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2007

Open celebrates homecoming

Rhys Hunding
Staff Writer

An Open School sponsored celebration was held on Saturday, December 8th. This occasion is unique for the fact that it was Open School's very first Homecoming celebration; this gala coincided with the fall play, among other activities, and yielded an impressive turnout.

Imagine the cafeteria lined, end to end, with tables and chairs in anticipation of masses of Open school parents, teachers, students and alumni. To top it all off there were tables of various foodstuffs including cake, sandwiches, vegetables and dip, fruit, crackers and juice. Various fundraisers



The Cast of An Italian Straw Hat

also went on in the hallways while guests took part in Open School daily life recreated as adequately as possible on a Saturday.

The play, which was the first in a succession of festivities, was the French farce "An Italian Straw Hat" (John Knapp) who, on his way to get married loses his carriage and finds his horse eating away a straw hat that had been hung on a tree. Before he even processes the situation, he finds out that the owner of the hat was an adulteress who is terrified to go home without the hat

Homecoming
Continued on 6

Black Friday lures 'shopaholics'

Khaliya Dorry
Staff Writer

On the night of Thursday, November 22, many families across the country were enjoying big turkey dinners with their loved ones. As these families slept that night, many other people were camping outside of stores and shopping malls, in anticipation of the next day: Black Friday.

Black Friday is the day after Thanksgiving. It unofficially marks the beginning of the Christmas shopping season. The day was named, because it puts stores financially "in the black". Since Black Friday is such a chaotic day, it was put in comparison to other chaotic experiences from the past, such as "Black Tuesday", which was the 1929 stock market crash.

This year, Toys 'R' Us, Best Buy, Target, and Kohl's are only a few of many stores that opened early on Black Friday. Best Buy and Toys 'R' Us's Black Friday

sales started at 5 a.m. Kohl's and Target's sales started at 6 a.m.

On Black Friday, electronics and popular toys tend to be the most wanted items. Some of those electronics include games, cameras, DVD players, and many more. This year, the Xbox 360 and Nintendo Wii both sold very well.

11th grader Alicia Martinez, who attended Black Friday this year said, "I went because I've always heard about it, but I never went, so I wanted to see how it was." Alicia purchased electronic items, including video games and DVD's, and also some clothing. Although Alicia found things for great prices, she decided she didn't like the experience. She said, "This is my first, and last year going. I really didn't like it because there was too much people."

10th grader Sonia Romero, who **Deals continued**
on 6

Coping 07-08

Sonja Youngquist
Staff Writer

Things are changing at Open School, and they will probably keep changing. The world does that.

Here at Open, we have new locks, a new passing time, and new planners complete with a limited number of passes per trimester. All this takes some strategy to survive. That's where I come in. I'm here to give you a guide on ways to survive this school year. Let's start with passing time.

Passing Period

This isn't quite as difficult as we originally thought. This is a small school. We only have three floors, and most classes are on the third floor. Just walk fast, and don't stand in the halls chatting, and you'll be fine.

The real problem, I think, is if you need to stop at your locker or the restroom between classes, especially if, say, you need to get to Leo's class but your locker is on the first floor. In this case, it depends on how fast you are, and how patient your teacher is. If you can get

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THE EAR

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EDITOR IN CHIEF
DANIEL MAULEON

GRAMMAR GODDESSES
CHLOE TAIPALE
MOLLY SALZBERGER

ADULT TO BLAME
LEO BICKELHAUPT

Black Book Gone!?!

Rhys Hunding
Staff Writer

Most of you, my fellow Open Schoolers, are on some level of familiarity with the school's current "black book" system of documenting credits. These changes are both controversial and drastic sounding, but I am here to either denounce or strengthen any uncertainties you may have with this highly focal aspect of the Open School system.

First things first; seniors will still be able to graduate. Your current signoffs will not become obsolete and the sun will no supernova coinciding with the adaptation of this system. In spring of 2007 a committee of teachers was formed to discuss the changes to the graduation standard documenting of Open School. In the summer of that same year the committee met to discuss formatting and to toy with the templates that had been submitted, this fall the Department submitted samples and the prospective date for the new book, pending staff review, is January 2007.

The committee included (but was not limited to) Susanne, Elizabeth and Leo as some of the majordomos. "Susanne really spearheaded this," said Leo. Elizabeth described the new book as basically being pages that will not be compartmentalized into many small sections

Travesty continued on 6

SpiralFrog Hops Into the Music Industry

Griffin Larson
Staff Writer

On September 17th, 2007 a website was born that was tagged SpiralFrog.com. The site vowed to give music listeners the ability to acquire mainstream hits without any sort of monetary investment. The catch? Users must "endure" non-intrusive advertising from various (usually sound-product related) companies. I've found that the advertising on SpiralFrog is ten times less annoying than what one experiences by using social networking sites, such as Myspace. In fact, I've actually clicked and considered buying some Sony headphones I saw advertised on the site... Now that's a first.



SpiralFrog's Logo

The selection of music is unbelievable. I was amazed to find that the website has over 800,000 tracks currently hosted and with the release of new albums that number will continue increasing. One of the coolest things I've discovered while browsing through SpiralFrog's giant array of artists was that the site contains many, if not thousands, of independent groups. Obviously, the groups are not tied to giant record companies so I can't imagine that they are normally able to rep their music very efficiently. SpiralFrog changes this by offering a place where users can try out music at no monetary (or legal) risk, giving relatively

unknown artists a chance at increased popularity.

The major, and maybe only, downside I've found to SpiralFrog is that all music uses the DRM (Digital Rights Management) standard to stop users from burning or listening to the music on an iPod or other Windows Media Audio incompatible device. Now granted, I will rarely use cd's and I don't even own an iPod, but I think it may prove to be a huge turn off for the would-be user who owns an iPod or who still uses those little pieces of plastic that spin around.

I think that SpiralFrog is not only a literal advancement in the push for anti-piracy, but it

acts as a catalyst of sorts for companies offering online music stores worldwide. It's an example that free music for the end user is possible, while still making the music industry the money they need to pay the artists. If you haven't already, I suggest checking out the site and registering (it's free!) A.S.A.P., it's very likely that if the site accrues enough users more music could be become available. Alternatively, without support from the aforementioned entity, things could turn sour and the site could cease to exist. Web Address: [Http://www.spiralfrog.com](http://www.spiralfrog.com) ☼

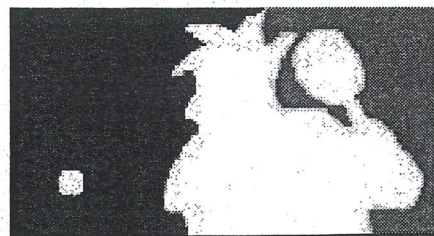
Fraquetball experiences fire alarm fiasco

John Knapp
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, December 11th there was a fire frill during lunch; this fire drill was not a planned one. At approximately 11:52 one Fraquetball player slipped into the alarm. While the A.F.A. is not releasing the student's name we are told that there were several witnesses to the accident.

English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt had the closest view of any one in this incident. Also at the scene was Emmet Ruff. "What happened was (enter student

name) was reaching for the ball and accidentally hit the fire alarm. You could tell it wasn't on purpose." Emmett was participating in the game when the fire alarm went off.



Oops

Around the school teachers and students were upset with Fraquetball. Commissioner of Fraquetball, John Knapp, released this statement, "The A.F.A. would like to take this opportunity to apologize to the school, and those in it, for the mistake

Errors continued on 6

Mai Vang

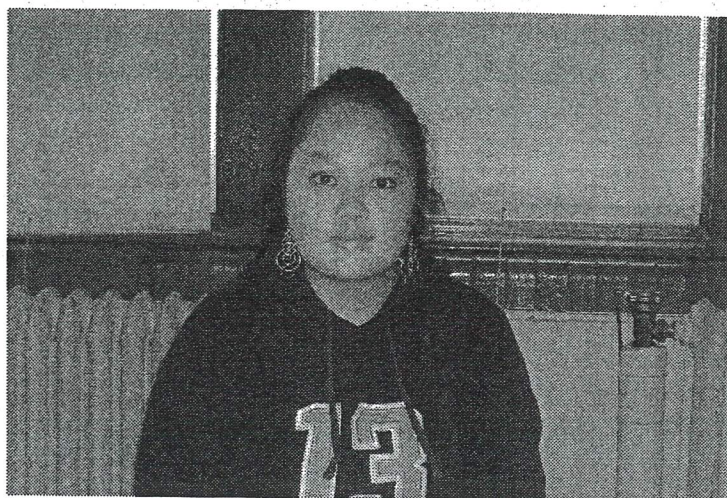
How many years have you been at Open?
13

What are your plans for next year?
Go to Brown College and get my degree in Criminal Justice.

What will you miss most about Open?
Old Open School rules.

What is your favorite book, movie, or TV show?
Speak by Laurie Halse-Anderson

What was your favorite class in high school?
Math



Jaime: a fraquetball legend??

John Knapp

Staff Writer/ Fraquetball Commissioner

"Why is he better than me?" some might ask. "Because he's a lean, mean, winning machine!" said 11th grader Myles Alteri. While 12th grader Jaime Avila is about to become the all time wins leader in Fraquetball, he would be the last to tell you that. Jaime is not only one of the best Fraquetball players ever, but also one of the most modest.

"I'm out there to have fun," said Jaime about why he liked Fraquetball. Jaime is the best player out there, but he's always polite about it. "I mean even after he beats you 7-0 he still shakes your hand and is encouraging," said 11th grader Gryphon Larson. Jaime has been playing Fraquetball since his 7th grade year. He's won back-to-back MVP's and last year won the championship. "He played his heart out, he always does," said former Fraquetball player Liam Shramko. Jaime has done many every day services for Fraquetball: he has always been a fair and trusty line judge. He also keeps stats when asked. Despite all of this he was never appointed to the Fraquetball committee. When asked about it Jaime said "I

was always hopeful about being on the committee, but hey, it's not my choice."

Jaime has a career record of 69-31, as of the 12th of December 2007. Jaime's first year he had a record of 2-3. That year he was on the team Lovable Little People, with former committee member Andrew Hoagland. "The Lovable Little People were good. You could tell both players had a ton of potential," said former Fraquetball god Nathan Jesson.

In 2003-2004 the Lovable Little People went 6-4. Making the playoffs in a contested race with Los Geezers. The Lovable Little People had a very hard first round match against the Gentle Giants. Despite winning the first game in the series, they then lost the next two. After that season the Lovable Little People decided to disband as a team. "I

loved playing with Andrew. I felt both of us were ready to move on. It worked out for both of us in the end," said Jaime.

After parting ways with Andrew, Jaime was looking for a top-notch player. His eyes fell upon the previous year's rookie of the year, Tim Fierro. When

Jaime asked Tim to be on his team, Tim jumped at the chance. They created The Losers. That year Jaime had one of the most successful years in Fraquetball history going 14-4, second only to the Gentle Giants. Jaime struggled in the first round of the playoffs losing to Alpha Numerical's Revisited

in the first round.

The next year The Losers team up again. This year they would prove that they belonged in the championship. The Losers went 12-1 in the regular

Everybody Loves Jaime
Continued on 8



That's What She Said!

Vox populi of Open School

Winter Super-Fun Time

Rhys Hunding
Staff Writer

The Christmas season is approaching, my friends, and every group of people has unique traditions. I am here to condemn some of the ones I am opposed to and praise traditions that I think should live on. Keep in mind that while I am writing this article my world is covered with 3 to four inches of glee, taking the form of snow, meaning that I am completely in my annual winter state of delight. Talk to me about this on January 15th all of my opinions could be completely different. But anyways, the Yuletide is upon us, so you shall have to suffer my bliss for the time being.

First and foremost let me officially state my disappointment at something I recently caught on to; it is common practice to put alcohol in eggnog! Many people may feel naivety radiating of me the next time they should encoun-

ter me in the hall, but I always thought that when I saw people having a goofy-fun time while enjoying a nice glass of eggnog I thought it was just because of the love the beverage putting them in a state of ecstasy, fie people, fie. I was delighted to find that I was not the only one- fellow newspaper student Chloe Taipale remarked, "Yeah, I totally did not know that until like ninth grade, I still get sad when I hear eggnog jokes on TV."

Another tradition which I have heard of but never done myself is stringing popcorn and cranberries onto a string and using it as a tree trimming. It strikes me as a very festive and environmentally conscious choice of garland; once you are done with it you can put it out for the squirrels, but make sure the string is out of it,

Festivities continued on 11

Molly's book of the month

Molly Salzberger
Staff Writer



"Even when she looked away, she heard them: laughing and squealing, gnashing teeth and beating wings, a cacophony she couldn't escape... They were out in droves now, freer somehow as evening fell, invading her space, ending any chance of the peace she'd sought." For Aislinn, every day is a test of her acting ability. She has the Sight--the ability to see faeries--and she must hide it or face their cruelty. She can't react to their sounds, their often violent displays, or even the brush of a wing against her neck. The Sight runs in her family, and her grandmother has set strict rules for her to follow to keep her out of harm's way. But when Aislinn is stalked by the curiously power-

ful Keenan, who masquerades as a teenage boy, she must break her grandmother's rules and start to make rules of her own...or die in the attempt.

Wicked Lovely is set in fictional Huntsdale, a dying city just south of Pittsburgh. Huntsdale is grim and stark against the dangerous exuberance of Melissa Marr's faerie world. The faerie world is made up of several courts, with more mundane members and the powerful few she calls 'court fey.' Each court has distinct characteristics, particular behaviors that its members tend to display. In *Wicked Lovely*, Marr's first novel and the first of several in a planned series, the Winter and Summer courts are the focus. She draws from many Irish faerie tales for the foundations of her world. The sharp contrast between Aislinn's Catholic high school and the wild-

ness of

Molly Loves Books continued on 11

Fanfiction

All About The Online Phenomenon



Hello kiddies, it's time for another installation of *Stuff You Didn't Know About and Never Really Wanted to Learn*, with your host, me. This time 'round, I'm taking you inside the mysterious world of fanfiction. This is something that domi-

nates my sad, pathetic existence. If you don't know, fanfiction, or "fanfic" as it's known to us regs, is "a piece of fiction within a fandom utilizing characters and situations from a pre-existing work including (but not limited to) books, television programs, films, and comic strips." (Thanks to user "nortylak" at urbandictionary.com).

I began reading fanfic in the 8th grade. My friend Katie and I called them "stories," and we read them on Quizilla.com. My very first was "A Date With Davey Havok," which had something like 40 chapters (don't be fooled though, most "chapters" on Quizilla are like 3 paragraphs long). I was already familiar with fanfic though, because I had a friend in 6th grade who actually wrote it on fanfiction.net. About Yu-Gi-Oh, of all things. I used to visit the website and read hers, and then copy-paste saucy Sailor Moon stories into emails accompanied by "LOL check this out!!1111" to my friend Kayla. I may have been LOLing at the time, but it was only a matter of time until my life would be ruled and my social development stunted by this almighty presence.

Now, fanfiction may be scary. You may feel apprehensive, even ashamed. You needn't be, but before you delve into "A Muggle at Hogwarts," know that fanfic is a powerful drug. It means no harm, but what may start as a casual hobby usually turns into a sleep-inhibiting, social-life destroying, free-time dominating addiction. I am here, Open School, to help you inside this mystical land. Your mission, should you choose to accept, is to simply keep your hands inside the vehicle at all times, and enjoy the ride.

Hot Literary Action continued on 10

Letters to the Editor

Daniel Mauleon
Staff Writer

True Lies

Not a lot of things can really make me angry. But when I saw the top of one story in last issues Purple Press I was furious. John Knapp is a liar and a tool. Why might you ask? His headlined story is riddled with problems and his false claim to fame. Let me tell you the real legend of Bus Number 1.

John Knapp and I spend many weekday mornings conversing on a multitude of topics, including the latest episode of Heroes, Leo's most recent homework, and Fraquetball or a certain staff members striking resemblance to Dwight Schrute from NBC's The Office. On many a morning the discussion of other school buses comes into play. It will eventually lead to John Knapp going on and on about his hunt for Bus Number 1. He had surpassed devotion, it had become his obsession. He was the expert on Bus Number 1 and he wouldn't let anyone say otherwise.

It was one of those colder October days. I had just left the school at around 9:15 am to attend my math class at St. Paul college. After boarding the 74 heading toward downtown St. Paul I sat down right behind the bus driver. This is where the amazing happened. The city bus stopped at the corner of Kellogg and

West 7th. While waiting for the light to change I glanced out the window and my eyes fell on the legend itself, Bus Number 1. I was ecstatic to say the least. We had even talked about the bus that very morning. So I whipped out my cell phone and nabbed a picture just as it drove off.

I knew I needed to tell John Knapp as soon as possible. But I would have to wait until my class was over and I returned to the building. So instead I sent a text to Sarah Doyle to tell John Knapp that I had seen the legend. My message must have made it to him, for when I returned to school he was there at the front doors waiting. I told him about the occurrence, but didn't go too far into details. He smiled and congratulated me, but his face turned grim when I also shared with him my idea of writing a newspaper story on it. He strongly disagreed. If such news hit the public, he explained, all hell could break loose. It was to be our little secret. I thought him mad, but he was the expert. I kept my mouth shut, to the point I had forgotten I had even seen it until I read the headline of the last Purple Press.

John Knapp had cheated me. He only wanted me kept quiet so he could maintain his title of master

Lies continued on 9

Interesting book about Hmong culture

Sonah Yang
Staff Writer

The Spirit Catches You And You Fall Down

is about Lia Lee, a 4-year-old Hmong girl who has epilepsy. Epilepsy is a disorder of the nervous system that makes her have seizures which last for several minutes. Dealing with her epilepsy causes a lot of disagreements between her Hmong culture and the culture of country she is living in, the United States. These worlds have a lot to learn about each other in order for Lia to survive.

One of scenes I think was very interesting was when the parents just stop giving Lia her medicine, because they think the doctors gave Lia too much. After all, she didn't seem to be getting any better. They start doing what they think is best. They don't care about what the doctors say. The doctors think the parents are wrong to do a Hmong traditional ceremony with Lia instead of giving her medicine.

Anne Fadiman, the author, won the National Book Critics Circle Award

Reading continued on 7



Football Picks

Jaime Avila
Staff Texan

The postseason starts in January, and teams will play their way through to the big game on February 3, 2008. I will be giving some insight on who I think will make the postseason, and who will win the Super Bowl.

The playoff picture is much clearer in the AFC so I will start with them. The top seed will go to the most dominant team in NFL history, the Patriots. They will probably end up breaking many offensive records, even though for some games they only played through the first three quarters since they were up by

so much. The second seed will go to the defending champion Colts. They are the best match up for the Patriots, because they almost beat them with an injury-line up filled with many drops and key players. The Colts are the third seed will go to the Steelers, but really the



top two are on a completely different level of play.

The Steelers are going to play solid football and have a good chance of advancing to the divisional round. The fourth seed will go to Chargers, but only because they will win a bad division, not because of a better record than the fifth and sixth seeds. The wild cards will have some very solid teams that can compete with the majority of the NFL. The fifth seed will go to the Jaguars, who could surprise a team in the

Football continued on 8



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Page 7- Reading, Survival

Page 8- Everybody Loves Jaime and Football

Page 9- Sports and Lies

Page 10- Hot Literacy Action

Page 11- Molly Loves Books and Festivities

Travesty from 1 that are sometimes not all signed off or signed off without earning them. More of documentation of what classes you have taken and what some of the major projects you did in those classes, Elizabeth says that this system will make it easier for seniors to reflect on the highlights of their high school experience therefore making the graduation process a little more simple. Elizabeth is not the only one that felt that the current black book was not all that simple. "It was cumbersome and hard to understand," said Leo. Elizabeth and Leo are the two teachers (they alternate years) of senior seminar; a class devoted to assisting seniors in

"Of course there will be a few bumps... but I am confident that this will end up being beneficial to everyone."

graduating by helping them through the process, which not only gives them knowledge of the current system but they are also able to provide some insights that most teachers cannot.

This system will only apply to juniors and under, and year end summaries and your current sign offs will keep the transfer of credits simple. When I first heard about this I was taken aback and felt uneasy for the people it pertained to. However after hearing so many of my trusted educators speak so optimistically of it I gained a newfound confidence; even with my doubts I know that the teachers have a more clear understanding of how this process works over time and I feel that in such a close knit school that teachers, which we strive to be so close with, have our best interests in mind.

Keep in mind, my fellow students, that not everything that is new is bad and to try and adjust to these changes. Of course there will be a few bumps in the road as we first try to segue into a new system, but I am confident that this will end up being beneficial to everyone. ✨

Homecoming from 1 for fear of having her infidelity exposed because of it. She and her lover demand an exact replacement and through threats of settling in his apartment until they get one and smashed chairs he wearily accepts the job. Throughout his search he encounters past girlfriends, rude Parisians, his wedding party and both dialogue and plot riddled with irony. All throughout this odyssey he is told not to clue in his disgruntled father in law, Nonancourt (Natalie Iwaszek) who keeps threatening to "Call it off!" Pam Larson was the director of this show and had nothing but praise for her cast (which



included both ELC and SLC) and crew. The general consensus that I gathered was that it was enjoyed by most.

After a short break for eating, attending the bonfire, viewing a demonstration of Fraquetball or playing volleyball in the gym the SLC orchestra performed.

Much preparation was required for this event, mostly through the tireless efforts of staff, volunteers, and impressive decorations and an all over swell time was had by all. I also believe that the desired effect was accomplished; I saw many a Open School Alumni and even Wayne Jennings was there. ✨

Deals from 1 didn't participate in this years Black Friday said, "I really wanted to go, but my parents said no to shopping in the morning." When asked about whether or not she's ever participated in Black Friday, Sonia replied by saying, "I have been to Black Friday before, but not really early and I've never camped outside the malls, or stores!"

Although Black Friday is an annual tradition for some people, there are still plenty of people who decide to avoid the hectic crowds, and just stay home. Some of those very people, also decide to wait for Monday to arrive, so that they can shop from their very own computers.

"Cyber Monday" is the

term that is used to describe the first Monday following Black Friday. It unofficially marks the beginning of the online Christmas shopping season. Many items found for sale online on Cyber Monday, were items that were bought at discounted prices on Black Friday.

Many people hate the Christmas shopping season because of how stressful it can become, but there are also many people who simply love to shop. So whether it's online or in the stores, shop-a-holics everywhere get to experience the time of their lives shopping, on Black Friday and Cyber Monday. ✨

Errors from 2 made. We will be looking into measures to make sure that this will never happen again. Once again we would like to ask for your forgiveness, and appreciate your patience, thanks."

Around the corner from the Play It Again Fraquetball Hallway were a group of students enjoying their lunch, included in this group was 11th grader Kamioka Livingston. "It was cold! This is something that should have been avoided."

As of the present moment the school is looking into buying covers for many fire alarms throughout the building. Open school already has covers for the alarms in the Gym and in Cafeteria. ✨

Editors note: Since then Open School has received said covers. You can currently find them on the third and second floor.

Survival from 1

to the first floor and back in three minutes, which I'm sure at least some of you are able to do, then do that. Other wise, plan ahead. Do you have a class which you need a heavy textbook for? (Pay attention, this will happen to you.) How long are you willing to carry it with you? If you pass your locker right before second hour, but need your book for third hour, maybe you should carry that book with you for second period too. You can always put your book back in your locker before lunch. This concept works for other things too.

Or, you could just jam your backpack with all your textbooks. But I don't recommend that because that could cause back problems. If you do use this strategy, make sure you wear both straps to evenly distribute the weight across your body. If you have a sling style bag, like me, or a messenger bag, wear the strap across your body, not slung over one shoulder. Trust me, you will regret it. I have experience.

Planners

These aren't so hard. Take advantage of them and become more organized. You'll thank yourself later in life.

Limited Passes

Now these are the real problem with the new planners. If you follow my advice for getting all your stuff together, you won't need to use passes to go to your locker as much. Only use your passes when you really need them, and then you will have a pass available for when you do forget something, or need to use the restroom.

If you have a teacher who still has an item pass, take advantage of that, too.

School-Issued Locks

The only problems I have heard of regarding the locks is that

- A) Students don't like them,
- B) They don't work,
- C) The student doesn't know their combo, or
- D) The lock was stolen.

If you don't like the locks, and I know I didn't at first, it's just a lock. It

keeps people out of your locker and it's shiny. You don't have to love them, just deal with them.

If your lock doesn't work, talk to the people in the office, because it's their responsibility to provide students with working locks. If they see that your lock is really broken, they will replace it. I had a friend have this happen to her.

Don't know your combo? Your advisor should have written it down when the lock was assigned to you. Go talk to them.

If your lock was stolen, report it to your advisor. To prevent your

lock from being stolen, don't give anyone your combo. Make sure people aren't watching you do your combo, because they can figure it out. I've seen it happen. Make sure that if your combination is written down somewhere, it's kept in a safe place and don't drop it. Also, after closing your lock, spin it around a few times so it locks. If it is stolen, you will have to pay to replace it. Oh, and as a public service announcement, YOU WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANYTHING FOUND IN YOUR LOCKER.

The Whole Darn Concept of the Thing

Yes, I know it seems unfair. I know it seems like the district is trying to turn us into a mainstream school. If you feel like the changes are not in the spirit of Open School, talk to the people in charge. Write letters, make petitions,

"...change happens.

Deal with it."

but make sure you actually have a case. That means getting all the facts. For example, why these changes are in place, what

will happen if we don't make changes, and alternative solutions, etc.

I know these changes are sudden. But they aren't the end of the world. Ok, so maybe you can't chat with your friends in the hall as long, and maybe you can't leave your classes multiple times a day, but is it really so hard to make a few changes to your daily life? Is it so hard to just walk a little faster in the hallway? You are Open Schoolers. You can be flexible.

Besides, change happens. Deal with it. ❄

Reading from 7

in 1997 for writing this book. She grew up in Southern California. Anne has been a writer for many years. She has won National Magazine awards for both Reporting in 1987 and Essays in 2003.

The main point of this book has to do with two cultures. Lia has "lost her soul" when her older sister, Yer, slams their apartment door very hard. In the Hmong culture, if something frightens you and you start getting sick, it means that the soul is lost and out of your body. After the door slam frightens Lia, she starts having seizures. In Western medicine, people don't think like that. They think epilepsy is something that tricks your brain into making the brain think its sick. Every time she goes to the hospital, she gets even sicker and her doctors just give her more medicine. It makes her have seizures more often. She has to take so many medications that her parents think the medicine is what is making her sicker.

They stop giving her medications and start doing some Hmong culture ceremonies called "neeb." A "neeb," (pronounce: neng) is a person who has been very sick and got well, they are the chosen to be a "txiv neeb," or shaman. They are the ones who can go into the spirit world and chase the soul to come back into the body. Lia's parents decided to ask a "txiv neeb" to come in and ask for Lia's soul to return. When Lia's doctors find out that the parents are not following directions and not giving her medicine, there are many arguments. They hold many meetings, debating on which one will help Lia more. During that period of time, Lia is struggling inside. Though she cannot talk or tell them anything, with two different worlds trying to do what they're best at, Lia's body becomes even more overwhelmed.

I personally think that if you read this book, there will be a lot of inspiration. Lia is a really young innocent girl who has to go through so much. But even if she has to go through a lot, and the collision of two worlds, her body and mind never give up. This book is more of a college level book. It has a lot of big and medical words. But if you really stay with it, you'll love it. It tells a lot about dealing with two whole different worlds. Also, it tells a lot about the Hmong history. ❄

Everybody Loves Jaime from 3

season; their only loss came to Jaime's top rival Liam Shramko. The Losers were the top seed in their conference. They breezed through the first round. They then had a challenge in the semifinal. They were once again faced up against Liam Shramko. The series was an epic one, but in the end The Losers won. They were set to play Laffy Taffy in the championship. However, Laffy Taffy proved their dominance by winning the series 4-1.

Jaime's quest for a championship was soon to be answered though. Because Tim Fierro had graduated, Jaime team up with the player who had beat him in the championship the previous year, Jose Garcia. They called themselves Chivas. Everyone assumed they wouldn't lose all season. They were the best team ever created. However they lost one game to the lowly team of Hat Trick!!! "They played hard, they deserved to beat us," said Jaime when speaking about the game. This was the only game they lost however. In the Playoffs they crushed Anger Management. The next round, however, they played Hat Trick!!!! "That was the best set of Fraquetball that's ever been played!" said witness to the game and former commissioner Liam Shramko. The series went to the maximum five games. In the end Jaime had just edged out a victory. Once again

"Now there's a man I respect."

Jaime was playing for the championship. "I was excited, I knew that if there was a year to do it, it was then," said Jaime. Liam Shramko once again stood in Jaime's way. However, this year he was no problem, Chivas easily won. They won the series with game scores of: 7-2, 2-7, 10-8, 10-8, 7-3.

Jaime had won his first championship. "It was the greatest feeling in the world, I knew I couldn't have done it without Jose though," Jaime continued his modesty when he said Liam Shramko was the best player who ever graced the Play It Again Fraquetball Hallway.

Politeness on the court is something Jaime always had. Gryphon Larson recalls a specific example of Jaime's kindness, "I remember one time in particular, during a fairly heated Fraquetball match. I knocked off his (Jaime's) glasses and broke them in four places while attempting to steal a ball. As I apologized frantically, he simply picked up the remains of his lenses and said 'It's no problem.' Now there's a man I respect."

Jaime is one of the first to lend a

"Jaime is well on his way to becoming the best Fraquetball player ever to play."

helping hand when it comes to Fraquetball: he's always willing to buy balls, and to help new players be the best they can

be. He encourages the teams that are playing while he's watching. "When Jaime's watching he always has something constructive to say to the players, and it's never rude. If he's giving advice people flock to it faster than young children to an old man telling a story," said committee member Danny Mauleon.

"While playing with Jaime you can tell he is very serious about the game. That never stops him from having a great time though, he is always nice about winning," said Nathan Jesson. Winning does come naturally to Jaime, but so does being a great sport. Jaime is in attendance of almost all Fraquetball games. He cares

"Jaime is a Fraquetball hero."

about every team in Fraquetball: girls, boys, teachers, stu-

dents, no matter who is on the court Jaime can always be found on the third floor with an intense look on his face.

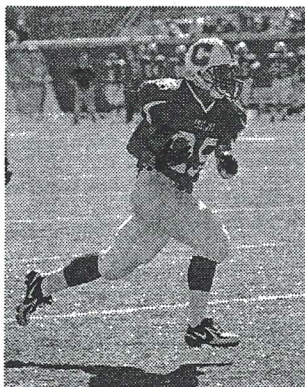
Jaime is well on his way to becoming the best Fraquetball player ever to play. His team is The Sum of All Fears. What Fraquetball really fears is losing such a valuable asset. He plays with 11th grader Damien Bullis; Bullis himself is one of Fraquetball's top players. "Jaime is critical when he needs to be, but he also understands mistakes. I mean I'm lucky to play with such a Fraquetball Hero!" said Damien when asked what it was like to play with Jaime. Damien says it best. Jaime is a Fraquetball Hero. Hats off to Jaime! ❄

Football from 5

divisional round since I have them winning the wild card game. For many years, the Browns have been a bad football team, and they usually pick high in the draft, so they are the biggest surprise this year of the playoff teams.

Except for the sixth seed in the NFC, all the other slots seem to be secure. The top team in the NFC conference is the Dallas Cowboys. They can score points in bunches and they have already beaten the Packers along with the other contenders in conference except for the Buccaneers and the Seahawks, but those teams probably can't keep up with the Packers or the Cowboys. The Packers will take the second seed, having played great football this year, but they lost to the team that stands in their way of getting to the Super Bowl in the Cowboys. The third seed will go to the Seahawks,

who are getting healthier, and will have Shaun Alexander back for the playoffs.



The fourth seed belongs to the Buccaneers, who have

played very solid football and have not turned the ball over, which is a big key to winning games. They will have a problem advancing in the playoffs if they don't get

quarterback healthy. The fifth seed will go to the Giants, who can play great football, but they end up falling apart late in the season. The sixth seed belongs to the Vikings. If the Vikings keep that spot, I expect them to make some noise in the playoffs with key ingredients to winning, which are running the ball and stopping the run.

For the Wild Card round I expect some upsets, in terms of the lower seeds beating the higher seeds. In the AFC the Jaguars are going to eat up the Chargers in a ground and pound match up. Jaguars win 24-13. In the second game I expect the Steelers to run the ball and play solid football against a rising young team in the Browns, who will benefit from playing in the postseason. Steelers win 24-17. In the NFC I expect the Giants to pull it to-

Sports from 8

gether for the playoffs and beat the Buccaneers. Giants win 21-10. In the other game I expect the Vikings to play a good game against the Seahawks. The Vikings seem to have found a groove, but the Seahawks are playing better as well. Seahawks win 23-17.

In the Divisional round there is possibility of upset in the four games. The Jaguars are going to play the Colts for a third time, but will still lose since they couldn't beat them while they were injured. Colts win 27-24. The Eagles and the Ravens have shown how to beat the Patriots, and they have done it with back up quarterbacks. So if the Steelers can learn from their mistakes in the first match up they might be able to give the Patriots a better game, but I don't think they stand a chance. Patriots win 31-14. In the NFC the Giants will play the Packers, but Brett Favre will win out in the frozen tundra against a falling Giants

team. Packers win 24-14. The Cowboys will play either the Vikings, but the Cowboys have too many offensive weapons that Vikings just won't be able to stop. The Cowboys win 31-17.

The Conference Championships will be exciting. The NFC championship will be between the Packers and the Cowboys, and this one is a given to the Cowboys since, they've already beaten the Packers. The outcome will be by a larger margin since Favre cracks way too fast against good teams. Cowboys win 34-13. For yet another year the Patriots and the Colts will play in the unofficial Super Bowl. This will be yet another exciting game between what seems to be one of the best rivalry in sports, like Jaime Avila vs. Liam Shramko. The Colts will probably have a healthy offense this time, but they will be banged up on defense and not be able to get a good enough pass rush. This will allow Tom

Brady to pick apart the Colts' defense. Patriots win 27-24.

The Super Bowl is the biggest game in sports and two great franchises, the Cowboys, who have five championships, and the New England Patriots, who are on a quest for four in seven years, will play it. Can the Patriots get the perfect record against a team they've beaten before, or can the Cowboys blitz their way to a win? The Patriots have probably the greatest team ever assembled, but if they had trouble beating Kyle Boller and AJ Feeley, which are back up quarterbacks, what will they do against a good team like the Cowboys? Those close games against the Ravens and Eagles had quarterbacks that cracked late in the game, but the Cowboys have a solid running game and are not afraid to take shots down the field late. Dallas Cowboys win 30-27 on a last second field goal. ❄

Lies from 5

of Bus Number 1. He, however, made some fatal mistakes the first of which was crossing me. Lets start at the beginning. John Knapp claims he called Kamioka at 4:30 and she got to his house at 5. Well I will not give away there addresses but it would have taken her more than 30 minutes to get there if she wasn't getting a ride. Well maybe she got a



This picture was taken by a cellphone the morning before John Knapp's sighting

ride you say? Impossible, her friend, Alex Johnson, was busy working away making pizzas. Nor could she have taken the bus. She said herself she had no money and if she was planning on getting home she would have kept the transfer. She must have run from her house to his. After some simple math I found that in order to get there in 30 minutes she must have run for 30 minutes straight at a con-

stant rate of approximately 4.7 mph. If you can do that Kamioka, you are amazing.

John Knapp's second mistake lies within his visit of ex-Open Schooler Kieran Gallagher. "We exchanged pleasantries..." quotes John Knapp, however, anyone who knew Kieran would also know that the idea of pleasantries with him is a joke.

These were two of John Knapp's mistakes. However I have one last thing he surely

won't be expecting. The picture I took on my phone, I never told him I took one, nor the school that I saw it belonged to. Although it's a little blurry, my picture shows that Bus Number 1 goes to Partnership, not Minneapolis Academy as John Knapp stated. Plus I have visual proof to back mine up, all John Knapp got was a lame picture drawn by an amateur artist. His witness Kamioka didn't

even see the bus herself. John Knapp is a liar and a fool. He crossed me, a lesson he will not soon forget. I say that he imagined it all. He never saw the bus or invited Kamioka. He probably just gave her some money under the lunch table for her to go along. He tried to add so many facts that he instead added a trail. A TRAIL OF LIES!

I, however, am a compassionate person and I offer John Knapp a chance to reclaim his dignity, if he even had any to start with. John Knapp, I challenge you to prove to me the existence of two Bus Number 1's. That means, knowing the exact location of the two busses at the same time. Then you must use your so called expertise to show which bus is more number 1 material. Do that or fall on your knees before the Open School student body apologizing for your terrible, terrible lies.

Distressed Reader

Dear Distressed Reader,

All of us here at the Purple Press pride ourselves on accuracy and getting every angle of a story. We will bring the matter to John Knapp for further study. Until then rest well knowing your woes won't go unheard.

Daniel Mauleon

Purple Press Correspondent ❄

The realm of fanfic is also pretty mighty, so it can be intimidating if you don't know where to begin. I deal pretty exclusively in Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings fanfic, with a few dabbings here and there in RPF (that's real person fic, y'all). A Google search for either Lord of the Rings or Harry Potter fanfic gives you like a bajillionthousandtyten results, but don't be discouraged. The only site, out of said bazillionthousandtyten sites is Quizilla. Oh sure, "Date With Davey Havok" was fine, but I have never, ever read a good HP or LOTR story there. Here is the opening paragraph of "Lady of Linger, a Legolas Luv Story":

"Name: Celando-lais (sell-in-do-lass)
Race: u r half elf and half man but look more like an elf and act more like a man. Your father is Aragorn which makes Aragorn your long lost brother youve never met.
Powers: telepathy, fire, and know every style of fighting possible
Looks: u have dark brown hair like Aragorn and look a lot like him. U never wear a dress and always wear tunics u carry drag a long light blue cloak on ur back to help you hide. U r very beautiful though u dont think so
Weapons: A sword and a couple daggers attached to ur belt with long knives crossed on your back along with your quiver of arrows and bow."

Oh, hold me back.

I think that, even though there have been some serious blows to the system, fanfiction.net is an admirable place to start your quest. They don't have fanfic with real people anymore, and they've also outlawed NC-17 ratings. Quality of stories is touch and go, but the occasional good story is worth wading through the misspellings and tired plotlines for.

However, most days I lack patience for such things. One of my personal hangouts is lotrfanfiction.com, "A Tolkien Loving Community." It has the same handy filtering tools as ff.net (searching by character, rating, genre,

etc.), but people actually know what they're doing.

On the Harry Potter side we have harrypotterfanfiction.com, which has good stuff, and another good filtering system. For the more amorous of stories, you can go to restrictedsection.org or the ol' classic adultfanfiction.net, which has a bounty of all sorts of fanfic. I read a God of War fanfic there once.

True story.

Even in the most well-written of stories, it's sometimes hard to keep a straight face, especially if there's some PG-13 content. Alas, people seem to think that sprinkling words like "breetches," "mead," and "silken" into your fic means your writing is 4REAL!! You'll be really getting into your story and then you run into "she tore his tunic from his rippling body. Pippin cried his ecstasy to the heav-

ens." It's unfortunate, really.

Another example: story "Wish Upon a Star" at ff.net. Two girls from the present day mysteriously fall into Middle Earth, adventure and romance ensues (this plotline is pretty common, referred to as a "Mary Sue"). This girl is walking home from school, and as it turns out, her abusive father has come home to like, kill her or whatever.

"Diana frowned as she entered the house, something was wrong. She could feel it. She moved

toward her room, grabbing her sword off of the chair where she had left it the night before when she was cleaning it."

A sword? Are you kidding me?! She's not even in Middle Earth yet!

Right about now, I felt that I should prove to you that I'm not the only loser out there who reads this. I sat down with fellow loser Kamioka Livingston (11th grade), fellow fanfic

reader and author, to talk about our favorite pastime.

"When it comes to fanfic, I go for oneshots, slash preferably. I don't mind novel-length, as long as they're interesting. My fandoms of choice are Firefly, Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings, Savage Garden, and Pitch Black. I'm dissatisfied after finishing a movie or show. I need for the story to continue in the direction I choose."

Well said, Meeksies. Sometimes a movie just isn't enough. As a fan, I have burning questions that need answering long after the final credits roll-- what would happen if I got in a car crash and woke up in Middle Earth? What if Snape and Hermione got together? What if Lucius went to a New Year's party?!

The step that I have not taken is the step to writing my own fanfic. Don't get me wrong, I want to, but I'm scared of what those heartless nerds will think. What if my character just isn't believable?!

"You know, I saw the other authors on the internet, and I thought that maybe I could do that too," Meeksies

continued. "Maybe I could write saucy and ridiculous fanfic to my own liking."

I applaud her bravery. The grammar hawks that swarm the net keep me paralyzed with fear.

I could go on and on, but I can feel you getting bored, if you haven't already moved onto the Chris Brown story right next to mine. My last words of advice are that you usually have to

endure a lot of bad stuff in order to find the good stuff. You can tell whether a story is going to be good or not in the first

paragraph, so employ that mental spell check as soon as possible. Don't give up, and soon, you too will find yourself two inches away from the computer screen on a Saturday night, drooling on yourself for hours on end. ✨



Pictures are sometimes included in Fanfiction

Alas, people seem to think that sprinkling words like "breetches" and "mead" and "silken" into your fic means your writing is for real

Festivities from 4 squirrel digestive system does not need that. I think I will definitely try that, if not this year, the next.

I also think that reading things aloud in front of the fire is a delightful thing to do with anyone whose company you can enjoy. Senior Natalie Iwaszek said "My family reads in front of the fire; usually a Christmas book or something someone in the family has written." I think that this tradition would not be right for every family, but I think it would be lovely for those it did.

One thing that I can say is that putting cookies out for Santa after your kid is a certain age is a shameless ploy for sweets and you know who you are.

Especially since adults are always complaining about gaining weight, can we just cut the malarkey people?

Many a candy cane delicacy is produced and enjoyed during the holiday season; peppermint bark, chocolate with candy cane bits in it and of course the



typical cane. But I have recently discovered a marvelous invention-candy cane ice cream. It sounds a little gross, and I was apprehensive, but when I took the first bite I was so pleasantly surprised I thought I would cry. How could my family have sheltered me from this all these years? They must hate me, but then I remembered that I think we did have it once and I did not eat it because it sounded gross, whoops. Oh yeah, eggnog ice cream sounds sweet too, get back to me on that one though.

Plastic trees are a bit of a wild card; they can be very convenient but they are also kind of lame in some situations.

I really do enjoy holiday music as well, it is much better than holiday clothing which you can only wear for like a month, wear as Christmas music can be listened to all year round. I personally get really depressed when I listen to it out of season, but I do know of people who listen to it the whole year. Plus it is obviously magic; once when I was in Bridget's room we were listening to

"N'sync Christmas" and it started snowing, also once we were listening to "Christmas with the Rat Pack" and a majestic buck appeared directly outside, and lastly, once we were watching Jimmy Neutron but decided that we wanted to listen to the Mormon Tabernacle Choir's version of "Carol of the Bells" so we turned the sound off, when we looked back at the screen the actions on Jimmy Neutron were perfectly coinciding with the music, pure majesty.

So, no matter if you agree with me or not, we should not care. A season of fraternity and unity is upon us and I encourage you all to not get absorbed in what stupid U.S.A magazine says about teens and Christmas (their favorite stores are: Hollister, American Eagle and Aeropostale and you should get them something from there. OR don't expect your teens to stop texting during the holidays) but please prove them wrong and embrace the real spirit of the season. ❄

Molly Loves Books from 4 M a r r ' s faeries adds suspense to the plot.

The book's main plot centers around three main characters, and their role in the search for the missing Summer Queen. Keenan, the Summer King, has been searching for nine centuries for someone to fill her place, and time is running out at last. He'll do anything to find his queen before his mother, the Winter Queen, casts a permanent chill over the fey and the seasons themselves. Aislinn catches his eye, and he decides immediately that she is The One. But he's done this before--he's had nine centuries of putting his choices to the test, and all of those who tried their luck have failed. The ones who preferred not to try are now the Summer Girls--a sort of harem--but each who tries and fails becomes the Winter Girl, and her task is to stop his next choice from becoming the Summer Queen.

Donia, the current Winter Girl, is rather unconventional in her role. She's the only Winter Girl who has stayed in love with Keenan, even after she fails his test. She hates him, but she loves him, too. And she wants him to win, to defeat his mother and complete his court. The problem is, if he does win, Donia will die. There's no room for a Winter Girl in the fey world once the Summer Queen is

found. She likes Aislinn, and thinks she would make a good queen despite her reluctance, and she finds herself trying to help her, even when it means her own death, either at the hands of the sinister Winter Queen or at Aislinn's victory.

Aislinn wants nothing to do with any of it. She wants to hang out with Seth in his art-covered train-carriage house. She wants to graduate from her strict Catholic high school so she can finally get piercings on her face, and some kind of tattoo. She wants Seth to meet her grandmother, because she knows she'd like him. She'd like to go to college, maybe. She wants her life as free of faeries and magic as possible, but with her Sight, it isn't possible, really. When Keenan impersonates a human teenager and pursues her even into her school, she's forced to confront him, his court, and his wicked caricature of a mother. On the jacket, it sounds like she's the only main character of a supernatural romance novel, but the plot is much more about a fight for her life and her independence.

Melissa Marr is very good at playing her characters against each other. The conflicting goals of characters who would otherwise be on the same side in a good vs evil sort of divide make *Wicked Lovely* a gripping read. Aislinn and Do-

nia are easy to empathize with, as is Aislinn's friend and clear love interest, Seth, but Keenan initially comes off as self-centered and arrogant. The villain, Beira the Winter Queen, is easy to hate, mainly because she has no depth. She has about the complexity of character of Cruella De Vil, and nobody likes a puppy-killer. However, Marr's vivid, fascinating descriptions more than make up for the sometimes-flat secondary characters. *Wicked Lovely* is perfect for any fans of urban fantasy, and it's enough of a coming-of-age story that even young adult fiction fans wary of fairy tales will love it.

Melissa Marr's next book, *Ink Exchange*, features secondary characters from *Wicked Lovely* including a faerie king who works in a tattoo parlor--and it's set to come out April 28, 2008. There's also a sequel to *Wicked Lovely* in the works. Melissa Marr has a website at <http://www.melissa-marr.com>, a journal at <http://melissa-writing.livejournal.com>, and a Myspace page at http://www.myspace.com/melissa_marr.



FRAQUETBALL !!!

Rankings

Girls

(8)8. No Brand Girls. Started out 0-2, but they were playing some good teams. Their enthusiasm on defense should help, but their offense looks shaky.

(7)7. The Blondes. The blondes showed little promise in their first few games. They showed that they stood no chance to win the finals. What they need to work on is taking time to set up their shots.

(6)6. Sexual Chocolates. Ceyairra showed promise with her back defense. Nikia says she's going to quit. Will she? Well, I guess only she knows.

(5)5. Jamrock. This team showed that they could play a close game against the best team in their league. Then again it was that team's first game. What does this mean for Jamrock? Nothing. They need to show that they can win, which they haven't done yet.

(3)4. Samantha Ecker. For this team to succeed, Julia needs to step it up. Despite the Iwaszek's families long-time Fraquetball history, Julia has yet to show any of the talent her sisters did.

(1)3. The Fraquettes. Megan and Anna had a disappointing game against 16 Candles. One loss won't stop this train though. Megan is the most skilled player in the league.

(3)2. 16 Candles. Jessie has a good shot, and Alicia's skill at back D is one step up from any other in the

league. If they can beat The Fraquettes in the playoffs, I could see them winning it all.

(2)1. Los Lentes de Sol. Laura has one kick ass shot. Emily needs a little practice, and she could get there in time. When Laura is on, this team won't lose.

Boys

(16)16. Kemikal Krane Leg 0-5. Andrew Dames has shown improvement from last year, but when you're playing solo things can be difficult. Andrew has shown he's no Geoff Freeman.

15(13). Hmong Pe Eb 0-2. They've played the two best teams in their conference, so there's time for them to turn it around. They need to use more wrist in their shots.

14(12). Wolf Pack. Too bad this team is incredibly short, or else they could do some serious damage in this league. This team needs to work on offense, and not get down on themselves because of their tough schedule.

13(15). Autoball's 1-3. Autoball's beat a tough T.P. team. D.J has 32 blocks this season, and Carl has solid back d.

12(9). Kubwa Bwana's 0-2. Yet another team with a poor start due to a start against Space Monkey's and Sum of All Fears. James need to realize that topspin doesn't work with Fraquetball. GIVE IT UP JAMES!

11(14). Curtain Call 1-1. They amazed the Fraquetball world when they defeated Los Geezers. But trust me folks, that was a one time thing.

10(9). 2 and a Half Men 1-2. With a streaky defense and low shots reminiscent of Jim Witt. These guys still have a shot at the playoffs, but they're hurting.

9(10). The Adminigators 1-0. With a crucial victory over 2 and a Half Men, The Adminigators are poised for a playoff push. With amazing teamwork like unseen since Jesson 5, the Adminigators dribble the ball as well as Mugsy Bogues.

8(6) Hmong Massacre 2-2. Tong Kou has a great shot when he's on, but he hasn't been on enough. But he reminds some of a smaller, inexperienced Cameron Beitler.

7(8). Ruff: 12RB 1-3. Played their hearts out against Los Geezers. They lost 12-10 but still. I think they deserve this spot. Emmett's experience and drive will pay off. Isaac showed improvement with his shot. And Emmett is a good back defender. Emmett also has a mean shot.

6(7)T.P 1-2. Peter and Tou Nhia have created some talk among the Fraquetball experts. Some say they'll be great, others don't have such high hopes. They played VERY well in their first game against Los Geezers. They lost 9-7. They looked very good on defense. Offense will come with time,

so I expect this team to continue tearing through the rankings. They creamed Hmong Massacre, to the tune of 7-0.

5(3)Los Geezers 2-2. After losing to Curtain Call Tim and Leo have hit quite the rough patch. But when you lose to Danny, you need to seriously assess your play. Danny couldn't stop a side-winder serve from Devlin Byrne! I mean, everyone can stop those. Tim's defense is just as good but his shot slipped when it counted.

(5)4. 6-1-Tizzou 2-0. Tom is so damn good at front D!!! He shuts down every offense in the league. Luke is improving his shot. At this point, Tom should be playing front. His aggression on defense is unmatched in history.

(4)3. Space Monkey's 5-1. Vicente is one of the top defenders in the game. Myles has a good shot, but can they compete with numbers 1 and 2? I should think not.

2(2). HAT TRICK! 5-0. This team's not cocky, they're confident. So when they tell you they're the best it's a compliment.

1. Sum of All Fears. Jaime is damn talented. Not to take anything away from Damien, who is good in his own right, but if Jaime's partner was Danny Mauleon they'd still be ranked first.

Rankings are updated weekly at
<http://fraquet.tripod.com/>