

# NEWS



**CONCORDIA ST. PAUL'S OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1966**

**EDITOR IN CHIEF**  
BROOKE STEIGAUF

**NEWS EDITOR**  
HALLE MARTIN

**SPORTS EDITOR**  
BEN DIERS

**ARTS & VARIETY EDITOR**  
MARA GRAU

**OPINION EDITOR**  
COURTNI HOLLOWAY

**PHOTO EDITOR**  
VICTORIA TURCIOS

**ART DIRECTOR**  
BEN ROSE

**FACULTY ADVISOR**  
ERIC DREGNI

**WRITERS**

ALLIE COSEN  
ANDREW WYLIE  
BEN DIERS  
BROOKE STEIGAUF  
DANA MURPHY  
EDEN GARMEN  
ELHAM MOHAMUD  
ELI GRUBBS  
ETHAN LANGEMO  
GENESIS CARREON  
HALLE MARTIN  
JULIA FOLZ  
MACKENZIE KNORR  
MATTHEW IUNG  
TYLER DUNN  
VICTORIA TURCIOS  
ZACH MOELLER

**LAYOUT DESIGNERS**

ALEX ESSE  
ELENA GRIGGS  
GENESIS CARREON

**ILLUSTRATORS**

MADISON BUCHANAN

## Amazon Delivery Robots are Coming!

BY ANDREW WYLIE

**J**UST LAST SEPTEMBER, Amazon became the second company ever to be valued at over a trillion dollars. Their owner and founder, Jeff Bezos is the richest man alive. So when Amazon announced a new patent on a Robotic delivery testing project called the Amazon Scout, it could possibly change home delivery as we know it in the near future.

The Scout prototype is the size of a small cooler and looks like a cross between a Boston Scientific project and something that you might see roaming the moon's surface. It is currently being tested as a last-mile sidewalk delivery robot. It would leave a truck with your goods securely locked inside, and travel very slowly down your sidewalk, up your driveway, and possibly right into your home.

Amazon has recently and quite famously tested the delivery of packages through the use of flying drones. On paper, that would appear to be a little more economical, plus it would keep package delivery a little more discreet and out of the way of human and vehicle traffic. But with the strict flight rules that have begun to pop up all around the country regarding drones, the idea has hit a wall.

Amazon announced that they will be testing six new Scout prototypes in a single neighborhood in Snohomish County, Washington. These Scouts will only work Monday through Friday, during business hours and will be accompanied by a human companion for now. Picture someone walking their dog, except the dog is made of metal and has your recent online purchases inside its stomach.

There is a lot of testing that still needs to be done, and many questions that need to be answered. Among them, Can they avoid theft attempts? Can they navigate through busy streets safely without endangering property, pets, or us? Are they able to bring packages faster, for a lower delivery fee? How would they get through our gates, doors, and steps? Can they work in 50 below wind chills?

Wired magazine asked Brian Gerkey, CEO of Open Robotics about the feasibility of autonomous delivery, who had this to say, "This is such a new space that the economics of it haven't been fully worked out. It's a market that has yet to be validated," adding, "You've seen a lot of startups working on this, but I think there's always been this question of whether it's going to make economic sense. It's tough to beat the capabilities of a person who goes around doing that last-mile delivery."

Yet, it is not hard to imagine robots navigating the streets in large numbers. Possibly taking over some of our more labor intensive chores outside. just as they have done in our factories and warehouses over the last thirty-some years. With a company carrying as much capital and power as Amazon, it is a future that may come sooner rather than later. You may soon have mindless autonomous six-wheeled robots going in every direction and in every neighborhood, as numerous as squirrels. We will see how they do, tolerating the Minnesota winters. Only time will tell. †



*Photograph provided by Amazon*

## A Brief History of Black History Month

BY BROOKE STEIGAUF

**I** REMEMBER WALKING INTO MY FOURTH GRADE CLASSROOM in early February and being handed a two-inch square of colored paper. I settled into my desk and quickly noticed that there were two different kinds of paper that I could have been given. Those that had green were granted candy, extra work time, the front of the line, and many other privileges that those with purple could not have. It was clear and even explicitly explained from the start that this was a message about discrimination, a concept that was not new