

Volume 13,
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The Purple Press

December 17,
2008

Proposition H8

Griffin Larson
Staff Writer

The election of Barack Obama has helped to refortify the American dream in the minds of many long forgotten Americans. It has helped console people that have long felt disconnected or angry due to the way they have been ignored. There is no doubt in my mind that this year's election has been a truly inspiring event, but as Barack Obama gave his final campaign speech on November 4th 2008, not all Americans felt a sudden rush of pride for the country they inhabit. Not every American held their hand to their heart in deep admiration of the American way and its democratic



Protest against Prop 8 in California

system. I speak not of the republican loyalists who turned out in droves to watch John McCain humbly give his concession speech, all the while waving their miniature American flags to the rhythm of his voice. I speak of a minority in this country that has not been given the rights to live the same lives as the majority. I speak of a minority in this country that is defined as such by their sexual orientation.

Proposition 8 was a ballot measure that altered Cali-

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Four Advisories dissolved

Emmett Ruff
Staff Writer

On Monday, December 8th six intervention groups were formed in an effort to improve students Math and Reading skills, which will help them pass the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment II. The six groups meet during advisory for four days a week. SLC Teachers Erik Peterson-Nafziger, Pam Larson, Luke Leba will hold Reading interventions while Tom Totushek, Jen Conkey, and Hans Ott instruct Math interventions.

Erik, Pam, Luke, and Tom no longer have advisories. "Though it would be nice if (these advisories) could remain intact, they will need to be dissolved to free up the teacher," Principal Todd Bar-

tholomay said in an email sent to secondary staff on December 2nd. The students who were in these advisories were given a preference form similar to the one given at the end of the year in order to select a new advisor. The largest of these new advisories was Luke's, with 23 students. "It was really important for me to have Luke as an advisor, but I understand the changes that needed to be made," said 10th grader Norah Harper who was previously in Luke's advisory.

Prior to the formation of the intervention groups, students in the formerly intact advisories had a

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Child Left Behind

Daniel Mauleon
Staff Writer

I have always had strong opinions about Open School's direction, especially in these last few years. In these last two years I have considered writing stories about: the incorporation of passes, Circle of Power and Respect, loss of third floor privileges, no hoods or sunglasses, mandatory locks on lockers, changes to long advisory, cameras in the halls, homework help, and many other changes. Yet as I began all those other stories, I would either hide too much of my opinion as it may seem brash, or I could never form a good argument and it would sound like me whining. The time has come though for me to speak my thoughts. I can't hide my opinion forever.

I first came to Open School midway through my 7th grade year, after some trouble I was having at Highland Jr. High. I was put into Luke's advisory.

I re- **Left Behind continued on 11**

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SENIOR PROFILE
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GRIFFIN LARSON

How many years have you been at Open?

Eight.

What are your plans for next year?

Undecided.

What is your favorite book movie or T.V. show?

Remember the Titans.

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

Forrest Whitaker.

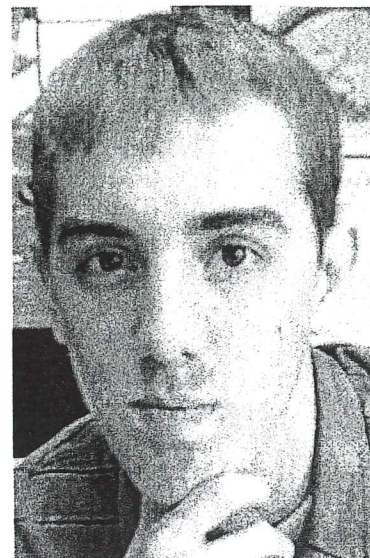
What will you miss most about Open?

The teachers and my friends.

Any last words for the Open public? One day everything that the light touches will be yours. But what about the shadowy place? That is beyond our borders and you shall never go there. That's what she said

Who put baby in a corner?

Static Electricity.



M 17 seeking F. With heavy religious background. Smoking ok.

Editorial

What is in a name?

About a month ago around the publication of the first issue SLC Math teacher Tom Totushek confronted me with a proposal. His proposal was to change the name of the Purple Press. I was shocked at first, the idea had never before come to mind. His reasoning was that the name had been chosen by a "popular" kid, and due to their status it was made the official title. He felt this wasn't very "Open".

I have heard many stories about the origin of the name the Purple Press. To my knowledge the newspaper staff of that time had gotten together to choose a name. When first suggested the name Purple Press was laughed at. After consideration though it was brought up again and chosen as the title.

Whether or not the name was chosen by Rachel McAdams, is there a point to changing the name. Do you as the readers want a new name? Could we run an election for a new name? I would like to here from you.

Daniel Mauleon
Editor In Chief

Homework Help

Haliea Shubert

Staff Writer

Everyone should know about the new policy for homework help. It's the most talked about policy at Open.

The way this works is that teacher figures out who has three or more missing assignments by nine o'clock every Sunday. There are plans to lower the number of assignments. Teachers e-mail this list to Principal Todd Bartholomay. Then Todd puts everyone's name and what they are missing on a list, which he then sends out to Assistant Principal Al Levin and all teachers. Everyone that is on this list goes to the Band/Spanish room to eat and do their homework during lunch.

Many students feel that this new policy is too strict. As 12th grader Anthony Shields said, "It's not cool. Our school was cool, and relaxed, but it has gotten uptight, I feel. But it's supposed to help our grades?" 10th grader Jeff Bies felt that it was "too strict," and that it should "give more leeway." Many student also feel that this is not going to help them get caught up in their classes.

Tenthth grader Khalya Dorry said, "I don't think it will. I think homework help should be for helping students who need a lot of help in their classes."

When students heard the new policy most were angry, disappointed, and just felt like the loss their privileges. Tenthth grader Meghan Cody said, "I was really angry I kinda wanted to yell at Todd for changing the school, but it wouldn't really change much." Eleventhth grader Joshua Nash said, "Man it sucks first Friday free time, now our recess what the heck!" Another issue is students said that they were going to have really bad grades and not be in homework help because they would have all their assignments in, so students were concerned about what are they going to do with the students that have low scores but have all their assignments?

The administration sees things differently. The policy, in their eyes, is designed to help and further our education, Todd said "The only pol-

Policy continued on 7

THE PURPLE

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EMMETT RUFF

ADULT TO BLAME
LEO BICKELHAUPT

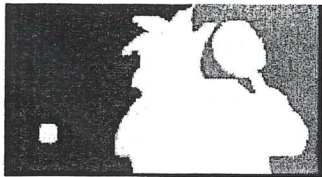
Following Perfection

By John Knapp

(The following is an excerpt for the Fraquetball memoirs of John Knapp. The first of a two part series.)

On November 7th, 2007 I started what would become my chance of escaping a shadow that had loomed over me since the day I first set foot inside of Open School. That November day was the season opener for fraquetball. While meaningless to almost all, that day embodied my only chance of leaving behind my own legacy, the legacy of a fraquetball commissioner. If I couldn't, like my brother before me, run this sport to perfection, I would forever be an earmark on the great bill that is Nathan Jesson.

Nathan Jesson was fraquetball. To this day very little talk of fraquetball happens without thought of him. Nathan changed the face of Open School forever on that January day in 2003. Without knowledge of what was to follow he took four students who were doing nothing but fooling around and transformed them into the wonderful organized sport that we cherish today, fraquetball.



Before I even started to play fraquetball the expectations for me were beyond reachable for someone of my age. The first thing I was told to do was to find a person that I was willing to play with. While this task may seem easy it proved to be one of the most important decisions I would make in my career. Everyone I talked to said that I should be sure to choose a friend. Nathan's advice was different. He told me to choose a person I would get along with, and seemed like they'd be capable on the court.

Hat Trick! continued on 6

Corruption: Four Squares of it

Jeffrey Bies

Staff Writer

Open School has been known for its Ultimate Frisbee and Fraquetball, but one sport that hasn't received that much recognition is four-square. This game has been a part of Open School for many years and has probably been the most played sport at Open out of any other. Unfortunately, it seems as though Open School four-square may be in turmoil.

For those of you who have, for some reason, never played four-square, here are the basics: Four-square is played on a square court equally divided into four smaller squares, hence the name four-square. Each square has a ranking; the ranking from least to greatest is Ace, Jack, Queen, and King. The goal of the game is to make it to the highest square. You do this by causing people in the higher-ranking squares to have an error. These errors include; spiking, hitting the ball before hits your square, holding or carrying the ball, hitting the ball more than once, hitting the ball without parts of your body other than your hands, failing to hit the ball into another person's square, or failing to hit the ball after it hits your square.

There have always been issues with four-square, but more recently the frequency of these issues have become a huge problem for many students and has even caused a few to quit playing four-square for the most part. The three main issues in four-square are budging in line, too many "redos" that aren't legitimate, teaming up, and the line itself interfering with the game.

Budging is an issue that has skyrocketed this year. In the time taken that a person, who doesn't budge, gets their turn to play, those budging have been known to get in to play 2, 3, or even 4 times. This has caused the time spent in the line for many to increase heavily; causing it to take up to 5 times longer. This unfortunately has a repeti-

Swing Set continued on 6

Beast brothers both bothered by bad bumetanide blunders

Anthony Shields

Staff Writer

The Minnesota Vikings defensive tackles Kevin and Pat Williams continue to practice and play games after the NFL's four game suspensions were restrained. The Williamses, the 300-pound beasts that quarterbacks fear, were taking StarCaps, a supplement for weight loss, with a banned substance in the ingredients that is not listed by the distributor, Balanced Health Products. Because they were taking the prohibited drug, they violated the Anti-Doping Policy. As a result, the NFL suspended them four games without pay. They were not allowed to be in practice, but since the Williamses' attorneys were filing a lawsuit, they did participate. The NFL Players Association filed lawsuits claiming the NFL knew the banned drug was in StarCaps and allowed them to still use it, but did not tell the Vikings. The judge issued a restraining order, temporarily blocking the four game suspensions. Thus Kevin and Pat can dominate.

The NFL admits that they did not send specific advisories regarding the presence of bumetanide, the banned diuretic, in StarCaps to the players. The NFL contends that they are not obligated to send specific warnings about specific products within an agreement with the union. The Vice-President of the NFL wrote that in 2006 they sent out notices to president, general managers and head trainers of all NFL teams and that Balanced Health Products had been added to the league's list of prohibited dietary supplement companies. The NFL's final state-ment, **BEASTIN continued on 8**

Linens + Things

Reading, Writing and Vorpall War Axes

Carson Bajenske
Staff Barbarian

Getting good grades and achieving greatness in school is hard, which is why I propose a new idea to educate today's youth. It consists of but 3 words: Dungeons and Dragons.

In this sort of learning environment you would learn all the necessities of life through a course of six hours each day, however, you wouldn't only learn certain mathematical and grammatical lessons, but also a numerous amount of equally important skills that can be used throughout the course of your entire

life. Like how to craft a bow and arrow (because anyone who can't is lame), and what kind of enchantment you should imbue your sword with to be able to more easily destroy a hobgoblin (which by the way is a trick question because a hobgoblin has no weaknesses, and you'd know this if you attended a school of this type) and of course, you would be taught how to properly wield a battle-axe against a rogue



Sadly, even in D&D school imaginary numbers still suck

trying to
steal your

Double Ds continued on 8

Warhammer fights back

Josh Nash
Staff Writer

When someone says Warhammer, most think awesome fun. For those of you who do not know what it is I am going to explain. Warhammer is unique. It has its own fantastic fantasy setting. For all my fellow Warhammer friends, you know what I am talking about.

The well-known Game Workshop published Warhammer in 1986. The company made the game as a minor thing not to make big bucks but the game sold so much more than they thought it would. During 1995, Warhammer out sold Dungeons and Dragons, or D&D, after the release of the popular edition Realm of Chaos. The game became well known by all RPG players. Warhammer

took its fall in production when the ideas ran out. Thankfully a new deal came along for Game Workshop. They hired some one who was a major fan and gave a bunch of ideas. The Realm Of Chaos was over. It was time for a new beginning. It was time for the doom stones campaign.

One of the better features in every version of Warhammer is the improved battle system. The characters levels advance by playing a series of battles. The selection of wars/battles is made to reflect on the late medieval/early renaissance setting of the old world. The combat in Warhammer is much more intense. The system uses a

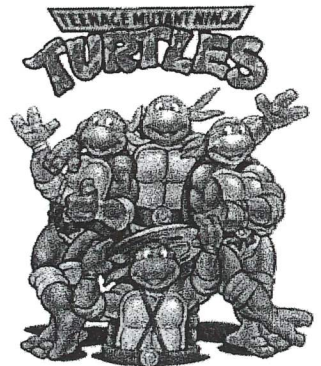
d6 continued on 10

Hey, remember that show?

Emmett Ruff
Staff Writer

Hey, remember that show where they were sharks? It was just like *Ninja Turtles* except they were sharks and not turtles. They still had arms and legs like in *Ninja Turtles* but I'm not sure if they had the three-finger thing. I think they also were all duded out and they lived in the city. Maybe even in the sewer, but that's like way too similar.

There was a hammerhead one and a great white one and probably like a tiger shark one or whatever. The great white was the leader I'm pretty sure. I also thought he was the coolest. I think the hammerhead was the badass. There was also a dumb one. Or maybe he was more of a Michelangelo type character. But I always thought Michelangelo was the dumb one in *Ninja Turtles*.



Remember? They were like ninja turtles, just sharks

The only episode I can remember was one where there were these kids in like a museum or a bank. The kid's might have been secondary characters. And I think they had a diamond or something of value. There were robbers in the museum or whatever and they wanted to steal the diamond from the kids. So then one of them tickles the kid's foot with a feather so he'll tell the where it is or give up vital information or something. Anyway, t h e

Hammerhead continued on 7

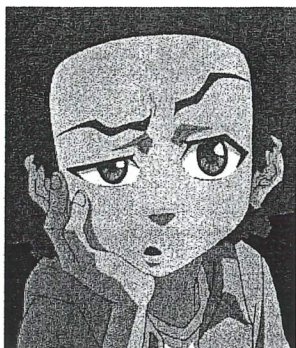
The Boondocks

Jarrell Harrison
Staff Writer

If you put together a wannabe thug, a cranky grandfather, an intellectual older brother you get one crazy African American family, and a TV show called *The Boondocks*. The *Boondocks* used to be a comic strip in the newspaper but then it was transformed into a TV series. The show comes on Sundays at 12:00am as part of the Adult Swim line up on Cartoon Network.

My favorite episode was when Riley started to play for a basketball team named The Mighty Ducks (later he changes the name to the Ball-A-Holics). At practice Riley showed his skills by crossing the whole team. He thought he was the best since he had great handles for some one his age. At the first game the Ball-A-Holics played they soon found out that

Riley has good handles but he couldn't even make a simple lay-up or jump shot. So after the Ball-A-Holics lost that game 44-0 Riley started to practice instead of just sitting around while the team practices.



Huey dumbfounded

At the second game Riley had to play against a girl who he thought sucked at basketball, but to his surprise she was better than him. So he started saying things that weren't true to her to get in her head. The girl started crying and she ran off the court. The other team had only one player left. The player looked like a nerd so Riley said he would

take it easy on him. Then the boy started making a lot of shots. At the end the other team won.

This **Slickback continued on 7**

Political Ads

David Hoh
Staff Writer

Finally after all that time, 232 years, America has an African-American president. A historical event that makes you wonder why teachers expect you to do projects and homework at the same time. But I'm here to complain about all the political ads that people think can make people vote for them. They're finally gone, for about a year, but I must explain them, otherwise the mafia is gonna break my thumbs.

"There are so many political ads, (PAs for short because I'm lazy)," Said Sam Hutchell's sexy alter ego David Hoh, "that one time when I was watching the news, two and a half commercial breaks straight were back to back PA's, no, really." And the attack ads can be so stupid sometimes. The ad Norm Coleman "approved" that attacked Al Franken with the stupid little girl who's talking about Al Franken being "Like, a million years old!" What a stupid girl. I hope she falls off a train. She also said some other stupid stuff about him but I was too mad to remember. Go look it up.

Another ad that was bad, was this anti-El Tinklenberg ad where this guy who's supposed to be working says just out of the blue; "Hmm, I think I'll search El Tinklenberg's record." Who the hell says that? When I'm at work and supposed to be working, I don't say "Hmm, I think I'll search (Insert Thing)'s Record." That's stupid. But he does it anyway and searches for his record on StarTribune.com, but the dumb-bucket doesn't realize that his computer (or the website) is messed up. Everything on the computer (except the StarTribune.com logo and an El picture with a giant caption and no story) are blurred out. And all he researches is these "News Stories" with the same big picture of Tinklenberg with a headline that says something like this:

HE LIED!! - Star Tribune 4/16/07

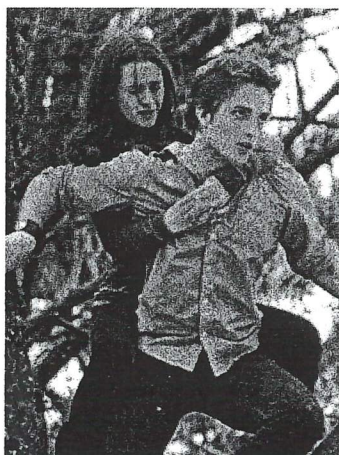
The guy believes this despite the fact that there is NO story or even evidence backing this up. Not only does he believe this

Ad continued on 10

Twilight, the new Harry Potter

June Xiong
Staff Writer

Vampires are a girl's most beloved fantasy of true love, but are they real? The answer is no, but the stories of the vicious creatures can make teenagers' hearts stutter like drums. Everyone falls in love with Edward, the hot gorgeous vampire.



Edward Cullen the ultimate fantasy of love and co-star Kristen Stewart.

I am talking about The Twilight Saga. It is the *New York Times* best seller by Stephenie Meyers. Her latest book, *Breaking Dawn*, and her beginning debut book, *Twilight*, and the sequels *Newmoon* and *Eclipse*, are very popular. Her first book, *Twilight*, was one of the most talked about novels in 2005. Meyers book were starting to get more popular, *Newmoon* took 30 weeks to get

into the hit list and *Eclipse* sold around 150,000 copies on the first day.

The Twilight Saga was such a big hit that when the last book, *Breaking dawn*, was out it shattered the first day sales records for the company. All the previous three books had sold around 8.5 million. Open School students love the books. "The text of the book makes me like this saga because Stephenie Meyers uses such strong and careful words that draws you into it," said eighth grader Jennifer Lor

"No book compares to these books," says ninth grader

Goths continued on 10



Hat Trick! from 3

His next piece of wisdom was the hardest to understand for me at the time. He said I should be able to get angry with this person without fear of social repercussions. He stressed that I should have the capability of basing his friendship on fraquetball, instead of having a friend that I then chose as my teammate. Last, he told me to select someone I wanted to play with until I graduated. While I followed this advice best I could, I still wound up with my friend Griffin Larson.

Nathan explained to me the pros and cons of having someone like Griffin as my partner. He said that Griffin would be a great player, but that a certain commitment to the game itself was lacking. I ignored this criticism and moved on to the next stage in the start of my fraquetball career.

Griffin and I started practicing during lunch and after school, or any other time we could find. Nathan was one of the best back defenders in the whole of the A.F.A. so of course all assumed I'd follow in his steps by playing back defense. When practicing with Griffin, however, we both agreed that I should play front and he'd play the more defensive position in back. With my shot being a little bit better and has back defense being far superior we thought that we would be most effective that way.

After all else had been figured out Griffin and I needed to choose a team name. Early on it had been suggested that we choose the name Midget Massacre. We both thought the name was funny, but after I talked to Nathan I decided that the name wasn't what I was looking for. While in class Griffin came up with the name Hat Trick! At once we both knew that Hat Trick! was the perfect name for us.

Before the season started I had talked with Nathan, I asked him how well he thought we would do in the season. His answer wasn't demeaning in nature, but he told me we would finish around nine and nine. While this wasn't the optimistic answer I was looking for, I accepted it as a reality. My thoughts were of the playoffs, of winning despite the odds, however, Nathan was smarter than

I was, I knew this, and if he said I wasn't going to do as well as I hoped, I probably wasn't. From then on I masked my optimism. I told people I was playing for fun, and that I didn't really think about anything beyond the next game. Griffin was still full of hope, I didn't have the heart to tell him we weren't going to do all that well.

We started the season playing what would turn out to be the worst team in the league, Que Chevere. Composed of Devlin Byrne and Chelsea Jane, I was pretty confident in our first game. To start the game we were serving. I served and, as was my intent, I got the ace. From that point until today, that has been my only serve in an official fraquetball game. We went on to win our first game with a great amount of ease.

It was then that I realized that maybe we could do better than anyone thought. My optimism restored I headed into the next game with full force. Winning again, I was then sure of our chances, we were going to be great, I was going to be great.

As I started becoming more and more sure of my talent, Nathan told me something it was probably past time for me to hear. He told me that he had started me off against two easier teams so that I could get a handle on the game before having to play any good teams. At that point I was too confident; I said to Nathan that it didn't matter because I was just as good as any of the other top tier players. Nathan laughed; he laughed and then informed me that our next game was against Liam Shramko and Andrew Hoagland of Fetal Attraction.

Swing Set from 3

tive cycle because people budge when they get tired of waiting in line to get in and the budging causes the line to take longer, which makes more people want to budge.

Another issue that has really infuriated many four-square players is the calling of illegitimate "redos." "Redos" are supposed to be called when somebody is not ready to play, when something outside of the players and the ball interfere, when the ball is served incorrectly, or when the

ball hits the line. There are some minor calls, such as serves that aren't positioned perfectly or the ball hitting someone who is in line, which may be valid or not, but some calls are absolutely absurd.

One of the biggest "redo" calls is "line." In some cases this call is completely legitimate because it is nearly impossible to tell if the ball hit on one side of the line or the other, but I've seen line calls that are a good foot away from any line, sometimes nearly two feet.

What is worst about these calls is that the majority of the time the round is actually redone and the person who made the bad call usually gets somebody else out.



The rest of these calls are in my opinion the worst because they have no logical reason for the call. One of these calls that doesn't happen too regularly is where the ball hits somebody who is outside of the square and the person that hits it calls it in. Most of the time they don't get away with it, but when they do it is just plain wrong.

The other main call is probably the most common, if not the second most common, which is where the player who gets out calls a "redo" for no reason at all. This drives me crazy. They'll get out and then they'll say, "Just give me one more chance" and then they'll usually get it! Or even worse, they'll say that they don't want to get out so they want a redo. The last one isn't common at all, I've only seen one or two people do it, but it still bothers the heck out of me.

The line itself has even become an issue because it gets in the way too frequently. What usually happens is that the people in line will slowly work there way into the squares so that the inside of the four-square border line is com-

Spike continued on 7

Spike from 6 pletely covered with feet. I have often told them to back away at least two feet from the squares, but within minutes it is back to where it started, causing interferences. This will interfere either by the ball hitting the members of the line or the player will hit a person in line.

Another issue with the line is when the people in line purposely interfere with the players. What usually happens is that the people in line will push the player, hit the ball, or talk to the player, causing the player to usually call, "redo."

The last issue in four-square is alliances made in between people in four-square, usually between friends. Larry Kaul, 10th grader, said "It's pretty stupid how they double team...triple team." Although this doesn't usually bother me, it can get on my nerves when they set me up, in

"Corruption is running wild in the squares. Even I have begun to lose interest..."

which I have no possible way of getting out. There have been many accusations about these alliances by many people I've talked too. Calder O'Doubhlian, 8th grader, said "Nowadays, four-square is a racist and sexist game...unfortunately." Sexism, I agree, has played a fairly large part in four-square recently. The girls that play, typically get many extra turns for no reason other than the fact that they were female and they wanted to get another turn, this is not nearly as bad with the male population, although it does occur.

I have tried to put a stop to many of these issues, but being only one person against most of the people who play four-square, it doesn't usually make much of a difference. Corruption is running wild in the squares. Even I have begun to lose interest in continuing the fight. Hopefully, one day four-square will return to the days were many of these issues were frowned upon by most players. But for now, many four-square players will follow the path of the stereotypical politician, bending the rules for personal gain. 

Hammerhead from 4 ninja turtle sharks come in and beat up the thieves and stuff and then save the day.

I bet there are episodes on VHS and maybe online. I remember there were even fruit snacks based on the sharks. They were actually my favorite fruit snacks of all time. Part of the reason was because the show was so awesome. What if they made a video game out of it? It would probably be for like Sega. I wonder if they made action figures. That would be so cool.



Party Wagon

Oh, I found out the name of the show I talked about last issue. It's called *Party Wagon*. It was a short movie on Cartoon Network in 2004. And the same people who made *Hey Arnold!* made it. It doesn't have Patrick Warburton in it but Sam from *Lord of The Rings* does a voice.



Policy from 2 icy behind Homework Help is to support and hold students accountable for work that is the essential to their educations." As for students in homework help not being able to attend recess, Al said, "I think recess is a privilege and one that most secondary students in other schools never have. While I think there is some good to having recess, this is a time during the day that we can gain in order to provide students with more time and support to successfully complete their work. I think, as a school, we need to do all we can to make sure students successfully pass their classes and are prepared for post secondary education (even if they choose a different path)" The administration is trying to say is that they want you to provide as much help with academics as possible once students get "caught up" they can have their "privilege back" of going outside.

Most teachers feel that this policy going to help their students get caught up. Social studies teacher Courtney Major said "I think the policy will address the population of kids who are capable of doing their work, but just don't. Once we get

Slickback from 5 episode told me you shouldn't take things for granted or you shouldn't judge people just because they look like a nerd.

The Boondocks gives a positive message in every episode. Like in one episode Riley and Huey were taking they're grandfather for granted, but when he left them in the house for two days and went on a vacation, they realized that they couldn't live in the house by themselves for even one day. When he came back they treated him very nicely. This episode told me you shouldn't take anything for granted. Even though the show is funny and animated this show gives young kids positive message about life struggles and advice about everyday things.

My favorite character is Huey. Huey is my favorite character because he is kind of like me, except he has kung fu skills. Huey is the most positive thinking out of Riley and the grandfather Robert. If you're bored and are still up at 12:00 a.m. and have cable, turn to Cartoon Network, and catch an episode of the Boondocks. 

these kids to get their work in, we can focus our energy on kids who are having more trouble." What if the teachers could run homework help? What would they want to do? Well the Courtney said, "3 missing assignments, have more targeted help-Social Studies Day, Math Day, etc., Structure time during the school day to give and space to do homework and get help, and provide incentives for kids who get extra help." Science teacher Megan said, "It would be nice to have a larger time for students to work, and teachers of each subject there to help." Courtney said, "Yes-but only because they are avoiding what they perceive as a punishment. If they want to have lunch with friends, they will do work."

So this new policy is cause for a lot of discussion. What is your perception on this whole new policy for homework help? Do you feel this is going to help students and going to help them stay on task with all these new rules and everything? 

Double Ds from 4

wallet.
If this most wonderful fantasy school did indeed exist, it would go something like this...

Carson the level 27 human barbarian entered his first hour alchemical studies class to find out that he would be creating a tangle-foot bag (a tangle-foot bag is a bag filled with a sticky substance that hardens when expose to air, often used to stop fleeing foes) within the hour. "I see," said Carson. "I have a feeling this would be most useful on my daily shift of being the hall monitor." Then, Carson being the intelligent and quick-learning person he is, made not one but two tangle-foot bags, and still had time to help a fellow classmate with theirs.

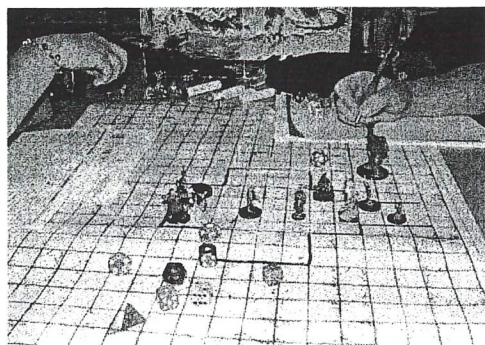
Just as Carson's helpless peer was nearly finished, the bell rang signaling for all students to go to their second hour classes, so Carson then plowed through the halls moving aside anybody who dared stand between him and his math class. When he had finally reached his destination, Tom, the level 18 troll fighter had placed in Carson's spot a

r a t h e r
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l i k e t h i s: "If
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s i l v e r

weapons was struck with a shocking burst long sword with a critical hit and the attacker rolled a 7 for his damage roll and a ten for the shocking damage, and had a +4 attack modifier, how many hit points does the orc have left?" But of course, Carson, being the intelligent individual that he is instantly threw up his arm and announced; "the answer is -6 hit points, which by the way suggests that the orc is now unconscious and must be tended to by a creature that has ranks in the heal skill before the orc reaches -10 hit points or he will die." afterwards there was a moment of silence as Tom strained himself to find the correct

answer and after about 30 seconds Tom said "Very good Carson! Because you are oh so smart I will let everybody go to lunch early!"

Feeling refreshed from his recent victory over a most formidable foe (mathematics), he ran all the way to lunch and was the first in the lunch line. After receiving his daily rations of mutton, he seated himself at his place in



the banquet hall, but to his surprise he was not the first to be at the t a b l e . Kevin, a level 16 gnomish bard had always in the past been the first one in the room although nobody knew how he got there so fast. Kevin then instinctively held up his lute and started playing a song that had been written about one of Carson's many past victories. After lunch, Carson sluggishly move up the stairs to begin his hall monitor duties

Of course, he had a massive stomach ache from eating a whole sheep

so he was more concentrated on that than the task at hand, so when a hoodlum showed up causing mischief, Carson took a swing with his double-headed vorpal war axe and a c c i d e n t a l l y severed off his head. Carson was quite amazed at his ability, but also a little worried about the consequences that come with slaying a student. Before he could decide whether or not to turn himself in or hide the body, the authorities were upon him wielding spears and Carson was cast down to the dungeon where he was tortured to death...

Okay, so maybe it wouldn't be the most humane thing to do, but you have to admit, it'd be pretty sweet.



BEASTIN from 3

"the burden is on players to know what's going into their bodies." Which totally makes sense, right?

The union feels the notices were not enough. Doctors who oversee the league's steroid policy withheld the information of the banned drug ingredient. Other officials of the NFL knew of StarCaps and felt no reason to give this information to players individually taking the supplement. The team asks why? Questioning the morals of the NFL ap-



pointed doctors.

This incident looks bad on the cover, but once you dig deep, you realize the Williams were not to blame. This was not the players fault; the staff should have known from notices put out in 2006, thence never putting Kevin and Pat on the pills.

For the NFL not to issue specific warnings puts the health of the players at risk and the Vikings hope of making the play-offs. They were not taking steroids. They were not attempting to gain a competitive edge, but just to lose weight, like people do in everyday life. The NFL should review policies and consider this event, because withholding information like that is not ethical. Oh and the NFL is corrupt.

Purple Pride! 

Rights from 1 fornia's state Constitution to make same-sex marriage illegal. The amendment was added to a newly created Section 7.5 in Article 1 of California's constitution. Prop 8 qualified for the November 4th ballot on June 2nd 2008, subsequent to the submission of over one million petition signatures by the initiative's supporters. The proposition passed by a 5 point margin on November 4th 2008 and went into effect the next day.

Supporters of Prop 8 called upon many different strategies in the fight to push their agenda. The most commonly exploited tactic was the argument that marriage was created to be a mutual bond between a man and a woman. Other tactics included (but were certainly not limited to):

- Insinuating that same-sex couples cannot support families in the same way "traditional" families can.
- Suggesting that same sex marriage would be taught in the classroom if it continued to be legal.
- And lastly, stating that it is an initiative to overturn a ruling made by "activists" in the judicial system that ignored the will of the people.

As with all large scale political movements, money was a very important factor for Prop 8's success. Drawing well over \$30 million in contributions, Proposition 8 became the most highly funded social policy movement in history. It was nearly the largest campaign (at a monetary level) of any in the U.S., surpassed only by those of the Presidential candidates. The measure drew huge amounts of financial support from various religious entities across America, most notably from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Now here's what I think: It's unconstitutional, unjust, and entirely misleading. First and foremost, why should such a thing ever be voted on? Should we have held a vote in the 1960's to determine whether or not blacks would be considered equal? Or how about the women in this country that were denied the right to vote, should that have been left up to the majority as well? Social, and many legal, issues cannot simply be solved by general

vote. Democracy is a magnificent thing, but it is not the end all fix for unfairness in the world. Our constitution is supposed to protect us from unfair treatment and discrimination. So how can something so obviously discriminatory be allowed into it? As it stands now the exact entry in the California State Constitution (Section 7.5 of Article 1) reads as follows:

"Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California."

Article 1 holds the Declaration of Rights in the California constitution. The irony of this is mind blowing. Does this now open the door for hundreds of clauses such as these? Can people in the south hold a vote to disallow non-whites from marrying? The first amendment of the United States constitution was designed to stop this sort of thing from happening. California, and really any state whose constitution includes a "traditional marriage" clause, has essentially said "Yeah, everyone can do what they'd like... except the gays".

Contrary to what many people think (it would seem), marriage does not have one universal definition. It is not the product of the Bible, the Qur'an, the Veda, or the Tao-te-ching. It has existed in cultures around the world for several millennia. The idea that a clause against gay marriage has existed since the beginning of time is implausible. For over three hundred years even the Romans had no legislation against such a thing. There is no mention in ancient (early) Roman histories of any legal issues connected to gay marriage. Marriage has no specific definition, as it varies in every culture.

And what of the connection between Church and State? CNN's exit polls showed that the largest demographic to support Proposition 8 was the weekly churchgoer, voting 84% of the time in support of the measure. There is of course nothing wrong with voting based upon your beliefs, but we are speaking about a specific law that hinders the lifestyle of a minority and is now in effect due primarily to a RELIGIOUS viewpoint. As stated earlier, marriage in the United States is not a concept created and defined by any specific religion. Or at least it wasn't. As far as the State is concerned marriage should be a purely legal issue. Religion and spirituality should not be connected to

the definition of marriage as the law sees it. By adding this clause, based upon a religious and/or cultural viewpoint, the constitution becomes biased. It becomes a document that can be transformed to the needs of the majority, therefore undermining the ingenious and surprisingly tolerant steps taken by our founding fathers in crafting the document.

Since law falls under the jurisdiction of the state to uphold, wouldn't it be fair to say that the church has interfered? By pushing an agenda that creates an (imaginary) universal definition of marriage, the church and state have effectively violated this country's constitution. Religious code is indirectly enacting a law that restricts the rights of a minority. There are religious entities that DO support gay marriage. There are churches that DO allow same-sex couples marriage inside their walls. So how can they be denied that right? If the majority of California churchgoers believe that same sex marriage should be between a man and a woman, then let them avoid its practice in the churches they attend. Don't let their intolerance put a blanket law over the rest of California. Gay people in California have now been forced either to accept that marriage is out of their reach, no matter how much they love their partner, or to move to a more tolerant place.

As it now stands Proposition 8 has caused a huge stirring across the U.S. Protests have ignited in protests, which is something that has rarely been an issue in the fight to give homosexuals the right to marry. And what's more? Lawyers in support of Prop 8 are now arguing that the new law should be retroactive, and that the 18,000+ same-sex marriages in California should not be recognized. Let's face it, this country isn't perfect. As much as I'd like to give our nation praise for being the most diverse and open-minded location on earth, I can't. I simply can't feel overwhelming grace for a place that has yet to accept all of its people. There will always be disagreement on issues such as these, but people must simply agree to disagree. Prohibition against the way of life of a minority by the will of the majority cannot be tolerated in a *free* Country.



Ad from 5 unreliable statement, but he reads it out loud like he's surprised; "He *lied*!?" and he announces it like all his co-workers are around him cheering him on in his repeating of a statement. Jerk, I hope he gets fired. Also it shows him typing in the search bar: "El Tinklenberg's record." and it shows a clip of his keyboard while he's typing it. He hits the "o" key twice. even though there is no "o" in El's name, and there's only one "o" in record. Idiot. Good thing Google has spell check.

But at least these people produce ads, Independent's never make ads, even the ones running for president, (With the exception of Tim Calhoun, but I forget what party he's in, if any.) and that's why they lose always. Before the recount on the 4th, The senate race was like 43% Franken, 43% Coleman, and like 14% the other guy. See! I don't even know his name anymore!! You'd think Independents do good because they have no party to fight against or be with, but they always fail. As far as I know.

Now, I, Sam Hutchell, admit to not doing as many ads as I could've, I only did about 3, but you'll see more in the epic battle of 2012, when I go head-to-head with Governor Nash and Senator Klutho. "I'd vote for Sam Hutchell, I can really relate to him," Said handsome bystander David Hoh. So, in 2012, will America be ready for a high-school dropout president? (Yes or No)

Another thing about advertising is why do the candidates think they can gain voters simply by their ads? For already-voters/solid, confirmed supporters, it's just an update on things the opponent did, like elect a moron VP who lies like her daughter saying she was just "fat". But for the undecided voters, they need to know all about the actions of a candidate, and can not usually believe the (sometimes false, otherwise seemingly false) accusations made by the attack ads. So that's not gonna win them over. Well then, what will? People standing on the corner in the cold with a sign that says "ORENSTIEN" That has NO info whatsoever about this guy? And these signs can't change people's minds, it just shows how much the sign holder likes this candidate to skip work to hold a sign out to people, only to occasionally be told from a car "WOO!! ORESTIEN!!", or "BOO!! ORESTIEN SUCKS!!!" so really, it doesn't do ANYTHING and standing outside a building or near the road with a sign all day is pointless and stupid. And

since they're standing in the cold, we should set them on fire. The End. Putting a sign in your yard or window is okay however, because that requires little effort and is helpful for people who are gonna be like "You should vote for this guy instead." or "Let's leave this place, that person's a Bachman supporter." Which brings up the fact that Michelle Bachman is evil. Just look at her fake botox smile. Evil. She also slips freudianly and is evil. And she's evil.

So in summary, political ad's and sign-holding supporters are not going to win over undecideds and especially not those voting for the other guy. So just quit wasting your time. The only person who could persuade an undecided voter (besides maybe the candidates of course) would be an undecided expert, or an unbiased expert. All the time you spend standing around in the cold, you could (should) be at your job working and getting paid \$X per hour. As for political ads, it's a tradition, but don't make them bad. McDonalds used to be an american tradition, in the 50's-80's, with good food, but I guess ever since they started hiring high-school dropouts like me, Sam Hutchell, in the 90's, the quality dipped and now the only ones working there are dropouts so nobody successful wants to work there now so there's no sign of improvement. And it's no longer America's, it's everyone's like Japan's, everyone's except starving African people who'll eat anything. Hey! Let's deport all our McDonalds there! They'll be too full to starve, and we can FINALLY eat healthy for once. Do you know how much sugar is in they're healthy salad? Good God. 

d6 from 5 large-scale miniature combat field for more deadly and better combat than many other RPGs, for intense D&D. In D&D there is a thing called critical hits. They are attacks that directly hit your character and kill him a lot quicker. Warhammer made game play much better. There are no more critical hits. There are killing blows and poisoning attacks, which are less likely to happen so you have a better, more exciting game. In this RPG you use a d6 scatter die and an artillery die. Yes, you may say they are used for the same thing, but using these dice makes game play simpler than having to role a d6, d20, and other dice.

My friend and fellow Fraquetball partner Carson Bajenske says, "D&D is a lot cheaper and well, Warhammer is just plain stupid and should not be in the same category as D&D. It's lame boring

Goths from 5 Eva Morriseau.

Meyers' book was such a phenomenon that it is now a movie, released on November 21. Isabella Swan, who is played by Kristen Stewart (18), was just an ordinarily seventeen-year-old girl who meets this gorgeous vampire Edward Cullen who's been seventeen for a while, played by Robert Pattinson (22).

Seventy five thousand fans signed a petition against Robert Pattinson for playing the role of Edward Cullen because they didn't think he was cute enough. Until they saw him "open shirted" and saw his "beautiful glistening eyes". He was once a non-important celebrity, and now he is famous because of *Twilight* the movie.

For playing the role Edward he has become the most enchanted fantasy of love for fans.

The movie made around seventy million dollars in the first two days of its opening. The reaction of students was varied. "I thought the movie was ok, only because while watching the movie I also compared it to the book. Of course the movie wasn't as good as the book I just thought it was okay," said senior Gao Vang. "The movie was not as great as I thought it to be, I think the only (people) who like this movie have not read the books. This movie destroys the book. It was very cheesy," says senior Pa Dong Xiong. 

and it's America I have the right to say whatever the heck I want." Why does he and so many people dislike Warhammer. Possibly because Warhammer is better and the D&D players know it, but just don't want to admit it. Professional bully and trash talker Gregory Marshal Phillips said, "The only part of D&D that is fun is making your characters. Other than that I think it's none sense. Warhammer is fun. It may cost more but it's a price many are willing to pay."

Staff writer Carson Bajenske thinks he can write more false articles on how bad Warhammer is, well so can I. This is just the start of a WAR he cannot win, no matter how many dice he roles!



Shift from 1 question/answer session with Open administrators, Todd, Al Levin, Hans, and Stacey Kadrmaz.

Students who qualify for these intervention groups no longer meet with their advisors on Mondays through Thursdays. There are two seventh grade reading groups and two seventh grade math groups along with a tenth grade reading group and an eleventh grade math group. There are between ten and fifteen students in each group. 

Left Behind from 1 member hearing my brother Emmanuel talk about his advisor, Bridget Martin, how she was there with him every step of the way. Advisory seemed to be one of the strongest foundations of Open School. Luke was absent the day I was transferred but I did get to see a picture of him. From my memory he looked much like he does today. I remember feeling a little intimidated. I would be spending time with him every morning for the rest of the year and possibly beyond that. If we didn't get along it would be a bad way to end an already bad year.

It worked out though. Luke was an amazing advisor. On a basic level he always kept the advisory informed so we were never out of the loop. Yet he went beyond that. He would constantly check up on me and all the other students, reminding them that they had his full support and he held true to that. At the end of advisory he would recite his mantra "Handle your business". Throughout the rest of my 7th grade year I continued to have problems relating to lack of focus, self-loathing, and an overall disregard to school. Many of the times when I was troubled I would leave class to go talk to Luke. With a lot of his guidance and help I was able to turn myself around. By ninth grade I was a completely different person, focused on getting the best education I could out of Open School. It was comforting to know that when things just didn't work out, Luke would always be there to hear my problem no matter the size, and was ready to discuss a plan on how to move on.

There is more to an advisory than just the advisor though, there are the kids. Being in Luke's since 7th grade I watched many students come and go and formed relationships with a ton of different friends. I can remember decorating

doors for the door contests, participating in discussions, hanging out at the mall on long advisory and playing dodgeball against other advisories.

Advisory was there every morning, like a cup of coffee to get you ready for the day. While the changes started to appear to the school, advisory stood strong. First were the passes, something I protested from the beginning. I moved on though, relying on teacher's trust that I was handling my business. We lost the third floor during lunch, something I wasn't happy about but didn't make a fuss over. Then we lost the options of hoods and sunglasses. I was never really sure about the reason of that; I remember hearing it having to do with not recognizing students. I know though that when I am cold I am going to use my hood. When long advisory was changed I missed the tradition. When they installed cameras I didn't care much, it was mandated by the district and I don't do anything stupid, so I don't need to worry about getting caught. Then there is homework help, which in essence I agree with. Teachers assign you homework to do, not to pick and choose. The time there is set aside for those kids who are actually struggling.

So then the shock came on the December 1st. In order to give more time to students in need Tom, Pam, Erik, and Luke's advisory would be dissolving. Leaving the kids one week to find a new advisory, a new home in the morning. So as I sat in the circle with my eyes shut tight listening to Luke read the Monday morning announcements tears came to my eyes. I hadn't realized how much I had appreciated Luke's advisory over the last six years until the moment it was being taken away from me. I hadn't realized how much I loved the people, the overall environment, and Luke. So what did I do to deserve this.

Losing my advisory isn't the real problem though. I know Luke will still be there to talk when I need him. I also know that whatever I choose to do from here on out he will support it. The problem is something bigger. Before I go any further I want to say that I believe whole-heartedly, that every child deserves the best education they can get. I cannot stress this enough. So now our school has taken another step to help assist those kids who are

struggling in reading and math. It is the help they need, but at what cost are we delivering it to them.

Because Open School does not meet the standards for AYP or No Child Left behind we are at risk. Now on our fourth year of AYP we are months away from having the entire school restructured. Now the school administration is focused on helping those who are struggling by incorporating a handful of help programs. Yet to those of us who have thrived so well in the Self-Directed style, this means that we are seemingly shoved in the corner. We feel betrayed. For some, the changes have driven them to change schools. What is the point in recruiting self-directed students only to push them away?

We are so caught up in saving this school that we are losing the people who it was built for. In the end what will it leave us with if all these efforts pay off and we are in the clear? Will we be Open School? Or will we blend in with the rest of the schools in the district? Will the students have the trust and necessities needed to be Self-Directed? Or will we be herded along?

I am not blaming this on the students who are having trouble with school. Is it even in *their* best interest to hastily try out help programs when there are schools designed for this very reason? Would it not be more beneficial for them to get help from people experienced in that area instead of shifting gears on an alternative school such as this? Remember I truly believe everyone has the right

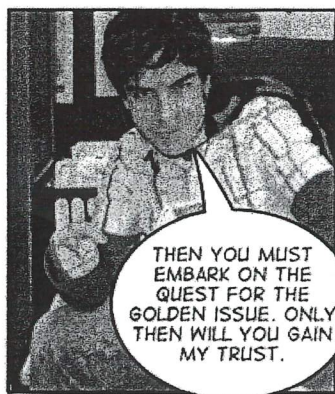
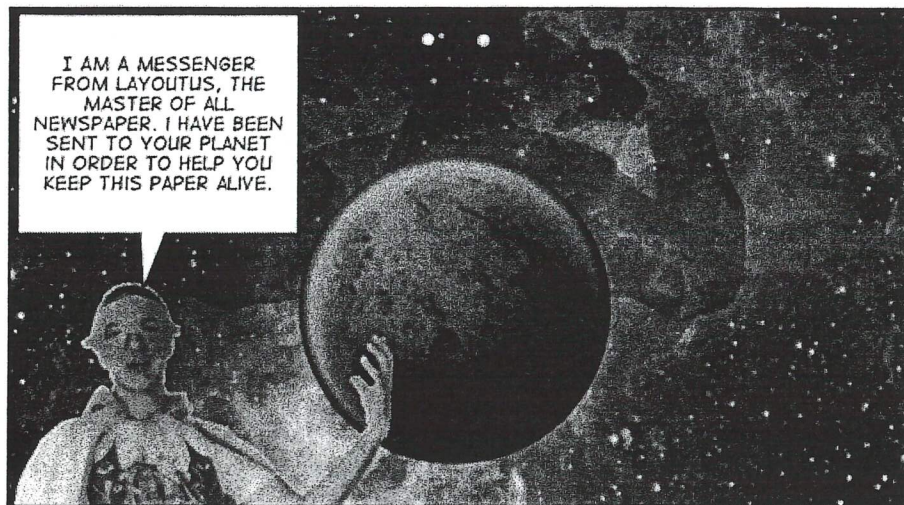
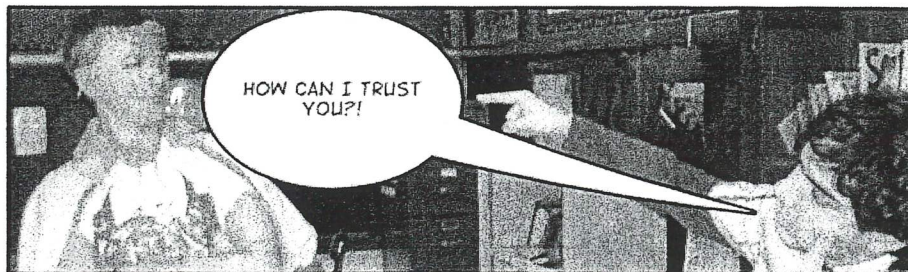
"What is the point of recruiting self-directed students only to push them away?"

to the best possible education, but that doesn't simply mean help those in need. No, you also have to help those who kept test scores up high enough to have the chance. Is it fair to address the needs of

one group of students while ignoring the needs of another? We would like to see some sort of promise so that once this school is clear by AYP and NCLB standards, Open School will be a school we want to go to again. 

The Strip Club

The Editor and Lavender Lad By Emmett Ruff and Daniel Mauleon



WILL THE LAVENDER LAD FIND THE GOLDEN ISSUE AND GAIN THE EDITOR'S TRUST? HOW MUCH MORE EDITING CAN THE EDITOR HANDLE? FIND OUT IN THE NEXT EXHILARATING ISSUE OF...

The Editor
Lavender Lad

Fraquetball Top 8 as ranked by Commissioner John Knapp

8. **Kubwa Bwana's**. 2-1. Now in a prime position to make a playoff run, Erik and James look to improve on their previous years.

7. **D-United**. 3-2. D-United looked terrible in their game against Autoballs. They then lost to bitter rivals Hat Trick!

6. **Space Monkey's**. 2-2. Vicente and Myles were predicted to stay at the number two spot almost all season in these rankings. With an early loss to the Midways all eyes are drawn to them. They also lost in a crushing defeat to Funky Funky. This team seems to be running out of steam. Vicente and Myles are on the up-swing after beating the regulators 7-4.

5. **6-1-Tizzou**. 2-1. 6-1-Tizzou were killed by the Regulators. With only one goal to show for a game that was predicted to end on their favor Tom and Luke walked away ashamed from the game. With nothing but come back on their minds, 6-1-Tizzou will prove a difficult game for their next opponents, Asian Noodles.

4. **The Regulators**. 4-2. With a crushing defeat against Funky Funky Andre and Anthony fired back with determination against 6-1-Tizzou. Coming away with a win at the score of 7-1.

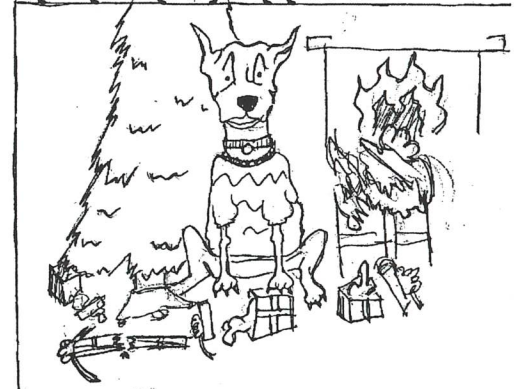
They lost in a quick and decisive game to Space Monkey's, but this team is still playoff bound.

3. **Funky Funky**. 4-1. With an amazing victory over the Regulators Johnny and Peter went into the 6-1-Tizzou game with high hopes, hopes that were dashed by Tom's dominating front D. Funky Funky will have to prove themselves in their next game against The Midway's who have played spoiler once already this season.

2. **Los Geezers**. 3-1. Some say they'll break their streak and finally win a playoff series again, but those people are mocked within the fraquetball community. With their third win the Geezers are now the have the most wins for any single team in fraquetball history.

1. **Hat Trick!**. 6-0. Look, this team will be here until they have a reason not to be. If this team losses one game all season long all experts will refer to this season as a disappointment for them.

Marmoduke By Emmett Ruff



I guess he wanted to open his gifts early.

Hagor the Terrible By Daniel Mauleon

