

THE PURPLE PRESS

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DI finishes 25th at Globals

Jon Sherman
Staff Writer

The 2005 Destination Imagination (DI) State Champions returned from DI Global Finals in Knoxville, TN on May 29th, after finishing in the top half. The event proved to be quite memorable in more ways than one.

During a 16-hour ride to Knoxville, Open School students shared a bus with both middle school students from Ely and students from an Alexandria elementary school. The team, Open Book, was one of the first teams to compete on the morning of Thursday the 26th. The end result was placing 25 out of 57. DI coach Susanne Hollingsworth was really proud of the team, considering that four of the team members have never once participated in DI, and three others have never made it out of the DI Regional competition. "It was amazing; but making it into the top half was even more amazing," com-

mented Susanne.

8th Grader Taeng Yang turned out to be quite the pin trader. Griffin Larson and Taeng sought out DI trading pins between the rigorous competition schedule. The hobby is somewhat of a phenomenon and Taeng was able to acquire hard-to-find pins including some of the missing links in DI coach Tom Totushek's New York DI pin collection. Griffin was surprised by pin popularity and couldn't have imagined middle school kids being that interested in trading pins.

The team had other fun too. Nou Thao, 8th grade, took in some shopping and said that she really enjoyed taking a shower. But after yet another 16-hour bus ride, the team was glad to get back home.

"For the level of experience of our kids,
DI GLOBAL Continued on 14

Pay with your finger??

Maggie Karl and Nicole Downey
Staff Writers

You're at the grocery store checkout and in a hurry. As you dig through your purse, you realize that you forgot your checkbook. But then you remember that you have Pay By Touch. You place your finger on the scanner and enter your search number. The system immediately recognizes you. It lets you pick from a variety of payment options that include all your credit cards, debit cards and your checking account. It takes you less than 10 seconds to complete your checkout.

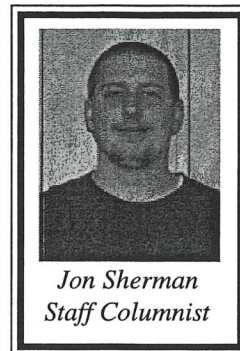
Pay By Touch, it's that easy.

Pay By Touch is a new biometrics system that allows customers to pay using just their finger. It eliminates the need to carry cash or credit cards with you when you go shopping, because it scans your finger at the checkout, and then allows you to choose

from a variety of payment methods, including check or credit. Some Cub Foods stores in the suburban area are starting to use this new advanced technology. The Cub Foods store in Blaine on Pheasant Ridge Drive is trying out Pay By Touch and they plan to extend it to three other stores in the Twin Cities area next month.

Pay By Touch is a free service that allows you to pay for your purchases with just the touch of a finger. It is more secure to use than credit cards, because it uses a secure method of finger scanning at the point of sale. "During the last two, two and a half years... There's not been one fraudulent transaction on this system," said Paul Kapioski, president of Thriftway stores,
PAY BY TOUCH Continued on 13

Reminiscing



Jon Sherman
Staff Columnist

Oh, the irony. I fought for six years to not go to school, and now that it's time to leave, I would fancy staying. In my five years at Open School, without conceit, I can thankfully say that I've come a long way, but not without

lots of help.

Anything that wasn't Capitol Hill was all right for me. I actually tried to apply for Open School in seventh grade because Capitol Hill couldn't manage to overpopulate itself with white boys. Unfortunately, a couple minorities later, they had a spot for me. Otherwise, I would think that an extra year at Open School certainly would not have done me harm.

I wasn't alone. Bridget even said that there are a number of kids that come from Capitol Hill to Open School and that there has always been some kind of rivalry. I think Julie hit the nail on the head when she said "escapees from Capitol Hell" are mostly boys that come here who are extremely smart and have a case of depression. I think that it's great to hear that it's just a bad school - Capitol Hill that is - and we aren't bad students.

It didn't take too long for me to make friends at Open School. The first friend I
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: **down its plans for next** :
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The Purple Press Staff

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Matt flying away

Open School's beloved physical education instructor Matt Walker is leaving us for flight school next year. Piloting has been a passion for Matt since he was a wee baby. As a child, he was allowed in the cockpits of large aircrafts, and soon became interested in flying himself. Money was an issue in college, so Matt's flying plans were put on hold. Recently the door to flight was again opened, and he happily leapt in to that door, by golly.

"First of all, [flying is] fun. To soar with the birds is pretty cool."

Open School bids you a warm farewell, Matt, and the best of luck with your soaring.

**Be sure to check out
the 10th
Anniversary
Edition due out next
fall.**

END OF THE YEAR From 1

had when I came to Open School was Susanne Hollingsworth. Contrary to popular belief, Susanne is an amazing woman, friend, and advocate. She never quit working with me even though I was super stubborn. Even though I was given a chance to change advisors the following year, I just always stuck with Susanne.

Susanne's advisory, then composed of Aaron Holland, Caitlin Holmstrom, Ananda Wold, Vicki Witt, Nathan Jesson, and I, would always meet after lunch in the ol' ISS room behind the library. It's the room with a bathroom and a bank safe. That was what's up. Aaron hated everybody, especially Ananda. He said she laughed like a dolphin. Nathan didn't say much, but Aaron didn't like him either. That may have had something to do with it.

The best field trip we ever had was the first and last time we went to Chucky Cheese, which is similar to Circus Circus. Back then, we had a good \$90.00 in the advisory account. Every year since, Susanne and I insisted on returning to Chucky Cheese for long advisory, but we just couldn't convince other students that it was the right move to make. Now, unfortunately, I'm going to graduate from Open School, never having returned to Chucky Cheese. Let this be a lesson for the generations to come: going to the Mall of America was not and never will be as fun as Chucky Cheese.* (*denotes the exception of IKEA)

When you're in the eighth grade, even after you've wasted nine years of your life on school, it can get very difficult to see the light at the end of the tunnel. But you need to grease those wheels so they stay on the track, knowwhatI'mtalkinbout? That's exactly what I'm talking about. I know some idiots that got to be seniors, then dropped out. That's not what's up.

And so, whatever it was that I did on the side, I ALWAYS took care of my academic priorities, until my bubble was burst. Right then and there, when it seemed I didn't have a crutch to lean on any longer, was when I began exploring my options for not completing high school. "Just as long as you go to class," they told me. I couldn't, I wouldn't. I spent so many hours of everyday on the commode sleeping, reading, anything, just so long as I wasn't inside of a classroom. I never acted like this before. Before, I had had self-medication and whether it was right or wrong was not an argument to make- now I had nothing. I couldn't even write like I used to. Even as a responsible abuser, I

would have to work my way up from the bottom. The wonderful Open School friends that I would come to know over the years, both teachers and students, completely overshadowed my pessimism.

There are many special people at Open School, as it is a very special school. Group Facilitator Lenni Augustine, also my friend, supported me through some rough years. She'd been with Open School from the very beginning, and it showed. There is a root Open School philosophy, as I understand it, and a lot of teachers get it. And so, once I too "got it," I made it that much easier for myself. Along with the good there is the bad and vice-versa and while I can't define exactly what that philosophy is, it nevertheless exists.

If it wasn't for my buddy Leo, who pushed me to write for the Purple Press, I'm pretty sure I wouldn't have planned out my college years around a major in journalism. I haven't attended any other high school, but I am willing to bet that I wouldn't have had opportunities like the ones given to me here.

The Open School is its own environment that if you stay in it, you're safe. If you go back to the real world with the perception that everything is safe, that can be dangerous. I guess maybe I've gotten too comfortable in my setting. But it's nothing. I also feel kind of disgusting, going to school way over on the West End; that makes me feel kind of nasty, being that I don't care to leave my own hood too much.

Undoubtedly, some of the best parts of my duration at Open School are the Lake Elmo and Como Park field trips at the end of the year, except for this year which will be my last. I never went to Valleyfair you see, except for last summer with my guy. We went on the Power Tower and had heart attacks together. Only losers go to Valleyfair, but I would never talk that way about somebody. Just like when I say, "Prom is for losers," and the truth is that I was scared of going to prom because of how fun it might be, knowing that I hadn't gone other years and the possibility of feeling a deep sense of regret.

Over the years, Open School has transformed me into a cold-hearted liber-al. Leo would tell me that a journalist wouldn't be stupid enough to think otherwise.

I've always been more writing oriented than into the visual arts. Somebody, like my man John Hendrickson, correct me if I'm wrong, but I do believe that somewhere in there, between the eighth and twelfth grade, I solely created collages on Apple Works

END OF THE YEAR Continued on 14



The Purple Press Senior Pages

Mai Lee Yang Sr.

How long have you been at Open School?
6 years.

What are your plans for next year?

School

What was the hardest thing at Open School for you?

Math.

How has Open School helped you?

Well, Open School helped me with a lot.

Mostly with um.... everything.

What will you miss most about Open School?

The teachers.

What is one word that will describe your entire experience at Open School?

Fun.



Finding my way around the building.

How has Open School helped you?

One time I was drowning, but luckily Open School was nearby and threw me a life preserver.

What will you miss most about Open School?

(Most of) the people.

What is one word that will describe your entire experience at Open School?

Priceless.

Ana Contreras

How long have you been at Open School?

6 years.

What are your plans for next year?

Going to the U of MN Twin Cities and studying pre-vet.

What was the hardest thing at Open School for you?

Working with Leo.

How has Open School helped you?

It helped me strengthen all of my weakness and gave me the opportunity to do the things I wanted to do.

What will you miss most about Open School?

The teachers and the school in general. It was so easy to make friends and everyone was so friendly.

What is one word that will describe your entire experience at Open School?

Interesting and family. It's so hard to describe in one word.



Aaron Schutjer

How long have you been at Open School?

Six years.

What are your plans for next year?

Probably going to college.

What was the hardest thing at Open School for you?

Math.

How has Open School helped you?

It has helped me to be a more independent learner.

What will you miss most about Open School?

The people.

What is one word that will describe your entire experience at Open School?

Puppies!



Mary Henke-Haney

How long have you been at Open School?

Thirteen years.

What are your plans for next year?

I'm going to Carleton, where I'll be sequestered from the world for years until I'm transformed into a cyborg-superhuman.

What was the hardest thing at Open School for you?



Michael Griffin

How long have you been at Open School?

Four years.

What are your plans for next year?

That depends on x factors, x being the number of cards in the graveyard.

What was the hardest thing at Open School for you?

The ground.

How has Open School helped you?

Can I take a mulligan?

What will you miss most about Open School?

Your friends.

What is one word that will describe your entire experience at Open School?

Adjective.



Serena Anderson

How long have you been at Open School?

4 years.

What are your plans for next year?

To learn French and kiss a stranger.

What was the hardest thing at Open School for you?

Getting here.

How has Open School helped you?

It helped me be self reliant.

What will you miss most about

Open School?

I will miss after school rehearsals and racing to BK.

What is one word that will describe your entire experience at Open School?

Fantastic.



Kao Her

How long have you been at Open School?

Ten years.

What are your plans for next year?

College.

What was the hardest thing at Open School for you?

Leo's classes.

How has Open School helped you?

I learned a lot.

What will you miss most about Open School?

The teachers and the classes.

What is one word that will describe your entire experience at Open School?

Good job.

Vanessa Parsons

How long have you been at Open School?

Four years.

What are your plans for next year?

I'm planning on going to Atlanta, Georgia.

What was the hardest thing at Open School for you?

Adjusting to the grading system and math.



How has Open School helped you?
It helped me be more accepting of others.
What will you miss most about Open School?

The teachers and my friends.

What is one word that will describe your entire experience at Open School?

Crazy.

Jon Sherman

How long have you been at Open School?
5 years.

What are your plans for next year?

Metro State University, Journalism major.



What was the hardest thing at Open School for you?

Learning to come to school and math.

How has Open School helped you?

Open School has helped me find a

greater joy in service to my community and in countless other ways.

What will you miss most about Open School?

Staff friendships, safe environment.

What is one word that will describe your entire experience at Open School?

Rewarding.

Sunny Yang

How long have you been at Open School?
Eight years.

What are your plans for next year?
School.

What was the hardest thing at Open School for you?

Math.

How has Open School helped you?
To be more independent.

What will you miss most about Open School?

The teachers and recess.

What is one word that will describe your entire experience at Open School?

Amazing.



Ananda Wold

How long have you been at Open School?
I have been at Open since 5th grade, so I guess that's 8 years.

What are your plans for next year?

My plans next year as of today are to enjoy the freedom of living on my own, and work to pay the bills that come with that freedom. I have been asked to return to Robbinsdale Armstrong High School as the costume designer for their three shows next school year.=

What was the hardest thing at Open School for you?

I guess the hardest thing at Open for me was in some ways all the choices I had, and also learning to manage my time when I wasn't being closely watched.

How has Open School helped you?

Open has helped me see the many paths that one can take in life. It has also been a great support system through some major changes in my academic career.

What will you miss most about Open School?

Well, seeing as I'm rarely at Open now. I guess I miss more of what used to be, I have a lot of great memories of people that have already graduated. I guess I also miss Purple Press layout nights when Leo swears.
What is one word that will describe your entire experience at Open School?
One word... hmmm... splendiferous!



Rachel Dauner

How long have you been at Open School?
4 years.

What are your plans for next year?

I am going to the college of St. Catherine.

What was the hardest thing at Open School for you?

The fact that it's small.

How has Open School helped you?

It taught me to depend on my self and to care for other people.

What will you miss most about Open School?

I don't know where to start.

What is one word that will describe your entire experience at Open School?

Memorable.

Paul Wilkening

How many years have you been at Open School?

6 years

What are your plans for next year?

College- St.Paul College

What was the hardest thing at Open School for you?

Remembering to do my work

How has Open School helped you?

Provided me with a flexible, relaxed atmosphere

What will you miss most about Open School?

The old gaming community

What is one word that will describe your entire experience at Open School?

Acid Trip



Dustin Kleingartener

How many years have you been at Open School?

2 years

What are your plans for next year?



Augsburg college

What was the hardest thing at Open School for you?

The temptation of doing nothing

How has Open School

helped you?

It gave me the do it yourself attitude

What will you miss most about Open School?

The colorful hair

What is one word that will describe your entire experience at Open School?

Fraud

Geoff Freeman

How many years have you been at Open School?

9 years

What are your plans for next year?

Buy a haunted house.

Befriend the ghosts and

then mooch rides to

Minneapolis Commu-

nity Technical College

from them

What was the hardest thing at Open School for you?

The floors or maybe the walls I'm not really sure



How has Open School helped you?

Answer Unintelligable

What will you miss most about Open School?

The football team, The babes

What is one word that will describe your entire experience at Open School?

Dog on the sidewalk, dog on the sidewalk. I saw.....I saw.....

Mai Lee Yang Jr.

How many years have you been at Open School?

I have been here for 6 years

What are your plans for next year?

I'm going to college, St. Kate's

What was the hardest thing at Open School for you?

I don't think I had any trouble at school

How has Open School helped you?

It has helped me to be myself, and be a stronger person

What will you miss most about Open School?

The teachers because they are always there.

What is one word that will describe your entire experience at Open School?

FUN!



Angie Hausladen

How many years have you been at Open School?

I have been here for 4 years

What are your plans for next year?



I am planning to go to Century College for photography

What was the hardest thing at Open School for you?

the graduation process

How has Open School helped you?

It helped me be more independent with my work

What will you miss most about Open School?

The staff because they are always there and willing to help

What is one word that will describe your entire experience at Open School?

Exciting

Nicole Downey

How many years have you been at Open School?

9 years

What are your plans for next year?

I am going to college most likely the U.

What was the hardest thing at Open School for you?

There really wasn't anything "hard" but leaving is definitely going to be.

How has Open School helped you?

It has helped me learn and grow in a community that is unique and different.

What will you miss most about Open School?

Definitely the teachers, you build such a special bond with them and my friends

What is one word that will describe your entire experience at Open School?

Unique



Xiong Pao Thao

How many years have you been at Open School?

I have been here for 6 years

What are your plans for next year?

go to college, and meet college girls

What was the hardest thing at Open School for you?

graduating on time

How has Open School helped you?

to help my community and get me prepared for college

What will you miss most about Open School?

All the classes and teachers

What is one word that will describe your entire experience at Open School?

family



Yia Vang

How many years have you been at Open School?

3 years

What are your plans for next year?

Go to college

What was the hardest thing at Open School for you?

Trying to make it through

How has Open School helped you?

Through all my classes

What will you miss most about Open

School?

The Nice Teachers

What is one word that will describe your entire experience at Open School?

Fun.

Sean Keith

How many years have you been at Open School?

11 years

What are your plans for next year?

I am going to Beloit College

What was the hardest thing at Open School for you?

The lack of P A R - TIES!!!!!!!

How has

Open School helped you?

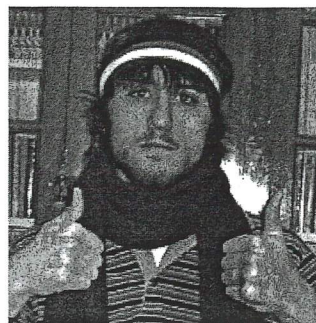
I have learned that life is what you make it. You are responsible for your decisions.

What will you miss most about Open School?

The family atmosphere and student lounge

What is one word that will describe your entire experience at Open School?

LOVE



Opinions 'n' Stuff

Backstreet Boys are back

Chole Taipale
Staff Writer

Do you remember 1999? The stock markets, exquisite fashion, G-stanks and Tommy Hilfiger finally uniting, and perhaps most magical of all: The Backstreet Boys. Here were five talented fellas straight out of Orlando that single-handedly revolutionized music as we know it. On May 18th, 1999, The Backstreet Boys released *Millennium*; and the world was never the same.

With such hits as "Show Me the Meaning of Being Lonely" and "I Want it That Way," BSB wormed their young, toned bodies into our hearts forever. This CD sold a million copies in its first week, kids. America really loved these cats. Well, some of them, anyway. I knew right away that the only two members worthwhile were AJ and Kevin. AJ had the bad boy cred and the sexy face that I hungered for, and Kevin was just cool. Howie? Greasy. Nick? Bowl cut. Brian? Don't even get me started. "I Want it That Way" was clearly the best song ever. Tender lyrics, heavenly melody, and AJ and Kevin, of course. It was just slow enough to unleash the most furious slow-jam hands and point to people in the audience, and just fast

enough to really bust a choreographed move to. How many times did I fall asleep to that song? I've lost count, and that usually means a lot.

Sadly, AJ had some problems that only a special kind of doctor could solve. The Black & Blue tour of 2000 was put on hold while my Alexander James checked into rehab for alcoholism, depression, and anxiety. For one reason or another, our obsession with boy bands dwindled. Gone were choreographed dance routines and flowy pastel shirts. For how long, I was not sure. It broke my heart.

I was listening to the radio and doing something destructive in my room very recently, not really paying attention to the slow jam I was hearing. I heard Mr. Radio say "Backstreet Boys" and "new single" in the same sentence, and I stopped my mischievous actions at once. Dang, I had just missed the song. If only I paid more attention to my surroundings! I had no choice but to sit by the radio until I heard it again. That magical moment came about 2 hours later.

"I've tried to go on like I never knew you/
BACKSTREET Continued on 9

Episode Three lives up

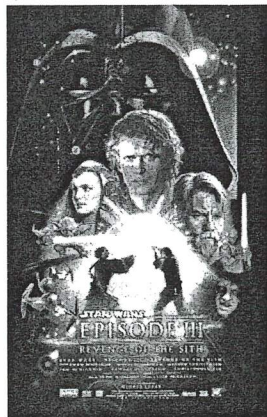
Kamieka Livingston
Staff Writer

I love George Lucas! There are very few people who are just amazing enough to bend math to their will, in fact I can only think of one. That man is George Lucas, he has found a way of putting six movies into a trilogy. I adored *Star Wars Episode Three: Revenge Of the Sith*. The acting, the scenery, the voice. Every last bit of this movie thrilled, chilled and moved me to tears. Besides how can you turn down Yoda's incredibly bad grammar? Let me just spend the next few moments telling you, yes, you, why you need to see this movie.

Anybody who has seen *Star Wars* Episodes Four, Five and Six, would know that the voice behind that black mask is none

other than the incredible, the talented, the sexy, the undeniable James Earl Jones. The soul brother done good. He has brought us such great catch phrases such as, "Luke, I am your father" and "Join me, Luke." But the 18-year span between Episodes Four, Five and Six and Episode Three, left me jagged. I never, in my most wild dreams thought that they could convince Mr. Jones to be apart of this epic film. But they did, and thank God, because I don't think it would have been the same.

At this point in my review I am supposed to tell you about the movie. But there isn't much I could say that wouldn't ruin this **SITH** Continued on 11



DMC 3

Lue Her
Staff Writer

You kick the door open and walk outside. Sand monsters start appearing out of nowhere. You dash at the nearest one and slash it a few times with your big sword, then take out your handguns and start blasting away at the next one. One of the monsters comes up from behind you and swings its scythe at you, but you roll out of the way and knock it into the air. You take out your guns and start shooting it. As it comes down, you give one powerful swing of your sword and knock it into the other ones. Some surrounds you at a wall, but you run up the wall and jump up into the air. You take out the handguns and start blasting away at them, then you come down on them with a slash. After they disappear, you look up at your combo meter and see the word stylish.

DMC 3 was produced by Capcom, the company that made the Resident Evil and Onimusha series. It is for the Playstation 2 and cost at about \$50.

DMC 3 came out shortly after Tekken 5 in March 2005. DMC stands for Devil May Cry.

DMC 3 is the third game in its series. It is actually a prequel to the first game, not a sequel to the second game. The first game came out in 2002. DMC is an action/adventure game and is only for one player.

The story of DMC is about a guy named Dante, a half devil and half human. He owns a shop called Devil May Cry, and his signature weapons are his sword and handguns. In the first DMC, Dante tries to stop a devil named Mundus from entering the human world by using his father's power, since his father, Sparda, was the one who defeated Mundus in the past. DMC 3 is about how he first started his shop and named it. It is also about his relationship with his twin brother Vergil, and how he stopped him from gaining their father's power with the help of a

DMC Continued on 12



Alicia Keys: the poet?

Sholanda Jones
Staff Writer

Singer-songwriter, arranger, pianist, and producer alicia keys reveals some of her, "most delicate thoughts." In her songbook of poems & lyrics, titled Tears for Water. If you've ever listened to Alicia's music, you can hear the passion she has for what she does. You probably noticed that her music is emotional, as is the poetry in the book.

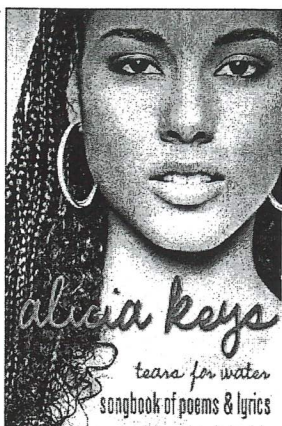
Fans of Alicia know this side of her well.

In the introduction of the book Alicia states, "All my life I've written these words with no intentions of sharing them. Not even with my confidantes." But now she's sharing them with all her fans. There are 178 pages in this book. Ninety one are filled with poetry. The other 87 are lyrics to her first album **Songs in A minor**, and her second album **The Diary of Alicia Keys**.

Most of the poetry in the book was written before she graduated from high school -- she was valedictorian of her senior class at the age of 16. She is also a graduate of the Professional Performing Arts School in New York City. Alicia's unique use of Classical piano in her music has helped her to win 5 grammy awards. She has also won two American

Music awards, and Billboard as well as other music awards.

In poems like "6:33am" and "Lilly of the Valley", Alicia writes a short afterward on the poem. She describes what she was feeling when she wrote it and a reason why she wrote it. "I damn sho' ain't no cosmopolitan woman, And you won't find me on the



cover," reads a line from the poem. In "Cosmopolitan Woman," Alicia lets it be known that she's not one. Alicia is not the superficial image the magazine puts out, with all the 101 ways to find Mr. Right. She addresses the problem with this three-page, rhyming poem. In the poem titled "Such a strong word," Alicia uses the "strong word" "a lot", describing what she hates about herself

and about the things she sees in other people. "I HATE EVERY SINGLE FACE I SEE, EVERYONE SITTING NEXT TO ME." Such as this three page poem stood out to me because it is in bold capital letters. This poem seems like she had one of those days that you can't help but to hate everything around you or may be a little PMS. I think **TEARS Continued on 9**

Music's brightest newbies

Cristina Costello
Staff Writer

Thara: If you haven't seen her face then your head's not in the game. Professional music video and advertising model, as well as a commercial actress, Thara is adding a new title to her resume - recording artist. The 21 year-old, Indian, black, and Irish mixed, beauty has been signed to DJ Clue's Desert Storm records. She's been featured in Jay-Z's, "Excuse me Miss" music video (her first video), and the high air play of that landed her on the commercial set of MTV 2's Sucker Free Sundays, where she ran into Clue. On the set she was sitting next to MTV VJ LaLaa (the future Mrs. Carmelo Anthony), who asked if Thara could sing. Of course Thara replied "yes"



and LaLaa immediately called over Clue. Thara handed him her demo, and 10 minutes later she got a call from Clue. And it's

all history from there. Since then her voice and style has greatly evolved, and now she's more polished. Clue says her voice is a blend of Janet Jackson and Aaliyah.

Everybody has a story, and Thara's isn't that different from the rest. She grew up in a home where the native ways stood strong. She started playing piano at two, but hated it. Even though she hated it, she continued to do it until she was twelve, when she started vocal lessons. She was a straight-A student **NEWCOMERS Continued on 10**

NIN: word!!

Liam Shramko
Staff Writer

When I'm at the end of the line, have nothing left to give, when I'm out of gas if you will. There will be a few moments of which I will remember. I'll remember shaking Bruce Campbell's hand, eating dollar bills, going to Spain and Italy, now this.... **NINE INCH NAILS LIVE!** The next chapter of my life has begun. Holy S@#!

When Severon Peterson and I arrived in Chicago at approximately 3:30 p.m. there was already a line that extended two whole blocks. I'll remind you, this is four hours before the concert is scheduled to start! So we got our place in line and patiently waited with other Nine Inch Nail fanatics. Now, before I write Nine Inch Nails ten thousand times, I'm gonna keep it real. So I'll abbreviate for ya suckas. NIN = Nine Inch Nails. Get it. Got it. Good.

While waiting we got into several conversations with the fans approximated around us. It seemed like most people had pretty neat stories of previous NIN shows, but this cool cat was attending his first, certainly not to be his last. At around six Congress Theatre started to let people in. I looked down the line behind me, I can only imagine how long it must have gotten. Now a word about The Congress Theatre: This is some classy joint, I tell ya what. The place looked like it was built in 12th century Italy. I've been to Italy so I would know. Amazing, huh?

The Dresden Dolls came out at exactly 7:30. No earlier. No later. They played such hits as "Girl Anachronism," "Missed Me," "The Perfect Hit," and "Coin Operated Boy." I enjoyed The Dresden Dolls but it seemed like most of the crowd didn't. As they left the stage and the road crew began set up for NIN, the people in the back of the floor were trying to jam their way into the front of the crowd, or as I like to call it, "The Eye of the Storm." It kinda was uncomfortable, but I was four people away from the stage. It was so freaking worth it.

Then, suddenly, without any delay, (actually about 20 minutes), NIN took the stage. Guitarist Aaron North, keyboardist Allesandro Cortini, drummer Jerome Dylan and former (Marilyn Manson bassist Twiggy Ramirez, under his real name Jeordie White). Just a few moments later Trent Reznor, (the only official member of the **NIN Continued on 12**

Power Rangers 101

Emmanuel Mauleon
Staff Writer

It's been years since I have been able to feast my eyes on the beautifully developed and terribly well acted Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers. Ok, so beautifully developed and terribly well acted might be extreme exaggerations. But if you ask any boy around the country what they were doing right after they got home from school in 1993, they will tell you, "Dude, eating PB&J sandwiches and watching Mighty Morphin' power rangers." I know I was too.

The Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers first aired on August, 30, 1993. The series was an immediate hit in the 4 to 10 little impressionable boy demographic, and guaranteed the success of the show for future generations. The plot line was a bit obscure, so for all you that were living under a shell and weren't hopelessly addicted to watching, I'll break down the basic story line:

NASA spots a strange container on the moon. Two astronauts go to investigate. They open it up and KAPLOW! The evil Rita repulsa and her minions are released from their imprisonment inside what is called an "Intergalactic Space Dumpster." Soon, Rita set up a base of operations on the moon, and decidedly begins her plot to

destroy the world. (Side note... why destroy the world? If you were really evil you would have a plan like imprisoning 6 billion people, make them your slaves, use them to grow and produce items you can sell on the international market. Then, once the planet Earth's resources are all used up sell the slaves to other people. Then set up a tour of the creepy wasteland that earth has become. That's really evil.)

After Rita appears on the moon, an inter-dimensional space being named Zordon teleports five teens from the town of Angel Grove, California, into his headquarters. He gives these teens Dinocoins (apparently some ancient magic coin that gives people super dinosaur powers... and kick ass suits), and each individual Dinocoin gives the teens a special ability and their own special dinosaur robot, kind of like a Thundercat, it is a tall robotic dinosaur... Except that the Mastodon and Saber Tooth Tiger are not dinosaurs... but they call them that anyway. Here's the breakdown:

Jason- Red Ranger- Tyrannosaurus
Trini- Yellow Ranger- Saber Tooth Tiger
Zack- Black Rangers- Mastodon

MIGHTY MORPHIN Continued on 13

Kingdom of confusion

Katie Hurley
Staff Writer

Add too many fighting scenes and lots of death, and you get Kingdom Of Heaven. This movie was very hard to keep track of and rather confusing. It also seems like Orlando Bloom plays the same character over and over again, the British guy that can fight and makes his own weapons. Ridley Scott could have done better and at least we know he can do better.

Kingdom of Heaven is about a young man, named Balian (Orlando Bloom) who has become royalty and has to defend his city. One day he is making some swords when his long lost father comes waltzing in and is all "Yo, I am yo fatha!" and Balian is all "Aw, Hells no!" His father tells Balian that in Jerusalem all his and his wives sins will go bye bye. (His wife committed suicide and that is a sin, so he wants to save her from going to hell.) Well, Balian is so angry that his father has been gone so many years

that he refuses to leave with him. Later some guy comes up and is trying to start stuff with Balian and he kills him. Well, Balian murdered someone. Now he HAS to go to Jerusalem so he doesn't go to Hell. In doing this he gets caught up in the religious wars (also know as The Crusades). He feels he has to fight and keep his city safe so he doesn't go to hell for his sins.

I didn't like this movie because the setting seemed fake, especially at the beginning. The lighting was all wrong and the setting seemed very staged. The "snow" even looked fake. Everything looked too blue and you couldn't tell if they were trying to make it look like it was night time or if they were trying to make it look gloomy because someone was just buried.

The plot was very hard to follow also, because it jumped from one place to another
HEAVEN Continued 9

Chaotic

Christina McGee
Staff Writer

OOPS, they did it again. It's not just another song by Britney Spears. It's her new reality TV. Remember when your parents showed you old home movies? Or when you saw some family doing that on tv. Well, now you get to see the newly-founded Spears/Federline family do just that, kind of. Britney Spears and her husband Kevin Federline have decided to share their happiness with the world the 'classy' way, through reality TV.

The infamous Mr. and Mrs. Spears are joining the UPN network at least temporarily while they promote their marriage through their new reality tv show; Britney and Kevin: Chaotic. Unlike most normal reality shows

Britney and Kevin will not be followed around by cameras all day long, tv viewers will get to see the "real" them through home video footage shot by Ms. Toxic herself.

The show consists of home video mostly shot by Britney Spears, commentary by the two of them and follow-up footage (not shot by them). The show follows the entire span of their courtship and engagement and is supposed to end with their wedding as the grand finale.

In the first few minutes of the show, besides seeing some random video footage of Britney, shot by herself, we get to see her ask her hair stylist the riveting question, "What do you think about marriage and commitment?" Answering the question herself minutes later, MRS. FEDERLINE (Spears) says that she doesn't believe in marriage, Hmmm. The next part of the show basically consists of her riding around through London, going to public appearances, etc. Then, after some stuff I don't remember, we meet Mr. Kevin Federline, a former backup dancer and Britney's future husband. After that very small interesting point in the show, it finally stops just showing her point the video camera up her nose, and it finally turns into the "Britney and
CHAOTIC Continued on 9



Whassup Hmong girl?

Sunny Yang
Staff Writer

There were many things mentioned that I could relate to in the book Hey Hmong Girl Whassup? To name a few, one issue that was brought up was about how many non Asian people thought all Asians are Chinese. Tell me about it, one of the questions people ask me first is, "Are you Chinese?" Or if they were trying to be nice, yes, I did say nice, the winning question would be, "What are you?" As if I'm not human. I think some people are just plain ignorant, especially here in the Twin Cities where the diversity is so great.

Another issue brought up was, if you're not "white," they [the Americans] will ask you slowly and loudly, "Do you speak English?" It's understandable that they want to make sure we understand what they are saying, but they don't have to make us feel and look that stupid.

Personally, as a person of a different ethnicity, I think we have a more difficult life than an average American. We have different values and traditions that we must follow in order to keep a good reputation in our family and community. As a child of traditional Hmong parents, it is even harder to establish an American life. As the world turns, Hmong parents are beginning to loosen up on their children, but not all families have the same expectations, so you will hear different stories.

This book was written by Leah Rempel, an English as a Second Language teacher and a graduate student from Hamline University in St. Paul. This book was written based on Rempel's experience with the

Hmong community. She said, "...it is not so difficult to find literature that they [Hmong students] are interested in, but it is nearly impossible to find literature that reflects their experience. This was my goal in writing this book." Rempel did a variety of interviews from Hmong teens to Hmong elders, and often asked for help from the Hmong community and her colleagues to help edit her thoughts and goals.

This book was written in a diary format, from a teenager's point of view. The experiences in this book were based on a variety of peoples' experiences. Rempel gave her character a Hmong name to liven the story.

Choua Vang is a Hmong teen girl who lives in the ghettos of Frogtown, St. Paul. Choua is the middle child of eight siblings. In her journal, she writes about how hard it is to live in two different worlds, the American world, and the traditional Hmong world. This culture clash puts Choua inbetween what's right and what's wrong. She has to make difficult decisions that will affect her family and her friends. In the Hmong culture, you have to obey your parents every word, and do as you are told.

The Hmong have no homeland and live in the highlands of Laos. In Laos, they were poor and had very little education. The children were expected to help their parents farm from dawn to dusk (one of the many reasons why Hmong families are so big). Here in America, children go to school and have a choice of participating in extra curricular activities after school.

BOOK REVIEW Continued on 14

TEARS From 7

it's a great poem; it really engages you in the moment.

I think one of the most powerful poems, and my favorite in this book, is "p.o.w." Not prisoner of war, p.o.w stands for prisoner of words unsaid. "I am a prisoner, Of words unsaid, Just lonely feelings, Locked away in my head," reads a line from the poem. This poem begins and ends with the same lines I think that makes it different from other poems in the book.

If you're fan of Alicia, I definitely recommend this book. You will love the poetry as much as you enjoy the lyrics in her music.◊

HEAVEN From 8

and you couldn't really figure out why they're fighting at any given moment. You know it all must be connected, but not exactly how. That's when it gets boring. When you get that confused you give up and get bored and just want the movie to end so you can sleep and dream that you never saw it.

At least the acting wasn't so bad. I don't blame the actors, but they could let Orlando Bloom play a character that he hasn't played 3 times before.

I give this movie only 2 stars. Yep, it's that bad. The acting was okay but everything else just sucked. You're better off seeing Ridley Scott's other movie, The Gladiator. And I'm out!◊

BACKSTREET From 6

I'm awake but my world is half asleep/I pray for this heart to be unbroken/But without you all I'm going to be is incomplete"

Those passionate words are straight from BSB's new single, "Incomplete." It is a powerful little ditty complete with soaring string symphonies and Kevin on piano. The music video features Brian drowning, Nick being stupid, Howie feeling his hat, AJ crying by his car, and Kevin crying over his piano. Maybe you remember the open flowy shirts and pouring rain in "Quit Playing Games (With My Heart)" video? Well, "Incomplete" has all that, and more. Snow, wind, ocean, sand... It's amazing. AJ and Kevin are back, and possibly better than ever. When I think about the new Backstreet Boys album, Never Gone, dropping June 14th, I feel warm and fuzzy inside, like getting hugs from strangers or watching your favorite movie with a fleece throw, ice cream, and something small and furry. I like to think that this means the return of the boy band; of all things clean and holy in this world, and that Kevin and AJ were, ahem, never gone. As I listen to their soulful voices, all I can think are peaceful thoughts. Only good things can come of this.◊

CHAOTIC From 8

Kevin"

show instead of just the "Britney" show. Occasionally, the camera leaves her hand and actually focuses on her, but mostly its her doing the recording.

In the end, this show is basically all I expected it to be in the first place, not that good. Most of the footage shot by Britney is just her talking about nothing in particular to various members of her staff (hairdressers, make-up artists, backup dancers, etc.). The other pieces of footage are mostly from her concerts and a couple of public appearances. The show fills in the spaces between those with commentary from her and Kevin and a couple other members of her staff.

One of the most interesting moments of the show is when Britney's bodyguard, Big Mo is talking about how he never trusted Kevin in the beginning and he how he thought that Kevin was just a punk trying to get some of Britney's money, and the numerous other advantages of her fame. Of course, that didn't even occur to anyone else. An even better part is that he doesn't take back the statement later in the show. In the end, this show might be good to watch like if you need some background noise while taking a nap or something, otherwise I wouldn't recommend it.◊

NEWCOMERS From 7

and after she graduated she went on to college. With a full scholarship to Fordham University, who wouldn't be happy? Thara. She went through a great depression while in college. When she started working at clubs in the city, and meeting celebrities and producer, she decided she had found her calling. She dropped out of school, and pursued her career full time. Her parents supported her the whole way through. She told her parents to give her six months to get on her feet - and in exactly six months she booked her first commercial.

Don't think she's all about booty shaking, tight clothes, and booty shorts. She doesn't do or wear anything she's not comfortable in. She says, "I wasn't going to compromise myself." She's still working her album, and the title has yet to be released. "People can expect real songs, real music," says Thara, "I'm trying to do something that a girl, ten years from now, will be able to vibe to. If it's not something I can relate to, I'm not going to say it." If you're looking for a sample of her Indian inspired music, visit www.tharaonline.com, to hear her hot single "Shake it".

Trey Songz: "We're just making sure that I'm felt in the streets as much as I'm felt on a soulful level." says 20 year-old, Trey Songz of Songbook/Atlantic records. [allhiphop.com]

The St. Petersburg, Virginia native, had no voice lessons or



coaching. He was a regular teenage boy - playing basketball, throwing parties, and being forced to church every Sunday by his grandma. He also didn't grow up a huge R&B fan. "I wasn't even paying attention to R&B at the time. I was listening to straight up rap, like Biggie, Jay-Z, and Nas," says Trey. But if he had to choose his favorite R&B singer, it would be R-Kelly his scandalous record aside.

When Trey was younger, he entered and won 20 local talent contests. At 15, he met producer Troy Taylor - famous for his work with Lionel Richie, Patti LaBelle, SWV, B2K, and many others. After Trey graduated high school, he moved to New Jersey. From there he began constantly working

with Taylor. "We would go to the New York studio everyday, and during the drive, he'd play me all sorts of old stuff, like Steely Dan. When it came time to learn falsetto, he played me Prince. When it came time to learn about soul, he played me Motown," said Trey of Taylor. Eventually Trey became Taylor's production assistant, giving him priceless technical experience. Trey has written and co-produced Kevin Lyttle's album (a reggaeton style album). He also sings a solo on the Coach Carter soundtrack. On top of that, he co-wrote and guest stars on Trick Daddy's, "Ain't a Thug", and Juvenile's upcoming singles, "I Know" and "Line of Fire." He's also due to collaborate with Lil' Kim, Trina, and Snoop Dogg on upcoming projects.

His album, *I Gotta Make It*, is to be released on July 25, 2005. With 11 tracks, about a man with dreams, love and still hustling. The album was mostly produced by Taylor. The first single, "gotta make it" features rapper Twista. It's inspiring aspiring singers as well as rappers. The song, "Cheat on U," suggests perhaps you're in love with the wrong person, and "Let's Make Love Tonight," defines there's no one else in the world for you.

Haven't heard of Trey Songz? Well maybe you've heard of the "Prince of Virginia"? Either way they're one in the same. Trey gained and has maintained his street cred by hitting the mixtape circuit. Traditionally used by rappers, Trey is standing out, being an R&B singer with a large variety of mixtapes circulating. "There's so much on my mind that I can't say on a regular R&B record. but mixtapes are a great outlet to sing about some wild, crazy stuff." said Trey.

N2U: Do you remember the last time you heard a love song that really hit you hard in the heart? Then pop N2U's self-titled debut album in your disc player and let your emotions flow. Depicting stories of broken hearts, attraction, and unconditional love, it'll touch you in

more than one way. N2U consists of Chris Buck, 25, Mark Richard, 21, Don Lee Samuels, 20, and Antonio Avant (aka Asa),



25. They come from Atlanta and Southern California.

N2U was formed when Chris Buck presented the idea of a fresh R&B group to Chris Stokes, producer (B2K, IMX). Stokes is credited in discovering superstar Brandy. He also works on many different things, like styling, managing, music production/writing, and video direction. Stokes found the four vocalists in different times and aspects of their lives.

They all grew up in a church-oriented household. Mark was an aspiring athlete, when street life caught up with him and cut his athletic career short. He lived on the streets for a year and then he ran into Chris Buck. From there he straightened his life out.

Their first single, "Issues," is a plea to resolve the problems in a relationship that isn't working. It's about how love affects you and the sacrifices you make for love. Their sophomore single, "Baby Mama Love," is a song that appreciates mothers, and it shows there are still some "good" guys out there, who treat a lady correctly and man-up to their responsibilities. "One of the things I believe is 'follow your heart' and that's what got me to the point of landing a record deal," says Buck.

Tyra: "Let's make 'em whistle ya'll" seductively says 19-year-old songstress, Tyra. Representing Virginia to the fullest, her first hit "Country boys," gives props, thanks, and appreciation to them southern boys. I've gotta say I can't deny a country boy either. she didn't know "Country Boys" would be her first single. She wrote the song a little over a year ago, and 'shopped' it to Danja Mowf, who has connections with GG&L Music. A month later GG&L sent Tyra a contract, and a week after signing it, "Country Boys" was getting airplay.

I first heard the song in early September 2004 and thought it was hot from day one, but nobody knew who Tyra was or they never heard the song. That's because it was mainly getting play in the South. Everybody thought it was model, Tyra Banks singing the song, until the video came out. What exactly is it about a Southern Brotha? "Country boys are kind of unique. It's just something about them. You might think you see it everyday, but the 24's (rims), the dreads, the cornrows, the accent - the "shawty", the "cuz", the things they say and do...they just have a different style, and I just appreciate it and think it's sexy!" said Tyra of them southern boys.

She wasn't always a great success though.

When she was younger she was in a group called "Kraze". Which consisted of Tyra, her sister, Toya, and a close friend of theirs. They were successful locally, but when Toya and their friend went off to college, they split up; and Tyra went solo. Amazingly, with her quick success, she's kept her feet on the ground. She wants to manage her money right and pay her taxes! The only major thing she's bought is clothes.

Her album, *Introducing Tyra*, is currently in the works, she's just finishing it up and polishing it. She's worked with many people like, Rapheal Saddiq, Eric Sermon, and K i e t h

Sweat, to Chingy and Trillville (on the "Country Boys" remix). A date hasn't yet been set for the release of her album. "I can't see



myself dipping into anything like acting or fashion right now. I'm still young and learning, looking to set myself straight and reach my goals relating to music first," said Tyra of her career.

Bobby Valentino: Have you ever heard the song "Blackberry Molasses?" Probably not. Ever heard of the group Mista? No? The group consisted of four young teens out of Atlanta. Nobody would've thought the angry teen from the group, Bobby "Valentino" Wilson, would one day have solo shine. After a brief spotlight with Mista, the group went their separate ways. Bobby resurfaced at Clark Atlanta University. He played football, and for the most part fulfilled the college life. He earned his degree, in Mass Communications (radio/t.v./film), in 2003. After graduating, the 22-year-old, hooked up with Ludacris and Disturbing the Peace clique. He's the only r&b singer in the clique.

He put his college degree to work on his first video, "Slow Down." He wrote the treatment and edited it. He also wrote on every song on his album, *Give Me A Chance*. The idea for "Slow Down" was inspired by actual events. He was driving down Melrose ave. and he spotted a female he was interested in but he kept losing eye of her. The girl kept dipping in and out of stores, and he'd see her from time-to-time but never got a chance to catch up with her. He says, "When I write

songs, it's all about a mood or it's all about a moment."

His album, *Give Me A Chance*, is already in stores, and it features the single "Slow Down." "R&B is just like - who knows what it is? Cats' just get rappers to rap throughout their whole albums, so it's kind of taking that r&b element," says Bobby.

Boyz N Da Hood: "I watched how Easy-E put together N.W.A. and I wanted to do some s**t that n***as from the hood could hear and understand. I took the idea to Puffy (P.Diddy) and he liked what I had to offer and we signed a deal together," says Block, of Block Entertainment of the new rap group, Boyz N Da Hood. based out of Atlanta, Boyz N Da Hood are already making waves in rap's ocean. Duke, Big Gee, Jeezy, and Jody Breeze (who you may have known as a solo artist) all make up Boyz N Da Hood. They bring a new type of crunk to the table. Their hype energy is shown over the gritty street beats, and lyrics that spit only the truth to the streets of the ghetto and the projects.

Compared to N.W.A. they signed to Bad Boy South with P.Diddy. "Honestly man, it is an honor for us. We are privileged that people even compare us to N.W.A. They are legends, ground breakers especially to this type of music we are doing, gangsta, hard-core street music. I love it. I just hope we can live up to what people expect from us," said Duke.

Their first single, "Dem Boys", is an official street anthem in the south and midwest. It expresses the daily life of people in the ghetto. Wake up and get on your grind (hustle). Their second single is a cut between "Felony" and "Don't put your hands on me". "Felony is just mainly giving you an idea of people from the hood. A lot of my partners I know got felonies, and we are basically letting them know it ain't a proud thing, but it's real, and we are speaking on it. "Don't Put Your Hands On Me" is self explanatory. We're in the streets and that been street rule number one, from day one," said Big Gee. They all have solo projects, Jeezy's album, *Trap or Die* (CD/DVD) is in stores right now, and Big Gee's, *Mechanic-Ville USA*, is also in stores. "Stay humble, stay grindin', and make sure you learn the business," said Jody Breeze to those rappers trying to get in the industry.◊

SITH From 6

movie for you. Let me just say, that Yoda will charm the pants off Ian's mom. His charismatic ways bring a light to this dark and dreary movie. Despite his poor grammar and his height problem, he is the only one to fill this giant role. Nobody can hold a light to Yoda.

Natalie Portman is hot! I think that needs to be said before I tell you the incredibly bad acting. She is the type of actress that makes you want to strangle babies. There are moments in this movie when she is acting with her counterpart, Hayden Christiansen, that made me want to drill into my spleen with a large spiked drill bit. I would like to think that it was a bad acting duo. But no, it was all her. People tell me that she isn't such a bad actress, and I guess I could agree with them if I was blind, deaf, and dumb. She will be sure to get an Oscar.

How could you not go to see this movie when one of the lead characters is played by Samuel L. Jackson? That man is the G-stanks of G-stanks. Nobody could play Mace Windu like he can. His character is a focal point of action and deceit. This movie would be nothing without him.

The scenery is stunning. The visual effects are possibly the most up to date and revolutionary I have seen in a long time. Some of the more legendary aspects of Star Wars are brought back in this astounding film: hand to hand fighting and wide space shots. The planets are a unique and pleasant backdrop to the epic story. There are so many, even a seasoned nerd would have trouble keeping them straight. Each star system has its own underlining story. When the deepest and most terrifying parts of our characters need to be brought to the surface the set around them reflects their mind set.

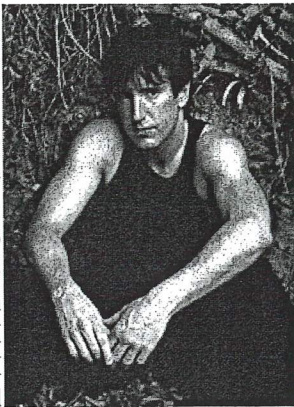
I don't think there is enough praise in the world to convey how I feel about this movie. It rocked me and blew my mind with the stylized special effects. I have heard it said that Episode Three is George Lucas' apology for Episodes One and Two. Well, I say "screw You!". *Revenge Of the Sith* doesn't need to apologize for anything. It has more action than *Empire Strikes Back* and more depth than *Clone Wars* and *Return of The Jedi* combined.

If catchy one-liners from small green amphibians and strong black men are your thing then I command you go and see this movie. Even if they aren't, I still command you see this film. 4 1/4 stars out of 5.◊

NIN From 7

band), came storming out. The crowd cheered the f@#k out of Congress Theatre. A deafening blow.

NIN opened up the show with "You Know What You Are." A loud, swift, crushing punch to the face. It was followed by fan favorite "Sin". I was luckily right behind two fairly obese men, so it was kinda like getting smashed into a crappy bed. It was hard to breathe at moments, and screaming the lyrics at the top of my lungs didn't help the cause. As time went by, the current of the crowd pushed me to the right, to the left, back, forward, in every direction you can think of. It was so gradual, I hardly noticed at first. Then I looked at the stage and realized I was about fifteen feet away from the stage. Oh well. It was a nice time to catch a breather. From "The Hand That Feeds," "Terrible Lie" and "The Collector" I was catching my breath. Waiting for the right moment to work my way to the top. Then suddenly, when he started playing "Closer," I stumbled upon The Mosh Pit. Afraid at first, I didn't front, however I



couldn't keep out of it for long. By the second verse I was running into people like a caveman. It felt fantastic. I wasn't too far away from the stage, about 10 – 12 people. I could still see Trent fine and I could take out all that teenage angst that I have. I'm a young white male, I'm continually oppressed. It just fills me with rage.

I gotta say the light show was pretty freaking cool. It went with the beat of the music so well, amazing really. I romped around sporadically at the lights and music with much pleasure. The sound was AWESOME. It almost made my head explode. You could tell that the band had put a lot of time and thought into their performance. If you have been to past NIN shows, you'll know about the destruction of keyboards, and Trent running into band mates. But Trent's gotten older. He's almost 40! He's quit the alcohol and cocaine. He's toned it down. The band had a different image, not the same old crazy image, but an "I'm clean cut, but I can still rock the f@#k out of this planet" image. It didn't hurt the show at all; he still puts every ounce of sweat, blood and tears

into each song. It's just a different kind of intensity.

I realize I've written about a page now, so I'll get to the goodies. Best Songs: "Sin," "Burn," "Wish," "Closer," "March of the Pigs," "Gave Up," and "Head Like a Hole." Hearing these tracks live allows me to appreciate them on a completely different level. Funniest crowd moment: I saw some kids doing acid. They were freaking out, touching their little faces a lot. Best Trent moment: He smiled during "Hurt", when the whole crowd was singing along. He sang at a different pace, which screwed up the crowd. I was one of them. I felt like an idiot. He smiled a few other times. But that one took the cake. First time someone shouted "Free Bird": 6:30, an hour before the show started. S@#tiest moment: NONE!

I have bruises to nurse, I got kicked in the head, punched in the throat, and various other injuries occurred but let's not talk about it. I'll just say one more thing. If you EVER have a chance to see Nine Inch Nails.... TAKE IT WITHOUT HESITATION!!!! It was the greatest moment of my life and I plan on seeing them again and again and again. Even if the right side of my brain doesn't fully function, and I'm paralyzed from the waist down. I'd do it again.◊

DMC 3 From 6

woman named Mary.

In DMC 3, the story goes by missions, like in the previous ones. There are certain tasks in each mission you must complete to move on to the next mission. Each mission is either a puzzle, getting to a certain place, fighting hordes of monsters, or boss battles. At the end of each mission, you are graded. Each specific detail like time, orbs collected, damage taken, and style points are graded, then they add up together to equal your final grade. You can find hidden secret missions too. Costumes, difficulty levels, arts, and videos can be unlocked for beating the game.

Throughout the game, you collect different types of orbs: red, green, white, and blue, purple, and yellow. Each type of orb has its own use and is collected in different ways. Items that help Dante's status are purchasable too.

Somewhere during the game, Dante can get the Devil Trigger ability. It's a meter that shows under the vitality bar and tells you

how much devil power he has. When you turn on devil trigger, Dante goes to devil mode and changes into a devil. His strength, speed, defense, and attack power increase. His vitality also increases slowly. The devil trigger meter will then slowly decrease until it's out, then Dante turns back into his original self.

Different types of monsters appear throughout the game, ranging from sand monsters with scythes to flying gargoyles covered with blood. You encounter weaker ones at the beginning and stronger ones as you go on. There are also several bosses you encounter too. Dante can receive certain weap-



ons from some of the bosses he defeats. He gets a triple rod nunchakus with the power of ice after defeating the three-headed dog called Cerebrus. The weapons represent the bosses you defeat. Dante gets a different variety of guns too. You can get guns like the shotgun and rocket launcher. Also, the guns are unlimited ammo so you don't have

to worry about reloading. The weapons have abilities that can be purchased and the guns can be increased for firepower.

In DMC 3, you run around solving puzzles and doing some platform jumping, but when it comes to battling monsters, the game play changes. Its purpose is to defeat all the monsters while getting some stylish combo. To gain stylish combos, you have to land hits on the monsters continuously while being able to dodge their attacks, because one hit to Dante could break your stylish combo. You have to do different variety of attacks too, because you won't get stylish if you repeatedly do the same move over and over again. The combo meter starts off with dope and ends with stylish, so you have to increase it. If you don't do anything, it will start to decrease. DMC 3 uses many of the buttons on the PS2 controller. You can switch weapons without going to the weapons menu, which increases strategy for battle, but with only two weapons and guns. Also, you have the use weapon, fire guns, jump, and use style abilities buttons. By holding the target opponent button, you can do different moves using the four original buttons.

DMC 3 Continued on 14

MIGHTY MORPHIN From 8

Billy- Blue Rangers- Triceratops

Kimberly- Pink Rangers- Pterodactyl

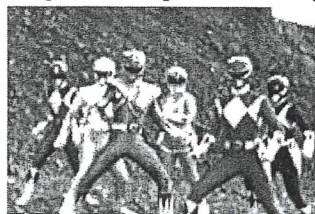
Now, those were the preliminary rangers. But Rita Repulsa had some tricks up her sleeve. Somehow, Rita had gotten a hold of the Dragon Coin (Note: Dragons... also not Dinosaurs), and using the Dragon coin, cast a spell over Tommy, who in turn becomes the Green Ranger. But you know how the story goes... the good guys eventually turn Tommy into a good guy and ba-ba-blow! They now also have the Dragon Zord at their disposal.

Now that you pretty much have become familiar with the characters, let's do a quick summary of every episode.

Rangers are hanging out in the Angel Grove juice bar (it was the early '90's). They are doing Karate or something. Then we cut to Rita's lab on the moon, where she devises some new monster and makes it out of clay, then cooks it, and send it to Earth to destroy the Rangers. The monster terrorizes some people, the Rangers teleport to the location of the battle, turn into power Rangers by calling out the name of their Dinocoin, and then proceed to defeat the villain. BUT WAIT! This is the genius part of every episode. Rita Repulsa throws her magic wand down and it pierces the Earth, reviving her

monster and making it the size of a high rise building! Oh SNAP Rangers! What are we going to do now that he's f---in' huge!? Oh wait, the same thing we've done every other episode. Call on the Zords! Flippin' Sweet!

So the Zords get called out, the Jason says something like "Form the Megazord!" And through the miracles of early '90's special effects we see all five "Dinosaurs" form together to build a robotic man type thing (anime fans, you should be thinking "Gundam" or perhaps even "Thundercats."). The Megazord fights the big bad man, and after they've fought a sufficient amount of time to bring it to commercial and back, the Megazord whips out his Megazord sword,



and kills the monster. The monster proceeds to shake until it blows up, last words being "I'll get you Rangers!!!" and the teens return to their normal lives.

Power Rangers was a staple of cool back in Kindergarten. Half of my elementary school would play Power Rangers during recess, and I would also call the Red Ranger, then my friend Will Lehman would call Green Ranger I think. This kid Jared used

to cry, and we told him he could be the Pink Ranger... I hope that kid didn't suffer any emotional damage due to us. But for real's yo.... them Rangers were a hot commodity. You had your Power Rangers shirts, kicks, lunch box, action figures, blow up dolls, candy, cereal, flavored condoms.... EVERYTHING!

The Power Rangers as I knew it has long since evaporated like dew off of the screen of my old dial television. Like a dream that fades with time, only to become a feeling... Since its release in 1993 there were three more season of "Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers," ten episodes of "Mighty Morphin' Alien Rangers," and then one season of "Power Rangers Zeo," "Power Rangers Turbo," "Power Rangers in Space," "Power Rangers Lost Galaxy," "Power Rangers Light-Speed Rescue," "Power Rangers Time Force," "Power Rangers Wild Force," "Power Rangers Ninja Storm," "Power Rangers Dino Thunder," and this year wrapping up the current "Power Rangers S. P. D." (Space Patrol Delta force).

Through this long list, "Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers" withstood the test of time, now having entered syndication, remaining a favorite among those who considered themselves hardcore Ranger fans. It started a revolution, and this time, the Revolution was televised.◊

PAY BY TOUCH From 1

during a Retail Fraud Conference in London this February. Thriftway, which was the first company to use Pay By Touch, has been using it since 2002.

Pay By Touch is completely free to use, and it is faster than paying by any other way. It takes less than a minute to enroll in the system, and checkouts after that take 10 seconds or less. You can enroll in Pay By Touch at participating stores or online, but you must be over 18. To enroll online, go to www.paybytouch.com and click on enroll now.

After you are enrolled in the Pay By Touch system, you simply place your finger on the reader and enter your search number, which is usually your phone number. The system immediately identifies you, and you are linked to your financial and loyalty accounts. You can then select your payment method from checking, credit or debit card. Your account information is already on the system, and your reward points are automatically recognized, the same as if you had used your cards or key chains.

Pay By Touch first appeared in 2002 in a

super market in Seattle, Washington. The store says it now sees thousands of transactions a month using Pay By Touch. One customer drove 400 miles just to use the new system. Some of us are confused on how it actually works. The Pay By Touch finger reader does not take or store an actual fingerprint - it converts a set of data points into a mathematical equation that can't be used to reproduce your fingerprint. "I think it's creepy, it's a little too star trecky for me," said Susan Gunnersin, a Cub Foods customer.

Pay By Touch is safer to use than credit cards because of the biometrics qualities of your fingerprint. Biometrics is an automated way of recognizing a person based on a unique physical characteristic, like a finger print. But instead of making a digital copy of your finger print, Pay By Touch stores a set of data points that are unique to you, but can't be turned back into your finger print. The system turns these data points into a mathematical equation that is used to identify you when you scan your finger.

Most Cub Foods customers who have

heard of or experienced this new system think it's a great idea. "I really like the idea. It makes things much easier, because I wouldn't have to fumble around and dig deep into my purse to look for my wallet. All I would have to do is use my finger," said Joy Howard, a Cub Foods employee at the Blaine store and loyal customer. While most customers agree with this innovation, some are a little skeptical. "This is not good people. Pretty soon you'll be required to have a barcode tattooed - invisibly or otherwise - on your forehead or on the back of your hand, and/or a chip with all your data in it inserted there. Mark of the beast time people!" Said "Rincon," who posted a message at zdnet.com.

Many banks are planning to use the new system soon, but it is not currently in any banks. The system takes the money out of your checking account, the same as if you used a check card or checks, or even cash. Pay By Touch doesn't process credit cards right now, but it will soon.

"We found people came to the store be-
PAY BY TOUCH Continued on 14

DMC 3 From 12

To increase strategy, there are styles. Dante starts off with four and can unlock more. Each style can help you get a stylish combo, but in different ways. Their levels can be increased too, depending on how much you use them. The four originals are trickster, sword master, gun slinger, and royal guard. Trickster is a style where Dante can use evasive maneuvers and techniques. Sword master is where he has more variety of melee weapon attacks. Gun slinger is where Dante can use his guns in different ways and shoot faster. Royal guard is one where he can block and counter his opponents. For example, he can disappear and reappear above his opponent with the trickster style.

The speed in DMC 3 is quite fast. when you run around the places it might seem slow, but in battle, Dante can move fast. You can be slashing one, switch targets and weapon then attack the other, and dodge another's attack while still attacking the other one.

DMC 3's graphics are good, but not great. It isn't blocky either though. In battle, Dante looks a little blurry. You can't see the details on him much since the camera stays pretty far from him most of the time. The environment though, looks very good. You can't interact with it though, except for the lighter objects in the background. It's videos uses graphics straight from the game play.

The sound and music goes well with the game's atmosphere, which is mostly ruins

END OF THE YEAR From 2

from images I'd pull from Google. My personal favorite is my corporate logo collage collection. That much advertising on one page has GOT to be worth something.

I've never been much of an artist when it came down to drawing, but have drawn some real neat things at Open School if I do say so myself. A lot of time was spent in the art room, just doodling. Every time Elizabeth would ask what I was drawing, I'd show her either another picture of a tree and a lynch rope with birds and a sunset, or I'd show her a map of the 48 contiguous United States which I was so fond of drawing.

There are several places where I whittled time away besides the art room. There's the computer lab, Julie's room, the stairway, Bridget's room, the hallway, Leo's room. . . I managed to appear as studious as possible to those in whose room I was harbored, but thought it was the end of the world when, after two-three years of hanging out in the

and ancient stuff with a dark sky. There's an opera like music throughout most of the game, except for the city parts. When a battle begins a rock and metal music starts playing and doesn't stop until you (destroyed) all the monsters or leave the place. You can hear the sound of weapons clashing and a whooshing sound when Dante swings his weapons. The guns make a loud sound too, especially the handguns when fired rapidly. Monsters can scream out or grunt when they get attacked, like the grim reaper, but all the sand monsters don't.

I think this game is cool. The fast-paced action, multiple weapons, and styles really make it fun. There are many strategies and ways to defeat the enemies. They didn't really changed its game play since the first game, but they put good stuff from the first and second game together. The styles are pretty cool (I especially like the trickster style) and the reaction time to the buttons pressed is also very quick, even with all the monsters and special effects on the screen.

The puzzle missions can be frustrating and monsters can do huge amounts of damage. Restarting a mission where there is a boss at the end can be tiring. Stylish combo is hard to get when you start off, but gets easier when you gain more of Dante's abilities.

Overall, DMC 3 is a very cool game. It is challenging and fun to play, especially the battles. I recommend this game to any action/adventure game fans, but not to beginners, since this game could be difficult. Think of it as a Matrix kind of game, but with more speed.◊

hallway because I have "SDL", somebody told me to do otherwise. I don't justify my outrage, but rather live and learn from some of those old mindsets. Chemical imbalances will do that to you.

Throughout the years, my love for writing never waned. I've always thought about writing my own sitcom. I could tell cute jokes like this one here: So a pair of jumper cables walk into a bar and they says, they says, "I'd like to have a drink," and the bartender says, "Well, I'll serve you, as long as you don't start anything." That's my favorite joke right now.

The main point that I'm trying to get across here is that education is a privilege. Take help from people who are willing to give it to you, while they're willing to give it to you. Why would one drop out of high school after they've completed the majority of their free education. NOTHING IS FREE IN THE WORLD, but public education is,

BOOK REVEIW From 9

One of the decisions that Choua has to make was whether or not to attend one of the school's events, the Valentine's dance. Her friends all planned to go, but she was afraid of getting in trouble because there would be boys present at this event. Though teachers would be there to chaperone, Choua knows her parents would not let her go. Choua's older siblings had caused her parents to distrust them, and though she hadn't herself, her older siblings' bad choices have affected her personal life.

Another difficult situation that Choua gets into happens after the dance. She ends up in a compromising situation with a boy in a car. She believed that she did not have a choice in the matter, and it gets her into trouble. Furthermore, because Choua does not speak out about her feelings, that leads to more misunderstandings in her family.

The decisions Choua and her parents make ultimately lead to one single decision that someone outside of the family has to make, in order to help mend the family. To find out more about how Choua survives living between two very different cultures, ask our own ESL teachers, Jeff or Tim, to provide you with the book, Hey Hmong Girl, Whassup?◊

DI GLOBAL From 1

they did fantastically and I look forward to taking kids next year. They were a real joy to be with and a real joy to experience outside of school," said Tom.◊

PAY BY TOUCH From 13

cause of this -- lots of senior citizens felt more secure not carrying money to the store. The major concern is 'biometrics, fingerprint, what's it going to be used for?' ... Once [customers] understood what it was used for, it became a non issue," said Kapioski.

For more information, go to www.paybytouch.com◊

for the most part, financially free to the student. Let me break it down though: Nothing is free in the world. Even a coupon that says one free Whopper and no purchase necessary. Why? I have to walk/drive/bus to Burger King don't I? Therefore I used my physical energy, not to mention my brain circuitry that told my body to do that. Somehow, I paid for that free Whopper.◊