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Rally protests funding cuts

Jon Sherman
Staff Writer

February ended at the State Capitol Building with a statewide rally for public education. In an effort to stop inadequate funding from the legislator, hundreds of parents, students, and teachers let their voices be heard, that "fully funding our schools must be a priority," read the flier for the rally.

Open School's own Tim Leone-Getten said that it's really important to send a message to people who want to cut further funding to the schools: "They're in for a fight this year." He noted that Minnesota had dropped in rank from the 5th to the 27th for state funding of education in the last 10 years, dropping the most within the last two years, which according to Tim, has made people realize that something needs to be done. Among the speakers, Tim said, the best was a Hopkins high school senior who spoke about why it is important to fund our schools.

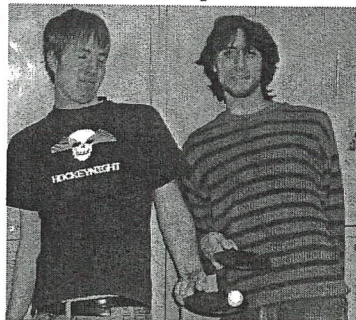
Also in attendance were the Superintendent of Edina Schools and last year's Teacher of the Year. Under Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty's education plan, funding would increase two percent each year for the next two years. Tim argues that the plan doesn't even take into account inflation.

Sophomore Veronica Beaty also attended the rally. "I want to have classes where we all have textbooks and I want to hear the teachers shut up about their copies," she said. She was there for about 45 minutes, which she says wasn't long, but cold enough to borrow someone's mittens. In the midst of the 14-degree wind chill, she and Junior Anna Blyly-Strauss chanted, "Rhubarb Cake!" Anna commented that there were a lot of young children. Veronica said it to be more fun than the last rally she attended, *EDUCATION Continued on 6*

Gentle Giants, Gods?

John Knapp
Staff Writer

The Gentle Giants (12th grader Sean Keith and 11th grader Cameron Beitler) beat the Jesson 5 (11th grader Doug Anderson and 11th grader Nathan Jesson) in the 2005 fraquetball championships on Friday, February 25, 2005. The Giants won the best-of-seven series 7-5, 7-2, 7-3, and 7-4 in front of smaller-than-usual crowds. It was Sean's last season in Fraquetball and what a fitting ending, winning the championship. The Giants were no doubt the best team in Fraquetball.



The victorious Gentle Giants

beat us. They're just that good," said math teacher Tom Totushek. Tom's team, the Alpha Numericals Revisited (Tom and fellow math teacher Carl Olson), lost to the Giants in the conference finals.

The Giants breezed through the regular season with a record of 15-3, the best in Fraquetball. Their only three losses coming to The Losers, Los Geezers, and most embarrassingly to Y.O.U. one of the worst teams in Fraquetball. Although the Giants were not

trying at first, the loss was still the biggest *GODS Continued on 2*

Sex, violence, book

Devlin Byrne
Staff Writer

I am almost completely desensitized to violence. You could probably kill someone right in front of me and I wouldn't be grossed out at all. I would call the police and most likely think a lot less of you, but as far as my reaction just to the sight of it? No big whoop. Of course this is all speculation, maybe I would vomit or something upon seeing a dead body, but I doubt it.

What is the cause of this desensitization you ask? Could it be all those violent Hollywood movies/television shows, or one of those dreadful video games where you kill prostitutes? Now I'm sure that violent movies and violent video games did contribute in part to my desensitized state, but only a small part. The one thing that I can point to *ELLIS Continued on 5*

The Ear

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GODS From 1

upset in the regular season by far. The players on Y.O.U. are 10th graders Norman Beaudry and Perry Jones. The Giants did manage to sweep the three game series against Alpha Numericals Revisited, a team that would later make the playoffs.

Alpha Numericals Revisited making the playoffs in front of the Geezers (ELL teacher Tim Leone-Getten and English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt) was a huge surprise. The only other real surprise was the rookie team Hat Trick (7th grader John Knapp and 8th grader Griffin Larson) making the playoffs in front of Muffins (10th grader Jose Garcia and 11th grader Maritza Richardson) and Ultimate Sonning (11th grader Antonio Rosario and 8th grader Kieran Gallagher). The Giants won their Division so they got a bye in the first round of the playoffs. Alpha Numericals Revisited beat The Losers in the first round, then the Giants once again swept the Numericals in the second round. In the other conference the Jesson 5 swept Hat Trick with ease. Then swept Fetal Attraction (10th graders Liam Shramko and Andrew Hoaglund).

The biggest question for next year is where Cameron will end up, if he plays. Rumor has it that he will join Liam Shramko or, if Doug Anderson graduates; he might join Nathan and create The Jesson Giants or The Gentle 5.◇

Empty Space?

Service auction raises big bucks

On February 10th, in the spirit of Outward Bound, students, parents, teachers and alumni donated a plethora of services to be auctioned off following the Open School Spaghetti Dinner. Services varied from bicycle tuneups to guided ski tours to traditional Yucatan dinners. Our own math teacher Carl Olson was the auctioneer. He utilized his improv skills to sprinkle humor and quick wit on an otherwise dull duty. Julie Doble, who organizes the Outward Bound trip, said, "It was a smashing success. It was a lot of fun. And we will definitely do it again." Julie and the students involved were excited to learn they raised \$1500 from the event.

After beginning the year with no money in the bank Julie was cynical about the chances of a trip this school year. However, students would have nothing of it and a gung-ho effort has been made to insure another wonderful Outward Bound service project. Julie has confirmed the destination. It seems last year's students did such a wonderful job that the Pacific Crest Outward Bound base camp in Washington State wants us back. Good luck to both Julie and Outward Bound participants in their travels.◇

Open to receive pricey renovation

Open School Principal Ruth Pechmann is searching for suggestions of what to do with the one million dollars approved for building renovations by the school board February 22nd. The folder labeled, "1 \$ Mil. Project" is growing with suggestions ranging from updating the stage to building a new playground or painting the lockers with more cheerful colors, including lime green and hot pink. Ruth says a March meeting will be set between Custodian Dave Horvath, Site Council, and an architect. She also said that the money would probably not be ready for spending until fall. "It makes me very happy. I hope things can make the school more inviting to first impression visitors . . . to get them beyond the book cover," said Ruth referring to the proverb, "Don't judge a book by its cover."◇

Three Open students headed north

Who woulda' thunk three lucky Open Schoolers would be going dog sledding? Mary Henke-Haney, Ian Molloy-Busse, and Shanice Reid are currently in the Boundary Waters on a wilderness adventure. The week-long dog sledding trip will consist of winter camping, cross country skiing and cold weather management.

How may you ask did these students come upon this opportunity? Earlier this year an Arctic exploration group came to Julie's classes to share their wilderness experiences. Julie stayed in contact with the group and when an opening for students on the trip came up Julie jumped right on it. Because so many students were interested it came down to a random drawing. The lucky students left Sunday. We hope none of them die or get frost bit and need a limb amputated. Bon Voyage.◇

Think You're A G? Take Our Ghetto Slang Match Challenge

Match the following words with their slang terms

Car	Cheddar
Diamonds	Grill
Police	Gat
Child	Heat
Gun	Whip
Face	Ice
Money	Ankle-biter





Sunny Yang

How long have you been at Open? 8 years

Extra Curricular Activities: student government, backgammon club

om 4

smayed side of you in pub-

This is extremely impor-

to authentic

Senior Profile



What are your plans for next year?

I want to go to school for massage therapy.

What are you going to miss most about Open?

The Teachers

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

The Notebook

What was your favorite class at Open?

Urban/Suburban Mythologies

If you could have one super power what would it be?

I would like to be invisible.

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

I would like to be a chef.

Who is one person you would like to meet?

Ryan Gosling

The Current spices up local airwaves

Douglas Anderson
Staff Writer

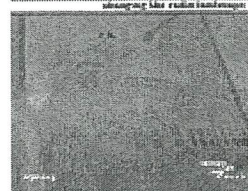
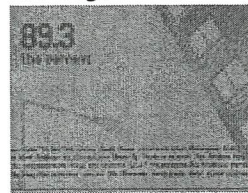
This town ain't big enough for the two of us. That is what I wish the Twin Cities' new radio station, 89.3 The Current, would say as it runs Clear Channel the hell out of here. Unfortunately, I'm living in a dream world. Clear Channel is here to stay. But on the other hand, so is our new radio station!

That station, located on 89.3 FM, took over the airwaves early this year. According to the Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) web site, The Current was meant to reference this place where we live, because the Mississippi River has some currents or something. Also, a current is what they use to reach out to us via transistor radio.

Why the new station? Because MPR had the money! And because, according to MPR, "listeners have repeatedly told us that they wish there were wider music choices available in the Twin Cities..." And more musical choices is what this station promises. "It plays a good variety of music that adequately reflects my taste," said Nathan Jesson, a junior.

Indeed, the thing that makes this station is the shocking variety of music it plays. It

boasts a huge library of over 50,000 albums. Do you want to know how much variety they have? Really? They once played the *Good Times* theme song. Unfortunately, this can be a huge downside as well, as they are obligated to play, for



example, a string quartet tribute to the song "Good Vibrations" by the Beach Boys. Just great.

On the other hand, they probably will play requests if you decide to put one in. You can request a song via the internet at MPR.org. If you request a song, the deejay will probably get around to playing it. Of course, this is the only other downside to the Current. Depending on what the deejay likes, he may or may not choose to omit your request. And depending on what music the deejay likes, songs you prefer hearing over what he plays may be few and far between.

After repeated listening, I have found evening deejay Mark Wheat to be the best. His song selection is quite good, and it warms the heart to hear his soothing British accent. But refusing requests and only playing certain music does not happen that much at all. The station is formatted to play variety, and variety they will play.

Another plus is the fact that this new station will play music by local or underground bands. Bands that need airtime to get a following, but simply aren't big enough to get airtime on the corporate stations can get some play here. And the *Good Times* song, too. Hanging at the chow line- Good Times!

And, of course, this station is operated by Minnesota Public Radio, and funded by support from listeners like you. That means it is not owned by a faceless corporate conglomerate. I don't support corporate radio and media ownership any more, which is a monkey off my back. And when they ask for pledges, they do it in a more discrete, slightly less annoying way than PBS.♦

Legendary tale of romance

Chloe Taipale
Staff Writer

"Her lips were deep pink and blurred at the edges from his passionate kiss. He already knew that she possessed teeth that were white and even; he saw them again now as she looked at him like a kitten about to hiss. There was an overpowering urge to take her in his arms again. He stilled.

It was like plunging into an icy river."

These scintillating words are straight from the pages of *Captive Caress*, a legendary tale of romance and anguish from Sonya T. Pelton.

This story revolves around Willow, a young maiden who is both Indian and fair. Her best childhood friend is Talon, and her wee brother is Little Coyote.

Great. So about 50 pages into the book, we're chillin' with Talon, as he's creeping towards Willow's shanty. He's here to spy, see? This is what happens when people have no friends. The lesson in this section is not to check out fly honeys from the window,

cause they're bound to see. When Willow confronts Talon about being a creepy little uggo, Talon goes crazy and nearly rapes the poor girl.

Little Coyote is one crazy mad fool after hearing about the "I-like-to-watch-girls-in-the-window" thing, so he does it raw by taking Talon's horse. Talon does it even raw-er by kidnapping Willow. Youch. Willow's pretty angry about being kidnapped, but apparently Talon has some drool-worthy face action happening... so guess what?

"All of a sudden she was watching him tear off his smoke-stained buckskins and fling them aside impatiently. She watched his bronze face, his sleepy smile as he slipped gracefully and fluidly into the water.

With a low growl of pleasure, he said, "I'm going to get you- Aiyana Willow."

CARESS Continued on 6



Being cool

Anna Blyly-Strauss
Staff Columnist

There comes a time in every child's life when they realize they're a loser. If that time has yet to come, there's something wrong with you. Don't worry though, there is hope. There are some very simple things you can change that will make everyone love you, the way you don't deserve, but want to be loved. It is a time-honored tradition here at Open to pretend you're better than you are just to make your peers adore you. Stop crying for a minute to find the truth.

1) Be Mean.

Remember what your parents used to tell you about "treat others as you want to be treated." That's a bunch of hooey. When you show people how unworthy they are of your time, they appreciate you more. You suddenly become the creme de la creme of cool.

2) Lie.

There's nothing interesting about the truth. For example: let's say you go to the park and see a bunch of kids. The way you relay this tale to your "friends" is to make a delightfully entertaining story. Tell them that you met a big gang in a back alley, and they were having a knife fight. Then come cops, guns, airplanes, tigers, or whatever else you think would improve your chances of impressing your peers. There's a trick to this step though, don't forget what you lied about. This trick has to be kept secret. Only losers get caught lying.

3) Have a Bad Home Life.

Some of you may need a little help from number two for this one. Nonetheless, it's a very important stop on the road to cool-dum. Only nerds have parents who love them, and nerds are never cool. If you don't have real stories, it's perfectly acceptable to steal plot devices from hard-core movies. If your father puts out a cigar on your arm, you suddenly go up two points on the scale of cool. Your mother tries to hit you with a car - zing - five more points for you! Keep this in mind, especially when trying to mix with foreigners.

4) Have an Attitude Problem.

The only way to prove your coolness to the public is to yell. Scream your lungs out, have a temper tantrum. Anything that shows

COOLNESS Continued on 5

The future of teens: a vision

Natalie Iwaszek
Staff Writer

Are you having a good time? She asked. The moon really isn't working out, I said. Next time, maybe you should try Mars. Yeah, I've been to Mars, I said, it was dumb.

Suddenly she laughed. Are you serious? Yeah, I'm serious.

Omigod, she said, Mars is a whole planet. And it's dumb!

she was like Dumb?

She was starting to piss me off....

That conversation is from the book *Feed*, and in fact, was based on a real conversation M.T. Anderson, the author, had with a young man who had visited Mexico and thought it was "dumb." While getting background for *Feed*, Anderson read many teen magazines like *Seventeen* and *Stuff*, he listened to cell phone conversations at malls,

and talked to teenagers. By doing this he could see what the world of teenagers was like now, and imagine what it would be like in the future if the world kept going as it is now.



with their setting. "My original idea was to write a story about a future time in which we had become so connected to a fast-paced

FEED Continued on 6

ELLIS From 1

as the main cause of my apathy toward violence is a book, and that book is American Psycho by Bret Easton Ellis.

Currently, if someone asked me who my favorite author was, I would have to say Bret Easton Ellis. I just really enjoy his books. He creates fascinating, complex characters and has truly mastered the art of dialogue. When I read his books I get a really clear picture of what the scene would look like. Sometimes his sentences are so perfectly worded, I have to read them again. In my limited reading experience, the only author who is better at the word game is Gabriel Garcia Marquez. In fact I would like to say that Marquez is my favorite author, but I have only read One Hundred Years of Solitude, so I don't know how great his other books probably are.

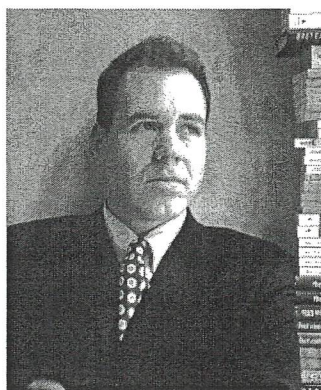
I recommend that people check out Ellis's books. He has written five so far: Less Than Zero, The Rules Of Attraction, American Psycho, Informers, and Glamorama. For your convenience, I will now list his books from the best to the worst. 1. Glamorama. This book is great. It has some of the funniest dialogue I have ever read. The book is about Victor Ward, a male model with perfect abs and all the right friends. He is seen and photographed everywhere, including places he hasn't been with people he doesn't know. He's living with one beautiful model and having an affair with another on the eve of opening the trendiest nightclub in Manhattan. Suddenly he gets a mysterious offer to go to Europe and track down a girl he dated in college who he can't remember. An unavoidable chain of events send him off on a whirlwind big city adventure.

2. American Psycho. This one was very close to being my favorite. The main character, Patrick Bateman, is probably the most complex fictional character I have ever been introduced to. The book doesn't have much of a plot, it pretty much follows Patrick's routine for two years, which includes working on Wall Street, late dinners at Nell's, drinks at the Au Bar, buying expensive things, sleeping with beautiful women, and stabbing hobos to death on the street. Everyone should read this book, unless you are a weak individual who can not stomach graphic depictions of violence. It's definitely an NFL, Not For Leo.

3. The Rules of Attraction. Set in Camden college, it is told in first person by three main characters with each chapter a different person's point of view. It follows the college kids through their parties and sexual

misadventures, not to be confused with the popular Saturday morning cartoon character Miss Adventure. It's pretty funny to see how differently the characters interpret the same situation, and the misunderstandings that occur. Not to be confused with our school counselor, Miss Understanding.

4. Less Than Zero. This is Ellis's first book, and it was published when he was only 22 years old. It is a really good book. I almost put it before Rules of Attraction. The



*Easton Ellis The Author
of American Psycho*

only reason I didn't is that I feel Rules of Attraction is an easier book to like. Less Than Zero is about Clay, a freshman at Camden college who returns home, L.A., to his rich parents, friends, and estranged girlfriend. He does a lot of drugs and sees a lot of disturbing things. I think I actually worry more about Clay than Patrick Bateman, because Clay does have some morals. He is disgusted by the snuff films his friends watch, or the twelve year old his drug dealer sleeps with. He does find it wrong, but he just doesn't care enough to do anything about it. He just lets all this depravity happen around him. Great book.

5. The Informers. This really wasn't a novel. It was more like a collection of short stories, with small connection between the stories, like the characters would know of each other, but not actually know each other. Informers was good, just not as good as the others. I actually thought that it was just okay until the end. The last four short stories were amazing: "The Secrets of Summer," "The Fifth Wheel," "On the Beach", and "At The Zoo with Bruce". It was worth buying the book just for those four.

Bret Easton Ellis is one of the top modern American writers, and I suggest that everyone give him a shot. Just don't start with American Psycho if you have a weak stomach for violence. Ellis is finally publishing another book, Lunar Park, which should be out this October. The book sounds like it will be quite interesting, it is a fictional story where the author is the main character. That's right, Elli's made himself the main character. **ELLIS Continued on 6**

COOLNESS From 4

an angry and dismayed side of you in public is appropriate. This is extremely important when dealing with authority figures in front of fellow teenagers. Make sure to mix in such phrases as "you dirty pig" and "you just don't understand."

5) Be Poor.

Rich kids are dumb, they don't understand the hardships of the rest of us cool kids. Make sure to talk about your "ghetto 'hood'" and if need be, suggest that the expensive things you own were stolen. If you live in the suburbs, say that it's because your parents are dead and you're just staying with mean relatives who keep you in a closet, and feed you nothing but Kraft singles. This would be a real double whammy, as it would seriously help your case with number three. Just make sure none of the kids you tell show up at your house.

6) Be an Underachiever.

You know those pesky little classes. Your parents tell you to pass them, right? But your soon-to-be buds say differently. It's up to each individual to find the perfect combination of the two. I'd suggest doing your work, but never getting caught in the act. Sit behind the smoking dumpster while doing your school work, and when confronted by fellow students explain that you were both stoned and drunk when you did said work. After a few of these episodes, maybe add a bit of Valium, or some Heroin. Heroin is the cool kid's drug.

7) Be a Druggie

All the cool kids skip class to smoke pot. I know I do. It's understandable that some kids are either too dumb or too unhealthy to do the real thing. That's where ashtrays come in. First take an ashtray, then dump it out somewhere and roll around in it. Sure the scent may be different than "real drugs," but most of the other kids will be faking also, and hence won't know the difference. Even kids who aren't faking may be too smashed to tell.

8) Have a Bad Diet.

Cool kids don't eat right. No breakfast, no lunch, maybe a cookie here and there. If you can't handle that type of diet, there's always the opposite end of the spectrum. Eat until a normal person would explode. The only kind of person who can pull off eating too much is someone who naturally looks like a Heroin addict. Chubby kids need not apply.

9) Have Horrid Posture.

There's no way a cool kid would take the **COOLNESS Continued on 6**

FEED From 4

world of media imaged that no one could read anymore, I wanted to depict how soul-destroying it is to be part of this media world that appears to be very inviting, but which in fact tends to strip away the eccentricities of personality and encourage people to become a market, rather than a human."

So what is the plot of Feed?

A young man named Titus and his five of his friends go to the moon for spring break. They meet a gal who is different, who is all alone wearing wool clothes. They talk to her and invite her to come along with them to a club that has really good low gravity/no gravity. So they all head on over there and I guess they are having a good time, when this strange old man with long white hair comes over to them, and messes with their feeds. Oh you might be wondering what a feed is. Well it is a chip that is implanted inside peoples heads. It does everything for them. It knows what you want before you want it, keeps you up to date on all the fashion trends, gives you information on things like history and science and such, but no one uses that part. It's kind of like the internet, but a lot faster and in your head. You can watch movies, tav. shows and listen to music on it. Any ways, he messes up their feeds, so they have to go to the hospital and wait for a while while the doctors figure out how to fix them. The girl they met and Titus bond and become friends. When they get back to Earth Violet and Titus go out. Violet is different from everyone. She can read and write, she thinks about the world. After a

while Violet tells Titus her feed is messed up, they couldn't fix it. So she has little time to live and her limbs keep not working for a little while. She decides to resist the feed... witch could cost her... her life. The world they live in is a different environment than ours. They have layers of towns, stacked on top of each other. Their cars can fly, they each have neighborhoods that they can control. When the sun goes down, when it rains, if it's cold or if it's hot. They grow meat in fields, and use words like "null" (boring) Youch (good lookin') and "Unit" (Dude).

Can you relate to any of this? MT Anderson thinks that the world we live in now will keep going until it reaches this state. In this state the world is falling apart. People's skin is coming off, things are dying everywhere, and everyone is just into the fashion, or the look, witch changes constantly.

What worked for this book is that Titus isn't really smart. He was more of a person who fits in. By making someone who is more from the "cool" world you can better see what is it like. Also by making Violet different from them MT Anderson is able to show the contrast and show how dependent the world is on the feed and such.

What didn't work is that for some reason I thought the people in this book were boring. They were supposed to be all the same I guess, but even Violet was not that interesting.

I think you should read this book, because all in all it wasn't a bad one. The end.◇

EDUCATION From 1

the protest for constitutional ban on homosexual marriage in 2004. Anna and Veronica also saw many signs, some in Spanish: "Los Nino's Primero," "Kids, Not Casinos." The younger children held signs reading, "I'm the future."◇

CARESS From 4

That's what.

Let me tell you something about this book-it's confusing. People have, on average, 4.7 names. Our "Willow" is also called "Aiyana," "Kachina," "Tadewi," and "Spruce." Talon is also referred to as "Lakota," and "Carl." Little Coyote is "Dark Horse," or "Dave."

I may or may not be the only person, outside of lonely housewives and Kamieka, to ever read one of these trashy little numbers for the plot, and now I'm pretty sure there's a good reason for that. These books.... are bad, okay? You'd think that it was written as a joke, and it's pretty sad, because it's not.

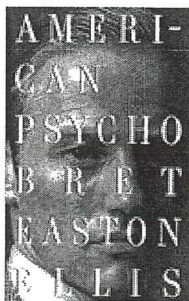
"It's the lamest excuse for a romance novel in the great literary genre that is romance," says housewife Kamieka "Bakamu" Livingston. See? A disgrace.

The very existence of this book makes me hurt inside. You rebellious cats who refuse to listen to my warning should read these books for the saucy chapters.. and you can read all the other chapters if you like to cry. I give Captive Caress 1 out of 17 stars for lack of good.◇

ELLIS From 5

ter.

I will now leave you with one of the best scenes from American Psycho to give you an idea of how great of a writer Ellis is. This is a scene from American Psycho. Patrick is trying to break it off with his fiancé, Evelyn, who



seems to be missing the point. " 'My ... my need to engage in ... homicidal behavior on a massive scale cannot be, um, corrected,' I tell her, measuring each word carefully. 'But I ... have no other way to express my blocked... needs.' I'm surprised at how emotional this admission makes me, and it wears me down; I feel light headed. As usual, Evelyn misses the essence of what I'm saying, and I wonder how long it will take before I finally rid myself of her."◇

COOLNESS From 5

effort to stand up straight.Hunch that back until it feels like death. Lean against a wall with one leg bent and your back bent more. If that spine isn't aching like a fox, you aren't slouching enough.

10) Be Apathetic.

Above all, YOU CANNOT CARE. All the above steps can't save you if you have feelings. The only way to be a successful teenager is to suck it up and destroy any emotions that may remain from your terrible childhood. If you ignore this step you'll just come off as whiney, and nobody likes a whiner. Keep that head downcast until your spine's about to crack and don't let out a whimper that doesn't sound like concentrated cool.◇

