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A performance of the winter musical, *The Wiz*, was put on for Cooper students during the actual school day on March 17

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Morgan Stromberg was honored for her many accomplishments as a student and athlete over the four years she has spent as a Hawk

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NHS INDUCTS MEMBERS DURING 2022 CEREMONY



Photo by MORGAN STROMBERG

Members of National Honor Society gather on the Cooper auditorium stage at the end of the induction process.

By SHENG VANG  
Quill staff writer

The National Honor Society (NHS) induction ceremony took place at Cooper on March 31. This event officially and formally welcomed the members of the 2021-2022 NHS group into the national organization.

The ceremony has been an annual tradition for NHS. Thus, like previous years, many of the events

happening this year were about the same. However, NHS Advisor Ms. Kilsdonk emphasized that this ceremony is more than just an NHS tradition.

“[The NHS induction ceremony] is a time when we recognize and induct those sophomores, juniors and seniors who have achieved a 3.60 grade point average or higher in addition to exhibiting leadership and character in service to our community,” Kilsdonk

said. “This is a tradition not only for NHS, but for Robbinsdale Cooper, as we celebrate and promote outstanding District 281 K-12 academic achievement.”

On the day of the ceremony, students of the NHS organization were asked to come earlier than the starting time to prepare and get seated before anyone else arrived. The ceremony officially started at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium with the Cooper Chamber Strings

group welcoming parents, mentors and visitors with a performance.

After the Chamber Strings’ performance, the school’s Bella Voce group performed. Ms. Rowan, who is in charge of the Bella Voce group, invited the audience to stand up and sing the national anthem along with them.

Following the performances of the Cooper musical groups, the ceremony featured a speech from Kils-

The annual event was done in person this spring after two years of the pandemic

donk and one from Head Principal Mr. Herman. They both thanked and congratulated the inductees, and then Bella Voce once again performed during an interlude.

Next, NHS officers Andrew Tran (12), Ava Bipes (12), Estrella Rincon Hernandez (11) and Yordanose Mulat (12) were introduced and called up by Kilsdonk to explain each of the four pillars of the group: scholarship, character, service and leadership. According to Hernandez, candles were lit after each speech to represent the four pillars of NHS.

“I believe the four candles were lit to symbolize and emphasize the importance of each pillar and the importance that they have for the National Honor Society,” Hernandez said.

Afterward, Kilsdonk called each senior up onto the stage. Seniors got the opportunity to acknowledge a mentor. As the student’s name was called, a card of appreciation written by the student about their mentor was read. Jasmir Turner (12), a NHS inductee, said she chose Ms. Wineberg as her mentor.

“Ms. Wineberg was my AVID teacher for my first three years of high school. Since freshman year, and

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Hawks host inaugural Bockhaus Blood Drive

The March 7 event, which collected blood for the American Red Cross, was named for a former Cooper staff member

By NAIMA HUSSEN  
Quill staff writer

Cooper hosted its first annual Jane Bockhaus Memorial Blood Drive on March 7.

“We are so honored to have the blood drive named after her because, as you know, Jane loved to give. Whether it was a smile, card, joke, etc., she wanted to help. Donating blood was something she was very passionate about,” the Bockhaus family said in a statement.

Bockhaus, who retired from Cooper in 2020, passed away on January 8 at the age of 71. Bockhaus is remembered by staff members for her loving heart. She had kindness and compassion for every person she interacted with. She was also quick to offer support to anyone in need without hesitation.

Organizing the Jane Bockhaus Memorial Blood Drive was Cooper’s AVID Coordinator Ms. Lieser. She is a frequent blood donor through the American Red Cross. She took over as a lead organizer for Cooper blood drives after the former organizer retired.

Lieser reached out to the American Red Cross about hosting a blood drive during the 2019-2020 school year. Two blood drives took place before COVID shut school down.

This year, Lieser worked with the National Honor Society (NHS) to promote the blood drive and recruit volunteers during the drive. Lieser also talked to 12th grade Social Studies classes to encourage students to sign up for the drive.

“I think it went well. We had 69 appointment slots and all those were full, which was wonderful,” Lieser said.

Lieser said there were 39 successful donations and 28 donors were deferred due to a variety of reasons such as low iron, high pulse, not meeting the height and weight requirement, and travel. One of the successful donors was Cooper EL teacher Ms. Hoffman. She said that the blood drive went



Photo by NAIMA HUSSEN

Ms. Hoffman was one of many staff members joining students in donating blood.

well overall.

“It was an easy process and I especially appreciated the care package with iron-rich foods list we got beforehand. I made sure to eat those foods so that my iron levels would be good enough to donate,” Hoffman said.

Hoffman said it was important for her to donate because there is a great need for blood in hospitals.

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Teachers vote to accept new contract with district

Ninety-one percent of Robbinsdale teachers approved of the new deal, which runs from 2021-2023

By NAIMA HUSSEN  
Quill staff writer

Robbinsdale district teachers voted on February 9 to accept a new contract. Ninety-one percent of district teachers voted in favor of the two-year agreement with the district.

According to science teacher Mr. Stanton, who is a teacher union representative for Cooper and a member of the Robbinsdale Federation of Teachers (RFT) contract negotiations team, the process of drafting a new contract is lengthy.

“Teachers are asked to identify areas that they wish to address in the contract at union meetings,”

he said.

At these meetings, teachers are asked to identify areas where they would like to remove or change language in the existing contract. This is done at every school in the district.

“When the list is made, a committee of teachers from across the district gets together and talks about the proposed ideas. If the ideas pass the committee, they are brought to the bargaining table,” Stanton said.

At the contract bargaining table, administration representatives and union representatives meet to discuss the proposals from each side.

“Once an agreement has been reached, we have informational meetings for members to learn of our

agreement prior to voting,” RFT union president and chief negotiator Mr. Eckhoff said.

In the new contract, teachers will get a 2 percent cost of living increase in salary from the previous contract. An additional contribution of \$71 monthly will be made monthly to each teacher’s health benefits. Also, there will be an increase to the buy-back rate for paid time off to \$175 per day. Lastly, a \$1,000 COVID incentive will be paid to each teacher’s deferred compensation savings account.

Teachers in the district have largely been satisfied with the outcome of these contract negotiations

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## Cooper adding several courses next school year

Students completing classes can earn college credit, get medical certifications

By JACK ATKINSON  
*Quill* staff writer

There are several new courses available to students next school year. One of the new courses, AP Computer Science, is available to students in every grade. Meanwhile, the other classes, Microbiology Field Research, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), are only open to juniors and seniors. Students who would like to take any of these new courses are encouraged to see their grade-level counselor to get registered.

### AP Computer Science

Students taking this class will learn about the fundamental ideas of computer science and how to apply computational thinking across multiple disciplines. Students also learn to apply creative designs and innovative solutions when developing computational artifacts.

According to the course description, topics covered in AP Computer Science include abstraction, communication of information using data, algorithms, programming and the internet. Additionally, there are five themes that frame the course curriculum: creative development; data; algorithms and programming; computer systems and networks; and the impact of computing. Students who complete this course will earn a college credit.

### Microbiology Field Research

The Microbiology Field Research course will let students study the role that microbes play in everyday life. Students will conduct hands-on research into topics such as insect microbiomes, antibiotics and bioprospecting.

“This course is a lab-based course, so a majority of the grade will come from lab experiments that are summative,” science teacher Mr. Stanton, who created the class, said. “This course will have traditional formatives and summative focusing on the concepts covered in the experiments.”

According to Stanton, students will design unique experiments to demonstrate an understanding of the concepts of the different units in class. In addition to the fact that these problem-solving and analytical skills can be lifelong assets for students, the class may also lead to financial gain for students.

“One of the goals of the class will be to find a new bacteria that might be used in a new antibiotic. If we find one, the school, teacher and student could get paid,” Stanton said.

### EMT and CNA Courses

The new EMT and CNA courses are being made possible through a partnership between Cooper and Hennepin Technical College.

“The instructors will be through Hennepin Technical College,” Head Principal Mr. Herman said. “They will be teaching these courses at Cooper.”

The EMT course is designed to meet the requirements established by the Minnesota EMS Regulatory Board. Upon successful completion of the course, students will take a readiness exam and the National Registry of EMT Practical Skills exam. Once those are passed, students are eligible to take the NREMT written exam. State and national certifications will then be issued upon passing these tests.

Meanwhile, the CNA class teaches students how to care for elderly and vulnerable populations in a variety of healthcare settings. The course includes learning the theories for various healthcare concepts in addition to hands-on training in a supervised laboratory setting. Students will also complete 16 hours of clinical experience. Upon successful completion of this course, the student is eligible to take the Minnesota Competency Evaluation for Nursing Assistants.

According to Herman, the ability to work toward EMT and CNA certifications while still attending Cooper is a unique opportunity for students.

“This benefits both the students and the school in that offering these college-level courses here on campus makes it easier for our students and provides an opportunity to get the skills needed,” he said.

# Administrators alter bathroom process

New procedures for using the restrooms are in response to ongoing issues with student vandalism, misuse of facilities



Photo by SHENG VANG

Under the new policies, the restrooms in the building's circles are now locked during class time.

By KAPOZIA KORICH  
*Quill* staff writer

Cooper altered its approach to bathroom access during class periods on March 7. While all school bathrooms remain open to students during passing time, only select bathrooms remain open during class periods to better control the flow of students and monitor who is entering and exiting the bathrooms. According to Assistant Princi-

pal Mr. Howard, issues surrounding bathroom vandalism, smoking in the bathrooms and skipping class in order to meet up in the bathrooms all led to the new policies.

“Due to recent behaviors in the restrooms, we [made] changes to when they are open so that we can provide better support to those areas,” he said.

Under the new system, all circle bathrooms are now locked during class time. Students who

have class in the second and third floor circles need to travel to the restrooms located near the second-floor Y in order to use the bathroom during class time.

Meanwhile, students who have class in the first floor circle need to make use of the restrooms at the midpoint of the first-floor hallway near the gyms.

Finally, students who have second-floor classes on the west side of the building near the cafeteria

## Credit card use requires teens to be cautious

Many high school students are now old enough to be added to their parents' credit card accounts

By JACK ATKINSON  
*Quill* staff writer

High school students are at an age when they can start using credit cards. A teen can be added as an authorized user of their parent's credit card starting at the age of 13. Meanwhile, a teen who can demonstrate they have a steady income can open up a credit card by themselves when they are 18 years old. In light of that, it is important for all teens to be aware of some of the potential issues they might face when using credit for the first time.

### 1. Remember the difference between credit and debit cards

Debit cards provide access to the money you have saved at a bank. Since these cards connect directly to your bank account and the money you already have, you won't be able to use the debit card if there is not enough money available to cover your purchase. In contrast, credit cards provide access to borrowed money. As long as you are beneath your credit limit, you will be able to spend on the card, even if there isn't enough money in your own bank account to cover it. As a result, if you cannot pay the entire amount you owe on your next billing cycle, you can expect to pay interest on top of the money you borrowed.

### 2. A credit card is like a contract

When you sign up for a cred-



Photo courtesy of MARCA.ORG

Credit card debt can have a negative impact on one's financial future.

it card, you are agreeing to certain terms and conditions for owning and using that card. Every time you buy something using that card, you are agreeing that you will pay the credit card company back every dollar you spend on the items you have purchased. In addition, if you cannot pay the entire amount back when the bill is due, you are also agreeing to pay back the original amount plus any interest you are charged, which can sometime be as much as an extra 18 percent. Therefore, it is important that teens know about the consequences of spending their money so they don't go into debt at a young age.

### 3. Unpaid bills hurt your future

If you can only afford to

pay the minimum amount due for each billing cycle, you will continue to owe an increasingly larger amount of money over time. This can eventually lead to a lower credit score, which may have an impact on your financial future. When you get older and want to buy a car or a home, they will always look at your credit score before letting you get the loans you need to purchase these items. That is why it is important in your teenage years to pay your bills on time so you can get a better credit score.

### 4. Be careful about sharing your credit card information

Lending your credit card or credit card number to other peo-

ple so they can make a purchase is not a good idea, even if it is your own friends or family members. Those trusted people could end up charging things that you will end up paying for. Also, be careful about giving your credit card information to people asking for it over the phone or online. If you are ordering something like food over the phone or making an online purchase through a legitimate website, you are usually going to be okay. However, if someone randomly calls you claiming to be from the credit card company and asking for your account information, hang up the phone and dial the 1-800 number on the back of the credit card to see if your credit company truly needs to speak with you.

### 5. Develop a budget so you can control your spending

Teens sometimes forget that credit cards are not “free money.” You still need to make sure you are not spending more than the amount of money you have coming in from a job. You should establish a cap on how much you spend each month and be careful about monitoring how you are using the card. If you are operating off of your parent's credit card, you will want to establish with them a system for clearing your spending limits and purchases so you do not get into unexpected conflicts.

## Same-gender couples bring unique perspectives to parenting

One universal to all parents is the desire to raise children in a supportive and healthy environment

By AALIYAH HALL  
*Quill* staff writer

Cooper has often been acknowledged for its diversity. One kind of diversity seen at the school is that some students have same-gender parents. Having same-gender parents is something that has become more common in modern-day society. One Cooper staff member who is part of a same-gender parenting couple is Cooper front office staff member Ms. Smith.

“Coming from a traditional family, parenting became a little harder to explain to the ones around me and my son,” Smith said.

Smith said she faces some obstacles with being a same-gender parent. For example, she doesn't know how or if her parenting choices affect her son when compared to opposite-gender parents. She also thinks about other issues such as not having a dad as a role model.

“But can you miss something you never had? You know, he always had two moms,” Smith said.

So far, Smith said that her son not having a father does not seem to be an issue due to her having male support throughout her family, including her brothers and uncles.

Smith explained that she shelters her son a little more because

of the fact she is not a heterosexual parent. She also mentioned that one question she is often asked is whether having two moms will affect her son's sexual preference when he grows up.

“I think about it a lot. Maybe he'll stick to liking girls or maybe having two moms would influence him to like the opposite gender,” Smith said.

Smith explained that raising a boy in an all-female environment has had an impact on her son's interests.

“He loves watching *RuPaul's Drag Race* and likes playing with dolls,” Smith said.

Smith said that, as her son gets into his middle and high

school years, he may find himself facing challenges related to bullying due to having two moms. If this happens, she said she would take the approach of checking in with him and letting him open up when he is comfortable rather than forcing it. She added that she will always be there to comfort and listen to him whenever he is ready.

In addition to raising her child, Smith said that the process of becoming a mom has been an interesting one as well.

“I wanted to be a mom in third grade, but after high school and coming out, people assumed I didn't want kids due to me being a lesbian,” she said.



Russian invasion is clearly unjust

Claims offered by President Vladimir Putin to justify the war in Ukraine are based on half-truths, complete fabrications

By NAIMA HUSSEN  
Quill staff writer

The invasion into mainland Ukraine by Russian forces started on February 24, 2022. However, the conflict between these two countries started in February 2014, following the Ukrainian Revolution of Dignity. In the last eight years, this ongoing conflict included the annexation of Crimea by Russia and the war in the Donalbas between Ukrainians and Russian-backed separatists groups. From the beginning, this has been an unjust war created by Russia’s president, Vladimir Putin.

Western countries and intelligence agencies warned that Russia was going to invade Ukraine for months leading up to the morning of February 24. On that day, Putin declared war on Ukraine and activated his military. Russian troops marched into Ukraine from several directions. The question on everyone’s mind is why did the Russians even need to invade Ukraine? There are four main reasons for this invasion.

First, the collapse of the Soviet Union in the late 20th century created 15 new republics and Ukraine is one of them. Putin believes that the Ukrainian people and the Russian people are one people with the same history and culture. Putin argues that modern-day Ukraine was “entirely created by Russia.” However, Ukraine is its own country with Soviet and Russian involvement. He also argued that Russia gave Ukraine independence when, in fact, the Ukrainian people voted for independence in 1991. I think that Putin wants to reunite the Soviet Union and restore its status as a superpower.

Second, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has been expanding into Eastern Europe since the collapse of the Soviet Union and, time and time again, Putin has expressed concern over the expansion.



Photo courtesy of CFR.ORG

A tattered Ukrainian flag remained upright near the country's eastern border after the initial invasion.

NATO is a political and military alliance that dates back to 1949 and consists of 30 member countries, including the U.S., Canada, the U.K., France, Belgium and many other European nations. Since Ukraine is one of the aspiring members of this organization, Putin claims the invasion of Ukraine is an act of self-defense against NATO expansion. I think the expansion of NATO is definitely one of the main reasons Putin decided to invade Ukraine. The United States and their NATO allies use NATO as a tool to get geographically closer to their enemies, China and Russia.

Third, Putin claims that Ukraine is committing genocide against the Russian population in eastern Ukraine, particularly in the Donbas region, where Kremlin-backed rebels have been fighting with Ukrainian forces since 2014. On February 21,

Putin recognized Donetsk and Luhansk, two separatist regions in the Donbas, as independent states and ordered Russian troops in for a “peace-keeping” operation. Russia has been encouraging Russians to move to Eastern Ukraine for decades in order to drive up the pro-Russian sentiment. I think Putin is using this claim to get more Russian support because if Russian citizens hear about “Russophobia” in Ukraine, they are more likely to support the war.

Last, Putin claims that there are neo-Nazis running the show in Ukraine. While there are some Ukrainian neo-Nazis that have a political party and a militia group that has joined the Ukrainian military to fight against the Russians, they do not have actual power. In fact, even though Putin claims that these are the people who are running the country, the neo-Nazi

party gained barely two percent of the vote in recent elections. Also, the Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelensky, is Jewish and he has family who died in the Holocaust during World War II. I think that Putin is saying all this in order to build public support in Russia and abroad. The neo-Nazi claim has so far worked in building public support for the war in Russia.

As it currently stands, this war can be the start of the biggest war in Europe since World War II. Sadly, this war has already displaced millions of people from their homes. Putin’s reasons for war may seem strong to his Russian audience, but they are clearly based on misinformation and partial truths. The question now is whether or not he will use these reasons to keep going west into former Soviet countries such as Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

Students need to be careful with food, drinks in class

Although school policies discourage the consumption of meals outside of the cafeteria, these rules are frequently broken

By DAMARIUS HAMILTON  
Quill staff writer

Looking around the room at the start of your first class of the day sometimes feels like looking around the cafeteria due to the number of people who bring their breakfast trays to their first period class in order to eat. Technically, food is not allowed in the classrooms and most staff members do their best to try and enforce this policy. However, some staff members tolerate students brining food because they would rather have those students come to class on time even if that means they are still eating. Overall, I feel eating in classrooms should be allowed because sometimes people can’t eat at home or don’t get a chance to eat before school starts, so they have to bring food with them to class. Without food or liquid in your body during the school day, students will find it hard to do good work or focus on their classes.

The time of the day when the issue of food in the classroom is most noticeable is first period. The school provides breakfast for students, but some students can’t make it on time for breakfast, whether it’s due to personal issues or bus issues. When students get to school late and haven’t had breakfast at home, they will be hungry, and if they have to wait until lunch for their next meal because they



Photo by BRIGHT DEKU

It is not unusual to see fast food remnants in classroom trash cans.

can’t bring food to class, their hunger issues will get worse, potentially leading to problems in the classroom. Since it is the school’s responsibility to make sure students are learning during the day, they should allow late students to eat in their first period classes so those students can focus on their learning instead of their hunger for the rest of the morning.

At the same time, I understand why teachers don’t like food and drinks in their classrooms. When students throw out their food waste in classrooms during first period or after lunch in sixth period, it can stress the

teacher out because they have to be in the room with the smell of uneaten food and all the insects that might come out to get the food. Additionally, when they are eating in class, students may not be paying attention, so while the teacher is explaining what to do, the student is focused on their food, which means the teacher will have to explain the directions again. There are definitely legitimate reasons why food in the classroom is a bad idea.

One practice that is largely reasonable is drinking liquids in the classroom. You should always keep water flowing through your body be-

cause there is evidence that it can help your health and readiness for learning. However, you should always know when it’s a good time to drink it and when it’s not. If students are not careful, drinking water can lead to spills, and it often becomes the teacher’s job to clean it up, which is not fair to them. The worst thing about liquids in the classroom is when those liquids are not water. A sugary drink that is spilled and not cleaned up properly can make desks, floors and everyone’s shoes sticky. Students then have to walk around the school with sticky feet, which makes the floor sticky in the hallways and other classrooms.

Both eating and drinking in the classroom have their benefits and their downsides. Ultimately, I think students should try not to eat or drink in their classes as much as possible. Not bringing food and beverages to class makes the teachers’ jobs less stressful, and it can help students pay attention to their work. Of course, I do understand that students cannot focus when they are hungry. If that is the case for you, I would suggest being more careful with your time at the start of the day or during the lunch period so you can properly eat when the time is appropriate. You could also ask the teacher for permission to leave the class to eat or drink quickly so you can get back to class and start working.

From the Editors

Getting motivated is essential during end of school year

The approach of summer makes it too easy for students to lose their focus

Many students struggle to find the motivation to end the school year strong. Fortunately, there are many pieces of advice that will help.

Whether you’re a freshman, sophomore or junior, it isn’t easy to adjust to the amount of homework that the teachers hand out day by day. A majority of the time, the underclassmen will complain, but teachers don’t want to hear the complaints because it is the students’ responsibility to do their assigned homework. Also, a majority of the students get lazy or procrastinate when trying to finish homework on time. They get distracted easily by their electronics or gaming consoles, which can lead to them losing motivation.

Although these activities are much more fun than doing homework, not turning in assignments can affect one’s grade in a negative way, which is not a good thing. In order to start gaining the benefits of doing your school work, a great tip is to surround yourself with motivating people who create a positive environment. Being surrounded by negative people could bring down your motivation, stopping you from achieving what you want to achieve.

Another great way to find motivation is to buy a planner for yourself. Using a planner is a way to be more organized. You can list out the tasks that you want to achieve on a certain day. However, when deciding to list out what you want to accomplish, don’t just list out the same goals each day. Instead, list out something different that you haven’t done before. Also, jotting down assigned homework will help you remember to finish what you need to get done before the due date. Getting homework done before the due date is a way for you to have more freedom.

Trying something new is another way to get motivated. Whether it’s a different sport that you haven’t played before or learning to play the guitar, these activities will help you physically, mentally and emotionally because you will be more active. You can still do the same leisure activities if you prefer, but it’s best to try something new every few days, which will help make life motivating to you.

Another tip is to get excited about the summer. You don’t have to get excited about something that you dislike such as homework, but getting excited about the summer will help you move forward on the work you need to finish before the summer arrives, which will prepare you for the challenges that you are likely to face after high school. This can help motivate you to get through the difficult times and work toward the reward waiting at the end of the process.

It’s best to start getting motivated for academic success right now. If you wait, things might not end up the way you want them to be at the end of the semester. With a little more than five weeks before the school year ends, May is the month when you need to take action.

The Quill

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From the Editors

Student struggles with deadlines a chronic issue

Hopes a return to in-person classes would solve this problem have been dashed

Deadlines are something that most students are concerned about. They can cause problems for some students by adding even more pressure on top of the fact that those students may not be as academically able to complete the project before the deadline. Missing deadlines is typically caused by procrastination, a lack of knowledge about the topic or even cramming all the knowledge you have into one evening of work, causing strain and exhaustion from being up all night.

In light of all this, should teachers be more lenient in terms of deadlines? This is more of a grey area that relies mainly on the circumstances behind the deadline. Maybe there is a break coming up and teachers believe that you have enough time to complete the work. Maybe you already have the knowledge needed so a short deadline is not a burden. Although some students say that deadlines are not really needed, they actually do prepare you for the outside world and higher education. In order to know why deadlines are the way they are, you have to consider what deadlines prepare you for.

In college, there will be many deadlines. Projects, essays, tests and homework will always have strict deadlines and late work will not be accepted. Sure, deadlines may seem like a big deal right now, but this is perfect training for you to know what to expect after high school. In college, there will be tons of assignments piling up, all of which may have the same deadline. Having deadlines in high school is a way to prepare yourself for what's to come.

Teachers are often lenient with the way deadlines are done in high school. For example, students may get an extra two weeks to do a summative. However, in college, the deadlines are final. If the deadline is 12 p.m., that's it. Not 12:05 or 12: 10 p.m., but 12 p.m. right on the dot. If you don't have it done by that deadline, they won't accept the assignment or grade it. That's just how it goes in college. It's firm, but fair.

Deadlines don't just prepare you for college, they prepare you for when you are out in the workforce. In the professional world, there are repercussions for missed deadlines that you need to keep in mind. For example, imagine you are at a job. The job of your dreams. Now, let's say you have a big project that is coming up, some kind of proposal that could make or break your career. You're not going to just procrastinate and wait until the last second to complete the project. Your boss wants the project to be perfect and to be done on time. If you miss the deadline, you won't get a stern warning. You will most likely get fired.

Being in high school teaches you about deadlines and why they are important. It is beneficial to learn these lessons before you enter the real world and must deal with these sorts of things in the future. The best thing students can do is plan ahead. If you are struggling with a project, you could always ask the teacher for assistance or look for advice from other students who are doing the same project. Being prepared, asking for help when you need it and trying your best are key things students can do in order to deal with deadlines.

In the end, teachers have a calendar and they set deadlines on specific dates so that you can finish one unit and move into the next one. While high school teachers may be somewhat lenient on these transitions, your professors and bosses will not be. You have to learn to be responsible when it comes to studying, asking for help and meeting the due dates for any project you may encounter.

Impact of relationships on grades unclear

Students who ignore their classes when they are dating may already be inclined to put school at the bottom of their priority lists

By ERIN CHUNN  
Quill staff writer

Romantic relationships in high school are extremely common. Students letting social pressures negatively affect their grades is also common. To say relationships have a direct correlation to negative grades is a stretch. Instead, it's about personal responsibility. Like any adult relationships, high school relationships take time and attention, but that doesn't necessarily mean it should be time and attention taken away from one's school work.

Personal responsibility needs to be taken into consideration when one is deciding how to prioritize their relationships. High schoolers may be young and naive, but they are old enough to understand the consequences of ignoring either their work or their relationships. If a student isn't putting effort into their academic career but, instead, putting all their focus into their relationships, then that's completely the student's fault.

Even though high school relationships usually don't last beyond three months, some people value these temporary relationships over their future. Some teenagers don't realize that their relationships might get in the way of the grades they need to earn to get into a good college. Of course, there are other students who don't see a future that depends on education, so they don't care about

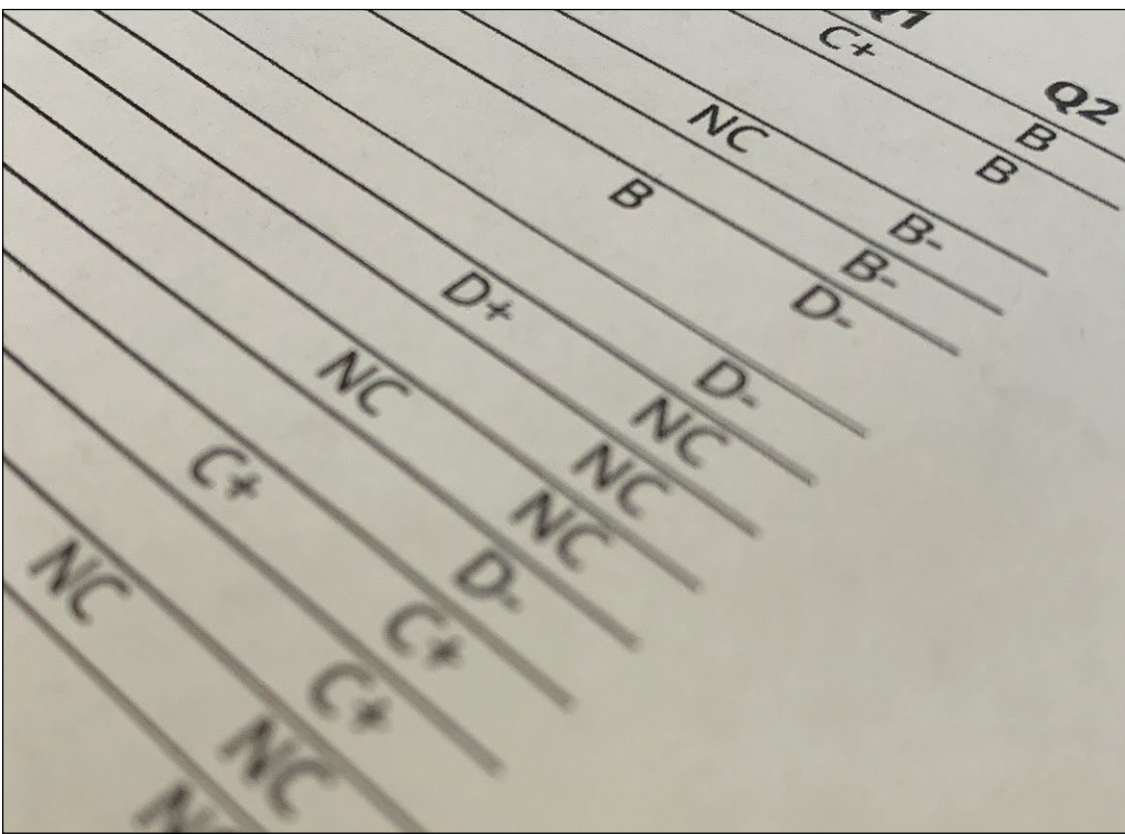


Photo by SHENG VANG

A growing relationship is sometimes matched by an increasing number of NCs in classes.

grades at all. In either case, high schoolers should never lose sight of being prepared for the future.

Perhaps we shouldn't really blame relationships as a whole when it's the student's priorities that are mixed up. Even if it's not a relationship taking all a student's attention, it could be a job or an after-school club. It's apparent that many members of this generation are more busy earning money than dating. In short, anything that requires time can affect

your grades if you put those activities above school. Fortunately, most high schools offer resources and other forms of help so, if you try, you can succeed. It's all about what an individual is willing to do.

In conclusion, relationships don't negatively affect grades unless the student allows them to. Grades completely depend on the individual student. Sometimes, students who see their grades suffer due to a relationship are real-

ly having issues with their own priorities and time management. Other times, if a student's future plans don't involve further education, they may shift their priorities away from school. It may even be the case that there's something going on in that student's life that causes them to focus all their attention on things outside of school. Although high school relationships can be distracting, blaming bad grades on them is futile.

Too many students are in the hallways instead of class

Whether they have legitimate passes or they are skipping class, large numbers of Hawks can be found in the halls

By DAMARIUS HAMILTON  
Quill staff writer

The number of students who are in the hallways during the class period is noticeable. While some might be in the halls using a legitimate pass, others are skipping their classes and walking around the building. Sadly, the students who are skipping class are usually the ones who need to be in the class the most. I understand why some students don't like being in class: they might be frustrated with their teacher or they don't understand the work they are supposed to do. However, being in the hallways is not going to solve the problem and will only increase the confusion the student is feeling. Overall, being in the hallway instead of class is a waste of everyone's time that causes problems for the teacher, the staff and the student.

First of all, I get the fact that being in the hallways is a method some students use to cope with issues they may be experiencing. Some students need to exit that classroom to think, to calm down or to get away from people, and the hallway is an obvious place they can go. It is in scenarios like this that being out of the classroom is helpful for some students because it allows them get their mind

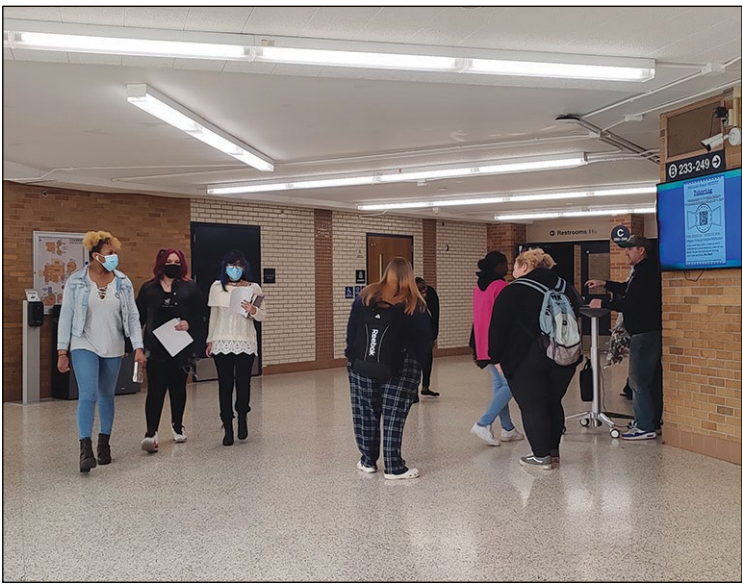


Photo by SHENG VANG

The second-floor Y is a high-traffic area even when class is in session.

right so they can eventually focus on their work. Teachers and staff members who understand the benefit of letting a student leave class to deal with personal issues should be commended. While it is easy to complain about the number of people in the hallways, we must keep in mind that it is sometimes necessary and legitimate.

At the same time, there are definitely students who take advantage of this flexibility and either ask to get a pass when they don't need one or skip a class in order to spend time wandering around

building. This is where the school's hall monitors play a role. Most of the time, the monitors are working hard to make sure the students in the hallways have a good reason to be there and, for those who don't, making sure they get back to class. Sometimes, though, the hall monitors assume any student walking around during a class period is skipping, which can lead to some confrontations. Usually, I feel like the hall monitors are thoughtful and fair in these situations. Instead of instantly assuming you're skipping or doing something you're not

supposed to, they take the time to talk to you. Of course, given the large number of people in the halls, this can sometimes be challenging.

This leaves us with the students who are in the halls but should not be. I think these students should be held accountable. They shouldn't be allowed to leave class unless they absolutely need to and they have proper approval. When they leave without permission or are aimlessly wandering the halls, they are distracting other students, robbing themselves of an education, and making life more difficult for teachers and staff members. While it is tough for them to do something about students who are skipping class, teachers could do more to keep students in the classroom instead of sending them in the halls for unnecessary reasons.

Ultimately, the responsibility for keeping students out of the halls rests on everyone's shoulders. Students should stop loitering or walking in the hallways during class time, even if they have a good reason to be out of class. I also think teachers and hall monitors should be serious about following the rules and keeping students in the classroom so they can learn. If we all work together, we can change the culture of the hallways, especially during class time.

Restrictive bathroom policies are unfortunate but justified

While students have a right to be upset by the new limits placed on using restrooms during class, our own behaviors are to blame

By ERIN CHUNN  
Quill staff writer

The administration has started closing off select bathrooms during class time due to students smoking in them and setting off the alarms, students hanging out in the bathrooms instead of attending class, and students vandalizing the bathrooms. Cooper has a history of these three problems in the bathrooms, so it's no surprise that restricting bathroom access was the next step. This is unfortunate since the bathrooms are usually now overflowing with people because only the main ones near the second-floor Y and the main hallway are consistently open. When it comes to using the bathrooms, students need to take responsibility and learn some type

of self control. We are too old to be having whole bathrooms taken away from us due to our behavior.

With all circle bathrooms closed off during class time, students now must go to the Y with a pass to use the bathrooms located there. This tactic limits hallway loitering and helps staff members better observe who is in the bathroom. In theory, this change solves a few problems for the administration, but, as a student, having to walk across the school just to use the bathroom is crazy. The only options for students are holding it until passing time and risking the bathroom being full anyway, or waiting 10 minutes for the teacher to write you a pass, then walking to the only open bathrooms, which definitely will be

packed.

Perhaps the worst part about the new bathroom procedures is that the situation is undeniably the fault of students. Due to students smoking in the bathrooms, the resulting fire alarms became so frequent that people did not even want to exit the school because everyone assumed it was not a real fire. While the number of students who were smoking in the bathroom might not have been large, the actions of those smokers are now affecting everyone in the building. The new bathroom procedure shows how little trust the administration now has for students. Regulating the bathrooms for young adults shouldn't be necessary, but we brought this on ourselves.

In conclusion, the new bathroom procedures make sense but they cause a whole new set of problems. Now that the circle bathrooms are closed during class time, the only ones left open are in the Y. This allows the administration to monitor the bathrooms to limit students who might be smoking in the bathroom, hanging out in the bathroom, or vandalizing the bathroom. Although it is a shame that the administration has to take such drastic measures, the false fire alarms and other bathroom problems were getting ridiculous. The new bathroom procedures have reduced the false fire alarms greatly, but the negative side is the huge inconvenience it has on those honest students who genuinely just want to use the closest bathroom.



# Something's in the way of new *Batman*

A nearly three-hour running time is one of several issues that keep the Matt Reeves reboot from being a true classic

By LUKE REKELA-JASPER  
*Quill* staff writer

*The Batman* is the first superhero movie of 2022 and another reboot of the Batman film franchise. Directed by Matt Reeves, and written by him and Peter Craig, the film stars Robert Pattinson as reclusive billionaire Bruce Wayne during his sophomore year as the vigilante Batman, who is called upon by the Riddler (Paul Dano), a serial killer that seeks to unmask the truth about corruption in Gotham City.

Originally set to be in the DC Extended Universe and heavily involve Ben Affleck in many chief filmmaking roles, a series of setbacks caused Affleck to leave the project entirely and filmmaker Reeves to take the helm. Reeves opted to make his own Batman story, exclusive to its own universe. Not long after Reeves came on board, Robert Pattinson, best known for his role in the *Twilight* film series, was cast as the Caped Crusader in May 2019 and was met with heavy backlash by many Batman “fans.”

That backlash, accompanied by my preconceived notion that the *Twilight* films were laughably bad, strangely got me interested in what Pattinson had been up to in his post-*Twilight* years to land him the role of a lifetime. After watching his riveting performances in the 2017 crime thriller *Good Time* and the 2019 psychological thriller *The Lighthouse*, I was confident that Pattinson was perfect for the part. Both *Good Time* and *The Lighthouse* are now up there as two of my favorite movies, and seeing as those were very carefully crafted independent films, I was hoping *The Batman* would have a specific edge to differentiate itself from many recent superhero blockbusters that I have grown tired of.

With my two-year-long anticipation for the film, I went into *The Batman* feeling relaxed, mainly because I had almost no doubt that this movie would totally disappoint me. In the last few years, Batman has had a pretty bumpy ride when it comes to his live-action appearances and *The Batman* seemed like a necessary movie and course of action Warner Bros. and DC Films needed to take in order to keep the franchise afloat with casual audiences.

I was also looking forward to seeing a singular filmmaker’s vision for a beloved comic book character who has gone from battling a shark with shark repellent spray to trying to kill an uninspiring, super-powered alien with machine guns and a bathroom sink. But I couldn’t just go and watch this movie alone. I needed a sidekick to experience this nearly three-hour-long epic with me, so I drove down to Wisconsin and saw it with my older brother, who was a former editor-in-chief for *The Quill*.

After battling through rough weather conditions in Minnesota and Wisconsin, both of us made it to the movie theater and got to see what Matt Reeves and company had to offer. Although I was immersed for about the first half of *The Batman*, I really fell out of the experience toward the middle of the film, which was disappointing given its strong start.

To kick things off with some positives, I’d like to go over two aspects of *The Batman* that have been all over the marketing for the film and are completely spoiler-free: the cinematography

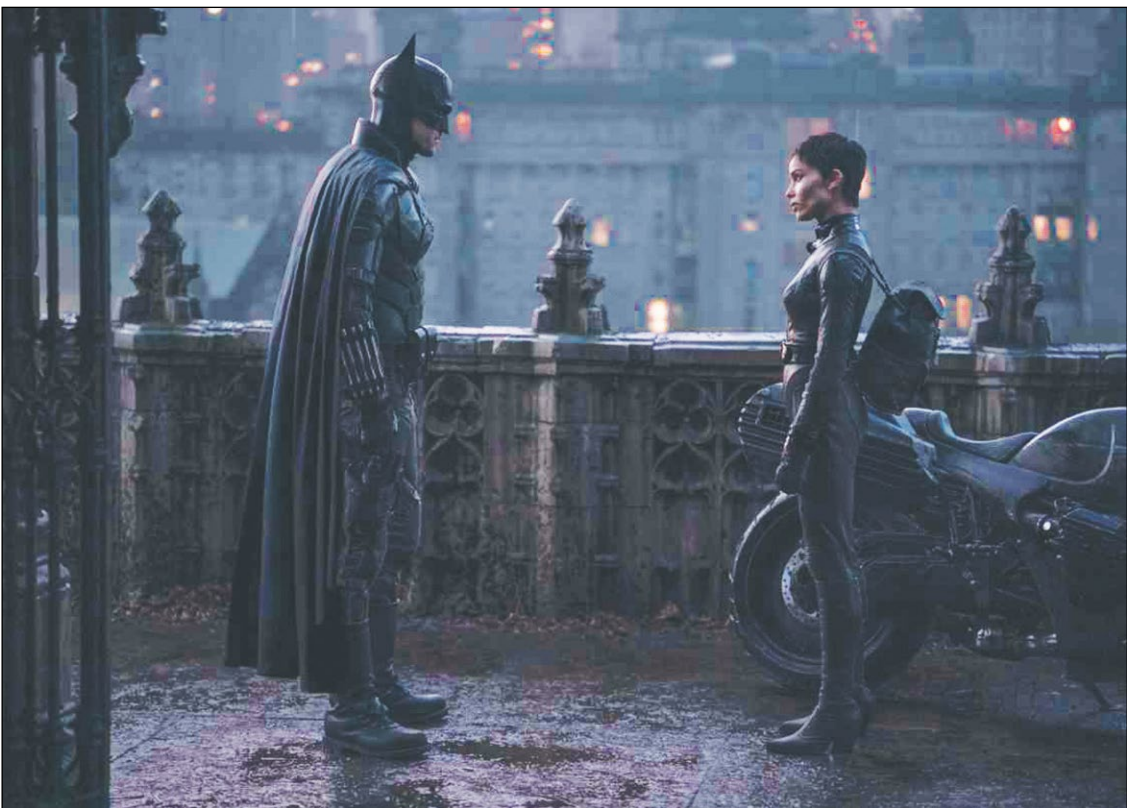


Photo courtesy of WARNER BROS.

The chemistry between Robert Pattinson as Batman and Zoe Kravitz as Catwoman is an effective part of the film.

and the music. From the trailers alone, I could tell cinematographer Greg Frazier was one of the best in the filmmaking business, and that notion was further stamped down after learning he was the cinematographer for *The Mandalorian* (2019-present) and *Dune* (2021), which both look great. Frazier plays a pivotal role in bringing this new Gotham City to life and this movie wouldn’t be the same without his incredible work.

As for the music, *The Batman*’s soundtrack was released about a week before the film, and after my first listen to track number one, I knew this would not be a rip-off of previous Batman scores. I already was familiar with composer Michael Giacchino’s work from the J.J. Abrams *Star Trek* film series, *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, and several Marvel Cinematic Universe installments. Giacchino’s score fits perfectly with the gritty and grounded world Reeves, Frazier and everyone else involved have created in *The Batman* while still bearing similarities to previous Batman compositions, including Shirley Walker’s theme from the animated classic *Batman: Mask of the Phantasm* and Hans Zimmer’s theme from Christopher Nolan’s Batman trilogy.

My favorite tracks from *The Batman*’s soundtrack are “Can’t Fight City Halloween,” “Highway to the Anger Zone” and “A Bat in the Rafters, Pt. 2.” Even before I saw the movie, these three tracks stood out to me and worked well in the film. I also like the use of the Nirvana song, “Something in the Way,” which is featured heavily in the marketing for the film. That song alone perfectly sets the tone for *The Batman*.

Next up for discussion is *The Batman*’s ensemble cast of characters. For starters, Jeffrey Wright plays James Gordon, an honest Gotham City police lieutenant who has allied with Batman in his mission to fight crime in Gotham and apprehend the Riddler. I think Wright does a great job of feeling like Batman’s best friend, but as a character, we don’t necessarily get much from him. I hate to already draw comparisons to previous films, but in Christopher Nolan’s *Batman Begins*, that version of Gordon is given time to establish himself as a no-

ble cop who just wants to make the city where his family lives a better place. I think I would have appreciated Gordon a lot more in this film if his job as a cop was put on the line due to his insistence on allowing Batman access to Riddler crime scenes.

I think one could argue Batman and Gordon’s pre-existing partnership is fine, since in a movie like *Back to the Future*, we never find out why teenager Marty McFly is helping out the crackpot scientist Doc Brown. My response to that would be that we never find out exactly why Gordon is on the same page as Batman, so excluding my pre-existing knowledge of James Gordon in other Batman media, it leaves the question as to why they are buddies in the film. I’d say a simple throwaway line about their partnership’s origin would suffice.

Another key performer in the film is Andy Serkis, who plays Alfred Pennyworth, the Wayne family caretaker who effectively raised Bruce Wayne. Like Wright, I think Serkis has a captivating presence on screen, but his character lacked the necessary depth to make me really care about him, especially when Alfred opens a certain letter in the film. I think the film needs more time to develop their uneasy father-son dynamic, which is a lot to ask of a movie that is nearly three hours long.

The next key performer is Colin Farrell, who plays Oswald “The Penguin” Cobblepot. He is completely unrecognizable in his incredibly designed prosthetics. Farrell does a great job portraying a scummy, mid-level crime boss in a supporting role in the film, which makes me curious if he will be able to hold his own in his upcoming spin-off series for HBO Max.

Also important to the film is John Turturro, who plays Carmine Falcone, a high-level crime boss who has connections to several of *The Batman*’s main characters. Like Farrell, Turturro does a great job of portraying an even scummier crime lord who also feels like he’s been operating in Gotham City for years.

Next up is Zoë Kravitz, who plays Selina Kyle, a cat burglar and waitress at Cobblepot’s nightclub who begins working with Batman to find her miss-

ing friend. I think Kravitz and Pattinson have good chemistry, but their romance feels a little forced. When they actually get together, my reaction was: “Oh, okay, yeah. Uh, cool. So that’s that?”

Playing the Riddler is Paul Dano. The Riddler is the main antagonist of the film and he is preying upon Gotham’s elite and leaving behind clues for Batman. Inspired by the real-life Zodiac Killer, Dano’s Riddler is horrifying and acts borderline monstrous. He live-streams his murders much like the Joker in *The Dark Knight*. I think Dano, both in and out of the Riddler mask, gives an incredible and believable performance as a maniacal serial killer. Riddler’s first scene in the film perfectly establishes how his character is both similar to and contrasts from Batman.

Last but certainly not least, Robert Pattinson plays Bruce Wayne/Batman, and as the vigilante out for vengeance, he is excellent. In one of the film’s opening sequences, Pattinson’s Batman establishes himself as almost a supernatural presence in Gotham whose name, or in this case his symbol in the sky, strikes fear into the hearts and minds of criminals. I think audiences will feel Batman’s anger, his frustrations, his determination and his sadness, all of which and more are greatly conveyed by Pattinson. We don’t get to see the classic origin story where Bruce’s parents are gunned down by a mugger in an alleyway outside of a movie theater, but just from Pattinson’s body language, you can tell something tragic happened to him that led him to becoming Batman.

*The Batman*’s take on Bruce Wayne has him as a reclusive billionaire, who Reeves based on Nirvana frontman Kurt Cobain. In typical Batman media, Bruce Wayne is presented as a billionaire playboy to differentiate himself from Batman, so people don’t think he is secretly the masked vigilante. I like how this film’s Bruce is not yet fully formed, but the set-up of Bruce being a weirdo recluse does not pay off at all in this film and that is disappointing. However, with a trilogy in development, I’m

**BATMAN**  
continues on page 9

# Viewers should travel to *Alaska* for good drama

Josh Schwartz’s show perfectly captures what it is like to be a teen in today’s world



Photo courtesy of HULU

The ensemble cast is key to bringing the show’s plot to life.

By KAPOZIA KORICH  
*Quill* staff writer

*Looking For Alaska* is a 2019 limited series developed by Josh Schwartz for Hulu. People should watch the show because it gives you some perspective on what it’s like to be a teenager in today’s world. With its look into the issues of death, drugs and smoking, *Looking For Alaska* helps viewers get inside the mind of teenagers and the conflicts they face. Even though *Looking For Alaska* had a short life, it remains one of my favorite streaming shows.

Based on the John Green novel of the same name, the main characters in the show are Alaska, Pudge, The Colonel, Takumi and Lara. The storyline is about Pudge finding love with Alaska, who is a troubled teen. It takes you through a bunch of ups and downs in their love story. During the series, Pudge and The Colonel are trying to figure Alaska out and why she is how she is. Toward the end of the series, things take a huge turn that brings the show to a dramatic conclusion.

One element I like about the show is how they portray Alaska as a character. She comes off as a tough girl with a bold personality who smokes and doesn’t seem to care about anything. However, in reality, she has a bunch of layers related to the trauma she has experienced. As the show progresses, they do a great job of breaking down those layers to finally show what Alaska is all about. The development of Alaska as a character leads to a good story whose eventual conclusion is definitely worth the wait.

Another positive aspect of the show is its art direction. The story takes place at the fictional Culver Creek Boarding School, which is located in the woods. I like that the show is filmed in a realistic building located in a wooded area. The beauty of the location and the art direction is pleasing and it definitely adds to the development of the story.

An interesting aspect of the show is an ongoing theme related to popularity. Although the dynamic of the conflict between “cool kids” and “losers” is regularly dealt with in American TV shows, *Looking For Alaska* plays around with this cliché. In this story, Alaska used to be cool but then turned into a loser. As a result, other characters make fun of her as the story unfolds.

In conclusion, *Looking For Alaska* is well-directed and well-structured show. It tells many truths about the experience of being a teenager in today’s society. Thanks to its realism and its great insights, I give this show five out of five stars.

**CONTRACT**  
continued from page 1

in recent years. Social studies teacher and union member Mr. Deiman, for example, said he likes that the district added a one-time payment to staff from the COVID relief funds that were provided by the government. This payment is a way to give back to teachers for the two years of distance learning.

“I did not have any concerns about the contract this year,” Deiman said. “The school district and our union have consistently been able to come together and negotiate a fair contract.”

Voting for this and other contracts takes place before school on a pre-established date. All ballots are then collected and counted by elections judges to determine the outcome.

# Cheaper by the Dozen still brings heartwarming laughs

The recent release of a Disney+ update of the movie is the perfect time to revisit the still-satisfying 2003 film

By MARIAH RILEY  
*Quill* staff writer

The recent release of a *Cheaper by the Dozen* remake on Disney+ makes this a good time to rewatch the 2003 version of the movie, which itself was a remake of a 1950 movie of the same name. *Cheaper by the Dozen* is a heartwarming dramedy that shows viewers that not all families are the same. This movie has been a favorite of mine while growing up because I enjoy that it is both funny and sad. I also like the movie’s message that you don’t have to be the best mom or dad as long as you show your family love.

The 2003 version of *Cheaper by the Dozen* is directed by Shawn Levy. It was inspired by the real-life Gilbreth family. The movie stars Steve Martin and Bonnie Hunt as married couple Tom and Kate Baker, while Hilary Duff, Tom Welling and Piper Perabo play three of their 12 children.

In the story, the Bakers move



Photo courtesy of 20TH CENTURY STUDIOS

The real story the 2003 film is based on was also turned into a movie in 1950.

from small-town Illinois to the big city after Tom gets a dream job coaching his alma mater’s football team. Meanwhile, his wife also gets her dream of having a book published. While she is traveling to promote her book, Tom has a hard time

keeping the house in order while at the same time coaching his football team.

One thing I like about the movie is the acting. Since the family has 14 people in it, there are a lot of characters and storylines to keep track of. Fortunately,

the individual performances make it easy to tell each character apart and each gets their own distinct personalities. All of the actors are good at showing the love that exists between these family members. As you watch their acting, you will want to cry when they cry and laugh when they laugh.

Another part of the movie I like is its message. *Cheaper by the Dozen* shows that family is always the most important thing. Even when things seem like they are falling apart as both parents attempt to pursue their career dreams, they always come through and put their children first. It is a positive message that is welcome in these difficult times.

Whether or not you have seen it before, I encourage everybody to watch *Cheaper by the Dozen*. The story, performances and themes make this a good movie that holds up nearly 20 years later. I give this film five out of five stars. I think you all will love this movie as much as I do.



## Bright shines light on issue of mental illness

Jennifer Niven's 2015 novel is geared at young adults but has a message for everyone

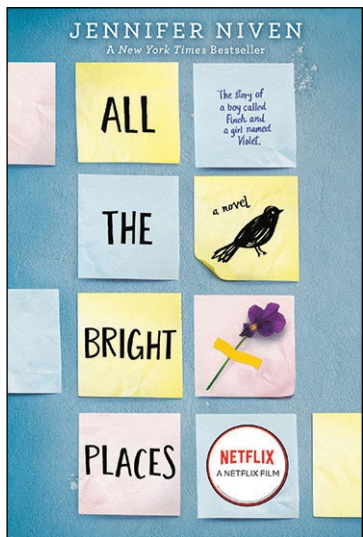


Photo courtesy of KNOPF PUBLISHING

The story focuses on the relationship between Finch and Violet.

By TAJANNEA JENKINS  
Quill staff writer

*All the Bright Places* is a young adult fiction novel written by Jennifer Niven and published on January 6, 2015 through Knopf Publishing Group. *All the Bright Places* is a beautifully written and complex novel that deals with the different ways depression and other mental illnesses are seen in society. Additionally, the novel addresses the different phases of grief individuals experience. While this novel is truly a beautiful love story, what I enjoy most is that the love story isn't the main point of the novel. Instead, it is ultimately about friendship.

*All the Bright Places* is about two young people: Theodore Finch and Violet Markley. Theodore, who goes by Finch, is known at school for being "weird." He struggles with his mental health and he has always been fascinated by death, especially his own. Meanwhile, Violet is a formerly popular girl whose life changed when her sister died in a car crash. Now, Violet is counting the days until graduation, when she can escape her town and the grief of losing her sister.

After an incident at a bell tower, the two characters meet for the first time. Later that day, Violet and Finch are partnered for a project to find things in Indiana that might not be popular. This starts them on an adventure that leads to a beautiful friendship and relationship.

One of the best things about *All the Bright Places* is how the story of Finch is part of a larger consideration of issues related to mental health. There is a certain stigma about depressed people that I think Niven helps break in this novel. As a character, Finch is always smiling and happy, even though the readers get to know his darker thoughts. This always leaves an element of doubt in the story when it comes to his true feelings. In real life, most people think that individuals who struggle with depression are sad and withdrawn all the time, but that is not the case. They can also be happy and smiling despite the pain.

Another interesting element of *All the Bright Places* is its theme of grief and how people cope with loss. This novel shows that grief looks different to everyone and no one can put a time limit on how long it takes for you to cope with loss. Through the Violet character, we see the different ways someone can grieve. Violet thinks she's over her sister's death, but she really continues to struggle. One of the best things about her character development is that she doesn't let anyone rush her grieving process; she gives herself time.

Perhaps the best thing about this novel is the complex nature of the ending and how it brings

**BRIGHT**  
continues on page 7

## Bad broke new ground for TV shows

AMC's *Breaking Bad* helped raise the profile of that cable network while also pushing the boundaries for what is possible in a drama

By LUKE REKELA-JASPER  
Quill staff writer

*Breaking Bad* is an American, neo-Western crime drama television series created by Vince Gillian. The show aired on AMC from January 20, 2008 to September 29, 2013 and consisted of five seasons for a total of 62 episodes. Set in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the series tells the story of a high school chemistry teacher (Bryan Cranston) who begins producing and distributing crystal meth with help from a former student (Aaron Paul) to secure his family's financial future before he dies from inoperable lung cancer.

Whether you've seen it or not, I'm sure most people have heard of *Breaking Bad* and its immense success. While I don't exactly remember what made me decide to give this show a try, I don't know if I will ever forget watching the pilot episode on Netflix in August 2020 and then quickly working my way through the entire series in just a month before rewatching the entire series all over again not long after. Close to two years later, it's hard to remember who I was before I watched *Breaking Bad*, so it would be safe to say that this show had a profound effect on me as a person and as someone who reviews movies and TV shows.

The main protagonist of the series is Walter White, an underpaid and overqualified high school chemistry teacher and family man, whose mid-life crisis begins on the day after his 50th birthday, when he is diagnosed with stage-three lung cancer and given an estimated two years to live. Walt quickly realizes he could use his skills as a chemist to cook crystal meth, leading him to partner with a former student of his, Jesse Pinkman, to do so in order to ensure his family's future financial stability.

Both Bryan Cranston and Aaron Paul give some of the best performances in a TV show I have ever seen. Cranston, who previously had been known for his comedic work on the sitcom *Malcolm in the Middle*, blew viewers' minds back in 2008 with his sympathetic, calculated, cool, inspiring and human performance as Walter White. Paul is also perfect in the role of Jesse, who transforms from a smart-aleck kid to a sympathetic, tortured soul. The father-son dynamic that develops between Walt and Jesse is easily one of my favorite aspects of the show. Cranston and Paul literally have some of the best chemistry in TV history.

While Walt and Jesse's adventures as drug dealers may be the main focus of the show, another aspect of *Breaking Bad* I really appreciate is the frequent



Photo courtesy of AMC

The award-winning acting of Aaron Paul and Bryan Cranston (left to right) keeps the sometimes wild plot grounded.

family dilemmas, which come from the members of Walt's family. Walt's wife, Skyler (Anna Gunn); his teenage son, Walter, Jr. (R.J. Mitte); and his brother and sister-in-law, Hank (Dean Norris) and Marie Schrader (Betsy Brandt), all feel like a family that could exist in real life, each with their own personalities and storylines. You care about this family and their drama because they, the characters, feel so invested in it.

Hank, in particular, is the most interesting member of the White family. He is an agent for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) who is out hunting the drug dealer kingpin "Heisenberg," which is actually Walt.

Additional characters that come along in later seasons that I think are worth mentioning include Saul Goodman (Bob Odenkirk), a fast-talking, shady lawyer who provides a lot of comedic relief on both this show and his 2015 spin-off, *Better Call Saul*. Next is Mike Ehrmantraut (Jonathan Banks), a grumpy old hitman who frequently clashes with Walter. Finally, there is Gustavo "Gus" Fring (Giancarlo Esposito), the owner of a fast-food restaurant chain that becomes a dominant force in the lives of Walter and Jesse in the fourth season. This list only scratches the surface when it comes to *Breaking Bad*'s collection of the most well-written characters in any form of entertainment I have ever seen.

The show also has some of TV's greatest antagonists of all-time, though I'd rather keep their identities a secret. I recommend you see the show for yourself and decide who you think the bad guys really are.

Something that *Breaking*

*Bad* also has its own (sort of) self-contained rules that make the show feel more down-to-earth and relatable. An aspect of *Breaking Bad* I really enjoy is the emotional conflict involved in taking a human life and the cost that it has for the people involved. This element appears early on in the series and is evident until the show's end. Even though I think dramatic action sequences in which people are being blown away left and right can be fun and entertaining, I have a soft spot for the meticulous care *Breaking Bad* puts into honing down on the reality that taking a human life is not something to be dealt with lightly.

Another aspect that makes *Breaking Bad* stand out from any other show is how it uses color to subtly tell its story. For example, the character of Marie has expensive tastes and often thinks she, as a person, is above everyone else. Traditionally, royalty is linked to the color purple, which is why Marie is seen wearing purple clothing in just about every scene. Color is used in a similar way for every single character on the show, and once you have figured out what colors foreshadow, it makes the show much more interesting.

Another highlight of the show is the incredible writing *Breaking Bad* showcases in all 62 episodes. For better or worse, *Breaking Bad* is the TV show that made me realize what I think is the key element in what makes a good story: the writing. *Breaking Bad*'s plot never feels unrealistic or even surrealistic. It's a grounded show and stays this way over the course of all five seasons.

*Breaking Bad*'s writers are great at writing characters into corners and are masters at figur-

ing out creative and logical ways for getting their characters out of these situations. While its early seasons certainly had their moments, *Breaking Bad*'s writing peaked and only got better and better by the latter half of the fourth season, which saw Walter White's transformation reach certain points that got me, and I'm sure everyone else, wondering if I should still be rooting for this guy I thought I knew outside and in.

The writers also know how to pace an episode and know when to make certain episodes a little different from the usual catalog. This can be seen in what is possibly the most debated-about episode of *Breaking Bad*, an episode simply titled, "Fly." The basic premise of "Fly" is that Walter demands Jesse help him kill a fly that he feels is a containment in their lab. Obviously, the titular housefly isn't the main point of this episode, which is really just about the two characters talking. "Fly" is many *Breaking Bad* fans' favorite or least favorite episode. For me, while I think *Breaking Bad* has such a vast array of great episodes, "Fly" is literal proof of how good the *Breaking Bad* writing team is.

In conclusion, *Breaking Bad* is a TV show I recommend to just about anybody besides children. While *Breaking Bad* is no kids show, viewers 14 or up could easily dig this, even if they don't get everything. Hands down, *Breaking Bad* deserves five stars out of five.

(*Breaking Bad*'s greatness doesn't cease with the show's finale, thanks to the made-for-Netflix, 2019 movie sequel, *El Camino: A Breaking Bad Movie*. This exceptional follow-up to the masterful series is reviewed on page eight of this issue of *The Quill*.)

## Zelda sequel delivers legendary action to gamers

The 2017 game, which is available on the Wii U and Nintendo Switch, provides a sweeping, open-world environment

By DEVIN GRAY  
Quill staff writer

*The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild* (BOTW) is an action-adventure game developed and released by gaming company Nintendo for the Wii U and Nintendo Switch. I like this game because it is massive in terms of world-building. It is an amazing game with a well-developed open world that I believe everyone with a lot of time to kill should play.

In the game, the main character, Link, wakes up in a run-down shrine with a stone tablet that allows him to break free. From this moment onward, his goal is to defeat Ganon, the evil warlord ruling over Hyrule, in order to restore peace to the land and save the princess Zelda, who has been sealed away for hundreds of years.

The main appeal of *BOTW* is its open world. Throughout the game, players will see a lus-



Photo courtesy of NINTENDO ENTERTAINMENT

The game follows Link as he attempts to defeat the evil warlord Ganon.

cious landscape and other great, colorful settings. There are many different environments for players to explore and multiple places one can go. For example, one can encounter everything from deserts to grasslands. There also are many different weather conditions that give off different vibes.

In addition to the settings, the game's environment features a wide assortment of characters, ranging from the enemies players face to the local citizens featured in the backgrounds of the game.

Customization is a huge factor in *BOTW*. Every weapon

has a limit on how much it can take before it breaks and the need for a new one arises. Whether it is one's ability to select clothes, choose weapons or pick out food, the game caters to how you decide to customize it.

In addition to the ability to be creative in customizing the game, *BOTW* also rewards creativity in solving the game's puzzles. Every puzzle has two or more ways to complete it. In fact, folks are still finding ways to complete puzzles that many players have agreed are impossible, despite the game having been released five years ago. This game allows so much player expression that one might actually go insane while playing it.

All in all, gamers should definitely check out *The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild*. It has a diverse open world that gives users the ability to be creative in their approach to customization and puzzles. This game earns four out of five stars.



# Wiz entertains on Cooper stage

The winter musical showcased the on-stage, behind-the-scenes talents of many Hawks



Photo by SHENG VANG

A special performance of *The Wiz* was put on for Cooper students during the school day on March 17.

By BRIGHT DEKU  
Quill staff writer

Cooper's winter musical for the 2021-2022 school year was *The Wiz*. Student-directed by Greta Bertossi (12), the musical was performed in the Cooper auditorium on March 11, 12, 13, 17 and 18. I had the chance to see the musical during a special performance during school hours on March 17. I am glad I had the opportunity to watch the musical for this review because it was a fun show. *The Wiz* was good thanks to its humor and the entertaining storyline. I also enjoyed watching my peers demonstrate their ability to be entertaining.

The plot of *The Wiz* is a reimaging of the original novel and movie *The Wizard of Oz*. In *The Wiz*, the main character, Dorothy, is trying to go back home. As she moves through her journey, she makes some friends along the way and they have an adventure with a lot of singing.

One thing I liked about the Cooper production is the costuming. The outfits were imaginative and each one matched its respec-

tive character. Also, I was impressed by how fast the performers got changed when they needed to swap out their costumes. They would exit the stage for about 30 seconds and then come back looking like a completely different person or creature.

The set for the musical was also effective. On the stage, they

was impressed to see someone I know from my grade or people I have taken classes with performing up on stage. It was amazing to see how talented everyone is, whether they were performing in a lead role or they were among the many extras performing in the background. The acting, singing and dancing were consistently excellent.

As a Cooper student, I was impressed to see someone I know from my grade or people I have taken classes with performing up on stage. It was amazing to see how talented everyone is, whether they were performing in a lead role or they were among the many extras performing in the background. The acting, singing and dancing were consistently excellent.

had these little blocks that they could move or change around depending on what was happening in the story. Additionally, there was a big screen that showed color, which helped add to the feeling of specific scenes in the musical.

This brings me to the main thing I liked about *The Wiz*: the acting. As a Cooper student, I

that the minor audio glitches did not stop me from enjoying this element.

Overall, Cooper's production of *The Wiz* was entertaining. It was a pleasure to watch this musical because I had a good experience throughout the entire performance. I rate this musical four out of five stars.

## Students release new music online

Several Cooper attendees produce their own songs outside of the school day

By DEVIN GRAY  
Quill staff writer

Musicians are starting off younger and younger these days thanks to advances in music recording and production technology. Additionally, aspiring singers, rappers and instrumentalists are now able to rise to the top of their own underground scenes thanks to the ability to upload and share music online. That is exactly what is being done by some musical artists at Cooper.

### Burberry Terry

Burberry Terry is an outgoing, fun rapper whose music is available on Soundcloud and Spotify. Burberry Terry is the performance name of Cooper's own Terry Greer (12).

Greer said he doesn't take his music seriously. Instead, he said he "does it for fun." According to Greer, he makes music based on how he feels.

As for the genre of his music, Greer said he makes rap music that should appeal to fans of the underground rap scene. He said he would one day like to work with artists like Juice Wrld.

### Hayden Tourtelotte

Hayden Tourtelotte (12) said he makes "sample-heavy beat tapes" that are available on Spotify. He also said he has recently dabbled in jazz and indie pop music.

While he does take his music seriously, Tourtelotte said he doesn't put too much energy in promoting the music.

"It distracts from the art," he said.

Tourtelotte acknowledged that he would love to work with producers like Knxwledge and KAYTRANDA in the future. Additionally, he mentioned that he would enjoy hearing how rappers like Westside Gunn and

Boldy James would sound on his productions.

### Absent Markey

Absent Markey is the performance name of Markus Adams (12), an artist who makes hip-hop and melodic rap. He describes his sound as "airy, uplifting, pop-like vocals" over "wavy instrumentals." Even though each song might be at a different tempo, he said you can always tell it is him.

"They all fit the same vibe," he said.

While Absent Markey started out as a side project, Adams said he started to get more serious about his music as it became a burning passion that allowed self expression. He said he is not going to stop making music "no matter what happens" because it is his art.

Adams' work as Absent Markey is available to stream on Soundcloud and Spotify.

**BRIGHT SHINES LIGHT ON ISSUE OF MENTAL HEALTH** continued from page 6

closure to the relationship between Finch and Violet. The ending itself is tragic, but it's also beautiful. While the reader might at first feel like they never saw the ending coming, if they look back in the book, they will see that there are multiple clues that lead up to the conclusion. What plays the biggest

part in the ending of the book is the relationship between Finch and Violet. The conclusion explores how well they know each other and how in sync with him she is. In the end, she is the only one who sees Theodore Finch for what he is: beautiful.

*All the Bright Places* is an excellent novel that sparks im-

portant conversations about why teens need support and why we need to learn more about mental health. This novel shows that teens who are going through the worst in life can still smile, even though they may be asking for help at the same time. I give this novel five out of five stars.

## Premier Performers

The story of the musicians and artists who bring their talents to Cooper

### Sam Theisen

By LLEWELLYN BOUTHIM  
Quill staff writer

Sam Theisen (12) is involved in many arts activities, including band, IB music, clay, drawing and photography.

"I have been in band since I was in the fifth grade," he said. "I started playing the trumpet because it was my older brother's first instrument and I looked up to him."

Theisen said his various music performance classes have been fun "because it is really fun making good music with a large group of people." As for IB music, he said he has "enjoyed learning more about music theory and the history of music."

As he looks back at his years in band, the influence of Mr. Hahn has been important to Theisen.

"Hahn pushes me to play harder

parts. This made me a more confident musician. In my freshman year, I was always nervous and hated playing in front of people. Now, I am confident in my playing and will gladly play for people," he said.

Given his interest in the arts, Theisen said it is not surprising his favorite subjects are music and art.

"I like these classes because I love to create things and be creative," he said.

Theisen's creativity can also be seen outside of school.

"One of my hobbies outside of school is making my own music. I produce hip-hop beats for friends and local artists. I'm in a rock band and I make my own rap and indie music," he said.

Next year, Theisen plans to go to college and "learn more about sound engineering." He said he wants to go to the Institute of Production and Recording.



Photo by MIMI OTU

### Brian Espinoza

By SHENG VANG  
Quill staff writer

Brian Espinoza (12) is a Cooper performer who has been in choir for six years, band for two years, theater for two years and dance for four years.

Ever since Espinoza was young, he has always enjoyed singing and dancing. He said being able to sing at school is amazing and he enjoys the "many voices coming together to create such beautiful melodies and sounds." For dancing, he said it is a way for him to express himself.

"I find that, with dance, it helps me expand my world and be able to be more creative with myself," Espinoza said.

In addition to singing and dancing, Espinoza also acted in theater class and played the saxophone in band class. Though accidentally put in band class,

Espinoza said he has grown to enjoy it as he can now "create [his] own music in more than one way."

In each of Espinoza's arts-related activities, he has made many memories. He mentioned one of his favorite memories from theater was when he got his first leading role, which made him "excited but nervous as well."

Besides having fun in his classes, Espinoza also helps out with the organization and preparation in his choir class. He also volunteers at his church outside of school and spends most of his free time learning new instruments.

Espinoza said he plans on majoring in architecture in college and minoring in interior design. He added that he plans to continue choir and band after high school because those activities allow him to express himself.



Photo by MIMI OTU

### Libby Karol

By LLEWELLYN BOUTHIM  
Quill staff writer

Libby Karol (12) is a Cooper student involved in Concert Choir. Karol has been in choir for a long time, starting before her years in high school.

"I have been in choir since I was little, but I joined Cooper choir as a freshman," she said.

Karol enjoys many things about being in choir. She said her favorite aspect is performing at concerts.

"I enjoy concerts the most because it is an opportunity to see all your practice pay off," she said.

In fact, it was her experience at a specific concert that remains Karol's favorite choir moment.

"My favorite memory from the choir was performing at Orchestra Hall sophomore year," she said.

Karol's skills in music have led to her serving as an accompanist.

"I have been a student accompanist if we needed any percussion in a piece," she said.

Outside of her time in choir, Karol said her favorite class at school is clay.

"My favorite class is clay because I am a hands-on, visual learner and I love to be creative and see my creations get better as I learn," Karol said.

When she is not at school, Karol has a number of hobbies she enjoys.

"I like to be outside and go to the beach, play ukulele, paint, hang out with friends [and] go to concerts," she said.

Next fall, Karol will attend San Diego State University, where she plans on majoring in graphic design. At this point, she said she is still considering whether or not she will sing in college.

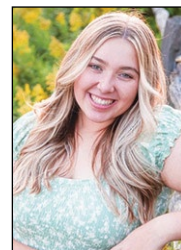


Photo by MIMI OTU

### Travis Bruns

By PHILIP ROBERT  
Quill staff writer

Travis Bruns (12) takes part in Wind Ensemble, Jazz 1, Jazz 2, Marching Band, Pit Orchestra and Combined Orchestra. Bruns also performs as part of Cooper's improv group.

Bruns started in music during fourth grade and gradually joined other music programs as he advanced through school. In addition, he first joined improv in middle school and recently got into photography as well.

"I enjoy these activities because they give me platforms to express myself," he said.

Bruns' favorite band memory is when he got to play at U.S. Bank Stadium. One of his other favorite performance memories is when his improv team competed in a global event through

Destination Imagination and placed in the top 50 percent of teams in the world.

Bruns has taken on leadership positions in his music groups. In band, he is a section leader of the "middle voices," which includes instruments like horns and saxophones. He also is the principal horn in the Wind Ensemble.

Beyond music, Bruns' favorite subject in school is English because he "enjoys literary analysis." Additionally, he said he likes French because his teacher, Mr. Moravec, is "the best French teacher of all time."

Outside of school, Bruns' favorite activities are fishing, hunting, record collecting, hanging out with his friends, philanthropy, Wall Street speculation and concert-going.

Bruns' plan for college is to major in music. Eventually, he wants to teach music at the college level.



Photo by MIMI OTU



## Aaliyah's *One* captures singer's clear brilliance

The album was released prior to the gifted musician's untimely death in 2001



Photo courtesy of ATLANTIC RECORDS

*One in a Million* helped cement Aaliyah's status as the Princess of R&B.

By AALIYAH HALL  
Quill staff writer

Aaliyah was an American singer, actress, dancer and model who died in a plane crash at the age of 22 in 2001. Known as the “Princess of R&B,” Aaliyah not only appealed to fans of that genre, but pop and hip hop as well. Aaliyah has played a special role in my life because my mother is one of her biggest fans, which inspired her to name me Aaliyah. While I was growing up, my mother would play Aaliyah’s songs all the time. The album she would play most often is *One in a Million*, which is now one of my favorite albums.

*One in a Million* was Aaliyah's second studio album and it was first released on August 13, 1996, by Atlantic Records. *One in a Million* debuted at number 20 on the U.S. Billboard 200 chart during its initial release, and a 2021 reissue of the album reached number 10. Since its first release, *One in a Million* has sold more than three million copies in America and eight million worldwide.

The first element of this album that is impressive is its songwriting and production. The album features a variety of top writers and producers from that time period, including such famous musicians as Timbaland, Missy Elliott, Carl So Lowe, J. Dibbs, Jermaine Dupri, Kay Gee, Vincent Herbert, Rodney Jerkins, Craig King, Darren Lighty and Darryl Simmons. In addition to the contributions from these famous figures, the album also has guest vocalists that include Elliott, Timbaland, Treach and Slick Rick.

As for the music, the album produced six successful singles: “If Your Girl Only Knew,” “Got to Give It Up,” “One in a Million,” “4 Page Letter,” “The One I Gave My Heart To” and “Hot Like Fire.” While I like all of these songs, the other tracks on the album are equally strong. There is truly no bad song on *One in a Million*.

Aside from the music, another aspect of Aaliyah I like is what she did outside of performing. To this day, I am a fan of Aaliyah’s clothing, dance styles and the way she carried herself. Many people at the time thought she was “manlike” due to her oversized clothes. I relate to her struggling to be accepted because of her choice of outfits. Much like her, I have struggled as a woman in society because I feel more comfortable in oversized or men’s clothes than I do in outfits traditionally considered “female.” Aaliyah inspired me to be more comfortable wearing whatever I feel best in.

Overall, *One in a Million* is a fantastic example of the good times and laughter Aaliyah has brought to my family through her wonderful music. The 17 tracks on this album have helped me find myself and contributed to me being the kind and carefree person I am today. This album deserves five out of five stars.

## *Camino* serves as satisfying epilogue to *Bad*

The continued popularity of *Breaking Bad* prompted streaming service Netflix to produce a follow-up film



Photo courtesy of NETFLIX

*El Camino* focuses on what happens next to the popular *Breaking Bad* character of Jesse Pinkman, played by Aaron Paul.

By LUKE REKELA-JASPER  
Quill staff writer

*El Camino: A Breaking Bad Movie* is an American, neo-Western crime thriller that was released on October 11, 2019, for the streaming service Netflix. It is a sequel and epilogue to the immensely successful TV series *Breaking Bad* (2008-2013), which aired its finale roughly six years prior to the film’s release. The film is set directly after the events of *Breaking Bad*’s final episode and is the conclusion for the character Jesse Pinkman (Aaron Paul), the former partner of *Breaking Bad*’s main protagonist, chemistry-teacher-turned-crystal-meth kingpin Walter White (Bryan Cranston).

Because I started watching *Breaking Bad* a few months into the pandemic, I had the advantage of watching its 2019 follow-up film directly after witnessing Walter White’s story come to a close in the TV series. Being that *Breaking Bad*’s series finale focused on putting a definitive and satisfying end to Walter White’s story, I was glad to learn that *El Camino* would solely feature Jesse getting his well-deserved conclusion as the lead character.

Next to Walter, Jesse was my favorite character in *Breaking Bad*, largely due to Aaron Paul’s performance, and to my content-

ment, Paul is just as great in *El Camino*. His performance really steals the show, as he retains just about everything the audience knows and loves about Jesse from *Breaking Bad*, but also adds new character traits as a result of the film’s intense circumstances. Paul also does a great job of being the lead, which contrasts with his previous appearances in *Breaking Bad*, which had Jesse being secondary to Walter.

The film frequently flashes back to unseen events set during *Breaking Bad*’s fifth season, which showcase Jesse interacting with Todd (Jesse Plemons), a member of a neo-Nazi gang who plays a large role in *Breaking Bad*’s fifth season. Like Paul, Plemons’ performance is just as great as it was six years ago and I love how his character’s involvement in the story still has a looming presence over Jesse in the present day.

Additional characters returning from *Breaking Bad* are Jesse’s friends, Skinny Pete (Charles Baker) and Badger (Matt Jones), who provide a nice amount of comedy in light of the serious tone. Also returning is Ed Galibrath, a.k.a. “The Disappearer,” who is played by Robert Forster in his final film role before his unfortunate passing. There are a few other favorites from the TV series, but for the sake of spoilers, I will keep their

involvement a secret. For just about every returning character, I think their placement throughout the movie is perfect since *El Camino* is Jesse’s journey and conclusion, and not a time capsule of the past.

While this isn’t much of criticism, the two main antagonists of the film, Neil Kandy (Scott MacArthur) and his accomplice, Casey (Scott Shepherd), don’t really offer all that much in comparison to previous *Breaking Bad* villains. However, I think they both serve their purposes in the story as obstacles to Jesse’s path to freedom.

Speaking of the story, *El Camino*’s writer Vince Gilligan doesn’t miss a beat in maintaining the excellent writing he and many others showcased in *Breaking Bad*. Gilligan makes Jesse’s getaway a practical one; everything he does to ensure his freedom is carried out by him alone. This style of writing is rewarding to the viewer since it gets them directly rooting for the character.

I also think the story is well-paced and the movie doesn’t hang in one location for too long. *El Camino* originally had a nearly three-hour runtime, and while I do love the world of *Breaking Bad* and the characterization of Jesse, I think it was for the best the film was trimmed for the sake of pacing. Gilligan checks

all the boxes on giving Jesse a satisfying epilogue and providing a moment of shining light on every important character in Jesse’s life going back to when we first meet him in *Breaking Bad*.

The film’s title, while being the name of the vehicle in which we last see Jesse in *Breaking Bad*’s finale, also translates to “the path” or “the way” in Spanish. This is a perfect title because the story is about Jesse finally finding his way in life. He no longer has Walter or anybody else to hold his hand through things. For much of *Breaking Bad*, Jesse is like an overgrown kid, and with Walter out of the picture, *El Camino* forces Jesse into his own version of adulthood.

In conclusion, *El Camino* is an underrated movie that was overlooked when it was first released. The only noticeable flaws in this film are that some of the actors look a little different then they did in 2013, but this detail didn’t take me out of the story, so it’s all good in my book. This film also has some of the best cinematography and directing I’ve seen in the 2010s, and while it may not work for viewers who haven’t seen the entirety of *Breaking Bad*, *El Camino* is an instant classic that provides a solid conclusion to one of my favorite TV characters. I rate *El Camino: A Breaking Bad Movie* five stars out of five.

## Anime fans will find much to enjoy in *One Piece*

The ongoing series, which has already been in production for 20 seasons, is based on manga by Eiichiro Oda

By BRIGHT DEKU  
Quill staff writer

*One Piece* is a Japanese anime series produced by Toei Animation that is based on Eiichiro Oda’s manga series of the same name. After premiering on Fuji TV in October 1999, the series has been distributed around the world and has run for 20 seasons across more than 1,000 episodes. The fact that the series is still running and it still has a lot of viewers is testimony to how good it is. I think all fans of anime will find *One Piece* to be an interesting show.

The story follows the adventures of Monkey D. Luffy, a boy whose body gained the properties of rubber after unintentionally eating a “Devil Fruit.” With his crew of pirates, named the Straw Hat Pirates, Luffy explores the Grand Line in search of the world’s ultimate treasure, which is known as “One Piece.” With that treasure, Luffy would become the next Pirate King, but standing



Photo courtesy of TOEI ANIMATION

*Piece* follows the adventures of Monkey D. Luffy, who wants to be Pirate King.

in his way are various challenges and tough opponents like warlords.

One element I like about this show is its animation. During each of its 20 seasons, they somewhat change how the illustrations look and feel. As a result, it feels like you are watching a whole different anime, which keeps the show fresh despite its many episodes.

and turns into a giant. Moments like this reward viewers who watch every single episode.

Another appealing aspect of the show is its voice acting. With so many characters over so many years, it is amazing how effectively the voice actors truly fit the characters they are playing. I can really feel the emotions the actors are putting into the voices of each character, especially Colleen Clindenbeard, who plays Luffy, and Christopher R. Sabat, who plays Roronoa Zoro.

Overall, if you are looking for an anime series that will provide hours and hours of entertainment, *One Piece* is the show for you. Since the series is still in production, there continues to be new episodes to watch. Of course, if you have not yet started watching the show, there also are 20 seasons to get caught up on. If you are looking for a show with good animation, strong stories and great voice acting, you will love *One Piece*. I give this show four out of five stars.



# Shrek 2 turns fairy tale cliches upside down

Audiences of all ages will find something to like in the second installment of the popular *Shrek* series

By PHILIP ROBERT  
*Quill* staff writer

*Shrek 2* is a funny movie that never gets outdated despite having its initial release way back in 2004. Having recently rewatched the movie, I was surprised to see that the jokes hold up to this day. Directed by Andrew Adamson, Kelly Asbury and Conrad Vernon, the movie is the sequel to 2001's *Shrek*. The film stars Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy and Cameron Diaz, who reprise their roles as Shrek, Donkey and Fiona, respectively. As is the case with each film in the *Shrek* series, *Shrek 2* humorously parodies fairy tales and makes joking references to popular culture.

*Shrek 2* starts where we left off after the original *Shrek*. Shrek and Fiona are on their honeymoon and decide to head home. At this point, we get the return of the best character in the film, Donkey. Shrek wants Donkey to leave, but Donkey doesn't understand Shrek. We then learn from Donkey that there is a messenger outside saying that Fiona's parents want to meet her new husband. Shrek doesn't want to go since he is still an ogre who makes people want to "sharpen their pitchforks," but Fiona convinces Shrek he has to meet her parents.

Despite its success with audiences, *Shrek 2* is known as one of the most troubled DreamWorks movie productions. The trouble started when the two writers from the first *Shrek* film, Ted Elliott and Terry Rossio, left *Shrek 2* because of a disagreement about the story's direction. This duo was replaced by director Andrew Adamson, who eventually modeled *Shrek 2* after the famous 1967 movie *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, a film kids my age will not know. In



Photo courtesy of DREAMWORKS PICTURES

The 2004 film places Shrek and Fiona in a situation inspired by the 1967 classic *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*.

that film, Academy Award-winning actors Sidney Poitier and Katharine Hepburn play a mixed-race couple who travel to the woman's childhood home so the man can meet her parents for the first time. The influences of this set up on *Shrek 2* are clearly visible in its plot.

Despite some of the behind-the-scenes issues, *Shrek 2* stands out because of the introduction of new characters and the movie's themes. Some new characters include Puss in Boots, a Latin cowboy cat played by Antonio Banderas. Puss in Boots stands out because the character doesn't fit the status quo. At the beginning of the film, he is depicted as a mysterious, serious figure. However, as the movie goes on, Shrek and Donkey meet

him and we get to see Puss in Boots' humorous side. The appeal of this character eventually led to a series of standalone Puss in Boots movies.

While the movie is filled with interesting characters and funny moments, it is also filled with thoughtful themes. One big one is that you shouldn't judge a book by its cover. In the movie, the Fairy Godmother and the king both judge Shrek because he is an ogre. What is more, the Fairy Godmother soon tries to help her son, Prince Charming, get Fiona's love.

While characters like the Fairy Godmother and Prince Charming tend to be the "good guys" in traditional fairy tales, they behave in evil and tricky ways in *Shrek 2*. Over the course of the story, viewers see that

Prince Charming is far from charming, especially when he tries to take Fiona away from Shrek by putting her under a spell. For a children's film, these actions are pretty dark, but, then again, traditional fairy tales have some pretty dark moments as well.

Overall, *Shrek 2* is a fun movie with a deep meaning. The movie is about accepting people for who they are. Although Shrek is an ogre, he still has a girl who loves him for who he is. This is in contrast to the Fairy Godmother and Prince Charming, who are representations of people who might be "Botox" cute on the outside, but ugly on the inside. Although the first *Shrek* had stronger writing, better jokes and more lessons in it, *Shrek 2* still deserves four out of five stars.

## SOMETHING'S IN THE WAY OF NEW BATMAN continued from page 5

sure that will be resolved in the future.

The film also showcases several action sequences that present Batman as a flesh-and-blood human being who, in a fight, will take a couple of hits and is not as invincible as he thinks he is. I like this addition because it reinforces Batman's character arc in the film. At the same time, I must say that, in some sequences, Batman takes blows that would undoubtedly either kill or cripple an actual person, which really took me out of the experience once Batman would reappear in the next scene acting almost as if nothing happened.

However, Pattinson makes the title character of the film pop on screen. This film almost always follows Batman's investigation into the Riddler's murders. Batman himself is the greatest part of this movie and I think Pattinson does a phenomenal job. The Dark Knight's arc in this film has him starting off the story as a crimefighter who is feared by both the common people and the criminals. By the end, he strives to redeem his name by helping the people, not as a force of nature, but as a man. He is a symbol of hope, not fear.

In many ways, *The Batman* reminds me a lot of the 1982 sci-fi film *Blade Runner*, which is a beautiful-looking and atmospheric detective drama that has its own large following of fans. *The Batman* seems to be DC's *Blade Runner* and I bet this will be a beloved film by many in the coming years. But to me, both *The Batman* and *Blade Runner* are films that I have trouble connecting with, primarily because the writing doesn't allow the lead characters to be all that relatable.

With that said, I do think *The Batman* does a good job of making the audience understand why Bruce Wayne is Batman, unlike the way *Blade Runner* deals with its scruffy and often one-dimensional protagonist, Rick Deckard. I appreciate *The Batman* for giving its main character an arc that feels earned, but the main problem with the rest of *The Batman*'s chief characters is that I didn't care about all of them because the film did not present enough information about each character and is more concerned with the overall plot.

While the performances in *The Batman* are great, the film's plot is what loses me. Certain scenes are confusing, which affects how viewers will feel about the film. *The Batman*'s plot involves the Riddler killing off Gotham's corrupt elite and leaving clues at the crime scenes directed toward Batman with the hope that Batman can figure out

that Riddler is killing off these corrupt, wealthy people because Riddler is inspired by Batman's vigilantism. But after Batman refuses to side with Riddler, the serial killer has his online following decide to assassinate mayor-elect Bella Reál (Jayme Lawson) and detonate bombs around the city, which causes the city to flood like my parents' basement. While I think Reeves does a pretty good job of executing the film with great performances to uplift his direction, it is not enough to hide the evident plot holes and confusion that I had while watching the film.

My first question after watching *The Batman* is how did Riddler figure out Carmine Falcone is the person who is corrupting Gotham's elite and the

The film also features Batman narrating the opening and closing scenes. I think if Bruce was writing a letter to his dead father, like he does in the script for the unmade Darren Aronofsky movie *Batman: Year One*, then that would have been just enough for me to buy into Bruce's initial belief his parents weren't corrupt. Also confusing is how, or even if, the Riddler deduces Batman's identity. Did he figure it out after he tried to kill Bruce with the letter bomb? That's what I thought. But how would that lead him to the conclusion that he was Batman? Did I miss something in this nearly three-hour movie?

Speaking of the nearly three-hour runtime...holy runtime! This Batman movie is long. I was not surprised this



Photo courtesy of WARNER BROS.

Robert Pattinson's performance as Batman is one of the film's highlights.

informant behind the frequently talked-about-yet-unseen drug bust that ended mobster Salvatore Maroni's career? After doing some research, I learned the Riddler was a part of Wayne's "Renewal Project," which is how he learned Falcone is behind everything, including some shady business involving Bruce Wayne's parents.

Speaking of which, the film's revelation about who is responsible for killing Thomas and Martha Wayne does not have an impact because the film does not present the proper capabilities for the viewer to care. I obviously know Bruce thinks his parents are good people since I know the vanilla Batman comics and the character's origin story, but since we never get to see Bruce's naive perspective in the movie, it makes the reveal extremely underwhelming. Perhaps if we got a flashback to Bruce as a boy spending time with his parents and showing how loving and good Bruce thought they were it would have been more effective.

film had a long runtime, since that seems to be what all the hip, new superhero movies are doing, with *Avengers: Endgame* and *Zack Snyder's Justice League* being the most recent examples. However, I am conflicted about whether *The Batman* deserves to be nearly three hours long. I think the first 90 minutes of *The Batman* is well-paced, but the investigation begins to drag in the second half of the film.

The runtime aside, *The Batman* does have a lot of riveting moments that I appreciate. I really like the first action sequence with Batman since it isn't just about him beating up bad guys. Instead, it also establishes that Batman is not only feared by criminals, but by the innocent people of Gotham.

I also enjoy the car-chase scene in which Batman pursues the Penguin in the Batmobile. The car itself is first revealed to be like an unhinged steed, and its guerrilla-style appearance and booming sounds make the Batmobile

feel like the car that Batman would use in this gritty cinematic reality.

The detective aspect of Batman is also explored a lot in this film. I like how it is used in a sequence where Selina is helping Batman identify individuals at a nightclub. Also, at the nightclub, there are two twin bouncers played by Charlie and Max Carver. Their brief appearances are fun little additions to the movie.

It is clear that hardcore fans of Batman comic books will love this movie. *The Batman* opens like it was practically taken out of *Detective Comics*, and in terms of this film franchise being true to the source material, *The Batman* feels the closest to the comics than any of the other movies. While I don't treat comic books like a religion, I have read a fair number of Batman comics, and the graphic novel in particular that *The Batman* bears the most similarities to it *Batman: The Long Halloween*, which is about Batman investigating a serial killer that is killing people on holidays. While I think *The Long Halloween* graphic novel does a better job of telling a more cohesive story than *The Batman*, I think the movie will still please fans of the source material.

Ultimately, *The Batman* is a film that surprised me, but not in the way I hoped it would. Before I saw it, I was hoping for a well-crafted, detective-noir story that would be elevated by compelling character arcs, impactful action sequences, hard-hitting moments and beautiful visuals, sound and music. While I got some of that, what I didn't get was a cohesive story I could be fully invested in or one that would stick with me after the credits rolled.

While I am disappointed by *The Batman*'s narrative, that isn't to say I hated the movie. I just don't think it is as great as many people have been saying. Of course, that could just be a problem with how I view movies in today's media landscape. Most moviegoers nowadays love a movie purely based on its exploration of an interesting concept alone; they don't care if the pieces of the puzzle that make a movie's plot actually fit together. If they can see the beautiful image that the pieces are trying to make, then that is just enough for them. It is this type of viewer who will enjoy *The Batman*.

In conclusion, *The Batman* is a movie that is made for fans of Batman comics and it delivers on being a good-looking detective drama. If you like superhero movies, go see it with the family. I give *The Batman* three out of five stars.

## BLOOD DRIVE

continued from page 1

"It is an easy way to help save a life. Fifteen minutes from my day can make a big impact," Hoffman said.

Lieser plans on hosting a blood drive in Bockhaus' honor every March because of Bockhaus' love for March Madness basketball.

"We were saddened by her passing and want to honor her and the positive impact she's had on Cooper," Lieser said.

Cooper's NHS advisor Ms. Kilsdonk is a past blood donor who donated blood during this blood drive at Cooper. She said NHS helped promote the blood drive by sending reminders to donors and packing iron-rich snacks for donors. NHS will continue to help out with upcoming drives.

One reason Kilsdonk cited for the importance of this blood drive was its connection to Bockhaus.

"Jane and I would discuss the importance of donating and about our experiences. Jane was one of the sweetest, most genuine people I have known and she kept encouraging me to continue making a difference in people's lives," Kilsdonk said.

Kilsdonk added that she often shared her experience donating blood with Bockhaus, which led to some funny memories.

"One of the funny stories with Jane was that she and I both loved the Lorna Doone cookies they would provide to those that donated where we both went, and when they stopped providing those as treats, we were both disappointed. I remember going to Cub and buying her a box to show my appreciation for her. We laughed about it," Kilsdonk said.

Bockhaus was born and raised in Fort Wayne, Indiana. On July 23, 1973, she married John Bockhaus and together they moved to Minnesota where they raised their two daughters, Kristen Elliott and Katie Seaton.

According to her *StarTribune* obituary, Bockhaus had a career for many years at North Memorial Hospital before switching to work in the local school districts. She most recently enjoyed working as a secretary in the guidance office at Cooper, where she retired last year after more than 21 years. Bockhaus connected easily with students and staff alike and was always a consistent, friendly face that greeted and uplifted those around her.

There will be another blood drive at Cooper on May 25.

## NHS

continued from page 1

even now, she has always been a huge part of my support system in school. Although she is no longer my AVID teacher, she has continuously been here for me and helps me. I will always respect her in my adult life," Turner said.

After the seniors' messages, juniors and sophomores were called up on stage by Tran and Bipes as music teacher Mr. Vidal guided them to their assigned spot on the bleachers. Once every inductee was up on the bleachers, Kilsdonk recited the NHS oath with inductees repeating after her.

The completion of the oath marked the end of the ceremony. Kilsdonk thanked everyone and then invited them to the front foyer, where they enjoyed refreshments and where NHS inductees received their certificates.

Kilsdonk said it was family, friends and mentors who motivated and inspired the achievements of the NHS inductees.

"It was through [the parents, family and mentors] that our students can impart and find the motivation to continue striving to reach their goals. They have excelled in academics. They have shown moral character and chose to be leaders in the community, all done with humility. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as advisor this year. I really look forward to all the future endeavors but I will miss [the] seniors when [they] graduate," Kilsdonk said.



## Seniors receive scholarships for sports success

Five Hawks were awarded \$1,000 college scholarships from Thielen Foundation

By MIMI OTU  
*Quill* staff writer

Five student athletes at Cooper were chosen to receive a \$1,000 scholarship from the Thielen Foundation. The Hawks receiving the award are Sylvester Togba (12), Alyce Madson (12), AJ Wodtke (12), Johnny Engwall (12) and Carter Zirbes (12).

The Thielen Foundation has been giving out these scholarships since 2018 to student athletes at partnering schools in the Twin Cities area who are nominated by teachers, staff and coaches. The Thielen Foundation was created by Vikings player Adam Thielen “to create programs that will equip and empower kids to reach their full potential in life,” according to the foundation’s website.

### Sylvester Togba

Sylvester Togba has been involved in football, wrestling and track during his time at Cooper. His primary sport is football, which he has been in since his freshman year. Togba’s 2021 football season was cut short due to an injury. According to head football coach Mr. Howard, Togba “supports his peers” and helps create an “environment that is welcoming.”

Togba has decided to go to a community college. He said he will not be playing sports as a result of being injured. Togba said his plans for his scholarship money are “to spend it on college.”

### Alyce Madson

Soccer captain Alyce Madson was another student to receive the Thielen scholarship. Currently playing the midfielder position, Madson has been part of Cooper’s soccer team since seventh grade. She has won four varsity letters and became a captain her senior year.

In addition to soccer, Madson is in band and marching band, and she used to take part in choir. Madson’s work in marching band has earned her All-Conference honors.

Madson has committed to attending Luther College in Iowa. Though she doesn’t plan to continue playing sports, she will pursue music at the institution. Madson said she plans to use the scholarship money to buy a laptop for school.

### AJ Wodtke

AJ Wodtke was a middle linebacker on the Hawks football team. He has been involved in football since fourth grade and joined the Cooper team upon entering high school. Much like Togba, Wodtke’s 2021 football season was cut short due to an injury. According to Howard, Wodtke is a hard-working and respectful person and player. In addition to football, Wodtke has played baseball and hockey in the past.

Despite his injury, Wodtke will be playing football at the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire this fall. He said he will be using the scholarship money to help pay for tuition at the school.

### Johnny Engwall

Boys varsity soccer and baseball captain Johnny Engwall played his fourth soccer season at Cooper last fall and is currently playing his fourth baseball season for the school. Engwall has been playing soccer since he was four years old. Head soccer coach Mr. Getchell said Engwall enjoys “teaching as much as the coaches do.” He added that Engwall “adds value on and off the field every day.”

Despite his efforts in sports and numerous years playing, Engwall does not plan to continue with athletics in college. Instead, he will attend Dunwoody Institute this fall and study to become an HVAC technician. Engwall said his scholarship money will be going in the bank.

### Carter Zirbes

Carter Zirbes has been playing

**SCHOLARSHIPS**  
continues on page 12

# College hoops season brought excitement

With most COVID restrictions lifted or altered, NCAA men's basketball fans enjoyed a largely normal '21-'22 campaign

By NOLAN ANDLER  
*Quill* staff writer

The 2021-2022 college basketball season was one for the ages. Not only did it see the return of fans, but there were many interesting storylines throughout the season. Some highlights were the tight battles in the major conferences, multiple players standing out in many diverse programs, teams with coaches retiring, teams with first-year coaches, teams exceeding expectations, the constant flip-flop of teams changing spots in the weekly AP Top 25 polls and, of course, the large number of upsets.

### November 2021

Plenty of things served as highlights in November. In the annual Champions Classic that featured Michigan State, Kansas, Duke and Kentucky, Kansas beat Michigan State 87-74 and Duke edged Kentucky 79-71 to start off the farewell tour of legendary retiring coach, Mike Krzyzewski, also known as Coach K.

The next highlight was the Wisconsin Badgers winning the Maui Invitational tournament. They knocked off three undefeated teams in Texas A&M, Houston and Saint Mary’s to win it.

One of the biggest things that happened late in the month was that the top-ranked team in America lost twice. This started when #5 Duke beat #1 Gonzaga 84-81. Then, after taking over the #1 ranking, Duke got upset by Ohio State 71-66 the very next week.

### December 2021

Most of what happened in December was all about the Big Ten. After a stellar week in the Maui tournament, Wisconsin climbed into the Top 25 for the first time in 2021. They then made their resume look even better after getting big wins at Georgia Tech and at home against rival Marquette.

Meanwhile, #19 Michigan State got a big win on the road at Minnesota 75-67 and #21 Ohio State got a big win at home against #22 Wisconsin.

However, the biggest story was the game between #1 Purdue and Rutgers. After Gonzaga and Duke’s losses, the Boilermakers reached the #1 spot in the AP Top 25 for the first time in program history. But it was short lived: Rutgers got a much-needed win against the Boilermakers 70-68. What made it more memorable was Rutgers guard Ron Harper, Jr., who got a buzzer-beating three to win it.



Photo courtesy of GODUKE.COM

The final home game of legendary Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski ended with a 94-81 loss to North Carolina.

### January 2022

The basketball madness continued into January. First, #23 Wisconsin kicked off 2022 with a big win at #3 Purdue 74-69. Not only was it the Badgers’ first win at Purdue since 2014, guard Johnny Davis had a standout game with 37 points.

Meanwhile, down in Waco, Baylor was the next #1 team to fall. The were defeated by #19 Texas Tech and Oklahoma State for two losses in a row at home.

Late in January, #14 Michigan State bounced back after a loss against Northwestern with a big win against #8 Wisconsin. After Michigan State’s big win, they jumped back into the top 10 only to fall right back out after losing to #23 Illinois by a score of 56-55. Finally, #2 Auburn got a big home win against #12 Kentucky.

### February 2022

February had a lot of big moments. First was the two games the Big 12 had to start off the month. Down in Lubbock, Texas, #14 Texas Tech welcomed back former head coach Chris Beard and #23 Texas with a chorus of boos from the fans. Ultimately, the Texas Tech team beat Texas 77-64. In the other Big 12 game, #10 Kansas got a big win over #8 Baylor 83-59.

Another big story in February was the run that Rutgers went on. The Scarlet Knights had four straight games against ranked opponents in #13 Michigan State, #16 Ohio State, #14 Wisconsin and #12 Illinois. The Scarlet Knights won all those games

to give their tournament resume a huge boost.

The last two weeks of the month also provided some big moments. Over in Madison, Wisconsin, the #15 Wisconsin Badgers got a big 77-63 win over Michigan. However, the biggest story was what happened after this game. In the handshake line, Michigan coach Juwan Howard and Wisconsin coach Greg Gard got in a heated argument and that argument turned into a big scuffle after Howard struck a Wisconsin assistant in the face. In the outcome of the incident, Howard was suspended for the rest of the regular season and multiple Michigan and Wisconsin players were suspended for a game.

Perhaps the biggest highlight in February was what happened on February 26. All the teams ranked in the top six at the time lost on the same day: #1 Gonzaga lost to #23 Saint Mary’s, #2 Arizona lost to Colorado, #3 Auburn lost to #17 Tennessee, #4 Purdue lost to Michigan State, #5 Kansas lost to #10 Baylor and #6 Kentucky lost to #14 Arkansas. It was the first time that all the top six teams lost on the same day in college basketball history.

### March 2022

The last week of the regular season didn’t disappoint. First, TCU got a huge win over #6 Kansas 74-64. Then, #10 Wisconsin had a wild five days during which they won a big home game against #8 Purdue by a score of 70-67 to clinch a share of the Big Ten before getting upset on the final day of the regular season by

Nebraska 73-74.

Meanwhile, Michigan got a much-needed, 75-69 win against #23 Ohio State to boost their tournament resume and #20 Illinois got a major win at home over #24 Iowa 74-72. The Illinois win got them the other half of the Big Ten regular season title after Nebraska got an upset win over Wisconsin.

Of course, the biggest story of the last week of the season was North Carolina at #4 Duke. The game was hyped because it was legendary coach Mike Krzyzewski’s last Duke home game and it was only fitting that it would be against North Carolina. One of the most surprising facts about this game is that the average ticket price was \$5,392. While it was Coach K’s day, the game itself was all about the Tar Heels. The Tar Heels got the 94-81 upset win and spoiled Coach K’s last game at Cameron Indoor.

### Conference Tournaments

The conference tournaments were a perfect way to go into March Madness. Only two regular season conference champions from the major conferences won their tournaments, Kansas and Arizona.

While the SEC and Big East didn’t really have surprising tournament champions in Tennessee and Villanova, the Big Ten and ACC did. In the Big Ten, Iowa won it after three of the top four seeds failed to make the semifinals. Then, in the ACC, Virginia Tech was a seventh seed but ran the table and won the tournament.

## Kansas enjoys happy conclusion to March Madness

The trip to the Final Four included numerous upsets, a Cinderella story and showdowns between powerhouse programs

By NOLAN ANDLER  
*Quill* staff writer

The 2022 edition of the annual NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament once again lived up to its nickname: March Madness. This year’s tournament had a lot of action, big upsets, Cinderella runs and powerhouse schools going down early. More importantly, this was the first March Madness with full stadiums and games happening all around the country since 2019.

### First Four

The most notable match-up in the first four play-in games was Rutgers facing Notre Dame for the #11 seed in the west region. Irish forward Paul Atkinson, Jr. made the game-winning layup in a second overtime to send the Irish to the first round in the bracket with a 69-67 win.

### First Round West Region

This region was filled with wild games. #16 Georgia State had the #1-seed Gonzaga on the ropes going into half only down by two, but Gonzaga eventually pulled away for a 93-72 win. Next, #9 Memphis was just too much for #8 Boise State as they upset the Broncos 64-53, while #4 Arkansas survived a challenge from #13 Vermont, winning 75-71. Meanwhile, #7 Michigan State also had a hard-fought win against #10 Davidson, 74-73.

The biggest stories of this round were #11 Notre Dame and #12 New

Mexico State. The Irish upset #6 Alabama 78-64 and the Aggies beat #5 UConn 70-63.

### East Region

First-year Tar Heel coach Hubert Davis won his first game in March as #8 North Carolina annihilated #9 Marquette 95-63. Also in this region, #12 Indiana made the tournament for the first time in six years, but it was short lived as they got blown out by #5 Saint Mary’s, 82-53. Next, #4 UCLA avoided an upset against #13 Akron with a 57-53 win and #6 Texas cooled down red hot #11 Virginia Tech with an 81-73 win.

One of the biggest games from this region was #10 San Francisco facing #7 Murray State. Behind guard Jamaree Bouyea’s 36-point game, San Francisco did everything they could to beat Murray State, but, in the end, the Racers were just too much for the Dons, winning 92-87 in overtime.

Also big was the game in which the #15 Saint Peter’s Peacocks pulled off a massive upset by beating the #2 Kentucky Wildcats 85-79 in overtime. This was the 10th time in history that a 15 seed beat a two seed.

### South Region

In the south region, #1 Arizona had a scare against #16 Wright State, winning 87-70, while #11 Michigan, which just squeaked into the tournament, had a late rally to come back and beat #6 Colorado State 75-63.

Next up, #13 Chattanooga, which

was a candidate to be this year’s version of Oral Roberts, had #4 Illinois on the ropes all game long, but Alfonso Plummer and Kofi Cockburn led the Illini back for a 54-53 win.

Then came #10 Loyola Chicago. Although they were favored to get an upset win against #7 Ohio State, the Buckeyes made sure they weren’t the Ramblers next upset victim, winning 54-41 to advance.

### Midwest Region

A lot happened in this region, starting with #10 Miami. They made the tournament for the first time since they fell to Loyola in 2018, but this time they were the ones handing out the loss as they edged #7 USC 68-66.

After winning the Big Ten tournament and going into the March Madness tournament with style, the #5 Iowa Hawkeyes didn’t last long as they got upset by #12 Richmond 67-63.

Meanwhile, #13 South Dakota State, who were favored to make a deep run in the tournament, had #4 Providence on the ropes late, but a controversial shooting foul benefiting Providence helped the Friars win 66-57.

Two games from this region that took place in Milwaukee had notable results. First, #11 Iowa State, who made the tournament after going 2-22 last season, upset #6 LSU 59-54. Then, the #14 Colgate Raiders, who were CAA champions, almost pulled off a massive upset against #3 Wisconsin in front of a 90 percent Badgers crowd.

However, in the end, the Badgers, led by Big Ten player of the year Johnny Davis, out-muscled the Raiders en route to a 67-60 win.

### Second Round West Region

In this batch of games, #9 Memphis was about to get a statement win against overall #1 Gonzaga, but Gonzaga forward Drew Timme had other plans. Timme’s 21-point second half helped Gonzaga eke out a 82-78 win to advance. Meanwhile, after upsetting #5 UConn, #13 New Mexico State fell short of getting another upset against #4 Arkansas, as the Razorbacks won 53-48.

The biggest game in this region was #7 Michigan State against #2 Duke, which featured two of the best coaches in the sport: Michigan’s Tom Izzo and Duke’s Mike Krzyzewski. The Spartans gave a valiant effort to knock off the Blue Devils and advance to the Sweet 16, but in the final minutes, Duke pulled away and won 85-76.

### East Region

After beating Marquette in style to advance to the second round, #8 North Carolina looked like they were going to do the same to #1 Baylor as the Tar Heels were beating the Bears by double digits almost all game. But after a late surge by Baylor sent the game to overtime, the Tar Heels had

**MARCH MADNESS**  
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# Senior wins Athena Award

Morgan Stromberg honored for her achievements as a student athlete over the last four years



Photo by MS. THURSTON

Stromberg will attend a celebratory luncheon for all the Twin Cities-area award winners on May 6.

By KAPOZIA KORICH  
Quill staff writer

Cooper named three-sport athlete Morgan Stromberg (12) the winner of the 2021-2022 Athena Award on March 7.

"I have always looked up to the Athena Award winners in the past and I have been on a team with a lot of them," Stromberg said. "I think it's really cool that I was selected to be able to represent our school in this way."

According to Cooper activities director Mr. Oelfke, the Athena Award goes to one outstanding senior female athlete from each of the 50 Twin Cities metropolitan area high schools.

"They are selected based on excellence in an individual sport or for participation and accomplishment in group sports," he said.

The selection process started in January, when Cooper coaches of girls sports had an opportunity to nominate athletes. Each nominee then had a week to complete a questionnaire after which the coaches voted for the overall winner.

"When I was nominated, I had to fill out a sheet with all that I have accomplished in my sports and academics here at Cooper. Along with that, I talked about

other clubs I do and what I have planned for my future. When I won the award I had to fill out a similar form, but I also had to submit some pictures and I had to talk about important moments in my sports," Stromberg said.

Stromberg's experience with Cooper sports has been lengthy. She has been part of the Hawks softball team for six years and the swimming and Nordic teams for five years.

"I really have loved the teams and the people I have been with the past six years," she said. "Each team brings something different, but, overall, I always have fun and meet new people each season."

In addition to her work in athletics, Stromberg is a diploma candidate in Cooper's International Baccalaureate program.

"My current favorite class is HAME, or History of Africa and the Middle East, because I really enjoy history," she said. "One of my most favorite classes I have taken at Cooper would be physical science freshman year because I had a lot of friends in that class and I really loved everything we learned in that class."

Although sports takes up a lot of Stromberg's free time after school, she said she still makes an effort to read, see friends and take

part in outdoor activities.

Next fall, Stromberg will be attending Luther College, where she will major in biology on a pre-med route to become a psychiatrist. While at college, Stromberg will continue her involvement with athletics.

"I plan on playing softball in college," she said. "Along with that, I do want to explore other sports and activities while in college."

In addition to Stromberg, this year's Cooper nominees were Adkoo Corneh (12), Symira Conecin (12), Neisha Dotson (12), LaMya Holmes (12), Sienna Huelskamp (12), Aaliyah Newman (12) and Clare Snapko (12).

Stromberg and the other winners from Twin Cities high schools will be honored at the 50th anniversary Athena Awards luncheon, which will be held on May 6 at the Earle Brown Heritage Center.

For younger Cooper athletes who hope to one day be an Athena Award nominee, Stromberg had some advice.

"Do everything with a purpose," she said. "Focus not on how many things you do, but the quality at which you do them. Always remember to give your best effort and stay positive."

## East Region

#8 North Carolina and first-year head coach Hubert Davis continued on their surprising run. This time, the Tar Heels, behind guard Caleb Love's 30 points, knocked off #4 UCLA 73-66.

Next, the #15 Saint Peter's team had another test on their Cinderella run, this time against #3 Purdue. Purdue looked like they were about to end the Peacock's season, but the trio of Daryl Banks III, Clarence Rupert and Doug Edert didn't allow that to happen as they led the Peacocks to a 67-64 upset win over Purdue. With this win, Saint Peter's became the first #15 seed to make the Elite Eight.

## South Region

Behind the duo of Jamal Shead and Kyler Edwards, #5 Houston stunned the #2 Arizona Wildcats 72-60. Houston had the lead almost the entire game and Arizona just couldn't answer.

In the other south game, #11 Michigan had #2 Villanova on their heels for a while. However, the Wildcats pulled away and won 63-55.

## Midwest Region

In the midwest, #4 Providence almost beat #1 Kansas, but Remy Martin's 23-point performance helped

MARCH MADNESS continues on page 12

# Cooper Competitors

The story of the athletes who strive for success in Cooper sports

## Sabrina Guzman

By LLEWELLYN BOUTHIM  
Quill staff writer

Sabrina Guzman (12) is a member of the Hawks softball squad. Guzman started playing the sport when she was in fifth grade.

"I always loved watching baseball," she said. "I figured I would love playing something similar."

Of the many things she enjoys about the sport, Guzman said an important one is the weather.

"It's so nice out in the spring, not too hot or too cold. It's like the perfect temperature," she said.

As the new season gets underway, Guzman said there are some team traditions she is looking forward to.

"Warmups are always so fun and so are our pre-game rituals where we drink a Red Bull before every home

game," she said.

When it comes to school, Guzman said she has enjoyed her history and forensic science classes this year.

"I love just learning about history and the times before us," she said. "As for forensics, I love the aspect of solving crimes."



Photo by MIMI OTU

Although she is busy with school and sports, Guzman said she also has a part-time job. When she is not there, her time outside of school is spent hanging out with her friends watching "new movies and shows together or even going out to dinner."

After graduating this June, Guzman said she hopes to attend college and major in pre-law or criminal justice.

"I hope to be something along the lines of an immigration attorney in a way to help the justice system," she said.

## Olivia Thomas

By LLEWELLYN BOUTHIM  
Quill staff writer

Taking part in Cooper fall and spring sports is Olivia Thomas (12). Thomas just started softball after having competed in volleyball during the fall.

"I've been playing softball since second grade and started playing Cooper softball in eighth grade," she said. "I've always loved the sport since I was young. It was something me and my dad bonded over."

Highlights from Thomas' time in softball include the friendships she has made and traveling to the games on the bus. She also pointed out an honor she received during ninth grade.

"I got Honorable Mention for the West Metro Conference during my freshman year," she said.

Thomas' hard work in softball

has paid off this season with her being named one of the team's captains.

During the fall season, Thomas took part in volleyball. She said she enjoyed her 2021 season.

"It was the best volleyball team I have played with at Cooper," she said.

Although Thomas said she has had some interest from colleges to continue sports after high school, she said she will focus on her classes and career after graduating.

"I plan to become a registered nurse. I will go to community college first then a four-year school after that," she said.

In addition to her love of sports, Thomas said she enjoys crocheting, traveling and listening to music. She added that her favorite class at Cooper this year is clay because she likes her teacher, Mr. Molitor.



Photo by MIMI OTU

## Na'Jai Dyar

By LLEWELLYN BOUTHIM  
Quill staff writer

Na'Jai Dyar (12) runs track in the spring. During the winter season, she was part of the cheerleading squad for basketball.

"I've been running track since I've been about 10 years old. I got into park board track because my stepdad was the coach and I didn't really enjoy it. But, as I got older, I began to find a love for running," Dyar said.

Among the elements of track Dyar said she most enjoys is the opportunity to work with other people.

"I enjoy seeing all the new faces, feeling all the good energy that everyone brings and receiving great words of encouragement from the coaches," she said.

Helping keep Dyar in shape for

track was her work with the cheerleading squad during the winter. She said she learned a lot during her three months on the team.

"I started the season barely knowing how to do a toe touch and I ended with one of the best toe touches on the team," she said.

When it comes to school, Dyar cited her AVID, painting and physical education classes as being her favorites. Outside of school, she enjoys reading books about being an entrepreneur and spending time with her siblings, who are ages 15, 11 and six.

"They are a handful, but I couldn't and wouldn't ask for any better. I love them," she said.

Next fall, Dyar hopes to start college at North Hennepin, where she hopes to focus on business and entrepreneurship.



Photo by MIMI OTU

## Ryan Meyer

By PHILIP ROBERT  
Quill staff writer

Ryan Meyer (12) competes for the Hawks in the fall and spring as a member of the football and track teams.

Meyer has recently started the track season and said he is looking forward to a more normal season in 2022 after two seasons that felt the impact of COVID.

"I have been doing track since 10th grade but 11th grade was my first year when I was actually able to compete," he said.

As Meyer reflects on track, he said that he enjoys the attitude of his teammates and coaches.

"Track feels like a very chill environment where you can develop skills and have fun at the same time," he said.

Meyer said his status as a senior makes him want to lead by example this

season, especially with so many young athletes on the team.

Another sport where Meyer tried to show leadership this year was football. Although he was disappointed in his own play last fall, he was "excited for the overall team success" in making it to the state tournament.

While Meyer does not do a winter sport for Cooper, he does use that season to lift weights and stay in shape. In fact, he said weight training is his favorite class at school.

"It brings me away from the school aspect of school and just lets me be by myself and work towards my goals for one class," he said.

After graduating this spring, Meyer plans to attend a technical college to earn a degree in sports science.

"I want to have a higher chance of earning coaching jobs," he said.



Photo by MIMI OTU

## MARCH MADNESS continued from page 10

to just hang on to complete the upset against the defending champs in a 93-86 win. Next, #4 UCLA rolled over #5 Saint Mary's 72-56, while #3 Purdue got a good win over #6 Texas 81-71.

Perhaps the biggest story was #15 Saint Peter's. After beating #2 Kentucky, the Peacocks stunned #7 Murray State 70-60 to advance to the Sweet 16.

### South Region

#9 TCU made the tournament off of big, late-season upset wins. They almost got another one against #1 Arizona, but the duo of Benedict Mathurin and Christian Koloko were too much for TCU to handle as Arizona escaped with a 85-80 win.

In probably the biggest game in this region, #5 Houston got a major win over #4 Illinois as three Cougars scored in double digits. The Cougars also shut down player-of-the-year candidate Kofi Cockburn.

In the other two games from this region, #2 Villanova, behind the duo of Collin Gillespie and Jermaine Samuels, took care of #7 Ohio State 71-61. Finally, #11 Michigan continued their late-season push with a 76-68 upset of #3 Tennessee.

### Midwest Region

In the midwest, #9 Creigh-

ton did everything they could to stun #1 Kansas, but Kansas guard Remy Martin did not let that happen. His 20-point game helped the Jayhawks survive and win 79-72. Next, #4 Providence made easy money of #12 Richmond, winning 79-51.

After escaping Colgate, #3 Wisconsin couldn't do the same against #11 Iowa State. The Cyclones, behind Gabe Kalschur's 22-point game, beat Wisconsin in Milwaukee 54-49. A notable factor in that game was that the Badgers went 2-22 from the three-point line.

Finally, #10 Miami continued their surprising run as they pulled a 79-61 stunner against #2 Auburn. Four Hurricanes starters had double-digit scoring days in this game.

### Sweet 16 West Region

Led by head coach Eric Musselman and guard JD Notae, #4 Arkansas knocked off the overall #1 Gonzaga 74-68 to advance to the Elite Eight for the second year in a row.

Meanwhile, #3 Texas Tech tried all they could to knock off #2 Duke and end Coach K's career, but Duke forward Paolo Banchero didn't allow that to happen. His 22-point game helped Duke beat Tech 78-73 to advance to the Elite Eight.



## MARCH MADNESS

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Kansas edge Providence, 66-61.

In the surprising Sweet 16 matchup of #11 Iowa State and #10 Miami, the Hurricanes continued their magical run, beating Iowa 70-56. The Cyclones couldn't stop Miami guard Kameron McGusty, as his 27-point game was a big reason why Miami won.

### Elite Eight West Region

#4 Arkansas was hanging in with #2 Duke early in the game, but as the first half was winding down, Duke started to widen their lead. Eventually, they just became too much for the Razorbacks and won 78-69. The thing that was most notable for Duke is that they got legendary Coach Mike Krzyzewski to the Final Four in his last season.

### East Region

#15 Saint Peter's made history by being the first 15-seed to make the Elite Eight, but in their game against #8 North Carolina, their run ended. The Tar Heels, led by the trio of Armando Bacot, Brady Manek and Caleb Love, put the Peacocks away early en route to a dominating 69-49 win. Not only was this Hubert Davis' first Final Four as the Tar Heel head coach, but North Carolina earned the chance to face their rival Duke in the Final Four.

### South Region

In the south region championship, Houston almost made back-to-back Final Four appearances, but Villanova put a halt to that. The Cougars played tough, but Nova bench player Caleb Daniels helped Villanova survive with a 50-44 win.

### Final Four

In the first matchup of the 2022 men's Final Four, Kansas dismantled Villanova 81-65 en route to their first national championship appearance since 2012. In the game, the Jayhawks got a big lead early and never looked back. Led by the senior duo of Collin Gillespie and Jermaine Samuels, Villanova tried all they could to stage a big comeback but they couldn't overcome the Jayhawks and the duo of David McCormack and Ochai Agbaji. This game also was a little bit of revenge for the 2016 Final Four. In that year, Nova beat Kansas to earn their first national championship in 31 years.

Next up was one of the most hyped games in Final Four history: North Carolina against Duke. This was the first time both teams met in the tournament. It was also Duke's chance to get back at the Heels after they ruined Coach K's curtain call at Cameron Indoor with a loss.

The game lived up to the hype it got. It was a back-and-forth game the entire way. Led by star freshman Paolo Banchero, who scored 20 points, Duke tried hard to get Coach K to the national championship, but in the end, North Carolina, led by Caleb Love's 28-point game, reigned supreme. Love's three-pointer with 26 seconds left in the game sealed it up and the Heels won 81-77.

Not only did the Tar Heels get first-year head coach Hubert Davis to the national championship, they also put an end to Duke's season and Coach K's career. There was nothing Duke and their fans could do about it.

### National Championship

North Carolina and Kansas faced each other for the title. Even though both programs are "blue bloods" of the sport, this matchup for the national championship was not expected based on how both teams' seasons went. But the game itself did not disappoint.

In the first half, it looked like the Tar Heels were going to win because they went into halftime with a big 40-25 lead. However, in the second half, Kansas chipped away at the deficit and was able to tie the game at 50 with 10 minutes to go. After that, it became a match of whoever lands the last blow wins.

When North Carolina turned the ball over with 4.2 seconds left after missing two three-pointers, it looked like Kansas would win thanks to their 72-69 lead. But the Heels got one more chance because Kansas' Dajuan Harris, Jr. stepped out of bounds after receiving the in-bounds pass.

Carolina had a chance to tie it with four seconds left, but when Caleb Love went up for the tying shot, he missed it and Kansas won.

It was a redeeming moment for coach Bill Self and the Kansas basketball program. This was their first national championship since 2008.

# Americans snag gold at Beijing games

The 2022 winter Olympics saw new and established athletes enjoy success on the international stage



Photo courtesy of USSKIANDSNOWBOARD.ORG

Minnesota's own Jesse Diggins won bronze in her last event at the Olympics despite getting food poisoning on the night before the race.

By ANDREW HAGGE  
*Quill* staff writer

Beijing kicked off hosting its second Olympics with an opening ceremony on February 4 that showed off how China embraces other cultures. This, however, was seen by some people as a ploy to take attention off their treatment of the Muslim Uyghur people, who are put in prisons and camps to change them. In attendance at the opening ceremony happened to be a close ally of China, Russian president Vladimir Putin, who at the time had amassed troops outside of Ukraine's border for an invasion. Many of those Ukrainian athletes in Beijing dedicated their performance to the people of Ukraine and their country.

With these realities in the background, the Olympics went ahead as planned. In the Olympic village, athletes operated in a "bubble" due to the continued threat of COVID. Those who entered the village had to quarantine beforehand and receive a negative test; in addition, they had to test while inside the bubble. Some athletes tested positive and had to stay inside their room for multiple days, including America's own Elana Meyers Taylor, a bobsledder, which forced her to work out in her

small room up until the day before her event. Meyers Taylor was one of many American athletes who emerged from the 2022 games with medals.

### On the Ice

Team USA took an amazing 10 medals on the ice during the Olympic games. From Meyers Taylor to the women's hockey team, each person poured their heart and soul into the competitions. Kallie Humphries and Meyers Taylor placed first and second in the monobob competition. Meyers Taylor and Sylvia Hoffman then went on to win bronze in the two-woman bobsled.

Team USA's figure skaters won silver in the team event while highly promoted skater Nathan Chen went on to win his second medal of the Olympics with gold in the men's singles. What is more, the ice dance team managed to win a bronze.

Short track and long track speed skating were two unusual standout events for Team USA. Along with team pursuit, the speed skaters took three medals. In the 500 meter, Erin Jackson stunned with a magnificent gold medal finish. The Americans in the men's team pursuit event earned their spot on the podium, taking bronze. Also taking bronze was Brit-

tany Bowe in the 1,000 meter. Making this turn of events compelling was the fact that Jackson stumbled in the Olympic trials, which led to her losing and not making the team. However, Bowe knew Jackson was better and let her take her spot in the 500.

### On the Slopes

In women's moguls, Jaelin Kauf won silver and Ryan Cochran-Siegle managed the same in the men's Super G event. Then there was Minnesota's own Jessie Diggins, who first stunned the world in 2018, when she was part of a duo that won the U.S.'s first team sprint gold medal in cross country skiing. Fighting off sickness from some food poisoning the night before her race, Diggins pushed through in 2022 and snagged the bronze medal in her last race at the Beijing Olympics. Although she needed medical attention immediately after finishing, she once again claimed a rare U.S. medal in cross country skiing.

Colby Stevenson won a silver in men's big air, and just a day later, the mixed teams aerial skiing team took gold. Megan Nick in women's aerial skiing placed third, while Alex Hall and Nick Geopfer swept the top two spots on the podium

in slopestyle skiing. Another pair of skiers took medals in the men's skiing halfpipe with David Wise and Alex Ferreira taking silver and bronze, respectively.

### On the Boards

Julia Marino of Connecticut, medaled with second place in slopestyle and then finished her Olympic career with a gold medal in team snowboard cross alongside Nick Baumgartner. Another big name, Chloe Kim, capitalized once again in halfpipe with her second gold in her Olympic career after taking her first in 2018.

American veteran snowboarder Shaun White failed to medal in his final Olympics. White made it into the finals and was sitting in fourth place when it came time for his second run of two in the finals. At this point, no one else could bump him out of contention after his run if he performed well enough to place in the top three. Unfortunately, he fell about halfway down the pipe as he tried to replicate the 2018 run that earned him gold. When he arrived at the bottom, nothing but hugs and cheers greeted White, who had pushed snowboarding and halfpipe into the spotlight of the Olympics and popularity around the world.

# U.S. athletes fare well during 2022 Paralympics

The Paralympic games got underway in China after the conclusion of the winter Olympics in February

By ANDREW HAGGE  
*Quill* staff writer

Exactly one month after the 2022 Beijing Olympics kicked off, the 2022 Paralympics began their own festivities in the same city.

Team USA impressed at this year's games with 20 total medals. Kentucky, Illinois and Minnesota dominated the medal counts for the U.S. with 12 of those 20 medals coming from competitors hailing from these three states. Kentucky's Oksana Masters most notably had six individual medals.

Since every athlete has their own distinct disability, they are put into Paralympic groups based on their disability. Some events have multiple contests with each category of disability having its own medals to win. This allows each athlete an equal chance to compete for what could be their first gold medal. The following summary of each athlete's medals will include the category in which they won in parentheses after their names.

### Gold Medals

The U.S. tallied six gold medals in the 2022 winter Paralympic games. Masters (sitting) won two of those in



Photo courtesy of FASTSKIER.COM

Sydney Peterson from Minnesota took medals in multiple skiing events.

para biathlon women's 12K (kilometer) individual sitting and 6K sprint sitting. Kendall Gretsche (sitting) of Illinois took gold in para biathlon women's 10K middle sitting, while Brenna Huckaby (lower limb two impaired) snatched first in para snowboard women's banked slalom. Finally, the ice hockey and para cross country skiing mixed 4x2.5K relay teams joined together to be top among the world's best athletes and take the gold-medal spot on the podium.

### Silver Medals

Team USA made up the majority of their overall medals with 11 silvers. Jake Adicoff (visually impaired) from Idaho and Sydney Peterson (standing) from Minnesota each took silvers in para cross country. Adicoff won in men's 20K classic style and para cross-country skiing men's sprint freestyle, while Peterson medaled in women's 15K classic style and para cross-country skiing women's sprint freestyle.

Masters once again added to her medal collection with silvers in para cross country skiing 15K and 7.5K, para biathlon 10K middle, and para cross country sprint. Meanwhile, Mike Schultz (lower limb one) of Minnesota and Garrett Geros (lower limb two) of Georgia each silvered in men's para snowboard cross.

Finally, Thomas Walsh (standing) added his name to the U.S. medal count in para alpine skiing men's giant slalom, while Gretsche put another medal around her neck in para biathlon women's 12.5K individual.

### Bronze Medals

Finishing off Team USA's Paralympic competition, Gretsche, Huckaby and Peterson topped the charts once again with third-place finishes. In para biathlon women's 6K sprint, Gretsche showed her talents again by topping off her stack of medals with a bronze, and Huckaby nabbed another medal in women's para snowboard cross. What is more, Peterson showed off her true northern side at these winter Olympics, medaling in para cross-country skiing women's sprint freestyle.

## SENIORS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SPORTS SUCCESS continued from page 10

football since the second grade and played all four years he has attended Cooper. Howard said Zirbes is not necessarily the biggest defensive end, but he applies everything he

learns at practice.

"[Zirbes is] coachable, consistent and reliable," Howard said.

In addition to being an athlete, Zirbes is a scholar who takes Interna-

tional Baccalaureate classes and has landed on the school's honor roll.

Next fall, Zirbes plans on going to the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. He said he "probably will not

be playing football."

As for his scholarship money, Zirbes will either use it to buy textbooks, a new computer or make a down payment on his college housing.