and they left clues in their songs like in Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, which at the ending says "now let me introduce to you the one and only Billy Shears."

Coincidence, I think not!

The other Beatles apparently didn't just leave clues in songs but they also left one clue on the **Abbey Road** album. "Billy Shears" wasn't wearing shoes but the rest of the Beatles members were, and I guess that's a sign of a dead person. He talked about that certain picture with David Letterman, the old *Late Show* comedian. Anyway, Paul McCartney, I mean Billy Shears, said this, "I took my shoes off because it was hot." If that doesn't sound suspicious, I don't know what does.

Our conclusion is that he still is the real Paul McCartney. Wait no! He's Billy Shears! No, he's Paul McCartney. Anyway we leave you with this question, is Paul McCartney really dead? We can't bear to think that Paul passed in a car accident, so we don't think he's dead. Even though the evidence is pretty crazy, we still don't want to think like that.



REVIEWS N' STUFF

Top 5 movies that shaped sci-fi

Nik Logue
Staff Writer

In cinema, science fiction is considered to be one of the most imaginative genres to date. Yet how did this come about? What movies sparked the sci-fi trend we know and love today? For this list, we are counting down the movies that shaped science fiction. To be clear, I am ranking these by how REVOLUTIONARY they are to the film industry, and by the popular opinion of several movie critics. I only say this because fans of my number two pick might not agree with my number one pick. Disclaimer aside, let's get going.

#5: *Blade Runner* (1982)

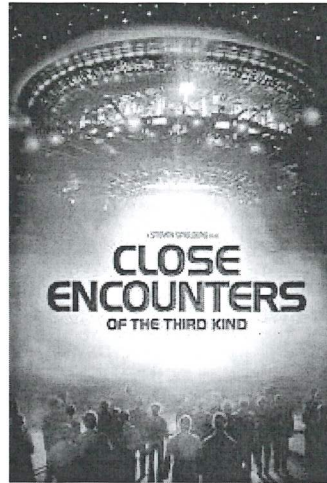
Blade Runner was brought to us by Ridley Scott, a prominent figure in sci-fi, and initially received mixed reviews and underperformed at the box office. Yet in later years, the film was revisited and is now considered a cult classic and one of Scott's greatest works. The movie stars Harrison

Ford as a bounty hunting "Blade Runner," a police official that hunts down and deactivates androids known as replicants. *Blade Runner* features several themes that are present in today's sci-fi films such as dystopian futures, artificial intelligence, and humanity, which made it stand out as an inspiration for years to come.

#4: *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* (1977)

After the release of *Jaws*, filmgoers knew that Steven Spielberg was one of the directors to look out for, and his next film proved that fact again. Released a few months after *Star Wars*, *Close Encounters* follows a blue collar worker in Indiana whose life changes dramatically after a close encounter with a UFO. As one of Spielberg's most cherished films, *Close Encounters* served as a cultural icon to several extra-

terrestrial stereotypes like flying saucers, little green men, and abductions, and it makes for a lighthearted adventure as well.



Sci-Fi continued on page 11

The Flash's speedy new season

Lauren Mitchell
Staff Writer

Have you heard of the man that can run at speeds up to Mach 2, or conjure up a tornado by circling? He's so fast, you can barely see him, he's gone in a flash. The Flash, iconic comic book character come to life by the hands of the CW as a geeky and lovable forensic scientist.

The Flash is a show on the CW on Tuesdays, 8-7 central. However, you can watch the first season on Netflix.

The Flash, otherwise known as Barry Allen, is a brilliant CSI investigator. When he was 11 years old his mother was murdered in a strange turn of events, leaving his father wrongly convicted. Barry is determined to uncover the truth of the scenario. Which leads him to follow up on every unexplained legend and scientific advancement.

Barry becomes obsessed with the particle accelerator, created by Harrison Wells and his team at S.T.A.R. Labs. However, during the public unveiling, something goes horribly wrong and an explosion causes a freak storm. Barry is struck by the lightning created by the storm, and is left in a

coma. The hospital couldn't do anything to help, so S.T.A.R. Labs takes Barry in. Nine months later, Barry awakens to find that his life has been changed again. The particle accelerator left him with super speed, giving him the ability to run through Central City unnoticed all except a flash from his red suit.

Barry, with the help of his team at S.T.A.R. Labs, he uses his gift to stop crimes and help citizens across Central City. He generally runs into the 'metahuman of the week' and has to face them off. Some of the metahumans of interest have been: Clyde Mardon, who had the power to produce and control the weather. He was the first metahuman Barry encountered. Danton Black had the power of cellular replication, allowing him to create life-sized clones of himself, as well as the power to create extra limbs on a body.

Another metahuman, Tony Woodward, had the ability to transform his skin into a metallic substance that enhanced his durability to that of steel. Which overall in-

The Flash continued on page 11

Movies to look forward to

Zoe Gale
Staff Writer

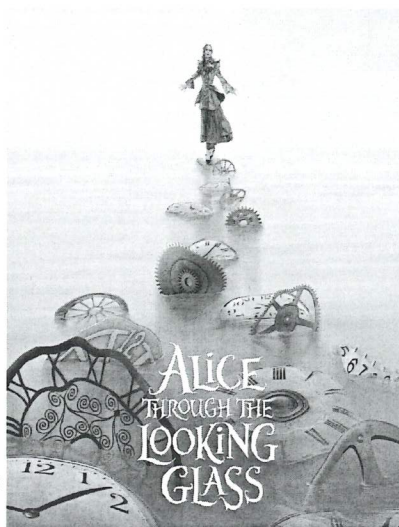
Here's a rundown of new hyped up movies and sequels/remakes/prequels/continuations/mistakes coming out the rest of this year.

Deadpool: Feb. 12. People are excited.

Zoolander 2: Feb. 12. *Zoolander* came out in 2001 and now it's back, with original cast members, and many celebrity appearances. This is not a movie for ants.

Zootopia: March 4. It's about furies, conspiracies, and cops. Fun for the whole family!

Divergent: Allegiant: March 18. I don't even know what this series is about. But I've heard the last book is terrible.



My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2: March 25. Who knows.

Captain America: Civil War: May 6. Speaking of hyped up movies, it's another Marvel film! Featuring: ivalries, many special effects, government interference, and more Bucky Barnes.

X-Men: Apocalypse: May 27. The big evil villain (Apocalypse) is played by Oscar Isaac, who played Poe in *Force Awakens*. Fun trivia fact: I love X-Men, and am unreasonably excited about this movie.

Alice Through the Looking Glass: May 27. *Alice in Wonderland* came out six years ago, and the whole cast is back for the

Movie Hype continued on page 14

Bernie's St. Paul rally

Siena Leone-Getten
Staff Writer



Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders spoke last Tuesday the 26th in front of thousands of supporters in downtown St. Paul.

Earlier that day in Duluth he attracted an estimated 6,000 people, but didn't come close to the 15,000 people that packed into the Saint Paul Rivercentre. Sanders first addressed over 5,000 more people that filled the Roy Wilkins Auditorium-the overflow room. In comparison, when Ted Cruz, one of the leading Republican candidates came to Saint Paul in December, he spoke at the Harriet Island Pavilion- where the Fall Family Gathering is held-to around than 500 people.

The impressive turnout was a sign that Sanders is not as far behind Hillary Clinton as has been thought, as

Bernie rally continued on page 14

Star wars hits the shelves

Ingrid Ebbesen
Staff Writer

With the new *Star Wars* movies, people have become very enthusiastic about everything *Star Wars*. And all things that are not the movie can take up a whole article. This is it.

The robotic BB-8 is probably the most exciting piece of merchandise. BB-8 toys are like *Star Wars* themed remote control cars. BB-8 was a great choice of droid to make as a massive fan favorite character. Remote controlled BB-8 has very positive reviews even though it's prone to falling apart.

Target is also bringing back characters from previous franchises in the form of merchandise, like tauntauns, Jawa, Ewoks, and the original cover art for *Star Wars: A New Hope* in puzzle form. Another interesting piece is the "train like a Jedi" Yoda. It can speak and sense movement but has not sold as well as BB-8, since Yoda isn't in the recent movie.

Not all merchandise has been received positively. Walmart action figures, a Millennium Falcon set, and *Star Wars* Monopoly have been under fire for not including the female protagonist, Rey.

Everyone is doing everything *Star Wars*! Super fans celebrated a *Star Wars* themed wedding in December, complete with lightsabers, costumes, and a Darth Vader officiant. Renowned fashion magazine Marie Claire even has a *Star Wars* inspired "trend list" on their website.

This movie was a great opportunity for making merchandise, but most importantly, more money. Especially in this day and age, it's easy to get more interactive and interesting than any movie merchandise before.

The Martian, from book to oscar nominee

Daleangelo Gervers
Staff Writer

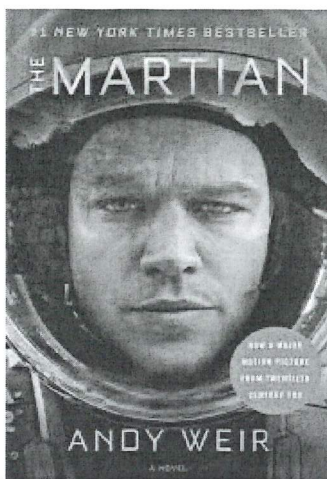
In the book *The Martian*, stranded astronaut Mark Watney is trying to figure out how to travel to a distant part of Mars in the rover, which was not designed to travel long distances. In trying to solve the problem of power units, and how to measure them, Watney says: "You know what? 'Kilo-watt-hour per sol' is a pain to say. I'm gonna invent a new scientific unit name. One kilo-watt-hour per sol is . . . it can be anything . . . um . . . I suck at this . . . I'll call it a 'pirate-ninja.'" I will never forget this part in the book.

The Martian is my favorite book I've ever read because it was a complicated, funny, page turner, and it was beautiful. I did watch the movie before the book and I regret that, but I didn't know that there was a book. The book was still amazing even though I knew the story. It was just the perfect Science-fiction book.

The Martian was written by Andy Weir, an engineer, who was first hired as a programmer for a national laboratory at age 15 and has been working as a software engineer ever since. He is also a lifelong space nerd and a devoted hobbyist of subjects like relativistic physics, orbital mechanics, and the history of manned spaceflight. He used his knowledge to make the book highly realistic.

During a Mars mission called ARES, a giant sandstorm hits the exploration site so they are forced to leave in a big hurry on sol 6 instead of sol 31. A sol is like a day on earth, but 39 minutes and 35.244 seconds longer. The ARES crew needs to blast off to get to their spaceship, but Watney, one of the crewmates, is hit by a large antenna. The ARES crew is forced to leave him behind because he is presumed dead, and they can't locate him in the chaos of the storm. It turns out he survived the antenna attack, yay! He lived because the antenna and his blood sealed the breach in his suit. Sadly the satellite is broken so he has no communication with Earth and no escape from Mars. He is forced to ration his food and water beyond living conditions to survive on this harsh planet. Will he survive or will his last days be on Mars? Meanwhile, back on earth, NASA figures out he is alive and is freaking out trying to help. Of course rescuing someone from Mars would take four years, and Watney only has enough food to survive one. Time for Watney, and the people back on Earth, to get creative.

The Martian has some interesting elements to it,



such as being written in logs as if Watney is writing what happened and not expecting anyone to read it. It is hilarious because Watney keeps a sense of humor even when he has a very small chance of survival.

Weir wrote it in a highly technical way, which was a first for me, and very cool. Weir explains exactly how Mark survives the sandstorm, how a space suit works, what living conditions are like on Mars, and many other technical aspects of life in space. It may seem bad that I laugh at someone who is stranded on Mars, but Watney is the funniest character ever. I think this book really does capture how it would be if someone was the only person on a planet.

Fraquetball from page 2
for grabs.

In 3rd lunch the always dangerous Los Geezers (Spanish teacher Tim Leone-Getten and English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt) are undefeated (granted, they've only played one game). There is not another clear contender in that lunch, but one will emerge.

On January 21, 8th grader Caden Tarnow injured his ankle, showing the possibility of injury in fraquetball. Players have been getting a little banged up lately, from a swelled up hand to a bruised knee.

Right now teams aren't really pulling away so early in the season. With only a few games played, everyone is still a legitimate contender. 2nd lunch looks to be the most competitive, but the champion might arise from a different lunch. One thing's for sure though. The 2016 playoffs will be an entertaining one.

Antonio from page 7

This is just a sad day. For everyone. Legit everyone in the world. It's probably less sad for all those starving kids in Africa, but I'm sure they feel bad for me.

This is the outro paragraph. You all know the drill. I do it every damn issue. Follow my Instagram (@the_thunderbird_). Some bad joke about WWII. Some old movie reference. Every damn time. The only reason I actually wrote anything this issue is because I've got an Iron Man on the line and I'll be damned if I write a bad column once or nine times to get it.

Spoiler alert. My loser alter ego Cartonio Antvale, that SnapBack-wearing, hipster loser might be out of jail and coming back soon. That man is a psychopath for thinking it's ok to pop his collar and sag his pants. But the collar? Inexcusable. Avoid him at all costs. Sorta like me. But with him you might die.

Darn, this was my worst one yet. Hope everyone has a day about as bad as this column.

The Flash from page 8

creased his strength. These are just a few of the metahumans that Barry runs into.

Some of other important characters are: Harrison Wells, who is the creator of the particle accelerator. As a mentor to Barry, he encourages him to reach his full potential. Harrison also is the owner of S.T.A.R. Labs. He injured his leg in the particle accelerator explosion and is in a wheelchair. Cisco Ramon, mechanical engineer. His funny remarks, hipster shirts, and great hair make the perfect combination for a fan favorite. Caitlin Snow, bio-engineer. Detective Joe West, a friend of Barry's father, and the man who raised Barry. His daughter, Iris, is Barry's best friend and longtime crush. I have been watching this show since about a week after it came out. At first I put off watching it because my brother had been pestering



me about it constantly. But I eventually gave in and watched the first episode... and then proceeded to binge watch the rest that were out. I think that this show is great. I would encourage everybody to watch it. All the characters are

played really well. I really enjoyed Grant Gustin's portrayal of Barry.

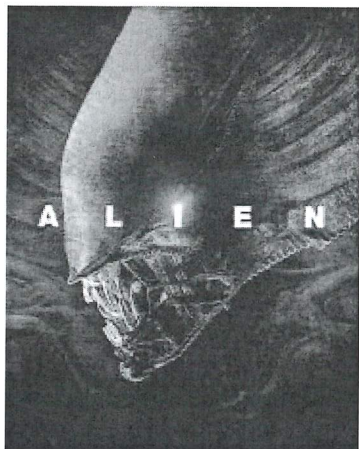
I am fond of the idea of taking *The Flash* from the comics and turn it into a modern day version. I personally think that *The Flash* is more interesting as a TV show, than a comic. I think that *The Flash* was a good addition to the CW, let's be honest *Arrow* is

just about the show farthest away from lighthearted as you can get. And lighthearted was exactly what they needed. Don't get me wrong, I love *Arrow*. However, sometimes it can be sort of depressing and you need a break, and *The Flash* is perfect for that intermission.

Sci-fi from page 8

#3: *Alien* (1979)

If you think space is an endless thrill ride of joy, watch *Alien* and think again. Another one of Ridley Scott's films, *Alien* was one of the first movies to blend sci-fi with horror and it gave way to other movies of both genres and an equally mind blowing sequel. The movie follows an interstellar mining crew that come across a desolate planet



after receiving a mysterious distress signal, but unknowingly bring an extraterrestrial stowaway on board. *Alien* terrified audiences with its dark atmosphere, claustrophobic setting, striking visuals, and realistic acting from Sigourney Weaver. Every scene in this movie has you at the edge of your seat, which honorably puts it at number three.

#2: *Star Wars* (1977)

Raise your hand if you didn't see this coming... exactly. *Star Wars* has become one of the greatest and most iconic sci-fi movies of all time. Directed by George Lucas (back when he was a good director), *Star Wars* blew audiences away in 1977, and continues to enchant us with the charm brought on by fantastic visuals, relatable characters, and an amazing score. *Star Wars* changed filmmaking forever, and is one of those movies that puts a smile on your face

whenever you think about it, which puts it at a solid number two.

#1: *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968)

If you have seen this film, you're probably mad at me for putting it at number one in favor of *Star Wars*, but here's the deal, *2001* is not only considered the best sci-fi movie, it's considered by many to be the best movie of all time. Almost all other movies on this list were inspired by *2001* and the sci-fi genre wouldn't be the same as it is today without it. This film gave audiences an entirely different way of watching movies. The film takes us on a mind blowing adventure across the far reaches of space as director Stanley Kubrick explores themes like evolution, A.I., and most importantly, "what is human?" *2001* was so influential that it has since been considered more than a film, but a piece of artwork. Kubrick made this film with so much attention to detail that it is arguably one of the very few films that we can call "flawless".

So that's my list of weird science, cosmic adventures, and aliens. What is your favorite sci-fi movie? What did I miss? Be sure to tell me as soon as you see me. As for now, see you next time.



STANLEY KUBRICK'S
2001:
a space odyssey

I. Like. Jar-Jar Binks.

Flannery Henke-Haney
Staff Writer

I'm going to start out by saying: I. Like. Jar Jar Binks. This has been true for as long as I can remember, and for years, I have had to endure abuse at the hands of those who say he is the worst thing *Star Wars* has produced. Well I have some news for you. On November 18th, 2015, *Vanity Fair* released an interview with George Lucas explaining why he left *Star Wars*, and more importantly, who his favorite character is: Jar Jar Binks.

For nearly 17 years, from the moment *The Phantom Menace* was released, the poor gungan has been hated and criticized. His slap-stick comedy didn't really fit with the feel of the movie, which made him incredibly annoying. Only small children, such as my younger self, could like him, and this was, in a way, Lucas' intentions.

When Lucas first set out with Jar Jar, he wanted to create a loveable and funny character specifically engineered for kids. He also did this in the original trilogy with the ewoks, which were also hated at first. At the 2015 D23 (the official Disney Fan club) Expo, Lucas spoke about how long he has been a lifelong Disney fan, and how it has affected him. He revealed: "Not many people realize this, but Goofy was the inspiration for Jar Jar Binks. If you look at them both, it is pretty obvious." The ears, the height, their speech, and of course clumsiness, it's hard not to see it when you are looking for it.

After experimentation with Jar Jar, Lucas came to the conclusion that using prosthetics would take up too much time, and be hard to work with on set. With that the first CG supporting character was born. Michael Jackson originally wanted the role of Jar Jar, but Lucas decided that people watching would be like "Hey look! It's Michael Jackson!" as opposed to watching the movie (I personally think that I would have been going "Hey look! It's Michael Jackson in *Star Wars*!"). Jackson also didn't really like the idea of being completely CG and wanted the character to be mostly, if not entirely, prosthetics.

Lucas finally chose Ahmed Best to play Jar Jar, who at the time, was an up and coming actor and musician from New York. Best did the voice and in *Phantom Menace* the performance capture of the Gungan. He said in an interview that the voice he used was from the most common voice he used when read books to his nieces and nephews. That same voice was the one used to make everyone on the set laugh, and love him. Lucas then naturally thought that his reception would welcomed into the franchise, but instead was bombed with hatred.

Best didn't take this personally. "Because it didn't fit with the dark mythology lore of *Star Wars*, it was a very easy character to pinpoint and use against George Lucas,"



he said during an interview with Black Sci-Fi.

Back to the *Vanity Fair* interview, Lucas said that he wanted to work on more experimentation like he did in his early days as opposed to experimenting with *Star Wars*, which is what he did with Jar Jar. "You go to make a movie, and all you do is get criticized and people try to make decisions about what you're going to do, before you do it. You know it's not much fun. You can experiment, you have to do it a certain way, I don't like that, I never did."

Basically it's all of you Jar Jar haters that scared Lucas away. Nice going. Lucas talked about how he will continue to direct more experimental films. To end on a high note: "I love Goofy and I love Jar Jar."

Choir Concert from page 1

to sing "All You Need is Love" and finish off the concert. Both the middle and high school choir consist of two separate classes.

The concert received lots of positive feedback. The day after the concert, OWL principal Dave Gundale congratulated the choir on their performance. "I enjoyed it," said 11th grader Zoe Gale, who attended the concert but did not sing. Alex thought that the choir concert went very well, and "the students acted very professional." "It ended up great," said 8th grader Frankie Pfoer.

Going into the concert, Alex was very nervous. He said that it's difficult to put sections of a choir together, because some sections may advance more quickly than others. Although nervous, 8th grader Sam Osborne, who is a part of both the high school and jazz choir, said "We worked really hard and I was excited to be a part of something like that."

The next semester's choir will likely be made up of mostly the same students, as choir is classified as a year-long class. The songs that will be performed in the springtime will be a lot more upbeat, with a more energetic vibe, than the songs sung this semester, according to Alex.

Concussion, a knockout read

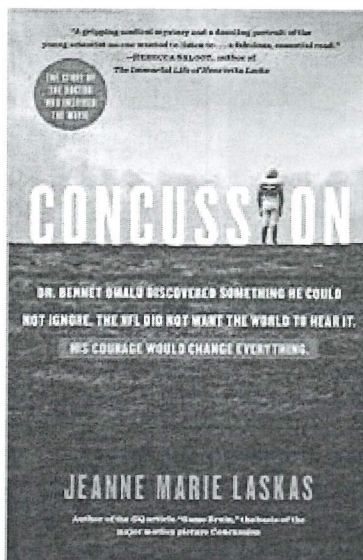
Grace Gardner
Staff Writer

Mike Webster was a Hall of Fame center who won four Super Bowl rings. By the end of his life, he was homeless, living out of his van, and trying to keep his rotting teeth in his head by using super glue. How did a man go from a brilliant football career to a crazy person who used a Taser to get to sleep? The answer was discovered by Bennet Omalu, a forensic pathologist born in Nigeria, who followed the American Dream to a life in America. His story is documented in the book *Concussion* by Jeanne Marie Laskas.

Concussion follows Omalu's life as a boy in Africa to a successful man in America with two medical degrees and seven total degrees. The nonfiction narrative describes how Omalu discovered Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy, or CTE, in football players. This syndrome is a progressive degenerative disease of the brain, and is the result of repetitive brain trauma. By examining the brains of football players who had died at relatively young ages and showed memory impairment, including Mike Webster, Omalu discovered extreme tau buildup in the brain. This tau buildup is typically found in people with advanced Alzheimer's, and causes people to act crazy. This discovery and its aftermath are the main arc of the book. Omalu's discovered link between head trauma and tau buildup leads to confrontation between the National Football League and Omalu and other doctors.

Omalu's report on CTE was mocked and derided by the NFL's Committee on Mild Traumatic Brain Injury. The committee members even demanded a retraction of Omalu's report, without performing their own autopsies to check his work. In *Concussion*, the NFL is not portrayed attractively. Throughout the narrative, the NFL refuses to acknowledge Omalu's work, and when they launch their own private study that provides similar results to Omalu's, they disinherit it. Their repeated denial of correct science mirrors the action that big tobacco companies took when they refused to acknowledge that cigarettes caused cancer. The NFL even hired other doctors who denied any link between concussions and long-term brain damage.

Concussion is a very important book because it documents the corrupt nature of the NFL when it comes to brain injuries. Although the NFL has been getting better at protecting the brain, there is still a lot of work to do. Omalu himself says that helmets just don't do enough. "Basic laws



of physics told you that the brain sloshing around inside that skull was going to bash into the skull walls no matter how much padding you nestled the head in." And this information suggests that the hardest hits aren't the ones causing the most damage. Little hits, hits that happen every play and are classic football, could be the culprit. Although this book is not a masterpiece, it is necessary to understand the risks of contact sports and head trauma. There are many problems with the writing style. The jumps between Omalu's life and his work on CTE are harsh and jarring. The sections of the book do not flow smoothly together. Much of the book covers conflicts that have little to do with the central theme of

football injury. The book opens in a courtroom, letting you imagine that you will see the clash between Omalu and the NFL right off the bat. But the case has nothing to do with football, and instead shows Omalu testifying against his former boss. A good third of the book is spent learning about Omalu's childhood in Africa or deals with family problems. While this is interesting, the real reason most people read this book is for football. People want a book about a horrific brain syndrome and the groups that tried to cover it up. But though the book is presented this way, ultimately it isn't true to its own set up. And readers are left wondering why there isn't more confrontation.

If you are looking for a story about a little guy facing off with big business, it is partially here. But if you are looking for a story that lives and breathes and focuses on corrupt football, I'd recommend looking at the article "Bennet Omalu, Concussions, and the NFL: How One Doctor Changed Football Forever" on GQ and its update "Game Brain." Also by Laskas, these articles are straight to the point that readers of *Concussion* want to read about, football and concussions, and don't leave you wanting more.

Corn from page 3

spray your corn with herbicides. Now pretend that you're a butterfly, but you can't find any milkweed because it was all destroyed by corn farmers with herbicides. Just stay with me here. Now go back to being yourself, unless you liked being a butterfly in which case I am in no position to stop you from being a butterfly. Anyway, the butterflies are dying because of corn. Stop the corn, if you care about butterflies. STOP THE CORN!

Movie hype from page 9

time-traveling sequel.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows: June 3.

The first one was rated pretty terribly.

The Conjuring 2: June 10. A family and a house and some spirits. I've never heard of this concept utilized in a horror movie before.

Now You See Me 2: June 10. I didn't even know there was a first one.

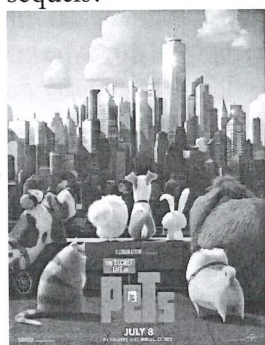
Daniel Radcliffe's in this.

Finding Dory: June 17. Finding Nemo came out 13 years ago, and there isn't a whole lot of information about the sequel (prequel?) coming out this summer.

Independence Day: Resurgence: June 24. The original *Independence Day* came out 20 years ago.

The BFG: July 1. Movie re-telling of the (great) children's book of the same name, by Roald Dahl.

The Purge 3: July 1. Why do horror movies have so many sequels?



The Secret Life of Pets: July 15. More family fun.

Ghostbusters: July 15. The last film came out in 1984, and the plot of this one is unknown as of right now. And all the ghostbusters are women.

Star Trek Beyond: July 22. Plot = Mystery.

Ice Age: Collision: July 22. How many *Ice Age* sequels have come

out? I honestly have no idea.

Bourne Sequel (Untitled): July 29. A continuation of the popular *Bourne Identity* series, starring Matt Damon.

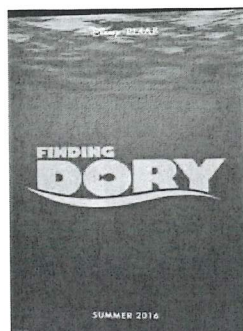
Suicide Squad: Aug. 5. Jared Leto plays the Joker, and other things happen. There are a lot of people who are excited for this movie.

Doctor Strange: Nov. 4. Oscar Isaac, mentioned earlier, was one of the top choices to play Doctor Strange. They cast Bennywhite Cucum-berpatch instead.

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them: Nov. 18. People love some *Harry Potter*.

Moana: Nov. 25. Another family movie, and finally another Disney animated movie with a non-white protagonist.

If I've learned anything from putting together this list, it's that Americans love sequels. 18 out of the 25 movies are, as stated at the beginning of the article, sequels, remakes, continuations, or prequels to already existing films. Save up your ticket money. Happy watching!



Bernie rally from page 9

he is currently polling at 42 to her 45. Additionally, nearly 50% of democrats polled said that they would choose Sanders as their second choice to Clinton. This election has mirrored what happened in the 2008 election, with Hillary Clinton maintaining a significant lead in the democratic party, only to lose the nomination to Barack Obama, who gained popularity in the months leading up to the convention.

His speech, which lasted close to an hour, detailed his extensive campaign platform, with a focus on people, highlighting the importance of people in creating change in affective government: "Real change never takes place from the top down. Real change always takes place from the grassroots up."

This rally came in the midst of a campaign push in Iowa, as the caucuses draw nearer. "We are running a campaign that will take us to the convention, and I'm very proud of the kinds of enormous gains we have made," said Sanders. The final polls from the Des Moines Register indicated that Clinton held 45 percent, with Sanders at 42 percent, showing a closing margin as the caucuses begin. By the morning after the caucuses, the democratic results were considered a tie between Sanders and Clinton, as the results were close to call. The results were later made clear that Clinton won with 49.9% to Sanders' 49.6%. Martin O'Malley, who literally no one cares or knows about, got the remaining 0.5%. He has since dropped out.

The Minnesota caucus, on March 1st, is a major pushing point for the Bernie campaign, because as a blue state, and a fairly large one, winning this state for the Democratic nomination would be important.

Harry Potter

Theo Sage-Martinson

Staff Writer

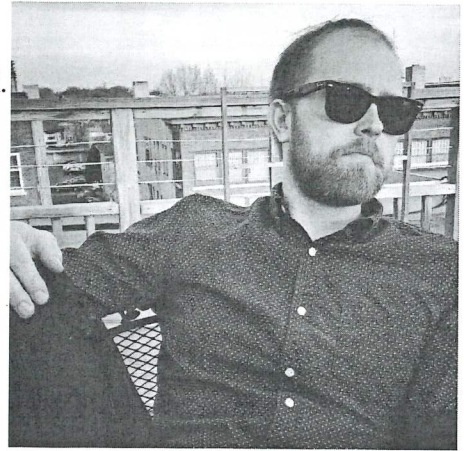
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone was released in 1998 and again in 2015, this time with pictures. The illustrated *Harry Potter* book marks a new era for *Harry Potter*. With a new *Harry Potter* world opening and three new movies, the series seems to be picking up steam once again.

Not surprisingly, people are angry about dumb stuff like how muggles are No-Majs and some people are getting way too excited about these changes. There are some *normal* people who are quietly excited about it. I will say this year we will get a glimpse of the American wizarding world and Harry, Hermione and Ron's future lives. But what I find maybe the most exciting in the new illustrated *Harry Potter* is that we see Harry Potter as J.K Rowling would have liked (except that Hermione is still white in the illustrations).

TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE

You've all played the crew game two truths and a lie. Now we've brought that game to the Purple Press! Try to guess which of the below facts are correct. This month's feature is all about everyone's favorite English teacher, Kevin. Answers at the bottom.

1. Kevin grows his own coffee in a small hydroponic garden that he keeps in his kitchen. "It makes the neighborhood smell amazing!" said his neighbor Jill.
2. He was the lead singer and songwriter in a punk rock band in high school, Bus 103. "Let's get a reunion tour started, this could be good!" said 7th grader Haakon Neske.
3. Kevin also makes his own belts and wallets out of leather in his free time. "It seems to bring out his inner crafty hipster," said Kevin's co-worker Dan Sullivan. "He even scrapbooks with Nora on Tuesdays!"



*Two of these are true. The quotes accompanying them are probably not completely accurate.

Ask Grace!

If you were Cheryl for a day, would you pull any pranks? How seriously would you handle your power?

-- Teenage Prankster

I would make so many unnecessary announcements just to be annoying. It would include the latest book releases to what the teachers are gossiping about in the staff room. Instead of a bell to signal passing time, I would use a recording of highly acclaimed author Kevin reciting his well known work, "Fire Snakes." Prank calling crews would also be fun . . .

-- Swimming Grace

Being Cheryl for a day would be a blast! First I would make some jokes, and then I would fix lunch inequality! Students in third lunch are often hungry after waiting through crew before they get to eat. As Cheryl, I could use my power to fix that. First lunchers, you deserve to feel the hunger pangs of the rest of the school! It's a simple solution. I'd make first and third lunch students switch! I'd also get a DJ and play music during passing time. I guess that means that I would abuse my power. But not to do anything too crazy.

-- Rowing Grace

What is your favorite graphic novel?

-- hh

I don't have a favorite graphic novel - they aren't something that I read. I don't really enjoy them, as I find them rather hard to follow.

-- Swimming Grace

One of my favorites is *Brick Shakespeare*. If you've ever wanted to read Shakespeare with Lego figures, this way is pretty good. *The Adventures of Tintin* by Hergé is a comic series about a Belgian reporter that is both adventure and comedy. *Girl Genius* by Phil and Kaja Foglio is one of my favorite series. It has a girl hero, mad scientists, and is set in a steampunk world.

-- Rowing Grace



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

Two truths answer: Number 1 is false, Kevin is not that cool.

COMICS

Clooney Batman. Hate to be the bear of bad news. But you had to find out some day.

-Antonio, january issue

CLIMATE CHANGE IS IRREVERSIBLE!



What Tim's really doing when you can't find him



Trump's Toupee jumps ship after losing the Iowa caucus

Sherlocker (new sequel to *Flost*)

