

Purple Press

VOLUME #16, ISSUE #2

DECEMBER 17TH, 2015

Seniors march to the mailbox

Quinn Christensen
Staff Writer

Twenty five seniors attended a school rally and marched to the mailbox together in matching shirts to deliver their college applications last Friday, December 11th.

The "senior march to the mailbox" has become quite the trend in the past few years, since it was started back in 2011 by another EL school, located in New York. Barack Obama compared New York's march to the Macy's Day Parade in terms of size and national merit.

So why did OWL jump on the bandwagon? OWL Program Coordinator Tim Leone-Getten chimed in on the subject, saying that "for the past six years, OWL has had a 100 percent college acceptance rate for our graduating seniors. We wanted to find a way to celebrate our 12th grade students' accomplishments while inspiring our younger

College march continued on page 8

THE EAR

YONAS GETS PI'D 2

CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS 6

ANTONIO & PATRICK 12

RED CUP CONTREVERSY 10

NEW VIKINGS QB 15

COMICS 20

OWL Class sizes grow

Grace Bellamy
Staff Writer

In February of 2014, at schools and other places around St. Paul, parents, students, and teachers showed up to rallies to show support for the new teacher contract that went into effect this year. One of the key negotiating points of that contract was reducing class sizes in the district.

So why does my third hour Spanish class have 40 kids in it?

The class sizes in the district are based on an average number of students in each class. The sum of all a teacher's classes is divided by the number of classes that teacher has, says principal Dave Gundale. If that number is larger than the maximum stated in the contract, then something needs to be changed. OWL, being a low poverty school, has to have averages within 29-35 for middle school, and 30-37 for high school.

Dave says that a few really large classes are acceptable, as long as the average class size is still within the acceptable range, and we are still learning what an acceptable range is. The contract states that there may be times where

Class sizes continued on page 3

OWL gets new Jazz Choir

Sam Kellar-Long
Staff Writer

Did you like Pitch Perfect? Did you like Glee? Well, now there's an A Capella/Jazz choir right here at OWL.

"A cappella is performing music with only your voice," says Alex Ferderer, Music teacher. They will be rehearsing during 6th hour and on Fridays during crew, in addition to performing at community meetings and in the hallway. "It's nice to be in a class where everyone wants to be there," says Maddie Scott, 11th grader and member of the jazz choir. They will also be doing the singing valentines in February. There are 18 students in the Jazz choir, but many more auditioned.

A Capella has recently become popular. Groups like the Pentatonix, who have more than 7.8 million subscribers on YouTube have gotten



A jazz choir rehearsal.

Jazz choir continued on page 18

Purple Press Staff

Adult to Blame

Leo Bickelhaupt

Layout

Sam Dale-Gau
Quinn Christensen

Staff Writers

Grace Bellamy
Shayla Brooks
Antonio Carvale
Quinn Christensen
Gao Choua Xiong
Joshua Cordes
Zhanna Dunagan
Grace Gardner
Daleangelo Gervers
Tom Hobday
Sam Kellar-Long
Siena Leone-Getten
Haakon Neske
Sawyer Neske
Theo Sage-Martinson
Connor Scott
Fiona Shyne
Clarice Timm
AJ Lesure
Patrick Verner
Thomas Verner

Cartoonists

Ingrid Ebbesen
Sam Dale-Gau



OPEN NEWS

Rebecca is having a baby!

Shayla Brooks
Staff Writer



Science teacher Rebecca Palmer is pregnant, and is due May 8th.

She will go on maternity leave in May through the summer and will come back in the fall. She told her crew on Monday, November 23rd by playing "over the weekend Pictionary". Her Pictionary card said that she went to the doctor because she was pregnant.

Rebecca chose 11th grader Leora Feinstein to draw it on the board, and the rest of the crew had to guess. AJ Lesure, 8th grader was surprised when told Rebecca was pregnant, saying "It's kinda weird but kinda cool at the same time and I support her." Rebecca is planning on finding out the gender and will tell her crew when the time comes. "I think Sorcha will make some sort of gender revealing treat," she said.

Yonas gets π 'd!

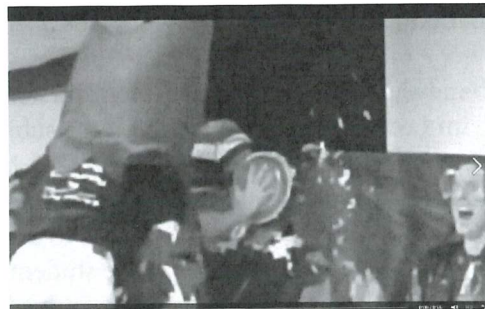
Flannery Hanke-Haney
Staff Writer

To conclude the community meeting on Friday, December 4th, math teacher Yonas Ghebregzi was pied in the face.

English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt, science teacher Sorcha Nix, spanish teacher Tim Leone-Getten and Yonas lined up with garbage bags covering the them and the splash zone, and goggles covering their faces. All were-ready for the possibility of projectile pie to attack their face while Arnie, the Open Circuits mascot, paced around, faking out Leo and Sorcha before finally planting the pie in Yonas's face. Arnie described his experience pieing the math teacher as "Exciting, invigorating, and satisfying."

For the the two weeks leading up to the community meeting, during lunch, the Open Circuits robotics team did a fundraiser by setting out buckets with different teachers names labeled on the side. Students then put money into the bucket of the teacher that they wanted to see get pied.

The team made a total of \$160 with Tim, Sorcha Leo and Yonas raising the most money. Some students simply emptied their backpacks for loose change and others put in about \$20.



Yonas getting pied

Class sizes from page 1

the average is exceeded. These instances could include “efforts to keep families together, enrollment patterns, population shifts, a decrease in state or federal funding, an unusual variation between school enrollments at different grade levels or to allow the district to avoid creating split grade level classes.”

Class size averages were decided by both the district and the teachers’ union. About two contract negotiations ago, the union decided that something they would like to see in schools are smaller class sizes. “The district’s bargaining team said first, ‘we don’t think we should have to talk to you about something like this. This is the district’s right to determine how many kids are in class, and it’s none of the union’s business,’” said union organizer Paul Rohlffing. The district eventually changed their minds, having to compete with private and charter schools for students, as well as parent and student pressure on them to change built. Brochures for these schools often say things about small class sizes and individual attention for students.

OWL is considered to be “full” by the district, yet not so full that we need more staff. In other words, our class sizes do not appear to be in violation of the contract. Most of our grades have 70 students, and for the district, that constitutes a full two-section grade. Filling to this number is a necessity for us, because if we don’t, SPPS won’t give us the same number of teachers or amount of funding.

Every school has a limited budget, and OWL is no exception. Public schools are paid for by taxes. Budgets are decided by each school district, based on amount of money from the state, and amount of students. The taxes that go to schools are split evenly among each student, so we would get roughly 400 (the approximate size of our school) of what each student is worth. When negotiating the contract, the district took budget into consideration. “It was a huge factor in the district’s thinking,” said Rohlffing.

Budgets are tight all over the district. For example, Johnson High School lost \$800,000, which resulted in the loss of six teachers, and two supporting staff members. “As a result, our class sizes increased in almost all departments, with the largest impact in Social Studies, which lost two teacher positions. In 2014-15 the class size average in Social Studies was around 27 students per class, now it is 32-33 (just under contractual limits for our school),” stated Johnson High School principal Micheal Thompson. Another school that felt the loss of budget is Highland, “which has seen class sizes of up to 57 students with one teacher,” said 11th grader Grace Gardner, who went to Highland for 9th and 10th grade.

The waiting list for OWL shows a demand for more

unconventional schools. Last year, our 6th grade wait list was approximately 70 students. That means OWL has around a 50% acceptance rate. OWL has enough demand to add another section, but doesn’t want to make the school any bigger. Program coordinator Tim Leone-Getten said, “once you get to that size, you don’t know everybody anymore.”

OWL’s website (open.spps.org) states that it is “small by design.” Some of the biggest classes in the school have up to 40 students. “Small by design” means that our school is small because that’s what we want it to be, according to Tim. He also said that being “small by design” helps students “build relationships that can deepen their connection to school, especially in social and emotional areas.”

Former St. Paul Federation of Teachers (SPFT), or teacher’s union, president Mary Cathryn Ricker mentioned in a 2014 interview that a good education comes with understanding children, which only can be gained with smaller class

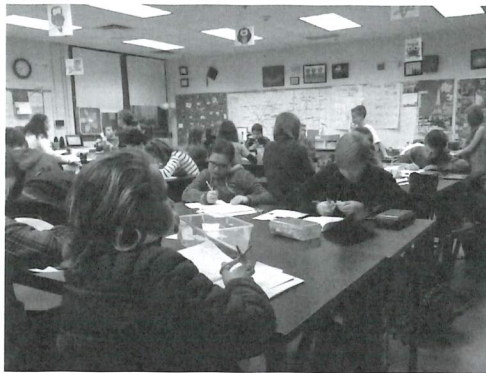
sizes. Although OWL is smaller overall, that doesn’t exclude us from the larger classes, as budgets grow tighter.

The “rights and responsibilities” of the student planner says that SPPS wants to “provide personalized, engaging and academically appropriate instruction.” 8th grader Shayla Brooks said in response to that, “I think that it’s really frustrating when the OWL website literally says [a small school], but my Spanish class has like 40 kids in it. We don’t even have enough tables.”

In some classes, it has become a common sight to see students sitting at the ends of tables. For example science teacher Rebecca Palmer says that “the class size is too large” for her classroom, and it’s a safety issue. She does not allow backpacks to be stored in her room, because someone carrying a chemical or glass could trip. One of Rebecca 8th grade classes has 40 students, two student service workers, and one paraprofessional, while some of her classes fill up barely half the classroom.

The main problem with the managing class sizes at OWL is scheduling issues, according to both Dave and Tim. Tim said that we don’t have enough electives to have grades split evenly, and get all students what they need. When making a schedule one has to take into account if the student should be in advanced math, or needs to be in Bridget Leba’s reading class. These kind of scheduling problems really tighten up the ability for a grade to be evenly split.

But those of you fearing that OWL will continue to grow can relax, because after next year the school plans to stay the same size. “This building is only big enough for a certain number of people, and by next year we’ll be entirely full,” said Tim.



Large class sizes are a growing concern.

Katie: from History Day to US History

Siena Leone-Getten and Sawyer Neske
Staff Writers

Open World Learning has acquired a Secret Weapon for this History Day season: New social studies teacher Katie Craven. Katie has most recently worked as the Iowa State history Day coordinator, where she ran an extremely successful program, with dozens of medals in the national competition.



Before coming to OWL, Katie worked for Minnesota History Day "Working with students and teachers, workshops and organizing the regional and state contests." From there, two years ago, she went to work as the Iowa State History Day coordinator. Since she's worked for so long with history day, we asked her best advice for a new history day student. She says not to rush it, and give yourself plenty of time to make decisions. "Don't think just because you've made a decision means you have to stick with it. Really think about your options, and make the best choices for yourself, not the best choices for your friend."

She decided to come to OWL to teach because, "It's what I went to school for - I want to work full-time or at least half time in the classroom, to experience something I want to consider doing, and I really really like it, getting out of an office environment being able to be part of the team, collaborating with other teachers. It's something that's been really good since I started here."

Katie loves the teachers and the students alike and is excited to work with them. She is excited to work with students and spend a whole year in the classroom and of course -- history day. Students are also excited to have Katie for history day. "I'm really excited that Katie's here because she is a great resource for history day projects" said eleventh grader Grace Gardner.

"This is my first teaching experience so I don't have a lot to compare it to but I like it, it's working out well," she told us. "I like it a lot, I've been familiar with the school because of history day and a lot of the students and teachers, and I like the school, the students seem great and the other teachers are wonderful."

When Katie is not at OWL she enjoys watching movies and hanging out with her friends that she can now

Katie continued on page 5

Brie takes OWL by storm

Daleangelo Gervers
Staff Writers

OWL's new art teacher Brie-Anna Medin once made a snap decision to volunteer at a school in Costa Rica. She found a school on the internet that "looked legit," bought a ticket, and signed up. It was only on the plane ride that she started having second thoughts. "I'm not the smartest person," she said, "I'm gonna show up and they're gonna kidnap me, or they're not going to exist, or it was going to be terrible." In the end, it all worked out. She stayed there for a month and had an incredible time. She also learned to speak Spanish fluently.

This episode is typical of Brie. She is extremely adventurous, and has traveled to many places. Brie's favorite escapade was "The adventure that started it all." At the end of college, she went to the University of Växjö in Sweden, where almost nobody spoke English. That was her favorite adventure because "it was when I realized I can do this - I can travel the world and just do it on my own if I want to," said Brie. Ever since then, she has loved to go out and adventure. Some other cool adventures she has gone on include visiting a hippie community where the only way to get there is a 12 mile hike and stints in Alaska, Nicaragua, and many more countries.

Brie grew up in New Brighton, MN and spent summers at a camp her dad ran. The camp was a place that was safe for her and her sister and brother to run around and have total freedom. With this freedom, Brie was able to develop her creativity at an early age.

Brie's older brother Zach hung out with friends outside of school. Had more knowledge of life outside the camp, such as, the video games. He would play his own version of video games

with his sisters. In these "video games" Brie and her sister would be on the swing-set, and her brother would jump out from behind the bushes, singing the Mario theme song.



Brie teaching

Brie and her sister would try to kick him in the face and knock him out as he threw balls at them. They spent a lot of time playing this.

Another crazy creative thing she did as a child was make movies with her uncle, who was home during the day because he worked the night shift. Her uncle loved James Bond. Zach was nicknamed "Zachary Bond." Her uncle would put hilarious costumes on them. "Some of these movie were so ridiculous cause I was a little baby, I was probably like four and I was waddling around and

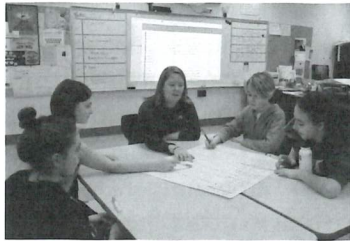
Brie continued on page 5

Katie from page 4

see because she moved here from Iowa. She also enjoys eating pizza and watching Star Wars, the Empire Strikes Back, her favorite movie right now. "I watch a lot of movies with my friends. I run, I hang out with my friends. One of the pluses to being here at owl is being able to move to Minnesota and be with my friends here," she said.

In case you were wondering, if Katie could pick one song lyric to describe her life right now, "Recently I've obsessed with the musical Hamilton, and there's a lyric in it where this one woman and she says, 'We hold these truths be self evident, that all men are created equal, when I meet Thomas Jefferson, I'm going to compel him to include women in this sequel.'"

"I geek out on the history and action movies, anything marvel right now is huge for me, but I love history and I love teaching so, if you have any questions about classes or anything else, I am an ear if not a resource, and I'm really excited to be here." And also, she doesn't bite.



Katie teaching

Brie from page 4

'acting,'" said Brie.

After her wacky adventurous childhood years, Brie took a job teaching Art at Wellstone Elementary in Spanish. She worked there for three years before transitioning to OWL. One of her favorite things about Open is "How each student really embraces their uniqueness, and how kids are so accepting of each other in their uniqueness. I've worked at schools where there are a lot of kids who feel like they have to hide their true self, and I think OWL is pretty open were students and teachers alike can be themselves."

While Brie has settled into a life of teaching, she is still very interested in going on more explorations. "It's been way too long," said Brie.

Brie does some surprising stuff with her free time. People may assume that she draws in her free time, which she does. But she also goes to a boxing gym to workout and box, and ski-jours -a sport that involves cross country skiing while being pulled behind a dog. Two years ago she the got first place at the City of Lakes Skijor Loppet.

While she is very occupied with teaching art, Brie is still living life to its fullest.

Seniors getting down to buisness

Gaochoua Xiong
Staff Writer

Students often think that senior year is the easiest year or a stress free year; but it's actually the opposite, and it's that time of the year again. Seniors are in the process of applying to college. Seniors are not just focusing on college applications but school work too. There is a mix of emotions as to how things are going.

Students are in different places as far as applying to college. "To be honest I have not applied to any colleges yet, because I'm still deciding between where I want to go. The hardest part is deciding what fits me the best," said senior Jeff Guevara. Others have already applied. "I've applied to three colleges. The hardest part is managing classes and the portfolio," said senior Elijaah Terrell.

The process of applying to college is pretty straightforward. You can apply online as long as you meet the requirements! Before applying, you have to ask Jolene or Jane to help send your transcript; and a letter of recommendation is usually required. "I feel a little stress and excited because it's a new experience for them. My biggest concern is scholarships so I would like to have more communications with the seniors," said College and Career Counselor

Jane Treat Young.

Usually students will think that you're going to apply to five or more colleges, but in reality you might have limited choices based on your chosen major and the location you want. Most college applications required an essay, and there's not a whole lot of difference among the different applications.

On a positive note, we are lucky that the seniors have a class dedicated to senior portfolio. Senior portfolio is a process where you talk about your 4 years throughout high school. What you'll find in a senior portfolio is a reflection letter from both students and teachers. Classwork and awards are a requirement in your portfolio; so save your work kids!

Although we have this class to help with portfolio, there is a downside to this class. This class gives in a lot of time and has a due date for everything. "Seniors tend to wait until the due date is nearby to finish everything," says Dan Sullivan, social studies teacher. Senior Portfolio is a requirement for all students because you get to invite your family, teachers or anyone who's made a difference in your life.

The mysteries of programming revealed!

AJ Lesure
Staff Writer

Have you ever wondered how they do it? The trench coat and sunglass clad hackers of Hollywood. Their black collars flipped up, their fingers flying furiously over the keyboard. Have you ever wondered how *The Matrix* or Jarvis from the *Ironman* series was put together? It's simple, but complicated. It's the wonderful problem-solving, logistically thinking, algorithm-making world of programming!

"Programmers write code to solve real-world problems," said Tom Totushek, math and programming teacher. "Sometimes those problems are whether cats need melon hats and other times those problems are how to protect our electrical infrastructure against terrorism." In truth, these people work behind the scenes in ways that you take for granted and will probably never recognize.

So what is a programmer? A programmer is anyone who writes codes for computers. Codes are sets of instructions that computers can understand and follow, and these codes have a certain syntax, which can be described as grammar for the programming language. The word "computer" is not confined to the desktops and laptops, the day-to-day application of the word. A computer is anything that

stores and processes data and follows instructions of code. Sometimes this storage and process is even in binary, which is represented by 0s and 1s. Binary also uses up the least amount of space.

To pursue a professional career as a programmer, you need a license, but you aren't in need of one to simply call yourself a programmer. As long as you're dedicated and willing to learn and challenge yourself, it's possible for anyone to pursue a career in programming.

Programmers usually have to search for a job or two that matches their skill set. Typically a programmer has an extensive knowledge of two or more programming languages. It's recommended if not essential, for programmers to be able to write code for different things. The most in-demand language currently is SQL, pronounced "sequel" or as just the initialization. SQL stands for Structured Query Language. It is often used by large corporations, and is for storing information and/or updating a database, and various other things.

There's also Java, a general-purpose "object-oriented" language. That means that it's used for objects and

Programming continued on page 8

City council elections bring some new and some old

Fiona Shyne
Staff Writer

The day of the election has arrived. Hastily, I click the refresh button one more time. Nothing. Rebecca Noecker has the lead with 41.2% of the vote but neither candidate has gotten 50%. It still too close to call but it appears math is on Neocker's side. We will have to wait until the runoff votes on Monday.

In case you haven't yet guessed, I'm talking about the City Council elections, held on November third.

The City Council is a group of elected officials representing each one of St. Paul's seven wards, or sections. OWL is in Ward Two. The City Council has weekly public meetings where they discuss budget and policy for the city. They work on physical structures as well as public transportation. They also gather pools of money for capital improvement like rebuilding sidewalks. The City Council invites the public to all of its meetings.

OWL parent and City Councilmember Amy Brendmoen, represents Ward Five. Ward Five includes parts of the Como, North End, Payne-Phalen, and Railroad Island neighborhoods. She has already served one four year term, and has been elected for another. The next term begins on January 2016.

Although being a City Councilmember isn't designed specifically for part time or full time, Brendmoen treats it like a full time job.

She says being a City Councilmember is a very demanding job. She has lots of responsibilities but limited authority. She represents over 42,000 people with two staff members, whereas Mayors of suburbs like West St. Paul and Roseville represent 19,000 to 39,000 people and an entire city staff. "(I) wish I had even more time to commit," Brendmoen says.

As a City Councilmember, Brendmoen had to face a lot of negativity. She says that some people have an "us vs. them" mentality and are overly critical of elected officials. She tries to push past the negativity and have an "onwards and upwards" attitude. Overall she says she loves giving op-



A St. Paul city council meeting in action

City Council Continued on page 18

Public Libraries' new upgrade a downgrade

Grace Gardner
Staff Writer

I walk into the Highland Park Public Library, and instantly I am introduced into a modern world made of metal and glass. Rows of solid imposing computer desks sit ready for library patrons. But where are the books?

There has been a major shift in the St. Paul Public Library system, or SPPL. Over time, each library has been renovated and recreated in order to encourage reading among students, as well as creating "a vital, communal and virtual environment," according to the Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library.

This group, also known as "The Friends," is dedicated to supporting the Saint Paul Public Library, and they have championed the recent renovation efforts. Library associates described the old libraries, particularly the Highland Park Library, as "dusty, dirty, dark spaces." But in the case of the Highland Library, many students like 8th grader Quinn Christensen actually liked the old spaces. "I didn't think that the old library was really that dusty and dark. I was just happy that it was quiet and had books. What they have now is a nice space, but it isn't really a library."

A recent addition to the libraries is the creation of teen areas. These areas include access to iPads, comfy couches and chairs, music, and video games, in an effort to increase the appeal of the library to teens. However, these spaces are often "Loud and disruptive," due to the distracting nature of video games, and loud music, said Sovigne Gardner, an 11th grader who regularly visits the Saint Paul Public Library system. How are students supposed to work in a library that has shifted from a quiet space where it is possible to work, to a vibrant community area? The library has traded in the classic library, made for working, relaxing, and checking out a variety of books, to a community hangout center. Although this new space can be fun, it does not fulfill the values of a library.

In a different strategy to increase teen attendance to the library, SPPL got rid of many older books. Walk into the teen section today and you won't find many books from before the 2000s. These older books have been removed from the teen section in favor of a modern collection. A collection of light, easy-to-read "fluff" books may be an effort to get teen readers through the library doors and acclimate

them to reading higher quality novels, but many librarians, including our own here at Open, are divided about this approach. Alison Rahman, OWL's library media specialist, says, "we can't leave out the older material."

This shift is an effort to entice more teens into the library area, according to Leslie Spring, a library associate at the Highland Park Public Library. The library is hoping to see "More youth become engaged in reading." But has this shift actually resulted in more teens checking out books and becoming involved? From January to September 2013, before the renovations of the Highland Park Library were started, there were 24,408 teen fiction book checkouts. But from January to September of 2015, there have been only 20,077 teen fiction checkouts, according to Spring.

That is a loss of more than 4,000 book checkouts, meaning that almost 500 fewer books have been checked out each month. This information provides strong support that the shift is not succeeding in increasing teen reading in the library, and is in fact resulting in a decrease in teen reading. Fantasy writer Katya Reimann is critical of the library's new decision.

"That library has been destroyed. It's unattractive and there are no books. Of course checkouts have dropped."

Some new additions seem to be positive, for example, SPPL has also created more teen programs. This is something that actually has resulted in more attendance. From January

to September of 2013, there were 15 teen programs with 190 attendees. This year, from

January to September, attendance has increased to 324. But this is a somewhat tainted statistic as it occurred with a huge increase to a total of 50 teen programs. In 2013, the programs had an average of over 12.5 students per program. But in 2015, the average program attendance was about 6.5 students per program. Overall, there is about half as much attendance this year per program, indicating a less effective use of resources.

According to Spring, the libraries are making an effort to include the type of books that teens read in the library. Because the public library is always purchasing books, and there is not a lot of storage space, the library has had to cut books. This has changed how books are eliminated from the library. When deciding if a book should be



SAINT PAUL
PUBLIC LIBRARY

The sppl insignia

College march from page 1

students to follow in their footsteps.” OWL’s senior march began on a crisp and cloudy Friday morning with the entire school packed into the auditorium. The seniors made their grand entrance, spilling through the double doors, and were greeted by loud cheers from their classmates. Everyone was quieted down - after much hushing from Dave.



OWL seniors pose with their banner

Paul high schools.

Next, a handful of OWL’s seniors spoke about their high school experience, the hardships they have faced in the past four years, and how they have overcome them. They concluded their mini-speeches by saying where they were accepted to college and giving advice to the younger middle and high schoolers who would be following in their footsteps. Gao Choua Xiong advises kids to remember that “test score do matter, but [they’re] not everything. So what’s everything? Everything means good grades, extra curricular activities, and community service.” Gao Choua was recently accepted to St. Catherine’s University and is planning to attend in the fall.

After the seniors’ speeches, everyone flooded outside and took their positions along the street. The seniors marched out shortly afterward, sporting matching t-shirts and holding an OWL banner. Their crews held up handmade signs as they passed, cheering them on through the cold as the seniors marched down Humboldt Avenue to the mailbox. Afterwards, everyone returned to their crews where the seniors received hugs and declarations of congratulations.



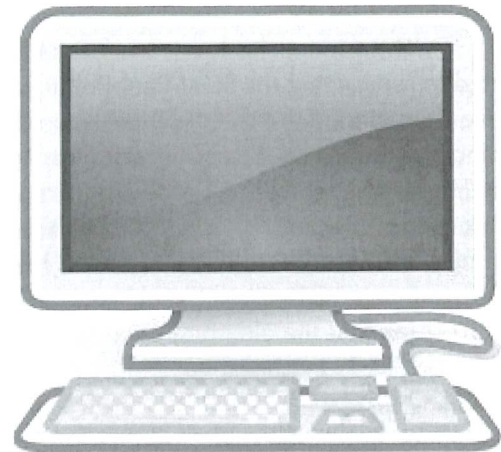
OWL seniors marching to the mailbox

The event was covered by several media outlets including the Star Tribune, The Pioneer Press, the KSTP, and the Purple Press.

The speakers were Wayne Jennings, one of St. Paul Open School’s founders, followed by Theresa Battle, Assistant Superintendent of St.

Programming from page 6

data, as opposed to actions or logic. Another language very similar to Java is C++, which is also general-purpose and object-oriented. C++ is extended from C, a structured programming language. C++ is also one of the most well known of programming languages. There are subtle and more noticeable difference between the two, for example, C isn’t object-oriented like C++, and is instead function-driven, which means that it primarily runs using specific sections of instructions which are functions. Programmers are mostly associated with problem-solving, finding solutions for various problems. Other jobs like software engineering specializing in game development can be associated with the process and disciplines required to create an adequate and enjoyable gaming experience. Y’know, like *Mortal Kombat* and stuff.



According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the average computer programmer made approximately \$80,930 in 2013. The top 10%, or the better-paid programmers (like ones employed by Facebook or Google) made about \$123,490, while the bottom 10% made around \$43,640. Programming isn’t always the most rewarding job, but that doesn’t mean that you can’t be a successful programmer. Bill Gates, for example, has a net worth of \$79.2 billion.

If you’re a dedicated programmer, and commit thousands and thousands of hours in projects and practice, you will forge your skill, and excel.

“In my opinion, practice in a real world situation is the best way to hone your programming skills,” said 10th grader Eli Sage-Martinson. “I would definitely recommend learning JavaScript or Python on Codecademy or a similar website as an excellent way to start.”

The more dedicated you are, the more successful you can be. And who really knows? It’s the 21st century, and technology will only move forward. The market is full of programmers, but only some of them have the ability to progress in their field. Some evolve simply from sitting in the basement at night with Doritos, developing an algorithm on how to hack *Sims 4* into giving you a mother-load of cash.



REVIEWS N' STUFF



The hype awakens

Connor Scott
Staff Writer

As one story ends, another begins with all-new heroes and villains. After ten years of waiting, *The Force Awakens* Episode VII.

We all know that when the force awakens, the hype awakens. *Star Wars* sold 50 million dollars worth of tickets a month before screenings. The franchise returns with your favorite actors such as Mark Hamill (Luke Skywalker,) Harrison Ford Han Solo and Carrie Fisher (Princess Leia).

After George Lucas sold Lucasfilm to Disney in 2012, they had to choose a new director. The director who has taken the project on is JJ Abrams. He directed the *Star Trek* reboots, *Super 8*, *Mission Impossible III*, and the TV show *Lost*. Judging by his other projects, he might just be capable of pulling off *Star Wars* without too many mistakes.

While the film is exciting, the hype isn't only about

the movie. There are always other aspects that bring the story to life. The marketing crew for the *Force Awakens* have

created some very unique toys in the *Star Wars* line such as the BB-8 droid a pre order exclusive toy, it's a remote controlled robot that you can run with your smartphone. The cost of the droid for a pre order amounts to around 150\$ and is fairly small; about as tall as the bottom of an iPhone.

Yes, it might be the same actors and characters you know and love. But with a new director and plot this may not be the *Star Wars* you want to see. However, no matter how this new film measures up, it will definitely have attentive audiences. With already 50 million in ticket sales, it would seem that the *Star Wars* franchise is back with a bang!



Jellicoe Road worth reading

Quinn Christensen
Staff Writer

When Taylor Markham was 11, her mother left her outside of a 7-11 with a woman named Hannah and plenty of questions.

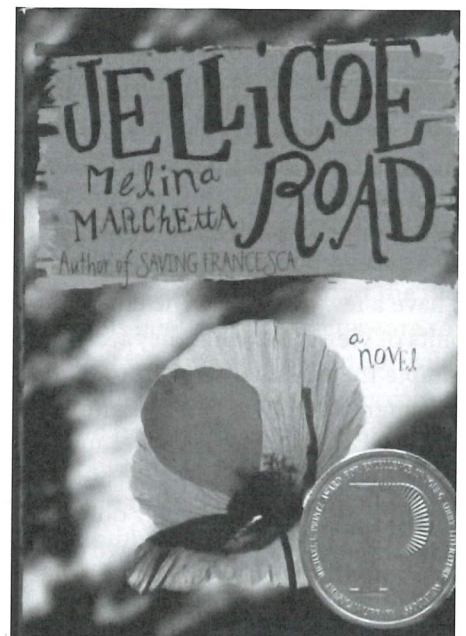
When she was 14, she ran away from Hannah's boarding school in search of her mother and some answers, but all she found was a boy called Jonah Griggs.

Taylor is 17 now, and her world has been turned upside down. Hannah is missing and to make matters worse, Taylor is expected to lead an underdog army in the boarding school's age-old tradition of the annual territory wars against their bitter rivals, the Cadets and the Townies. Taylor knows that she must win the war and find Hannah, but the only clue she has is a novel that Hannah wrote and, within it, another world that is eerily parallel to her own. As Taylor begins to ask questions, she stumbles upon a different mystery, a mystery that she thought she was finished

with long ago...

Jellicoe Road is about family, loss, and acceptance. It is both a mystery and a love story, filled with action, adventure and discovery. It is touching, it is riveting, it is mysterious. And good golly, is it emotional. The whole book is a beautiful, complex mystery, and to read it is

Continued on page 11



My Sister's Keeper

Clarice Timm
Staff Writer

Have you ever felt like you were living in a book, unable to put it down? That's how you will feel reading *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult. This novel is a heart rending story about a girl who wants to sue her parents.

Author Jodi Picoult, recipient of the 2003 New England Book Award, wrote ten novels previous to *My Sister's Keeper*. This Harvard graduate now shares the story of the Fitzgerald family.

Anna Fitzgerald was born to be a donor for her sister Kate, who was diagnosed at age three with leukemia. She gives bone marrow, blood, and organs to her older sister.

Sara, Anna and Kate's mother, decided that they should have another child who would be Kate's match. Even though the Fitzgerald parents say that they love all their children the same, Anna is living in the shadow of Kate.

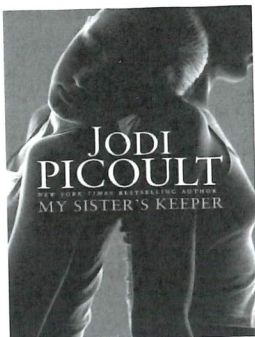
Now that Anna is 13 she feels that she should have rights to her own body and it should be her decision what she does with it instead of her parents. "The only reason I was born was a harvest crop for Kate," says Anna. She decides to file a lawsuit for rights to her own body.

When Anna's parents find out about the lawsuit they were absolutely astonished that Anna wants to stop donating to Kate, especially when she's almost due to undergo a kidney transplant that may give Kate a little more time to live.

This book is important for teens to read, because it makes you realize that life isn't always a fairytale. While you may be concerned with your cellphones, relationships, or hating your family because of curfews, some people would give anything to be healthy and together.

Even though I truly connected with this book I do have a few negatives. The chapters were from different points of views and what they were going through. For example the first chapter is from Anna's point of view than in chapter two it switched to Campbell's perspective, and so on. It got confusing at times because in some chapters the setting was past tense and it was in the present in others. Also they never had a chapter on what Kate thought of this whole situation and I would have really liked to know more about what she was thinking and how she felt.

If you are a person who is looking for a different viewpoint on life and what some unfortunate families go through, *My Sister's Keeper* a true page turner may be for you.



Starbucks' new cup causes controversy

Ingrid Ebbesen
Staff Writer

It's controversial, it's insensitive, it's the talk of social media, it's... a frappuccino?

Usually, we don't care how our latte reaches our mouth, but this winter's holiday cup at Starbucks sent people into hysterics. The "red cup" does not feature designs like snowmen, stars, or Christmas trees, it is just plain red. The buzz about this cup started when social media personality Joshua Feurstein ranted about it, declaring it was an "attack on Christ". Then the republican presidential candidate Donald Trump further sparked controversy by saying "maybe we should boycott Starbucks, I don't know."

Nora Krings, English teacher said "I feel like the controversy is very silly. I didn't even notice the cups were different until a student pointed it out to me. I don't think the design on the cup affects me, good or bad. I just like the coffee and the breakfast sandwiches."

It seems that everyone is talking about the cup: home decor sites, Internet comic author the Oatmeal, and PETA have tweeted about this cup, offering complaints, and new designs for Starbucks. Social media personality Tim Odell even tweeted "reeks of political correctness. Count me in on ones avoiding that operation". Dunkin' Donuts has taken full advantage of this situation, sporting their very festive holiday cups on social media.

One thing is for sure, Starbucks has "brewed up" plenty of anger for the decision they made.



The new controversial cups

Bernie Sanders has Joshua's vote

Joshua Cordes
Staff Writer

Bernie Sanders. The only real progressive 2016 candidate running for president of the United States of America. You may be thinking, "Isn't Hillary Clinton running too?" Yes. Yes she is. But, she changes her mind based on what is going to get more votes. She is unreliable, riding the waves of public opinion. Sanders, on the other hand, has consistently remained progressive on the topics that matter - civil rights, income inequality, free public college, a living minimum wage, getting big money out of politics, and on, and on.

Some of you may not care. You believe that "politics" has nothing to do with you. Well, let me tell you something; politics affects everyone. Maybe you don't really care about guns, but you think that income inequality is bad. Well, you can do something to change the drastic income inequality by voting once you're 18 years of age! Or even now, you can try to convince your parents to vote for Bernie Sanders. Because he is the only presidential candidate willing to stand up to the corporations and big banks. If you think that this election doesn't affect you because you're a dependent (i.e. living off your parents), think again. One day you won't have your parents to take care of your needs. When that day comes, if you've gone to college, you're probably going to have a mountain of debt - unless Sanders gets elected and changes the system of college payment.

Politics isn't just about adults, It's about everyone. Because if you're homeless, and the government won't help you because they want to give more money to big corporations. If you want rights to abortion, and the government thinks that people shouldn't have the right to their own bodies. If you want avoid having a mountain of debt once you graduate from college. If you want better healthcare, and don't want your parents to have to pay astronomical amounts for it, that is all politics.

In short, politics affects everyone. That's why everyone should be involved in it too. Democracy is not sit-back-and-let-others-take-care-of-it government, it's I-need-to-stand-up-for-my-beliefs-and-rights government. Unless you'd prefer a plutocratic oligarchy. So vote when you're older, and make sure that you are standing up for what you believe in.

You can start now, because your parents can vote, and you *might* be able to convince them to vote. Try to convince them to vote Bernie Sanders, because if you want any social mobility in this country by the the time you're

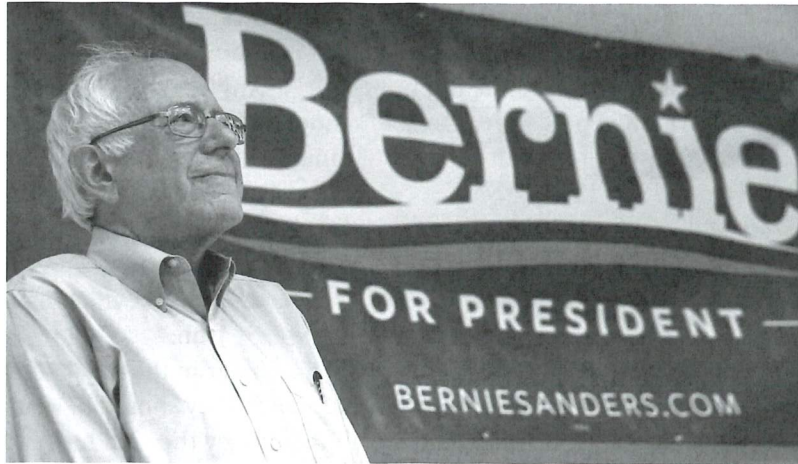
out of school, you're going to want him as president, or at least to have been.

Bernie Sanders is not a wasted vote - any other vote is a wasted vote, because Clinton will continue business as usual, as will a majority of the republican candidates - which just leads us down the path of oligarchy and plutocracy. Some of them will make things much,

much worse, but Sanders can make things better. Free public university and college, breaking up the big banks, standing up to corporate money in politics - these are the things he can, and will do. And Sanders is the person to do it.

*The Purple Press claims no responsibility for any conflict that arises because of talking about politics with parents, guardians, and/or strangers on the street.

The views expressed here are those of Joshua Cordes and do not necessarily represent the views of the Purple Press as a whole.



Jellicoe Road from page 9

to watch the pages fit together like a puzzle.

The image it reveals is both lovely and heartbreaking.

Melina Marchetta goes above and beyond the expectations for YA with this book. Her characters are so well-developed and real that it seems as though they could walk off the page at any moment. Each character is carefully brought to life through and her settings are beautiful. She creates not one world but two, and as you jump between Taylor's boarding school and the world of Hannah's book, you begin to realize that nothing in this skillfully crafted novel is what it seems. *Jellicoe Road* is worthy of the five stars I gave it on Goodreads, the Printz award it received in 2009, and, most importantly, your time.

Ender's Game. A dumb book I didn't read



Antonio Carvale
Staff Columnist

I'm reviewing Ender's Game. It's a stupid book for stupid nerds with stupid teachers. I know what I said. If you've got any problems please spell all your whiny comments in boulders and send me the google earth coordinates. Your willingness to do that is basically equal to how much I care about said comments. So quit complaining and read.

To be honest I never read the book because I don't know how to read. Also it looked dumb. I did however,

sort of watch the movie at my cousin's house. It was just as dumb as the book I didn't read.

Keep in mind, this is all going off of memory of a movie I saw years ago. For an insight on how long ago this was, I was still in my Nirvana stage of teen angst then. And now that I'm a grown man I can strongly say that Nirvana is grungy, mumbling, and whiny. Most of the fame they attracted was because people were afraid Kurt Cobain would

haunt them if they didn't like them. Kurt Cobain, more like Kurt CoLAME. See? No respect for the dead or the living. I don't discriminate. So please send your complaints my way, just keep in mind it only gives me more power.

The main character's name is Ender's Game and this kid is like six years old. He looks about three and a half feet tall and he weighs under 60 pounds. Whoever chose this kid to save the world is dumb as hell on account of Franklin could basically step on this kid without giving two Poops. Wait no. Scratch that. Frank doesn't even give one poop.

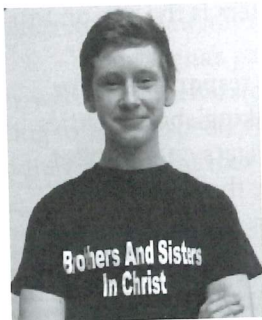
Anyway the movie starts with Ender's Game at school and these bullies start kicking his butt. Then Ender's Game is all "SIKE," and RKO's the life out of one of them. Seriously, he killed someone. Next shot Indiana jones is all "Get off my plane." And they go to space school.

Space school was sorta like my summer school. There's only one hot chick there and everyone's mad at me for some reason.

Later in the movie they play zero gravity freeze tag, which they should have made into a real game with all the money they made off this two-hour long turd. I've

Ender's Game continued on page 13

Community Meetings and how to improve them



Patrick Verner
Staff Columnist

We all know that community meetings consist of being trapped in a room with all the other sweaty mindless zombies who roam about the school. But they serve an important purpose; to educate the herd about local happenings of the school, upcoming events, and impending doom. Now, these meetings are great and all, but I have a few suggestions that can make them even better.

An important investment for any school is a jumbotron. Now, what we do with it can vary, but an outstanding idea for it would be a kiss-cam. Think about it. All of you sitting in the audience, bored out of your minds. When suddenly, the massive screen suspended above you flashes on. Ensnared in its glory are two unwitting victims. Slowly, their fate, the moment their entire lives have been leading up to, comes into play. The whole school watches, the realization slipping into their minds, albeit ever so laggardly. Perhaps they try and play it off, run and start a new life in Tijuana, or seize the moment. Either way it doesn't matter. Their embarrassment and inner turmoil has

been displayed for the world to see. Everybody wins.

A second essential use for a jumbotron would be a student spotlight, but instead of saying something about how good the featured student is, it would reveal embarrassing things about them. For example; "Freddy Johnson was born in a circus van and wet his bed until he was 11," or "Sally Smith once went four weeks without brushing her teeth and owns 34 cats who all are named Daryl." Perhaps for extra credit students could search for the most horrendous tidbits about their peers, then pitch them to Damon, who would select a batch of the juicy morsels to be exposed to the world.

Also, don't waste our time on monotonous fundraisers. I have a foolproof plan to make more money on a fundraiser than any of you ever could. This whole pie-ing thing is cool, but really it's just a plate full of whipped cream. Whipped cream can be wiped off and taken in stride. But here's how to solve that: spaghetti. I don't know you ever thought about the awe-inspiring destructive capabilities of spaghetti but let me tell you, I have.

Imagine getting an agglomeration of spaghetti lobbed at your face. It would ruin your whole week - nay, your whole life - and your dinky outfit. And no more of that wimpy little "would you be alright having pie thrown in

Community Meetings continued on page 14

Ender's Game from page 12

taken actual turds more entertaining than this movie. Be it while on the toilet I'm usually checking my instagrams (the_thunderbird_, follow me.) or practicing guitar.

That's right. If you don't have a designated poop-ing guitar you're not a real musician.

After they play space freeze tag, the rest of the movie is *Ender's Game* trying to get with the only hot chick in space school, and him complaining when he can't. After that there's these aliens which are only in the movie for like a minute before *Ender's Game* mercilessly pulls a Hiroshima and nukes the heckle outta them. Then Han Solo is all "I didn't kill my wife." Then *Ender's Game* is like "I don't care." Before rocketing his way out of space school and being a depressed lil' teenage loser all because he RKO'd the heck outta some loser space bugs.

The remainder of the movie is a romantic comedy starring the white dude from *Men in Black* and the main character from *Bladerunner*, who's also a replicant by the way. Spoiler alert.

Excuse my French but; le film est un morceau de (bad french word).

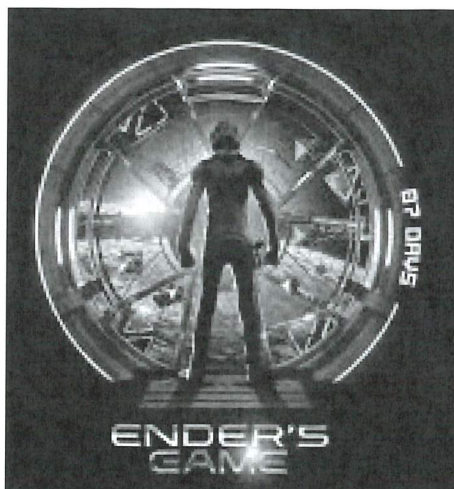
And to whoever's talking about how this book is some crazy accurate insight into human nature, here, let me save you countless hours of reading or about two hours of watching; Yeah, we're all jerks.

I live on the mentality that there's good in nearly everyone, just give them all a chance. And so far, I say it's worked out in my favor about 7% of the time. Which is a whole lot more than no percent. So until something changes I'm not gonna stop.

Aight losers.

For any suggestions on what I should complain about next, write down your suggestion put it in a bottle, and throw it in the ocean. In 40 years after I tunnel my

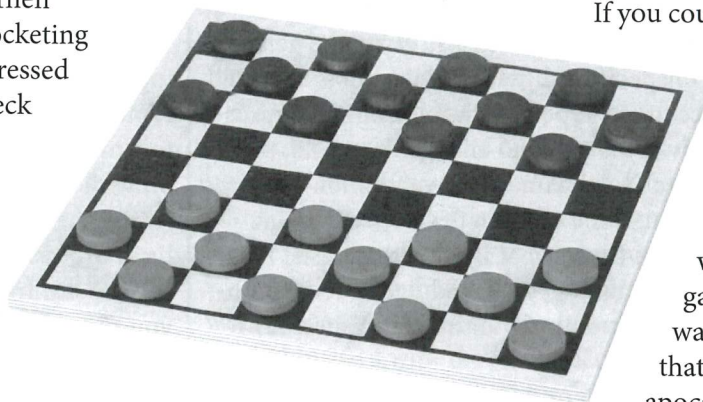
way out of prison Shaw-shank style, I will find the bottle, read it, and throw it back because I've got better things to do. Remember to rate, favorite and subscribe for more "crap-py" content. Spartacus out.



New mind-blowing game wows experts

Thomas Verner
Staff Writer

I'm sitting at my table, scanning the game. My heart is racing, I'm searching for what move to make that will not expose my flanks, moving diagonally across the field of play. As I approach enemy lines, I spy myself a foe. I approach stealthily, he doesn't see me. I close in, and pounce for a kill. Only seven more to go.



If you couldn't tell already I'm playing a thrilling new game called: Checkers. The game, released earlier this month, was one of the games whose release was shadowed by that of *Fallout 4*, an apocalyptic video game

set in 2007 graphics.

The game is set on a checkerboard pattern, and the graphics rival actual life.

It's played on a handheld console. However, many emulators exists, and can be run on most gaming PC's, and even some phones.

The gameplay is turn based, unlike most player vs player games, and is controlled from third person. It begins when the first player moves one square. This is what each turn consists of. Players move in a diagonal pattern until they are close enough to attack each other. They then have the ability to jump their opponent's soldier, terminating its play. The game ends once one player has killed all of his opponent characters.

I was disappointed by the game's campaign, or story mode. I found it quite boring, and it generally lacked content. I suspect this was due to developers releasing an unfinished game hoping to force players to pay for downloadable content.

The game really shines when played in multiplayer. It's only one vs one, but it's a delightful combination of strategy and skill based combat. While you can't 360-no-scope-headshot-Rekt-scope-air-horn-lmao-got-em, the game's multiplayer mode relies heavily on the gamer's ability to see potential moves and act accordingly. The object of the multiplayer is to kill all enemies, with no alternate game modes.

Overall, the game is well worth the wait and price. It delivers a brilliant new way to use a board with a pattern, and refreshes the game market of today.

The future of VR

Oliver Morin
Staff Writer

I published a story in the Purple Press of 2015 about how Oculus, a company developing a virtual reality headset, was acquired by Facebook. I would like to clarify something; virtual reality isn't going to make computer screens and other peripherals obsolete. Every time some new technology comes out, everyone gets worked up and makes a fuss that it's about to change everything. If you're worried that new technology is going to change things...

Don't be.

I know that seems like a lot to ask, given the general populus flips their unspecified digestive byproducts at even the smallest advance in any type of technology. If anyone assumes that some new toy is going to change the world, they're probably wrong. There's approximately seven billion people in the world. Just because one of them developed a magic machine that allows you to see what isn't there, doesn't mean that everything else that allows you to indulge in recreational illusions is going to automatically disappear. Especially if there's still things that doesn't work with the new machines.

Therefore, even if the Oculus Rift is a psychic illusion magic headset that will forever change first-person games, first-person games are all it's going to change, and therein lies the rub. First-person games, including first person shooter games, represent only a fraction of the games currently on the market. The Rift just doesn't work its intended purpose for third-person or fixed-camera games like DotA, League of Legends, Mortal Kombat, or Diablo, and it doesn't work for FPS games either. Someone playing Half-Life 2, for example, on a "complete" VR rig (headset, omnidirectional treadmill, and Nintendo Zapper-style motion controller) is painful to watch, and the neck injuries they're going to get from whipping their head around certainly doesn't add to the appeal. The only games that do work with the Rift were specifically designed, or modified to fit it. There are some advantages to the ability to completely simulate sights. Particularity to the movie industry. But it has a limited appeal unless it's alongside the ability to completely simulate other senses, especially the sense of touch.

Virtual Reality continued on page 17



The oculus headset

Community Meetings from page 12

your face?" Deal. Instead, all the staff would be mandatorily enlisted into the contest.

Now this is where the beauty of this comes in. Perhaps the first time the staff is caught off guard. But after they see what spaghetti will do to their life you can bet your first born child no teacher is going to willingly go up there. So the teachers start putting in their own money, or better yet, they all pool in and gang up on the least favorite member of the staff. Probably Leo or something. The Robotics team would raise enough money to send the whole school off to the salt mines of Romania and never come back. Or for the robot they're making to pick up trash or whatever.

Another foolproof way to make community meetings way more interesting is if someone, say Tom, had a remote, connected to each and every chair, allowing him to smite students on a whim. Imagine you start drifting off while someone drones on about the upcoming fruit fly mating season or God knows what. The minute your head droops a bit, a bolt of lightning comes down from the sky. In a bang and a phenomenal cloud of smoke, you simply cease to exist. Not only would this absolutely

brilliant plan to stop kids from getting distracted from what is clearly incredibly interesting, it would also make community meetings vastly more entertaining if a significant portion of the hour was dedicated to watching people get smote from the heavens. Moreover, I would bet this same system would be useful in any and every classroom across America, motivating and inspiring students.

A well thought out yet poorly executed idea is the "Chic Award" where a random student is selected from the audience for being "chic,"

and has to walk up in front of everyone.

However, this moment of displeasure is brief, and doesn't involve a whole lot of thinking (or suffering) from the recipient. I believe the triumphant recipient should then be given a choice; to either deliver a convincing acceptance speech, at least 7 minutes long, or should they so choose, perform a deft example of a moose stumbling upon a pack of wild tacos.

Community meetings serve a very important purpose. But I believe that things like smiting students at random from the audience, or throwing spaghetti at teachers in the name of fundraising, could make community meetings more interesting and focused. It would create a more peaceful atmosphere throughout the school.



SPORTS!



NEW SECTION!

Deflategate

Haakon Neske and Joe Deutch
Staff Writer

Every football used in an official NFL game is supposed to be inflated to 13 PSI (pounds per square inch). Deflating footballs in any way shape or form is considered cheating. Did New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady help to deflate footballs prior to the AFC Championship game last year?

That is the question that has given birth to the controversy called "deflategate."

Brady was accused of being involved in the deflating of the footballs prior to the first half of the game. Brady could gain an advantage from deflating footballs because a slightly deflated ball is easier to grip and throw. The Patriots are known for their passing prowess, and Brady is a huge part of their attack. The Patriots went on to win the game 45-7, then two weeks later in the Super Bowl, the team made a spectacular win and took home the Lombardi Trophy.

A lot has been said about whether Brady took part or not. Teams deliberately deflating footballs happens so

Deflategate continued on page 16

Headers in soccer

Zhanna Dunagan
Staff Writer

It's year 2025. The US has a free kick. It's the last play of the game. It's 2-1. If the US doesn't score, it will be the first time they haven't gone to the World Cup. The free kick is taken and sent into the box. The ball comes straight to Smith's head. He shies away and misses the ball. The whistle blows. The US lost the game, but at least he didn't get a concussion.

US soccer has now prevented kids 10 and under from heading the ball altogether and reducing headers in practice for kids 13 and under.

In my opinion the No Header Policy is going to hinder the development of US Soccer. Soccer is the world's most popular sport. Millions of Americans play soccer. Some have the dreams of playing in the EPL (English Premier League) in England, La Liga in Spain, Bundesliga in Germany, etc... For girls there is D1 Féminin in France, an FA Womens English Premier League, Frauen-Bundesliga (Women's Bundesliga), etc... To play in these top tier

Headers continued on page 17

New Vikings Qb the answer?

Tom Hobday
Staff Writer

The Vikings are a very good 8-5 as of now, and doing uncharacteristically well. This is the best record they've had at this point since 2010, when Brett Favre took them to the NFC title game. They are in contention to win the National Football Conference north division, currently behind the Green Bay Packers by a tie breaker.

The reason for this is a great running game with Adrian Peterson and the NFL's 2nd best defense in yards and points allowed. Quarterback Teddy Bridgewater on the other hand, has struggled. His passer rating of 85.4 is 23rd in the league, and he only has 8 touchdowns, 29th in the league.

Teddy had a very good college career at Louisville, where he passed for 9,817 yards and 72 touchdowns. He was drafted in 2014 with the last pick of the 1st round. Going into the draft, many people had him as a top 5 pick, maybe even first overall. The reason he was drafted so low is because of a poor NFL Pro Day showing. Right now, Teddy is under contract for four years and \$6.85 million. His performance in the coming years will determine whether he gets an extension, and if he is the franchise Quarterback.

The Vikings are certainly winning, and Teddy has done the necessary things to win. He has led the Vikings on two game-winning drives, against the Bears and the Rams, and showed great poise and the talent to make the throws to win. With 1:50 left in the game and down by 7 against the Bears, he delivered a 40 yard touchdown pass to Stefon Diggs. Later, in overtime with 28 seconds left, he

Bridgewater continued on page 16



Deflategate from page 15

rarely that when the patriots deflated the footballs, in such an important game, it was a huge deal for fans, the Patriots, and other NFL players and teams. It should be noted that the Patriots scored a majority of their points in the second half of the AFC Championship game -- when properly inflated balls were in play.

Before the game started the Indianapolis Colts emailed the NFL saying the Patriots were up to no good. There were a number of texts going on between the team equipment assistant John Jastremski and the locker room attendant Jim McNally saying that they were going to inflate the balls even more. "Tom sucks...im going make that next ball a ***** balloon," said McNally.

Brady was originally suspended for four games by the commissioner of the NFL, Roger Goodell. Robert Kraft, the owner of the Patriots was furious. In a press conference he stated "I was wrong to put my faith in the league." Brady testified and took the suspension downsize of just two games. But Brady thought that wasn't fair and he testified again. The scandal was later taken to court. The judge ruled in Brady's favor and he wasn't suspended.

A lot of fans of the Patriots did things such as making t-shirts that display the words "Free Brady." Others were

as far as you can get as to liking the Patriots. It got to the point that the New York Jets fans hired a plane to fly over the patriots camp that said "Cheaters look up."



"Even if the footballs were deflated, the patriots still won like 900-0," said math teacher Tom Totushek. "Tom [brady] definitely should not have been suspended." The Patriots have lost one game this year. Maybe the Patriots took hatred as a motivation. As far as anyone knows, those games weren't played with deflated footballs. People can't help but still be skeptical of the Patriots, particularly Brady. But after the season is about ¾ over, the team has a good chance of taking home the trophy once again.

Bridgewater from page 15

threw a 35 yard pass to Charles Johnson that set up Blair Walsh's game winning field goal. On both of these throws he looked like he was meant to be there, and performed well.

The thing about Teddy is he's not going to pass for 300 yards every game. He is going to establish a running game and make the plays that need to be done. One reason for this is a awful offensive line that doesn't give him much time in the pocket. According to Pro Football Focus, no quarterback has been under more pressure. In the 3 losses, he has been sacked 18 times. Fortunately, he has a good football brain, and takes care of the ball. One of the criticisms against him is that he thinks too much, passing up on a deep throw for a safe quick dump. While he is 20th in yards per attempt, 51.8% of his yards come on yards after the catch, and is 27th in actual yards traveled before the catch. This shows that much of his throws are safe throws that allow the receiver to make a play after the catch.

The Vikings brought in Mike Wallace in the hope he would provide a deep threat, but he only has 28 catches for 318 yards. Teddy instead has found a favorite target in Stefon Diggs, a rookie drafted in the 5th round out of Maryland. He has 30 receptions in only six games, and 507 yards.

With Adrian Peterson in the backfield, you don't need an amazing passer. He will get you around 100 yards a game, and will sometimes break a huge run and change the momentum of the game. He recently ran for 203 yards against Oakland, including an 80 yard touchdown run to put the game away.

The Vikings think they have found the long term answer. "I think Teddy's got an extremely bright future. I think he's a heck of a quarterback. And I'm glad he's mine," said head coach Mike Zimmer. Spanish teacher Tim Leone-Getten agrees, saying, "I am fully on the Teddy bandwagon. He is doing everything we need to win. The Vikings used to not throw over the middle and get long first downs but with Teddy, they're doing it." Math teacher and Vikings fan Tom Totushek, on the other hand, says "It's tough to say [if he is the long term answer]. Anybody looks good handing off to Adrian Peterson. It's a question of if he can win games for them when they're down."

I do think Teddy can be a good NFL quarterback, he has shown flashes of it. He is a very accurate passer (12th in completion percentage) who makes good decisions. He is tough, coming back from a hit to the head by a Rams player the following week to lead his team to a win against the Raiders. He eludes pressure well, providing more time for receivers to develop. What he needs to be though is consistent, and to increase his production of yards. Right now he averages 201 yards a game, which is 29th in the league. I think these numbers will increase though, when the offensive line returns to full strength, and he has more time to look for receivers. Adrian Peterson will not be around forever, and Teddy needs to improve. He is bound to be under the watch of second year coach Mike Zimmer, a coach of the year candidate.

leagues, it's essential to know how to head a soccer ball. It's how teams score and gain possession of the ball. People, there is a reason why there is only one American field player left that plays in the English Premier League. For how many kids in America play soccer, that's just sad.

Just think- soccer is a game with usually very little goals scored. Statistics show that 12% of all headers go in while only 9% of shots go in. If you don't teach kids how to head the ball, 1. They aren't going to score off corners, crosses, and free kicks that often and 2. They are going to see the ball, know they have to head it, and hurt themselves trying, because they were never taught! Most kids have a hard time with the concept of heading, mostly because they are afraid it is going to hurt. It takes time and practice, and so they should be introducing the idea before U14, when they are about to go into high school soccer. "It definitely creates an unfair advantage because in soccer you actually use your head a lot," says 10th grade Central student Sunniva Dunagan. "What will happen if the ball is coming in the air to you and you can't head it? It will definitely take away from the game. I think that kids of any age should be able to use their head."

Another concern I have is how they are going to regulate the rule. I have a feeling this is going to create more conflict than solution. Some teams are going to practice headers a lot, despite the restrictions at practices, and then win games by in the air play because the other teams have no exposure. "I guess for some teams no heading would take their advantage away because a lot of team's players are really big so they want to use that to their advantage on corner kicks," says 8th grader Micah Gundale. Are referees going to call fouls if you do a header? In the rules of soccer it states that any field player (non goalie) can use any part of their body except their hands/arms. Are they really changing the offi-



cial rules?

Concussions are a problem in many sports, so why there is so much concern about soccer in particular? One in five high school athletes will get a concussion during a high school season. It happens! You can't avoid it permanently. American football causes 47% of all concussions. Where is the pressure to make American football safe? They have yet to alter the rules of football to prevent head injuries.

In a survey with 100,000 athletes, these are the percentages of concussions that are higher than boys (19%) and girls (33%) soccer. Football (76%), boys ice hockey (54%), boys lacrosse (46%), and girls lacrosse (34%). These sports have yet to set outrageous limitations like this. I referee boys and girls soccer, and I know from experience that U9 and U10 kids don't head balls that often. I mean, I get where

they're coming from, but I think it's just going to cause more stress or/and confusion than anything. In reality, the action of heading the ball causes very few concussions. Usually when someone gets a concussion in soccer it is from hitting another player's head, getting kicked, or another foul-worthy discretion. Lots of players also get concussions from not knowing how to head the ball correctly and having the ball hit them on the top

of their heads instead of on the forehead.

Just being honest here, where is this going? Sure, I know the whole safety thing about not getting concussions and head injuries and what not, but this rule is absurd! What are kids supposed to do when a soccer ball comes flying at their heads? Duck? That's kind of pathetic. Instead of banning kids from heading the ball, why don't they teach younger kids how to head the ball the right way, and have coaches spend extra time on proper technique to decrease the risk of head injuries.

Virtual Reality from page 14

Frankly, virtual reality devices have been in existence since the Sensorama's appearance in 1962. Since then, all that has changed the size of the VR console and the graphics quality, at a perilously slow rate. Not much else has been fixed or improved, including the biggest problem; only two of the five senses can be reproduced by the Rift and a good gaming headset. This means you can't experience the smell of napalm in the morning, the weight of the world's fate on your shoulders, or the taste of sweet victory after you save the planet. All you can get is a good view of the carnage you sow, and an epic soundtrack to add to the mixtape. The fact that Oculus has managed to reproduce one of the five

senses so clearly is admirable, but it still doesn't change the fact that we have a long way to go before we reach a level where something like the simulated reality from *The Matrix* is possible, even if we're only talking about the VR aspect of the movies.

Bottom line? VR isn't going to replace your computer monitor, TV screen, or immortal soul any time soon. It won't be affordable until long after that. It will be feasible, but not until people get a few problems sorted out. Perhaps another couple centuries will do the trick.

City Council from page 6

portunities to involve people about their role in local government. "I believe that everyone is a local expert and that good ideas come from everywhere!" says Brendmoen.

Ward Two represents the West Side, West Seventh, and the Downtown area. Where most of the seats were filled again with the current City Councilmembers, current City Councilmember from Ward Two Dave

Thune retired giving a chance for new blood on the council. The race was very close with no one really knowing who would win until the last moment.

The elections have been intense from the start. We saw just how close the candidates were to each other when they failed to get a DFL endorsement. The DFL endorsement is what decides who is the official democrat running, and in a city like St. Paul that is huge. The DFL endorsement is decided by a group of voters, who keep on voting until one candidate get a 50% of the vote. The democratic City Council candidates were so close that they failed to get enough of the votes for either side no matter how many times they revoted.

Since no one got the DFL endorsement the candidates all ran in the general election. That was held on November third. A candidate must get 50% percent of the votes to be elected. Neither candidate got 50% so they had to count the second round votes. It wasn't until the following Monday the the final results were in declaring Necker the winner, but only with a mere 338 votes.

Noecker lives in the West Side of St. Paul and has an education

background. Noecker will be the first women to represent Ward Two. She is looking for more transparency in City Hall and more chances for citizen engagement. She also said she wants businesses to know what to expect from the city.

Executive director of Westside Community Organization (WSO) and parent Christine Shyne was pleased with how the elections turned out. WSO held forums and made voter guides for the elections to get voter education. Shyne felt having someone from the West Side would give representation for a sometimes forgotten neighborhood. She also believes that having someone with an education background will be beneficial to the school. "Having a City Councilperson with a background in education is really good for OWL and schools in general," she said.

REBECCA ★ NOECKER
— FOR —
ST. PAUL CITY COUNCIL
WARD 2

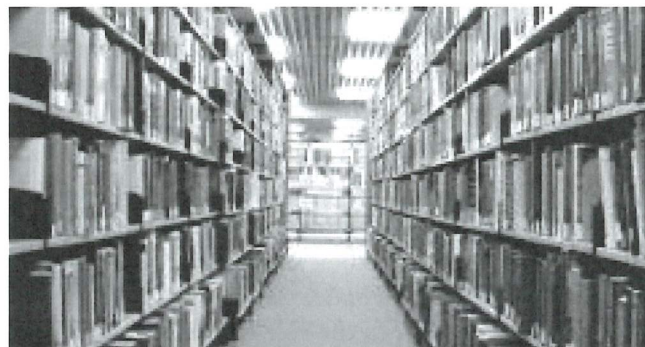
Amy
Brendmoen
City Council

Public Libraries from page 7

removed, librarians "try to see what is being checked out." Librarians also "get rid of books in bad condition." This has led to a representation of very few books that were published before 2005, let alone from before 2000.

Quinn was surprised by this sudden change. "I do read a lot of young adult, but the young adult books that they have there aren't even the young adult books that I want to read. When I walk into the library I feel like I'm walking into a mass of trashy vampire books." Libraries removing older books from the open shelving results in a lack of culture and diversity, and some question the quality of the books replacing the older ones. According to Alison "Libraries are doing a disservice to their patrons" by limiting diversity of age in their collection. Classical literature has lasted for so long because it has themes that "Carry through time" and reflects on human values, and these are the reasons why it is valuable to have access to these novels.

At least in the OWL community, these recent changes in the public library have been frowned upon. SPPL is working against their original purpose, betraying their original vision of a quiet space for studying and reading. The decrease in average teen program attendance and teen checkouts provides strong evidence against SPPL's optimistic claims of more influence on teens and in the community. Library staff has done many things in an attempt to increase teen attendance, but in reality, these efforts have been working against them.



Jazz Choir from page 1

people excited about it. Colleges all over are starting A Cappella groups. Science teacher Sorcha Nix actually founded an A Cappella group at the University of Minnesota.

A Cappella was originally religious, believe it or not, because some priest decided that instruments were "un-holy". However, colleges didn't really start A Cappella groups until the 1900's.

"I went to college and I was in a choir there and it was one of the best experiences of my life, so I wanted to bring it here," said Alex. The choir will not be competing this year, but Alex says that he would like to compete in the future. Until then, the first planned event for the choir is the choir class concert in January.

History Day is here, happiness and cheer

Theo Sage-Martinson
Staff Writer

Many people will soon be sweating over thesis statements, working on long bibliographies, and cutting out pictures of historical figures. That's because History Day is fully underway, with the school competition on February 25. Many people feel the pressure of the theme weighing on them.

This year the school History Day will have less people because 8th graders do not have to participate, they will be doing Model UN instead.

At this time many History Day vets are getting underway choosing topics and mediums. Bjorn Holm, 10th grader at the Blake School, Eli Sage-Martinson, 10th grade, and Sam Dale-Gau, 10th grade, are doing a group documentary on the Apollo-Soyuz test mission. Eli and Bjorn went to the national competition in 2013. Sam joined the group in 2014. Siena Leone-Getten, last year's national winner, has not chosen a topic. She has decided to do a individual documentary. Many people still claim that explorers make a great topic, such as new history teacher Katie Craven, "I think the NHD Theme for this year, Exploration,

Encounter, Exchange in history, is great and there are a lot of different directions students can go with it. Students don't have to use all three theme words (though they're encouraged to use at least two) so they don't have to focus on the traditional "exploration" topics like Columbus or Lewis & Clark. They can be looking at encounters during social movements such as women's rights, civil rights, abolition, labor issues, etc."

If you need help this History Day season talk with Katie or social studies teacher Dan Sullivan. Dan is running a History Day mentor club during Friday activities.

NHD
NATIONAL
HISTORY DAY

Kristie Xiong

How many years have you been at OWL?

11 years.

What extracurricular activities are you a part of?

Archery and theater.

What are your plans for next year?

Go to St. Paul College for two years and then transfer to art school to study culinary arts.

What is your favorite band, book, or movie?

I like Pixar's Inside Out.

What was your favorite school trip or field work?

The senior retreat.

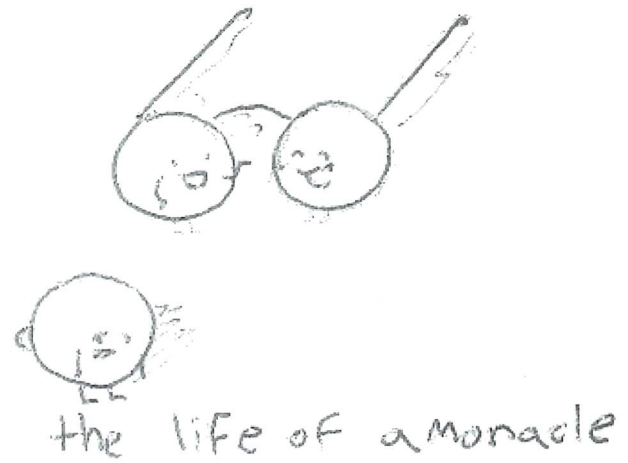
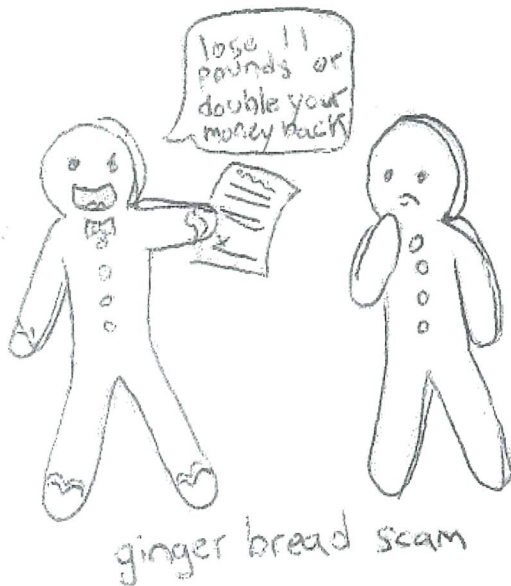
What is your Crew history?

I've been in John's crew, Dave's, Anya's, Damon's, and Sherri's.



Senior Profile

COMICS



what Tim's really doing when you
CAN'T find him