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The Purple Press

March 8th,
2010

~~Open switching to Extended Day~~

John Knapp
Editor In Chief

Open World Learning Community will not be switching to an Extended Day program next year.

Last month the Open School community was informed by the district that they would be unable to make the switch to extended day, as previously planned, due to concerns that not enough resources were yet in place to run the program successfully. Denise Quinlan, Executive Director of Secondary Education, expressed concern that Open School did not have enough time to make sure that the extended day program would succeed and flourish. Many within the Open School community believe that the decision to scrap the program was a fudning issue. "The Extended day is a good idea for students, but they need to find a way to staff it,"

said teacher Elizabeth Littlefield.

Saint Pual Schools, like most districts across the state, is currently facing a several million dollar budget defi-

cit.

Nancy Stachel, former Chief of Schools, originally took charge of the extended day project at Open. Stachel received reassignment from a district position to principal. Shortly after, the installment of the extended day program at Open was put on hold.

Without the Extended Day next year, much more emphasis is being put on using the ALC program to its fullest potential. Whether it means providing more teachers after school, or changing the way ALC is currently used, it is one place that Open hopes to improve.

One proposal for an ALC improvement was to require staff, both ELC and SLC, to teach during the after school hours. The teachers would rotate who was teaching ALC based on an even schedule. During intensive deliberation, the idea was taken off the table after input from the staff.

Open School is maintaining its focus on the Expeditionary Learning model for next year.*

Home School to Open School

Jim Hayward
Staff Writer

Last year, during the summer, I started thinking about public school. We have all seen it on TV. High School in all those weird "Teen Dramas", like *Secret Life of an American Teenager*, and *16 and Pregnant*, is portrayed like a living hell. The thought of entering a cold dark world where gangsters and bullies would give me swirlies and one out of every three girls would be pregnant! It gave me butterflies like nobody's business!

I had been to Open School before for a number of its amazing plays, but I never got to meet many of the students during these brief visits. However, I met Tristan Allen, 11th grader, a number of years ago, and he assured me that it would be an easy transition into Open School life.

Home School continued on 8

Buzz surrounds History Day

Meredith Shimek, Velonika Burnett
Staff Writers

Open Students are upbeat about this year's history day. "We're gonna rock it!" says 8th grader Sheng Yang. Regionals will be at St. Paul College on March 15, and state will be at the University of Minnesota on May 1. The theme for History Day is Innovation in History: Impact and Change.

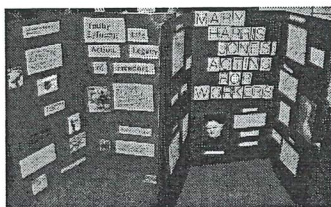
There are many interesting projects this year like Satya-Graha (A philosophy of non violent resistance developed by Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi) by 9th grader Jennifer Lor and Senior Norma Romero, Bruce Lee by Cheng Fue Vang,

Mario Brothers by Junior David Hoh, MPAA Ratings by Peter Moua, Say Khang, Johnny Lor and Yang Yeng, Susanne had a couple of

thoughts about history day. "I have a lot of good projects this year, but regional competition gets more competitive each year. I will be proud of all the projects I take no matter how well they do. I won't be surprised if several of

them go to state."

Students look forward to the regional competition. "I think we are more confident than last year. We will go a long way if we really try." says Jennifer Lor.*



THE EAR

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A MOVIE?
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WHO MADE IT TO STATE
FOR DI???
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ONE OF THESE
PENCILS IS NOT LIKE
THE OTHER
PAGE 4

THE PURPLE PRESS STAFF

EDITOR IN CHIEF
JOHN KNAPP!

ON-DECK GENIUS
SARAH PLONSKI

GRAMMAR GODDESS
GINGER FALKSEN

ADULT TO BLAME
LEO BICKELHAUPT

Ender's Game

Ying Yang
Staff Reader

Ender's Game is a fictional action filled book. It is about a young boy who has to make an important decision.

One important scene in this book is when Commander Graff comes to ask Ender to train at the battle school to save Earth. Ender makes his decision and goes because of the convincing words Graff says. But the place where he goes to train there are only others like him; kids who are all geniuses. They are the best of the best.

The setting is in Earth and outer space. The setting is set on Earth for some scenes, but most of the action starts in outer space. The author, Orson Scott Card, is a public speaker and a political activist. He and his wife have five children, each named after an author they admire.

The story starts off with six-year-old Ender Wiggin being asked to join the battle school and train to save Earth. He has a cruel brother, Peter, and a sweet and protective sister, Valentine, who both tried the test but failed. However, Ender succeeds and goes on his journey to battle school. There they realize that he is the best and so this causes him to advance before his training is done. No matter the obstacle Ender becomes the best and has the **Ender's Game continued on 8**

DI teams imagine state as destination

Say Khang
Staff Writer

On Saturday March 6th 2010, Open School Destination Imagination teams competed at the Regional Competition at Harding High School. The competing teams were Jazzie Bowie Beach, The Jaspers, and The Cluckin Bells.

Both Cluckin Bells and Jazzie Bowie Beach will be advancing to the state competition. The junior team, The Jaspers, was unable to make it past regionals. Both Cluckin Bells and Jazzie Bowie Beach will have to make many improvements if they hope to move past state on April 17th.

Each team worked together on their own DI challenges. "Braking DI News' is our challenge. We had to create a structure with only newspaper and glue to support weight, but also being as light as possible," says Tristan Allen, from team Jazzie Bowie Beach.



From team Cluckin Bells, Junior Peter Moua states, "Our challenge is to eat three bananas in one minute." But their real challenge is to build a transportation mechanism that's able to drop objects into targets without seeing them. Kou Yang of team Jaspers says, "the newspaper problem. We have to make a structure out of glue and newspaper that can hold as much weight as possible." Jazzie Bowie Beach and Jaspers have the same problem. As for Cluckin Bells and Jazzie Bowie Beach, they automatically advance to state, because they have no competition at Regionals. However, they still

have to perform and give it their best on March 6th.

With the different problems and preparations the teams have their ways of accomplishing their goals even if it means that they have to come to school on a Friday when there's no school.

DI continued on 8

Could Open School be a movie?

Jordan Greene, Cole Enyart
Staff Critics

Open School. You've probably heard of it. Maybe even have been there to experience it. You might have liked it, but you might have hated it. But no matter what your opinion of it is a question has been in the back of your mind, creating doubt and uncertainty. That question is this: what do the critics think?

As we all know, The quality of something is primarily determined by the opinions and 5 star rating system of a faceless critic whose qualifications are unknown. Luckily for you, I am both unqualified and faceless! Today I'm going to carefully examine the key categories that decide how you should

treat a school. The categories I will look at are characters, plot, setting, and musical score.

Characters: This is not Open School's strongest area. Leo Bickelhaupt is an English Teacher and "head" of the Purple Press. Leo is a flat character, and a very stereotypical English teacher. With no exciting unique backstory, such as a criminal background, or cross-country skiing shenanigans, Leo keeps us not wanting anymore. Watching Leo teach, I was very aware he was an English teacher.

Courtney Major is the resident History teacher. Courtney jumps around her room like a

Open Movie continued on 9



Poster for Open School, The Movie!

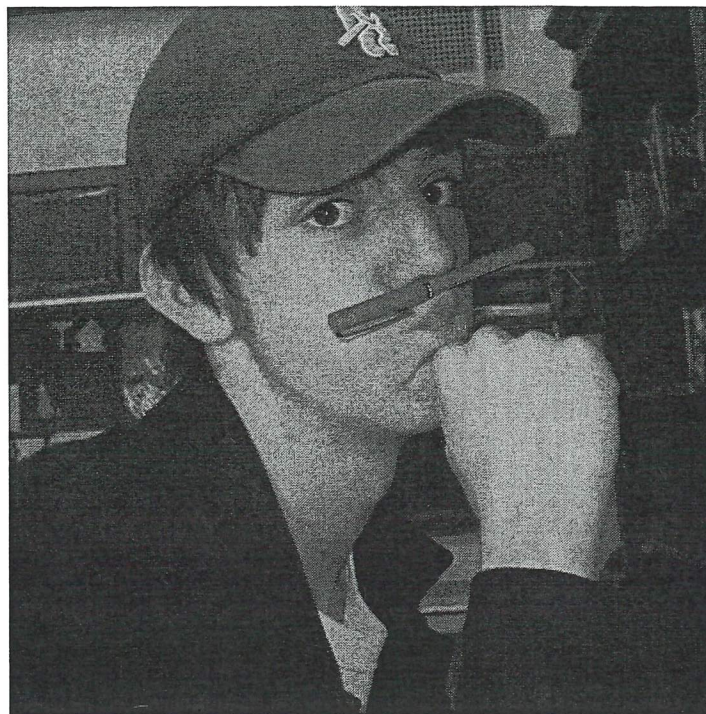
JOHN KNAPP

How many years have you been at Open?
Six years

What are your plans for next year?
I will be attending college in the United States

Where is your favorite Open School hangout spot?
The Fraquetball Hallway

What was your favorite Open School class?
I love Leo...but Science and Ethics with Julie



Learn to surf the web while you laugh with Plonski!

Sarah Plonski
Staff Comedian

In the days before the Internet, getting a comic published was nearly impossible for an ordinary, lazy person who didn't want to go to the trouble of getting their comic published in an actual newspaper and didn't really even care if they were paid. Then, one day, somebody realized that they could simply create a website on which they could post a comic at regular intervals. This caused a huge wave of comic artists posting their work online.

Posting comics on the Internet is, in many ways, more desirable than getting them published in a newspaper and in comic book form. For one thing, the writer easily posts comics straight from home. Also, they no longer have to worry about conforming to censorship and layout guidelines. However, the problem with so many comics being posted on the Internet is that many of them are just pieces of crap that never would have been published in real life. That's why finding good webcomics to read can be a huge challenge.

As a young citizen of the Internet, I spent a lot of time playing old-fashioned arcade games. However, one

day my brother showed me a webcomic called xkcd. This comic introduced me to a whole new community of Canadian webcomics. As far as I can figure out, all webcomics are written in Canada, and all of the cartoonists know each other. I now have a list of comics which I obsessive-compulsively read every day in a specific order.

Questionable Content (questionablecontent.net)- This is a comic about a bunch of hipsters and their relationships. It centers on a guy named Marten Reed and his roommate, Faye. Other people in the large cast of characters include Marten's girlfriend, Dora, who happens to be Faye's boss; their OCDelightfully crazy neighbor, Hannelore, and Marten's wacky robot sidekick, Pintsize. This comic is a bit of a guilty pleasure for me, since I'm usually not interested in comics about relationships. However, it has just enough character-driven humor and pop-culture references to keep me interested. Another interesting thing about Questionable Content is that the art style is constantly changing. That's because the artist, Brian Jaques, never had any formal training and he basically learned how to draw by having a webcomic. Anyway, if you are a fan of relation-

ships, weird people, or indie music of any kind, you will most likely enjoy this comic.

Dinosaur Comics (qwantz.com)- Dinosaur Comics has to be one of my all-time favorite comics. At first, it doesn't seem like much—in fact, the art is always the same and the dialogue is the only thing that changes. Many people may find this to be a turn-off, but once you start reading it you might realize what makes it so awesome. The main characters, naturally, are dinosaurs. These dinosaurs discuss everything from science to philosophy to Batman, all in an entertaining style which will possibly add the word “frigin” to your vocabulary. Dinosaur Comics never fails to make me laugh. I highly recommend it for: people who are trying to relax. People who are depressed. Anyone who isn't my brother, who hates it for some reason.

Hark! A Vagrant (harkavagrant.com)- This comic is slightly more obscure than the others, but I enjoy it quite a bit. It is drawn by a nice lady named Kate Beaton, who works in a history museum. Each comic focuses on something different, usually

Comics continued on 9

OPINIONS 'N' Stuff

Riding in the Knight now proves dangerous

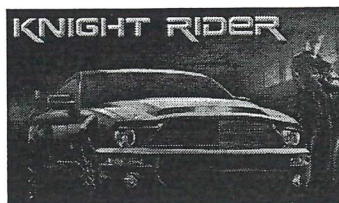
Ben Rubisky
Staff Rider

I liked the TV show *Knight Rider*. In a typical scene in the *original Knight Rider* went something like this: KITT gets hijacked, Michael Knight's life is threatened by some new program in KITT's memory, then Bonnie Barstow saves the day by creating a new program that eliminates the evil one. The new program, however, needs to be installed internally, which poses a problem for Michael Knight.

My reaction the first time I saw *Knight Rider* was...wonder. I had no sense of TV shows at that point, as I was very young. However I still enjoy it. The writing, acting, special effects, and car animation irritates me because it is sub

par, though entertaining.

Edward Mulhare plays the president of the Foundation for Law and Government, Devon Miles. Miles is a rich British boss type person on the show, and is a friendly one. David Hasselhoff plays Michael Knight, KITT's driver. He is a typical 1980's character, cheesy, and was always dressed in leather attire. Patricia McPherson was Bonnie Barstow, KITT's mechanic. She always had some program waiting for KITT to save the day.



The show was produced by Glen A. Larson and ran from 1982 to 1986. It is an old show, but is still cool.

Knight Rider is about an autonomous car built by Knight Industries. It takes place somewhere in California, never specified exactly where.

Knight Rider continued on 11

Castle Crashers

Demetrius Sass
Staff Writer

You are standing in the castle you call your home with a few other knights when a dead body comes flying through the door and rolls down the stairs and lands at your feet. All of the other knights immediately run out the door. You can then either walk around the room and learn the basics of how to play the game from the multiple people standing around.

Castle Crashers is a console video game independently developed by The Behemoth, featuring music created by members of Newgrounds. In 2006, Behemoth announced the game as available for download via the Xbox Live Arcade service. It was released as part of Microsoft's Summer of Arcade campaign, and became Arcade's best **Video Game continued on 10**

Your lack of faith is disturbing!

Leo Veach
Staff Battle Master

There have been a lot of rumors flying round about two certain series and which would win. People have been saying that Harry Potter could defeat Star Wars. This. Is. A. Lie. I am here to present conclusive and undeniable evidence that Star Wars could easily beat Harry Potter. In three cases (fights) I am going to show how the characters from Star Wars could kill the characters from Harry Potter.

The first battle is Darth Vader vs. Lord Voldemort. The first step is to point out their skills and traits. Darth Vader is a Sith Lord, and therefore has a great command of the force; he can

electrocute, choke, and do many more things using the force. He can also cut people with his lightsaber. Voldemort has a wand and can therefore stun, torture, control and kill people with a simple



word. Now, the battle itself would involve a lengthy speech from each followed by Voldemort casting a spell, apparating behind Darth Vader, Vader deflecting the spell and promptly stabbing Voldemort.

The 2nd is much simpler. Luke vs. Harry. Harry would throw a couple spells; Luke would deflect them,

Harry would feel hopeless. He'd have some dream. Then, thinking he had the power of love, attack again.

Star Wars continues on 8

Graphite? I think not sir!

Tristan Allen
Staff Totoro

It has come to my attention that some demented denizen of a dastardly deviant dementia has made a false claim that the sharpenable pencil is somehow superior to the mechanical pencil. While the conventional pencil is certainly a usable writing device, their mechanical brothers are better in every way.

First of all, the obvious difference, where the origin of their names come from. The old and outdated sharpened pencil must be sharpened with frequency. An angled blade is used to shave wood and graphite from the archaic utensil into a fine cone-shape. This would be just great, but as the pencil is used, the lead dulls and requires additional sharpening.

Pencil or Pencil? continued on 10

Linens + Things

You have earned the Golf Badge!

David Hoh
Staff Writer

I'm trying to think of this guy, I can't name him off the top of my head. He's athletic. I know that. He is also known for romancing multiple pretty women that he meets along the way in his travels to different places. And his sport (which involves a ball) takes a lot of skill to master. Yet he has mastered it. He's part black and I think half asian too. You know anybody like that?

If you're smart or skipped ahead to this part first then you're right! I was talking about two people! Tiger Woods and Brock from Pokémon.



Tiger Woods has never been seen in the same room as Brock...

They're a lot more similar than you'd think. Similarities that could make you wish Woods would spike his hair.

For starters, they're both very athletic. Tiger Woods is of course the best golfer on the planet, and the only reason anybody would watch golf after finding out that Happy Gilmore isn't a real person. Like-

wise, Brock travels all over the place, but even before he did that, he was a Gym Leader of Rock-type Pokémon, and naturally that points to many kinds of training.

Who's who? continued on 11

Wait? You have it? Oh...you HAD it...I see

Jack Jepsen-DeSpiegelaere
Staff Procrastinator



Dear Teacher: I do not have my homework because it was stolen by evil zombie squirrels.

As I was chasing after them, a bunch of oompa loompas

came out and started singing about how it's bad luck to be me. I pushed them aside and kept chasing the squirrels. When I got close, they threw a copy of Twilight at me. It burned my skin because Twilight is such an awful, awful book. I passed out.

When I woke up, the oompa loompas were back and Simon Belmont was burning Twilight. The oompa loom-

were still singing about how nobody could disagree that it's a freaking guarantee that it's bad luck to be me. They were getting annoying, so I kicked their ass. I went back home, grabbed a katana, a crowbar, a nerf gun, a ping pong paddle, a BFG 9000, and some Mountain Dew, then went off to fight some zombie squirrels.

There were a bunch of mountains in the way, so I had to climb over those. About halfway up, the oompa loompas came back and started singing again. I tossed them down the mountain, then fed them to a frost giant. I think his name was Joe Tunn.

When I got to the other side of the mountain, the zombie squirrels caught me. They were about to eat my brains when I escaped by dressing up like a ninja and dancing to "Harder, Better, Homework continued on 11

Wat up wit dat, dawg?

Houa Her
Staff Balla

"What up with that dog?"

Hello my long time readers. Thank you for joining me on another issue of "What up with that dog?" Today I'm going to talk about girls who talk too much. Personally I like girls who talk too much. With them you never get the feeling of boredom. Plus they seem so cheerful. I never did like doing all the talking; I was never really good with words so I like girls that talk a lot.

Some other people may not like girls who talk too much and I can understand why. People may say, "They're so loud and annoying!!!" I might sometimes think this too but as soon as I do this little voice in my head says, "People are who they are and you can't do anything to change that and they are just speaking their minds." I like people who speak their minds. They must have a lot of courage to say things they say. Either that or they just can't help it.

I don't get girls who don't talk a lot; I mean what's their deal? For one, the girls in this school are so beautiful that I would enjoy listening to them talk. Quiet girls should stop being so quiet. I like listening to girls talk. Maybe I'm weird but I like hearing other peoples' problems. I'm not nosey, I just care for people, I'd understand if they don't feel like talking to strangers, but they should talk to somebody.

I've talked to some people about girls who talk too much or don't talk at all and they've all given me some pretty good insight. My good friend Mr. Alex Casebeer doesn't like any kind of person who speaks too much, which isn't very surprising.

Dawg continued on 11

Nuh nuh nuh nuh nuh nuh nuh nuh nuh nuh nuh nuh nuh Batman!

Sarah Plonski

Staff Secret Identity

Look, up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's a black shadow against the dark sky, closing in on you as you run for your life, adrenaline pumping through your bloodstream as you scream in terror. It's Batman, here to make you regret your unlawful ways! He won't kill you, but he will make you regret ever having been a pimp.

There are many comic book superheroes, but Batman is the only one who is COMPLETELY hardcore in every way (this is difficult for me to say, but unfortunately true). The simple reason is this: he made his own superpowers. Bruce Wayne could have grown up to be an ordinary man, completely average in every way (except for the fact that he is incredibly rich).



But instead, he made a vow to make sure that nobody had to suffer the way he suffered when his parents were killed before his eyes by a mugger when he was a young child. So he set to work transforming his mind and his body to become an unstoppable crime fighter and a figure to strike fear into the hearts of homicidal maniacs and organized criminals alike.

The fact that he doesn't have any superpowers is not the only thing that makes Batman awesome, although it is the most obvious aspect of him that makes him different from other superheroes. Batman also has a very strict rule for himself. Possibly as a result of seeing how someone's death can so negatively affect someone else, or maybe because he realizes that killing people will make **Batman!** continued on 12

Scorpions invade house

Staff Reader

Ying Yang

The House Of Scorpion is a book that you can't stop reading until the end. It is full of twist and turns even when you think everything is going to be okay. It has surprises lurking around every corner.

Leo even said that, "I gave this book to one of my students to read and they stayed home from school to read it." This book has that kind of effect.

The author, Nancy Farmer, was born in Phoenix, Arizona. Her books have won many awards, including The House of Scorpion which was awarded the Printz honor, the National Book Award, Newberry Honor, and many more. She has written many other books, which have won plenty of awards.

Mexico is the setting of the book, but it is called Aztlan in this book because it is in the future. Matteo Alacran is a clone. He wasn't born; he was harvested in Mexico. His original self is known as El Patron, who runs an opium farm. Matteo is discovered at age six, living in a shed with the cook Celia. They are found by three kids, one named Maria who is the daughter of the Mendoza family. He is thrown into a room with the living conditions of a chicken and thanks to Celia, who he considers his mother, and Maria, El patron comes to his rescue.

Matt is given a good education and a bodyguard, Tam Li, who Matt sees as a father figure. Tam Li and Celia try to hint at the danger Matt will face. Matt figures this out, but only when it is too late. Matt thinks he was made to rule the country, but now he knows why he was made. He is only alive to be body parts for the old El Patron.

When the time comes to give El Patron Matt's heart, there is much drama. El Patron never receives his heart. While Celia was taking care of Matt, she poisons him. Not enough to kill him but enough to kill El Patron if he replaced his heart with Matt's. Celia is taken away and El Patron dies. Tam Li works for someone else and is given **HOS** continued on 12

Turn off that radio Vol. 3!

Matt Shay

Staff Writer

Dead Prez's new album **Pulse of The People** produced by DJ Green Lantern. An aggressive confrontational political group, Dead Prez contains 2 members: M-1 (Mutula Olubala) and Stic Man (Khnum Olubala). Both are from Tallahassee Florida, but they have an "East-Coast Flow," as some would say.

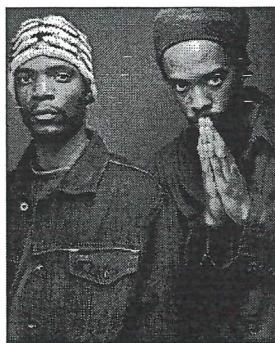
They have influences from Malcolm X, KRS-ONE, and Public Enemy. They have been writing raps since the early 90's and have had some solo/collaboration CD's out since then, but now they're back and better than ever.

This is their third Turn Off The Radio mix tape and by far this is the most edgy and borderline revolutionary mixtape yet. There goes a group is to

make a change. **Pulse of The People.** An album by a real musical artist, never did get much radio play, while commercial nonsense like Li'l

Wayne continues to dominate the airwaves. Some songs off **Pulse of The People** that really bump are "Don't Hate My Grind", Featuring Bun B, "Summertime", "Stimulus Plan", and "Gangsta Gangsta" Featuring Styles P. "Don't Hate My Grind" is by far my favorite song on the album. It has a catchy chorus along with inspirational lyrics, like "Gotta come up by any

means is my mentality, don't wanna dream about it, gotta bring it to reality." So if you're sick of hearing the same old song and dance on the radio, then turn off the radio and give Dead Prez a listen; I promise you won't be disappointed.*



Dead Prez

Dragons of Balance Episode four: The Seated

Brandon Thompson adds another chapter to his continuing story, *The Dragons of Balance*. For the previous volume, check out issue three of *The Purple Press*.

Nighttime has fallen on the volcano range, and our heroes have taken to sleep upon the volcano's summit. It is warm up there even at night.

Akrana is awake and sitting on the edge of the volcano looking into the pit of bubbling lava.

The sound of a few rocks sliding catches her attention and she turns to see Gadrial walking toward her.

"Can't sleep, Akrana?" asked Gadrial

"I don't sleep that much. I don't like my dreams."

"Why? What's so bad about dreams?"

"When you dream of massacres and bloodshed every time you close your eyes you tend not to like doing that," stated Akrana gloomily.

"Whoa, that must really stink."

"Not as much as that old man Delady," replied Akrana, letting out a chuckle.

"Hey look, she does laugh," remarked Gadrial.

Chuckling Akrana says, "yeah I can laugh." She disappears.

A little surprised and amused Gadrial sits down on the ledge and says, "where did you go? I wonder where you are Akrana."

Suddenly a pair of arms wrap around Gadrial's waist and he jumps a bit, out of surprise.

"I love you Gadrial," says Akrana in an unfamiliarly happy voice.

Still a bit confused Gadrial can't think of anything else to do but to place his hands on hers.

A loud and hard shaking breaks the mood as a figure erupts out of the volcano. Staring at the figure the two see that his body is blacker than the deepest darkness and fire is engulfing him.

Scared Akrana teleports to the camp where Delady and Fernasta are now awake.

A big explosion bursts from the figure as he speeds off quickly, his wings of fire blazing. Still shaken Akrana asks "What was that thing?"

The three others looked at each other unknowingly and did not respond.

"We should get going now that we're all awake," stated Delady, as he started to gather up his supplies.

"Where are we going to go now?" Asked Gadrial.

"To the shrine of power. The shrine of Groando, the earth god, to awaken Gadrial's spirit powers. Then towards the last shrine of power to awaken Akrana's spirit." After finishing packing up camp they were setting out toward the Groando shrine.

As they were walking along the pathway Fernasta and Delady were walking up ahead while Gadrial and Akrana were staying back talking.

"So where did you learn to do all those disappearing things that you so love to do?"

"From my Sensei. She taught me a lot of what I know now."

"What about your parents?"

"My parents... died. at least that's what my sensei tells me because i can't remember them. Can't remember anything before she found me."

"I am sorry."

Taking Gadrial's hands in her own, she says softly "It's okay, it's not your fault." Gadrial closed his eyes a bit, thinking about what Akrana wants.

Suddenly Gadrial hears a deep voice saying "Be careful, she has a secret, and secrets lead to distrust and demise."

Gadrial looks at Akrana and she smiles back at him and says "Are you okay Gadrial?"

"Uh...yeah I'm fine."

"Okay" replies Akrana as she nuzzles in his arms.

What's going on between Akrana and Gadrial? What was that volcano creature? And what is Akrana's secret? Tune in next issue for the continuing adventures of... **THE DRAGONS OF BALANCE!**

Open School fights hunger in Haiti: Round Four

Julia Iwazsek
Staff Writer

Today, Friday, March 12th the members of our fine learning community shall once again unite to battle world hunger. Yes, that's right, it's Kids Against Hunger time! For weeks Tim and his KAH student team have been preparing for our food packing event, and hopefully



everyone has been fundraising like crazy. Once again the food we pack will go to feed people in the country of Haiti. I just want to say that we've always sent food to Haiti and we were totally ahead of the curve on that one, so take that celebrities. This packing day will be similar to other years, with students of all ages working together to pour, weigh, seal, and pack the food. This year we've had some extra events leading up to packing day including

Hunger Banquets, read-alouds of Haitian story books, and mini lessons on world hunger in classrooms. The hope is that everyone will gain a greater understanding of some very complex and difficult issues. When asked about Kids Against Hunger, 9th grader Evie Harper-Godderz said "It rocks!" So come one, come all. Strap on your hair net, roll up your sleeves, and pull on your chicken powder resistant pants. So I'm glad you're here today to pack meals! Unlike every other day at school, today the things you do will matter. I'm excited, aren't you?*



Home School from 1

But my mother still worried. She had her doubts that I would even be able to find the bathroom! She also worried that the student population would not accept me, for being different and not understanding the subtleties of Elementary and High School.

My first day of school was nerve-wracking. I knew next to no one and I had no idea what to expect from the many teachers. English Teacher Leo Bickelhaupt, for example, with his dull glare and emotionless face, I thought he was the scariest person I had ever met (Except for maybe that clown at the mall...). I was afraid I would lose my way through the maze of halls and rooms, even the cafeteria eluded me for a few minutes; until I realized it was not a cafeteria, nor was it an auditorium, it was a Cafetorium! Where I once sat to watch plays, I soon found myself eating pizza and hamburgers. Yum... Hamburgers... *Homer Simpson drool*

After the first couple of weeks I found myself drafted for some crazy play, (I still don't know what it was about, I think it had something to do with magic and a boat. And I think I was the good guys, or the bad guys... I don't remember) and put to the test by such notable people as John Knapp, 12th grader, and Susanne Hollingsworth, Social Studies Teacher who has subjected me to the horrors of History Day! And they both made sure I got no sleep for about a month. This did nothing to help with my "Massive" amount of homework I received.

Going from sleeping 16 hours a day, (I used to follow my cat's sleeping schedule) and getting to go to sleep at 4am, to getting up at the insanely unreasonable hour of 7:00, with only 6 hours of sleep, is a major change for me and I doubt I will ever sleep a full night again. This being said, I am NOT a morning person. So sorry if I yell at you. (And kick. And scream)

Now that I look back on it, I have about the same amount of work as I did at home. Though while I was

Home Schooling I didn't have a strict schedule, I would work on a subject at my own pace, such as reading Catcher in the Rye for an hour and then take a nap. This is a common way for Home-school parents to teach their kids. And my parents would only give me a little work at a time, so I would not be as overwhelmed. But despite Open School's light payload, Leo has kept me on my toes, giving me lots of bogus homework that no one else in the class has to do, and finally when I am able to finish half of the mound of papers he makes me write, he yells at me for not having it done! But he did give me a sticker for effort. *Happy face*

Over the past few months I have made a lot of new friends, and that is great, because unlike most Homeschool teens, I was very anti-social. But you couldn't tell that now! And even though it may seem like a big step, I know many Homeschoolers who have switched to public school when they turned 12 or 13 (I guess I'm just late). I'm glad that I came to Open School, and that you guys have been so "Open" to me (Trust me, I was worried). Here's a big thanks to everyone who has helped me along and continues to do so! Thanks!

P.S. Hans, thanks for showing me where the bathroom is, my mother still worries. But if you want to send me that map that would be fine too. And Leo, I will have that 74 page essay by the end of the week... I hope*

DI from 2

Each team had representatives here on Friday to assure that they were ready for Saturday. "It's nerve wracking. Getting everything we need and splitting up the work evenly." Kou Yang says. As for Peter Moua, he thinks, "we are getting ready by accomplishing whatever we need to get ready." Junior Emily Falkson from Jazzie Bowie Beach says, "We are working together on everything, making sure stuff happens." What everyone agreed on was that the hardest part was putting everything together, acting and memorizing

their skits.

It's not just the students that are struggling, but also our Open School DI coach Tom Totushek. "I was nervous that teams were not going to be ready." Tom answers after asked what his thoughts were about the competition. Even though he may have some worries; "The hard part was moving that HUGE crane," Team Cluckin Bells hopes were that their crane would make it safely to Harding last Saturday morning. But with all the worrying behind us, Tom encouraged all the teams, "I hope that things came together." Wise words from the math prophet, and DI coach.*

Ender's Game from 2

highest rank. He has made enemies there and people dislike because of his age and how much he had already accomplished, but he also made friends.

Ender wants to quit many times but Valentine urges him to go on. When he is sent to the Command school he learns to be a commander for the person who saved Earth from the Buggers in their last attack which was years ago. But there is something they don't tell Ender, something that leads him into a time of depressive sleep.

This book is great and it should be read by every young adult. It is very descriptive and it makes you feel like you are really in the scene watching them. What was weird was that the grown ups depended on the little kids to save Earth. What also surprised me was the age of the protagonist, but that didn't ruin the story, it just made it better. Readers might be interested in reading this book if they like action and have a lot of time on their hands.*

Star Wars from 4

Then Luke, using the time Harry was having the vision to get close, would cut him in half. Pwnd.

And the last duel: Dumbledore vs. Yoda. Dumbledore would first make a speech, and then Yoda would. As they're speechmaking they would be fighting. Dumbledore would have created a lightsaber with his wand, and they'd be effectively having a lightsaber duel. Dumbledore would use a spell to knock him down. Yoda would jump up and start weaving in and out of his

Star Wars continued on 9

Open Movie from 2

bad metaphor. Courtney's erratic behavior turns into a strange teaching method. Occasionally she shows the class pictures of various historic events or people, and then forces them to figure out what it is. I mean what are we, detectives? What kind of teacher forces her students to think? A communist, that's who.

There are some redeeming characters, though. John Knapp is the Editor in Chief of the Purple Press, and coincidentally the man who decides whether this article gets into the paper or not. John Knapp, or as we will call him, "John Knapp", fits no character archetype, as he does whatever he pleases. Plus he has a hat and clipboard, what's more awesome than that? Special guest star Bridget Martin fills in as a teacher when somebody is missing in action, also when a smashing accent is needed. (For more information, refer to the final issue of the 2005-06 Purple Press)

Musical Score: Open School has a diverse soundtrack, ranging from the pleasant spoken word of Julia Eye-wazzik to the shrill screams of Alex Casebeer. Hit songs include The Ballad of Bickelhaupt, The Final Countdown, and The Plonski Polka. Various other songs are heard throughout the day, performed by That One Guy Or Gal In Your Class Who Has To Sing Every Popular Song.

Plot: The plot of Open School is ongoing, as it just can't seem to die out. Open School started out as a zombie apocalypse safe house, but soon turned into a school, because that's how evolution works. As government agent Todd works to instill something called "education" into the student body, a few steadfast newspaper writers work to prepare humanity (denizens of Open School and people within a 2 mile radius) against the impending zombie apocalypse. While all this is going on, Leo Bickelhaupt works to destroy the higher cognitive function of the student mindset with his dull glare and monotonic lectures. There's all something about a destined imagination.

Setting: Open School takes place in a school much like your very own. When first entering Open School you will encounter a very shiny television monitor. Some say that this screen serves no purpose, but when looked at closely, you will realize that it is

showing Open School in real time. Before being remade, Open School was a dingy, grey, rat-infested cesspool of junk and filth. After a ONE MILLION dollar renovation, it is now a dingy, rat-free cesspool of junk and filth. The room I am currently writing in is Leo Bickelhaupt's Room O' Writers. The tables here are rectangular and made of some sort of wood, when I place my laptop on it, the laptop doesn't fall down. Creepy! Open School has 4 levels, each one more terrifying than the last. The first floor is where you start when you first enter the building, it contains the cafetorium, office, and interrogation room. The second floor houses the younger students, you can only access the second floor from the third floor, because seeing high schoolers walk up instead of down would be a bad influence. The third floor is where all the action takes place, this floor includes the newspaper room, the gym, the Fraquetball Hallway, and..... the Earth Science room! There's also a vending machine that has very stale food.

There you have it, everything you need to know about Open School, along with some unwanted details. And now for the thing you probably skipped the entire article to read : The stars! Open School gets a very bad 3 stars, because a 5 star rating system actually means 3 is bad, 4 is okay, and 5 is good. 2 and 1 don't exist. I decided to give Open School a 3 not because a very large bribe that they refused to give me, but because of the overall aura the place gives off. Dats some baaaddd mojo, mon.*

Comics from 3

a historical figure or event, and pretty much makes fun of it. Making fun of old dead people, you guys! There are occasional recurring characters, including a couple of "mystery-solving teens" who solve mysteries-- or do they just smoke pot? And Napoleon, who is always eating cookies. This comic is a lot more casual than most others. Instead of updating on a set schedule, it is updated whenever she thinks of an idea for a comic. The comics are done in a somewhat sketchy style, and often lack punctuation. I would normally find that annoying, but in this case I actually think it makes the comics funnier, somehow. This comic deserves a lot of respect, because it is awesome.

xkcd (xkcd.com)- As I previously mentioned, this was my first webcomic experience. You've probably heard of this comic before. It features a lot of very well-drawn stick figures and science and math-related jokes, combined with a lot of stuff about having a girlfriend and his problems with that, because the writer, Randall, is trying to show us that some nerds CAN get chicks. The quality of this comic has been going down recently, but this is generally a pretty good comic. The forums, especially, are a good place to lurk around and waste a lot of time.*

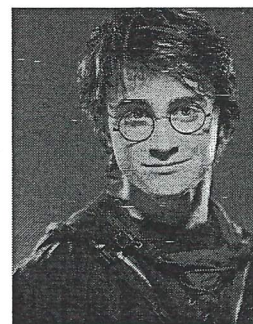
Star Wars from 8

defenses and Dumbledore would knock aside the blows. Then Yoda would chop off Dumbledore's hands. Yoda would make an epic ending speech (while making the speech from the beginning which was still awesome) go in for the killing blow, but Dumbledore's phoenix would jump in front of the saber. He would explode, while Dumbledore appeared. Yoda will have won, but Dumbledore will have escaped.

Well there you have it, Star Wars won on all counts. Found guilty for excessive awesomeness in the first degree. Voted by a jury of your peers, you're sentenced to 50 years of PARTY-TIME!!!!

And no surprise here, we have

conclusive evidence that Star Wars could defeat Harry Potter. So now the rumors will stop. Completely. Because releasing facts always stops rumors. At least it's al-



ways worked in the past.

Bonus evidence: a star destroyer or a different awesome ship could just blow up the world. All your protego's and attack-y spells won't help you against the death star either.

What, you're still here? Go home. The movie's over. Go on, go.*

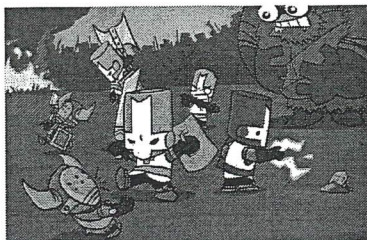
Video Game from 4

selling title of 2008. It was voted 2008 Best Game of the Year at the XBLA Awards. A Playstation 3 version of *Castle Crashers* was revealed at San Diego Comic-con in July 2009 and is set to be released in 2010.

This game is in no way realistic. You play as a cartoon knight running around beating people up while trying to save your kingdoms four princesses. The princesses are scattered far apart around the globe. The game is divided in two parts. Before you can reach the second half of the world you must collect three items: a telescope, a steering wheel, and a compass. These are all needed to be able to set voyage across the ocean, during which an epic battle between your ship and a ship full of ninjas begins.

Castle Crashers is a side-scrolling, beat-em-up that incorporates a small number of Role-playing game elements. When you first play the game you will have only four of the possible twenty-eight playable characters (including the four downloadable content characters available on the Xbox Live Marketplace). There are four ways to unlock new characters. You unlock a few characters just for beating certain levels of the game. Another way to unlock characters is to beat the different arenas. Arenas are one of the games mini-games where you must fight ten waves of enemies to unlock a specific character. The final two ways to unlock people are: beating the game with certain characters or to buy the downloadable ones from the Xbox Live Marketplace. Different characters have different magic abilities and starting weapons

Throughout the game you will gain experience for damaging foes. As you gain experience your character will level up and gain new hit combinations and attribute points. Attribute points can be assigned to four different skills: agility, strength, magic, and defense. Agility is your movement speed and how proficient you are with a bow and arrow. Strength is the amount of damage you do with melee attacks. Magic is the amount of damage your magic attacks do, and the rate at which your



mana recharges. Mana is the energy that allows you to cast spells. Defense is your resistance to damage, and the amount of health you have. The maximum level you can reach without cheating is 99. In addition to attribute points you will be able to use certain weapons that you find in the game.

Along with weapons there are also 26 animal orbs that can be found throughout the game (plus an additional two that can be purchased from the Xbox Live Marketplace). Animal orbs can increase skills/attributes, give you special abilities, or some even have their

own abilities. They can do anything from add two points to your strength to shooting plasma photons at your enemies.

Problems with this game include: repetitiveness, boss difficulty, and leveling glitches. The repetitiveness of this game occurs when you are trying to unlock new characters because you have to beat the game over and over again and again to unlock them all. Nobody wants to beat the same annoying final boss twenty times. Which brings me to my next point of boss difficulty. Most of the bosses in the game are of reasonable difficulty, however, some are close to impossible without having the correct attributes to a certain level. But, this is extremely easy if you use one of the games many leveling glitches. Most of these have been fixed through online updates but there are still a few which make the game easy and boring.

My overall rating of this game is an 8.5 of 10. This game has few drawbacks in comparison to its highlights. I recommend this game to anyone who enjoys the classic side-scrolling beat-em-up game. But be warned, this game is extremely violent.*

Pencil or pencil? from 4

In a mechanical pencil, an effective yet simple contraption pushes a fine rod of graphite up through the ergonomically sound hull of the pencil, so that the pencil is always sharp, not sometimes.

Also, though the lead is thin, it doesn't break nearly as often as the thick, clumsy lead in a conventional pencil, which weakens as you sharpen it. While on that subject, wooden pencils have a lead core about 2mm thick, though mechanical pencils come in a variety of sizes, from the usual 0.5mm and 0.7mm, to a variety of sizes targeting artist, like the large 0.9mm, and even a whisper-thin 0.3mm lead.

Mechanical pencils are more customizable in other ways, too. There are colored pencil leads, which are easily interchangeable with your normal graphite, allowing you to control the whole rainbow with only one pencil! Also, the only reasonably good conventional pencils come in a pain orangey color, while there are many excellent mechanical pencils in all sorts of shapes and sizes.

The eraser is another important difference. Since conventional pencils are designed to be used up quickly so you need to buy more, the eraser is dry, tough, and cheap. Most mechanical pencils have much better erasers which run smoothly across the paper, wholly erasing without leaving smudges.

The mechanical pencil has existed for nearly a century. History depicts that Charles R Keeran produced the first mechanical pencil in 1913. Around the same time in Japan, Hayakawa Tokuji also invented a mechanical pencil. Tokuji's Ever-Ready Sharp pencil did not come to America until 1915, but he is given credit to the invention of the mechanical pencil.

Some believe that since mechanical pencils are made of plastic, they are environmentally unfriendly. It is certainly true that they do not decompose like other pencils, but one mechanical pencil can last you for years. And think about this: a twelve-pack of conventional pencils, how long do they last? That's right, not long at all. In just a short amount of time, it's down to an unusable stub, still a couple inches in length. Who's environmentally unfriendly now!?

These are just some of the many reasons why conventional pencils are outdated and a scourge on the writers of the world. There is just no real reason to use them. Then again, you knew that already.*



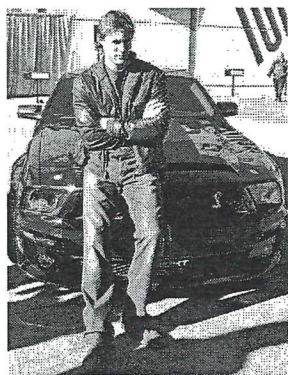
Knight Rider from 4

Like I said, a typical episode results in said car getting stolen, reprogrammed to kill Michael Knight, and soon being saved. Usually, Knight and KITT have some "wild" adventures. Once, in order to solve a mystery, they entered a car show, derby race, then crashed through a 20 story window, et cetera.

The Knight Industries Two Thousand is the car, KITT. It was voiced by William Daniels. The car built up a Spock type personality. KITT was obviously funny, and extremely intelligent. The body had an indestructible skin that was thinner than a piece of hair developed to protect Michael Knight. The prototype of KITT, KARR, was programmed for self preservation. A mistake that has yet to be learned by The Foundation For Law And Government (FLAG). It was based around a black 1982 Pontiac Trans Am, but the interior looked completely different. The dash board has a curved look to it, and covered with TV screens and little LED lights.

I like this show. Though there are some things that do *not* work in Knight Rider at all. Say, the writing, the special effects, the wardrobe, the acting, the plot, the directing, I could go on. But against all that, the car steals the show as being awesome.

There is one to two target audiences for this show. One being the "super nerds" who like this (i.e. me), and the other being the...that's it. Only one audience. For being a good show they only have one audience? I don't know. You should try this show out, and see what you think of it. If you do, and you're *not* one of the



"super nerds" then I have gone about this show all wrong. But as for the main target, Knight Rider is reaching them well. With a car that looks like "Darth Vader's bathroom" and is literate, it is very easy to reach them. You can get this on DVD at your local Best Buy, or Amazon .com.*

Who's who? from 5

Next, they are both known for fancying plenty of different women. Tiger Woods, of course, has been in trouble for his multiple affairs with women who want reality TV shows all of the sudden. These "Women from Tiger's secret woods" come from all over the country, from pretty much anywhere Tiger has gone. Similarly, Brock, in his travels, has encountered countless women that he has just instantaneously and spontaneously fallen head-over-heels for their beauty, even before he knows their names, in some cases. The most common women that Brock immediately falls for are the Nurse Joys and Officer Jennys of the different towns and cities, despite them all looking alike, he can differentiate between any two of them. However, unlike Woods, Brock has never really gotten that far with any women, although a few have shown some affection for him.

Tiger Woods is, as he calls it, "Cablinasian". He is half Asian (1/4th Chinese, 1/4th Thai), 1/4th African American, 1/8th Native American, and 1/8th Dutch. And Brock appears to be half black, 1/4th Asian, and 1/4 Caucasian. His Mother, Lola, is caucasian, and his father, Flint, appears to be half black and part Asian (as most of the shows characters appear either Caucasian or Asian, since it's a Japanese show.)

Another interesting fact that links the two is that they both took up roles that their fathers had. Tiger Woods' father Earl taught him to play golf, and Brock's father Flint gave him his first Pokémon, his Onyx, for his 10th birthday. Brock also took over the Pewter City Gym when his father went off to train Pokémon. Although when Brock went to travel with Ash Ketchum, his father took over the role of Gym Leader again.

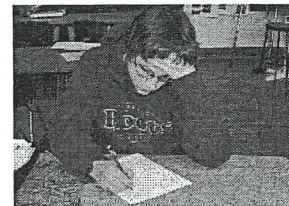
So there you have it. Brock Harrison is the Tiger Woods of Pokémon. This story was supposed to be all about Tiger Woods and why he should not be in trouble, with some hard-hitting evidence too, but because I was watching some original Pokémon episodes, I got distracted. So now my lawyer-quality defense of Tiger Woods would make this story too long and it would feel out of place.*

Excuse from 5

Faster, Stronger". Then I kicked them in the shins and ran away.

I realized that I needed something that was specifically designed for fighting zombies. I went down to S-

Mart to look for something like that. There was a guy named Ash working there. He



didn't look very useful for fighting zombies, so I bought a chainsaw. I used it to cut down a tree and build a campfire. After fooling them into thinking that I was a harmless camper, I shot them with the BFG 9000. They had zombified my homework, so I shot it too.

It turned out that the squirrels were being led by Tutankhameneatsalotoframenyokoonoj ohnlennonreesespieces from my first excuse. I asked him how he was still alive. He explained that he had been zombified shortly after I had stabbed him with my gunblade. I explained that that was ridiculous, since there were no zombies on his planet. He explained that it didn't matter. I explained that he was an idiot. He explained that I could go and boil my head and I explained that the thing heading towards him from his left was a knuckle sandwich. I shot him with the BFG 9000 and then fed him to the frost giant to make sure he was dead, and everyone who wasn't killed, zombified or eaten lived happily ever after.

I think that for defeating the zombie squirrels and saving the world yet again, I deserve the rest of the year off from school. I think that sounds reasonable, don't you?*

Dawg from 5

He finds them to be irritating and he likes the peace and quiet. Some of my other friends, who are girls, believe somewhat the same thing as Alex. Emily Falksen said to me that there is a difference between talking a lot and talking for no reason. But she also doesn't like girls who talk too much. Julia Eyewaseck on the other hand said Dawg continued on 12

Dawg from 11

that she kind of likes girls who talk too much because she thinks she's a quiet girl and then wouldn't need to contribute to a conversation.

Now that you've read my column, what do you think about girls who talk too much? If you don't like them then I have five words to say to you.

"What up with you Dog?"*

Batman! from 6

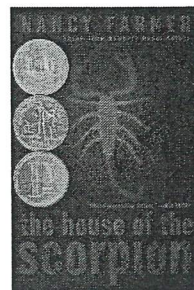
him no better than the criminals he is trying to save his city from, Batman never, ever kills anyone. He even goes out of his way to save criminals who are trying to get away from him. In the story about the first time the Joker introduced himself to Gotham City (The Man Who Laughed, if you're looking for trade paperbacks), in the end the Joker was attempting to kill Batman with a big wrench, and Batman ended up holding the Joker by the wrist, dangling him over a reservoir filled with poisoned water. Instead of dropping him to his death, Batman lifted him back onto the ledge and punched him in the face a couple of times.

As a matter of fact, Batman has had many chances to kill his arch nemesis, but he always ended up simply arresting him yet again. This has caused more than a few moral dilemmas as Batman feels responsible for everybody the Joker kills. This brings me to my next point, which is Batman's villains. Superman's main villain, Lex Luthor, is some egghead who wants to "defeat Superman" so he can "take over the world." Batman's main villain, the Joker, is a paranoid schizophrenic who is just completely insane and wants to cause as much chaos, death and panic as possible. All of Batman's villains are either femme fatales or suffering from some sort of mental illness (or even both). The two tourist attractions in Gotham City are Wayne Manor and Arkham Asylum for the Criminally Insane!

Batman is, without a doubt, the best superhero ever. I will end this by saying that one time, Batman built himself a robotic suit just so he could get in a fight with Superman, and he gave Superman a fat lip without even taking out his Kryptonite bullet.*

HOS from 6

orders to kill Matt. His old bodyguard throws Matt into a truck and drives off. When the truck comes to a stop Matt



realizes Tam Li is helping him escape. Celia was hidden in the stables thanks to Tam Li.

Matt now goes on his own crossing the border. He has to find Maria and try not to get himself

killed by the Farm

Patrol. He also faces challenges with Keepers and tries to escape from them. The ending is one that will shock the reader.

This is one of the best books I have ever read. What I like in this book is that the boy kept going and didn't give up even though many people dislike him and try to bring him down. Teenagers might like this book because it is not like any other books. It is just a kind of book that you just can't stop reading.*

Taurus: Children will cower, women will scream, the great political powers of the world will denounce you as a heartless monster as your attempt to make pizza goes catastrophically wrong.

Sagittarius: While most people's philosophical obligations are fulfilled with "Is there a God?" or "What is the meaning of life?" yours will invariably be "How did that crocodile get on my ceiling?"

Aries: Disaster will strike at those you love most if you fail to eat the twinkie you find lying on the ground.

Scorpio: After your visit to the pool the lifeguard adds

Horoscopes

'no drowning puppies' to the list of rules.

Libra: Unfortunately insult your teacher day hasn't quite caught on the way you hoped it had...

Virgo: The Stars indicate that you shouldn't try to be a hero. You will never measure up to Hercules or Beowolf, or even Aquaman.

Leo: Sadly one Friday slips by, and you don't even realize that you're not wearing soccer jersey.

Aquarius: Es tiempos como éstos que usted desea usted

había invertido más tiempo en alemán.

Capricorn: On one hand, many people have weaknesses. On the other, identifying your strengths is yours.

Gemini: After having a long conversation about gullibility, you find out that it isn't even in the dictionary.

Cancer: Paper bags pose a particular problem, I can't say why...but just a heads-up.

Pisces: Though you have figured out a way to make lightning strike twice, scientists have begun complaining that using a lightning rod is cheating.