

Volume 13,
Special Senior
Issue

The Purple Press

Last day of
school,
2009

Congratulations Seniors!

Free as a bird

Daniel Mauleón
Staff Writer

On Friday June 5th, Seniors from Open School gathered at Saint Paul Technical College to receive their diplomas as families and friends watched. The graduation ceremony started at 7 and was followed by a reception with cake and lemonade. The ceremony opened with the song "Pomp", a remix of the usual graduation song Pomp and Circumstance #2, as the graduates took their places on stage.

After principal Todd Bartholomay gave a welcoming speech, SPPS board director Anne Carroll took

the stage with some motivational words of her own.

Many more speeches followed including three speeches from Open School staff members Jack Mills, James Illif, and Mary Posey. There was also a speech from one parent and nine from different seniors. The speeches were filled with emotion and moved the audience and seniors.

Once the speeches were over Tom Totushek called and presented the diplomas to the graduates. Within no time hats were in the air in celebration and the seniors made their way out of the auditorium to the music of Lynnyrd Skynyrd's Free Bird.



Then families and friends met up with the graduates in the reception hall, took pictures and gave many hugs and handshakes. Soon though, it was time to go and students waved goodbye.

Given the random activities of the last few school days it may be awhile before they see some friends again.

From here graduates will move on to different things. While some are still unsure where their life will lead them, a majority are planning to attend college.

However last Friday night's ceremony will stay with them in their memories.

We are the Champions

John Knapp
Staff Writer

On June 6th and 7th at the State Tournament the Open School Manatee played their hearts out, and won. The Manatee finished the tournament with a record of 7-1, placing 1st. For many years Open School has sought victory in state wide sports and the Manatee brought that victory home.

Losing only to Hopkins in their second game, the Manatee won the rest of their games in dramatic fashion. While the tournament was a team success, the weekend was filled with its share of tears. Manatee player Damien Bullis was taken off the field in an ambulance in the semifinal game against Minneapolis South.

Damien suffered a cracked vertebra in the lumbar section of his spine that game. While his result is tragic, his story is heroic. Damien was

able to catch the disk for a point on an amazing layout that put the Manatee ahead of South for good. Damien's condition, as the doctors at HCMC said, is

"hopeful". Damien will be unable to join his classmates at Valley Fair, and cannot share their joy at Lake Elmo. But it's predicted that Damien will spend the majority of the summer in a wheel chair, but will recover. When asked if he wanted to say anything to the Open School public, Damien declined saying that he was only grateful that he was able to help his team.

The Manatee battled forward despite the loss of one of their key players. Open finished off South with a score of 15-9. All that lay in the way of the championship for Open was Hopkins. Hopkins is ranked third in the country, and first this side of the Mississippi. Earlier Hopkins was able to catch the Manatee off guard and win 15-11. This time though the Manatee were fierce with determination to win for

their fallen comrade. Open jumped out to a 5-1 lead. Hopkins struck back with seven consecutive points to put them ahead 8-5 into the half. The game continued back and fourth until Hopkins took a commanding 14-11 lead.

At this point coach Jim Amos called a timeout to talk with the team. His words were brief and explicit. His speech was as follows, "Well, boys ... I haven't a thing to say. Played a great game...all of you. Great game. I guess we just can't expect to win 'em all. I'm going to tell you something I've kept to myself for minutes -All of you knew Damien Bullis. And you know what a tradition he is at St. Paul Open...And the last thing he said to me - 'Rock,' he said - 'sometime, when the team is up against it -- and the breaks are beating the boys -- tell them to go out there with all they got and win just one for the Bull...I don't know where I'll be then, Rock', he said - 'but I'll know about it - and I'll be happy.'" After this The Manatee came out again with determination. They fired back to win 16-14, and win the tournament.

**THE PURPLE
PRESS
STAFF**

**EDITOR IN CHIEF
DANIEL MAULEON**

**EDITOR
EMMETT RUFF**

**ADULT TO BLAME
LEO BICKELHAUPT**

SENIOR PROFILES

JESSIE BIEDLER

Years at Open? 4.

What extracurriculars activities have you been involved in? Theater, Site Council, Newspaper, Peace Jam, Outward Bound and more.

What was most challenging about Open? Meeting teachers expectations.

Favorite place to hang out? Leo's room hell yah!

What will you miss about Open? Leo, Megan, Mary, Tim, Tom, Kim and Luke.

What are your plans for next year? Augsburg.

Any advice for Open School Students? Do what Tim, Leo and Luke say. (What Tom says is good.)



SERENA GARCIA

Years at Open? K-6 left came back from 10-12.

Favorite class? Psychology with Luke.

What extracurricular activities have you been involved in? Volley ball.

What was most challenging about Open? Dealing with some teachers.

Favorite place to hang out? Computer Lab.

What will you miss about Open? How some people showed actually showed that they cared and helped me out.

What are your plans for next year? Going to college for child development possibly psychology too.

Any advice for Open School Students? Get our while you can.



KA VANG

Years at Open? 4.

Favorite class? Art.

Favorite place to hang out? Basketball court

What will you miss about Open? The mic.

What are your plans for next year? Saint Paul College

Any advice for Open School Students? Be a good role model for others.



PHENG LOR

Years at Open? 6.

What extracurricular activities have you been involved in? Kids Against Hunger.

What was most challenging about Open? Coming to school.

Favorite place to hang out? At home.

What will you miss about Open? Teachers and friends.

What are your plans for next year? College

Any advice for Open School Students? Stay in school.

SYBIL LAMBERSON

Years at Open? 4.

Favorite class? Newspaper.

What extracurricular activities have you been involved in? Kids Against Hunger.

What was most challenging about Open? Keeping kids out of trouble.

Favorite place to hang out? In the gym.

What will you miss about Open? Sheri helping me get my work together.

What are your plans for next year? Not coming here.

Any advice for Open School Students? Farewell.



SENIOR PROFILES

ANDRE KNOX

Years at Open? 9 ½.

Favorite Class? Phy ED.

What was most challenging about Open? Getting up in the morning for school.

Favorite place to hang out? 3rd floor, East end.

What will you miss about Open?
The funny things that happened every-day.

What are your plans for next year? Attending Augsburg.

Any advice for Open School Students? Be yourself!

YER YANG

Years at Open? 3 ½

Favorite class? Drawing & Painting.

What extracurricular activities have you been involved in? Stepping Stone.

Favorite place to hang out? Elizabeth's room.

What will you miss about Open?
My classmates.

What are your plans for next year?
I'm going to do what Jack Mills did. If you get my drift.

Any advice for Open School Students? Get out as soon as you can!!!

MAI YOU YANG

Years at Open? Long enough.

Favorite class? Social Studies.

What extracurricular activities have you been involved in? Student Government.

What was most challenging about Open? Changes.

Favorite place to hang out? My room with my teddy bear.

What will you miss about Open?
My secret spot... shhh

What are your plans for next year? Be a Katie.

Any advice for Open School Students? Respect, Represent and recognize yourself.

TONG ZANG YANG HER XIONG

Years at Open? 6.

Favorite class? Math.

What was most challenging about Open? Getting stuff done on time.

Favorite place to hang out? Outside.

What will you miss about Open?
Those that I care about.

What are your plans for next year? Unknown.

Any advice for Open School Students? Don't do the activities your teacher push you into, if you feel like you don't want to do it.



ALICIA MARTINEZ

Years at Open? 6.

Favorite class? Art.

What extracurricular activities have you been involved in? History, Orchestra and others.

What was most challenging about Open? Getting homework done.

Favorite place to hang out? My house.

What will you miss about Open?
My buddies and teachers.

What are your plans for next year? Work & go to college.

Any advice for Open School Students? Dream big dreams, line large lines!!

SENIOR PROFILES

GAO LAI CHANG

Years at Open? 13.

Favorite Class? All.

What was most challenging about Open? Nothing much.

Favorite place to hang out? Tim's room.

What will you miss about Open? Staff, friends and freedom.

What are your plans for next year? College!.

Any advice for Open School Students? Focus! Stay in school!!

SHAENG YANG

Years at Open? 8

Favorite class? Math with Tom.

What extracurricular activities have you been involved in? Student Government & DI.

What was most challenging about Open? The changes.

Favorite place to hang out? At home in my room.

What will you miss about Open? All the staff.

What are your plans for next year? Fulltime college.

Any advice for Open School Students? DO NOT SLACK OFF!

PHENG KONG

Years at Open? 11.

What extracurricular activities have you been involved in? Kids Against Hunger.

What was most challenging about Open? The School Camera.

Favorite place to hang out? Anywhere?

What will you miss about Open? The food.

What are your plans for next year? Get in college.

Any advice for Open School Students? Get your work done.

NIKIA DAVIS

Years at Open? K, 1, 7-12.

Favorite class? Anything Leo.

What extracurricular activities have you been involved in? Peace Jam, DI, etc.

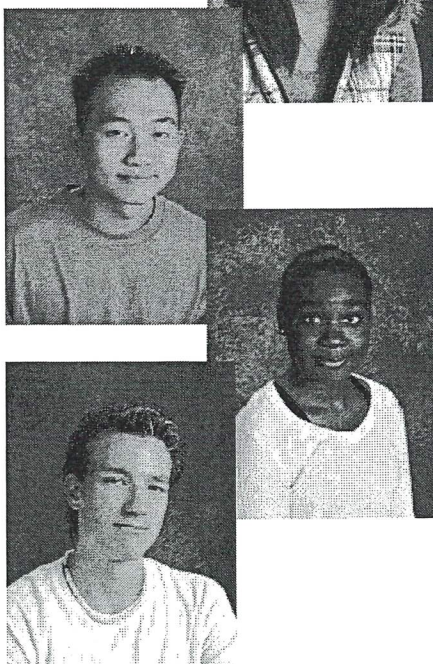
What was most challenging about Open? These cameras, can't get away with anything.

Favorite place to hang out? At home.

What will you miss about Open? The people.

What are your plans for next year? No se.

Any advice for Open School Students? If you fail at Open, it's because you tried to.



RUSSEL WINDISCH

Years at Open? 4.

Favorite class? English.

What was most challenging about Open? Having 7 hours of school.

What was your favorite place to hang out? The wood shop.

What are your plans for next year? Join a construction crew.

Any advice for Open School Students? Don't sweat the small stuff.

SENIOR PROFILES

PRECIOUS PARSON

Years at Open? 4.

Favorite Class? Creative Writing.

What was most challenging about Open? Biology.

Favorite place to hang out? Computer lab.

What will you miss about Open? My friends.

What are your plans for next year? College.

Any advice for Open School Students? Ummm... Nope.

EMMETT RUFF

Years at Open? 6.

Favorite class? Lunch. lol.

What extracurricular activities have you been involved in? History Day, DI, frisbee and newspaper, theater.

What was most challenging about Open? The final push as a senior.

Favorite place to hang out? Outside.

What will you miss about Open? The variety of students.

What are your plans for next year? Hamline.

Any advice for Open School Students? Stay golden, Pony Boy.

DAMIEN BULLIS

Years at Open? 1,2, 6-12 grade. 9 years.

Favorite class? Art.

What extracurricular activities have you been involved in? Frisbee. Fraquetball

What was most challenging about Open? Dealing with Administration.

Favorite place to hang out? Not at school.

What will you miss about Open? Absolutely nothing.

What are your plans for next year? Going to UW-River Falls

Any advice for Open School Students? Leave.

KAMIEKA LIVINGSTON

Years at Open? 5.

Favorite class? Thematic Journeys with Bridgey.

What was most challenging about Open? Keeping focused enough to do my work & turn things in on time.

Favorite place to hang out? Ian's mom. (Editors note: ZING)

What will you miss about Open? Wandering in halls, texting in class and not using the pass system.

What are your plans for next year? Saint Paul College and work.

Any advice for Open School Students? If they gunna hate then let them hate and watch the money pile up.



CEYAIRRA SPARKAMAN

Years at Open? 9.

Favorite class? Wood shop.

What was most challenging about Open? Staying on task/ graduating.

What will you miss about Open? Teachers. (Some)

What was your favorite place to hang out? By the flag pole. When it's hot out.

What are your plans for next year? College move into my own place in June.

Any advice for Open School Students? Stay on task.

SENIOR PROFILES

ANTHONY SHIELDS

Years at Open? 6.

Favorite class? Psychology 1 & 2 with Luke Leba.

What extracurricular activities have you been involved in? Stepping stone, Theater sound, Student Government, Peer Mediation and frisbee.

What was most challenging about Open? Becoming self-directed (7th-8th)

Favorite place to hang out? Back of the art room

What will you miss about Open? I'll miss the freedom I received from being me.

What are your plans for next year? Partying at the U of M Twin Cities

Any advice for Open School Students? Social life is important, but don't put it in front of your academic life, your friends won't be paying your bills.

AMELIA THOMPSON

Years at Open? 3½

Favorite class? every...

What was most challenging about Open? Dealing with teachers and students in bad moods.

What extracurricular activities have you been involved in? Artbuild

Favorite place to hang out? Lunch table and classes.

What will you miss about Open? Having someone to talk to where ever you go.

What are your plans for next year? Try to get another job... College is next <3

Any advice for Open School Students? Don't take any bull from anyone.

MYLES ALTERI

Years at Open? 6.

Favorite Class? AP Art.

What was most challenging about Open? AP biology.

Favorite place to hang out? Art room.

What will you miss about Open? Friends and teachers.

What are your plans for next year? Start classes at Hamline University with Griffin and Emmett.

Any advice for Open School Students? If you're a freshman... leave.



DANIEL MAULEON

Years at Open? 5½

Favorite class? Creative Writing

What extracurricular activities have you been involved in? Frisbee, Fraquetball, DI, History Day,

What was most challenging about Open? Maintaining a strong focus, and planning so you don't fall behind.

Favorite place to hang out? Leo's room.

What will you miss about Open? The daily memories.

What are your plans for next year? Attending Hope College for a degree in Creative Writing.

Any advice for Open School Students? Stay on task. Stay focused. Stay classy.

IZAAC CORBETT

Years at Open? 3.

Favorite class? Leo's & James classes.

What was most challenging about Open? Staying motivated oh and math :P

What extracurricular activities have you been involved in? Student Government

What will you miss about Open? The community like environment.

Favorite place to hang out? Basketball Court

What are your plans for next year? Work & College

Any advice for Open School Students? Get it together.

SENIOR PROFILES

PA DONG XIONG



Years at Open? 4.

Favorite class? Economics and History Projects

What extracurricular activities have you been involved in? Student Government

What was most challenging about Open? Turning in my work

time

Favorite place to hang out? Elizabeth's Room!

What will you miss about Open?

...

What are your plans for next year?

Go to Century for my generals.

Any advice for Open School Students? Don't Procrastinate!

GAO VANG



Years at Open? 3

Favorite class? English/Art

What was most challenging about Open? Getting through the hallways during passing time! =)

What extracurricular activities have you been involved in? Student Government, Future Visions, Peer Mediation.

Favorite place to hang out? 2nd floor & Art room

What will you miss about Open?

Using "I'm a senior." as an excuse.

What are your plans for next year?

Enroll@ Century College & study in radiology

Any advice for Open School Students? "Life is like a box of chocolate, You never know what you're gonna get." -Forrest Gump

NOU THAO

Years at Open? 13 long years.

Favorite class? History Projects

What extracurricular activities have you been involved in? Outward Bound, D.I., History Day

What was most challenging about Open?

Eating gum in Tom's room.

Favorite place to hang out? Marianna's room or Tim's room

What will you miss about Open?

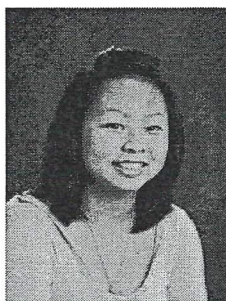
Being a part of D.I., Outward Bound & History Day

What are your plans for next year?

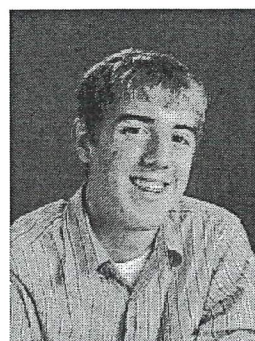
Win the powerball, attend St. Kates.

Any advice for Open School Students? Go on Outward Bound trips & texting is okay as long as you don't get caught texting while learning.

Not Featured:



Greg Phillips



Griffin Larson



Kalia Vang

CONGRATULATIONS SENIORS 2009



Thanks to Luke for being a GREAT teacher and Tim also my friend who helped me along the way.
-Serena Garcia

I will miss my '09 classmates :/

-Shaeng Yang

SENIOR SHOUT OUTS!

You guys rock! I will never forget OPEN!!
-Alicia Martinez

James Illif legends walk among us.
-Russel Windish

I want to wish Mark Scioli, Luke Leba, and Leo Bickelhaupt so far all the support & help they supplied over the years! Thanks!
-Andre Knox

Sorry Rojah, you tigah nao.
-Ant Shields

You no hungry for girl, you hungry for Hot Pocket.
-Emmett Ruff

I wish the class of 2009 the best of luck!
-Yer Yang

I want to give a shout out to Sonia, Khaliya, Norma, Ruby and Ivonne-Pa Dong Xiong

STEPHANEEEEEE!! SHE'S THE WORLD'S GREATEST!- Nou Thao

Thanks for everything. Peace, Love and chicken grease.
-Ceyairra Sparkman

Big shouts to all seniors 09... Peace out Open schoolers.
-Mai You Yang

I AS A SENIOR WOULD LIKE TO THANK OPEN SCHOOL FOR MY 4 YEARS OF WHAT HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT GREAT.
-SYBIL LAMBERSON

SENIOR QUOTES

"Just do it" (Not from Nike)(Do what you need)(Stop making excuses and just do your work)-Ant Shields

"Remember this face and save me a place in thug mansion."
-Kamieka Livingston

"D-unit."-Damien Bullis

"All my life I wanted a pony."-Precious Parson

"The king has left the building."-Russell Windisch

"Senior 09!"-Xa Vang

"Don't cry. I know you'll miss me."-Nikia Davis

"Keep being kewl Open."-Amelia Thompson

"What you know about that!?"
-Pheng Kong

"Life is like a box of chocolates, you'll never know what you'll get."-Shaeng Yang

"Class of '09 Damn we fine!!"-Alicia Martinez

"See U all in time."-Tong Xiong

"Live life to the fullest and stay positive."- Mai You Yang

"'09 so FINE!"-Yer Yang

"I'm finally done with school."-Pheng Lor

"Do what makes you happy. At the end of the day, thats all that matters."-Serena Garcia

"Do your best no matter what happens."-Ceyairra Sparkman

"Playa Playa Beach Beach"-Pa Dong Xiong

"Whoot! Whoot! Class of 2009! I'm outta here! =)"-Gao Vang

"Ya da ya de ya kah!" -Nou Thao

Senior Photos

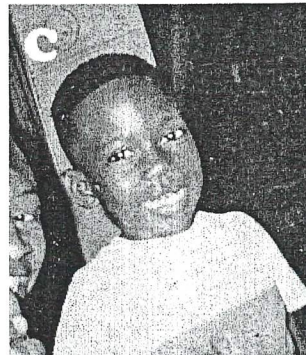
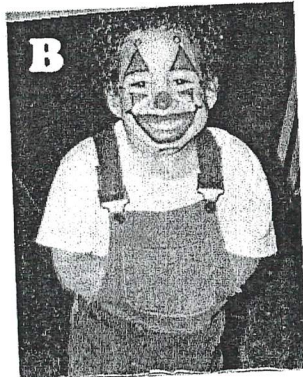


Top left: Alicia
Bottom Left: Gao
Middle: Ceyairra
Top Right: Daniel
Bottom Right: Nou Thao

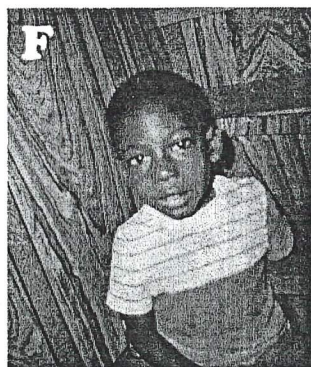


Baby Photos

Can you recognize these seniors?
Answers at bottom



Before The Wedding

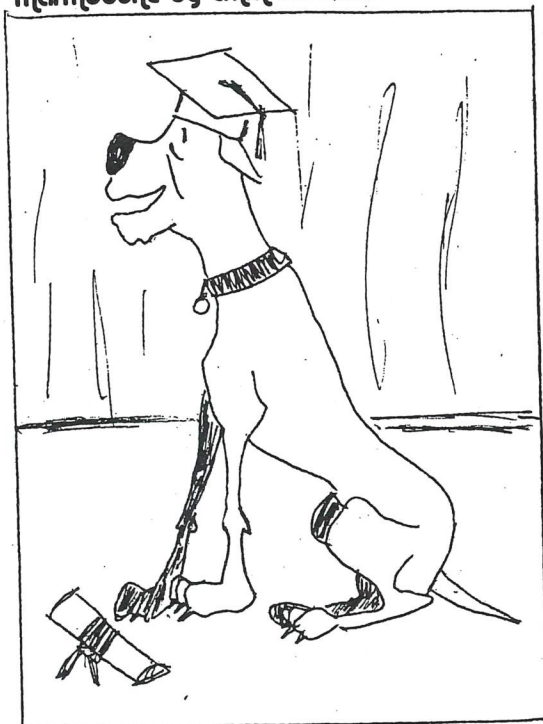


A: Andre B: Ant Shields C: Andre
D: Griffin, just kidding it's Andre
E: Alicia F: Andre G: Gao H: Pa Dong

The Strip Club



Marmoduke by Emmett Ruff



He got his diploma early.

From The Offices OF Rusty Biggs:

Dear Readers,

Enjoy the 2 part Editor and Lavender Lad on the next page. Be sure to read the page in issue 7 first. It's pretty sweet.

•The Bigg Man

LAST TIME, THE EDITOR SACRIFICED HIMSELF FOR LAVENDER AND WITH HIS LAST BREATH TOLD LAVENDER LAD SHOCKING NEWS. IT SEEMS THAT LAVENDER LAD IS THE EDITOR'S SON. NOW LAVENDER LAD MUST BE STRONG AND CONFRONT THE EVIL THAT IS BIASMAN AND RETRIEVE THE PRINTING PRESS KEY SO THAT HE MAKE TAKE HIS RIGHTFUL POSITION AS THE NEW EDITOR, ALL OF THIS AND MORE IN THIS ISSUE OF...

The Editor's Lavender Lad Ominous?

YOU FIEND YOU KILLED HIM!

YOU KILLED YOU...OUR FATHER!

PISH POSH APPLESAUCE!

HE DESERVED TO DIE!

RAHHHHH!

AND NOW BROTHER, IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO MEET YOUR FATE!

FEEL THE PAIN OF MY...

BIASBEM!

NO! NOT LIKE THIS

I MUST BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF TRUTH

AND THE STRENGTH OF OBEDIENTY.

Lavender

CASSEER!

JUST... A LITTLE... MORE...

WHO... FATHER?

I NEED... YOUR HELP. I CAN'T DO IT BY MYSELF.

NICE TRY BUT I AM STILL STRONGER!

HEY BIASMAN! YOU WANT TO BE PART OF THE PAPER?

THEN... TAKE... THIS!!!

NOOOO! HOW COULD YOU GET SO STRONG

ARRGHHH...

TOMORROW'S HEADLINE: BIASMAN VANQUISHED.

EXTRA EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT! BIASMAN HAS BEEN DEFEATED. MAYBE HE CAN MAKE AMENDS WITH THE EDITOR IN THE AFTERLIFE. WHERE THE EDITOR'S JOURNEY HAS ENDED LAVENDER LAD'S HAS JUST BEGUN, WITH THE PRINTING PRESS KEY HE MOVES ON TO NEW CHALLENGES AS THE NEW EDITOR OF THE PURPLE PRESS.

Lavender

Signing Page

Because everyones to lazy to make a yearbook, we thought we could fill the gap and give you a blank page on which to scrawl your 2009 memories.

Have a great summer see you next year!