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The Purple Press

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2007

07-08 budget released

Tong Xiong
Staff Writer

The 2007-08 budget has been released. The Principal and the teachers have discussed what the school will do next year. They have some very good ideas about how to use the money, but nothing has been decided yet. Some changes might be that Open School students will have more options for science and math classes next year.

Some of that SLC staff will be teaching new subjects next years. These staff are Luke Leba, Jeff Caulum, Amy Kampf, James Iliff, Leo Bickelhaupt, and Tom Totushek. Luke will be teaching more Read 180 classes and less Social Studies, Jeff might be teaching Health, Amy will be teaching more Social Studies, James might be teaching one ELC class, Leo might be coaching part time,

and Tom might be coaching part time and teaching some Science classes.

One of the biggest changes is that Tom will not be teaching that much next year. He will be around the building, but he will spend half of the day coaching other math teachers and he will be teaching two physics classes and one math class.

"In both jobs I will be teaching 2 sections of physical science to build a base for physics to follow. In one scenario the other three classes I have will be math, in the other I would teach one math class and do observations in all the other math classes to try and make all the teachers of mathematics in the school better. The goal is to improve instruction

BUDGET CONTINUED ON 2

Open School vs. the world

Chad Shramko
Staff Writer

When it comes to Destination Imagination, Open School is the top dog. Open has a storied history at Destination Imagination (or Odyssey of Mind in the olden days). Open routinely dominates, no, obliterates, other teams at the Regional Competition and occasionally sends a team past the State Competition onwards to the Global Competition. An Open School team has made it to Globals 8 times in the past 15 years.

On May 24th Open School sent another team to Globals. Continuing on Open School's storied past, team Slow Hands placed 20th! That's out of 40. Which means they were better than half the competition the world had to offer. However, the team thinks they could have done better, "Our skit kinda didn't work out to well," said 9th grader Emily Falksen.

But what's most impressive is that they placed 5th in Instant Challenge. 5 out of 40! Which is the best an

Open School has ever done at Globals. "We completely killed it," commented Emily.

The team surpassed the expectations of many, especially considering they were shorthanded, and by that I mean they only had 4 participants. Several of their teammates left them for dead a week before the State Competition. What kind of teammate would do that? When asked how she felt about her former teammates 8th grader Samantha Ecker had this to say, "They can go die."

Team Slow Hands consists of Bao Yang, Emily Falksen, Katelynn Ecker and Samantha Ecker. This was each ones first time making it to Globals. Samantha was the only teammate with prior Destination Imagination experience.

All in all, the experience was amazing and team Slow Hands carried on the Open School tradition. **

All about Imus

Nikia Davis
Staff Writer

This trimester, I have written about the *n-word*, and snitches. The *n-word* is put into the spotlight by hip-hop veterans, and rapper Cam'ron put the street ethics about snitching on display during his controversial statements on *60 Minutes*.

Now I feel it necessary to share my views on more recent scandal, the Don Imus situation, which also has connections to hip-hop.

Rap is an art form that has been put under pressure due to its inappropriate language. With a few sacrificial lambs such as Cam'ron, who have been used to distort the true meaning of hip-hop, along came a spider: Don Imus.

Recently, he made some comments regarding the Rutgers Women's basketball team. He was talking to a fellow radio shock jock when the conversation took a turn for the worse, and Imus made a remark about "nappy-headed hos" in reference to the team.

Imus has a long history of these kinds of remarks. You don't survive in the radio medium by not being able to build and serve a captive audience, so he's presumably an intelligent man. I wonder how this man, who is a leader and a trailblazer in talk radio, is naive enough not to have known the significance of what he was saying? Did he not think there would be any consequences?

I believe that he knew exactly what he was saying. However, he should still

THE EAR

Purple Press All-Stars
mouth off about Open
School

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The Purple Press Staff

Chief In Editors
Veronica Beaty
Liam Shramko

Copy Editor
Bekkah

Adult to Blame
Leo Bickelhaupt

IMUS FROM 1

have his job. A boxing match has been waged publicly with Don Imus in one corner and hip-hop in the other. The fight: a matter of who gets to say what. Don Imus blames hip-hop for his usage of the word "hos." The apology was only half appropriate. Others should be held accountable as well.

Snoop Dogg, also a controversial rapper for his use of "b****es" and "hos," issued a warning to those who dared compare him to Don Imus. He says the Rutgers women Imus ridiculed were a success story, while the women he knocks in his music are "ho's that's in the hood that ain't doing sh--." His last contradictory statement was "Kick him off the air forever." Can there be a plainer picture of a double standard?

Imus's comments were foolish because he knew better, but not the way you think. He slandered the basketball team, who did not deserve that kind of attention, especially in the midst of a run deep into the NCAA tournament. The Rutgers team should have sued Don Imus for slander. That suit would have been more appropriate than him losing his job.

What Imus said was bad, but the media is to blame too. Think about the Rutgers players are in their late teens/ early twenties, and probably never even heard of Imus. If it hadn't been for the media scandal, these girls might have never heard of his nasty remarks.

This has never been about Don Imus, though. It's about how the media uses slanderous words. Hos, to be exact. Hip-hop does *not* create hos,

IMUS CONTINUED ON 8

Talent-tastic!

Girls only want schools who have great skills.

Bekkah Olson
Staff Writer

C is for cookie, T is for talent show. The Pokémon theme song, a double-jointed kid, some hip-hop dancing and a lot of singing made up Open's annual talent show this year on Friday, May 18 in the cafetorium during periods five and six.

With about 30 acts, the talent show was a medley of sorts. "The highlight for me was definitely Jeff [Caulum, ELL teacher] singing and dancing to 'Jump Around,'" said Caleb Hinz, grade six. "My favorite act was Plonski and the gang, due to their synchro-

nization and raw sexuality," said Chloe Taipale, grade 11. Hailey Young, grade nine, "loved the dancing by Taeng and his friends because the choreography was really good." According to Gerald Morrisseau, grade 10, the talent show gave him "peace of mind." Most of the students enjoyed the event, but a few were disappointed. "It was very predictable," commented Karl Brose, grade eight. "It's the same acts every year." Susanne Hollingsworth, SLC Social Studies teacher, shared, "I enjoyed it... the talent show was a lot of fun."*

Hmong Soccer Tournament 2007

Xa Vang
Staff Writer

Ten thousand Hmong people will gather to watch soccer, eat food, and water fight, on July 4th, 5th, and 6th, at the annual Hmong soccer tournament.

It starts around 5:00 am and lasts last until 11 pm. It takes place at Como Park, where you see teams playing soccer like X con, S.O.S, and Player and more. Teams play for the prize money of \$5000 or more. If you want to get in, the price is \$500 per team.

Hmong Soccer Tournament is an important gathering. When the Hmong first came to the United States there weren't that many of us. This festival gathers Hmong people to come and get to know each other. Every year it gets bigger and more crowded. The food is good every year, but the most popular thing that people love to talk and drool over is the papaya. The Hmong could never ever forget about that papaya and how it makes them drool.



Soccer: whoool

People always get sun burned or turn a little bit dark. Which is some don't like being dark staying in the sun so long because there a lot of things to do. Plus the chicken and sticky rice, sausages, and hot pepper are there to help you get through the day. The food smells so good that you can

spend a lot of money. There are also boys and girls flirting about "you're cute", and "you too", "want to go and take a walk, can I get your name".

Why be shy and waste your time for no reason? I think they don't have any game to talk with someone and get the phone number so you could call him or her later. It all about having fun and no fighting. The students think that going this year better go with the people that you trust that would help you if any thing happens to you. Also they think it would be fun to go find a new girl or a new guy to start all over again with their relationship. So every year is the same when it comes to Hmong Soccer Tournament.*

BUDGET FROM 1

so that all kids get a better product and are more successful," said Tom.

Another teacher that will have some big changes is Jeff. Jeff will not be doing Student Government, but he might be teaching Health, which no one teacher is teaching now.

"I won't be doing Student Government next year, so I can focus on teaching. Of course, I'll be helping my replacement learn about Student Government !," said Jeff.

Another teacher another teacher doing something different is James. He will be teaching one ELC class.

"I will be teaching different classes, have a different advisory, and I will be two feet taller," said James.

Principal Todd Bartholomay says the most significant changes will be the full time attendance person, and the possible introduction of Senior project. He is also interested in how we can use advisory more effectively to prepare students.*

CLASS OF 2007

Alex Johnson

How many years have been at Open School?

8

What are your plans for next year?

Proly just living life.

What will you miss most about Open School?

Frisbee and wandering the halls talking to staff and students.

What is one word that would describe your Open School experiences?

Sporadic

Pick a few lines from a song you like for us to remember you by:

Artist: Rolling Stones, Song: Paint It Black "I wanna paint it, paint it black/...I wanna see the sun/ Blotted out of the sky."



Andrew Hoaglund

How many years have been at Open School?

13 Long... long years.

What are your plans for next year?

Attend the U of M Morris and play soccer.

What will you miss most about Open School?

The habitat.

What is one word that would describe your Open School experiences?

Laid-back.

Pick a few lines from a song you like for us to remember you by:

Artist: Dr. Dre, Song: The Next episode, "Comin' real it's the next epi-



Anna Blyly-Strauss

How many years have been at Open School?

5 years.

What are your plans for next year?

Attending the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, for early childhood education.

What will you miss most about Open School?

SDLs in the hallway.

What is one word that would describe your Open School experiences?

Peachy.

Pick a few lines from a song you like for us to remember you by:

Artist: Descendants, Song: Coffee Mug "I don't need no booze or drugs/I just chugalug on my coffee mug"



Barbara Silver

How many years have been at Open School?

16 years, since 7th grade.

What are your plans for next year?

I'm participating in the Transition Plus program. Then going to college afterward.

What will you miss most about Open School?

My friends and teachers. Some of my favorite teachers that have been there for me.

What is one word that would describe your Open School experiences?

Friends.

Pick a few lines from a song you like for us to remember you by:

Artist: Avirl Lavigne, Song: Girlfriend "Hey hey you you, I don't like your girlfriend. No way no way, I think you



Brandon Moore

How many years have been at Open School?

13 years.

What are your plans for next year?

More school or a job.

What will you miss most about Open School?

The fun I had.

What is one word that would describe your Open School experiences?

Cool.

Pick a few lines from a song you like for us to remember you by:

Artist: 2pac, Song: Keep Ya Head Up, "Keep Ya Head up."

Cameron Christan

How many years have been at Open School?

6 years, since 7th grade.

What are your plans for next year?

I'm participating in the Transition Plus program. Then going to college afterward.

What will you miss most about Open School?

My friends and teachers. Some of my favorite teachers that have been there for me.

What is one word that would describe your Open School experiences?

Friends.

Pick a few lines from a song you like for us to remember you by:

Artist: Avirl Lavigne, Song: Girlfriend "Hey hey you you, I don't like your girlfriend. No way no way, I think you need a new one."



Elizabeth Dahn

How many years have been at Open School?

6 years.

What are your plans for next year?

Maybe go off to college, but for sure get a job.

What will you miss most about Open School?

Chillin' with my homies.

What is one word that would describe your Open School experiences?

All right.

Pick a few lines from a song you like for us to remember you by:

Artist: Pretty Ricky, Song: On the Hotline, "On the hot line!!"



Jose Javier Garcia

How many years have been at Open School?

13 years.

What are your plans for next year?

More school or a job.

What will you miss most about Open School?

The fun I had.

What is one word that would describe your Open School experiences?

Cool.

Pick a few lines from a song you like for us to remember you by:

Artist: 2pac, Song: Keep Ya Head Up, "Keep Ya Head up."



Ian Molloy-Busse

How many years have been at Open School?

5 and a half years.

What are your plans for next year?

Either going to St. Paul College or diving into the world of work!

What will you miss most about Open School?

My friends, young and old.

What is one word that would describe your Open School experiences?

Manly.

Pick a few lines from a song you like for us to remember you by:

Artist: Iggy and the Stooges, Song: Search and Destroy, "I'm the world's forgotten boy/ the one who searches and destroys"



Jesse Valenzuela

How many years have been at Open School?

4 years.

What are your plans for next year?

College.

What will you miss most about Open School?

The teachers.

What is one word that would describe your Open School experiences?

Open.

Pick a few lines from a song you like for us to remember you by:

Artist: Mims, Song: This is Why I'm hot. "This is why I'm hot."



Kaylee Hansen

How many years have been at Open School?

6 years, since the 7th grade.

What are your plans for next year?

Going to MCTC to get my AA degree.



What will you miss most about Open School? The little kid dramas. What is one word that would describe

your Open School experiences?

Experience!

Pick a few lines from a song you like for us to remember you by:

"When ever you need me I'll be there."

Liam Shramko

How many years have been at Open School?

13 years.

What

are your plans for next

year?

Live in

the wil-

derness of the North West.

What will you miss most about

Open School? The relationships

with both students and staff alike.

What is one word that would de-

scribe your Open School experi-

ences? Sexy.

Pick a few lines from a song you

like for us to remember you by:

"Get out of my dream and into my

car!"



Meng Yang

How many years have been at Open School?

4 years.

What are your plans for next year?

Go to MCTC.

What will you miss most about Open School?

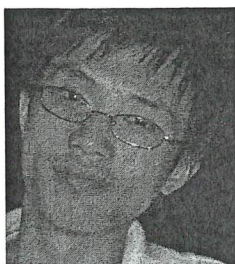
Friends.

What is one word that would describe your Open School experiences?

Freedom.

Pick a few lines from a song you like for us to remember you by:

Artist: Rascal Flatts, Song: My Wish, "My wish for you."



Patrick Alex Plonski

How many years have been at Open School?

7 years.

What are your plans for next year?

Will be attending the University of Minnesota institute of technology

What will you miss most about Open School?

The chaotic moment of 1st trimester AP environmental Science.

What is one word that would describe your Open School experiences?

Procrastination.

Pick a few lines from a song you like for us to remember you by:

Song: Have gun, will travel
"Have gun will travel, read the cards of a man./A knight without armor in a savage land"



Perry Jones

How many years have been at Open School?

5 years.

What are your plans for next year?

Go to Saint Paul College.

What will you miss most about Open School?

The people.

What is one word that would describe your Open School experiences?

Fun.

Pick a few lines from a song you like for us to remember you by:

Artist: The Cars, Song: Let the Good Times Roll, "Let the good times roll!"



Nhia Yang

How many years have been at Open School?

5 years.

What are your plans for next year?

Go to college.

What will you miss most about Open School?

My home-boys..

What is one word that would describe your Open School experiences?

Freedom.

Pick a few lines from a song you like for us to remember you by:

Song: I Tried

Artist: Akon ft. Bone Thugs n Harmony

"I tried so hard"



Peter Allen

How many years have been at Open School?

4 years.

What are your plans for next year?

College, life, the Universe....everything really

What will you miss most about Open School?

The people.

What is one word that would describe your Open School experiences?

Antidisestablishmentarianism.

Pick a few lines from a song you like for us to remember you by: Song:

Blue

Artist: Yoko Kanno

"

I asked myself what it's/ all for and though I really think about it, I couldn't answer"



Teng Xiong

How many years have been at Open School?

K-12.

What are your plans for next year?

Work for a year.

What will you miss most about Open School?

The freedom

What is one word that would describe your Open School experiences?

Fun.

Pick a few lines from a song you like for us to remember you by: Song: I

Tried

Artist: Bone Thugs-N- Harmony ft.

Akon

"I tried so hard"



That's What She Said!

Summer days driftin' away...

Sarah Plonski
Staff Writer

Newspaper class is basically this: sitting in a hot classroom with several other people, not saying anything, and watching flies fly around laying eggs on people (metaphorically). Sometimes there's some quiet background music from somebody's headphones. Sometimes you're writing something like a newspaper story or whatever. And that's it. Newspaper class is like preparation for summer; when this is what you do for three straight months. Some people are fine with that. But some people actually want to do something besides vegetate all summer. You poor people. So I'm writing a column to try to help you find a way to spend those wonderful summer days in which you don't really need to do anything. Unless you have a job. In that case, this column can just be a fun little summer reading thingy that you don't actually have to pay attention to.

The first thing you can do is come up with a hobby. Collect comic books

or something like that. Whatever it is, devote all of your brain cells to participating in this hobby. Walk (or bike, or drive) to the comic book store, buy all the ones you find interesting, take them home, read them, and put them into a shoebox. Write "comic books" on the shoebox and freak out if anyone besides you touches it. Repeat the process. Or, if you want to really be a comic book nerd, you could even buy a bunch of Mylar bags to put the comic books in to protect them. But that isn't necessary.

Collecting comic books isn't the only hobby in the world, though it is by far the best. If you want, you could become a bike nerd and buy fancy bikes and ride them around, and go onto weird websites about riding bikes, like Leo does. Or you could try to think of your own hobby and not just take the advice of a 13-year-old who's writing a newspaper column. I'm sure you could come up with better ideas than me.

SUMMER CONTINUED ON 8

SOCOM: Navy SEALs

Long Tony Vang
Staff Writer

Feel me on this one, alright? You are riding in and SUV with a machine gun on the top. Killing what? You're trying to kill the terrorists. You are on a mission, four people against a whole force. Can you survive out there?

Want to feel intense? Challenged? Or even angry? SO-

COM: U.S Navy SEALs is definitely the

game for you. Play it; feel the Navy. This game is available for PS2, PS3, X-BOX, X-BOX 360, and PSP.

Here is how the game works: It's basically an online/offline game. Playing online is probably the best way to play this game. Offline is just mission



Why not just join the actual Navy?

modes, which is pretty okay, yet boring. When you play online, there are headsets to communicate with other people. You pick a server to join, and then pick which type of mission you want. There are all kinds of missions, such as Medley (all maps), Breach (to set a time bomb on their base), Escort (to escort hostages to safety), etc.

When you choose a mission, you pick which side you want to be on, either the Seals or the Terrorists. You choose which character you think is best for stealth, because certain grounds have certain environments (deserts, jungles, etc). Then you choose a primary gun (machine guns, shotguns, rifles), secondary gun (pistol), and accessories (grenades, claymores, rocket launchers, etc). When you are done, you go to a

SOCOM CONTINUED ON 8

Vox populi of Open School

Need for Speed: Carbon

Nathan Syring
Staff Writer

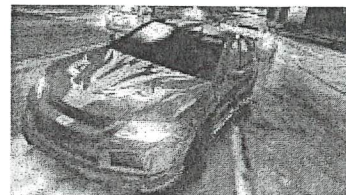
You're behind the wheel of 69' Chevy Camaro on the highway, going 120 mph, trying to lose 6 squad cars. You hit a sharp corner take out a street light, swerve right, and knock down a stop sign. You finally get back on track, squads everywhere. You find your safe house, what happens next.....?

Curious? The game is called Need for Speed: Carbon, and it's available for PS2, PSP, X-box, X-box 360, and Nintendo DS.

Here's a little background. You start out with a pick of three cars: The Alfa Romero, the Chevy Camaro, and the Mazda Speed 3. I picked the Chevy Camaro and started at story mode. When I started, I noticed that I got a partner in races. At the 3rd race I won! I was given a new car for winning. I thought, "Okay, that's cool." I was eager to learn as much as I could, as fast as I could.

So, I played more and noticed that it was much different than any other Need for Speed game. For example: When the police chase you, their cars get in front of your car and box you in and stop you dead in your tracks. The police cars are way more realistic, and they don't damage as easily as the ones on Need For Speed:

Most Wanted.



One of the fine cars

I really enjoyed the cars and the graphics. The graphics aren't the best I've ever seen, but they're better than the graphics in any other Need for Speed game. I enjoy the rush; you get this, nervous feeling every time you get to the end of a race, or every time you are running from the cops. I like the intensity.

The game also has some cons. The graphics do kind of suck because they put most of there effort into the looks of the cars. Other than that I really like the game. It's fun because you can also free roam (drives pointlessly and do nothing). I like free roaming and then crashing a lot so that the police come and chase you and try to pop your tires and all that crazy cop stuff. Like I said, I like the intensity.

I really enjoyed this game. I recommend it to anyone who enjoys intense, fast paced games.*



CORRIDOR PASS

Circle Day: M T W Th FDate: 6/4Name: Plonski, Hundung, Shramko from ClassTo: Room Period Room Time RoomRequested By: RoomO.K. Out Room Time RoomO.K. Return Room Time Room

H.S. 25



CORRIDOR PASS

Circle Day: M T W Th FDate: 6/4Name: Plonski, Hundung, Shramko from ClassTo: Room Period Room Time RoomRequested By: RoomO.K. Out Room Time RoomO.K. Return Room Time Room

H.S. 25



CORRIDOR PASS

Circle Day: M T W Th FDate: 6/4Name: Plonski, Hundung, Shramko from ClassTo: Room Period Room Time RoomRequested By: RoomO.K. Out Room Time RoomO.K. Return Room Time Room

H.S. 25

Alex Plonski
Staff Columnist

Well, this is my last newspaper article of all time, so I'd better make it good.

At first I was going to write a reflective article about all my years at Open School. But then I realized that I had already spent literally hundreds of hours doing that for graduation. And the reason that it took hundreds of hours is that I am really bad at self reflective stuff.

This story will be about the future. Next year I will be at the U of M, but I'll probably still show up at Open for Fraquetball, even though I was never very good at it, and of course I'll definitely be here on Thursdays, if gaming still limps on.

Anyway, the point is, I will not be entirely unaffected by the future of Open School. And ill it forebodes indeed. The other day Alan asked me for a pass, and then he asked me again the next day. Those were the first two times I had ever had that horrible experience, and, of course, I didn't have passes. The first time was intentional, I sorta kinda intentionally didn't take a pass even though it was available, because I wanted to stick it to The Man, and his stupid rules about passes. But Alan intercepted me on the way from APES to the bathroom, and told me that if he caught me without a pass again I'd get Saturday School. And then the second time was when I had to use the facilities during SDL with Leo, when I was in

PLONSKI CONTINUED ON 9

Rhys Hundung
Staff Columnist

As I am sure many of you have noticed Open School is changing drastically. With new administration, staffing changes, building renovations and countless other changes over the years, change is expected. But when it comes to Open School customs that have held a presence for years such as SDL, I am sure that I am not the only one asking what exactly is open about this school?

Self directed learning (SDL) is a glorious Open School tradition. It is an opportunity to work on schoolwork of choice, or pursue an independent curriculum. This might take place in the staff member's room, the library or, back in the day, the hallway..

The hallway is a rather hot topic these days, mostly because fact that hallways are a breeding ground for unruly behavior. This was not always as big of an issue, when there was a hall monitor present there was an extra and designated watchful eye on students. Now even more responsibility is put on teachers: both to supervise students in passing while trying to carry out their many duties throughout the school and also to allow their kids to take their SDL in the hallway and even more so to trust them to stay out of the halls during said period.

Do not get me wrong, I am completely pleased with Todd and Al as the fine gentlemen they are, but there are some seri-

HUNDING CONTINUED ON 10

Liam Shramko
Staff Columnist

At the end of every school year I hear the same words come out of seniors' mouths, "I'm glad I'm leaving this hell hole before it officially becomes a prison." Same thing every year. The wording is usually a little different, but the point is always the same: get out while you still can. It's not as if these feelings are unprovoked, every year there are things are different. Open School is continually changing. Sometimes for better, sometimes for worse.

The fact of the matter is that Open School isn't a prison and it will never be as bad as Central or Harding or some other generic school. Get a hold of yourself and stop whining before I have to hit you with a lead pipe. You're probably saying "Well, if Open School isn't all that bad how come I can't be in the hall without a pass?" You can be, you just need to stop screwing around and gain some trust and respect from the staff.

The bottom line: it's all a game. If you're respectful, take care of business and go out of your way to talk to staff you will never need a pass. Ever. I'm a living testament to that kind of behavior. I've been at open for 13 years and I've never used a pass. And I've only been asked for a pass a few times by new staff members, then I talked to them and made it seem as though I was a swell guy and bam. Al asked me for a pass once, the next day I made an effort to talk to him, has he asked me for a pass since then? No. That's what it's all about. I'm not defending the hall pass. I think it's pretty

-SHRAMKO CONTINUED ON 9

Chloe Taipale
Staff Columnist

You know, I had this dream the other day. It was about this school, and it was insane because the students were folksy and pleasant, and they were understood and allowed to blossom in any which way they pleased, pursuing education in some wacky and engaging ways. The bathrooms were also exquisitely decorated, and candy rained from the heavens.

Aye, all a dream.

As I awoke from the dream I stumbled from my boudoir and resumed my education at Highlan-- oops, I mean Open School. There are whispers in the darkest crevices of this school that it used to be different, once a shining beacon like I saw in my slumber. But those delicate whispers are drowned out by the rainbow coalition of new rules, including the one I am highlighting now, the "no-pass-hallway-bad-saturday-school." That's the technical term.

Now, a pupil of wee Open School caught in the hallways without a pass will be given Saturday School. No if's, ands, buts, or hold-ups. Not only is this new rule aggressive beyond reasonable means, it doesn't stop tomfoolery in the hallways. Now, if a student is holding a Wiccan seance/disco party in the hallway, all they have to do is flash that pass and it's all okay. There are still irritating people in the hallways, and they reach their peak in passing time when you don't even need a pass anyway. If I have to maneuver my nerdsocks around one more group of teenz standing in the middle of the hallway I'm going insane, no lie.

TAIPALE CONTINUED ON 10

SUMMER FROM 6

If you don't feel like getting a hobby, or if you can't think of one yourself and I didn't list enough ideas, another thing you could do is set a goal for yourself. For example, my summer goal is to hang out until my brain melts and all my internal organs turn to oatmeal, but other people might have even more productive summer goals. Another one of my summer goals is to write a bunch of strange comic books, which doesn't count as being productive because they're just for my own amusement and I don't expect anyone else to read them. A good idea for a goal is to earn a certain amount of money, which is especially challenging if you don't have a job. But the challenge is what makes it fun!

Selling lemonade can be a fun way to earn money. The problem is that not many people will want to buy lemonade from a teenager. In that case, you can hire a younger sibling or a neighborhood kid to sell the lemonade for you for a portion of the profit, and of course you will be in charge and the one who makes the lemonade so you will get the most money.

Another good summer activity is reading books. Get a library card and check out all the books you can, and read them. Just be sure to bring them back. Cough cough. Seriously, late fees are very bad and you won't be allowed to check out books on your library card anymore. Try to read all the books in a certain section or

by a certain author. Just so you know, the Merriam Park library doesn't have very many books by Stephen King. They don't even have *It*. Anyway, reading lists are a fun goal to have over the summer if you're worried about your IQ getting lower.

So, basically, the key to not dying of boredom over the summer is to have a lot of different things to do. So my summer schedule for a typical day looks something like this:

12:30 P.M.: Wake up. 1:00 P.M.: Eat breakfast, brush teeth, and make popping noises with my cheek. 1:45 P.M.: Draw comic books. 2:00 P.M.: Read a book and make popping noises with my cheek. 3:30 P.M.: Walk to Uncle Sven's Comic Shoppe. 4:30 P.M.: Walk home and eat lunch. 4:53 P.M.: Stare at the ceiling and make popping noises with my cheek. 5:30 P.M.: Draw some more comic books. 6:00 P.M.: Watch The Simpsons. 7:00 P.M.: Eat dinner. 8:00 P.M.: Take a shower (yes, I do take showers over the summer). 9:00 P.M.: Read some more and make popping noises with my cheek. 11:00 P.M.: Hang out in my room. 12:00 A.M.: Go to bed.

So, as you can see, my summer schedule is jam-packed with fun activities. Have a schedule like mine, and you will be happy. Make popping noises with your cheek, and you will be even happier. Your life will be complete.*

SOCOM FROM 6

briefing room, and get ready. When the red lights next to each player's name turn green, then the mission starts.

When the game starts, you spawn (are placed) at your base, or you can choose to spawn elsewhere. You can choose to be in first person or third person. Wherever you start; you have to find the enemy, or let them come to you. If you are carrying a machine gun then you have to be in close combat. For instance, if you see the enemy far away you'll have a harder time killing them. If you get a connect shot to the head, it's an automatic death for them. But if you shoot them in the leg and stuff, they'll still live. For snipers, they can kill you easily. Snipers are always in stealth, hiding somewhere you won't be able to find them. The snipers are always watching the area where there is more open space. Depending on which sniper gun they choose, there is a sniping gun that automatically kills in one shot.

When the mission starts, you can go solo, or work with a teammate. When working with teammates, you need headsets in order to communicate. The mission ends when everyone on one side is wiped out, or when time's up. There are a total of 11 rounds. If your team wins six rounds, you guys win, and then advance to a new surface.

Offline is pretty boring, but it has a point. In offline, there are ranks, such as Ensign, Lieutenant, Commander, Captain, and Sergeant. If you beat all these levels, you unlock some of the characters and weapons that were not allowed in online mode. Offline can be difficult too, unless you are good as me, hahahahaha.....!!!!!!

Well, for the most part, all of the online games I have played, SOCOM is the best. I would recommend this game to people who enjoy guns, and war. There are many games such as Rainbow Six, Medal of Honor, Ace Combat, 007, so try out these games too.*

IMUS FROM 2

so to speak. Whore is in fact a biblical word. It's older than print.

Imus slandered college women. They still have boy problems, bouts with acne, and struggles with their self image. The scandal was once again solidified through the media, who made a big deal of this and stirred the pot even more. Find a big target and even the occasional blind dart will find its mark. Hip hop is indeed the big target.

There were big names who made a spectacle of the whole situation: Al Sharpton blew it all out of proportion. And Jessie Jackson joined in, calling for Imus's job. Oprah, also did a two-show special.

Imus initially dismissed the incident as "some idiot comment meant to be amusing," and two days later, he issued an apology.

Imus doesn't play Hip-Hop on his show. It wasn't playing on the loud speakers during the game. Look, up in the sky! It's a bird, it's a plane, it's a scapegoat!

I believe that these things can be stopped by the power of women. I see more women dancing and singing the lyrics that put them down more than the guys who make it. Can't the women stop buying albums? Can they support something that makes them feel good? Are laws really needed to help them do that?

Women run Fortune 500 companies, go to school in larger numbers than men, graduate at higher percentages, and one is even running for president. Why do we think that they are incapable of protecting themselves?

As a black person, nappy hair is part of my heritage. Is it someone else's fault people (in this case *black people*) don't value and take pride in their heritage? Is Don Imus responsible for the cultural climate that aids in the devaluation of our own self image? No. He is only the setup. It's time for mainstream media to grow up and take part of the blame. It is time for *all* people be proactive, to self police. People should be able to express themselves as long as they don't infringe on the lives of others.

Did Don Imus infringe? His comments were blatantly obnoxious, but the media, Sharpton, Jackson, and highly influential Oprah infringed when they took the situation to the extreme.

Team captain Essence Carson said Imus' remarks had "stolen a moment of pure grace" from the team. I say, so did the media outlets everywhere.*

PLONSKI FROM 7

Elizabeth's room. I attempted to evade Alan by going to the middle staircase and darting upstairs, but almost as soon as I stepped out of the door of the Art room I saw the dread sight of him walking towards me. Remembering that some people say it's all about how carry yourself, I walked straight forward, and nonchalantly nodded hello. Alas, my efforts were in vain, and yet again he inquired for a pass.

Now I have a pass that says "All" on it, so I just assume I can use it whenever I want. I still don't try to push my luck though, and so now I don't print stuff out, or go to the bathroom during SDL.

But this whole thing is just kind of stupid. In the days of yore, a smart student who did most of the work he was assigned could

Do police officers ask every driver for a driver's license? No, because that would be a waste of their time.

walk unafraid to the lab, the bathroom, or wherever, merrily whistling the Star Wars soundtrack. But

those days are over. Now they just assume that everyone is a troublemaker, and make rules about passes. Even worse, they now enforce the pass rules, even with people like me, and Liam, and Veronica. Even those who are recognized by the district as being excellent and worthy of pie are not spared from this crackdown. Do police officers ask every driver for a driver's license? No, because that would be a waste of their time. They only ask the people who are already breaking laws. As should Alan. The people who run around screaming in the hallways always have passes though, because they rightfully expect to be asked.

It just shows you how stupid the entire concept of a hall pass is. It just keeps students from having any responsibility, so that when they get out of school they have responsibility suddenly thrust upon them, and they go around doing stupid stuff.

The tightening of the grip of the government of Open School is not limited to the halls. It has covered such topics as "offensive" clothing, "overly affectionate behavior," and sunglasses. The first one prompted Christian to come to school wearing a really small shirt (among other small protests), the second one prompted Kevin and Gerald to attempt to make out during passing time, and the third one prompted every cool person to wear sunglasses and hoodies for a day.

As Rhys so eloquently pointed out, "soon they'll be telling us to go take showers, but instead of water gas will come out." The word on the streets usually blames Todd, but I blame something elsewhere, and elusive force that affects everybody in small but significant ways: The Saint Paul School District. They're always threatening to close down Open School unless it becomes less open and stuff.

Farther into the future, I predict that we will run into aliens, and fight a huge, terrible war, before beating them with their own shielding and weapon technologies. There will be lots of cool battles, and an epic soundtrack, and the lasers will make really cool noises in space. Oh, and lots of stuff will go extinct from global warming, but nobody will care because the real threat will be the aliens. Except then after we destroy them we'll realize that they were just trying to communicate with us, and we'll feel really stupid as all of our cities sink underwater and we all get nuked by terrorist commies who were just biding their time.

At least that's what I predict will happen.*

SHRAMKO FROM 7

messed up. But, if you play your cards right you'll be ok. But I realize not everyone is in the same position as I am. In which case.... it sucks.

I keep on hearing something or other about how Open School is all about accountability. At least that's what Todd and Al say. Well then, why are hall passes necessary in the first place? Doesn't it seem a little silly to be asking every student for a hall pass? Maybe even a complete and utter waste of time? Has the hall pass system made things better? In the opinion of this writer and citizen, I'm inclined to say absolutely not. A growing number of students are using the hall pass as a means to abuse the system even more. When asked by teachers if they should be in class, or stop doing what they're doing, students will simply respond "I have a pass."

Does having a pass excuse otherwise unacceptable behavior? The thing is, the hall pass system could easily be replaced with a little thing called common sense. For example, if a staff member sees a student shouting obscenities or banging lockers, they should get a detention. On the other hand, if a staff member sees a student walking down the hallway respectfully, they should get a Snickers bar. It's that simple. Having teachers write passes every time a student needs to use the bathroom is not only a waste of time, it's also insulting towards the student. I need someone else's permission to use the bathroom? Give me a break.

But staff members can't always be in the hallways to make sure kids are behaving! Well, they can't always be in the hallways to make sure kids have hall passes either. Check and mate. Is there a solution??? I believe it's called a HALL MONITOR.

There are some other things I'm not to pleased about. Like the new rule involving Marianna's office and the rule about sunglasses and hoodies. But every time the rules get stricter it's because some morons abused their privileges and ruined it for

the rest of us. It's important to remember that if you act like an ass, you'll be treated like one too. So who's fault is it? The students or the administration? I'd say a little from column A, a little from column B.

What can students do to help the situation? Try taking care of your business, acting respectful

What can students do to help the situation? Try taking care of your business, acting respectful and being a little slick about things. What can the administration do? Think about what you want Open School to be.

and being a little slick about things. What can the administration do? Think about what you want Open School to be. It used to be a safe heaven from a school system where creativity is discouraged. Now, it's becoming a school that is alienating it's students. It's all a game of give and take. But now both sides are taking, taking, taking.

I guess that brings me back to those words I here at the end of every school year, "Next year this school is gonna suck so much." Maybe it will be a little stricter and maybe you'll have less freedom, but in the end it's all YOUR fault so stop complaining. And by YOUR fault I mean everyone's fault. This place isn't going to become a prison. The question is will this place continue to nurture creativity and give students the freedom and responsibility they deserve? Well, that depends on how students carry themselves and whether or not the current administration values the importance of Open Schools past. Open School's future is up in the air, at this point anything could happen.*

HUNDING FROM 7

ous mistakes being made all around. Funds are as always an all consuming issue. We have (debatably) just enough staff to function; many classes have been cut due to the budget cuts, leaving many teachers sharing responsibility, overworking which inevitably leaves many class periods lacking options. This generally leaves two options; take an SDL or take a class that is unnecessary for graduation and all-around not challenging.

You can blame Marilyn Manson, Eminem, Iraqis or anyone else you like, but the bottom line is students are awful.

You can blame Marilyn Manson, Eminem, Iraqis or anyone else you like, but the bottom line is students are awful. They force the superiors to cater to the worst of the bunch assuming everyone is bad until proven good instead of the American way of life: innocent until proven guilty. These kids are also the reason punishment is much steeper for... let's face it, everything.

All I know is that times are hard in every way, but I do not think taking away institutions that are emblematic of the Open School way of life is the way of going about this. General punishment is also not the way, we need to get offenders that offend frequently and without discretion and make them swing for it.*

TAIPLE FROM 7

Apparently the Open School hallways are more relaxed now, and this is said to be because of the pass rule. Now, it seems to me that it's because a handful of ruffians were recently kicked out. There are a handful of troublemakers in the SLC delegation. These clever youngsters ruin it for the rest of us. Instead of this school thing being designed with a kleen teen's needs in mind, it's centered around how to reign in the "bad kids." These "bad kids" also don't care about Saturday schools. How many detentions/Saturday schools do you think the average delinquent has racked up? They didn't exactly get Bambi-eyed and pinky swear to never ever get in trouble again.

Okay, truthfully, I haven't used a pass all year and haven't been asked for one, so I can't complain too much (although I shouldn't admit this, now I bet the hall monitor will be on my case-- OH WAIT). It's just that I hate the sense of forboding in the hallways now, like in a scary movie when they're exploring the house where the murderer lives, I can ever hear a dramatic score sometimes. This is more proof that these rules are targeted towards the baddies because no one ever looks my way, not that I'm a nerd or anything.

If we got rid of this silly pass rule, it wouldn't mean that chaos would reign in the hallways.

Kids will still get in trouble if they're doing something wrong, and the well-meaning younguns will be able to enjoy the hallways without worrying about getting in trouble.

I know that I'm a teenager and no one will listen to me anyway, but here's my advice: Kick more people out. If a kiddie can't handle the freedom of an "open" school, they should be booted. It's not harsh, I'm not a meanie. I don't mean "this student was in the hallway with a glimmer of tomfooley in their eyes so they're kicked out," I mean "this student is failing everything and has gotten 867 detentions this year, they're kicked out." An educator's goal is to provide a student with the best education possible, no? So what's the harm of moving a kid struggling in a self-directed environment to a structured one? They get the attention and paddlings that they need, and the kids who can handle the Openyness don't have to deal with these new rules.

Yes, my fellow adolescents, Open School has taken a sharp turn for the square. I recommend that Open ditch this pass rule and start tossing kids out on the street as fast as possible. I don't want to see my humble learning institution morph into some terrifying "conventional" place, and a school is only as good as its students. Holla!*

SENIORS FROM 5

Veronica Beaty

How many years have been at Open School?

8th-12th, so 5 years.

What are your plans for next year?

Attending Mills College in Oakland, California.

What will you miss most about Open School?

The self-directed awesomeness. Absurd conversations. Leo.

What is one word that would describe your Open School experiences?

Delirious.

Pick a few lines from a song you like for us to remember you by: Song:

Veronica

Artist: Elvis Costello

"I used to know a girl/and I could have sworn/her name was Veronica"



Yeng Yang

How many years have been at Open School?

This is my first year.

What are your plans for next year?

Going to college.

What will you miss most about Open School?

The funny stories about Open school.

The dumb people.

What is one word that would describe your Open School experiences?

Boring.

Pick a few lines from a song you like for us to remember you by: Song:

Follow Me

Artist: Uncle Kracker

"You don't know how you met me, you don't know why you can't turn around and say goodbye... All you know is when I'm with you I make you free, swim through your veins like the fish in the sea. I'm saying follow me everything is alright. I be the one to tuck you in at night. And if you wanna leave, I can guarantee you won't find no one else like me"