

Volume 13,
Issue 6

The Purple Press

May 13,
2009

Open Students make History... Day

Emmett Ruff
Staff Chronicler

Several Open School Students participated in National History Day's state competition on May 2nd at the University of Minnesota. Seven of these students received awards for the projects they submitted. Teachers are calling this year, "One of the best years yet for History Day students"

Students who participated in the competition include 11th grader Brandon Thompson and 10th grader Sonja Youngquist whose performance was on anarchists Emma Goldman and Alexander Berkman. Also competing were seniors Shaeng Yang, Kalia Vang, and Nou Thao whose exhibit was on doctor Elizabeth Blackwell. 10th grader Emily Falksen did a performance on Sister Elizabeth Kenny.



Several students who participated in the competition placed highly and/or won awards. 10th grader Karl Brose's essay on lawyer Clarence Darrow received an honorable mention. "I feel like I should've gone on to the next round," Brose said. "I had some tough competition." 11th grader John Knapp and senior Jessie Biedler's performance on former Governor Rudy Perpich won the Minnesota Laws and Courts Topical Prize, which includes \$500.

Most notably though, was 9th graders Jennifer Lor, DJ Sass, Ruby Uribe, and Candice Fuller's exhibit on Civil Rights Activist Bayard Rustin. This exhibit won the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender (GLBT)

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Spreading the Relief

Jennifer Lor
Staff Writer

A team of 20 Open School students and Tim, SLC ELL teacher, will travel to Groveland Park Elementary and Adams Spanish Immersion Magnet to spread the relief of Kids Against Hunger next week for interim. "It should be fun and great to be in this event during interim," says 10th grader Julia Iwaszek. "I hate starving children!"

The main goal of this project is to produce another several thousand packaged meals to Haiti. Most importantly though, is to obtain a genuine communication with the students attending these elementary schools and to get many more to join the fight to save lives just by filling, weighing, sealing, and packaging these meals. Student leaders

will explain these simple procedures to the students and will also be working alongside them.

When asked why he decided to take Kids Against Hunger beyond Open School, Tim said, "When people at other schools heard about what we were doing here with Kids Against Hunger, they wanted to be apart of it too. So it was great to plan this event for those students and so that Open School students could spread the fun and take on leadership roles." Teachers also say that this is definitely one of the coolest Interim choices this year. So help these students produce these meals and let all be successful!

Makes Me wanna holler



Nikia Davis
Staff Writer

Nathan McCall's Makes Me Wanna Holler is definitely a book that people should read. Despite all of the racial tension he expresses, the book is really entertaining. The book is a tragic story of a downtrodden black man growing up in America who had little fighting chance to survive the evil white man who was hungry for his flesh, but who managed to beat him and come out as a successful writer.

Maybe it was a downtrodden black man's version of The Odyssey. Maybe it's a story of decisions for some, where McCall made some decisions in life and had to suffer the consequences – a classic case of "you reap what you sow." Maybe it is disgusting how he and his friends commit heinous crimes against their own, the same crimes they say the white man has done to them, but then take no

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Prom Memories

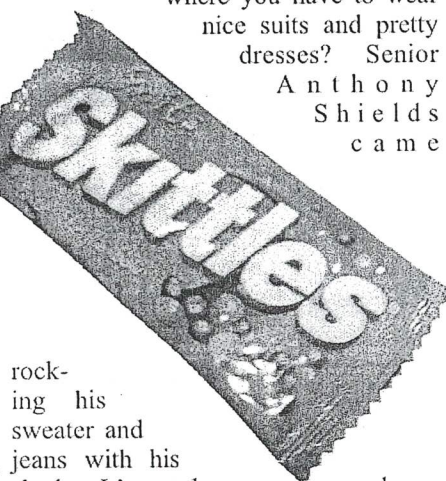
Mai You Yang

Staff Writer

On April 24th, Open School celebrated its Sweetest Sensation, Rainbow Temptation Prom at the Lao Family Center. It was a great success. Everybody, from students to staff, had a great time. The colors of the rainbow really made the room stand out and look bright even at nighttime. The tables were covered with colored tablecloths, there were balloons hanging on the walls, and the DJ's table was up on the stage. There were good snacks to munch on such as chips, cakes, and bowls of Skittles on the tables.

Who said prom is a night where you have to wear nice suits and pretty dresses? Senior

Anthony Shields came



rock- ing his sweater and jeans with his shades. It's not the dress- ing that matters it's all about the coming together and having fun. 10th grader Ruby Uribe's dress really stood out and matched the Skittles, each one of the layers on her dress was a different color.

We also celebrated teacher Luke Leba's birthday that night; we presented him with a cake and sang Happy Birthday to him. It was a night to remember. With all the hard work from the prom committees to the staff that helped out, everybody had a grand time. "I had a great time, it was fun," said senior Gao Lai Chang.

Battling with the budget

Jessie Biedler

Staff Writer

While reading this article it is important to remember that these are the most up to date facts, but nothing is set in stone. We are looking at more budget changes this summer.

Budget cuts are being made around the country, so it is no surprise that St. Paul Open School will be receiving a ten percent budget cut. That translates to \$245,000, and the possible loss of some important staff members.

So what will Open School look like next year? Our math department is currently 2.4 (meaning two full time teachers and one .4 teacher); next year we are looking at 2.0. This year we have benefited from 1.0 coaching and next year we will only have 0.5 coaching. Industrial Technology is currently 1.0, but will be changed to 0.5. Nursing is going from 0.6 to a 0.4. Social work will be decreased by 0.5 from a 1.0. The ELL TA that we have had for years is going from a 1.0 to a 0.5. The school's supply budget will also dramatically decrease.

There is, however, some good news on the horizon. We will finally have a 0.5 health department, and special Ed will be increased from 2.5 to 3.0.

What do these numbers this mean for our community? Allen Moe, our social worker, will only be in the building half as much as he has been in the past four years. Allen has been a stable and important part of the building, and created a lot of positive relationships with students and teachers. ELL teacher Tim Leone-Getten said, "Allen does beautiful work. He is really important to us." Special Ed teacher Kim Totushek agreed, "He made positive connections with students and provided support that has helped students be more successful in life. It will be hard to provide that level of support that with a half time position."

James Iliff, the industrial technology teacher will also see his position reduced to half time. Whether James will be at Open School next year remains up in the air. The classes you will see with this half time position would likely be a computer class and another technical class. No wood shop classes will be offered. What will be done with that space is has not yet been decided.

Robin Hood be proud

Mai You Yang

Staff Writer

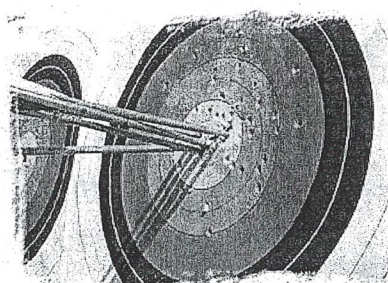
On March 28, 20 students from Open School woke up at five in the morning to compete with 720 other students in Becker, Minnesota for the State Archery Tournament, one of the biggest tournaments in Minnesota.

Going to big tournaments like this one isn't easy. They arrived there late, and their arrows weren't with them, so they had to

use different ones. Mark also couldn't find his camera. "We

were panicking but stayed pretty calm and had a good time," said Physical Education teacher and archery coach, Mark Scioli.

The way the scoring works is that there are three rounds, with five arrows, and 10 meters away. Another three rounds with, five ar-



rows, but instead of

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THE PURPLE

PRESS
STAFF

EDITOR IN CHIEF
DANIEL MAULEON

EDITOR
EMMETT RUFF

ADULT TO BLAME
LEO BICKELHAUPT

DANIEL MAULEON

How many years have you been at Open?

Since 3rd trimester of 7th grade.

What are your plans for next year?

Attending Hope College for a Creative Writing Major

What is your favorite T.V. show?

Futurama is my favorite animated comedy.

If you could meet anyone dead or alive who would it be?

Jesus, that would be kinda cool.

What will you miss most about Open?

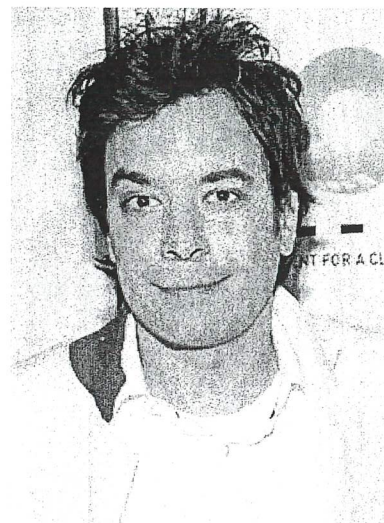
Making everlasting memories.

Any last words for the Open public?

You gotta keep one jump ahead of the breadline,
one swing ahead of the sword.

Who wants to be a millionaire?

I do.



Ultimate Update

John Knapp
Staff Handler

On June 6th and 7th the Open School Manatee will prove their worth to the rest of the state. The state tournament will take place in Maple Plain, as usual, where the Manatee will travel in an attempt to improve on last years 15th place finish. Right now the Manatee are still 15th in the state with a record of 3-2.

In the Manatee's last game they suffered a crushing defeat to St. Paul Central. The Manatee were unable to stop Overflow's deep game, and the Manatee defense did not adjust. With a score of 15-12 the Manatee will look to seek revenge on their city rivals in the state tournament. "The tournament is great. We get a chance to beat anyone.



Anything can happen in the tournament, upsets left and right," said Manatee player Andre Knox.

The Manatee are slated to play Minneapolis South next. Manatee and Squall have a history of close games. Earlier this year Squall barely pulled out a victory against Manatee in the St. Johns indoor tournament. "It was close, but we've improved a lot and I like our chances when we play them again," said co-captain Griffin Larson. With the date set for May 14th the game will surely be a close one.

The Manatee are in prime position to make this their most successful year at the tournament. With the strongest team they have ever had they feel

this is their year. "There is no reason we can't finish in the top ten, I'm not saying we'll win it all, but we can compete this year, no doubt," said team handler Damien Bullis. With optimism enveloping the Manatee, nothing seems to be holding the rains on their chances this year.

Next year the Manatee lose seven seniors to graduation. Right now the team has only 13 players. The daunting task of heavy recruitment now looms over the heads of the remaining six players. Rumors have started to spread that the Manatee are thinking of joining another schools team. The prospect of such a merger is disappointing to some. "I think every effort should be made to not do that, but as a last resort..." said teacher Tim Leone-Getten. The attitude throughout the school is a similar one. "I'd hate to see the team go," said senior Anthony Shields. With the uncertainties that come with next year, the Manatee try to stay focused on the present challenges that surround them.

Linens + Things

Taken a trip to the movies

Jamesia Jackson
Staff Writer

Imagine you have an 18-year-old daughter and she asked you if she could travel the country with her best friend. At first you're hesitant about it but then you let her go. You tell her to keep in touch and when she doesn't call then you get worried so you call her. When you call her you figure out that she and her friend were kidnapped.

This is what happened in the movie *Taken*. *Taken* was produced by: Didier Hoarau, Luc Besson and Pierre-Ange Le Pogam. It was directed by: Pierre morel. It was released on January, 30, 2009 to theaters and was just released on DVD. The main characters are: Bryan Mills (Liam Neeson), Kim (Maggie grace), Amanda (Katie Cassidy) and some Russians.

This movie is about a man named Bryan Mills, who was a retired agent that let his daughter Kim go to Paris with her friend Amanda. In Paris Kim and Amanda are kidnapped by a man named Peter (Nicolas Giraud) and his cohorts. Bryan Mills searches around Paris to find his daughter.

As Kim and Amanda get to their destination Peter asks them if they want to come to a party. About a minute later as soon as they get in Kim's dad calls her and sees if she got in safe. As Kim talks to her dad she is in the bathroom and she sees Amanda dancing to the music.

All of a sudden a mysterious man grabs Amanda by the mouth so she can't scream and carries her off. Kim sees what happens and tells her dad that they have taken Amanda. Her dad tells

her to get to the next room quickly and hide under the bed. As soon as she does that he tells her that they are going to take her and she should shout to him everything she sees about the people. Then all of a sudden they take her and he hears them talking in this weird kind language he has never heard before.



He records her voice and everything that is going on so that he can have a sense of what they look like. After they take her, Neeson hears breathing on the phone and asks them what they want and then says he has certain types of skills that will find them if they don't let his daughter go and he will kill who ever he has to, to find her. The man on the phone responds "good luck."

After that Neeson calls a voice expert to find out what language the kidnappers were speaking when they took Kim. Then he catches the next plane to Paris. He hires a man that can speak the language that the men spoke daughter so that he can have a sense of it. He goes through numerous things to find her like fighting men and investigating the scene where she was taken. Can he find her before she is killed?



This movie is filled with heart throbbing action! It will have you jumping out of your chair wanting to see some more! I really enjoyed this movie it made me want to have all of the moves and skills that Bryan Mills had. It really is a good movie. If you like action and a lot of blood (just playing) you would like this movie.

China Leads the pack

David Hoh
Staff Writer

If you haven't heard the news about China producing products imported to the US with poison lead in them, watch more news then. Because that's what China's doing. And now you know...So don't go saying this story makes no sense!

"In a move that will cost 300 Americans their jobs, the Federal government announced it will no longer buy American-made condoms made in Alabama. We're now going to buy cheaper condoms made in China. Does that make any sense? If Chinese condoms are so good, why are there over one billion Chinese people?" --Jay Leno

Do you really want condoms with LEAD in them?

What is China doing to us? Pet food, the whole Aquadots thing where kids ate plastic, ("But I say, if you're dumb enough to eat it, you deserve to die." - Homer Simpson) some kind of medicine I don't remember the name of, started with an "H", and so many others, all having toxic materials in it. Why would these sweatshop workers born into labor hate America? So much so to put poisonous stuff into our toys and stuff? In short; to save money.

See, here is their cost-cutting plan: "Duhh, we'll just replace this expensive, non-toxic, healthy to eat (even though they're plastic toys) glue in these Aquadots, and replace them with this toxic alternative, it's da' most brilliant business idea eva'! We'll save tens of dollars!" This is the smartest guy in the company.

Yes, this is, in fact, the truth. They replace substances with their toxic alternatives. It's cheaper. I mean, maybe not when you add the cost of all the medicines

Lethal Lead continued on 5



Lethal Lead from 4 used by poison control, the hospital and surgery bills (the surgery is mainly to get the plastic (50% plastic, 50% lead) toys out of your child's stomach). But the company doesn't have to buy that medical help for you. By the way, once they invent a surgery to remove the stupid from your kid's brain, you no longer will have to pay for toy removal.

There's another theory on why China would do this to us. (Although the "cost effective theory" is more of a truth than a "theory"). In the South Park episode "The China Problem" Eric Cartman is afraid of the Chinese possibly invading the US after seeing the Olympic opening event. Well, he's half right, they're not invading us, (Although if they wanted to there's no stopping 2 billion people), but they are poisoning us with toxic cheapness. It seems like they want to pick off our children, what with the Aquadots thing being the first incident big enough to really be on the primetime news and call attention to this thing. But that's not far enough, they need to damage/kill our kids at the source! So they are selling us condoms. Either it makes men sterile, or if it breaks and the kid is leaddily mutated, that's China's new target. Now there's 3 choices: Pro-life, Pro-choice, and Chinese condoms, those ones are like wild cards. You never know what you'll get, one side or another or a third or fifth result....Nobody knows. They should call it Child-Roulette.

And yet it seems that America still doesn't realize that China's trying to get rid of us. Their plan is quite brilliant and I have figured it out before the most "brilliant minds" in the country. I win. America has to figure it out and stop buying stuff from China and not suspect lead or other toxic toxins. Geez, shows how smart we are.

There you go, another problem solved. If your writing tool says "Made in China," most likely it's a lead pencil!

McCall from 1 responsibility for them. But for me it was entertaining. Why? I can never understand what he went through, growing up in an era of American history where blacks fought hard for the law to recognize their basic human rights, but McCall, in my opinion, did not take full responsibility for his actions. From the beginning to the end of Makes Me Wanna Holler, he would tell what he did, but the underlying reason he seemed to come back to is that it was the white man's fault.

Nathan McCall was born in 1955, and grew up during the civil rights era in Portsmouth, Virginia. He was the stepson of a navy-man, and showed great promise as a youth and a teenager. Cavalier Manor, the section of Portsmouth, Virginia where McCall lived, was a great neighborhood, but with the arrival of McCall's generation, the little neighborhood became a drug infested, violence filled place where your daughter would soon be a target of sexual mischief, all for the sake of camaraderie.

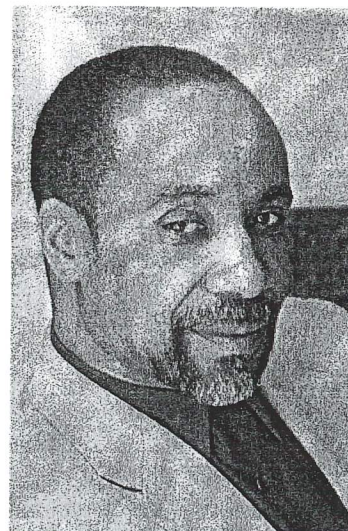
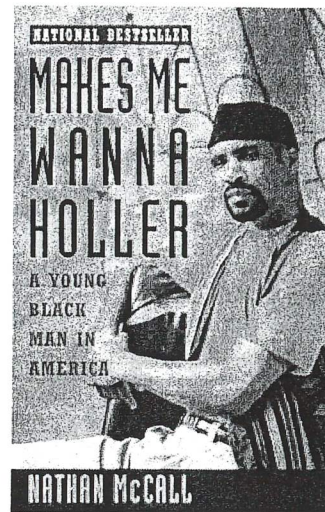
Makes Me Wanna Holler is an autobiography by Nathan McCall. It tracks his life from the time he arrives at Cavalier Manor, to the street life full of bad decisions, to a 3-year prison term to being rehabilitated into a functional additive of society, to a prominent reporter for the Washington Post. Aforementioned, McCall showed promise, as

he described that he was more academic than his brothers by bragging about his grades. But time and time again, he was reminded that he was black, and in his young mind, that meant he was inferior.

He was bussed to an all white school, but was transferred to a school in his own neighborhood because he was constantly picked on by the white students and always filled with fear. After he transferred to the school in his neighborhood, he had a hard time fitting in, but cited this redheaded hot head named Scobie D as the embodiment of "cool." He doesn't do well at school, barely graduating with a kid on the way at the age of 19, committing rapes, burglarizing, stick-ups, doing drugs, drinking, almost committing murder, and so forth.

He eventually goes to jail for armed robbery of a McDonald's and gets 12 years in jail. He serves 3 years, and to my surprise, he is not a revolving door example, and he is rehabilitated into a person I could live next door to. He graduates from Norfolk University with Honors, and becomes a journalist, later for the Washington Post.

This book is a good book in the sense that McCall had the guts to admit to the crimes he committed (rape especially). At first, he did not take responsibility for



Nathan continued on 6

Nathan from 1 the rapes he committed, and rationalized that it was a "macho thing, to show they were hard." He knew the difference between right and wrong because when they ran the first train – a slang term he and his friends used for gang rape – they struggled with whether or not to go through with it. Peer pressure or any other excuse can be put in a place I don't want to mention, because he had the choice to save the victim's life or join in, and he made a bad decision. In the end, it seemed that McCall did get what he gave with the birth of his daughter Maya, and at that point he did seem to take responsibility for his past misdeeds. All in all, he was still a borderline racist.

I, in no way, support a double standard when it comes to anything, especially race. I understand that the trauma he endured as a young black kid in a newly-integrated white school was life changing for him. Once he got into the real world, however, his experiences with people, especially whites, should have changed his perception more than it did. White people are often times faced with the double standard that if they say something, or write something, or do something to someone of another race, then they are automatically racists. McCall used the words "honkeys" and "crackers," but take a book like *Huckleberry Finn*, for example, where "nigger" appears and automatically the book is subjected to criticism, even when no harm is meant in the story telling. I felt like McCall was saying that blacks have the right to hate for whatever reason they choose, but with whites, they cannot. McCall admitted that he came to like a white person, Danny, but called him a cracker after Danny told him that he and his wife were going to Africa. Who's to say that going to Africa is impossible for McCall? He is just filled with so much hatred.

Maybe racism and hatred are due to people being afraid of the difference between others, but McCall showed that he was no different from a racist white guy, except for the fact that a non-white person spewing hatred is justified. He was born into a hate-filled society where every American had the full rights and benefits of the law. While the blacks were excluded from the law's privileges but given full doses of all of its punishments, McCall still made questionable decisions. Had he

Herstory from 1 History Topical Prize including \$120, a Creativity Award, and second place in the state competition. This means they'll be participating in the national level competition in Washington, DC in June. "We're going to nationals!" Uribe said. Out of

Archery from 2 10, 15 meters away. Each ring on the target counts as one point, if you hit the middle it is worth 10 points, with each successive ring out worth one point less. Rounds are scored by team, if there are any, and other rounds are scored by individual. The tournament was a "great success but a long day," Mark pointed out.

Archery for students started in 2002 in Kentucky. Today there are about 74 million students in 49 states and five countries who are involved in archery, world wide. In Minnesota, there are about 9,500 students in 350 schools that are participating in archery as a sport.

To get started and prepare for the tournament, students met twice a week to practice. They also talk about safety, and setting-up the equipment. They usually do a warm-up round shooting from 10 meters away from the target. "I was kind of nervous, but I just had to

the 30,000 students in the state who submit projects in Minnesota, only 50 go on to compete at the national level. This coupled with two other awards is a remarkable feat. "It's really exciting being the first Open School students to go to nationals." Sass said.

stay on task and do what I was supposed to do," said 7th grader Kou Yang.

This kind of activity is very enjoyable for everyone, "I enjoy spending time with my friends and shooting," said Kou Yang. Mark, later in the year, plans to have some of the older students organize a workshop and activities for the younger students in grades 4-6. He wants them to get a taste of what it is like and for them to gain an interest in it, "Boys and girls can do archery, there are no differences between them like in basketball where girls and boys play differently. Archery is a club for both boys and girls to enjoy," said Mark.

One thing to look out for is that the archery students will be wearing T-Shirts that will be designed by Kou Yang, one of the Archery Club members.

not done drugs, robbed, burglarized, raped, and so forth, he would not had gone down the road that ultimately left him with a twelve year sentence and left him picking up the pieces of his life.

This book is interesting to teens because we are now held accountable for the decisions we make, and we can't fathom how someone like him can make such poor choices. It may also be because we are reminded of second chances, that we have that chance to be rehabilitated and readmitted into society. The white man did not tell him to do those things. No matter how blacks were treated, every individual makes choices, and he made bad ones.

McCall perpetuates the same negative stereotypes that may confirm the white racist's views of him by committing the acts they associate with the black man, and that is why I recommend the book. For some reason or another, hard work, honesty, and a

place in the world are not enough to provide a good, happy-filled life, or rationale to people like him. Perhaps that's why he can't come out of his little isolated paranoia-filled box, because he is just what he detests so much. This is a good book and I recommend it because we're are faced with life and decisions; we were provided with a gift -- to make the distinction between bad and good decisions, and those decisions are the guiding light to a failed or successful life.

Volume 01,
Issue 1

Biasman Times

A paper for those who aren't chumps

March 13,
2009

Swine Flu Ravages World! Doomsday approaches!

The deadly virus H1N1 commonly known as swine flu continues its relentless attack on the gentle citizens of this world. So far 75 percent of the world's population has been wiped out and there is early reports of infections on the mars. China is in fact rebuilding their Great Wall in order to keep out the viruses.

The virus was most likely caused by that damned Purple Press Editor when he kissed a pig. He does gross stuff like that trust me. From there he infected other people.

Common symptoms are: growing wings, a need to build houses, leading revolts against farmers, stuttering, carrying apples in their mouth, tasting like bacon and death.

Thankfully a free cure has been found by our leading scientists here at the Biasman Times. Just mail in the coupon

and 10\$ for your free vaccine. Their are some mild side effects mostly minor cases of devil horns.

Cut Out
**Swine Flu Vaccine
Mail in w/10 Dollars
for a free vaccine.**

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Courtesy of
**Biasman Labs
Journalism Underworld
PO Box 666**

Boys are better the girls. Like at everything so shut up already.

No seriously, stop whining, no one wants to hear it. Studies have always proven that boys are better. That means it's true. We wouldn't publish anything that is not true.

Don't believe me?
Look at these facts.

1. They are taller.
2. Have bigger brains.
3. They invented stuff like sports and lightbulbs.
4. Girls like flowers, and flowers are gross.
5. Boys don't nag at you about dirty rooms.
6. Boys are better at videogames.
7. Boys don't smell.

**Boys Rule
&
Gurlz Drool**
Rules 8 and 9

8. Boys Rule!
9. Gurlz Drook
10. Amy Winehouse

See, facts they are always true and therefore I am right. Even though Amelia Earhart was a good pilot she wouldn't be able to fly without a plane and who created planes? Boys. Plus she like disappeared while flying once. Some pilot she was.

So you see you shouldn't need to worry, we are just better than you. There is nothing you can do about it.



Editorial:
Our paper is
better than
yours!

Congratulations! If you are reading this you surely aren't a chump. You are some one who recognizes a good paper when you see someone. Unlike the uncultured swine who reads that rascally Purple Press. Those fools would believe any old thing told to them. Here I can assure you that you will only get the through every last drop of it.

Now you might be curious as to why you have never seen such a glorious paper before. That is because I have recently *acquired* the printing press key from that devil spawn The Editor. That buffoon and his fairy of a sidekick are menaces to the world of honorable journalism. Don't forget to watch me kick that Lavender Lass' butt and give him an offer he can't refuse.

Biasman
Evildoer-in-Chief

New study finds connections
between glasses and geeks.

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Fraquetball is lame, get used
to it! By Jon Cnapp

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Jail isn't as bad as you think.

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The Strip Club

The Editor and Lavender Lad By Rmnett Ruff and Daniel Mauleon



Dullbert By Daniel Mauleon



Algernon (and friends)



Marmoduke By Emmett Ruff



¡Ay Marmoduke, estás borracho!