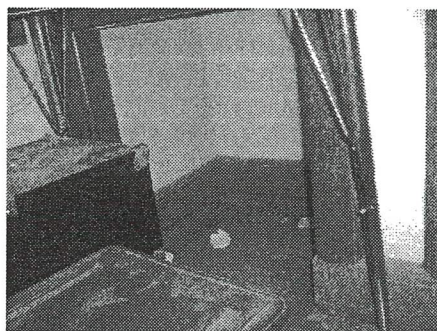


The quest for truth

Quin Miller
Staff Writer

One day, typical as most, I was walking down the hall way and greeting the usual crowd, waiting for whatever the note wanted me to see. Just then I saw a figure in the form of Todd walk into the art room. I had a minute left till my next class so I hurried up the stairs. I ran up through the hall, just approaching the Science room, when Todd walked out the door calmly. Fear and excitement quickly flashed over me. How could someone move so quickly (with the exception of Liam)? I stumbled on the question at hand and finally came to a solid and logical solution. Hidden passages.



Are these odd caverns Todd's secret?

Some times, usually in old castles, there are rumors of secret walkways, allowing people to move unnoticed. And who would have the privilege to do so but the king. Thinking in relative terms, when it comes to principals, they are king of school. Well, Todd is king with some aces up his sleeve. But problems occur. The judgment that secret passages are real is brought down by non believers and teachers, for the school is not a castle, but a school. This I am fairly aware of, but the fact that teachers hold information

PASSAGE CONTINUED ON 8

WWW.Myspacethreatens.com

Liam Shramko

When Open School was founded in 1971 it was designed to be a safe place for students and staff alike. And for 36 years, Open has upheld an almost mythical reputation as a place where everyone can forget about the troubles of the outside world and get along peacefully in an academic environment. Open works for most people. Personally, I have reached a level of comfort here comparable to a Lazy Boy(R) reclining chair. That's right, I said it. Unfortunately, that peaceful image and comfortable environment were put to the test on Monday, December 4th, when an Open School student made a hit list with the names of 10 fellow Open School Students.

The original list was posted on Myspace on December 4th and was edited to

add the names of five more students shortly thereafter. Once word got around, the authorities were notified and the "hunt" was on, so to speak. But the police couldn't do it alone. They enlisted in the help of "computer whiz" and senior Jesse Valenzuela. After that, the student was suspended. The author of the list reports they were then put on house arrest and probation. The identity of the student continues to be protected.

Now that the facts are out there, I'd like to say a few words. First, the List must have struck a chord with a great number of students at Open School. I went out in the halls to get the peoples opinion. "Meh," sighed 11th grader



Love it or hate it;
Myspace is a fact of life.

THREAT CONTINUED ON 7

Third floor blues

Tong Lor and Xeng Xiong
Staff Writer

Students are no longer allowed to be on the third floor during lunch without permission. Principal Todd Bartholomay made the rule after many students were too loud.

Many students are complaining about the new rule. "It stinks," said 12th grader Chang Thao. "They're taking our privilege away when we haven't done anything wrong."

"The new rule is whack and it's boring," agreed 10th grader Xa Vang. Both of these students usually stay on the third floor during and after lunch. They now both stay on the first floor.

Not everyone is upset about the new rule. "I think this rule helps a lot," said ELL teacher Timothy Leonne-Getten. Tim said the third floor hallway is safer and quieter than before the rule was made.

"I believe that what is fair is what a student can handle responsibly," said Open School Principal Todd Bartholomay. All Todd is asking is that students who do go to the third floor handle themselves in such a way that everyone can be safe and comfortable. Students

HALLS CONTINUED ON 7

THE EAR

Fraquetball response

PAGE 3

New Zelda game gets royal treatment

PAGE 4

Costumes of a murderer?

PAGE 5

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Destination ImagiNation

It's that time of year again for Destination Imagination. Regional competition is on March 3 at Harding High School, State Competition is on April 21 at Chaska High School and Global Final is in May 23-26 in Tennessee.

Destination Imagination, also known as DI, is a problem-solving competition that involves team work. "DI is something that I love. I want to have it as much as possible. I wish we could just have it all year round. I love it as much as noodles and I love noodles a lot," said Shaeng Yang, who has been in DI for 5 years.

There are going to be four coaches this year, social studies teacher Susanne Hollingsworth, Industrial technology James Iliff, David Dyson, and former English teacher Bridget Martin. Susanne has been a coach for more than ten years. James has been coaching for three years, Bridget has been coaching for five years and David has been a part of DI for four years, and a challenge problem coach longer.

This year we have five teams from Open School. We have two junior teams

DI CONTINUED ON 6

Coffeehouse in review

Very little actual coffee

Alex Plonski
Staff Writer

On Thursday, December 14, 2006, the Open School Theater Department presented its first official coffeehouse performance.

The audience started filing early to piano music, and soon the room was packed. By the time it was supposed to start, all of the seats were taken and there was also a sizable mass of people standing in the back. There was an announcement about it being great to see so many people, and saying that any children could move up and sit on the floor near the front. Eventually the lights went off, and, after quite some time in the dark, the official program began.

It started out with the ELC strings moving their bows up and down in time to rap music, and then later playing notes in time to rap music, with each number introduced first by Ben Linde, the orchestra director, and then in the beginning of the CD track by some guy with a weird voice. Ben would say the descriptive name but the guy with the weird voice said a cryptic number and then the official name.

Then the SLC strings played a few pieces, and it was on to the improvisation performance by the Destination Imagination improv team, during which several people were chosen "at random" from the audience, one of them to come up with a movie and the others to try to guess the movie from the improvisation performance. Usually though the movie was either

blurted out by the audience or it "went to" the audience after none of the contestants got it. After the improvisation performance was some poetry reading by Jodi [insert last name and title], and then the main part, which consisted of short skits taken from parts of real plays. Most of them were slightly humorous dialogues between two or three people.

Reactions to the performance were mixed. "A lot of it was hard to hear," according to an anonymous source.

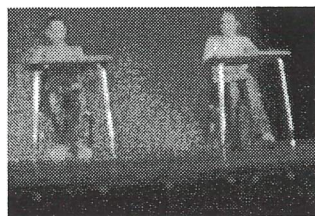
Although the room itself was packed, only 25 people chose to pay, according to inside sources in the Theater Department, putting the production an economic loss over all.

"It certainly could have been better, but it also could have been much worse," said 12th grader and cast member Peter Allen. "A lot of things went wrong."

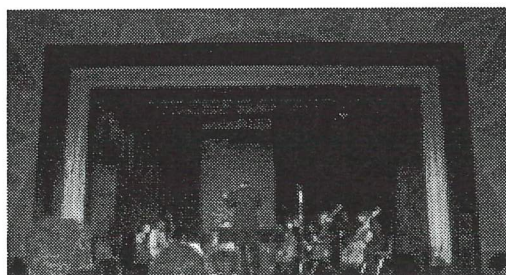
"I think it was a rousing success. It was standing room only," said Director Amy Kampf. She noted that although there were some mistakes, "The audience didn't even notice them."*



A scene from Raisin in the Sun



Kalice Allen and Emily Faulkerson in Detention



Ben conducts the SLC orchestra



Sonja Youngquist and Delaney Valdivie in Personal Angel

Quin Miller

What are you planning to do next year?

I'm gonna check out The Loft writing program in Minneapolis.

What will you miss most about Open?

The witty humor of my fellow classmates.

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

The Song of Solomon movie I created with Jessie and Griffin.

What is your favorite class in high school?

Documentary Making with Susanne.

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

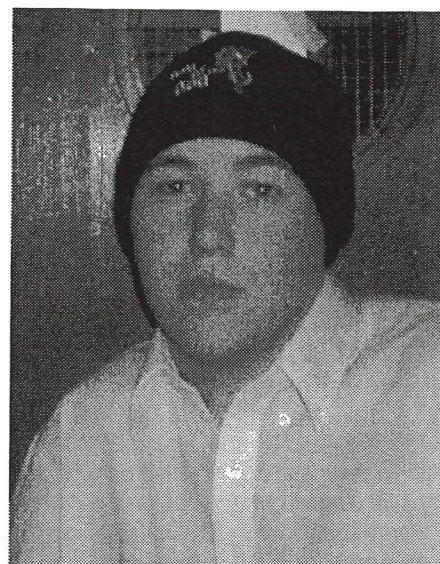
I haven't bought an album in a while: I have BitTorrent. The last album I downloaded was the Red Hot Chili Peppers discography.

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

A professional singer, I suppose.

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

Steve Harvey.



Fraquetball, a season of lies?

*Nathan Jesson
Guest Writer*

Dear Editors of the Purple Press,
While browsing through the latest edition of your paper, I saw that Liam Shramko had written an article on Fraquetball. I normally enjoy Mr. Shramko's articles, and especially Fraquetball articles, and I assumed this one would be no different. But while Mr. Shramko has done a laudable job as Commissioner thus far, and Fraquetball is off to yet another amazing season, the "facts" in this article are no more credible than a Sean Keith complaint to the Fraquetball Committee. I will present some of the numerous errors. Mr. Shramko claims to be the sole member of the 200-200 club, (200 Goals and Stops) but he is forgetting the most dominant Fraquetball player of them all, Doug Anderson of Jesson 5. Doug had 285 goals and 212 stops at the beginning of this season. Now Mathematics was never my strong suit, but I believe those statistics show that Doug is indeed a member of the 200-200 club. Mr. Shramko also claims to be the all time leader in saves. He is only tied for the lead, with the other member of Jesson 5, yours truly. Why is it that Mr. Shramko has it in for me and my good friend Doug Anderson? Perhaps it is because we are one of the many teams to so easily dismiss him in the Fraquetball semifinals. And there has never been an all

offensive or all defensive team, despite Mr. Shramko's insistence that he was part of them numerous times. Finally, in Mr. Shramko's article, he says that if anyone has a problem with his article they should speak with his sidekick, Tarantula. Well, I have spent the last two weeks trying to track down this character. I have questioned Mr. Shramko himself, his family and friends, and it is my belief that Tarantula does not actually exist.

Mr. Shramko is a talented player, and has done a praiseworthy job as Commissioner thus far. But perhaps he should stick to that. I recommend that The Purple Press bring back their old Fraquetball beat writer, now that guy was great.

* Nathan is a two-time all star who reached the championship twice, and won it once. He is tied for the all time lead in saves, and has the highest shot percentage ever. He was Fraquetball's first ever Commissioner. Last year he led the league in both Saves and Stops. It is said that he has memorized every single Fraquetball statistic, and rumor has it he is able to keep statistics without writing them down. He is universally acknowledged as THE MOST respected Fraquetball expert in the world. Every year that the annual Fraquetball Conference convenes in New York, he is always the guest speaker of honor.*

Fraquetball Power Rankings!

10. Team with offensive name*
Alex Johnson & Damien Bullis

9. Vato
Kwame Churcher & Myles Alteri

8. 1 & a Half Mexicans
Danny Mauleon & Jesse Valenzuela

7. Grease Lightning
Doug Anderson & Quin Miller

6. Six-One-Tizzou
Luke Leba & Tom Tutoshek

5. Brooklyn Extreme
Chang Thao & Chee Nou Xiong

4. Fetal Attraction
Liam Shramko & Andrew Hoaglund

3. Chivas
Jose Garcia & Jaime Avila

2. Los Geezers
Tim Leone-Getten & Leo Bickelhaupt

1. Hat Trick
Griffin Larson & Jon Knapp

*Rankings compiled by Liam Shramko

That's What She Said!

Zelda goes werewolf

Peter Allan
Staff Nerd

TARGET- Many ravenous gamers descended upon an innocent Target store like vultures on a recently-made carcass when *Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess* debuted for GameCube on Monday, December 12, leaving chaos in their wake. Zelda Fanatic Robert Berkeley summed up the atmosphere with, "this had better be the best-f\$%&ing Zelda game ever. (Nintendo)'s been keeping us waiting for so long..." several other gamers agreed with Berkeley, but were unavailable for further comment, but it was obvious that a good deal of demand had been building up for this game.

Usually, according to Cashier James Parsons, video games released on a Monday are released in the afternoon, though why this was he never said. However, an exception was made for *Twilight Princess* due to the intense demand for the game, even after the Wii release a month earlier.

Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess (ゼルダの伝

説 トワイライトプリンセス, pro-

nounced *Zeruda no Densetsu: Towairaito Purinsesu*, for those of you who want to know its Japanese name) must be one of the most anticipated video games in existence. It was first showcased in 2000 with a demonstration of a new combat engine for the GameCube controller that would later be used for *Legend of Zelda: The Wind Waker*. The demonstration was a sword fight between Link, the hero of the game, and Ganondorf, the recurring villain of the series, using graphics from the first 3D *Zelda* game, *Ocarina of Time*. Fans had greatly anticipated the ultimate *Zelda* game on GameCube, only to be shocked in 2002 when *Wind Waker* was shown to have a cartoon-like appearance instead of the pseudo-realism displayed in the N64 games, *Ocarina of Time* and *Majora's Mask*.

Wind Waker proved to be a success when it was released in 2003, despite its child-oriented graphics. A second game,

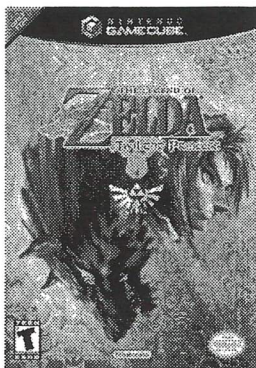
tentatively dubbed *Wind Waker 2*, was announced for release on GameCube, but then was switched to the DS and entitled *Phantom Hourglass*. *Twilight Princess* was originally going to be released in November 2005, until it was announced on August 16, 2005 that the game's release would be delayed until after March 31, 2006 because the developing team needed more time with the game.

Many fans feared that *Twilight Princess* would be released exclusively for Nintendo's new console, the Wii, but Nintendo Vice President for Corporate Affairs Perrin Kaplan confirmed that the game would be released for GameCube. "...We feel a commitment to the GameCube owners who've been patiently awaiting this new *Zelda* title, and don't want to force them to wait and buy a brand new system in order to play the game," said Kaplan. On September 14 and 15 2006, Nintendo representatives officially announced the release dates of *Twilight Princess*. The Wii version, along with the Wii itself, was released first in North America on November 19. Both

versions launched simultaneously in Japan on December 2. Australia and Europe saw *Twilight Princess* on December 7 and 8, respectively, while the GameCube version was released on December 12. The Wii release makes history as the first *Zelda* title to make it to the States before being released in Japan.

Of course after all this hype, the game has to deliver, right? Guess what: it does, and with gusto. Twenty seconds into the game and I was already loving it. For the record, it usually takes a good game ten minutes for me to start liking it. This game was six years in the making, and it was worth every blessed second in my opinion.

The graphics are incredible; at first, I thought it was *Final Fantasy*, they were so good. The dungeons are absolutely brilliant, making ingenious uses of old items (the Boomerang can now pick up items, in addition to being able to lock on



The game's cover

ZELDA CONTINUED ON 6

Vox populi of Open School

Minor amusement

Chloe Taipale
Staff Writer

Never have I been more certain that I hate children as I am now, after seeing the jolly new Christmas movie, *Unaccompanied Minors*. Numero uno, the first ten minutes of this movie made me want to kill myself; kids were crying, punching Santa, talking about coffee... it was terrible. Numero dos, the big crowd of adolescents that came in kept looking at me funny. Hey fatties, you were there, too.



The Minors

Unaccompanied Minors is about a group of littl'uns who are snowed in at the airport. Since they are, in fact, unaccompanied, they're herded into a room for safekeeping. A handful of them (the weirdest looking kids I've ever seen, by the way) escape and go on a wacky golf cart adventure about the airport, and when they're caught, they're kept away from the other kiddies, thus the story begins.

The kids who restrained themselves from the seductive wiles of the go-cart get to stay in a cozy lodge, and the bad ones have to stay in the unaccompanied minors room... or so you think!

Yeah, they escape, almost-hilarity ensues. The rest of the movie is about them trying to elude security, which includes this mean guy who's bitter because his Hawaii flight was cancelled, and Fez from *That 70's Show*. One of the kids is also itchin' to get to the guest lodge so he can give his little sister a dolly before 4 am so she'll still believe in Santa. Yeah, it's weird.

86% of this movie is various chase scenes. They're pretty much all the same, except for a downhill one that reminded me 1. how much I enjoy sledding and 2. we don't have any snow. What kind of Minnesota is this?!

There's also an impromptu dance party that was enjoyable, but only when that little Chris Rock kid was in it, before all those other gross kids invited themselves

MINORS CONTINUED ON 6

Youth remain disaffected



Beck Olson
Staff Writer

"If I had a portable foghorn with me at my job, it would be going off so often people would think there was a harbor nearby," Joe Soucheray said, while reading an e-mail sent to him by an outraged anonymous Open School staff member on

October 31, the day of our Fall Extravaganza. An incident that became fodder for Soucheray's talk show, several news channels, and more than 10 newspapers across the country took place in our cafetorium.

Chai Soua Vang, a convicted murderer from St. Paul, visited Open School in the form of a Halloween costume at the Fall Extravaganza. He was awarded third place in the costume contest by judges whom the actuality of the costume was apparently lost upon. "I was surprised the teachers didn't recognize the name... I knew right away who it was," Sally Storms, the Teaching Assistant in charge of Open's library, accounted.

In his talk show, featuring this incident on November 1, Soucheray claims, "[Open School is] so heavily invested in diversity that they are not capable of applying reasonable standards to the behavior of children... As almost a quasi-religious movement, they are diversitarians." He later implied that we at Open School are racist, stating that we did not feel we could punish the student, simply because he is Hmong; "It seems unlikely that a non-Hmong student could have gotten away with this," he claimed. Todd Bartholomay, Open School Principal, strongly disagrees with Soucheray's statement, and made it clear that all students are punished equally, regardless of race.

The incident, referred to by Todd as a "willful violation of the school community," brought about a special Site Council meeting to discuss what had happened and what to do about it. This meeting grew to be a discussion about the culture and climate here at Open School, and what is acceptable.

At this meeting, a several paragraph written statement by the student who wore the costume was read aloud by Todd. "Based on his statement, I don't think that he understood the potentially volatile message that that sends," said Todd, explaining that the student probably did not realize the effect his costume would have.

The student, a Hmong male senior, has since transferred out of Open School, though it is said to be unrelated to the unfortunate incident. Todd has been doing his best to keep the student anonymous.

The student did not break any rules; however, as Open School's policies were put into action, there were not actually any rules to break. There were simply

guidelines, which not all the students were aware of. The guidelines asked that no costume be involving drugs, violence, or any-

thing that would be offensive to anybody for any reason.

Vang, the convicted murderer who faces six consecutive life sentences in prison and no chance of parole for viciously murdering five people and seriously wounding two more in an event in Wisconsin, is not an appropriate costume for an event that is "a fun time," according to Todd, who is shocked something like this could happen at Open School.

"The fact that this costume got by many of us indicates a lack of a vetting process for the costumes... That someone didn't see it- didn't pull the plug on it- is troubling to me," Todd expressed. "I think that in general, given what it was intended to be, the costume celebration was a lot of fun for kids. ... I don't think there was a lack of control that resulted in any danger for any student, or any offensiveness with the exception of this Chai Vang costume."

The costume itself consisted of an orange prison-style jumpsuit with the name Chai Vang on the front in three-inch high iron-on letters and the words "Got busted" on the back. According to the student, he picked Vang to dress up as

Those who were offended, however, followed an interesting pattern: the farther away they are from the school (both mentally and physically), the more distressed they are over the event.

Book nerds unite

Veronica Beaty
Staff Writer

In my mind, the darker months are for three things: books, improving your karma and obsessive-compulsion. I figured out a way to combine all three – the internet.

Maybe as you spend more and more time confined to your house, you've begun to look for some good stuff to read. Maybe you stare at your bookshelf at say, *Gosh self, I'm sure there's some worthwhile book here, but I have no idea what books I own, much less where they are.* Enter librarything.com. Enter the ISBN number, title or author of any book you own, and librarything.com will catalogue it for you, using amazon.com to give you "library quality" information on the book. You can then edit this book information, adding tags or reviews. Input more books, and librarything will help you to organize your collection on either a list or virtual shelves.

And that's just the beginning. If you enter enough books, librarything will begin to recommend books to you, based on your current collection. It will also hook you up with people you share a critical number of books with. You can add books to your blog, join groups to talk about books, or even arrange to swap books with other users.

But what about improving your karma? Let's say in going through your collection, you come across a few books you don't want anymore. Turn to bookcrossing.com. There you can register those books. They'll get their own unique ID number, and, here's the fun part, you can then "release them into the wild". Slap a note in the book about its registration on the site, and drop it off wherever: a bus, a park, a telephone booth. The idea is that someone will pick the book up, read it, and write a journal entry about it on bookcrossing.com. The journal entry will be attached to the book, based on the book's ID number. The book, in turn, resides on the "bookshelf" of the member who "released it". Once the person is done with the book, the process can repeat itself, until the world is one, big, happy library full of networked literati. The website says that its response rate is about 25%, but I have both found a book – at the Blue Coffee Shop in Minneapolis – and received an e mail about a book I released.

So this season, do something a little crazy with your reading material. If you're an introvert, bookcrossing.com is a greet way to meet people without actually, you know, meeting people. If you're a people person, try a walk on the nerdy side of life. *

INCIDENT CONTINUED ON 8

ZELDA FROM 4

to five different targets and home in on them in order, while the Iron Boots, when used in a magnetic field, can make Link walk on certain surfaces without falling), there are some new items like the Lantern, the Spinner (which lets you climb up tracks on walls), and the ball and chain, and some items can be combined (you can make bomb arrows, for example, by setting the bow, then selecting the bombs and pressing R in the GameCube version).

The plot is long and drawn out (the game is supposed to last 100+ hours) without getting boring, while the game is quite challenging in its own way. The world is absolutely huge; you literally need a horse or something comparable to cross Hyrule Field in any reasonable time. The time it takes to walk is comparable to trying to cross the ocean in *Wind Waker* without a sail. However, many races and locales, such as the Zoras, Gorons and the Sacred Grove, all make appearances from previous *Zelda* games, such as *Ocarina of Time* or *A Link to the Past*. Link can now do several things he couldn't do recently, such as deliver a finishing blow to a fallen enemy, or use his sword while on horseback, or even jousting on narrow bridges (which is ridiculously hard, by the way, and requires pretty good reflexes) but the most dramatic change is when, as suggested by the title of the article, Link turns into a wolf for parts of the game.

Link's wolf form is a little homage to *Majora's Mask*, in which Link has several magic masks which allow him to change



Link stars in yet another game

forms. In *Twilight Princess*, however, Link's wolf form is just as useful, if not more so, than his normal one. His heightened senses allow him to see new things, he can dig holes to find items or secret passages, and he can jump much higher and further, although he can't use any of his items, including his sword and shield. His wolf form is not totally defenseless, though, as he can bite, and, with the help of Midna, a little impish critter who accompanies Link on his journey, attack multiple opponents simultaneously. One of the wolf form's fun abilities is howling, which involves holding down the A button and

directing pitch with the joystick. It is really fun to listen to, and it sheds a whole new light on the beauty (I think) of wolves, and how cute they really are.

What's funny, I think, is that *Zelda* veterans will recognize that the wolf howls and grass whistles Link uses to call Epona (his horse) play songs that Link did in *Ocarina of Time*.

Out of 10, I rate *Twilight Princess* the rare and coveted level of 11 for incredible graphics, spot-on control, innovative gameplay (especially the Wii version) and a very deep plot. This is truly one of the greatest games ever made, and possibly will remain so for a very long time. Look out, *Ocarina*, *Twilight Princess* has arrived.*



Zelda wields a sword

DI FROM 2

and three senior high teams. This year's problems are:

Switching traDitions Your team have to do improvisational skit during a 30 minute time period at the tournament. You have to draw from sensory card and put that problem into your skit. Research six different team-selected nations and their tradition and at the tournament randomly choose three to integrate into your skit.

CSI:DI You and your team have to develop and present an original story about the investigation of a case, the supporting evidence and the resolution of that case. Use innovative method to produce a theatrical CSI effect by using Color, Shadow and/ or Illumination.

Card-DI-ology Design, built, and test a structure made completely of playing cards with or without glue. Have an architectural drawing of the structure. Present a story about the impact or effect any kind of card or cards has on a character in the story.

"The problem are international, interesting and traditional. It should be similar to the first one that I've done," said Bridget who's team is doing the *Switching traDitions* problem. "This year's problems are fabulous. They are different from the past and they are very technical. I like the *Card-DI-ology* best out of all the problems," said James.

Last year we have two junior high and three senior high teams. "I like to take another team to global this year," said Susanne, when asked what were the goals for this year. "I want to go to state. I never been to state and in the pass year our team were only a few points from going to state," said John Knapp whose been in DI for six years.*

MINORS FROM 4

in. In fact, that little Chris Rock kid was the only kid worth watching at all. Like I said before, all of the kids are funny looking. They all have something a little off with their faces. Especially "Kmart"'s little sister. Talk about gross.

I think they should just go ahead and stop making Christmas movies already. There's just nothing else whimsical and spirited to do. I mean, this movie had some funny parts ("It's like Lord of the Flies in here"), but everything can be pre-

dicted. All this really was was *Home Alone*, only a smidge worse. Speaking of, I watched *Home Alone 2* the other day. Man, remember the part where he puts the clown in the shower and plays the tape to make it look like it's his dad? Now *that* is comedy.

I give *Unaccompanied Minors* two stars, for when they put the kid in the suitcase. Maybe the The Sharper Image scene. If you have absolutely, positively, I mean *nothing* else to do, you can go see it, but don't get your hopes up.*

Service Auction

Do you have any helpful talents? Do you know anyone who would want to put those talents to good use? Well, do I have some good news for you! On January 23rd Open School will host it's annual Service Auction. The money from the auction will go towards helping students pay for the Outward Bound trip.

THREAT FROM 1

Jaime Avila. "It was stupid," stated 10th grader Shaeng Yang. "I don't care about it as long as I wasn't on it," said 11th grader Eric Hagerman. From many conversations with students, I've come to the conclusion that students, for the most part, felt no real threat from the incident.

But that couldn't possibly be true. I mean, there was an all SLC assembly, police were involved and 15 students were on the list. "There was some fear in students, because of the imminent danger," commented Math Teacher Stephanie Davies-Larson, "but it has passed." Even students on the list seemed unfazed. "I laughed," chuckled 10th grader Gerald Morriseau who was on the hit list.

There's another question to be answered: What would drive someone to make a hit list? I recently had an informal chat on AIM with the defendant. This is what they had to say: "All I can say is that I did it as a joke and didn't think I was gonna get in this much of trouble. I wished I have never of done it. [sic]" Whether that comment was sincere or not is unknown. Did the author of the list say it for legal reasons or was it simply the truth?

The underlying plate of truth is that maybe, just maybe, Open School does have a bullying problem, in terms of verbal insults, if not physical abuse. If that is true, what can we do to shake things up and stop potentially harmful activities? I went to our Social Studies teacher Luke Leba looking for answers. "I think that the Hit List and the whole idea of the hit list is a reflection of society and it has to do with technology," stated thoughtful Luke. "It has to do with people either

being bullied and don't know how to communicate it with staff or adults or are afraid to communicate with staff or adults to try and get these situations

solved. As a school and as adults, and also as Open School students we have the obligation to make this a safe place where everyone is comfortable."

And that's what the point of Open School was in the beginning: to create a safe place where everyone is comfortable. Have we been able to achieve that goal? I went around asking students if they

felt safe and received a resounding number of positive answers. I asked our Guidance Counselor, Marianna Sullivan if she got a lot of complaints around the time of the threats. She responded "Not at all."

Alicia Martinez waffled on the issue of safety: "Yes and no. Yes, because I've been here a while and know the people. But no because we have no security. No Hall Monitor, no security guard, no metal detector, people could just walk in." Tenth grader Jessie Biedler had different take: "Doesn't it make you feel safer that we don't need a metal detector?" she asked.

Through all my findings and my conversations with the good people of Open School, I can safely say that Open remains a safe place for students and staff alike, and most would agree. Does that mean that Open School has no problems whatsoever? Of course not; there are areas we could improve. We need to be vigilant about bullying and listen to students in our continuing efforts to make Open more welcoming. There is always room for improvement.*



Todd is kept busy

HALLS FROM 1

who can get an adult to sponsor them are allowed.

Todd decided to make this rule after having conversations with most of the SLC teachers and after supervising the hallways during lunch. He talked to kids with gentle and not so gentle conversations about civil behaviors in the halls. Then he decided that the rule was necessary.

Open School students can have their privileges back at anytime, Todd said, but the goals won't change. Todd thinks that we could change the rule if we are willing to consider any arrangement that creates conditions on the third floor where a parent, district official, or community member could walk through the third floor after lunch and be able to have conversations with staff and students "without feeling besieged."

SLC students on the third floor during lunch need a written pass, and a teacher needs to take responsibility for them. The rest of the students should remain in the cafeteria or go outside.

"The third rule is sadly necessary," said ELL teacher Jeffr Caulum. The third floor before the rule was so loud that teachers didn't have much time to relax. "It's much more more relaxed now," said Jeff.

"There's not enough options if it's cold out and yes if it's nice out then they can be outside," said Jeff. There doesn't seem enough options for the students after lunch. The only options are outside or in the cafetorium. "There are enough options if you plan ahead," said Tim.

The third floor rule can be earned back if we are less loud on the third floor. We just need to make sure the teachers can eat peacefully when people are on the third floor. We should try to do our best on the third floor from now on.*

TAKE ACTION

in the

Student Policy and Future Vision Committee

Do you want to be a part of something great? Of course you do. That's why you join the Student Policy and Future Vision Committee.

The Committee was put together by Liam Shramko, and it is designed to give students a forum to make decisions concerning Open Schools future.

If you have any opinion whatsoever, this might be the place for you. Meetings are held every Wednesday during Advisory in the Staff Lounge.

PASSAGE FROM 1

against students is much more obvious to me.

So I started where any normal FBI agent would, the scene of the crime. If Todd did take a secret passage, then it would be going from the art room to science zone. I suspect that the passage would be more vertical, a ladder in place or perhaps a circle stairwell. Looking from the outside of the building, you notice nothing unusual, but sure enough space for a hidden, two way compartment. But I could not prove anything. It was time to get up close.

The art room was my first choice, just in case the passage is like the streets in Minneapolis; one way. One thing that is similar between the two rooms is they both have strange back rooms. The art rooms back closet thingy has been familiar to me for my whole Open School experience, but have never noticed anything out of the ordinary. So I recruited someone whose eyes are quicker than lightning. Senior Jose Garcia, soccer king, joined on my trip through the school's skeleton. We examined the back room and noticed things stranger than fiction. If you have ever entered the art rooms

back half, you would notice another level. On this level there are vents, and behind these vents there is

nothing. Jose, using brute strength and soccer like agility, also wearing his cape of the tiger giving him +14 arcane strength, pulled himself up and examined the area. "There was nothing at first, but once I knocked at the ceiling, it was hollow. The echo which it gave off was loud, and seemed to go for miles," said Jose.

The plot surely thickened. These secret passageways that I speak of could be more than just one small hallway. If what Jose told me is true, then we are looking at a maze of tunnels, leading to every room, making is possible to watch our every step. There was no more time to dance around the problem, it was time to attack the bull with a pitchfork. Todd holds the secrets, so Todd holds the answers. The only thing was how would I know he would tell the truth. I referred to Silence of the Lambs. Let's just say me and Todd played a game of quid pro quo, digging out the truth. I caught him in the hall unexpectedly and lead him to the stairwell.

The session was intense, misleading at first, but the truth prevails. From what Todd told me, when it comes to Open

School, dark dungeon passages do not exist... for students. But does this mean there is no maze? The hollow ceiling, the disappearances of teachers, and the profuse sweating of Todd during our little discussion tells me otherwise.

I went further. There was no telling how long this investigation would take, but I was dedicated. One day, after my usual nap, I went to visit Elizabeth. It was her room, and she would surely know the answer to this real life Rubix Cube. I grabbed her by the shoulder and pushed her against the wall, screaming for the truth. I was a monster. All the rumors were floating around me, talk of a hostile creature in the passage, and that there was no stopping this beast. I was confused, and something told me to stop, but I couldn't.

Once things were looking grim, the light came through. I was chatting with a friend of mine, Andrew Hoaglund, and we parted to go make our way to class. When Andrew closed his locker it got stuck and sprung open again. Seeing that he left already, I took the liberty to close it for him. I was in for the surprise of my life. Inside he had

stilts, a wig, and a fine gray suit. Just like the suit that Todd owned. My mind spinning. The differ-

ent theories were all lies, ones made by Andrew. That day when it started, Andrew was the man going into the Art room. He hollowed out the ceiling, made the rumors, and confused me unbearably. He worked at that store and slipped the note in when I wasn't looking. He was tricking me this whole time. I quickly wrote a note telling him to meet me on the stage. Then, I walked to Leo's room and blacked out.

When I woke, it was time to meet the man who deceived me. As I walked into the room, I could hear the small chuckle of a Korean man in the dark. I immediately started spitting verbal thunder bolts. "You have to stop searching for something else, because what you search for is in your heart," said 12th grader and philosopher Andrew Hoaglund. I instantly understood. I felt an unwelcome presence leave my body and fly away.

The whole search for these secret passages was a success. There were no passages in the school, but in me. Andrew did this because he saw me struggle, and now I fully understand. I had to find my way. I had to find my passage of righteousness.*

INCIDENT FROM 5

because he was a well-known, local convict; he did not intend to offend anyone. He even offered to apologize to anyone who was offended.

Those who were offended, however, followed an interesting pattern: the farther away they are from the school (both mentally and physically), the more distressed they are over the event. Almost every Open School student, especially the ones closest to the student in question, viewed it as a costume just like any other, even finding it humorous. "I thought it was funny," Shaeng Yang, grade 10, said. Some of the teachers saw it in bad taste, but still didn't mind, but some of the teachers found it highly inappropriate. Several parents were quite angry that this became such a public issue. But Souchera marks the top of the line: "I don't say this lightly, but it's right up there with terrorism."

There were many reactions besides people being angry; the phantom letter-writer explains, "I understand that it was Halloween and it could maybe be argued that he was supposed to be dressed as someone scary, but his constant smile helped make the whole thing a truly creepy situation... this story is scary enough." "I think people made too big of a deal about it... I've seen worse," voiced Kevin Klutho, grade 11.

Thankfully, the incident at our Fall Extravaganza did not bring about a relapse of the racial tension that Vang's shootings inflamed. "It's pathetic. They let all these foreigners in here, and they walk all over everybody's property," Jim Arneberg, owner of the Haugen Inn in a town near where Vang's shootings occurred, argued shortly after the shootings occurred.

Precautions will be taken next year to prevent any similar incidents in the future. Costumes must be pre-approved in advisories before judging, and there will either be a staff member doing a double-take right before you step on stage to present your costume in the cafetorium, or the judging panel will just go room-to-room.

"I'd like to say that... things happen in schools, mistakes are made. That's not an excuse, but when we do things, every once in a while there will be a poor judgment," Todd finished.*