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More on the N word



Nikia Davis
Staff Writer

Last trimester, there was a very upsetting article about the word "nigger" and its meaning, written by two African American students.

While this cynical article sparked a lot of interest within the student body, I have some concerns about the

tone of the article and the generalizations it makes about white people. Given this word's history, it makes me angry that there remains so much ignorance and misunderstanding surrounding this word.

The article alleged that the word nigger was developed to insult blacks. This

is partially true, but originally this world was just one that meant the color black. It was not always derogatory. It evolved over time into a racist connotation. The word remains very sensitive, and is creates a climate of social taboo, often appearing like n****er, n--, or just the n-word.

The word has changed over time, and is now more commonly used, in some circles, as a word of endearment and a form of greeting in today's popular culture. While the word has evolved, one thing still remains- the amount of discomfort this word causes between white people and black people.

Should blacks be able to use the word "nigger" in ways forbidden to others? The article delved into whether or not a

NIGGER CONTINUED ON 6

Tim visits foreign lands

Mai You Yang
Staff Writer

Did you notice Tim was gone for two whole weeks in February? Well, he was abroad to India. "It was very exciting," he said.

Last spring two teachers from India came and worked with some ELL teachers at Open School. Tim was one of them. That's why Tim went to India, not on vacation or anything. Three other ELL teachers and around the Twin Cities and one professor from Hamline University went with him.

They went there to see schools and train ELL teaches. Schools over there are different from Minnesota, according to Tim. There are about 50-70 students in each classroom. Compared to Open School classes, that's about two or three classes combined. As Tim explains it, "the students are very welcoming."

One memory Tim talked about was that when they went to one of the schools, the kids were crazy. He felt as if they were "rock stars." The students

asked for their autographs. "Those kids are very funny," he added.

He went to Calcutta and Orissa, two of the main cities. He liked Orissa because, he said, "It's like in Minnesota, where it's not huge and there is country side." The weather in India is "Very nice, it's usually around the mid-70s," he said. But it can get very hot, "but not as hot as in Thailand," he added.

Traffic is like "Cars in video games," (insert hand motions here). There is more traffic in India compared to Minnesota, so those of you who complain about traffic in Minnesota, just wait until you get to India. There are 1,027,015,247 people in India, "But not as much as in China," confessed Tim. Compared to Minnesota, there are a lot more people.

Tim loved their food, "All the food was excellent, wonderful and good," he commented. There is usually rice, bread, vegetables, and very good spices

TIM CONTINUED ON 5

Ideas, excuses, etc.

Alex Plonski
Staff Writer

Well, it's 6th hour of the due date, and I still don't have a story idea. It really should be called an "article idea," because my final article may or may not be a narrative, but Leo calls them all stories. Go figure. Anyway, if I don't get one, I'll have to do that stupid investigative story about the AP test. The problem with doing that is it would require that I actually talk to people that I don't know. And then I'd have to write it down, and then probably go back to the people later to clarify what they said, and then, finally, actually write the story. Obviously, too much work. But I am still without a story idea, and Leo won't accept random rambling unless it's really good.

Fortunately, I have a myriad of excellent excuses for my lack of story idea. The first, of course, being that I watched Aladdin on Friday evening. Why, you ask, does that entitle me to not have a story idea? Well, you can't expect me remember to do that sort of serious thinking at home, especially not when I have 3, count em, 3 SDLs. My brilliantly ingenious plan was to utilize one of them. But how could I focus on brainstorming, when I had to look up Aladdin on Wikipedia, and work on memorizing the lyrics to all of its classic songs! I mean, check out this awesome crowd participation:

"One jump, ahead of the hoofbeats [Vandal!]

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Got talent? I guess we'll find out

Sonah Yang

Staff Writer

This year's talent show will be on the 18th of May. Why is it so late? Because of testing for the elementary, the ELC teachers asked for the delay. "I prefer to have it earlier, but because of testing, I understand," said Jeff Caulum, ELL teacher who is in charge of the talent show.

Tryouts are two weeks before the talent show, which is on Thursday, May 3rd. Jeff recommends people start practicing now because time flies by fast. Tryouts are not hard. Open School has very straight forward talent show. Usually everyone gets in, but

during the final tryout, the week before the talent show, if the acts are still not ready, they'll be held until next year.

The talent show isn't after school like other high schools, because transportation is a big deal to most people. "If we have it after school, people that really want to see it cant because they don't have rides, so it's better to have it during the school day so that everyone can see it," said Jeff, ELL teacher. No prizes will be given out. "Because we're judging them, and that's not what we want. Everyone has their own talents," said Jeff, ELL teacher. *

Talent Show-May 18th!

Four Open School teams advance to state history day

Tong Xiong

Staff Writer

Monday, March 19, Open School students competed in the Regional division of the National History competition at the St. Paul College. Twelve Open School teams went to the St. Paul College to compete with other teams from different schools around St. Paul.

Four Open School teams advanced to compete at State: the team that presented on How Lucy Changed Life (Anna Blyly-Strauss 12th grader), the team that presented on Wounded Knee (Jessie Biedler 10th grader, Nikia Davis 10th grader, Katelynn Ecker 10th

grader, & Alicia Martinez 10th grader), the team that presented on Oregon Trail (Shaeng Yang 10th grader, Kalia Vang 10th grader, & Bao Yang 10th grader), and the team that presented on Hmong's Life During The Vietnam War (Tong Xiong 10th grader & Taeng Yang 10th grader).

"I was really happy about the results. I was surprise that Tong and Taeng got their stuff done on time and won," said social studies teacher and History Day advisor Susanne Hollingsworth.

When students arrive at the competition, they had to check in. The check in person gave a table number and the time

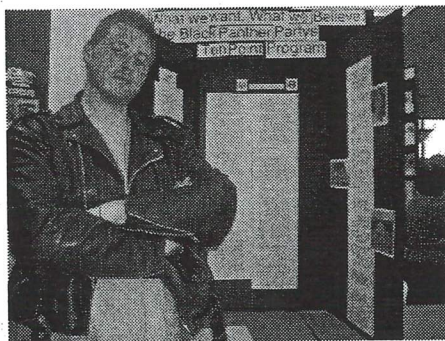
each team will be judged. The judges come to each table and read the explanation paper. They also look at the board, then they asked questions such as, "What is the most difficult part for you? and, What did you learn from your project?"

"I can't believe that we won, since the board was mostly empty," said 10th grader Taeng Yang.

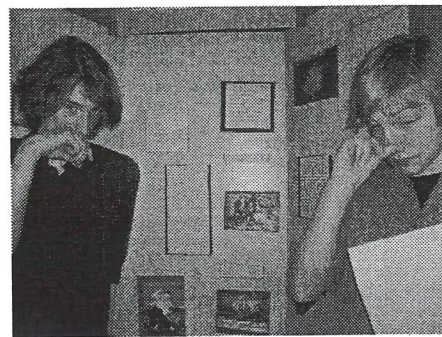
The State division of the National History day competition will start on Saturday, April 21, at the University of Minnesota. There will be over 1,100 students from across Minnesota there to compete.*



Natalie Iwaszek presented on Triumph and Tragedy in Hiding



Ian Molloy-Busse presented on the Black Panthers



Rhys Hunding and Emmett Ruff presented on the drug trade

Veronica Beaty

What are you planning to do next year?

Going to college, at either Mills in CA or the U of M.

What will you miss most about Open?

The surprise intellectual discussions.

What is your favorite book, movie, or T.V. Show?

Interface by Neal Stephenson.

What is your favorite class in high school?

Leo's third hours and Politics.

What is the last concert you went to/album you bought?

A best of Minnesota Punk and Ska anthology.

What is one job you would like to have as an adult?

Technical work for the movies.

If you could meet one person dead or alive, who would it be?

John Wesley or Joss Whedon.



Frisbee gets competitive

*John Knapp
Staff Writer*

On March 27 the Open School frisbee team, The Manatees, held their first practice. They had two coaches present: Josh and Darrell. The team gathered out on the Open school field and held the first practice of many to come.

For the first time in Open School memory we will have an official sports team. While we have had people on the Central's soccer team, on their baseball team and on their basketball team, Open School has never had its own team. Now Open can partake in the world of sports.

"A lot of people signed up," said captain Liam Shramko. He spent this year recruiting people for the team. He got a total of twelve people signed up. The age range is from 7th to 12th grades. "I thought it would be fun and challenging" said the youngest player on the team, Caleb Hinz. The team is very excited for the upcoming season.

The team holds practices every Tuesday from 3:00 PM to 4:30PM. The games are on Thursdays. The first game is on April 8th. At practices they usually start out playing catch and move into doing drills after about 15 minutes. They end with a scrimmage.

Liam said that the idea for a frisbee team had been floating around for about six years. When asked why he hadn't done it yet he said "We are all [Liam and past seniors] lazy." Open Schoolers had been able to play for the frisbee at Central for last two years. However last year after the state tournament Central's team was banned from the league for unsportsmanlike conduct.

At lunch when Open students play frisbee they have never played by the proper rules. Now that we have a team it is said that we will be playing by the rules. For example we have never played with fouls. Open Schoolers will be forced to play with minimal contact or else they will be called for foul after foul.

So if you care to join the team at practice they are always looking for more people to play with.*



Two non-Open students enjoy a heated game of frisbee.

Promonaboat

*Jose Javier Garcia
Staff Writer*

Open School is having prom on a Mississippi River paddle boat. It's on the "Jonathan Paddleford." It's going to be on Friday April 27th. This is going to be the second time the prom is going to be on a boat. Last time it was on a boat was about 10 or more years ago, according to Jeff.

Many students like the idea of having prom on a boat. "I'm really excited for it, and I hope I can drive to prom," said 10th grader Nou Thao.

The boat leaves at 7:45 p.m.. Anybody that arrives late will not get his or her money back and the boat will be gone. It cost \$25.00 dollars and the tickets will be sold after Spring Break. The theme is "A garden of Dreams." The colors are going to be green and Pearl White.

There are going to be a couple of rules. For instance, you can't bring your own drinks and you can't bring in food on the boat. The food is going to be provided by the school. If you want something to drink, you have to buy it for \$2.50. The first cup of drink will be free, but then after that you will have to pay, so you better bring money for drinks.

The Jonathan Paddleford belongs to the Paddleford Packet Boat Company Inc. The company started its business with the Jonathan Paddleford. It was built in 1969 by the Dubuque Boat and Boiler Co., Dubuque IA. The traditional steam system it had was replaced by a safer system. Two years after it was completed, it was taken to Lemont, IL where the boat was cut into two and they added 20 feet. The total length is about 125 feet with a 24-foot beam. The maximum capacity is 200 people, and only 114 people fit in the dining area. *

That's What She Said!

Vox populi of Open School

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

Ian Molly-Busse
Staff Writer

When I first saw the preview for the new, computer animated, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (TMNT) movie, I was dreading the release. I thought that nothing could compare with my happy childhood memories of Leonardo, Donatello, Raphael, and Michelangelo, however, I had a shell of a good time watching TMNT.

Written and directed by Kevin Munroe, TMNT is completely computer animated. TMNT is the fourth movie made about everyone's favorite "heroes in a half-shell." All of the characters that you may be familiar with from the show make an appearance, as well as some others.

The shredder has been defeated, the turtles are growing apart as a family. "Splinter taught them to be fighting teens, Leonardo leads, Donatello does machines, Raphael is cool but rude, Michelangelo is a party dude!" The old theme song is still pretty applicable. Leonardo is off in the South American Jungle, training to be a better leader. Donatello is an information technologies consultant, working from the privacy of his own home. Raphael has become a distributor of his own brand of vigilante justice, working as The Night Stalker. Michelangelo is a party dude! Really, Michelangelo has a job entertaining children at birthday parties, he plays a character called "Cowabunga Carl." Life seems rather straightforward for the turtles, but when billionaire, Max Winters, attempts to

open a portal to another dimension, a dimension full of immortal monsters, the turtles must become a team once again and work together to defeat this new flavor of evil!

This movie seemed to subscribe to the philosophy of "Rock them early, rock them often." I usually

don't like computer animation as much as conventional animation, however I think that the quality of the animation in this movie is superb. The city of New York is very well built, it looks dark and sinister, just like it should. The plot of this film was excellent, I felt that it was just right. It didn't seem like it was

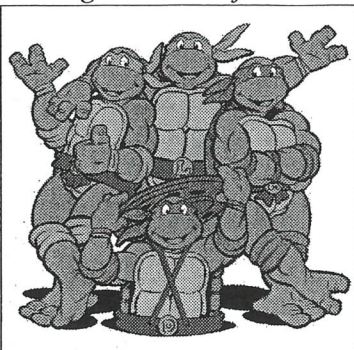
stretched out or crammed into too small of a period of time. The voices were well casted; I'm a particular fan of Patrick Stewart (Max Winters).

...and now!

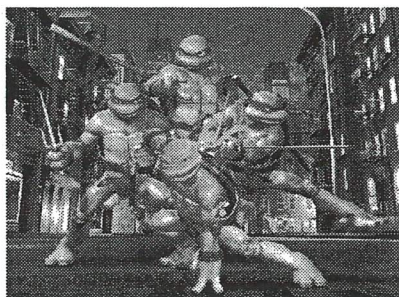
Awesome was already pouring out of the screen when the movie was still in the previews. The trailer for the Silver Surfer was so cool I pooped in my pants a little bit. Then the movie started, man, that was so awesome.

The movie was the bomb. Although there is only a certain type of person who would like it as much as I did. That type of person is the kind that is breathing. I give this movie a 10 for style, an 8 for skill and a 2 for stealth.*

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



Then...



Choose Your Own Adventure!

Sarah Plonski
Staff Imagineer

Part 1

You're walking down the hallway at Open School during the 5-minute passing period. Somebody who's older and bigger than you pushes you out of the way, and you find yourself looking into an open locker with weird swirly stuff in it. You glance around, but nobody else seems to notice it.

If you want to go into the locker, go to part 4.

If you decide to ignore it, go to part 2.

Part 2

You ignore the locker, go to class, and continue living your pathetic and boring life. You are a loser.

The End

Part 4

You crawl into the locker, and are sucked into it like it's a black hole. Except you're not being compacted into an infinitely small space. After being sucked in for a while, you stop and are standing in a stone chamber facing two tunnels. The tunnel on the left gently slopes downward, and light is shining out of it. The one on the right is filled with jagged rocks and gloom, and moves upward at a steep angle.

If you go through the tunnel on the left, go to part 6.

If you go through the tunnel on the right, go to part 8.

Part 6

You enter the tunnel and walk along it until you come to another fork in the path. There are three different tunnels. One of them is still bright and happy. The one to the left of it is dark and evil and full of doom. The one to the right of it is just a regular dirt tunnel.

If you go through the tunnel in the middle, go to part 9.

If you go through the tunnel on the left, go to part 8.

If you go through the tunnel on the right, go to part 7.

Part 7

You walk along the normal dirt tunnel. You go around a corner and find yourself standing on a ledge on a mountain looking over a beautiful forest landscape. You are very high in the air, and you could fall at any minute.

If you want to climb down the mountain to explore the forest below, go to part 18.

If you want to go higher up the mountain to see if there's anything to see there, go to part 11.

Part 8

You carefully crawl up the dark, dangerous tunnel that is full of doom and stuff. It is pitch black, but your eyes eventually get used to it and you can see a little bit. A few zombie bats fly past your head. You consider turning back, but

ADVENTURE CONTINUED ON 5

PLONSKI FROM 1

One hop, ahead of the hump [Street rat!]

One trick, ahead of disaster [Scoundrel!]

They're quick, but I'm much faster [Take that!]

Here goes, better
throw my hand in
Wish me happy
landin'

All I gotta do is,
JJUUUMMP!"

How could newspaper compete with that?! It couldn't, that's how. Especially because we're not allowed to listen to music in the library, and so shield our sanity from boredom, that ever pressing, ever mounting danger.

There were many other things that also needed to be done in SDL. I really kinda want to graduate this year, which requires that I get all my sign-offs. And, as of now, I still don't have any of the Civics ones, because I never bothered to take Civics. So now I have to take it independently, which currently consists of filling out a gigantic 100 question worksheet of wonderful non-biased problems like:

"What is the supreme law of the United States?"

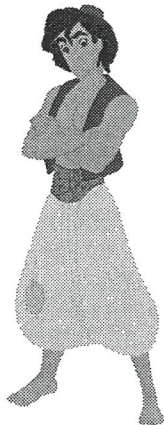
Uh... God? Capitalism? No, they probably mean the Constitution.

"Who helped the Pilgrims in America?" Plants... And animals... And the diseases that their fellow Europeans brought...

"What are the two major political parties in the United States today?" Define major. I'll go with the Libertarian and Green parties. The Green party booth at the State Fair gave me a flyer about a hemp powered car.

"What is the most important right granted to U.S. citizens?" The unalienable right to cheap oil.

And the best part is, any of these could be on the citizenship test. So immigrants are forced to memorize our propaganda.



Aladdin

...an experience akin to riding a unicycle on a tightrope across the grand canyon while being shot at by nazis during a hurricane, except easier and with less personal danger.

Also, an ever present lure: Flash internet games. When I'm just sitting around thinking about what to write, I often think "hey, I should play that fun game." That fun game has previously been Tetris, and that game where you type the alphabet, and Tron, but now I have found one that is better than all of its predecessors combined: Winterbells, at Orisinal.com. Basically, you are a happy little bunny, and you have to jump on snow bells that are falling from the sky, while happy little music is playing. But the problem is, if you jump on a snowbell, it explodes in a happy little pattern of stars! So you have no choice but to always continue upward and onward, in constant fear of falling. Each bell you jump on gets you 10 more points than the last, and then there are also these birds that double your point total. The exponential growth, the bells getting smaller and smaller as you get higher up, the bunny not *quite exactly* following your cursor, the single life, and the fact that there is absolutely no way to pause the game, combine to make an experience akin to riding a unicycle on a tightrope across the grand canyon while being shot at by nazis during a hurricane, except easier and with less personal danger. I literally shout NOOOOOOO!!!! whenever I lose.

My high-score is over 17 billion on my fast home computer, and over 300 billion on one of the slow library computers. I even saved a screenshot on my USB drive to prove it. So, as

you can see, I had neither the time nor the effort to think of a story to write for newspaper. I was just too busy doing other, much more important things. If this class were at central, I would have failed. Well, I probably would have caved in and done another story about the male's basketball team, or something. But, at Open, there is a place for these nerdy ramblings.

In conclusion, I'm real angry at not being allowed to listen to music in the library. That's a stupid rule. That makes me angry. It really does.*

TIM FROM 1

in the food. Tim is a vegetarian, and usually people in India are vegetarian, so Tim is lucky because he had more opportunities to try a lot of food.

Tim had never been to India before. It was very exciting to him. If he could go back, he said "I would definitely go back with my family." He says he learned a lot from this trip. He learned about Indian education, their culture, religion and history.*

ADVENTURE FROM 4

continue trudging ahead because you're not a WIMP just because other kids shove you aside in the hall.

You reach the end of the tunnel, where there are two more tunnels. It occurs to you that this stupid locker might go on forever. You take your cell phone out of your backpack, and shine the light on the tunnels. One tunnel is marked "Past", and the other is marked "Future". It is carved sloppily into the stone above the tunnels.

If you go into the tunnel marked "Past", go to part 12.

If you go into the tunnel marked "Future", go to part 10.

Part 9

You go through the bright, happy tunnel. You end up in a time before any planets existed, and you immediately implode. It's your own fault for being stupid.

The End.

Part 10

Oh, whoops, it turned out that the signs lied to you. You are in an insanely long tunnel that is full of random twists and branching out to other passages. Eventually you are hopelessly lost. There is no possible way to escape, so you have to stay there and survive on the bodies of dead rats for food.

The End

Part 11

You carefully turn around and grip the side of the mountain. You slowly climb up, using cracks and ledges as footholds. Eventually you get to the top, which is flat and very big. There are trees growing on it and everything.

You decide you've had enough of this flat-topped mountain thingy.

Go to part 18.

Part 12

You go through the Past tunnel. It's pitch black, and you have to feel with your hands. You crash into a metal door, which is unlocked.

ADVENTURE CONTINUED ON 6

NIGGER FROM 1

non-black person can call another black person the "N" word. Who's to say what integrated friendships allow? My friends and I tell jokes all of the time. They may seem racist to others, but we are cool because we have talked about the fact that many stereotypes have no concrete basis, and that makes us all the more comfortable with each other's race.

I would like to talk about a few more problematic statements in this article.

Statements like that rob us, as well as other people, of the "N" word's real meaning.

"Some people like to claim black people and say they're black, but when looking at them they're skin doesn't have a fade of black in them."

Maybe they have never met Jasmine Cato, 8th grade Open Schooler, who happens to be half white and black. You could never tell just by looking at her. Has anyone been out into the real world? Maybe we live in a shoe box. News flash: you do not have to look like something to be something- duh!!!

Maybe Alicia Martinez, who happens to be part Irish. She doesn't look it, but she is. Albinos present another case; you can have blacks that look like white people. Evidently, you can't always tell a person's race or culture by looking at them. This should come as no surprise.

"A white man can't say the word to another black, because the black person they're talking to won't see them as a friend, but as a slave owner."

Statements like that rob us, as well as other people, of the "N" word's real meaning. I say that the use of the word depends on the comfort level of the conversation, and the familiarity of the people involved. "Yeah, I use the 'N' word

because I only say it to my friends and to people who won't get mad if I say it," says Nick Oswald. Another example was here at Open School, when I was walking down the hall. I happen to walk past three Hmong students and one of them said the "N" word. I looked back, and realized that it wasn't derogatory towards me, or to the person he was talking to. They were just talking amongst each other.

The problem is not the whites who want to listen to "black" music or wear "their" clothes; we are steadily realizing that trivial accusations like these may very well mean that we are not so different after all, or simply that music and clothing are universal. I do not believe in condemning anyone, white, black, etc. for anything they didn't do, and vice versa. Many people and their families hadn't even immigrated to the United States until recently. Why should they have to feel uncomfortable in any way for things they played no part in? Like I said before, you can never tell just by looking at a person.

How can we make progress, if we still haven't left the cotton fields in our minds?

There is no doubt in my mind that this word is controversial, and saying it might trigger different reactions. This plays a major part in my history, sure enough, but as an African American I refuse to be ignorant about my culture and jump to generalizations too quickly. How can we make progress, if we still haven't left the cotton fields in our minds? The answer is, people think that it's okay to be oblivious, or just plain old ignorant to such sensitive topics rather than thinking through them more carefully. This word has always affected more people than just black people. No matter how you teach this subject, no matter the growing awareness and acceptance of this word to all nationalities, some still cannot help but be limited by what has gone on in the

ADVENTURE FROM 5

If you go through the door, go to part 13.

If you look around for another exit, go to part 15.

Part 13

You turn the rusted knob of the door, and it slowly creaks open. You walk through it and end up in a place that looks like no place you had ever seen before.

The ground you are standing on is dusty red. The sky looks black and stormy overhead. You hear screeches and growls in the distance. This is definitely a place you want to explore!

As you step into the alien landscape you realize you are feeling lightheaded. You've decided to explore a place with no oxygen, you moron. You fall "asleep", asleep here meaning dead.

The End.

Part 15

You feel around the dark tunnel for another way out. Your hands run over a section of the wall that is a slightly different texture from the regular tunnel. You wonder if this could be another exit.

If you want to try and go through here, go to part 16.

If you changed your mind and want to go through the metal door, go to part 13.

Part 16

You press hard on the side of the wall, and you hear a loud grinding noise coming from inside. The stone pushes in and moves off to the side. There is a square-shaped tunnel ahead of you. It seems to go straight forward, but you can't see it very well. You crawl through it slowly. It's a really narrow tunnel, and you feel almost as if you're being compacted into a cube, except the walls aren't moving.

Go to part 20.

Part 18

You start climbing down feet-first. You're going really slowly, knowing that one miss-step could lead to your DOOM. You climb down a few feet this way. You grab a rock, and it starts to wiggle loose. You hurriedly try to grab for something to hold on to, but you're not fast enough and you fall 200 feet to your doom. You are a failure.

The End

Part 20

You crawl straight forward for what seems like miles. Eventually, you see a light up ahead. You crawl faster, and the light gets bigger. Soon you're at the end of the tunnel. You crawl through the blinding whiteness, and you can't see anything. It just looks like pure light. After a few minutes, the light fades and you can see again.

You're sitting in a field of soft grass. There are a few large old trees here and there, and a soft sweet-smelling breeze is blowing. This place is so serene, it creeps you out. What sort of place is this??

Suddenly a huge dark shadow moves over you. You look up and see a giant hawk!

It swoops down and eats you alive.

The End.