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The Purple Press

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2009

A Touch of the Tropics Open Students Go to Costa Rica

Open Abroad

Emmett Ruff
Staff Writer

Eight students and two teachers from Saint Paul Open School spent their spring break abroad in Costa Rica. The nine-day trip was with EF Tours, an agency providing educational international travel for teachers and students.

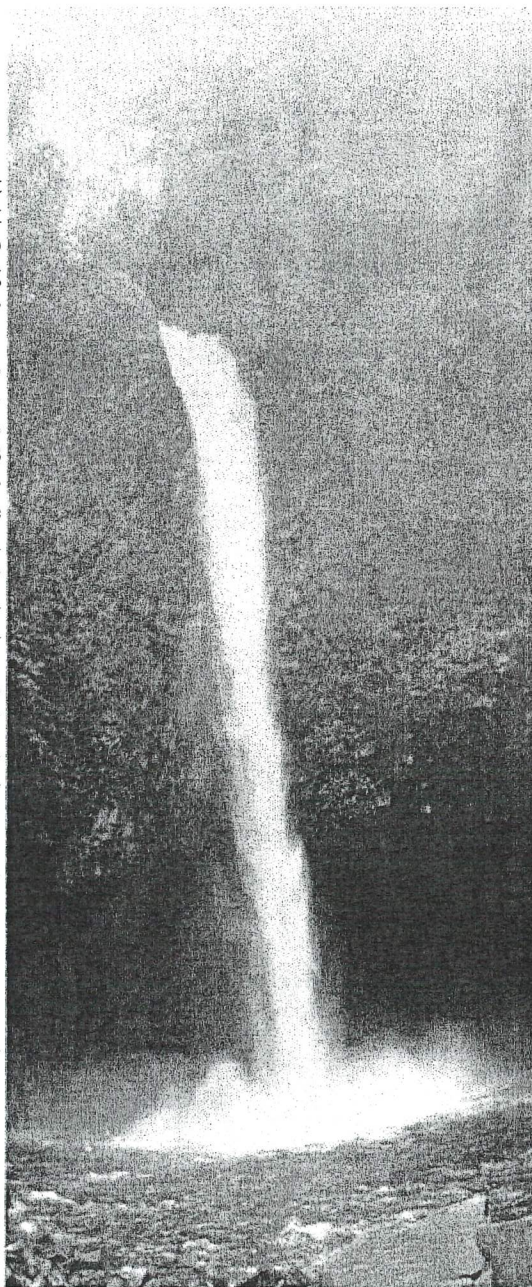
The travelers arrived in San José, the capital of Costa Rica, on March 27th. On the first day they met their tour guide, as well as the two other EF Tour groups from other schools whom were to accompany them for the rest of the trip. The groups traveled northwest to the Arenal region where they spent two days kayaking in a lake surrounded by mountains and visiting an active volcano, hot springs and a waterfall.

From there they moved south to Monteverde. On their first day there, they visited with students at a school in a local town. They spent the next day exploring a cloud forest and zip lined over its breathtaking canopy.

The groups traveled further south to the Central Pacific Coast. On the way, the students had the choice of either touring the Tárcoles River, which boasts one of the largest concentrations of crocodiles in Central America, or visiting Carara Reserve, a national park containing rare flora and fauna. Afterwards they arrived at a resort. They spent two days relaxing on its beaches and interacting with the wildlife found at the resort.

They spent their eighth day traveling back to San José. On the way they stopped at the town of Sarchí for lunch and took in the sights that included a giant colorfully designed oxcart. On April 4th, the groups parted ways and returned

home.



This waterfall only begins to capture the beauty of Costa Rica

Once In Lifetime Experience

Daniel Mauleón
Staff Traveler

From the plane, my first view is of small rows of houses with red roofs, it reminds me of Miami where we took off no longer than two hours before. The plane continues to descend as we approach the San Jose airport. Mountains are abundant and used for acres of farming. A peculiar chasm peaks my interest as it winds its way through the capital. I later learn that it was been carved by a river that winds all around San Jose before heading to the Pacific Coast. Finally, the plane touches down and I high five my seatmate, Emmett. Seven other students, two teachers and I are in the beautiful Central American country Costa Rica.

After clearing customs, grabbing luggage, and changing some of our dollars

Costa Rica continued on 5

THE EAR

**JOHN KNAPP REPORTS
ON SPORTS**

PAGE 2

* * *

**COMPANY
CORRUPTION**

PAGE 3

* * *

**WRITE FOR THE
PAPER! TALK TO LEO!**

KALIA VANG

How many years have you been at Open?

Many Years.

What are your plans for next year?

Go off to a far away college.

What is your favorite T.V. show?

I like transformers. Bumblebee is hot.

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

Dr. Seuss

What will you miss most about Open?

The staff and some students

Any last words for the Open public?

Enjoy High School, live life to the fullest.

How much wood could a woodchuck chuck if a wood chuck could chuck wood?

More than you!



Editorial:

WE WANT YOU!

**Ever wanted to write for
the paper?**

Well now you can!

Have an idea? Great!

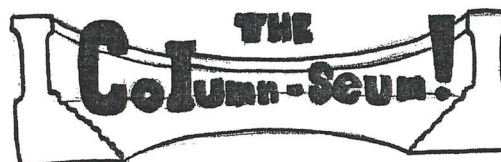
No idea? Even Better!

**There are always tons of stories
we need written!**

**Come talk to Leo Bickehaupt
or Daniel Mauleón!**

The Purple Press needs you!

*Daniel Mauleón
Editor-in-chief*



Manatee return for a third season

*John Knapp
Staff Handler*

The Open School Manatee are underway in this 2009 Ultimate season. Under the helm of new coach Jim Amos the Manatee are looking to continue their devastation of the Frisbee community. Former coach Josh Plocher was unable to reach contract agreements with Manatee owners. "We were headed in two different directions, his direction was closer to home, and ours was further from it. We loved him, and we'll miss him, he was the best coach a team could ask for. Don't get it mistaken though, we'll keep going on, and we'll be better than before. Jim Amos is experienced, and our guys

look forward to working with him," said the General Manager of the Manatee.

Other off season moves include the re-signing of Manatee star Peter Moua. Moua signed a three year extension with a no-trade clause for a record breaking one dollar. "It wasn't ever about the money," says Moua's agent Griffin Larson, "It's a nice incentive, but he (Moua) never wanted to leave, his heart lies with the Manatee." Along with Moua, the Manatee have made the acquisition of the veteran journeymen Johnny Lor. With new players now crowding the sidelines many wonder if the

Amos continued on 4

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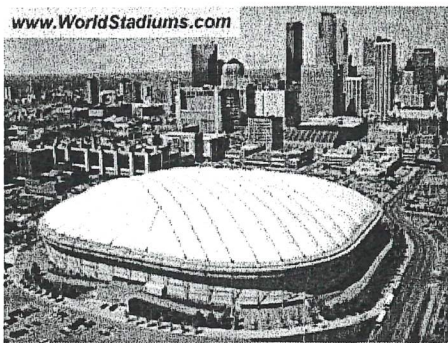
Linens + Things

Bid farewell to the Metrodome

John Knapp
Staff Writer

As the 2009 baseball season starts the Minnesota Twins will play their last season in the dome that they've played in for over 20 years. As of opening day 2010 the Twins new stadium will be Target Field. Target field has been under construction since 2007, and the players look forward to it. "I think it's good we are getting a new stadium. I think it's really going to help up as a team to have that excitement. I'm looking forward to it," said Twins pitcher Glen Perkins.

www.WorldStadiums.com



The Metrodome has seen its fair share of success over the years, from the 1987 and 1991 World Series' to the three straight divisional championships. The Twins, over the years, have enjoyed the home-field advantages to the dome. With a pure white roof, more often than not, the ball can be very hard to track for op-

posing players who are not accustom to playing there.

In 1987 the
Twins were

Homerun continued on 4

Chris Brown stops the music

Jamesia Jackson
Staff Writer

Musicians Chris Brown and Rihanna got into an altercation that drove Brown to beat Rihanna. TMZ.com says that he attacked her right before the Grammy's on Saturday of February 7, 2009.

According to New York Times Rihanna said that this isn't the first time that her boyfriend Brown has abused her. Their fight started over a text message. A source said the text message was supposedly from his manager. Another source said that it was from a girl that he had a previous relationship with.



starpulse.com

"He got a booty call," a source said. Rihanna saw it and she got upset. "They started to argue, then she got out of the car, he wanted her to get back in, so he grabbed her. She pulled away, that's when she told people he hit her." Rihanna also reportedly had bite marks on her hand, bruises on her head, and her lips were busted and swollen.

Rihanna ordered Brown to drive her home and faked a phone call to a friend, which she reportedly said, "He's dropping me off. Make sure the cops are there". This angered Brown even more and caused him to shout,

Rihanna continued on 4

Big Bad A.I.G.

David Hoh
Staff Writer

"Astronomers say they have discovered enormous black holes 5 billion light years from Earth that is sucking up everything in their path. They named the black holes 'AIG-1' and 'AIG-2.'" -- Jay Leno

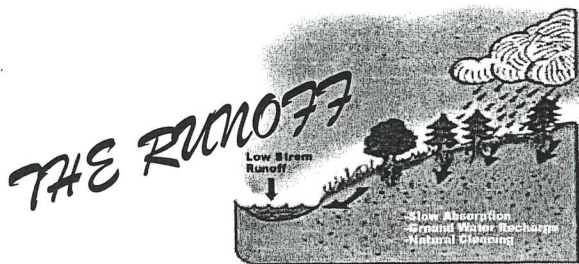
"The federal government agreed on Sunday to provide an additional \$30 billion to AIG. According to AIG, \$15 billion will be used to build the world's biggest toilet, down which the other \$15 billion will be flushed." --Seth Meyers

AIG, or American International Group, used to have ads that I saw sometimes. That's all that is important about them. Oh, and apparently 90% of the world is insured by AIG.

Remember when I said that Michelle Bachman was evil? Well, forget her, AIG is evil. More so than Disney, and, in some cases, more so than the Tobacco Company. AIG has probably been planning this for a while. Since they insure half the globe, if they were to crash, at least "3 billion" would be out of jobs. So, many smaller companies (maybe large ones too) would crumble, if what I said before was really true. AIG must remain. So that fateful day on September 15, 2008, when The Leeman Brothers fell and instead people watched Howard Stern's Richard and Sal make out behind the reporter, I guess AIG freaked out. Anyway, when everybody was in line outside Congress for bailouts, AIG waited too. And when it was time for AIG to get a bailout, Obama put a 50 million dollar spending cap on the bailouts, for some people, not all. Still, AIG somehow wound up with 60 Billion dollars! "This'll help them fix their problem." said Congress, "Hey tax payers, give me 60 Billion, and it'll be aight!" Well, we did that.

"In fact, you know what AIG stands for? Anybody know? Adventures In Greed." -- Jay Leno

Now, if I **AIG continued on 4**



Amos from 2 chemistry of the team will stay intact. "It won't be a problem, they're all good guys," said team veteran Damien Bullis.

While optimism fills the Manatee spirit, questions arise as to the losses of Isaac Ruff, and the retirement of Jaime Avila. The Manatee lost Ruff in a waiver move by Great River School. At the end of last season Ruff didn't make the cut for the tournament roster, and while being sent down, was claimed off waivers by Great River. "It was a front office mistake," said Manatee co-captain John Knapp. "We should have never sent him down to the minors; Isaac was always an integral part of the team, it was a bad choice. The team will suffer without him."

The main obstacle that is placed in front of the Manatee is the same debacle placed in front of the 1899 Cleveland Spiders, they have no place to play and will play all their games on the road. "Well, no one likes playing on the road, but it's playing that matters," said Manatee player Myles Alteri. Alteri and his teammates, while disappointed in the lack of a field hope, to finish better than

those Cleveland Spiders, who compiled the worst season in Major League Baseball history. The Manatee still look to have the support of the home crowd through their televised games on Thursday nights.

The Manatee are looking more promising than any year in the past, with the experience the younger players have gotten, they could make a run for the division. "The competition is good this year, everyone is improving not just us. We've got a solid team, but we'll need to work hard to capture the division title," said Manatee star Anthony Shields. Shields, as well as five other Manatee, have announced their retirement plans after this season. When asked why they were hanging up the cleats, the retiring players refused to comment. The Manatee will have to make several transactions in the upcoming season to replace the retiring veterans.~

(Editors Note: Manatee played their first game April 9th against Como Highschool. The game ended Como 15 and Manatee 10. The next game is tomorrow night.)

Homerun from 3 playing the St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series. The Twins had home-field advantage so they played the first and second game at home, and won both the games. The next three games were played in St. Louis. Losing three in a row, the Twins came home for the final games of the series. Behind incredible performances, and homer-hankey waving fans, the Twins rallied to win the next two games and the World Series with them.

Once again in 1991 the Twins reached the World Series. This time the Twins faced off against the Atlanta Braves. Once again the Twins had home-field advantage. The Twins got up in the series 2-0, winning the first two home games. The Braves struck back winning three in a row in their hometown. Facing elimination the Twins came back to the Metrodome for the final two games of the series. Winning game six in a breath taking game, the Twins geared up for game seven. The Twins were successful once again in the dome, winning all four home games. Over these two World Series the Twins were undefeated in the Metrodome.

As the Metrodome is seeing its final days of Twins baseball the Twins are counting down the best 100 Metrodome Moments. Near the top will undoubtedly be moments from the amazing games of those World Series.~

Rihanna from 3 "You are really f***ed up now. I'm going to kill you." Which is when he began beating her with his fists. Brown was accused of choking her until she passed out and ended up in the hospital. He was put in jail but was released shortly after paying a 50,000 dollar bail.

Rihanna and Chris Brown are currently back together according to the daily news, and are hiding out at Sean "Diddy" Combs' house in Miami. Their secret escape to Miami was really an escape to get married. So after Chris Brown attacked her she got married to him. Talk about crazy! "She told him that she couldn't live without him and wanted the dream of a husband and two kids before she turned 25" said NDTV. After everything happened the daily news said that Chris Brown was taking anger management classes. Brown says that he is really sorry and he's working on controlling his anger.

I think that Chris Brown is wrong for hitting Rihanna in the first place. It's never okay to beat a woman. It's never okay at all. It is right for him to suffer for his mistake like any other person would have to in this situation.

This is only her side that I see besides what he supposedly said. Even though he did hit her, on the other hand there might be a lot more to this story that we should know. Frankly I would like to know the other side of the story.

Thirdly, he couldn't have beaten her that bad if she went right back to him and if now they're supposed to be married. It's a good thing that he is taking anger management but it could happen again. I can see that she loves him and it's hard for her to let him go but we can't have him beating on her. The bottom line is if he beats her once he will do it again. That's my opinion and everyone thinks differently.~

AIG from 3 may digress, Bernie Madoff made away with money and made us mad off our ass.... Look, the guy stole 50 billion dollars from investors in a giant ponzi scheme, making it so whenever anybody tricks people into giving them tons of money, it'll be called "Pulling a Madoff". He's going to jail for 150 years. He is 70. "By the way, while you were laughing, AIG just handed out another \$100 million in bonuses." -- David Letterman

Now, back to AIG, we've given them nearly \$200,000,000,000. That's more zeros than will ever appear on your paycheck at any one time, unless you get a check that constantly reminds you that you got \$0 dollars for doing volunteer work. What did they do with that 200 billion? You'd expect them to get back on their feet, but instead they never even put on get-back-up shoes. They gave almost all of the 60 Billion dollars as BONUSES TO THEIR EXECUTIVES!!!!"You know

AIG continued on 5

AIG from 4

about this AIG? You folks know what I'm talking about? They've received federal bailout money now three times from the government. And now, after going broke, they're giving bonuses to executives, the same people who wrecked the company. They're getting bonuses for doing a horrible job. Well, hell, I ought to get one of those." --David Letterman. Oh, don't worry, they talked about saving money, they had their executives meet for a money saving meeting.....In a hotel....a Five Star hotel....In Las Vegas....And they flew in in private helicopters....to discuss saving money. Even observational comedians like Jerry Seinfeld don't need to point out the outrageously obvious irony in their ultimate stupidity!!

"In fact, President Obama's so upset that he changed his slogan from, 'Yes we can' to, 'oh no you don't!'" --Jay Leno

But, no! This isn't enough! It's not enough that AIG gives the money, that's supposed to go to clients, and it ends up in the hands of their greedy suited up evil executives! They had to ask for another bailout because the 60 billion we gave them has disappeared!!!!

We've given them \$170,000,000,000 in bailout money to save their company, but they just wasted it, by wasted I mean used! Three times they have received bailouts, and there's almost nothing we can do to get them legally, because they've done nothing that should be considered illegal, and so they can give their executives bonuses for failing and it's perfectly legal. Of course if they fail, so does, half the world. That grip they have on the globe and how if they collapse so doth the earth, it just seems like an ingenious evil plot for a high-stakes action movie. It seems like they've been planning this for years. It's quite brilliant. This puts them up there with Disney and Tobacco co. in the "Evil Corporations League" "Mexico's government just offered a \$2 million bounty on its top drug lords, which is different from what we do here in America. We give our biggest criminals bonuses." --Jimmy Fallon

They're trying to sell their building in New York to raise money....What? Don't they have money already? or did the executives get the rest of it in bonuses for the brilliant idea to sell their building to raise money?

In short, AIG insures companies losses. They should've insured congress.~

Costa Rica from 1

into colones(1 dollar is equal to roughly 500 colones) we finally leave the airport and meet our tour guide for the week, Gustavo. Hair tied back and wearing big sunglasses he welcomes us to Costa Rica and tells us of our wonderful trip coming up. We take a short bus ride from the airport to our hotel for the first night. The seven students: Seniors Griffin Larson, Myles Alteri, Pa Dong Xiong; tenth graders Julia Iwaszek, Karl Magnus Gustav Brose, Emmett Ruff; and ninth grader Zane Altov. I went to explore San Jose. The general area around the hotel was filled with a shopping district. It was filled with clothing stores and street peddlers. Going a bit farther the city peels out to a more residential area. Worn down houses neighboring trash filled lots. A small train whizzes by packed with passengers. After taking in the urban landscape we head back to the hotel for dinner and rest.

Early the next morning we are on the bus heading towards our next town Arenal. First however we stop off at the Nation Diversity Institute of Costa Rica (INBio). There we take a small tour through a preserve and get to see many animals and trees. After two hours we are back on the bus. Our next stop is one of the many Costa Rican volcanoes, Poas. In fact, while Costa Rica appears to have a lot of mountains they are all mostly volcanoes. After a short hike, the trees around us part to give us a wonderful view of the Poas volcano crater. From where we are standing we can see a small lagoon spewing sulphurous gas. It is truly a site to see, and one I would have never expected to see in my entire life. As we start heading down clouds gather towards the top of the volcano, obscuring the view. Gustavo mentions that some tourists have come and don't believe it's a volcano because the clouds have completely hidden it.

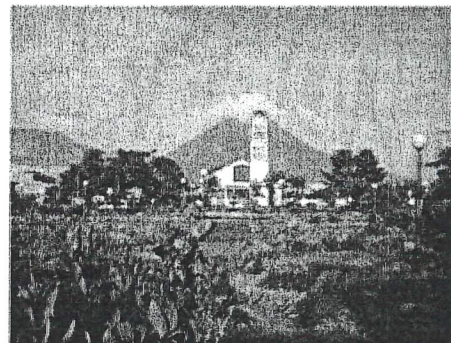
We all pile back onto the bus and prepare for a two-hour ride. Most of the group is sleeping or reading the book assigned by Leo over break. Half asleep we pull into our hotel, it is located in Arenal, a tourist town at the base of the Arenal volcano. The hotel is quaint, run completely by one family. We have free time for the rest of the day, so a few other students and myself hit up the town in search of towels. In comparison to San Jose, Arenal is tiny and quiet. With a little



This rare species of bear is found only in the INBio diversity park.



We had a great view of Poas.



The park and church in the center of Arenal. The volcano in the background...



...is Arenal, a very active volcano.

Continues on the next two pages

park in the center most stores focus around tourism. Towels in hand, which we purchased in a tiny market for 2,000 colones compared to towels being sold in a souvenir shop for 7,500 colones, we headed back to the hotel to catch the end of the Costa Rica and Mexico World Cup qualifiers. I cheered silently when Mexico won. After the game we ate dinner. All week our meals were served in a sort of buffet style and all meals had rice and black beans. The remainder of the night was spent playing Marco Polo in the pool.

Within two hours of waking up we were in kayaks. We spent the next few hours paddling, singing, swimming and pirating across the gorgeous man-made lake, Arenal. Amidst all the fun though we didn't realize trouble we were in. The volcano wasn't the only thing looming in the horizon, the almighty sun's rays were being cast upon us. With the lake reflecting extra rays on us, our skins secretly sizzled. Something we regretted later in the day, at the Hot Springs. Hot Springs are hot, ranging from 102 to 150 degrees. Of course when you are sunburned even 104 degrees feels like walking on the sun. After a brief foray down two waterslides most of the group found their way to the coldest hot spring. I however, strayed from the group and found myself walking down a stone path though a mock jungle all while the sun set behind Arenal volcano.

Winding mountain roads are not fun, they are less fun in a giant coach bus. I realized this the next day after we left Arenal. We were heading to Monte Verde along the continental divide. This meant a long trip up the mountains of Costa Rica. Looking out the window provided wonderful views. Through the window you couldn't see the ground we riding on, but instead the



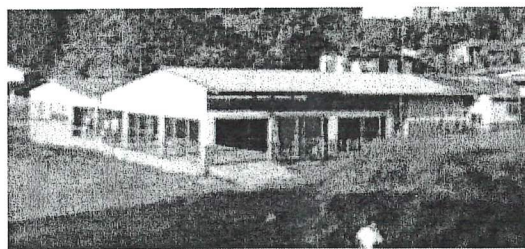
Myles takes a drink from a waterfall.



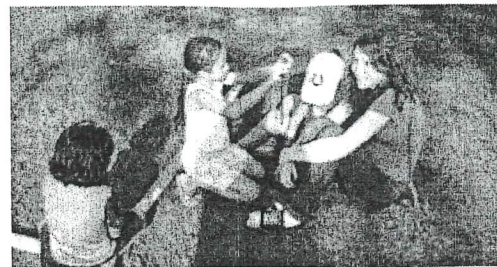
The cloud forest was filled with beautiful plants and animals.



The rare Quetzal was a sight to see.



The school we visited was small and worn down.



Julia makes friends with kids from the school.

edges of cliffs. The fears washed away as soon as we got out of the bus and were at our next hotel. We stayed long enough to eat and we were back on the bus heading towards a local school.

After a short, but wonderful cultural performance by the kids of the school everybody headed outside. In no time a futbol game was started, United States against Costa Rica. While our team doubled most of them in height they tripled us in numbers of players. It took no time for them to score multiple goals. The game finally ended with a score of U.S.A. 1 Costa Rica 15. Futbol however was not the only activity that was taking place. Across the beaten field many other games were being played. Tom Totushek was spinning kids around. Myles was teaching a kid how to play Hacky Sack. The kid, however, preferred to throw it like a baseball. Sadly we had to head back to the hotel. Names were exchanged as well as hugs and then we were back on the bus, waving goodbye.

Refreshed after a night of parkour, dancing, and hacky sack we headed out next morning to the cloud forest. We started by taking a hike through the cloud forest, taking pictures of trees, plants, and birds. Not too long into the forest though we witnessed a rare bird called the Quetzal. Gustavo told us that bird watchers come from all over to see this bird and few ever do. We had seen the forest from below the trees, but next we had something wilder planned. Ziplining over the cloud forest.

There is no better way to view the green expanses of Costa Rica than by zipline. It feels as if I was flying over the trees. There were 13 different ziplines, the last one measuring at half a mile. If there is anything I will take

away from that trip it will be that feeling of wind rushing by as I gazed over the beauty of Costa Rica.

When you are in a different country you begin to lose track of the date. The next morning that is exactly what happened. We were on our bus just leaving Monte Verde when Gustavo got a call. It seemed that the hotel we were staying at had run across some errors and we were being sent to a different hotel. This was fine, at first, until he explained this would mean no beach and no ocean. So as we moped are way through the bus ride, with a slight distraction from a Crocodile river tour, I was pleasantly surprised when we stopped outside a resort. The day was April First, and we had been tricked.

Ocean waves are salty. Everyone already knows this but I needed to say it again. We spent the next two days at Punta Leona, a resort along the Pacific coast. Most of the time was spent in the ocean and at night the group would talk philosophy or going swimming in smaller pools. Griffin and I built sandcastles but were constantly beaten by waves, which would creep up and destroy our work. Attempts were made to catch a Coati, a raccoon like animal, which had tried to take our food at dinner. Our trap was destroyed by the ocean. After two wonderful days of nearly endless sun we headed back on the bus one last time and made our way back to San Jose.

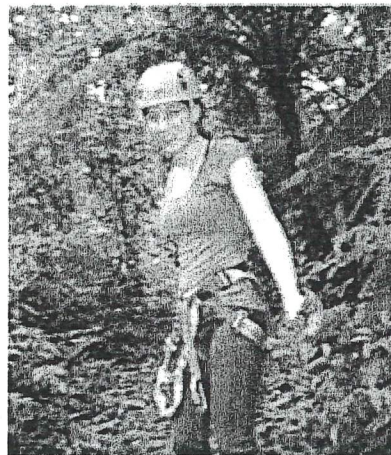
The final night in San Jose was for the most part uneventful. Our location in the city made walking around seem pointless so we were confined to our hotel. It was a mellow night as we all contemplated our return back to the states. Leaving Costa Rica the next morning I saw once again the rows of red houses that welcomed me to this friendly foreign country. The next time the Open runs an abroad trip, make sure you are there on the plane. Trust me, you won't regret going. ♪



Tom spins an excited kid around.



We got killed in a game of Fubol(Soccer) against the Costa Rican kids.

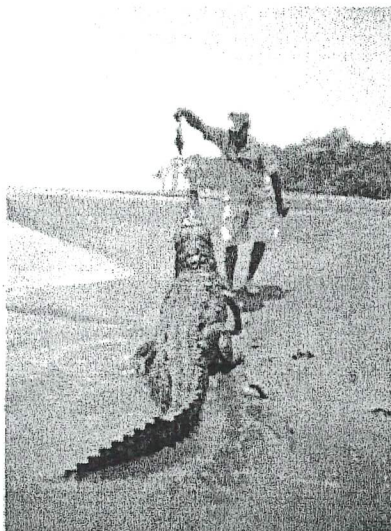


Left: Julia prepares to zipline through the Cloud forest.

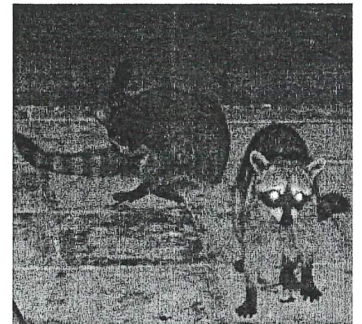


Right: Myles poses with his friend.

Lunchtime!



Thieving Coati stole my napkins!

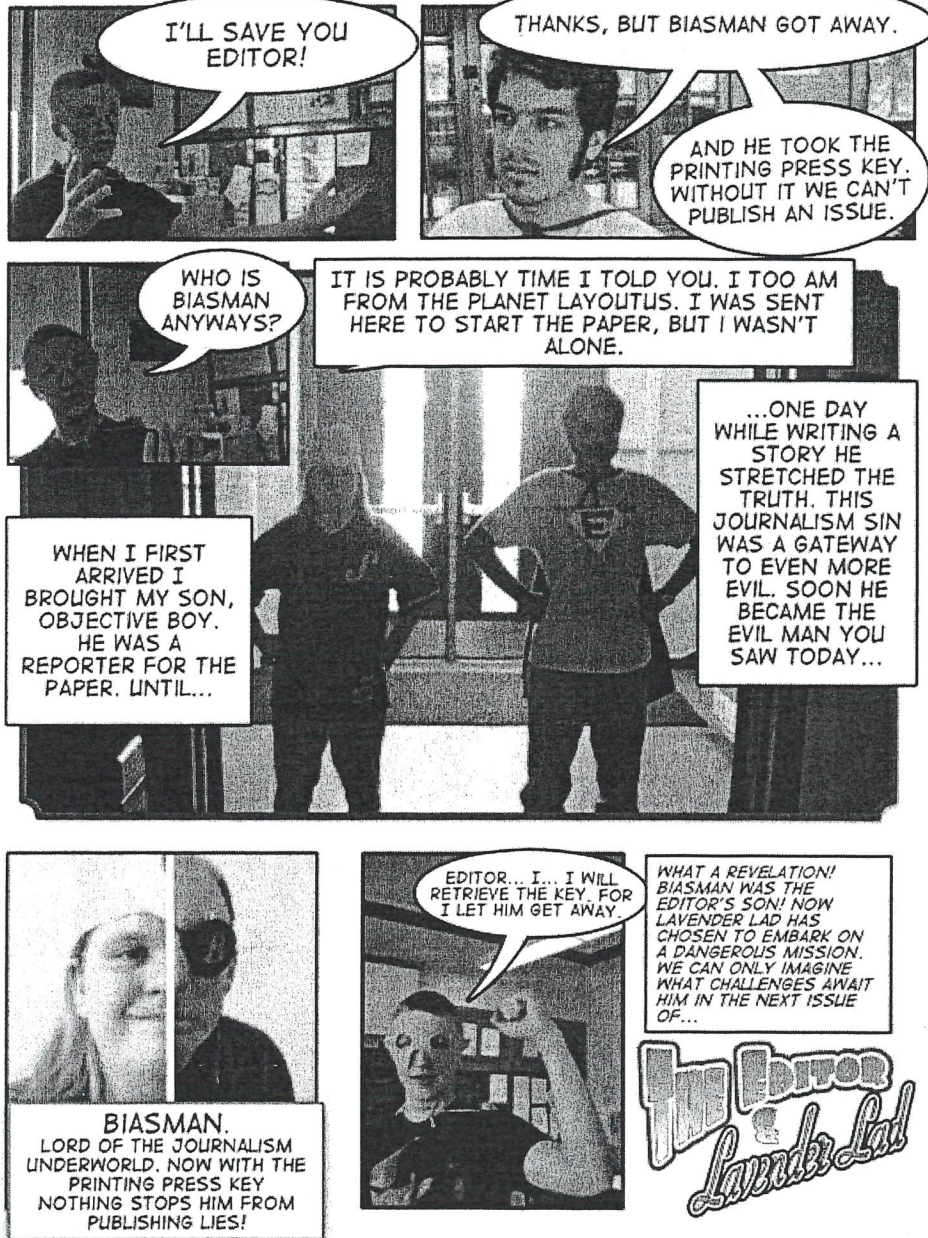


Its a trap!

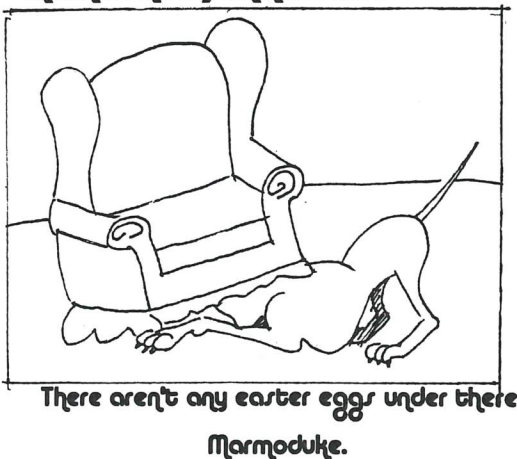


The Strip Club

By Emmett Ruff and Daniel Mauleon



Marmoduke by Emmett Ruff



Algernon By Sarah Plonski



Judge Driver

By Daniel Mauleon

