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The Purple Press

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Open Moving

Frances Verner
Staff TBF

Recently, it was announced that the Saint Paul school system would be undergoing changes to create a stronger, more efficient education plan with "no exceptions, no excuses". One of the many changes being proposed is having the 6 - 12 students from Open World Learning Community move to a new location, while the K - 5 program is being discontinued.

Open will be on Kellogg Street in the old Saturn, then Wellstone building along with a Creative Arts high school. No student from Open has yet to be allowed into the presently-vacant building, but what we do know is that the school building is 7-stories tall, has lots of stairs, has an abandoned pool in the basement, a playground on the roof and a



stage. Principal Todd Bartholomay did take a member of each department to tour the building in February.

Needless to say, there are many pros and many cons of moving. Quite a few people are upset to be leaving "home", and all the memories behind. Many people have a problem with sharing the school building with another school. One potential problem is parking. The school is downtown and has minimal parking space. Although the staff will be given access to a parking garage, students who drive, and parents will need to park on the street.

Superintendent Valeria Silva said that the whole staff will be able to remain intact and move to the new site. All students who choose to come, in addition, will have a spot at the new building. Although Silva's original plan was to make the school 9-12 only, we will be able to keep the middle school thanks to a negotiation with the school board. We have 2013 and 2014

Move continued on 6

Back in Time!

Meredith Shimek
Staff Writer

During a school board meeting in February, sophomore Jennifer Lor was recognized for her History Day project on SatyaGraha. The project won second place in the documentary category at Nationals last year in DC. Last year's history day meant a lot to Jennifer. "It meant more because a lot of the work was meant to display the devotion of nonviolence, and it succeeded, both in showing that these tactics work and that Norma and I had impact on the people viewing our project," she says. Jennifer's partner in the process was Norma Romero ('10).

This year Jennifer is back again! Her partner this year is 10th grader Evie Harper-Godderz. Their topic? The Eugenics Movement. "It's scienc-y and hard," she jokes. "It isn't difficult to stay focused though. As long as you're determined, you'll do fine."

History Day Continued on 6

Standards-based Grading

Ben Rybisky
Editor in Chief

Standards-based grading evaluates students based on how well they can demonstrate their learning. Traditional grading allots a letter grade based on a percentage. That percentage is determined based on a formula that is slightly different for each teacher, but is usually broken down into categories such as: homework completed, tests, projects and participation.

In standards-based grading, students are not given a percentage; instead they are evaluated based on how well they meet designated learning targets. At the end of a quarter, a student will typically be evaluated on three to four long-term learning targets, and each target will

each of which is an opportunity for the student to demonstrate their knowledge.

At the end of a marking period, the teacher assigns a score of E (exemplary), P (proficient), D (developing), N (novice) or I (incomplete) to each learning target based on how well the student was able to demonstrate their knowledge in that area. The teacher then uses a designated formula to translate the student's grade into an A, A-, B+, B, C+, C for students who are passing. Students who do not adequately meet learning targets receive either an N or an I. D's are not given out in this system.

Grading Continued on 5

THE EAR

**Star Wars or
Harry?
Page 3****Open Theatre
Productions!
Page 2****World's longest
Trek
Page 4**

THE PURPLE PRESS **STAFF**

EDITOR IN CHIEF
BEN RYBISKY

ADULT TO BLAME
LEO BICKELHAUPT

Computer Transformation!

Jack Jepsen-Despiegelaere
Staff Writer

DVDs are on their way out. They can't hold as much information as Blu-Ray, they scratch easily, and even if you handle them carefully, there's no way they're going to last more than a couple years. Ditch those archaic disks! With the right software and a little ingenuity, you can turn your computer into a home media library, and your beloved collection of Lost DVDs will be safe for years to come!

Before you can start ripping a DVD, you need the right program. I personally am fond of DVD Shrink, since it's easy to use and the remains in a recognizable format. You won't be able to play it on an iPod or anything like that, but, you know, it keeps the menu screen. Scene selection, stuff like that.

Anyhoo, you're going to want to go download DVD Shrink from Softpedia. Install it like you normally would, then run the program and pop in the DVD you want to rip. You should be able to select the location of the DVD in the menu. Choose the location you want your DVD to be copied to (I make a new folder, because there are a hell of a lot of files and they'll clog up your videos folder if you just set them anywhere without specifying the location) and start

Study: 10/10 Students Need Book

David Hoh
Senior, Writer

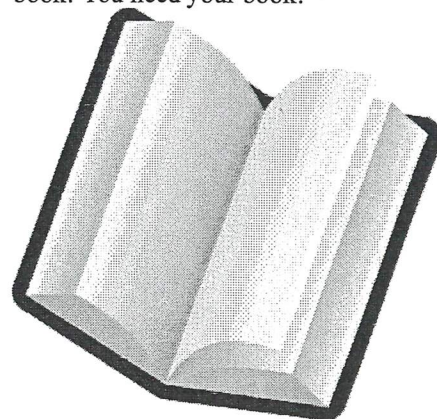
A recent study put out by the Hallway Institute of Casual Observation & Computer Arts shows that 100% of students in school grades 7-12 need their book. Researchers surveyed one hundred million students and forty thousand teachers from various schools nationwide. Every single one of them agreed that students should have their books for class.

I caught up with Tom Totushek, who seemed to know everything about this subject before the HICOCA study was even being funded. He shared some specifics that added depth to the study: "Students don't need their books every day," stressed Totushek, continuing, "The days I'm out in the halls chanting are the days they need their textbooks." He then added "For my classes students usually need their textbooks about two days a week."

But the big question is "Why?" So I asked him that. He says "We use them [the textbooks] as a reference for learning, to read about non-fiction and aca-

demics. It's part of the curriculum." I checked two different editions of a dictionary that seemed to agree with him. So I was convinced.

The bottom line seems to be: when you need your book, you better have your book. You don't need it on you all the time, but keep it in your locker or backpack, and bring it back when you bring it home. Because when you don't have it, you'll cower in embarrassment when you hear "You need your book book! You need your book!"*



your backup. To play the DVD, open windows media player. In the "File" menu, open Video_TS. This should be the first file in your folder. Boom. DVD menu. There you go. Enjoy.

Of course, you can share these with your friends easily by copying them to a thumb drive or another DVD. But you'd be distributing a pirated movie then, and you would never do that.

Because that would be wrong. Right?*



Can YOU Fold a Thousand Paper Cranes?

Velonika Burnett
Staff Writer

A Thousand Cranes is coming soon to the OWL Community! This wonderful play is about a young girl in Japan who survived the atomic bomb when it was dropped. Ten years later, she developed leukemia and is on the edge of dying. There's a Japanese legend, if a person folds a thousand cranes they'll be granted a wish. She tries to accomplish this but before she does, something unexpected happens.

To be in this play, auditions will be held before spring break. Rehearsals will immediately start after spring break, for the lucky people chosen to be in the cast. Anyone in the grades 7-12 are able to participate in this play.

Cranes continued on 5

How Many years have you been at Open?

6 Years

What are your plans for next year?

Go to Saint Paul College for Culinary Arts.

What do you want to do when you're older?

Cook and sing.

Who is one person you would want to meet?

The singer Monica.

What will you miss most about Open?

All my teachers.

What's one thing you wish you would've done before you graduated?

Outward Bound.



Harry v. Star Wars: Which Would Win?



v.



Frances Verner
Staff Writer

Last year, The Purple Press published a misleading article saying that Star Wars would beat Harry Potter in a head to head battle. The results of the battle in this article were: Luke beats Harry, Darth Vader beats Voldemort and Dumbledore gets away but Yoda wins. there are many false things I feel obliged, as a Harry Potter nerd, to correct. First of all, Dumbledore and Yoda would not battle, they would go to battle then both make an epic speech realizing they were on the same side and go out and have tea and become lifelong friends. See? Nobody dies.

Second, Luke versus Harry. They would both have a little nervous breakdown then call upon the power of good and go fight, or rather, have a wimp off. I have no idea why Hollywood creates the whiniest most tragic people to be the hero, seriously have you ever known a Hollywood hero who has parents? Then Luke would get so fed up with Harry that he would walk away, and Harry would shoot him in the back with a stunning spell as he was walking away, because while Harry is a whiny idiot, he is less of an idiot than Luke.

Voldemort and Darth Vader. This would not be a long drawn out battle, Darth

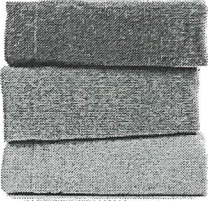
Vader would take out his light-saber and before he could even take the challenge Voldemort, he would be hit with Avara Kadavera would be dead. Then Voldemort would make a weird hissing victory noise and sweep away to go kill somebody else.

Also, if Mad Eye Moody took on Jabba the Hut, Jabba would order Moody's death then several people or more likely several oddly colored alien things would attack Moody and he would stun them all before they even knew where Moody was, maybe one would make it all the way to Moody but even then Moody could just knock him out with his super cool staff thingy. He would then stun Jabba and while Jabba was passed out, pour salt on him and he would shrivel up and die, because all Jabba really was was an overgrown slug. (Note: Don't raise a slug next to a nuclear power plant. Ever.)

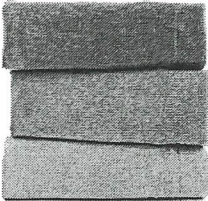
Chewbacca versus Aragog. Well first of all Aragog wouldn't even TRY to eat Chewbacca because he's all fluffy and while fluffy stuff is awesome, fluffy stuff is not so awesome to eat. Aragog would be coughing up hair balls for weeks and all the other spiders would laugh at him. Plus, Aragog and Chewbacca would probably get along just like Yoda and Dumbeldore. After all, they both are mythical and extremely hairy crea-

tures that you don't want to find under your bed.

And finally say Snape and McGonagall went up against a bunch of Storm Troopers, hundreds, thousands, millions of Storm Troopers, armed with poison dart guns. Why poison dart guns? Because they are cooler than laser blasters of whatever that's why it would take them all of ten minutes, if not, less, to defeat them all they would deflect the poison darts except for one which would land harmlessly on the floor thanks to a make-peoples'-aim-bad spell. McGonagall would transform that poison dart into a giant bunny which would chase the Storm Troopers away and eat a few of them. She would sit and laugh and Snape would scowl because that's what he does, and I'm 100% certain that he doesn't like bunnies, well, at least on the outside, on the inside everybody likes giant bunnies. Even Storm Troopers. See? Harry wins. Whoever wrote this past article was wrong.*



Linens + Things



Being Social on a Network

Ethan Wurster
Staff Jedi

The Social Network is a movie about Facebook. It's also a movie about losing friends, stealing, and money, "A million dollars isn't cool. You know what's cool? A billion dollars." It stars Jessie Eisenberg, who was also in Zombieland, as Mark Zuckerberg who is a programming wizard in Harvard. Other important actors include Andrew Garfield who will be playing the next Spiderman, and Justin Timberlake who plays Sean Parker. The Social Network is directed by David Fincher, he has directed Fight Club, Se7en, and Zodiac as well as a few other great movies. The Social Network has currently won several Golden Globes and a plethora of several smaller awards. Even with a good cast and director this movie obviously will not appeal to everybody's taste.

The movie starts out with Mark talking to his girlfriend, telling her how he is desperately trying to do something big to try to get in to the Final Club which is a club for the elite and rich. After making himself out to be full of himself, his girlfriend leaves him, so he gets drunk while hacking into several databases. He creates a website to compare girls, which gets so much traffic it crashes Harvard's network. This causes him to be noticed by two brothers who have an idea to connect Harvard over the Internet. The Social Network follows Mark Zuckerberg and two separate lawsuits from the person accusing him of stealing the idea, "If you were the inventors of Facebook, you'd have invented Facebook." and from his best friend as well as Mark Zuckerberg's creation of Face-

Social Continued on 5

The 9th Quist of a Dragon

Erik Youngquist
Staff Rubik's Cuber

A new game is out for the Nintendo DS, Dragon Quest IX. Now, this game has a lot of good RPGs (role playing games) to live up to like, Chrono Trigger and others. Although most of the other games out there follow the same type of story, this one adds a nice touch with its presentation.

First of all you get to customize the hero of the story, just the head for now once you get farther into the game you can customize the rest of your character with weapons and armor you buy. There is also an alchemy pot in the inn in the town of Stornway, where you can use weapons, armors and items. You have to make new and more powerful weapons and armor which will most definitely come in handy, and next to

and next to that is where you can recruit party members to help you on your adventures.

Once you reach a city called Alltrades Abby, you can change your class to something like paladin, ranger or sage after completing some quests that different people give you. You start the game as the guardian of a small town called Angel Falls with your master Aquila, who looks a lot like Krillin from Dragon Ball and Dragon Ball Z except he's less incompetent, taller and a hell of a lot stronger. He'll take you through the basics of the game.

After learning all that stuff and help some people you . . . I think I've given enough about the story so lets move on to the gameplay. So, the battle system is the regular RPG

Quist Continued on 5

Trekfast

Sonja Youngquist
Writing for the Paper

Star Trek. The name conjures up images of Spock, of men in red shirts being sent to their dooms, and of nerds making a strange "V" shape with their hand. Those things come up from time-to-time, but there is actually much more to Star Trek than most people are led to believe. Star Trek is at times very entertaining, but it also can give a deeper insight into humanity.

In scientific research, we always have a control group as well as an experimental group, in order to have something to compare the experimental group to. In Trek, the aliens that humans encounter serve that role, giving us something to compare human nature to. The seemingly cold, logical Vulcans emphasize our emotion and intuition. The android Data, who pined for Human emotion, makes us question what being Human really means. Similarly, holograms of people in Trek look, act, and may think like humans. Artificial Humans, and augmented or otherwise altered Humans, blur the line of what we consider Human.

Other aliens simply offer their insight on Humans. Q, from a race of godlike beings, often appears and weighs in on the state of humanity. He originally refers to us as "a pitiful species". His meddling was later shown to be due to the fact that the Q, as the race was called, lacked the Human desire to grow and explore. He felt Humanity could one day surpass the Q.

Even without the direct interference of aliens, the things made possible in sci-fi test the Human limits. Two members of Kirk's crew was once given godlike powers in a freak accident. One likely due to his new found power, quickly became a danger to the

Trek Continued on 6

Quist from 4

turn-based combat system which means battling monsters can and most likely will be way too repetitive for most players, but one nice thing about it is your party is not always in a straight line. They'll move around the battlefield by themselves and so will the enemy, but if you use a special attack that targets all enemies such as 'Gigaslash' they'll go into a straight line for that attack. And yes, you will encounter plenty of slimes and it wouldn't be an RPG without . . . you guessed it! Mimics! As you and your teammates level up you will have the opportunity to send skill points you can use to unlock new attacks or more strength in a certain weapon category. Once in a while the monsters will drop chests but don't get your hopes up, they never drop anything useful like weapons or armor. This game's graphics are way better than one would expect from a DS game. Over all this is a great game for the DS and earns 4 "closeted" Bards out of 5. If you own a DS and enjoy RPGs I would highly recommend that you stop by Gamestop or Target and pick it up for about \$25-\$30.*

Grading from 1

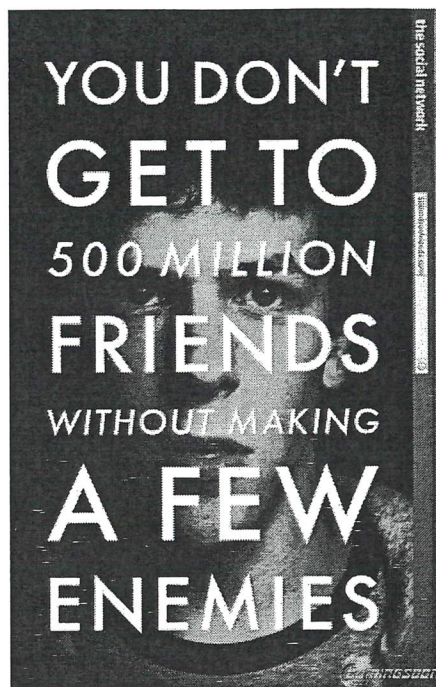
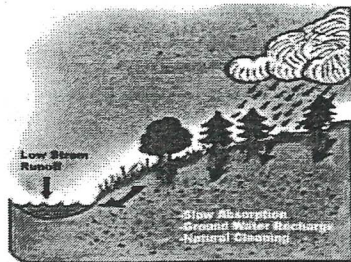
With the percentages, you can look and get a specific number to determine how well you are doing. You could have a seventy percent in math, for example, and now you could have a D. What does that mean? I went to math teacher -- also known as math prophet -- Tom Totushet for the answers. Tom was part of a committee that helped bring standards-based grading to Open School.

Is the new grading system better than the old, in your opinion?

"It is, as it focuses more on what students know as opposed to what students do."

Is it more difficult to get an A than in more common systems?

"I don't think there's any clear consensus in education on what an A means, or how to get one. In a sense, I believe it might be, however, A's are used to de-



scribe students who go above and beyond. And so we wanted to maintain the spirit of an A in that sense."

Will this new system become more common?

"The literature suggest it's becoming more common every year. OWL is on the cutting edge on developing this system but transition to this system might be inevitable."

Is this new system more complex than the old or more common systems?

"It is almost certainly easier than all but the most simple systems used in secondary and post-secondary education today."

Do you think most of the teachers at Open like the new system?

"I have only experienced a single outspoken dissenter to the system. Most teachers feel like it's closer to the way Open was when it was founded. And it is."

Social from 4

book.

This movie is very well done with great acting and a simple meaning. I think that this movie is not really about the creation of Facebook, but that of Mark Zuckerberg. To those who push this movie aside thinking, "how could a movie about a website be any good?" Then you should reconsider. David Fincher has a very interesting directing style that you can notice straight away, because he pulls you in with his camera angles, and you can definitely tell how it makes or breaks the movie.

This movie does have some flaws, one is feeling bad having to watch Mark Zuckerberg ruining his friendship with Eduardo over money and the website. Some people might not be into this movie because it's mostly conversations with no action or explosions or whatever you might expect for most of the movies in the past 10 years. This is what The Social Network is all about.

The Social Network is a movie about Facebook, but should not be labeled as such. I think that the way this movie turns a true event and can be considered believable. While Mark Zuckerberg says it's purely fictional. This movie has some humor but is still considered mostly a fictional drama with the losing of friends and the like. This movie is very deep with a meaning that is simple yet large. This will not appeal to everyone, but I think that this is a great film that will appeal to anyone that has wanted to do something great. This is why I recommend this movie to anyone looking for an interesting movie with dialogue and important themes.*

Cranes from 2

Also, The Stepping Stone Theater will be a big helping hand while acting out this play.

There will be a professional lighting designer and a theater artist.

They will be working hands on with the cast members of this play to only help make the play better than it already will be.*

Grading from 5

How is this new system different than the old one?

"In the old system, if a student got a C, you didn't know if it was because they were smart and lazy, or hardworking but didn't understand the concepts. Or some combination of the two. Now a C means something very specific."

Using a basic run-down, what is the new grading system?

"Teachers identify main concepts students have to know. They create assessment opportunities to demonstrate knowledge toward those main concepts. Students either show their knowledge on those assessments or alternative ways acceptable to them and the teacher."

Will most students like the new system?

"Students from other schools who have adopted similar systems report liking it better. I believe when students thoroughly understand the system, they too will like the new system much better than the previous system."

The new system is more mathematical. If you get less than two N's, you pass. Essentially. The actual system is quite a bit more complex than that, though. If greater than fifty percent of your grade is P's, and less than twenty-five percent is N's, you pass. If it's the other way around, you fail.

Students feel that this new system pushes them to work harder in order to get an A. With an old system, like the one in my old school, all that needed to happen is for you to do really well on an assignment, and you would get an A. In this new system, you would need to do extra work in order to earn an E. If you get so many E's, then an A is earned.

If you would like to learn more, talk to Tim, Tom, Hans, or Todd. The school's Site Council discusses matters that happen in our school district and in school such as this. Site Council meets on the second Tuesday of every month, and I encourage you to join in on the discussions.*

History Day from 1

Although Jennifer gets a bit tired of History Day fame, she is looking forward to this year's competition. She loves participating and enjoys the ability to tell history and be a part of it.

Star Trek is a social experiment of a sort. It pushes Humanity into situations that it has not yet encountered, and tests our limits in ways we cannot yet realistically achieve. It uses aliens to offer outside commentary on the Human condition. It blurs the line between Human and non-Human. Star Trek is definitely nerdy goodness. It's definitely entertaining. It's also, however, more than that. It's a chance for us to do some soul searching, and reflect on the very things that make us Human.*



Susanne speaks highly of Jennifer's ability. "Jennifer is an amazing researcher and a very hard worker," says Susanne. "She always knows her topic well and is good about asking for input."

This year's History Day is took place on March 7th. The theme this year is Debate and Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences. The theme is more difficult compared to other years though, since debate and diplomacy are together, but Susanne isn't worried "Everyone is doing well so far, and the projects are looking good." she says.*

Move from 1

trial period to keep the 6th through 8th grades and see if we can recruit more students to prove that there is demand for the program at the middle school level.*

Come see Open Theatre's production of... A Thousand Cranes!

Dates for the play are:

**May 18th, 19th, and 20th at 7:00 PM
and May 21st at 2:00 PM**

Calendar

April 8th - End of 3rd quarter

April 22nd - No school, professional development day

April 29th - SLC rollerskating field trip

May 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st - Play

May 30th - No school, memorial day

May 31st through June 3rd - Interim

June 6th & 7th - Student-led conferences

June 8th - Graduation 7:00 PM at Saint Paul College

June 14th - Last day of school!

The Strip Club

ARE THERE EIGENVECTORS IN CINDERELLA?

...NO?

THE PRINCE DIDN'T USE THEM TO MATCH THE SHOE TO ITS OWNER?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

DAMMIT.

MY MOM IS ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO FALLS ASLEEP WHILE READING, BUT KEEPS TALKING. SHE'S A MATH PROFESSOR, SO SHE'D START RAMBLING ABOUT HER WORK.

BUT WHILE THE ANT GATHERED POD... ...ZZZZ...

...THE GRASSHOPPER CONTRACTED TO A POINT ON A MANIFOLD THAT WAS NOT A 3-SPHERE...

I'M STILL NOT SURE WHICH VERSIONS ARE REAL.

YOU DIDN'T NOTICE THE DRASTIC SUBJECT CHANGES?

WELL, SOMETIMES HER VERSIONS WERE BETTER. WE LOVED INDUCTIVE WHITE AND THE $(N-1)$ DWARFS.

I GUESS THE $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (x)$ LITTLE PIGS DID GET A BIT WEIRD TOWARD THE END...

WHEN AN EARTHQUAKE HITS, PEOPLE FLOOD THE INTERNET WITH POSTS ABOUT IT—SOME WITHIN 20 OR 30 SECONDS.

ROB1163 HUGE EARTHQUAKE HERE!

DAMAGING SEISMIC WAVES TRAVEL AT 3-5 m/s. FIBER SIGNALS MOVE AT ~200,000 m/s. (MINUS NETWORK LAG)

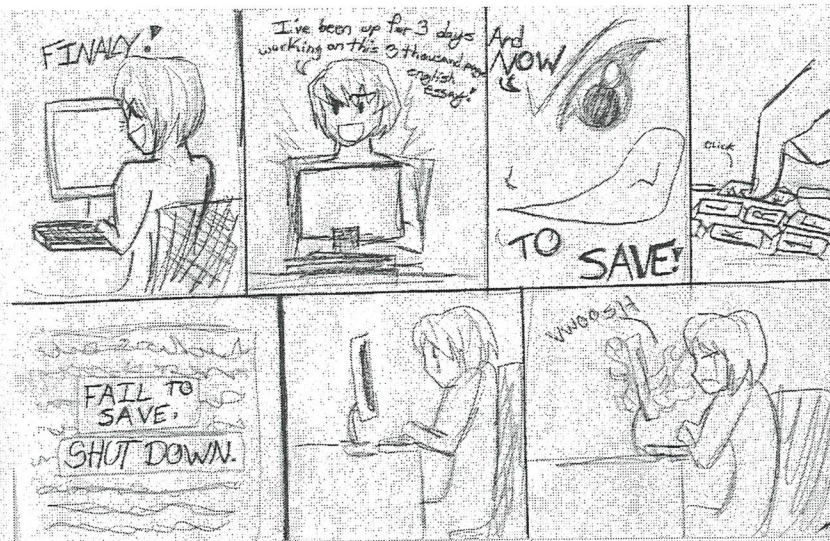
THIS MEANS WHEN THE SEISMIC WAVES ARE ABOUT 100 km OUT, THEY BEGIN TO BE OVERTAKEN BY THE WAVES OF POSTS ABOUT THEM.

PEOPLE OUTSIDE THIS RADIUS MAY GET WORD OF THE QUAKE VIA TWITTER, IRC, OR SMS BEFORE THE SHAKING HITS.

WHOA! EARTHQUAKE!

SADLY, A TWITTERER'S FIRST INSTINCT IS NOT TO FIND SHELTER.

RT @ROB1163 HUGE EARTHQUAKE HERE!



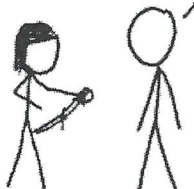
MY HOBBY: INSISTING THAT REAL-LIFE OBJECTS ARE PHOTOSHOPPED.

THIS SABRE IS A
19TH - CENTURY
FAMILY HEIRLOOM.

HUH?

IT LOOKS
PHOTOSHOPPED.

YEAH, THE REFLECTIONS
ARE ALL WRONG.
DEFINITELY PHOTOSHOPPED.



IF YOU DON'T TURN IN
AT LEAST ONE HOMEWORK
ASSIGNMENT, YOU'LL
FAIL THIS CLASS.

YEAH. BUT IF I CAN FAIL
THIS CLASS, THE GRADES
ON MY REPORT CARD WILL
BE IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER!

