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Obama in da house

Griffin Larson
Staff Writer

On November 4th Illinois Senator Barack Obama bested Arizona Senator John McCain for the right to become the 44th President of the United States of America. With a final electoral vote result of Obama's 364 to McCain's 174* this election was certainly not as close as some had speculated. Obama not only took all of the states won by BOTH Kerry and Gore in their respective election years, but he also managed to capture states that had remained pretty solid red over the past few decades, including the coastal state of North Carolina.

Obama's campaign managed to inspire a multitude of diverse and young indi-

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President elect Barack Obama greeting the crowd in Chicago after his victory November 4th

A change in seasons

Jeffrey Bies
Staff Writer

One of Open School's biggest traditions is the fall extravaganza, which seems to have gone through a few changes this year. The fall extravaganza has been apart of Open School for more 22 years, which is almost as old as Open School itself. In the past the fall extravaganza has occurred on a Friday on or near October 31 in order to celebrate "fall."

The day would start out with the door contest. The door contest. The door judges would walk around to see all of the decorated doors and would later decide the winner.

Next the whole school would gather down in the cafeteria for an assembly which featured a costume contest. The assembly would begin with the ELC classes showing off their costumes, then those SLC students who decided to wear a costume would show theirs off, and finally we would see the Open School Staff show off their costumes. Each person who came with a costume received candy when they left the stage. Finally, at the end of the assembly, the

For the continuation of this story and Jeffrey's Opinion turn to page 8

Hey! Listen

Daniel Mauleon
Staff Writer

This is my new advice column except instead of you asking question I am just going to skip the middle man and tell you the things you need to know but didn't know that you needed to know them. Say that ten times fast.

I am now a senior and have watched as the school has started to take a new path, one that many of us don't approve of. That aside I have also now seen some of the mistakes that I have taken on my way to graduate. Some of the things I have learned in the last few weeks I wish I would have known in ninth grade. So for my first column of advice I am going to talk about school work. The simple message. Just get do it.

Open Schoolers are known for a few things but one of the most prominent is: We love procrastination as much as fat kids love cake. We wait until the last minute to do work. This is made possible because while teachers check in often on projects and work deadlines for work usually are start far enough away that is doesn't sound

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Editorial

Changes we can believe in

Last year as many of you know was a rough year for the Purple Press. As a new editor I spent a lot of time learning the ins and outs of running a newspaper, and almost no time making improvements to it. This year though the paper is back and we are bringing changes.

First I have recruited tenth grader and star dancer Emmett Ruff to be assistant editor. Under my wing he is learning, quite quickly, the different jobs of the paper. Later in the year he will be editing and laying out entire issues by himself. I am very happy to add him to the team. He will be able to guide the paper for two years after I am gone.

Now for some changes: our review section now is called Linens + things. Here you can find reviews on new television shows, movies and games along with a nostalgic new column by Emmett Ruff. We will also be adding a few new sections to the paper over the next few months. Our first new section, is something I am personally proud of, The Strip Club. It is filled with both funny and action filled comics. Keep an eye out for new sections coming up.

We are also recruiting a team of fantastic writers outside of those found in the Newspaper class. Junior John Knapp and 10th graders Jeffrey Bies and Carson Bajenske are among the first to help out. John Knapp writes sports stories, Jeffrey Bies touches upon school issues, Raphael is cool but rude, and Carson is making nerds cool again.

There are a lot of things in store for this year and I hope you keep checking back for some great new changes, intriguing new stories, and one hell of a comic section. Seriously check it out.

Daniel Mauleon
Editor in Chief

Teachers balance hectic lives

Hailea Shubert
Staff Writer

Have you ever wondered how Stephanie, Courtney, Tom, or Erik juggle being parents and being teachers every day? Over ten teachers at Open have newborns, teenagers, and even children in college. Some are even pregnant. But even though they have children of their own, they come to work and teach children of all ages.

So how do they keep up with correcting papers, getting ready in the morning, getting activities ready for class, getting their children ready for

daycare/school, and whatever else they need?

Erik Pertson-Nafziger SLC English teacher said, "My wife and I have split the responsibility- she gets them to school; I get them after school."

Like Erik said, they usually have "help" or use "teamwork" with their husbands/wives to help them get everything in the morning.

When they are ready to leave they usually bring their children



Teachers Tom and Kim with daughter Kathryn

to daycare/school.

Multitask continued on 6

Palin makes a name

Griffin Larson
Staff Writer

This year's presidential election has sparked a great deal of criticism in response to the strategies used by both campaigns. From misleading attack ads, to ridiculous guilt by association tactics, it seems pretty fair to say that the press has been given a plethora of material to dish out in this election year. But possibly nothing has found its way into more papers and 6 o'clock news casts than the stories circulating around John McCain's pick for vice president: Alaskan Governor Sarah Palin.

Sarah Palin began her life in Sandpoint, Idaho in 1964. Shortly after her birth the Heath (Palin's maiden name) family moved to Alaska, where she would stay until graduating from

high school. She attended four separate colleges before completing her bachelors degree in communications-journalism at the University of Idaho. Soon after, she began her career as a sports reporter in Anchorage, Alaska.



Palin achieved her first political milestone in 1992, winning a spot on the Wasilla city council. Her interest in the area was sparked by a feeling that sales tax money in the small town was being improperly spent. In 1996 she made her run for mayor, and was

elected. In her first term as mayor she certainly "shook things up", causing much of the city to be unsure of her leadership capability, but by the end of the term it

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**THE PURPLE
PRESS
STAFF**

**EDITOR IN CHIEF
DANIEL MAULEON**

**EDITOR
EMMETT RUFF**

**ADULT TO BLAME
LEO BICKELHAUPT**

Costa Rica

June Xiong
Staff Writer

Costa Rica, a country in Central America, is a place full of beauty. There are many rain forests, jungles, and miles and miles of beaches. It's a place for traveling and a pretty exotic place for sightseeing.

Twelve Open School students are going there over this year's spring break. Tom Totushek, SLC math teacher, and Luke Leba, SLC reading teacher, are the chaperones.



Of all the places on earth to travel, Luke and Tom chose Costa Rica. Open School trips in recent years were all to European countries. "We wanted students to experience a new place (non euro) and be able to use Spanish – the second language we speak at Open," said Luke. "We'll get the tour guide when we arrive and they'll be speaking English and Spanish."

The group will do a different activity almost every day, and see much of Costa Rica. These activities include kayaking on mountain lake Arenal and

visiting La Fortuna waterfall. They are also going to go visit a cloud forest. "You're in the jungle above the tree tops and walking on bridges," said Luke. They are also visiting a hot springs that is heated by a volcano with many colors.

The trip will cost each student about two thousand dollars. "We have various fundraisers, but students are most responsible for the leg work," said Luke.

"I'll definitely have to pay for part of the trip out of my own pocket," said senior Griffin Larson. Among the many fundraising activities, students are selling yard signs, window decals and pie from Bakers Square. They also have students doing private fundraising. The trip needs to have at least 12 students, and will last ten days.

Students have already started looking forward to the trip and seeing a new country. "I want to see the rain forest, hot springs, and the beach. I'm really looking forward to the food. Which will be better than Germany's," said senior Myles Alteri.

"I'm excited to learn about a non-western culture first hand," said 10th grader Karl Brose. 🐼

New play ROARS onto stage tonight

Daniel Mauleon
Staff Duchess

Tonight a new play comes to Open Theatre for the first of three showings. The play, *The Mouse That Roared* was written by Christopher Sergel and is based on the book written by Leonard Wibberley of the same name. The play is directed by Drama Teacher Pam Larson.

With a failing economy, the microscopic nation of Grand Fenwick (pronounced Fen-ick) finds itself at death's door. With few options to consider, the Duchess Gloriana of Grand Fenwick (Daniel Mauleon) decides to declare war on the United States and eventually invade. Gloriana hopes that after the United States wins they will

give incredible amounts of aid. However they find themselves in over their head when the leader of Grand Fenwick's troops, Tully Bascom (Julia Iwaszek) a forest ranger, wins.

The play has been in production since the second week of school. The cast is filled with former actors of Open theater and a handful of new talents, including over 15 ELC actors. The play will be presented at 7:00 p.m. on the 19th, 20th and 21st. \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and seniors. 🐼

That's what she said

The opinions of Open School

Last week our school participated for the second time in Kids Against Hunger. Here is what you had to say about it.

"It's alright, kind of messy."
- 9th grader Jarrell Harrison

"I think it's helpful to those who are poor."
- 8th grader Panou Xiong

"I like helping the hungry children"
- Kindergartner Kory Johnson

"AMAZING! We packed a very high number of meals in just the first hour!"
- 10th grader Jasmine Lovdal

"It feels good to know that when they are eating, I was a part of that."
- Senior Ceyairra Sparkman

"It's going great. I'm having fun"
- 7th grader Kou Yang

"The most amazing experience of my life"
- Senior Damien Bullis

For pictures of the event turn to the back page.

DAMIEN BULLIS

How many years have you been at Open? I used to come here for 1st and 2nd grade, then came back in sixth and stayed.

What are your plans for next year? Hopefully go to UW river falls.

What is your favorite book movie or T.V. show? *Heroes* is definitely my favorite show.

If you could meet anyone dead or alive who would it be? The kid who made the 3D solar cell.

What will you miss most about Open? You mean Jefferson? Absolutely nothing.

Any last words for the Open public? Have the courage to make a difference,

If you could fight anyone who would it be? Neo from the Matrix



Fraquetball

John Knapp
Staff Writer

Fraquetball is underway in the 2008-2009 season. With last season ending with such excitement, this year is sure to hold many surprises. With a record setting 26 teams signed up to play, fans are sure to see a great deal of spectacular fraquetball.

This year the league has been divided in two. The varsity league is home to the teams with more experience, whereas, the junior varsity league is full with new teams looking to prove themselves in the realm of fraquetball. The junior varsity league has ten teams that are separated into two divisions, each with five teams. The varsity league has 16 teams broken into two conferences with two divisions in each conference. Each division has four teams. All teams are hoping to get a chance to compete in the elusive playoffs.

The fraquetball playoffs have been restructured this year to fit changes that were made in the league. In the JV league the top two teams from each division will be playing for a chance to win it all. In the varsity league the two division leaders, plus two wild cards, from each conference will make the playoffs. The biggest change to the sys-

tem is that the JV champion will get a chance to play in the varsity league playoffs. The JV champion will play the weakest varsity playoff team in one game for the spot in the varsity league playoffs.

Fraquetball has over 20 new players this year, all of them are excited for the opportunity to play the sport. "I've always wanted to play, and this year I finally got the chance," said 10th grader Johnny Lor. Johnny plays on the team Funky Funky with 10th grader Peter Moua. Their team is expected to make some noise in their first year. "I think we'll make the playoffs," said Johnny. Peter has had a little more experience, last year he played on the team T.P. Peter was just as excited about his team's chances, saying that he thought they'd make the playoffs, and might even be able to take home the championship. With all the ambition of these new players fraquetball is sure to deliver heart break or triumph to many of the new teams.

With both of the teams that made the championship last year, Hat Trick! and Space Monkey's, still in the league many have predicted a rematch.

"I see things unfolding in a very similar fashion as they did last year, with another Hat Trick! victory. Hat Trick! is the heavy favorite, and they're the heavy favorite for a reason, you'll see them holding the trophy at the end of the season," said A.F.A Commissioner John Knapp. Vegas has got Hat Trick!'s odds at 2 to 1, compared to Space Monkey's 11 to 1. "It's just hard to say anything besides what everyone else is saying, Hat Trick! won last year, and they'll probably win again," said A.F.A committee member Gryphon Larson. All eyes are on Hat Trick! If they lose a single game this year experts will still say it was a disappointing season. 🐉

Want to learn more about Fraquetball? Check out these websites.

fraquet.tripod.net

fraquetball.forumotion.net

Linens + Things

Hey, remember that show?

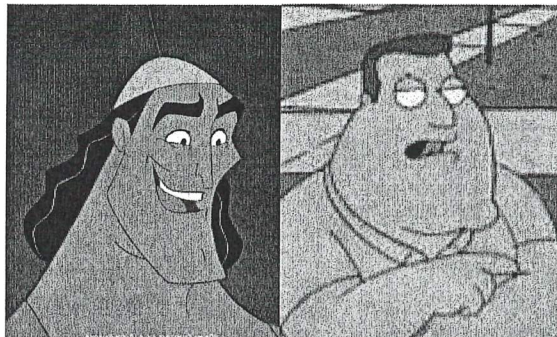
Emmett Ruff
Staff Writer

Welcome to the first installment of my column entitled Hey Remember That Show? Each issue I'll discuss a totally sweet cartoon that was on TV a few years ago in hopes of jogging your memories and also pulling some nostalgic heartstrings. I can't remember the names of any of these shows. Maybe if anyone remembers the show, they'll also remember the name. So let's get on with it.

Hey, remember that show where they were like, settlers going out west. They were all in horse-drawn carriages like in *Oregon Trail*. There was a kid in it and he was the main character I think. He was with his family. That kid got taught how to shoot pistols by a girl. The girl was really good at shooting; she might have been Annie Oakley or some other famous western person. So then, they find out the kid shoots left handed, because they're like, "Wow, you suck. Let's try left handed."

And they're maybe looking for some water or something. And then they find it and they all play in it. And there's this big leader guy and he's kinda dumb I think. And he does the squirting trick with his

hands (where you interlock your fingers and half submerge your hands and then press your palms together and water sort of squirts out). He might have been voiced by Patrick Warburton, who does Joe from *Family Guy* and also Kronk in



Could Patrick Warburton have provided a voice? I don't remember

Warhammer, the knaves D&D

Carson Bajenske
Staff Barbarian

I will start with telling you what Warhammer is, because as I was conversing among my fellow classmates for the past few days, only a few of them have ever heard of it. Warhammer is a game where you use small plastic soldiers (each on called a unit, units symbolize an actual creature) and each of them has their own unique set of skills, strength, and weaknesses. A Warhammer player will then use these pieces to act out a battle.

However, the battles are not quite realistic. It costs a lot of money to play, and most of all, D&D came out with something similar 12 years earlier than Warhammer was created. So in comparison to Dungeons and Dragons (D&D), it's junk.



A D&D figurine costs less on average than a Warhammer one

While Warhammer lacks the proper qualities to be realistic, I am proud to say D&D is, by far, one of the most, and perhaps the most, realistic game on the market right now. D&D also uses small plastic figurines representing creatures, but the movement is not as lame. In Warhammer, you use six sided dice to move creatures from space to space on the battle grid. Yeah, I know what your thinking right now, why would you use the

same dice to move infantry soldiers forced to travel by foot, and horse riding cavalry units? Well I'll tell you. It's because the creators of Warhammer are as stupid as someone who would use a Halfling to play a barbarian. Unfortunately for the creators of Warhammer, Gary

d20 continued on 6

The Emperor's New Groove and whatever else spin-offs it has.

It was a cartoon on Cartoon Network's *Cartoon Cartoon Fridays* way back when *Cartoon Cartoon Fridays* was still on.

And it was on when they had real people hosting *Cartoon Cartoon Fridays* and not like Johnny Bravo or whoever did that. It was weird when there were real people on *Cartoon Cartoon Fridays*. Didn't they like, talk to the car-

toons too? That was cool when Johnny Bravo hosted though. And he would answer fan mail or something and some of it was probably fake but I was little so I don't remember.

Anyway, the show wasn't like a series. It was more of a miniseries or maybe even an hour long animated TV movie. That reminds me of when Cartoon Network used to show the old *Batman* cartoon movies and also the over 9000 *Land Before Time* movies as part of their Saturday blockbuster thing or whatever. That was cool too.

Do you remember that show? Better yet, do you remember its title? It'd be pretty cool if you did. 🐼



Multitask from 2 It's even harder having children, but working with children of all ages is terribly hard. You have to get them ready for daycare, then after work you have to go pick them up get dinner on the table, clothes washed, showers after dinner, and whatever else there is to do. "I work later after they are asleep, you need to be disciplined," said Tim Leone-Getten SLC teacher. Stephanie Davies-Larson SLC Math teacher said, "Time is not on my side."

It might be hard working and having children of your own, but there are advantages. It seems like a lot of work juggling their job and children, but the bonus is "I feel like I have a life outside of being mom. I really like teaching, so (most days) I don't mind coming to work." Said Courtney Major SLC history

teacher. Mark Ceioli, gym teacher says, "Having my own kids helped me understand the developmental ages of students and vice versa. Things I've tried with my students that worked I do with my own kids."

Stephanie is currently pregnant and last year Courtney was pregnant. Stephanie said "It gives me energy; students are curious and ask questions about my pregnancy. As a new parent, still ask (me) questions about the baby."

Courtney is a new parent and she said, "I actually, kind of enjoy being with this age group. Sometimes, I feel my patience slipping, but I really like having conversations with teenagers. They have a lot to say." So as it seems working with teenagers and being pregnant/a new parent is fairly is easy. 🐾

d20 from 5 Gygax was no fool. In fact he was believed to have an intelligence score of over 16, which is probably one of the reasons he didn't make such a crucial mistake. Gary instead, decided to come up with statistics for each individual monster and come up with an amount of spaces they can move. Another quality of realism that D&D has is the ability to move off the battlefield. "Oh my, isn't that a remarkable thing!" a Warhammer player who is used to only be able to be on a battlefield might say. However, it is not a remarkable privilege, it simply a right that all gamers should have.

I would also like to point out the fact that you have to be ballin', that's right, I said ballin', to play Warhammer. Through the course of my rigorous studies I have found that each unit can cost up to a dollar a piece and that each reference guide can cost anywhere from 40 to 50 dollars, and in my opinion, this is ridiculous. However you mustn't fear going bankrupt if you wish to play an action-packed game using little people. Because D&D has priced it's miniatures and rule books a little bit more fairly. Instead of the Mandatory purchases you must make to play Warhammer that will cost you over \$150, you can pay just 60 dollars for the only 2 books that are

needed to start playing and another 6 dollars for a few miniatures.

But the last and most important aspect of the game is originality. In 1974 Gary Gygax and his cohort Dave Arneson came out with the Role playing game Dungeons and Dragons, in which you have several players, each of which make their own characters. Also, there is a dungeon master, or DM, who acts as a storyteller or referee of a campaign, although he is more of a god of the campaign because he controls anything and everything (except the player characters) including weather, all civilians, and how everything looks in the Dungeons and Dragons world.

The combination of these two roles binds a campaign together. Unlike in the dull world Of Warhammer, D&D has an environment that is unpredictable because there is no justification for what happens, it just happens, and this aspect give the game a sense of randomness, which is good, because it helps you think a little more creatively, which builds problem solving skills. Warhammer, does not. I have many more reasons, in fact I have so many I could easily write a 5-10 page essay on it, but unfortunately, it would consume the newspaper entirely, so for now, I'll call it quits. 🐾

Hey! from 1 urgent. For example, this story I am writing was supposed to be yesterday. While sitting on your butt and playing video-games while your math notebook lives untouched in your backpack sounds fun, take a minute to realize how much it sucks when you are scribbling answers you aren't really sure are correct a minute before math starts. If the work is hard for you, don't push it away. Not only will you fail your class but, you won't learn unless you know what part is tricking you. When you do finish work ahead of time guess what you can do. Sit on your butt and play video-games. With the security that you are prepared.

Also in case you didn't know, teachers actually want you to succeed. Do you think Susanne drives an hour here everyday just to mark you wrong or to yell at an unruly kid? Teachers like nothing more than to have a kid come and tell them that they understand something. So when you are stumped ask them for help.

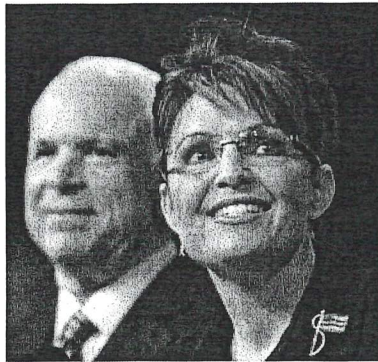
A lot of the classes here have big project assignments. My next part of advice. When you are done of a project and proud of it. SAVE IT. PUT IN YOUR BLACK BOOK. KEEP IT IN A SAFE UNDER YOUR BED. But do not, I repeat do not, throw it away. The one thing I wasn't prepared for this year in graduation was how much time you spend looking back at old classes. Did you know that in order to graduate you have to write six letters reflecting on the classes you have taken in the last six years? Did you know that you have to talk about specific things in those classes? Did you know that I have forgotten 75% of what I have done and have to scrape the back of my brain to remember what that Leo paper was on or the results of a lab. Hold on to your work and as an added bonus take 30 minutes at the semester/trimester/quarter to reflect on what you did in this class. It will make things so much easier.

So to summarize do your work in a timely matter, ask teachers for help, and hold on to things you have done. When you are in 12th grade you will thank me or if you ignore my advice will kick yourself when you realize I was telling you the truth. 🐾

You Betcha from 2

seemed that a large portion of Wasilla had become fond of her.

The next step for Palin was the governor's office. Winning the 2006 election by nearly 8 percentage points, she had certainly become a more prominent figure among Alaskans. However, Governor Palin's term was cut short by a somewhat unlikely force. In the late summer of 2008, the Presidential Campaign of Arizona Senator John McCain announced that Sarah Palin was to be his Vice Presidential running mate. And just like that, Sarah Palin became the pinnacle of conservative loyalty and affection for the McCain ticket. A celebrity, if you will, of the more "burgundy" parts of America.



Former Presidential Candidate John McCain and Sarah Palin

Now that you know a little about her, let me kick things off by saying this: Contrary to what the Rush Limbaugh's and Sean Hannity's of this world may have you believe... Sarah Palin is not like you and me. Sure, she started her life off in a pretty simple way, with a pretty typical family. As a politician, she, quite honorably, rejected certain amenities (namely as governor of Alaska) and combated some of the corruption in the system at a bureaucratic level, but where is the argument for her connection to the American people? Where do people get off thinking that somehow, this family worth nearly \$1.2 million is just like every family living on main street in the United States?

Warning, sarcasm ahead

Maybe the fact that her speech lacks the professional polish that so many of the Washington Insiders seem to enjoy touting on a daily basis makes her like you and me. Statements like "You betcha" and "I'll Try to Find Ya Some and I'll Bring 'Em to Ya" seem to further exemplify this concept.

It certainly would make sense then, imploring this same logic, that

Senator Obama would be tagged as an elitist. His eloquent speech and hopeful rhetoric has done nothing to make people feel hopeful and proactive in this election, obviously. Ya know, it wouldn't be too hard to put the elitist stamp upon Martin Luther King Jr. using this rubric. I mean, just like Obama, the man never really made people feel empowered, right?

On the issue of experience, I know not where to begin. The notion that Sarah Palin's experience in life qualifies her to a level beyond that of Barack Obama's just doesn't make sense to me. As Sarah Palin said herself, and I quote: "A small town mayor is sort of like a Community Organizer, except you have actual responsibilities" Yes, by accepting a position as a community organizer in Chicago, instead of carrying on a life as a high profile lawyer, Obama condemned his chances at a US presidency. That

argument is incredibly backwards to me, as one could very easily consider Thomas Jefferson to have held that position at one point, or Ghandi, or heck, even Jesus.

To accuse someone of elitism and inexperience and then elevate yourself above them by boasting your job as a mayor of a town housing less than 10,000 people is absolutely preposterous to me. I really cannot believe that the American people, including those in the GOP block, have not condemned her for this comment alone. Nevertheless, it seems that over the past month the inexperience "argument" has been quietly dumped, only to

be replaced by the Right-Wings feisty rebound girl: Fear Mongering.



30 Rock's Tina Fey impersonated Sarah Palin on SNL

Here are a few more things you should know about Sarah Palin:

-She has fallen in love with the "drill, baby, drill" slogan.

- Palin's "frugal" shopping habits have amounted to over \$150,000 in clothes alone since beginning her run as Vice President. Keep in mind that all those designer outfits will be donated after the campaign, so need not fear those \$3000 outfits will end up in the hands of people who really appreciate them.

-She does not believe Global Warming is a man made issue. "A changing environment will affect Alaska more than any other state, because of our location. I'm not one though who would attribute it to being man-made"- From an interview with Newsmax.com's Mike Coppock

-She does **not** have a history of fighting to end federal earmarks in her own state as McCain so proudly announces at every given moment. In fact she has handed earmark king Ted Stevens nearly \$200 million in her time as governor. She used to be a strong supporter of the so-called "Bridge to Nowhere", but her claim now is that she told congress "thanks, but no thanks" in response to a question about the project.

-She is not convinced by the theory of Evolution and believes that Creationism should be taught in public schools along with Evolution, if not in replacement of it.

In Closing

Palin's political life has revolved around her making changes based upon her own ethics and morals, which hasn't been a problem in a place like Alaska, where the level of political diversity is about the same as America's genetically modified corn fields. But as a federal politician, on the big stage, it is necessary at times to elevate yourself beyond that point and make considerations for the people as a whole. With John McCain's age being a prominent problem in the issue of his livelihood, Sarah Palin (more than any VP before) will be a heart beat away from the presidency. And I just don't trust her with the nuclear codes. 🦾

Fall from 1 top three costumes in the ELC, SLC, and Staff would be decided.

The rest of the day would run as usual up until part way through 4th hour when the dance and other activities took place. There were many choices that you could do if you didn't want to go to the dance. If you didn't want to go to the dance you could go outside, watch a movie, or play board games. Back then you could go to any of these places at any point during the dance.

This year, however, things were different. There was no longer an assembly, the classes were shortened to 30 minutes each allowing all six periods and some extra time in advisory, you could only change activities once about one hour into the dance, if you were failing more than two classes you needed to do work for those classes, ELC games were run by SLC students for school service hours, and popcorn was sold at the dance. Many of these changes were made by Student Government, but there was little time and little help in setting everything up. The majority of students interviewed had negative feelings towards these changes. Larry Calhoun, 11th grader, said, "There were many small things that irked me. The 'fall extravaganza' was watered down a lot this year."

Probably one of the most noticeable changes to the fall extravaganza this year was the elimination of the costume contest assembly. This was done because there were people who felt that the assembly was no longer interesting. Julia Iwaszek, 10th grader and Student Government member, said that "the assembly was getting kind of dry...and long...and boring." So instead of having the assembly pictures were taken and a slideshow was made of all who dressed up in costumes, later in the day the winners of the costume contest were announced.

While many staff and students though that the event was run smoothly, there were many who did not agree with the elimination of the assembly. Larry Kaul, 10th grader, said, "It was incredibly stupid because it was pretty much and Open School tradition." Many felt that they were left completely in the dark. "I was informed that there weren't even gonna be an actual show and quite hon-

estly taking pictures and going to classes was absolutely lame. I didn't even know what they were doing until toward the end of the day when they announced the winner(s)." said Larry Calhoun, 11th grader, "Half of us didn't even recognize the winner because we didn't have a costume contest show."

There were some additions to the activities. The first addition was the option for SLC students to manage games for the ELC as an opportunity for school service. Another was the crack-down on students failing two or more classes. These students had to spend at least two hours working on the classes that they're failing. Many students who were failing at least two classes had negative feelings towards this change. Calder O'Doubhlian, 8th grader, said, "It really blew, I hated it because if you were failing at least 2 classes you'd miss out on at least two hours. You'd be sitting next to people who wouldn't let you work."

Many teachers, however, saw the homework help time as a positive addition. It reflects an ongoing trend of taking away privileges from students who do not complete their work. The only students not allowed to participate in the Fall Extravaganza, it should be noted, were those failing at least two classes, which amounted to less than 30 students. A quiet environment was provided for those students to get caught up.

Another one of the big changes was that you could only switch activities once, one hour after the start of the dance. This was also viewed negatively by many students. Larry Calhoun said, "This was annoying. I did go to the dance but before I had gone, I had to finish typing a paper for Leo's class. I had absolutely refused to stay on the 2nd floor when the paper had only taken 10 minutes to finish. I went downstairs to the dance, the 'stay where you choose' thing was absolutely restrictive."

The final change made to the fall extravaganza was that there was popcorn being sold at the dance. Believe it or not this also had mixed feelings. Of course, many thought that it was great because it's a source of food available at the dance.

My Opinion

I believe that for the most part these changes that were made caused this year's fall extravaganza to be worse than the way the fall extravaganza was run in previous years.

As far as the costume contest goes, I don't think that it necessarily has to be done through an assembly, but I believe the way it was done this year has overall separated the costume contest from this event because many didn't even know what was going on. I couldn't find a single student who knew where the supposed slideshow took place and many didn't know that such a thing existed. Also, many students didn't know why each person won or, in some cases, who won because they couldn't see them.

When it comes to the shortened class periods, I think that it doesn't allow enough time to run class effectively because many teachers needed to move class activities to another time because there wasn't a long enough class.

I personally do not agree with the requirement for students failing at least two classes to be forced to work during the dance. It is widely known that a "reward system" is way more effective than a system that is based upon punishing those who do not meet standards. Also, this is a celebration that no matter what I think that students should have the option of enjoying, it brings the school together as a whole. The fall extravaganza is not just a "privilege that can be taken away."

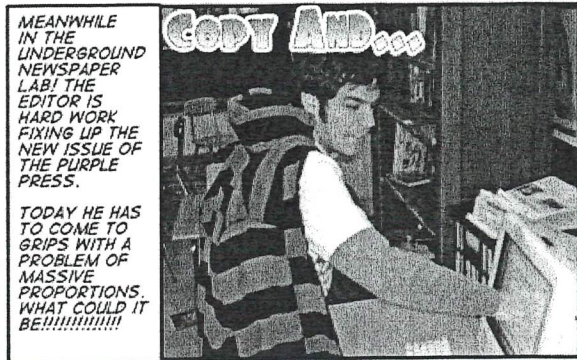
The option for school service hours through providing games for the ELC, on the other hand, I think is a good idea. Students should have more opportunities to both get their school service hours, and bring together the school by connecting the ELC and SLC. Note that I said, "opportunities" not requirements, there should be a choice in the matter otherwise it isn't in my opinion bringing the school together in any way.

I think that there shouldn't be a restriction on movement between activities because it takes away some freedom that students should have. On such a celebration, students should have full freedom in choosing an activity to participate in. If this doesn't happen and students are stuck in a spot for another hour or so, then

Leaves continued on 10

The Strip Club

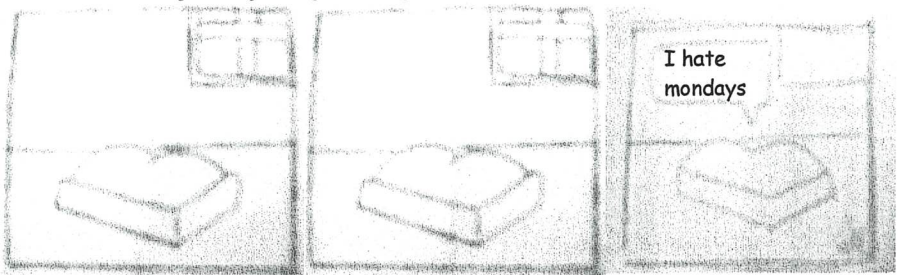
The Editor and Lavender Lad By Emmett Ruff and Daniel Mauleon



Marmaduke By Emmett Ruff Staff Rofler



Garfield By Daniel Mauleon



Obama from 1 individuals to go out and vote, which in itself could be considered quite an accomplishment. But it doesn't stop there. Obama also went on to lead one of the most financially successful campaigns of our era, scoring a massive five-hundred and eighty million dollars from individual contributions alone. And it can't be forgotten that his speeches and appearances attracted absolutely massive crowds (some heading into 6 digit numbers). If his presidential run alone is not testament enough of his ability to take on an executive role, I'm not sure what would be.

The President-Elect must now choose his cabinet and decide on strategies to aid in the transition process. The President-Elect has pledged to ensure America is aware of the happenings in the White House and has already begun to follow through on that: by promising to give the weekly video updates via Youtube; the most recent of which has already been uploaded and can be viewed on Obama's official Youtube channel. If you'd like to keep up on what is happening with the President-Elect feel free to visit <http://www.change.gov>, a government website designed to improve transparency between the American people and Washington.



*Assuming McCain takes Missouri

Leaves from 8 it ceases to be a celebration for them because they're trapped and they can't do what they really want to do. Also, in Larry Calhoun's case, students may be finishing up work and then have nothing else to do and they'd be forced to stay there for a possible hour longer than they should.

Finally, I do agree that there should be popcorn sold at the dance, it's a great way to raise money that could possibly go to events like field trips or prom. I think that many can agree that just because the popcorn machine belongs to the school doesn't mean that the school can sell the popcorn made by it.

I have been told by several members of Student Government that the goal for next year was to put more time and effort in to make the fall extravaganza better, so this may help, but there are problems that need to be addressed next year such as those that I have listed out here. I hope that Student Government can make the fall extravaganza better next year because this year has to be one of the worse ones I've seen here at Open School. 

Kids Against Hunger!

