

Volume 12,
Issue 6

The Purple Press

May 7,
2008

Sock crime under investigation

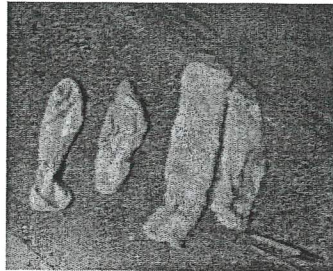
John Knapp
Staff Writer

On March 14, 2008 an unthinkable act of intimidation took place. At approximately 12:03 PM, sullied foot apparel was left to prevent locker owners Rhys Hunding and Cheng Vang from obtaining objects from their lockers. Having arrived on the scene very shortly after said crime was committed experts on the scene were able to gather evidence that lead them to believe that the socks had been taken off within minutes of their arrival to the location. They also learned when questioning Mr. Hunding that he had been keeping a pie in his locker, the investigators were then able to see an obvious motive for the crime.

Shortly after the catastrophe investigators took three suspects into

custody. While two of the names were held to be confidential one was said to be President of student government, Pa Dong Xiong. With such high rank many wonder if the authorities could even pin a terrible crime like this on her. "My client vehemently denies these claims. She has no priors involving pies or socks. She also has no history of such acts with Mr. Hunding or Mr. Vang" said Chloe Taipale, Pa Dong's lawyer. Ms. Xiong was originally brought to the powers

that be because of her lack of an alibi, her close proximity to the crime, and the fact that she had no socks on. When Pa Dong was elected President she



Crime continued on 5

Thoughts on a Scandal

Nikia Davis
Staff Writer

Eliot Spitzer, a married man with three teenaged daughters, resigned as governor of NY because he participated in an illegal prostitution ring. Well, now the citizens of the United States get another round of "The Politician and His Dirty Little Secrets." It's just amazing how these guys do illegal things the average citizen would label "morally wrong," and expect to get away with it.

We would like to think that David Paterson, the legally blind man that preceded him in office, would be better. Paterson admitted at his inauguration that he had several affairs during his marriage. He felt obligated to share that for fear of being blackmailed in the future.

Why so much news coverage? We would like to think that these people get the kind attention they receive in the news because they manipulate the citizens, and turn our hopes and dreams of

Spitzer continued on 6

Open conquers regions

Emmett Ruff
Staff Scholar

This year's National History Day was held at Saint Paul College on March 18. Of the eight projects entered, six advanced to the state competition on April 27. The other two projects entered received an honorable mention.

Exhibits where submitted by 11th graders Tou Nhia Khang and Yer Yang whose exhibit was on Oda Nobunaga, 10th graders Tong Xiong and Xeng Xiong whose exhibit was on the Trail of Tears, 11th graders Gao Vang, Pa

Dong Xiong, and Christine Dawn whose exhibit was on Christianity in Laos, 11th graders Shaeng Yang, Nou Thao, and Kalia Vang whose exhibit was on Ida B. Wells, 9th grader Emmett Ruff whose exhibit was on the Munich Olympics, and 12th grader Aaron Young who did a project on Elie Wiesel.

Documentaries where submitted by 9th grader Khaliya Dorry, 10th grader Daja Napier, 10th grader



Herstory continued on 5

THE EAR

NATALIE BIDS
FAREWELL TO
GARAVANI
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* * *
RHYS TALKS
THEATRICALS

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* * *

DANNY SPENDS
ALL HIS TIME IN
HIS BASEMENT
WRITING

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**THE PURPLE PRESS
STAFF**

**EDITOR IN CHIEF
DANIEL MAULEON**

**GRAMMAR GODDESSES
CHLOE TAIPALE
MOLLY SALZBERGER**

**ADULT TO BLAME
LEO BICKELHAUPT**

Hot Off the Press

-The end of the year field trip to Lake Elmo will take place on June 5.

-The last week of school will feature an SLC awards ceremony.

-Miss Libby's car is green.

-In preparation for the leaf apocalypse this fall Open has stocked up on rakes.

Pair of plays on tap tonight

Rhys Hunding
Staff Writer

Open Theatres spring performance this year will be a combination of Maggie Magalita by Wendy Kesselman and Driving Miss Daisy by Alfred Uhry. They will take place on May 7th, 8th and 9th at 7:00pm.

Maggie Magalita, the first play being performed, is about a 14 year old girl, Maggie (Ruby Uribe, 9th grade) living in New York City with her mother, Elena (Julia Iwaszek, 9th grade) and struggling to adapt to living with her recently immigrated grandmother (Alicia Martinez, 11th grade), whom she has not seen since a very young age. They have both changed significantly over the years but the cultural differences prove exceedingly trying. Also featuring James Dixon, Sonja Youngquist, Victoria Guggisberg, Laura Cefalu, Brandon Thompson, Ashley Roelofs and Fia Burnett.

Driving Miss Daisy takes place in Atlanta, Georgia from 1948 to 1973 and is the story of a man, Boolie (Isaac Ruff, 8th grade) who hires a black man, Hoke (Andre Knox, 11th grade) to chauff-

fer his mother, Daisy (Natalie Iwaszek, 12th grade) after she gets into an accident. Daisy is extremely stubborn but Hoke tries his best to coexist. This performance handles racism at a pivotal point in history and tells the story of an unlikely friendship overcoming many obstacles.

Director Pam Larson prides herself on this show having "a more professional feel and a chance for some of the older actors to showcase their skill before graduation." The shows also have comparatively extensive technical crews and Pam will welcome back Open School alumnus Per Olson and lighting advisor.

Tickets will be \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students and seniors, special "café table" seating will also be available for 60 dollars and seats four people, café table seating will be available upon special request ahead of time. ❀

Future Visions: a voice for change

Jeffrey Bies
Staff Writer

Some of you have probably heard about a group of students trying to change Open School. Well, for those of you that haven't, this group is known as Future Visions. It is a group that is dedicated to bringing Open School back to its days of independent learning and community involvement.

Future Visions was started by Liam Shramko, former Open School student, and about 8 other students. It began one Thursday during advisory in March of 2007. The group was founded because Open School was, in many people's opinion, slowly changing into a more traditional school and abandoning the values that had once

made it so great. Now the school faces increasing pressure because it is on the

Adequate Yearly Progress list, better known as AYP. The AYP list was made under the No Child Left Behind Act which monitors student test scores closely to keep schools on track. Open is now on its second year of AYP and next year, if we do not improve, we may be forced to reconstitute our school which may include replacing all staff and administrators, like Monroe and several other schools.

Presently the Future Visions group is made of 12 Open School students. They meet as a whole group about once a week,



Cossetta's continued 7

Kevin Klutho

How many years have you been at Open?

Five years.

What are you planning on doing next year?

Attend Augsburg College and major in Medieval Studies.

Favorite Book, Movie, or T.V. show?

Lord of the Rings book AND movie

Favorite class in high school?

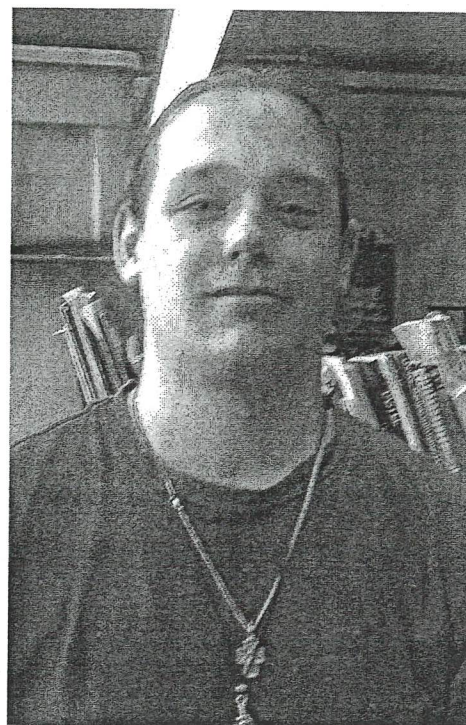
Leo's 3rd hour.

Last concert you went to/Album you bought?

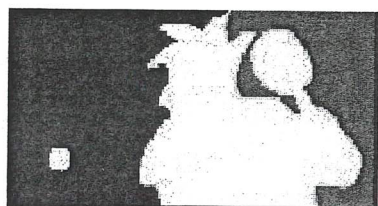
N.W.A.!

Job you would like?

Knight.



O-SNAP



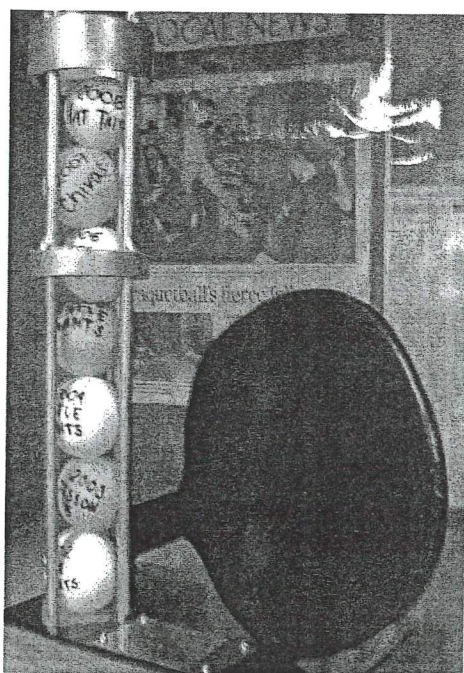
There can only be one

*Emmett Ruff
Staff Highlander*

This season's Fraquetball playoffs had as many twists, turns and surprises as the Amazon River. This season's fans witnessed one of the most shocking upsets in playoff history with a win by Space Monkeys over Sum of All Fears halfway through the playoffs and a quick and brutal victory for Hat Trick in the Final.

The final four teams in the playoffs were Six One Tizzou, composed of teachers Tom Totushek and Luke Leba, 11th grader Griffin Larson and 10th grader John Knapp's Hat Trick, Sum of All Fears with 12th grader Jaime Avila and 11th grader Damien Bullis, and Space monkey's 9th grader Vicente Zavala and 11th grader Miles Alteri.

The first of these matches was between Space Monkeys and Sum of All fears. Although Sum of All fears were favored to win the best-of-five series, they lost to Space Monkeys in the first three games of the series. This



Congratulations Hat Trick!!

brought Space Monkeys to the final. "It was the most disappointing end to a season for any team in fraquetball history. To witness a team of such superior skill lose to a team with such low caliber play is the biggest defeat fraquetball has ever seen," said Commissioner Knapp.

The second semi-final match was between Hat trick and Six One Tizzou. This game went more as expected with Hat trick defeating Six One Tizzou in the first three games and advancing to the final against Space Monkeys. The final was held on March 28 and 29. Hat trick swept the best-of-seven series leaving Space Monkeys gasping for breath. "Myles wasn't on his game. It was almost like he wasn't trying," Griffin commented. Space Monkeys left the final both light headed and light hearted. "Although we lost, we still learned something from the experience." Vicente said. ❄

That's What She Said!

Vox populi of Open

The End of Red Ruffles

Natalie Iwaszek
Staff Writer

Do you enjoy wearing red, or ruffles, or red ruffles? Well for all you boys and girls out there who do, there may be a shortage of red ruffles soon. That is because, Valentino Garavani, one of the best-known Italian fashion designers, has retired. His fashion house was one of the most famous fashion empires for both his ready-to-wear and haut couture designs. Valentino announced his retirement on September 4th. On January 23rd 2008, Valentino showed his last collection.

Valentino has many famous collections, including an all white one. He has also



Valentino waves goodbye

had a large number of past and present stars wear his clothing. His signature and favorite color is red, and a certain red-orange color is called "Valentino Red". He used a lot of ruffles in his work, and did a lot of ruching. He loved extravagant fabrics and designs. Valentino is flamboyant and his business partner, Giametti, have been said to be "the kings of high living." He owns many houses and villas around the world, and buys very expensive pieces of art for them. He also owns a one-hundred and

fifty-two foot yacht, which

Fashion continued on 6

BRAWLIN'

Daniel Mauleon
Staff Fighter

You rip across the small battle field over looking a sunset. This is no time to take in the sites, however. Your opponents come down on you attacking. Link clad in his green tunic draws his bow to your right and to your left is the infamous Bowser fire breath and all. You are the fireball throwing, princess saving, expert at plumbing Mario and you are ready to kick ass. With an up-percut coin punch you launch Link of the stage than turn and perform the tornado kick on Bowser delivery the same fate as Link. The match seems to be yours when suddenly Sonic the Hedgehog comes down on you with a



kick. You drop the controller as the end-game screen comes on your TV you shake your head in shame. That won't stop you though as you pick up your controller for another heated match in Nintendo's famed free-for-all Super Smash Bros Brawl.

The sequel to the bestselling Nintendo Gamecube game Super Smash Bros Melee has arrived on the Wii. Developed by HAL Brawl is the third in the series, the original was for the N64. It aims at setting the bar for all games not just that of the fighting genre. The game plays almost identically to previous

Falcon Punch continued on 7

The Whitest Show You Know

Josh Nash
Staff Whiter

The *Whitest Kids U Know* it says it all. A sketch comedy group based in New York is taking a big role on TV. The *Whitest Kid U' Know* sketches include Abe Lincon, Ipods, Hitler and more. In each sketch be prepared for outrageous comedy.

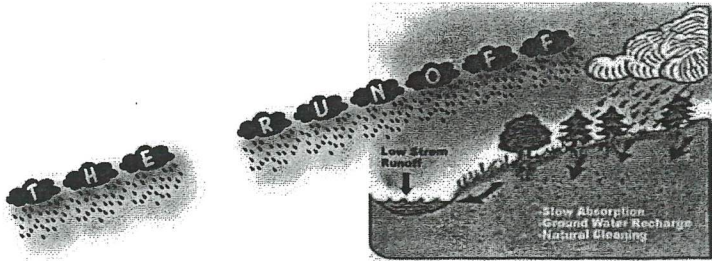
The sketches revolve around racism, wars, technology, presidents and more. The *Whitest Kids U' Know* takes place in New York City. The group films all over New York For every episode.

In one of the episodes of the *Whitest Kids U' Know* they reenacted the Abraham Lincoln assassination. Instead of Abe Lincoln being killed by a gun they kill him with a hammer in the butt. It takes place in the theater while a play is going on. Abe Lincoln starts yelling and screaming. A man played by Trevor Moore gets upset with Abe Lincoln and grabs a hammer and runs toward him and starts beating him in the butt with the hammer. This is actually how Abe Lincoln died in this episode.



The *Whitest Kids U' Know* has been aired on TV. Since 2001 when the group leader Trevor Moore went to New York for the visual arts program. Trevor decided to start a sketch comedy show. Trevor asked his friends to fly up from Virginia to help him with the show. His friends Zach Craggier, Sam Brown, Darren Trumeter and Timmy Williams all decided

White continued on 5



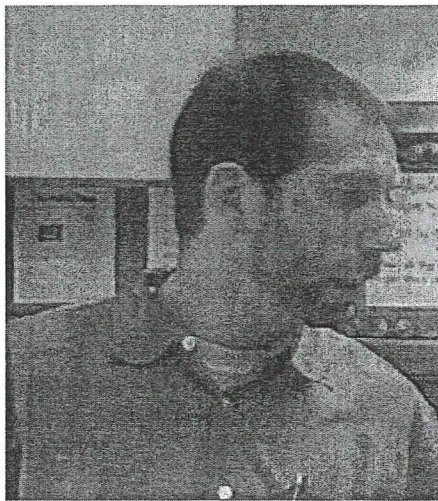
Crime from 1

filled out a brief survey for public knowledge. On that survey she stated that she has a strong preference for pie over any other dessert. After discovering this all became convinced that she was behind this crime. With Pa Dong's history of pie loving all are weary with pies when she's around.

"It was a ghastly scene!" said bystander Natalie Iwaszek. Natalie was with Mr. Hunding when he discovered the socks. Mr. Hunding was going to his locker to retrieve a pie that had been given to him by close acquaintance 10th grader John Knapp.

"It was terrible I have no doubt that this was a warning to Rhys," said the stunned and disturbed John Knapp. With such valuable belongings on the scene authorities took no chances. The streets were blocked off and bystanders removed. "I believe this to be an attempt to delay me from opening my locker, where the pie was safely stowed," said Mr. Hunding. "I think that the culprit was obviously after the pie!"

Sock expert Emmett Ruff was on the case immediately. He originally thought that there were just two socks, however, after further inspection they were revealed to be two different pairs of socks. "It was a shocking discovery! In most cases like this we just find two single socks, this is definitely the work of a trained hand," said Inspector Ruff. With



A bearded Inspector Bickelhaupt interrogates suspects.

such skill behind this offense it is evident that there were further plans to abscond with Mr. Hunding's pie. "The size of the sock seemed to be fit for a woman that would be about five foot three inches," said Inspector Ruff, "We can't be sure, but all signs point to that." While Mr. Hunding recovers from the shock, he was only comforted by the fact that his prize pie was unharmed. "I am sure that this unbelievable act was a message or a plan to get Mr. Hunding to surrender his pie," said inspector Ruff.

When the investigators arrived locker number 3278, the locker below Mr. Vang's, was left slightly ajar. "We've looked into that locker for more evidence, but we haven't found anything yet," said Chief Inspector Bickelhaupt, "We aren't done there though." With such thorough searching Inspector Bickelhaupt said he expects to be able to announce DNA evidence by tomorrow. With the case so close to an end, the school said that they plan to prosecute fully.

"In most cases like this we just find two single socks, this is definitely the work of a trained hand..."

head prosecutor Sarah Doyle. "We have all of our witnesses under constant surveillance. With the connections that the defendant has, bail is posted at a lofty \$7. She has also been forced to surrender all hall passes, so she can't flee." With this case having such huge media impact, news will keep coming in the following weeks. ❀

This case lies solely on the key witnesses that can pin Ms. Xiong at the scene at the time of the crime. "We are weary of threats," said

Herstory from 1

Kenneitha Parson, 10th grader Norma Romero, and 10th grader Sonia Romero whose documentary was on the Scottsboro Case. 11th grader Danny Mauleon, 12th grader Jaime Avila, and 11th grader Griffin Larson also submitted a documentary on the Cuban Missile Crisis. 11th grader Jessie Beidler did a performance on the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo.

"I've never had all of my students get awards on stage," said social studies teacher Susanne Hollingsworth, who is the teacher in charge of the projects. "It's the first time all of my students have been this successful."

Susanne has stated that students who have progressed to state will have to continue working on their projects. "Yeah, I totally need to fix up my thesis statement," said Emmett. Exhibits that have fallen apart since the regional competition will need to be re-taped and matted. Documentaries may also need to be reformatted and reedited. Research will also need to continue on all of the projects that have advanced. ❀

White from 4

to go to New York and help him with the show. The *Whitest Kids U' Know* is shown on the independent film channel also known as IFC. The *Whitest Kids U' Know* decided to broadcast their show on IFC so the show would not be censored or have commercial breaks.

The *Whitest Kids U' Know* mostly attracts late teens with a good sense of humor. I think the show is getting a lot of viewers mostly because it stands out to people and it grabs their attention. So far the show is doing well and the group-started season two on February 10 and is still rolling.

The *Whitest Kids U' Know* is a funny show. I really don't think they should change a thing; their ideas are good they know how to make the audience stay interested. The pacing of the show is good. They have at least seven sketches in one episode, some time's more. The actors have their own attitudes, which makes their roles better in the show and starts the episode off well. The plot of the show is never the same. That's good because it makes you want to know what they're going to do next. ❀

Spitzer from 1 a better government into a web of misguided trust, but we all know it's because we the people love to indulge and exploit high - ranking officials' business. Are we wrong for these tasty, belly- filling indulgences? Why do we pretend surprised that it was this guy, or that guy caught up in scandal? Truth is we're not surprised at all. We hold a whole different regard for those high ranking officials. What we would like our politicians to embody, and what we look to be the end result are two separate things. One of those blanket expectations we pretend to have for the politicians is that they embody strong family values, and when they don't then they should face public fury. But the fact is, underneath that blanket we expect them to be scandalous or sexually deviant (or both). These are things we watch the news for.

Hypocrisy is another problem for these guys, who are so caught up in narcissism that they are what they oppose, or so they

deny. Take senator Larry Craig for example. Last year Senator Larry Craig didn't tell us that his other

occupation was tap dancing, because on his way to the john, he got happy feet. He was caught making advances to an undercover cop in an airport here in Minnesota. One of his responses was to deny these allegations, accept a plea deal, and then attempt to reverse his plea. The last response was "I am not gay. I never have been gay."

This is a guy who was adamant about his dislike for gay rights, but he wasn't tap dancing in a women's bathroom, now was he?

For me, their fall from grace is entertaining because the majority of them are just egotistical alpha men who are hypocrites as much as they are scandalous, sexual deviants.

We understand that if we got rid of all of these kinds of people in these high ranking positions, then almost every office from city council man to Capitol Hill would be empty. Every now and then, one scandalous person has to fall from grace to make way for another scandalous person.

What's even crazier than these politicians is not the politicians them-

selves because they're not doing anything but reinforcing all the bad things we think about them, but their spouses who enable them. Take Eliot Spitzer's wife, Selda Spitzer, for example. Now let's pretend I am her. First of all, I wouldn't be encouraging the guy to stay in office after humiliating my family and the citizens of NY. Second, he wouldn't be addressing the public about his infidelities because he'd be in the hospital. Third, I wouldn't be standing there next to a guy who spent \$80, 000 on women who were not named Selda Spitzer. Selda Spitzer was clearly distraught at his public address. Why would she stand up there? I cannot help but wonder if Selda and women in her position support their trifling political counterparts because they have an agenda of their own.

Hillary Clinton and the question of "agenda" have been in the same conversations for years. I have to admit, I am not a fan of hers, but she is necessary for this article.

"...the majority of them are just egotistical alpha men who are hypocrites as much as they are scandalous, sexual deviants."

1990s when the soon to be First Lady Hillary Clinton commented to an allegation of her husband's infidelity by saying that she "wasn't some little woman standing by her man like Tammy Wynette." Ahem, irony.

After finding out that her husband, U.S. President Bill Clinton had an affair, she stayed by his side. I'm not saying she's not intelligent or that she doesn't have the potential to run the U.S., but it makes you wonder.

I felt compelled to write about my thoughts of politicians, and the women that enable them because after I watch these press conferences, these oh so tasty indulgences sicken me. They say "I'm sorry," but only because they were caught, and not because of what they did. We cannot fully legislate scandal, and we cannot dictate what they do in their personal lives, but we can enjoy their fall from grace. ❀

Fashion from 4 also has many expensive pieces of artwork, and a full staff of eleven.

Valentino was born in Lombardy Italy, on May 11th 1932. He was first interested in fashion when he was in middle school. He had an apprenticeship with his aunt Rosa and a local designer named Salvadeo, until Valentino moved to Paris when he was seventeen. In Paris he studied fashion at Ecole des Beaux Arts and at the Chambre Syndical de la Couture Parisienne. He worked under many fashion designers there and started making a name for himself.

Valentino decided to move back to Italy in 1959 where, with the help of his parents, he set up his first fashion house in Rome. A year later Valentino and his friend Giametti decided to become partners so that Giametti could deal with the business aspect of running a fashion house and Valentino could focus more on his designs. Because of Valentino's taste for luxury, and expensive fabrics they had to fight not to go bankrupt. Eventually they had to quit their business and start fresh.

With the help of Giametti Valentino started a new fashion house, this time in Florence Italy. His first showing in Florence was an international success. After the show he was flooded with calls and orders from foreign buyers. After he was well established in Florence, he moved his fashion house back Rome, hoping his fans would follow. They did, and to this day, despite his retirement, Valentino is enjoying his international and local success.

Other things about Valentino:

In 1967 He was awarded the Neiman Marcus Prize in Dallas (the equivalent of an Oscar in the world of Fashion)

In 1968 he designed the wedding dress worn by Jacqueline Kennedy for her marriage to Aristotle Onassis.

In 1976 he opened a boutique in Tokyo

In 1990 Valentino and Giametti found L.I.F.E (Fighting, Informing, Building, Teaching) and association that fought against AIDS.

He owns six pug dogs, named, Maude, Margot, Monty, Molly, Milton and Maggie, who he takes pretty much everywhere, and ride in their own car. ❀

Cossetta's from 2

but also meet in sub-groups whenever needed. Future Visions is aided by a lawyer named Gene Begay, who has been involved with Open School for many years, and Wayne Jennings, the founder of Open School. Gene has many connections to important people that can help make big things happen at Open School and is helping with setting up an office to work in over the summer.

Currently Future Visions group has many big projects that need to be accomplished. One is creating a proposal plan for the way the renewed Open School will be run. Another major issue that needs to be reconsidered is how discipline should be enforced. Then there's the Eco House across the street from Open that is so far planned to be turned into a coffee shop run by the students. Another huge long term project that Future Visions will be working hard on over the summer is designing a new building for Open School. This will include expanding on the property of the school or getting a new building. The other part to this is raising 80 to 100 million dollars for the school. Of course the most important priority is getting off of the AYP list before we get reconstituted.

In addition to these big projects, Future Visions is working on some smaller more short term projects. The small projects include proposing changes to Open School such as; eating outside, eating on the third floor, passes, passing

time, school bells, electives for the ELC, after school activities, and many others.

Open School Junior Alicia Martinez says that Future Visions' goal is "bringing back our old Open School, how it was before and making it better." We seek to accomplish this by working with staff, administration, and community members to form a school that meets the needs of the students. Eleventh grader Nikia Davis believes that "With the participation of the principle, staff, administration, and all the students, we can get a lot done. I don't think a lot gets done around here because major groups in and out of the school get excluded in the decision making. Also, none of the right people are listening. I don't think people take us seriously."

One of the most important projects that we have to accomplish in order to do anything to help this school is to unite everyone; staff, administration, parents, and most importantly the students. We will be trying to get the whole school as involved as possible, which requires help from all of you; staff and students. You can do your part by coming to us with ideas to make Open School a better place for everyone. This is our school so it should meet our needs. If anybody has any ideas please come speak to me, Jeff Bies, to get your voice heard and turn your idea into a reality for Open School. ❀

Falcon Punch from 4

battle mechanics, but it brings far more to the table in terms of content. What makes this one stand out, however, is its seemingly endless amount of content. It's loaded with so many characters, modes, stages and new features that it would take me forever ever to go into detail of every part.

For those uncultured swine, Smash Bros is fighting video game starring characters from a multitude of Nintendo franchises. Matches can be two-four players and games are fought on two-dimensional arenas. Each character has its own set of special and normal attacks along with grabs and

installments with a few new



Sonic and Link are just two of the well known fighters you can play as

taunts. There are many modes to fight, but the standard is rack up enough damage on your opponent and then smash them off the side of the screen. The biggest game play change, however, is the addition of a new item called a Smash Ball. When broken open this multi colored orb allows the user to use a "final smash," a powerful character specific attack. You can play the game with four different setups: a Wii Remote on its side, a Wii remote and Nunchuk attachment, a classic controller and a Gamecube controller. All of those are customizable even further within the options menu.

The original Smash Bros featured an initial eight fighters and four more secret characters that you could unlock through different means. Most of the characters were recognizable Nintendo icons such as Mario, Pikachu and Donkey Kong, but it also served to introduce gamers to the likes of Captain Falcon, Ness and Samus, three characters who had yet to debut on the 64-bit console. The sequel, Melee, starts with an initial 15 characters and once unlocked up to 26 characters were at your disposal. This time around the game even features two characters from Fire Emblem, a series that had yet to leave Japan's shores, causing many "who the hell is that?" moments.

Brawl ups that number even more by dropping a few characters from

The Smash Ball allows for a powerful character specific special attack

the Melee roster and adding new ones for a total of 35 once unlocked and for a series first, Brawl featured two non Nintendo characters: Solid Snake and Sonic the Hedgehog from game developers Konami and Sega respectively. Sadly returning to this addition are "clones," fighters who are almost identical to each other in move sets, but might have slightly different speed or power. For the most part all the characters play differently and each require their own basic strategy. Techniques for dominating with the sluggish yet powerful Bowser won't work with the blue blur Sonic, and vice versa. This makes it easy for players to find at least one character they feel comfortable playing as.

To supplement the wide variety of characters, Brawl also has , 23 brand new stages and six from melee to start with. Of course like everything else in this game you can unlock more allowing for a total of 41 stages. They have a big range of special features, from a side-scrolling remake of the Super Mario Bros 1-1. There are also obscure

Landmaster continued on 8

Landmaster from 8 levels, namely one that takes place in the Picto-Chat feature of a Nintendo DS, where things are drawn on the screen that alter the battle or one that you can manipulate to make unique music. If you somehow manage to find yourself bored with these stages, the game allows you to build your own stages. While it may be a bit limited in features it still is fun to mess around with your creativity. Want to play on a level made solely of ladders? No problem. How about a stage where you and your friends just barely float above a pit of spikes? If you build it, they will fight. You can also save and transfer your stages via SD cards.

Like its predecessors you will spend most of the time on multiplayer playing match after match. However, for those days you want a change of pace or realize you don't have any real friends, there is a plethora of options most notably an 8-hour long adventure mode called the Subspace Emissary. Subspace is a collection of side scrolling levels featuring enemies, bosses and basic platforming challenges that is accompanied by an interesting story involving characters from the game. The enemies, while high in number are quite similar and you will find yourself running into them time and time again. In between levels the story is told by wordless cinematics that do a very good job at explaining what is going on. The levels, however, seem to run together

and are never too unique. This is solved by forcing you to choose different characters depending on the level. Halfway through Subspace the pacing changes and you find your self in "the great maze," which is pieces of the previous levels sewn together into a giant maze. If you would prefer to traverse Subspace with a friend the entire game is co-op friendly, but it doesn't enhance the experience too much more. Subspace also incorporates stickers, collectables you can gather no matter what mode you are playing, as power-ups you can equip to your fighter to change their attributes. Overall the Subspace Emissary is a big step up in comparison to the adventure mode in Melee and quite fun in spite of its down sides.

Another option for single players is classic mode. It is twelve stages of challenges featuring a few one on one fights, team battles, target practice and it all ends with a fight against master hand, a single white glove that rules the smash bros universe. This time around though classic mode just doesn't seem as fun. Both race to the finish and board the platforms, previous challenges found in classic mode, are nowhere to be found. The target challenge has also changed and instead of character specific stages there are just five of different difficulties. The absence of these just leaves classic mode seeming rather redundant.

Then there is the event mode, and stadium mode and training and so

on and so forth. This game is pumped with different ways to play. I shouldn't leave out, however, the online features on Brawl. Another series first is Internet matches and although fun it has a lot of room for improvement. Brawl lacks rankings, it's a bit annoying to have to register friends, any in game communication is through preset messages and most of the games are bogged down by lag. While it is easy to join or make rooms to play in, you are better of sticking to play offline with friends. Not only are games smooth offline, being able to rub victory into your friends faces is very enjoyable. For those loners who don't have friends to play with (Karl Brose) Brawls online is useable, but you might want to invest in a way to get a great internet connection.

The downside of Brawl though can be easily overlooked. The game plays and looks great running at a steady 60 frames per second, it also has the option to run in widescreen. The videos in subspace are beautiful and complement the Subspace Emissary very well. Almost all of the modes allow for at least two players meaning that you and a friend, sibling, or stranger to play together. The beauty of this game though lies in the standard four player brawls that made the series what it is today, a reason to get friends together and beat each other up on screen. Now if you will excuse me Karl needs to get owned by my Lucario. ☼

