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Purple Press



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Seniors to graduate abroad

Ceremony moved to New Zealand in order to avoid messy complications and restrictions

Paloma Leone-Getten
Staff Writer

Claiming to "feel bad that the seniors are missing their last year of high school," the OWL administration released controversial plans yesterday to send the class of 2021 to New Zealand for their graduation ceremony. "New Zealand

is COVID free, and we'll be chartering a jet for them obviously, to limit their exposure," said Principal Dave Gundale. "The entire staff will be coming because we all really need a vacation. It was just such a bummer last year, for the class of 2020 to have a virtual graduation, so we didn't want

that to happen again." The beach-side ceremony will be streamed on Facebook Live, so that families can still watch the seniors graduate. Additionally, residents of New Zealand will be hired to sit in the audience, so it's not so empty. "We missed out on so much, so like, we deserve to go," said senior

Lachlan Cotner. Rumors have circulated that the fall retreat money for the next decade is being used for this 10-day (not including their 14-day quarantine upon arrival) over-the-top "field trip" for the seniors. Dave and the PTO have both declined to comment on that matter.



Mauao beach is the site chosen for OWL's class of 2021 graduation ceremony.

Summer '21 to be cut short



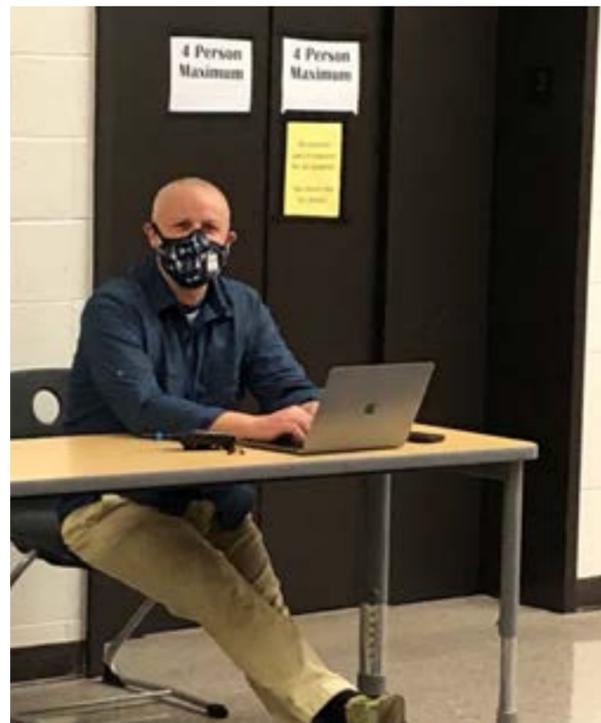
Students will be seeing the front of the school building a month earlier than usual in fall 2021 (left), Dave is putting in extra hours this spring to make sure he is ready for the unprecedented August start date (right).

Lili Hobday
Staff Writer

In a highly contested decision, SPPS announced on Monday that due to teacher recommendation and low performance on standardized tests, students will be return-

ing to school a month early next year. "It was a tough decision, but we really feel as though this extra month will be vital in getting students back on track," said the superintendent. Students will start on Mon-

day, August 2nd and plans are in the works for a full 7 hour school day from 8:00 to 3:00. Many students are outraged by this decision, saying they've been waiting for summer for what seems like forever and are now seeing it ripped away



Purple Press Staff Photo

Group AP testing for 2021

Lillian Hennessee
Staff Writer

In an effort to raise AP test scores this year, the College Board announced Thursday that all 2021 AP tests would be done collaboratively.

Due to many schools participating in distance learning for the majority of the 2020-2021 school year, College Board officials worry that students' learning may not be on par with a normal year. The official plan is to have three students (assigned randomly) working on each test collaboratively, and all sharing the same score. "We're hoping that assigning three pandemic brains to an AP test will be equivalent to assigning one normal brain to an AP test," says Dave Colebo, CEO of the College Board.

Although the test will be done collaboratively, the normal rules of AP tests will apply. This means that, among other things, no talking will be allowed. When asked about how students will collaborate without talking, Colebo elaborated, "The students will have to find unique and creative ways to go about this test as a team. We are helping them out by allowing them to do the tests in groups, so we don't want to make it too easy by allowing them to actually talk to each other."

The decision comes after backlash from 2020's AP exams, as many students and parents complained about unfairness of testing, due to gaps in students learning after the sudden withdrawal from school in spring of 2020.



Purple Press Staff Photo

An IRS official delivers one of the first gift baskets that president Joe Biden sent out in place of stimulus checks.

Gift baskets on the way

Biden decides stimulus checks not an option this time around

Libby Nelson
Staff Writer

After gradually pulling back on promised COVID-19 relief, President Joe Biden announced Tuesday that in place of the \$1,400 stimulus check, he will be personally sending out gift baskets and "Get Well Soon" cards.

Over the past couple of months, we have watched President Biden neglect the

from them. "All I've done this school year is stare at my computer screen. I've stayed inside to be safe but now that vaccines are rolling out, I want to have the best summer of my life, not spend a third of it sitting in a dusty classroom,"

said 11th grader Paloma Leone-Getten.

Others agree with the decision, many stating that they've learned nothing this year and are nervous for when they actually have to start doing

Early start, 3

sideration, the Biden administration decided that \$1,400 wasn't low enough, and the money could be put towards more military weaponry.

"Nobody's perfect, at least he's not Trump! I'd actually enjoy blueberry muffins more than I would two thousand dollars," said local Democrat Robert Simpson. Many others did not share this enthusiasm when they received a COVID relief gift basket. The basket included popcorn, homemade

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Dave's reputation sinks

New documents show Dave exaggerated infamous white water rafting story

Helena Squires Mosher
Staff Writer

Following the release of documents thought to be long gone, Open World Learning's principal Dave Gundale has been shown to have embellished his white water rafting story that he tells every year.

This new information has been verified, confirming that Dave didn't actually fall into the rushing water of a dangerous river--prompting his crew to paddle back up to get him--rather, he just got his hand a little wet. "What a weak-o," said 7th grader Bobby Flenderson, after reading through the papers.

The repercussions of this lie have yet to be decided, but many members of the OWL community have expressed

distrust in Dave. "How are we supposed to believe anything he says now?" said Spanish teacher Tim Leone-Getten. Multiple students have been noticeably duntrodden,

mourning the loss of such an inspiring tale. "It's a shame," commented 9th grader Sally Thompson, "It never got old!" When approached by Purple Press reporters, Dave declined to comment.



Dave refused to comment on allegations that he misrepresented facts in his famous raft story.



After two decades of positivity, Tim goes negative

Ian Brooks
Staff Writer

In a development that has shocked the OWL community, an anonymous student reported Tuesday that during his Monday second-period class, Spanish teacher Tim Leone-Getten made a negative comment. After a student refused to share their rose during a weekly Rose, Bud, Thorn, Tim reportedly responded, "Well that's not very interesting." Fellow Spanish teacher Grant Boulanger commented on the situation. "Frankly, I'm shocked and disappointed. Tim has always been a beacon of positivity at OWL, and this has made myself and others in our community question the true nature of his character."

According to multiple experts, including Tim's fraquetball partner Leo Bickelhaupt and principal Dave Gundale, this is the first negative thing Tim has said in three years. On Thursday, following public outrage, Tim released a statement addressing the criticism. "I want to say I hear the community's concern and understand the severity of my words. They were out of line and are not a reflection of my values. I will be taking some time to reflect on myself in the coming days, and I want to apologize to the students who were present during Monday's class." Tim's statement received tentative acceptance, though many outspoken critics remain.

Grant reveals he can't speak Spanish

Sayen Lundeen-Leiva
Staff Writer

Under pressure from students and administration, Spanish teacher Grant Boulanger admitted last week that he doesn't really know Spanish.

"I don't think I can make up any more fake words," said Grant, who had been improvising for years.

"Grant's Spanish class is

fun, almost too fun of a class," said 9th grader Anja Gundale. After looking up a Spanish word Grant was teaching, she found out that it wasn't a real word, and she exposed him to the whole school. "Spanish with Grant was so fun, too bad I didn't learn any real Spanish," said 9th grader Elena Davis. Principal Dave Gundale said he was very surprised and disappointed. All the other teach-

ers were clueless that Grant was faking. Grant said he managed to keep this secret going for years by avoiding textbooks, and instead focusing on oral comprehension. That meant no one could check what he was saying. Grant now plans to teach pottery full time and hopes that everyone will forget about this.

IXL to administer electric shocks

Willa Campion
Staff Writer

Due to an increasing number of students failing math classes, IXL announced Friday that their app's newest update would administer electric shocks when students answered questions wrong.

"I think this will really improve middle school math student's productivity," said OWL math teacher Damon Liberatore. "Distance learning has been tough for students and IXL's latest version has found new ways to motivate students."

IXL is an app for math students and educators. Teachers can assign problems to their students who, in order to gain

credit for the assignment, must complete 80-100% of the problems correctly. When a student answers a problem wrong, they are sent backward a number of questions, which gets larger the closer you are to completing the assignment. An IXL spokesperson said in the announcement Friday the shock would be very mild, around only 2 milliamperes.

Technology assistant Rhonda Mechels is not happy about

IXL's new announcement. "So many students come to me with shattered or cracked screens from when they have thrown their iPad against a wall while completing IXL problems," she said. "I am worried that I will see more broken iPads now."

As students head into fourth quarter, teachers are encouraging virtual learners and in-person students to download the latest version of IXL.



Megan and Leo are fostering cats in their new house

Hiroko Zeleke
Staff Writer

In an effort to make the world a better place, OWL teachers Leo Bickelhaupt and Megan Hall decided that instead of moving into the new house that they bought last month, they would use the space to start fostering cats.

"We were originally going to do all these renovations to the house, but then we thought about our cats and how there are so many more cats who deserve a loving home," Megan said, "and if we have space, we might as well use it for a good cause." It'll be a nonprofit. They started a GoFundMe page to raise money to get all the necessary equipment such as cat food, bowls for food and water, and litter boxes. "It's go-

ing pretty well so far, and I'm excited for when we can actually get started and meet the cats we'll be fostering because, you know, cats are cool," Leo said.

Megan and Leo are hoping to be able to foster at least 20 cats, and all cats will be welcome. As for the name of their cat fostering nonprofit, they haven't decided yet. "I think we'll let the kids come up with it since they are good at coming up with clever names," said Leo. The two of them teamed up with the city council and St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter for legal purposes.

Leo and Megan are set to start running their nonprofit later this year. "We will be sure to follow all the COVID-19 guidelines. I think we are do-

ing a really nice thing for us, for the community and for the cats. We'll be making a lot of people smile," said Megan.



Megan sets out food for the many cats that have already taken up residence in their new home.

Students to wear lunar landing suits for prom this year

GoFundMe set up to fund OWLs pandemic prom outfits

Cooper Peterson-Antin
Staff Writer

In an effort to work around COVID restrictions, OWL principal Dave Gundale announced last week that students will be given lunar landing suits to attend prom. These specially designed suits will be provided to keep everyone healthy and safe and following the guidelines.

Elon Musk and James Bridenstine, the CEO of NASA, have been collaborat-

ing to provide all OWL students with lunar landing suits. These are the latest technology and will keep students and chaperones 100% safe. Some parents arranged a GoFundMe page to be able to afford all of the suits. After students receive their lunar landing suits they will have the opportunity to bedazzle them. This can include sequins, glitter, fabrics, and you'll even be allowed to draw on them with crayons.

Prom, 3

Senior Spotlight

Izzy



How many years have you been at OWL?
12 years.

What are your plans for next year?
Probably nap on top of the piano even more.

What's been your favorite class in high school?
Science.

What extracurriculars are you involved in?
High jumps and very occasional sprints.

Favorite field work trip and why?
I don't like trips, because they involve the car, and the vet.

If you had a walk up song, what would it be?
Love cats.

That One Little Cat Peanut

How tall are you?
About 6 inches.

What's your favorite class so far and why?
English, because Preston can tell me apart from Zeke.

Who's your favorite senior?
Izzy.

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

What's the best thing about distance learning?
That tall guy keeps the cat boxes extra clean because he's around more.

What's the worst thing about distance learning?
Sometimes it's kind of noisy during naptime.



History day student fakes topic for project, advances

7th grader confesses to fabricating his state-worthy project

Helena Squires Mosher
Staff Writer

Hoping to avoid punishment after being caught by

social studies teacher Katie Craven, 7th grader Jimmy Tyson confessed to making up his History Day topic after advancing to the State competition.

Last Wednesday, Jimmy brought his story to the newspaper Google Meet after getting a confused look from Katie as she reviewed his project. "She said my topic fit the theme so well, it was 'almost

too good to be true!" said Jimmy, whose documentary is on World War One and a Half.

"It was surprisingly easy to do the photoshop," he explained, when questioned about his process. "As for the script, I just used a bunch of fancy words." The Regional History Day judges didn't catch on, writing in Jimmy's evaluation that he "displayed great historical integrity and

captured the war's impact beautifully." Despite the risk of disqualification, Katie has decided that Jimmy will go on to compete at State. When asked for his input on this new development, social studies teacher Dan Sullivan said, "It's worth a shot. I mean, Jimmy's doc was HBO-level good. Katie and I both think it could place at Nationals!"

Service requirements extended, seniors not exempt

Lillian Hennessee
Staff Writer

In an effort to gain credibility within the EL network, OWL administration announced Monday that the service hour requirement will be raised from 300 hours to 500

hours. With those 200 new hours, half will be school service, and half will be community service. In an official statement, the school states, "With all the extra time at home due to distance learning, students

will easily be able to find wiggle room to incorporate their new amount of service hours." Many of the school's older students, especially seniors, are panicking, as they have very little time to complete the additional 200 hours.

"We are NOT lowering the requirement for our seniors. We believe that they have the drive and initiative to get this done, and at the end of the day, we are crew," says OWL principal, David Gundale.

Early start, 1

school again, "It is so easy to cheat during online school, I don't think I've learned anything except how to find the right Quizlet," said a student who would rather stay anonymous.

Overall, teachers agree with the decision. However, although they recognize that

students should be in the classroom, they aren't happy about their vacations being cut short. "I was planning to go to the Bahamas in August and now I can't go. These stupid students better watch out, I'll be getting my revenge homework style," said English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt.

Gift baskets, 1

muffins, a Biden/Harris mask, a Biden bobblehead, and a box of raisins. The card — made with finger paint and glitter glue — read "Get Well Soon! Thanks for the vote. Love, Joe and Kamala XOXO," and was finished off with a Lisa Frank sticker.

In a desperate attempt to make a crumb of profit, some Americans have resorted to selling their muffins or customizing their bobbleheads. Some patriots have proudly framed their letters, hoping to look back at this time with nostalgia.



Outward Bound trip to Antarctica

Antonio Rosell
Staff Writer

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic affecting every other place in the world, Outward Bound coordinator Tim Leone-Getten announced Tuesday that the OWL group's annual service trip has been relocated to Antarctica. "We didn't want to cancel our trip this year, especially when most people are staying at home most of the time," he said during a virtual meeting with parents and students participating.

Even though some countries have done a good job containing the virus, they've also closed their borders, meaning that Outward Bound students cannot travel to those countries. "Antarctica was the only place we could go," said Tim.

Outward Bound students

and staff will board three seaplanes and the flight will take an estimated 16 hours. "Seeing penguins is what I'm looking the most forward to," said 11th grader Davionah Taylor-Felton.

"Even though it will be cold, at least we'll get out of the house," said another student.

Although going to Antarctica seems great, some people have criticized the decision, saying the trip doesn't include service work. When Tim announced that the group would look for litter and stop local fish from being eaten by seals, some OWL parents wrote hateful comments in the chat. One parent said, "This is NOT what I signed my kids up for!!!" Still, it seems like most students and parents are supportive of the trip.

Micah goes pro

The senior will be joining Major League Minecraft (MLM)

Avery Koll
Staff Writer

Deciding to stop going to school for the rest of the year, senior Micah GebbenGreen announced last week that he will be joining the Major League Minecraft team that is starting up later in the year.

For the MLM, two teams will go head to head to see who will beat Minecraft the quickest. The two teams will be in the same world with PVP, player vs player, allowed between teams. The season is set to run over the course of the summer and Micah was willing to forgo the rest of this year to get in some extra practice before summer hit. "It's an important step to advancing my career," Micah stated in regards to joining the Major League Minecraft team, "my friends Gus and Liam are join-

ing the team as well which is pretty epic."

Friends of Micah seem to find Micah's actions entertaining, and we asked one of Micah's friends, fellow senior Maxwell Juvland, how they felt about Micah's actions. They stated, "While I don't fully understand Micah's decision, you got to admit it's a lot like Micah to do something like this..." Micah's senior mentor Paige Geck said, "We've tried to persuade him to graduate this year over and over again... but he's only replying with 'lol.' We don't know what else to do..."



Prom, 2

There are many challenges provided with having to wear lunar landing suits for prom, one of these challenges being dancing. Since everyone will be looking like the Michelin Man, dancing will have to look different this year. Some of the dances that will take place will be a socially distanced Cupid shuffle and cha cha slide.

In order to have enough space to perform these dances the prom will not be held at Sokol Hall and instead be held at U.S. Bank Stadium. Another

obstacle presented by these suits is eating. Each suit will be equipped with a feeding tube that runs from the mouth out to the belly button of the suits. To accommodate these tubes all food served at the dance will be liquified. Among these liquids will be smoothies, blended Pizza and hotdog water. However these suits are limited to only 2 hours of fresh air, after that there will be no air flow in the suits. Students will be required to leave the prom promptly when it ends in order not to pass out.

Prices up due to low supply

Girl Scouts increases cookie prices up to \$100 per box

Hazel Wright
Staff Writer

In an effort to keep profits high despite low quantities, Girl Scouts of the USA said Tuesday that their cookies are now \$100 a box.

Because of COVID shut downs, the cookie factories were unable to make as many cookies this year. "We only have about 8,500 boxes for the entire country," said a Girl Scouts representative. "I'm afraid that we still need the



money from cookie sales, so we have had to drive the prices up. Our cookie quality is the same as ever, though, so I'm sure that customers will still appreciate our cookies."

Consumers have been counting on cookies to get them through the pandemic, since grocery stores aren't open. The raise in prices is certainly discouraging to many consumers, but the Girl Scouts have reported that the cookies are nearly sold out despite the cost. So if you want your cookies, you'd better order soon.

The Star Wars galaxy is expanding...again

Three new movies and yet another TV spinoff are in the works

Nicholas Streng
Staff Writer

Following the success of Star Wars' first original live action series, The Mandalorian, fans were thrilled to hear the announcement of many more Star Wars spin-off shows, such as The Bad Batch, The Book of Boba Fett, Kenobi, and Ahsoka, and an upcoming movie known as Rogue Squadron. It seems like the world of Star Wars can't get any bigger, but it just has. Lucasfilm and Disney have just unveiled three upcoming Star Wars movies, as well as one new TV series.

The Knights of Ren

Fans will remember the Knights of Ren from Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker, in which they accompanied Kylo Ren on his journey to capture Rey and the Resistance, only for all of them to be slaughtered by Kylo when he made the heroic choice to reject the Dark Side of the Force. They will once again be seen on screen in their upcoming series The Knights of Ren, which will stream on Disney Plus in the year 2022 and will take place before the events

of The Rise of Skywalker. The series will be directed by J.J. Abrams, and consist in length of eight episodes for its first season. Abrams has teased that the series will be very action packed and suspenseful. "There will be a lot of scenes that'll get people on the edge of their seats," he said in an interview. "As we follow the Knights' journey, they'll get in a lot of disastrous situations, and you'll never know if they survive or die."

Planet Killer: A Star Wars Story

Everyone who's watched Star Wars is familiar with the iconic Death Star, the space station with the capability to destroy entire planets. Planet Killer: A Star Wars Story will fully explore the origins of this terrifying superweapon - as well as see how it was built. Directed by Gareth Edwards (who previously directed Rogue One: A Star Wars Story) the movie is set to release in 2023. It reportedly will be in a documentary format, with Guy Henry, the actor who portrayed Grand Moff Tarkin in recent Star Wars media, nar-

rating over the entire runtime. When asked about what that was like, Henry described it as "excruciatingly boring." "The whole movie is just, like, space cranes and forklifts moving around placing machinery down. I didn't even know it was a Star Wars movie until I was halfway done."

GONK: A Star Wars Story

The GNK, or "gonk" droid in Star Wars has been widely praised and memed by fans, and is easily one of the most recognizable droids in the galaxy. So it should be no surprise that Lucasfilm has announced a spin-off movie starring a gonk droid, titled GONK: A Star Wars Story, set about forty years before Episode I: The Phantom Menace. The film will be directed by Jon Favreau and Dave Filoni, both of whom previously worked on the first two seasons of The Mandalorian. It is scheduled to be released in late 2021, alongside The Book of Boba Fett and a synopsis has been released online, reading In this chapter of the ever-expanding world of Star Wars, we follow the inspiring story of GNK-1, a simple droid programmed to power starships. Separated from his owner, GNK-1 will embark on a journey across the galaxy, stopping at nothing to find his master. Favreau has reportedly stated that the entirety of the movie "will be about his actual journey, so it'll just be a lot of scenes of him walking in the desert or across a corridor, bumping into stuff along the way, or maybe he'll just be waddling across a rag-

ing battle scene, completely oblivious to the chaos around him, because he's a gonk droid, and gonk droids don't understand that kind of stuff." Early reviews have praised the film for its cinematography, pacing, and visual effects, with one critic saying he was "reduced to tears" by the ending. "It's everything I could ever want from a Star Wars movie."

George Lucas's Attack of the Clones

When Star Wars director George Lucas, the man who started it all, set out to make his second installment of the prequel trilogy, he decided to cut out a lot of extra scenes to give Episode II: Attack of the Clones a more reasonable runtime. Now in 2022, the entire director's cut of the movie will be available on Disney Plus, titled George Lucas's Attack of the Clones. The runtime is estimated to be around 4 hours and 50 minutes long, more than double the length of the theatrical film. Rumors and leaks online indicate that the new footage will include extensions of action sequences seen in the theatrical film, additional action sequences ranging from deadly starfighter battles to over-choreographed lightsaber duels, lengthy discussions about Star Wars politics, time travel sequences, and most prominently, a lot more scenes focusing on Anakin Skywalker's intense hatred of sand. There will also be an entirely new side plot included, estimated to take up about 2 hours of the runtime, in which Yoda and Obi-Wan Kenobi open up an ice cream parlor in the Jedi Temple, and struggle with keeping it in business.



Paw Patrol is humorous, while real

"The genius of such a show is only found once in a lifetime."

Otis King
Staff Writer

Few shows have engrossed me and given me as much nuance and incredible story telling to regularly ponder at length. The genius of such a show is only found once in a lifetime. Now, people might say that The Last Airbender, or Spongebob Squarepants is the best cartoon of the century, but I disagree. It's Paw Patrol.

Wall to wall emotional nuance and an incredibly realistic portrayal of courageous rescue animals brings to this show a level of realism that is truly refreshing in these times. Not to

mention the show is quite hilarious, delivering an excellent mix of classic jokes with newer edgy humor mixed in.

I see nothing wrong with this show. In the case of Avatar the Last Airbender however, you have sloppy storytelling coupled with ridiculous plotlines. (Not to mention the weird love story between a 6th grader and an 8th grader...) All in all, if you want an incredible show, capable of preparing your children for the classics like Twin Peaks, The Sopranos and Breaking Bad, look no further than Paw Patrol.

24-hour hand washing study inconclusive

Violet Wright
Staff Writer

Disappointing interested health care professionals around the world after a year of research, the CDC announced Monday that a study conducted to determine whether washing your hands

for 24 hours a day would prevent COVID-19 recently drew to a close without a meaningful outcome.

"The study was, regrettably, unable to find enough compliant participants for a statistically significant result,"

Study, 5

Kansas City Chiefs refuse to concede Super Bowl loss

Head coach claimed that the Bucs "only made it seem like they won"

Ted Dobbins
Staff Writer

Claiming that the 2021 Super Bowl results were fraudulent and "rigged," the Kansas City Chiefs and their head coach Andy Reid came out publicly on Sunday February 7th stating a massive claim, that Super Bowl 55 (a game they lost to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers 9 to 31) was actually a win for the Chiefs and that, in reality, the Buccaneers lost.

The Chief's Head Coach Andy Reid made a statement hours after the game, "There is no way the Buccaneers won, they only made it seem like they won. The Chiefs scored way more points than the Buccaneers, and we will not leave the stadium until there is a recount of the points, and it's shown that we actually won."

Kansas City players and staff went on to make more claims, such as Reid claiming that underaged people and dead people participated in the game, helping the Buccaneers win. On February 10th, the Buccaneers were celebrating the annual Super Bowl victory parade in Tampa Bay, Florida. Players and staff celebrated on boats out on Tampa Bay, but an angry mob of Kansas City fans strode in and stormed the streets and the bay, forcing many Buccaneers players and officials to be evacuated. The Kansas City fans brought their own signs and banners. They started celebrating their "Victory" at the Super Bowl, in hopes of convincing more people that they actually won.

However, this attempt to overturn the Super Bowl did not affect the outcome of the

match, and later that day the rioters had been driven out of Tampa Bay. Reid remained defiant after the victory parade ordeal, saying, "This game is far from over." However, the

game had actually ended three days prior.

At the time of this article's publication, no further attempts have been made to overturn the results of the Super Bowl and many Kansas City executives have been accused of inciting the stadium storming.



Patrick Mahomes, quarterback of the Kansas City Chiefs, winners of Super Bowl 55, but only according to them.

MN Timberwolves maintain the best record in the NBA

Mintesirot Sturm
Staff Writer

On Sunday night, the Minnesota Timberwolves continued their dominance of the league with a blowout 146-97 win against the Los Angeles Lakers.

Wolves superstar Karl-Anthony Towns spoke on the special chemistry that his Minnesota squad has shown during this 2020-21 season. "We are having so much fun. That's probably the most important part. When you enjoy being with your teammates, it improves your team play."

Minnesota's record is 34-5, losing to the Golden State Warriors once, Los Angeles Clippers once, Portland Trail Blazers once, and the Brooklyn Nets twice. Karl-Anthony Towns was out for all of those losses. The only other teams in the NBA with 28 or more wins are the Utah Jazz, Milwaukee Bucks, the Philadelphia 76ers, and the Clippers, while Minnesota is the only team with 31 or more wins.

The team has had exceptional defense, they average only 100.6 points allowed, and their offense is even better. The Wolves are shooting an NBA record 46.67% from 3 on 45 attempts, and 58.2% from the field, while scoring 124 points per game. It is best to guess that they won't sustain these unreal percentages for the entirety of the season, but through 39 games we can tell that they will most likely continue to shoot extremely well.

While what has brought the Wolves to this amazing season has been their remarkable team-play, it is important to highlight their star trio, D'Angelo Russell, Karl-Anthony Towns, and Anthony Edwards. The three of them combine for 82.4 points per game, while KAT is almost averaging a triple-double of 28.5 points per game, 13.8 rebounds per game, and 8.9 assists per game. Towns also has been the leading man of the Timberwolves rejection party, averaging 3.2 blocks a game.

During a press conference, Minnesota's General Manager was asked about the culture that the organization has built. His response was "Our players work so hard every day to continue to improve. Honestly, I know this is going to sound a little arrogant but I'll say it anyway, we can't seem to do anything wrong. We haven't gotten a number 1 pick since we drafted Towns in 2015, but we continue to grow these players into stars."

Minnesota's next game is at home at Target Center, hosting

the Eastern Conference leading 76ers. This will be a fun contest of superstar centers, as KAT will battle against second leading MVP candidate Joel Embiid. We can expect Towns and his pack to emerge victorious, this also could be a glimpse into a possible NBA Finals matchup.

Speaking of the NBA Finals, the Wolves, who have won the past 3 championships and have made it to the Finals for the past 5 years, are overwhelming favorites for the title this year.



Minnesota Timberwolves

Karl Anthony Towns applauds after the team posted yet another dominant victory last week against the Lakers.

Garfield proves to be a meaningful story

Why Garfield the movie (2004) is one of the greatest movies of all time

Elizabeth Hallanger
Staff Writer

Throughout time, there have always been incredible works of art that are just as powerful today as they were when they were created, such as paintings, music, and even film. Of course, there are the well known, incredible, and thought provoking films that have stood the test of time, such as *The Godfather*, *The Truman Show*, *Forrest Gump*, etc. But, I believe that there's one film that has gone overlooked for years. One that was panned by critics, overlooked by the general public, and seems like a simple, low budget, 3D family movie from the title and synopsis alone, but is much, much deeper than that, transcending most modern films today. What is this mys-

terious classic, you ask? Well, it's none other than *Garfield the Movie* (2004) by Peter Hewitt, and you're about to see why it just might be one of the greatest movies of all time.

The plot is mainly centered around our titular main character, Garfield, trying to adapt to the presence of Odie, the dog, who is a constant nuisance. Odie soon becomes involved in a local pet show, and is noticed by a television host, who wants to have Odie on his show, however, Jon, his owner, declines. The next night, Garfield's frustrations hit a breaking point, and he lets Odie loose, though he soon vows to find Odie. Garfield then goes on adventures throughout the city, saves Odie from the evil television host, and learns an important lesson about friendship.

Now, from first glance, this

may seem like a regular children's movie to you. However, look deeper, and you'll find the true meaning. With just a bit of analysis, it's clear to us that *Garfield* is an obvious allegory for the modern, everyday working class citizen, just look at his love for lasagna, (a rectangular food, much like a daily paycheck) and hatred of Mondays. In turn, this makes Odie an allegory for those at the bottom of the societal hierarchy, and, seeing how the whole plot is centered around stopping the television host from taking advantage of Odie, it's not unlike how those of the top 1% take advantage of those below them. And that's just a surface level analysis. There are many more hidden details throughout the movie that I could go on about. Like the significance of the song that plays during Odie's performance: "Hey Mama" by The Black Eyed Peas, a song infamous for its tasteful and meaningful lyrics, how *Garfield* and Odie's relationship is a metaphor for the current political climate of the US, and how each of *Garfield's* animal companions throughout the movie represent the four horsemen of the apocalypse. However, I think one of the most thought-provoking and heart-tugging elements of the movie was the characteri-

The characters in this movie are the element that got me the

most. In this movie, *Garfield* overall seems consistent to his regular self in the comics: lazy, carefree, sarcastic, and an avid lover of lasagna. However, his character delves much deeper than that in the film, where his character growth is truly a cinematic masterpiece. Shown best through the way he interacts with his companions, his growth from unwilling to befriend the new addition to his life, to learning to get along with a member of the opposite species is genius and brings tears to my eyes each time I see it. His relationship with Odie is also quite a powerful metaphor for the true goodness of mankind, and that, no matter who we are or what we look like, we can still come together to help one another. A truly powerful sentiment from such an unsuspecting film.

In conclusion, *Garfield The Movie* is truly a hidden gem, up there with many of film's greatest works. With its many hidden, deeper meanings in both the larger overall plot and smaller details, and complex and emotional characters, it's a shame that this movie was overlooked by the general public. However, now that I've spread the word, I recommend that you watch/rewatch the movie for yourself, however, this time, try to look a little deeper. I can guarantee that you'll consider it a true classic as well.



Zoo Wars is a 10/10

"No movie has a right to be this good and you will come out the other side a changed person."

Jack Cheatham
Staff Writer

Animation is a medium that has been around for over a century, with small shorts and snippets being dated back to 1908 with the release of *Fanasmagorie*, the first fully animated short film. However, the first full-length mainstream animated film was *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* in 1937, and boy have we come a long way since then. However I think the peak of animation happened in 2018 due to one film in particular. It wasn't *The Incredibles 2*, *Isle of Dogs*, or even *Spider-Man: Into the Spiderverse*, but a small, independent film called *Zoo Wars* that is sure to influence the industry for years to come.

Zoo Wars was written and directed by legendary underground filmmaker Evan Tramel, famous for such masterworks as *Pup Scouts 3* and *A Yeti Stole Christmas* and stars Bobbi Maxwell, Bill Oberst Jr, and KJ Schrock. The story centers around Nuke, an average city elephant who works a dead end job and longs to escape. One day, his opportunity comes and joins a squirrel named Squeeze Whistle and his robot partner B-52. Their goal is to save Princess Sparklefeather, leader of the Nice Side, from the clutches of Boo-Boo Squeal, the horrifying leader of the Mice Side. Nuke must be able to resist Boo-Boo's power of the Sauce, an ancient magic in which the user must recite the names of sauces, and restore peace to the Zooverse.

Zoo Wars is in simple terms a masterpiece. No movie has a right to be this good and

you will come out the other side a changed person. While this flawless piece of cinema has plenty to praise I may as well start with the phenomenal animation. This movie puts studios like Pixar, Ghibli and Laika to shame with its detailed models and environments and balances realism with a more comic-y style. It's hard to believe that humans have evolved to create such art and the animators should receive enormous praise. Next, the voice acting and script which were not surprisingly air tight. I will never look at an elephant the same, as I can't imagine them not speaking with the angelic voice of KJ Schrock, actor of *Nuke*. Chen Tsung was another standout as Boo-Boo Squeal was a truly menacing bad guy, right up there with Anton Chigur in *No Country for Old Men* or *The Joker*.

Zoo Wars also tells a gripping story that kept me at the edge of my seat for its whole 70 minute run time. From the moment Nuke gets picked up you know you're in for an adventure. There's epic battles, comedy and even a dark torture scene in which Boo-Boo uses some of his most powerful Sauce abilities, like Guacamole and Tabasco, to try and get Princess Sparklefeather talking. It all leads up to a satisfying end that even sets up a sequel.

In conclusion, *Zoo Wars* is a spectacular movie that flew under the radar and needs way more attention than it got. It's free on Tubi, along with plenty of Evan Tramel's other works, and everyone should watch it. I give *Zoo Wars* a 10/10.

Study, 4

Some participants had reported Dr. John Smith of the Temporary Association for Researching Disease and International Sickness, the organization which conducted the study. This method should, in theory, prevent 100% of COVID transmissions in subjects who follow these guidelines. However, the study had difficulty in finding patients who were willing to comply with these regulations long enough for the study to gather enough data.

Some participants had difficulty sleeping under the guidelines, and others suffered from mild hypothermia. Preliminary results place it between the Johnson & Johnson and the Pfizer/Moderna vaccine series, but since the study did not have enough participants, the data is insufficient to be of use to the CDC. As of press time, the Association of Licensed American Medical Operations had plans to do a similar study in Texas.

