

THE PURPLE PRESS

Volume 10,
Issue 6
April 12
2006

Drinking fountain blues

Liam Shramko
Staff Writer

You're in the middle of class and all of a sudden it hits you. Thirst. You check your pocket for change but, alas, you have none. You decide to go to the drinking fountain. But wait! The one by the middle stairs has been replaced by a vending machine and the drinking fountain in Julie's hallway is broken. Then BAM! You die of dehydration and your family reaps the benefits by suing the school for 2 million dollars.

Worry no more, unless you have panic attacks. The drinking fountain located in Julie's hallway has been fixed... Well kinda... Sort of... Not really. But they tried to fix it. On Monday March 26, a

man by the name of Joe, who smelled like cigarettes, came to our school to install a new drinking fountain. He accomplished his job.



A repair man hard at work on the third floor fountain

The only problem is: when he turned it on, it wouldn't shut off. Water was flowing non-stop. Joe, the noble workhorse, is now trying to get the district to pay for a new drinking fountain. He feels that it's not our responsibility to pay \$350 dollars to get a new drinking fountain. I

agree with him. In my eyes, he is a truly noble man.

"It's a travesty that we haven't had a drink-

THE FOUNTAINS Continued on 6

Caffeinated advice

Katie Hurley
Staff Writer

With two trimesters behind us we only have one more to go. It will be the laziest one of the whole year and with the snow melting the way it is you will have less of an urge to do anything. You also might find yourself staying up later and being sleepy at school.

It's okay. They make so many caffeinated products for you to drink and eat that you are almost guaranteed to maybe make it through. And you don't even need to worry about the last few weeks of school. The last two weeks of school the teachers really stop caring. You might wanna' still go to class, but you don't need to really pay any attention. Just draw silly pictures. That may even be difficult for the uncaffeinated mind, so here are some things to help you make it through.

I guess the best thing to start with is gum. Now they make Jolt Gum. It has about 45mgs(milligrams) of caffeine per piece. That's about the same amount in one can of coke. Two pieces pretty much has a full cup of coffee's worth of caffeine in it. It also has very little bitterness. And me being a caring person, I am going to let you know that you shouldn't have a lot of Jolt gum and then 3 cups of coffee. I've tried that and if any of this seems really messed up and weird you know why. It also causes one hell of a stomach ache.

Then you have the Jolt beverage. This stuff is great so it gets its own paragraph. Not really great because of its caffeine content, but for the taste. The blue one is probably the sweetest. They're all good though. Well, most of them. Jolt Ultra(green) tastes like earwax flavored fake sugar. If you like earwax, that might be a good thing. But... then you're probably the kid in the back of class known as "the smelly kid." The caffeine content is also pretty high. It's 72.0 mgs of caffeine. **CAFFEINE** Continued on 6

Laffy Taffy takes title

Emmett Ruff
Staff Writer

On March 20th, Laffy Taffy defeated The Losers in the championship game of the fraquetball finals. The final score was four games to one. Laffy Taffy scored two 7-4 wins and lead the series 2-0. The Losers won the third game 7-1, and Laffy Taffy won the final two games. With Laffy Taffy leading the fifth and final game 5-0, The Losers accepted their fate and decided to play double front. Laffy Taffy won 7-0.

Fans chanted for Laffy Taffy during the championship game. "The crowd was on Laffy Taffy's side," said Commissioner

Nathan Jesson, "Everybody cheers for the underdog."

The playoffs began when Laffy Taffy (second seed, Northern Conference) played Los Geezers (third seed, Northern Conference), on March 1st. The series was tied with a 7-3 win for both teams, but Laffy Taffy won the series 2-1 with a 7-3 win over Los Geezers.



The Champions: Laffy Taffy

On March 3rd, The Losers (first seed, Eastern Conference) played Fetal Attraction (second seed, Eastern Conference). The **FAQUETBALL** Continued on 7

The Purple Press Staff

The Man Upstairs

Cameron Beitler

Bullpen Coach

Nathan Jesson

Scoop Master

Liam Shramko

Salt of the Earth

Leo Bickelhaupt

Open News

Seven students advance

Liam Shramko

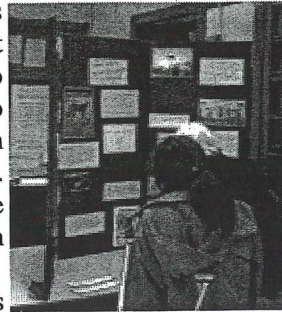
Staff Writer

On Friday, March 24, 20 Open School students came to school. This fine group of students didn't come for school (there was no school that day), they came to put the finishing touches on their History Day Projects. Like the willows blow in the wind, these students shine in the spotlight.

A total of seven students advanced to the State Competition: Liam Shramko went on for his documentary on Fidel Castro. Alicia Martinez, Nikia Davis and Mai Vang Her went on for their documentary on the Brown

Berets. Natalie Iwaszek and Rhys Hunding went on for an exhibit on Conscientious Objectors of the Vietnam War. Kelly Lee advanced for her board on the Florida panther, And Molly Salzberger took home the gold for her exhibit on Howard Zinn.

After the competition the crowd was ecstatic. "It was crazy as hell up in there, people were yelling and shouting. It was truly amazing," stated 10th grade competitor Rhys Hunding. 11th graders Liam Shramko and Andrew Hoaglund did the stand-
HISTORY DAY Continued on 7



Outward Bound headed to Ely

Norma Romero and Khaliya Dorry

Staff Writers

Texas, California, and Colorado are just a few of the places where Julie Doble, the SLC science teacher, has taken students on the annual Outward Bound trip. This year they are going to be traveling north to Ely, Minnesota, for the fourth time. Julie said she loves Ely. It is beautiful; a wilderness type atmosphere, and it's cheaper to get there. Julie will be going with a group of 16 students who volunteer in community service, or fundraisers.

This year's trip is for six days, starting

on May 24 and going until May 29. The students will be staying in rustic cabins, with no plumbing or electricity. During their stay they will be spending most of their time doing hard work in the wilderness from 9 am to 4 pm. In their spare time they will be doing adventurous things, such as canoeing and hiking. Although it is Julie's last year, she hopes for the trip to continue as any other year.

Julie said she feels sad about this year be-
OUTWARD Continued on 10

Volodymyr moves on

Liam Shramko

Staff Writer

All good things must come to an end, Volodymyr included. Open School's beloved computer guy has now left us. He has left a void in our staff and our hearts. As he was taking inventory of Susanne's iBooks, you could literally see the tears drip down his face. Well maybe not literally, but figuratively. Some say Ukrainians are incapable of shedding tears.

Volodymyr is moving on to bigger and better things, more specifically, Integrity Global Solutions. He will be building servers and mainframe computers for Integrity

Global Solutions. "He will be sorely missed because he was a very people-oriented person with computer skills," said Open School principal Ruth Pechmann, "He's such a good guy. He is irreplaceable."

"Volodymyr always brightened up my day. He was a diligent worker and a charismatic person," said 9th Grader Griffin Larson, "He was glue that held this school together. Non-Adhesive glue of course."

How does Volodymyr feel about leaving? "It's mixed. On one hand I'm excited. But
VOLOD Continued on 10

Prom Night

This year's senior prom is going to take place at the Kelly Inn on Friday, May 5, from 8 pm to 11pm. The reason student government chose the Kelly Inn is because it is cheaper and the tickets will cost less than last year. The Kelly Inn costs only 1000 dollars to rent, compared to other venues -- like the Wabasha Caves, where prom was held last year -- that cost 3000 dollars.

The price for tickets is going to be \$20. Tickets will be available during lunch. If you want to bring a friend from another school, they have to get a permission slip from their principal, and Open School principal Ruth Pechmann has to sign it too. Eighth graders can come to prom, but only if they are invited by a 9-12 grader.

The theme for this year's prom is "Stair way to Heaven." The prom colors are blue and white. There's is going to be catered food by the Kelly Inn, and Jeff is going to bring Vietnamese food as well. Ninth grader Shaeng Yang, one of the organizers, estimated that around 80-100 students will attend.◊

Reviews 'n' Stuff

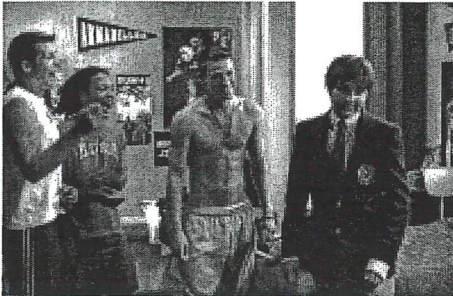
She's actually the man

Chloe Taipale
Staff Writer

There have been few times in my life when I have been genuinely shocked; when I learned Santa was a lie, when the Spice Girls broke up, and when Nick and Jessica divorced (Forget what *OK! Magazine* says, they're still together up here *pokes frontal lobe*). After a fateful Sunday, I can add "when I saw *She's the Man* and enjoyed it, too" to that list.

Everything about this movie's previews screamed bad to me, which is why I volunteered to see it. I thought to myself, "The old crossdressing shtick really doesn't do it for me, Amanda Bynes is weird looking, it will be totally predictable and filled with unamusing genitalia jokes. Yawn!" I thought it would be a great way to get back into the newspaper groove, you know, give me a bad movie to rant about. Simple enough, eh? You can imagine my

shock when, to my chagrin, I had a really good time watching this movie. Yes, the genderbending wasn't anything special, but the genitalia jokes were- incredible- funny, and Amanda's looks are nothing if not charming. Will wonders never cease.



Amanda Bynes as the man in
She's the Man

Viola and Sebastian are twins. The first 10 minutes of the movie are laced with little foreshadowy lines like "You look just like your brother from behind." Sebastian is a complete emo kid and Viola takes a page from the

book of Leo and is a total soccer nerd, much to her society-wife mother's dismay. You can imagine how it just burns Viola's toast when her girls' soccer team is finito-d because no ladies sign up. In a very convenient series of events, Sebastian escapes to England to sing his wuss rock and a lightbulb goes off
MAN Continued on 7

Playing with the color line

Christina McGee
Staff Writer

"No one will be aware of the fact that I'm a honkey." Who would expect to hear something like this on network TV? Nobody, that's who. Well, then it's a good thing it's not on network TV. Nope, you've got to be lucky enough to have cable or satellite to be able to see a 40 year old black man turn into a 47 year old white man.

No, I'm not talking about Michael Jackson. I'm talking about the new reality show on FX called *Black. White*. Reality TV's latest venture follows around two families, one black and one white, as they get dressed up in make-up to look like the opposite race. This show documents the trials and tribulations of the Sparks and the Wurgel-Bloomfield-Marcotullis as they spend their days exploring life as the opposite race. For maximum effect (or maximum entertainment) the two families live together in a

house in Tarzana, California for the duration of shooting the show. The Sparks (the black family) wake up and spend five hours getting make-up applied to make them look white, as do the Wurgel-Bloomfield-Marcotullis (the white family) to make them look black. Then, they set off into the world to see what life is like on the other side of the color line.

In the premiere episode, we meet Brian, Renee, and Nick Sparks (who are becoming white) and Bruno Marcotulli, Carmen Wurgel, and Rose Bloomfield (who are becoming black). As these two families first meet, they take notice of certain traits in one another. "When I first met Carmen, I thought she was weird," offered Renee. After having their initial meetings, along with meetings with various other TV executives and
CRACKER Continued on 8

Degrassi

Norah Harper-Godderz
Staff Writer

Degrassi: The Next Generation is a sequel to *Degrassi Junior High* and *Degrassi High* from the 80's. This show is very addictive. If you miss one episode, then you may have no idea at all of what is going on in the next episode. It's about a bunch of teens at a school named Degrassi in Canada. It deals with "real life" teenage issues. It's very addictive because it is based on real life and they exaggerate stuff more. It is more interesting to watch, and plus it's not happening to you so you want bad things to hap-

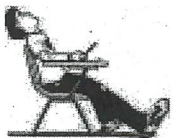


Part of the cast of the
show *Degrassi*

pen. The show is more targeted towards girls, but boys like it too. It usually airs from 9 pm to 9:30 pm and then they play it again at 1:30 am on The-N. If you have Comcast Cable then this channel is 131.

An average *Degrassi* episode deals with major problems that teenagers face, like confronting your homosexuality, getting raped, school shootings, being abused or getting pregnant at 15. The earlier shows had simpler problems, like going on a first date. But nowadays they've got big problems. It's like all of the largest problems that teenagers have are channeled into one school. Don't get me wrong, it's a great show, but it just seems like they are trying so hard to get a new problem that they are becoming really predictable, and just kind of boring.

Degrassi is still a great show though, and we are all waiting for the new episodes, but now, instead of new, regular episodes The-N is playing *Degrassi* minis. *Degrassi* minis are these 15 minute episodes on the-n.com. I find that they look interesting, but I never get around to watching them. I also find them a hassle. No one is really going to ever get
DEGRASSI Continued on 8

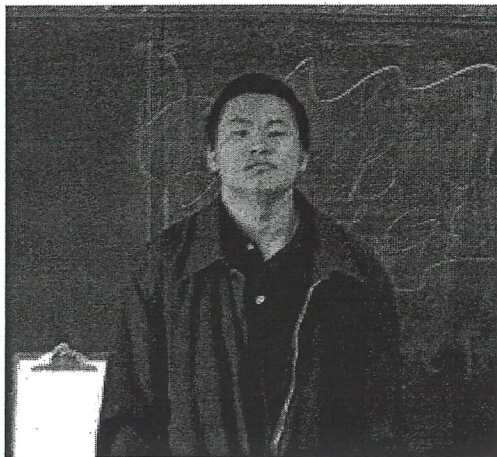


Chris Xiong

How long have you been at Open School? 4 years

Extra Curricular Activities: Go Cart Club

Senior Profile



What are your plans for next year?

I am going to vacation in Thailand for a year.

What are you going to miss most about Open?

The freedom.

What is your favorite book, movie, or TV show?

My favorite TV show is *Everybody Loves Raymond*.

What was your favorite class at Open?

Anatomy.

What is one super power you wish you had?

The ability to control all super powers.

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

I would like to own a restaurant.

Who is one person you would like to meet?

Bruce Willis.

“Beef”: how does it start? can we stop it?

Chang Thao and Chee Nou Xiong
Staff Writers

It all starts with racial bias, disrespect and misunderstanding. It often comes down to race against race.

Two students, a hmong boy and a African American boy, walk past each other with a mad dog look in their eyes. They agree to meet each other and “beef” it out. Many students are curious to see who will win the fight. A crowd gathers after school.

Many beefs occur in school, but it is more dangerous outside on the streets. There’s more chances for weapons, guns, and mobs. So how can we settle these incidents before they start?

So what is it that makes people want to fight? That’s one of the main questions everyone wants to know. We developed a survey about beef, asking many questions, like, what causes beef and what is a good way to prevent beef? It often comes down to disrespect, misunderstanding, and racial conflict. The survey asked: What is the point of having beef with people? “So they would know not to mess around with you,” said one student. This was a typical answer.

How can students help prevent beef from happening in our schools and streets? If stu-

dents can’t stop beef, can the adults or staff teachers prevent beef from happening? Social studies teacher Luke Leba said, “Separate them so they can cool off, get them together to try to ‘Squash it’.” ELL teacher Jeff Caulum also gave a hint about settling things. He said, “It depends on the students, I like to sit the parties down and talk about it. Kids don’t know how to talk through a conflict.”

The Social worker at Open School, Allen Moe, gave us some more hints about how to stop students from fighting. He said “try to take each problem individually, take as much info on the problem, empower students to stop the conflict on their own. Make your own decisions, and work hard to get them together to work it out.”

The biggest reason people have beef, according to our survey, is because of disrespect. Many people just don’t understand other people’s feelings, and don’t understand when they’re hurt or disrespected. Disrespect is often between races and gangs. It sometimes comes down to a test to see if you can stand up for your own race. It can be also be a test to manage your inner self.

Do you have beef with other races? This is another question from the survey. Ten out of eighteen said yes. Race hatred is part of the past and it stays with us. Race plays a part in most conflicts at Open School. Hmong students and African American students often have conflicts, although white students get involved as well. Many Conflicts don’t start as race related, but often racial language gets used and people decide to defend people of their own race.

It’s improved in the 21st century; everyone is getting along better. So if you have beef with people, stop, because it’s just a waste of time. You have more important things to do with your future, like getting an education and going to college. Fighting will just bring you prison, death, or even worse if you’re in a gang. You just have to get to know them better and get along with each other like brothers and sisters.

Stop the violence before it spreads to the new generation of your loved ones. Kids need to grow up in a safer place to play and a better environment to make friends. So what is the point of having BEEF now, after all the drama has passed.◊

Open Gets Nerdy

This game's got it all

Alex Plonski
Staff Writer

You arrive on a strange planet, but you can't stop to admire the scenery, because the enemy is looking for you, seeking to crush you before you are ready. You build some infrastructure, and then a factory and a radar tower. You will not be caught unaware. You start to build a laser tower, and tell the factory to build a slasher, which you reason would work well against enemy probes and raids. But then you catch sight of something: 5 flash tanks. They destroy the half-built slasher, and then go after the radar and infrastructure. You abandon the laser tower, and fire your disintegrator gun. Once! Twice! The flashes explode with a deafening boom. Your base is safe, for now.

Later, both you and your enemy have huge bases that sprawl across half the map, ex-

cept for the no-mans-land in between them, in range of both of their defenses. You each send wave after wave of vehicles and k-bots, hovercraft and airplanes, ships and submarines at each other, where they die, leaving huge fields of wreckage. Slowly, you gain an edge. You manage to destroy some of their anti-air. Then you send in hundreds of scout planes, all at once. Most of them die right away, but some catch a glimpse of the heart of your enemies base. You note the location of their nuclear de-



Just a piece of the intense combat that Spring has to offer

fense systems, and then launch a coordinated air strike. Their anti-nukes are gone. Quickly, you launch all of your stockpiled long range nuclear missiles at their base. After a series of explosions, most of it lays **SPRING** Continued on 8

Dell vs. HP

Griffin Larson
Staff Writer

Sixty-seven years ago Dave Packard and Bill Hewlett founded the company Hewlett Packard(HP). Twenty-seven years later they released their first computer, the HP 2116A. In 1968 they invented the world's first desktop scientific calculator, which was soon tagged the worlds first "Personal Computer." By the 1980's HP had a revenue of three billion dollars plus and had over 50,000 employees. In 1984 HP released the HP LaserJet printer, HP's most successful single product. HP was dominating the computer market and in that same year(1984) a new company emerged, a company that would soon change the world of computers as we knew it. This company was Dell.

Dell was founded in 1984 by Michael Dell. Unlike HP, Dell was solely a computer systems company. Dell's innovation was simply in the way computers were put together and sold. Dell was changing what was already there, while HP was still inventing new physical things. In 1985 Dell re-**DELL** Continued on 10

Old School games

Jim Witt
Staff Writer

When it comes to the best game ever, there truly is no debate. I present you with the best game of all time, (or until issue 6, whichever comes first), World Cup for the original Nintendo Entertainment System. This is not just a game, this is ecstasy and frustration rolled into a neat little package.

When you elbow rival soccer players, their eyes pop out. After elbowing them a few times, they don't get back up. By performing a bicycle kick, a super shot is activated that always goes in, (and sometimes takes a few players with it). By doing a diving header, you launch the goalie off the screen.

At the touch of a button, you can talk to your teammates (with pictures) and have them pass, shoot, tackle or elbow someone. The graphics are terrible when compared to today's games, but the popping eyeballs are still plain as day. The looks of the charac-
OLD SCHOOL Continued on 9

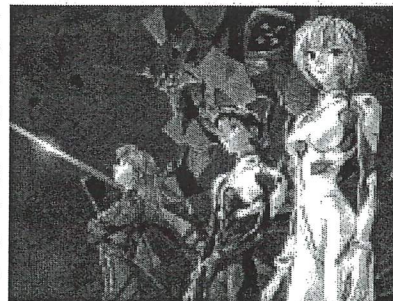
Anime goes apocalyptic

Peter Allen
Staff Writer

Neon Genesis Evangelion, widely known as the most controversial anime ever, is a powerful story of conflict, angst, death and betrayal, all of biblical proportions. Those of you who are already familiar with Eva should go away now and read another article. This one is for the uninformed.

Now that the veterans have run off to watch their favorite scenes from the series, be it that infamous shower scene in episode 2, or that veritable bloodbath in episode 16, I can fill you in on the general premise. In the year 2000, the Second Impact happened. A small meteorite, like a cosmic sniper's bullet, hit the continent of Antarctica at near the speed of light, instantly melting the ice cap, throw-

ing the Earth off its axis, and flooding the entire planet. Most of the major cities had been destroyed, being submerged in four hundred meters of water, and three billion people died.



Some of the action from Neon Genesis Evangelion

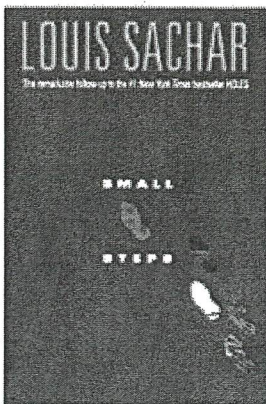
At least that's what the history textbooks say. In reality, the Katsuragi expedition, on a mission delivered by the group known only as SEELE (pronounced Say-lay. It means "soul" in German) discovered a massive life form frozen in the ice. This was the first Angel, Adam. Somehow, its discovery triggered its awakening, in which it destroyed the expedition's base and caused the effect described above. There were only two survivors
MARS Continued on 10

Holes sequel lives up

Molly Salzberger
Staff Writer

In *Small Steps*, the sequel to *Holes*, another survivor of Camp Green Lake tells his story. Armpit, real name Theodore, is doggedly sticking to rules at the beginning of the book. He doesn't drink, doesn't do drugs, is going to school, and even has a job. He's still digging holes, but this time he's getting paid to do it by Raincreek Irrigation and Landscaping.

Then his routine, which was working so well for him, is interrupted by X-Ray's sudden appearance at his work with an idea he requires Armpit's help with. They can each buy the maximum number of tickets per person for an upcoming concert, and resell them for a profit. It'll work perfectly, X-Ray assures him. The singer is so popular, people will pay ridiculous amounts of money for seats--they'll be rich, and it isn't even really illegal. Armpit is reluctant, but after much urging, he grudgingly agrees to go along with his friend's plan--one that requires his own hard-earned money to work, of course.



Predictably, they run into problems from the start. Armpit's life gets more and more out of his control. But with luck, good advice from his best friend and next-door

neighbor, 10-year-old Ginny, and a few new friends, Armpit manages to grasp the reins once more.

This book is filled with vivid characters and more plot twists than I can count. It addresses social and political issues without being preachy at all, and the writing itself demands your attention until the very end. There comes a point in the book where you can't put it down, for home-

work or dinner or anything, so it's a good idea to read the book only after you've finished everything else you need to do for the night. Anyone who liked *Holes* will like this book, too, and even if you haven't--though you might be confused by a couple references at the beginning if that is the case. I highly recommend this book to--well, anyone who can read.◊

CAFFEINE From 1

feine per 12 oz.

Then we have all the other soft drinks. They're good but not GREAT! Sugar free Mr. Pibb is probably the best one to get. It has the most caffeine out of all the other soft drinks (minus Jolt), with an amazing 58.8 mgs of caffeine. Mountain Dew falls right behind with 54.0 mgs. You may think that Mellow Yellow and Mountain is the same but no, it isn't. Mellow Yellow falls behind Mountain Dew by 2 milligrams. It isn't enough to really notice. Tab has about 46.8 mgs. Meh. Then there's Coke with 45.5 mgs.

They also make drinks that have caffeine along with other things like Ginseng. Most of them taste really bad though. There are only a few that are tolerable. Monster is a very popular energy drink. I'm not so sure about how much caffeine it has, but it sure tastes funny. Red Bull has

the highest caffeine content out of all the energy drinks. It has 115.5 mgs of caffeine per 8.3 oz. AMP is also a really good drink.



The caffeine leader Red Bull

It's not far behind Red Bull at 112.4 mgs. Full Throttle is one of the best drinks but isn't THAT impressive. It only has 100 mgs of caffeine per 8 oz.

Chocolate also has some caffeine in it. You'd have to eat a lot of it though and by the time you're hyper you might feel too sick to do anything about it. The type of chocolate that has the most caffeine is pretty bitter and used for cooking. And even at that only has 26 mgs of caffeine.

Although there isn't too much school left, you need to make it through. I hope this information helps you. There are people all over that sell pop. Remember kids, it's okay to be ridiculously hyper. Caffeine=Sleep.◊

THE FOUNTAINS From 1

ing fountain on the third floor for over a year. Thank God Joe is here to save the day!" proclaimed Science Teacher Julie Doble. I couldn't agree more with the aforementioned statement. Tenth grader Miles Ateri had this to say, "Everyone looks up rappers like Ludacris, 50 Cent and TI. But maybe, just maybe we should start looking up to people like Joe. A true American hero."

The excitement over the drinking fountain, or as I call it "panda-fountain-a" or something like that, I just lost track of what I was saying. Anyway, the excitement over the new drinking fountain led me on a wild goose hunt so to speak, I am now very angry and hungry. Anyway, I think it's time to rate each drinking fountain....

Middle Second Floor: Most accessible location of all Drinking fountains. The projectile of water is pretty keen at 6 inches vertical and 7 inches horizontal. The water is nice and cool. The only problem is the knob which turns the water on, it's really small and inconvenient. However, Pretty solid over all. Gets a 8.5 out of 10.

Side Second Floor: I used to be down on this drinking fountain, mainly because it's projectile was laughable. But somehow, someway, it has vastly improved to 4 inches vertical and 3.5 inches horizontal, a very respectable distance. The buttons are also a nice touch, one big button in front and one on each of the sides, very fun to play with. The location is a bit of a problem, not very accessible. It gets a solid 6 out of 10.

Middle First Floor: This drinking fountain is out of service at the moment and gets a 0 out of 10 for being a #\$\$\$@.

Side First Floor: I just love the buttons, two in front, one on each side, makes for the easiest and funest way to drink water. Projectile is very solid, 5 inches both ways. The water temperature is nice and cool. My only beef is it's location, but it still manages a 7.25 out of 10.

Thus concludes my review of the drinking fountains, just remember to always walk before you run and never eat pie out of a window sill. (Editors note: the third floor fountain now works. Give it a try and tell Liam how you rate it.)◊

MAN From 3

in Viola's head. She decides to disguise herself as her brother and play on his school's soccer team to quench her thirst for futbol. As it turns out, she looks like her brother from the front, too, despite her delicate features and prominent cheekbones. And those sashaying hips? Who is she kidding? Oh yeah, everybody.

This is where you'd think it would get awful, right? Nay, my friends, nay! Amanda doesn't do a good job of being a boy, and that's part of what makes it so fun to watch. She takes on this weird Southern drawl and her voice is an exciting rollercoaster of pitch peaks and valleys. There are plenty of memorable quotes ("Hello, I hate my life!" "Which one would you rather see NAKED?") and lots of slapstick humor.

Of course, you couldn't have a cross-dressing movie without addressing two topics: personal hygiene and romance. Viola uses the communal shower at obscene hours of the morning (I think Mexican showers would've sufficed), and the romantic trials are where things get wacky!

I can't remember all of the characters' names, so if any are off, just ignore it. Viola has a studly roommate named Nate or something who, of course, she ends up falling for. They begin a tender manly friendship that gets very sensitive at some moments. She

shows him how to feel, he shows her how to do it up MAN style. It really was beautiful. When Nate is having lady troubles, Viola is not afraid to toss her ego aside and say, "Hey man, I've cried over girls before, too. Come on, let's hug. You wanna play darts?" Yes, Viola, yes I do.

Continuing, Nate has the hots for Ursula, the proverbial perfect girl (he's so giddy around her, it's kind of adorable). Ursula wants to break off a piece of Sebastian (who is really Viola) and pretends to like Nate to make Sebastian jealous. Viola's ex Justin is a total tool (he wears polos with the collar up, 'nuff said) and gets really jealous of Nate, because when Viola was really a girl at the county fair, things between her and



Getting ready to get manly

Nate got saucy at the kissing booth. Sebastian (the actual boy)'s ex Tiffany is jealous of everyone (despite her own licentious sexual endeavors) because that's the kind of crotchety lass she is. There's a little geeky girl named Eunice who tags along for who knows why, but ends up with the studly black brotha in the end. Confused? So am I.

Anyway, Viola can't hind her lovely lady lumps forever, and by the big soccer match against East Compton, the headmaster knows what's up. What he doesn't know is that the REAL Sebastian is back and is ready to throw a wrench in the gears! Yikes! What

ever will happen?

The first half of this movie is when the really funny stuff happens (the massive tangle of love connections does get a little cumbersome, though nonetheless enjoyable), and then it gets dull and sickly sweet once the soccer game ends. It's also a little ridiculous that high-school boys are that ripped; I know, they're athletes, but good god! They're also suspiciously sensitive. If you want a tranvestite festival without the sticky fumbblings, I totally recommend *Mulan*. There's action, adventure, fun, romance, and a wealth of animated eye candy (hell-oh, Shan Yu!)

Back to the movie on hand, I was naive enough to believe that my humor was high-brow enough to withstand the comedic stylings of this movie... but no. Once I hear "I'd tap that," I'm gone. I am not a day over 8. The humor in this movie is not intelligent or sarcastic, and you won't feel cool reciting lines from it. None of you stuffy intellectuals (I'm staring down Veronica Beaty) would appreciate it. You know what?

Maybe we don't want your kind bearing witness to this great piece of cinema. At first I was embarrassed by my love towards this movie, but I've accepted it, and I recommend *She's the Man* to anyone who enjoys life's simpler pleasures; a movie that doesn't bowl them over with poignant or profound content. Some days, we all need that. I give *She's the Man* 2.9 stars (out of 5) for giving my brain a rest.◊

FAQUETBALL FROM 1

Losers lead the series with a 7-2 win and a close 12-10 win. The game continued on March 6th. Fetal Attraction scored a win, but The Losers won the series 3-1 with a final win of 8-6.

On March 15th Laffy Taffy and Jesson 5 (first seed, Northern Conference) faced-off for the conference final. Laffy Taffy won the series 3-1 with a 10-8 win, a 7-4 win, a 7-3 win, and a close 11-9 loss. Laffy Taffy continued to the championship game on March 15th.

Liam Shramko of Fetal Attraction had this to say about playing that amazing series against the Losers, which featured some of the best fraquetball ever played: "I was probably playing the best Fraquetball of my life. We had some opportune moments in games two and four, but we couldn't close the deal. Right about now I feel like Karl Malone from the Utah Jazz. He was so close to winning it all but Michael Jordan was just

too good. And I'm not comparing Jaime to Michael Jordan. He's a poor man's Latrell Sprewell. You can quote me on that!"◊

HISTORY DAY From 2

dard chest bump and then promptly fell to the ground with excitement.

However, there was some disappointment. Jose Garcia's and Jessie Biedler's exhibits did not advance, in spite of their hard work.

"Based on my judging experience, I thought Jesse and Jose might have gone on, but that's the way the cookie crumbles," said Susanne Hollingsworth. Andrew Hoaglund and Miles Alteri also were unable to advance. Some say the subject matter -- their board was about Marcus Garvey -- was just a little too controversial for the judges to

handle. "I knew some people might object from the beginning, it was a controversial subject," said Andrew .

Overall, Open School students came away with medals and open minds. All of the entrants put considerable time into their projects, both during and outside of school. Susanne's room became a History Day work center during the days leading up to competition, with students poring over computers and preparing documents for their boards. "I'm just happy to have the opportunity to rock the judges socks off," said Liam Shramko.

The students who advanced will get another chance to impress judges at the State History Day competition, which will be held on Sunday April 30th at the University of Minnesota.◊

CRACKER From 3

such to help them through the transition of changing their race, they go into make-up.

Everyone takes to this situation in their own way. Most of them act normal, as normal as someone can in this situation. The two most "interesting" or plainly crazy people on the show are Bruno and Carmen. Particularly Carmen. It's almost as if she's so worried about sounding or acting prejudiced or racist in any way, that she goes out of her way to make it seem like she isn't, which usually gets her in trouble anyway. Bruno, on the other hand, is not so much crazy as he is an ass, so to speak. He thinks that 'while racism is obviously there in certain cases, some of the people who claim that they've been discriminated because of their race are "looking" for it'.

To prove this, after being made up one day, Bruno goes to several car dealerships to see if he is treated any differently because of how he looks as a black man. Of course he finds that he isn't. He also seems to take an almost unsettling pleasure in using the n-word (when he is in black make-up) in the first episode. This is particularly obvious when he and Carmen go to a black focus group and he describes a made up situation as an example of racism. Besides Bruno and Carmen, everyone else handles the situation pretty much as you'd expect.

Brian (dressed in white make-up) decides to get a job at a bar in a predominately white neighborhood. He wants to see just how white people act when there are no black people around (or so they think). He is unsurprised at the answer when asking a white bar patron how it is in that town. The bar patron, who must've left this white sheet at home on this particular day, talks about how the community is a pretty small, shut in, white community, and how they want to keep it that way.

During the next episode, Renee (without make-up) goes into the bar where Brian works. After hearing Brian's comments

about the bar, she wants to see how they would react when an actual black person comes into the bar. She then has an interesting discussion with a long-haired, blond, white man. He talks to her about how most black people are not only stupid, but proud of that fact. But, of course, they're are some black people like Renee who conform to white society's rules and are therefore acceptable. But, this man makes sure to point out that he is not prejudiced. Really? Now why would anybody get a silly idea like that?

These aren't the only examples of blatant racism of course, but to see the other ones you'll just have to watch the show. These two couples each have a kid too, they just haven't gotten as much camera time as the parents yet. But, that's bound to change in the next few episodes.

This show will probably stay on throughout the duration of the premiere season. The real question is, after seeing this show, who will want to be on it. Although there is a chance for enlightenment, most people don't want to be shown in a bad light, especially on national television. And with this show, there's a very possible chance of that happening. Most people don't recognize their own racism until it's thrown in their face somehow.

A lot of people also don't realize that prejudging someone based on their race is still a form of racism. In fact, it is one of the most prominent forms of racism there is. I would say that this show probably stands a good chance because it is original, except for the fact that MTV had a show somewhat similar to this one a few years ago. It was called *Flipped*. While that show didn't focus specifically on race, one of the episodes did. But as of now, there have been no other shows of this specific nature on television. So, that might give this how a better chance. It also shows what happens when people think no one is watching. Who knows when that'll get old? Probably not very soon.◊

DEGRASSI From 3

around to, or even remember, to get on the internet go to the-n.com, click on a thousand different things, wait for like 5 minutes, and then watch a 15 minute Degrassi episode when they've got a truck load of homework to do. Before, when they had regular episodes, you could just turn on the TV, flip the channel to The-N, and do your homework while watching your Degrassi episode. Sure they still play Degrassi, but it's episodes that you've already seen a mil-

lion times to which you already know the entire script.



Star, O'grady, etc. they are all pretty good

The-N also has shows other than Degrassi, like *Fresh Prince*, *Moesha*, *Sabrina*, the *Teenage Witch*, *South of Nowhere*, *Instant*

SPRING From 5

in ruins. You now only need to send in an army to mop up. Victory is imminent.

This is the world of Spring (<http://taspring.clan-sy.com>), the best game I have ever played. What started as a remake of the great old game Total Annihilation has turned into a full blown engine, capable of fully 3-D combat, epic battles limited only by the size of your computer, high resolution maps with deformable terrain, 3rd party AI systems that you can fight if you don't



A look at some of the units that Spring has to offer

have a n internet c o n - n e c - t i o n o r a r e l e a r n - i n g h o w t o p l a y , t h e l a t e s t graphical effects for high-end computers, and new features added and fixed all the time. All of it completely free.

Spring is an open-source real time strategy engine developed by the Swedish Yankspankers (a TA clan) along with basically anybody who wants to. Originally, it was just a branch off of the SY's 3d replayer, which allows you to replay TA games. But then they developed it more and more, and now it is a full blown engine, which happens to be perfectly compatible with TA content. This allows for any TA mods to work with it (almost) flawlessly. The mod that comes with the download is the SY's TA mod XTA, which is just a rebalancing of Original Total Annihilation for the Spring engine.

XTA game play is much like that of OTA, but with 70% extra awesomeness. You start out as a commander allied with either the ARM or the CORE. The commander can build stuff very quickly, he can cloak, and

SPRING Continued on 9

shows. The-N isn't the whole channel all day, they also have Noggin, where they play kid shows from 5 in the morning to 5 at night. The-N is overall a pretty good channel, but these Degrassi minis are a bit over the top. They will begin a new season of Degrassi in April! So if you have cable and there isn't anything that you want to watch on TV, I would switch the channel to The-N.◊

SPRING From 8

he has a huge desintegrator gun that kills everything in one hit. But unfortunately, cloaking and shooting require huge amounts of energy, he is slow moving, he can't hit airplanes very well, and he can only build factories, light laser towers, and basic infrastructure. So he needs an army to do his bidding. There are over 200 units to choose from, but constructing anything requires the usage of precious resources.

The Spring resource system is the same as TAs, and I think that it is the best resource system in existence. You get energy by building solar collectors, wind generators, tidal generators, and fusion generators almost anywhere and geothermal generators on geothermal vents (note the absence of petroleum generators ---- the ARM and CORE are environmentally friendly.) But the only way you can get metal is by building metal extractors on metal rich areas, converting it from energy at a 60 to 1 rate, or by "reclaiming" rocks and dead robots. This makes metal more valuable. But what is really cool is that **NONE OF THE RESOURCES EVER RUN OUT.** So while in most RTSs the action peters out at the end when everybody runs out of crystals / trash

/trees/fish/gas or whatever, in TA/Spring, the action gets more and more intense as the game progresses and everybody has a larger and larger base that can support a larger and larger army, culminating with every player getting like 2000 metal and building 20 heavy tanks and 3 nukes every second.

Spring's interface, while currently somewhat clunky, is insanely flexible. You can hold down shift to queue up as many commands as you want. You can set a unit (or group of units) to "repeat on" so that it will repeat its orders over and over again. You can have a construction unit guard a factory and help it build stuff. You can give a transport loading zones and drop zones. You can use 3rd party group AIs to tell a unit to do some menial yet important task. You can tell all the units that a particular factory builds to do something as soon as soon as they are completed. You can tell all of your units to move to a specific area, where they are picked up by air transports, guarded by fighter planes, and dropped in two different zones near the enemies base ready for use.

Spring is the most strategic real time strategy game ever. Everything you do is based

on what you think your opponent is doing. If you think that he will build zeus swarms, then you should build goliaths. If you think that he will build krogoths, then you should build guships. If you think that he is going to be aggressive, then you should slowly creep your front line forwards. If you think he is going to be defensive, then you should get construction aircraft and completely blockade him in a small part of the map. I think this is much more fun than the build-a-big-army-until-you-are-out-of-resources-and-then-attack-and-hope-that-you-executed-the-build-order-a-split-second-faster game play of other RTSs.

So if you want good graphics, great gameplay, and new features every few weeks, download Spring today! Or I will assume that you have a crappy computer and laugh at you! As a bonus, at the time of writing, you can access the Spring website from school! No, I don't work for Spring! I just freely contribute my time and effort for it! I hope all of these exclamation points are making you excited to play Spring! LTG pVWN5 j00! XTA > AA! Speedmetal and build time are for n00bs! NTAI r0Xx0r5 j00r b0Xx0r5!0

OLD SCHOOL From 5

ters will provoke you to give them your own nicknames, like Butch, Four Eyes, and The Wall.

When it comes to early 90's soccer video games, this is the only one you'll ever need. Do you have fingers? Then this game's for you.

While I said World Cup was the best game ever, I lied. I'm just using this space for old school video game reviews. Next up is Tetris. While this game may not seem exciting to most, it's the best game ever because it's basically the grand-daddy of all modern puzzle games.

In Tetris you start the game off with an empty rectangle on its side. The goal of the game is to take different-shaped blocks that fall one at a time, and make lines that stretch across the rectangle. When you get a solid line across, it disappears and you get points.

Fun and easy, or the most frustrating game you'll ever play? As you get farther and farther, the blocks drop faster and faster. When the blocks get faster, it's easier to make mistakes. You make a mistake, miss with a certain block, and you can't get that line until you take get rid of all the

blocks on top.

There's no reason to buy this game, there's so many different versions on the internet and cell phones. If you have a DS there can be some good modes to play with friends, but chances are if you have a DS, you don't have friends anyway.

I have a tiebreaker for the third greatest game of all time. Both are from the same franchise, and are on the same system, Metroid

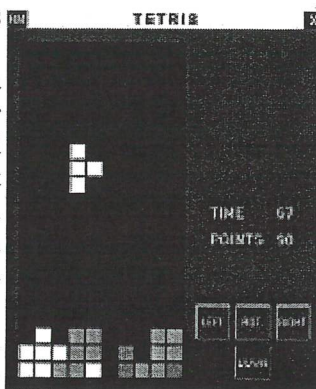
Zero Mission and Metroid Fusion. These titles are adventures of the most awesome main character ever, Samus Aran, a female space bounty hunter that has battled countless foes.

During a mission on some secluded planet, samus merges with an organism known as "X." Near death, Samus is sent to

headquarters to deal with the virus in her suit. The suit was to be surgically removed, that is until someone finds a cure known as the Metroid vaccine, which saves her life. As scientists are studying random aliens on a station, they learn that the aliens are infected, and they all get infected. One of the viruses is the one that infected Samus. A weakened Samus must destroy the X on the station.

Now here's the bit, the X takes the form of its prey. The X can take Samus' form at full strength. So whenever it's around, you have to use your stealth to hide from the clone, because it knows all your moves and is alot stronger.

The plot of Zero Mission is simply that Samus has to destroy the mother brain (with some twists of course). Each game has something the other doesn't. Zero Mission has better graphics, and slightly better gameplay, while Fuzion has better plot and sounds. This should make you happy with either, however, you'll want both after playing one. So get your butt off the couch and run to the store to pick these up. You'll be the happiest person alive.0



old school Tetris at its best

MARS From 5

vors of the expedition: Gendo Ikari, who left the base for Japan the day before the Second Impact, and Misato Katsuragi, the 14-year-old daughter of the expedition's leader, who was there when it happened.

Now, let's fast forward a bit. It's now 2015, and the Angels have returned. Sachiel, the third Angel, is on its way to the new capital of Japan, Tokyo-3, destroying any resistance the United Nations army and air force can throw at it. The UN tries everything, missiles, tanks, artillery etc., and it has no effect on it at all. During the battle, Misato, now 29 and a Captain in the paramilitary organization, NERV, has been sent to pick up Shinji Ikari, Gendo's abandoned 14-year-old son. The two barely escape as the UN detonates an N2 mine (a form of nuclear warhead) right underneath Sachiel's feet. The resulting explosion sends Misato's car flying, and disables NERV HQ's external sensors. When they finally get their sensors active, they find, much to their surprise, that it only halted the Angel's approach, doing only surface damage. Command is transferred from the UN's generals to Gendo, who is the head of NERV. He realizes the only option available to him is to use his trump card: Evangelion Unit-01. Unfortunately, he needs a pilot for it. That's why he's asked his son back. His original pilot, Rei Ayanami, was badly injured in an activation test of EVA Unit-00; she wasn't a viable pilot candidate for a combat scenario. In an argument with his own son, Gendo manages to convince Shinji to pilot the Evangelion when his son sees Rei struggle to get her broken body off a hospital gurney, and into the EVA. Shinji, now piloting EVA-01, is incapacitated in the fight against Sachiel, when Unit-01 inexplicably reactivates itself, and goes berserk, destroying the Angel in a cross-shaped pillar of flame lanc-ing its way into the sky.

Neon Genesis Evangelion, in my opinion, is one of the greatest anime of the 20th century. It has possibly the awesomest theme song ever, "A Cruel Angel's Thesis," A well-

developed plot, wonderfully deep characters, and some sweet animation. Although it only lasted 26 episodes, I think they did very well with the time they had, given the sheer complexity of the plot and the characters. Some of Eva's memorable moments: that infamous shower scene in episode 2 where Shinji meets Pen-pen, Misato's pet penguin; The EVA fight in episode 6 with the ridiculously huge sniper rifle (as long as a bloody skyscraper); The three EVA fights spanning over episodes 16, 17 and 18 (The three messiest in the series: the streets literally flowed with blood in 16, an EVA got dismembered in 17, and EVA Unit-02 had both its arms and head sliced off, Unit-00 had its head sliced in half, and EVA-01 killed and ate the 14th Angel in the bloodbath in 18); The first time Shinji entered Rei's apartment in episode 5 (The most embarrassing scene in the entire series... let's just say that I'm surprised it was actually aired on Japanese cable); The scene when Asuka's mind was being probed by the 15th Angel (the Hallelujah Chorus was playing at the time); and last but not least, the opening scene in episode 8, when we first meet Asuka. ("That's the viewing fee! Quite a bargain, nicht?" "It's overpriced, but that's okay. HERE'S YOUR CHANGE!")

Out of 10, I would rate Eva 9.5, because episode 4 was possibly the most useless segment in the series, and they still kept it in. If you like stories that are both lighthearted and dark, serene and violent, and make you question the meaning of what it is to be human, then you will love Eva. If not, it's still worth checking out. You can find it at the public library (Just search under Neon Genesis Evangelion) or you can buy all 26 episodes on DVD from Amazon.com for \$110.00. It's a bit pricey, but it's worth it. If you don't have the cash to throw around, the manga version (written by the character designer for the series, Yoshiyuki Sadamoto) is just as good, possibly even better than the anime. Just don't take my word for it, judge for yourself.◊

OUTWARD From 2

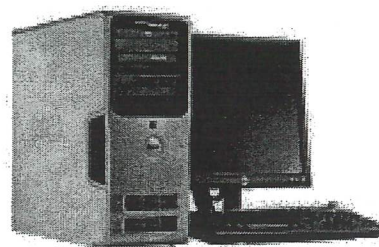
ing her last trip. She also said the program will absolutely continue after her retirement. Although Julie's replacement will be in charge of the trips, Julie may help chaper-one.◊

VOLOD From 2

on the other hand I really have developed bonds with students and staff," said Volodymyr. One thing is for sure, Open School will never be the same.◊

DELL From 5

leased it's first computer system: The Dell Turbo, it featured the Intel 8088 processor, running at an "amazing" 8 mhz! (nowdays processors clock in at 5000 mhz) In 1996 Dell went to the web to sell computers, increasing their sales in multiples of 1000. A year later, in 1997, Dell sold its ten millionth computer system, In 2002 U.S. consumers chose Dell as their No. 1 computer systems provider. This year Dell announced that it sold 10 million systems in one quarter for the first time in it's 22-year career. Yes, Dell



The Classic Dell Desktop

does seem to be dominating now, but what's all the com-mo-

tion about? What makes people love Dell so much? Is there really that much difference between Dell and HP?

You can customize a Dell XPS 400 (A mid-level Dell Gaming computer) and an HP d4100y (A Mid-Range HP Pavilion Desktop) to give you just about the same specs. The difference in price amazed me. I found that the Dell XPS 400 (with a 20 inch LCD monitor!) was about \$1,680. The d4100y on the other hand, cost \$1,915 before a \$200 mail-in rebate (bringing the final price down to \$1,715). There are two reasons this is a big difference: 1.) The 20 inch monitor costs over 300 dollars, and the HP doesn't even come with a monitor. 2.) The \$200 mail-in rebate seems nice (oo! \$200 off!) but, rebates usually take about two months.

I used Bizrate.com to check the ratings of Dell and HP. As expected Dell and HP both had glowing smiley faces meaning that they have received good to exceptional reviews from people. No difference there. Volodymyr, for the record, prefers Dell.

HP is still throwing new inventions out there every once in a while (LightScribe, a cd burner that can also label the CD just by flipping the CD over and telling it what to put on the label). As for Dell, they are now pretty much the place to go for professional servers and they offer pretty much the best line of LCD monitors (UltraSharp). So if you're thinking about buying a brand new HP computer, think twice, go to Dell.com and compare.... Chances are you'll find what you need and at a better price.◊