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ELC Loses Teacher

Jon Sherman
Staff Writer

Two ELC prep teachers are leaving Open School, effective today. Alison Hasketh and Geralyn Rogers are both part-time prep teachers who first started at Open School in the beginning of the year. Based on seniority within the school, the two will be "excessed," a direct effect of dwindling numbers in the school's elementary population.

The departure of the two teachers will affect the student-teacher ratio in the ELC. A budget reduction is blamed for the imbalance of the approximate 30:1 district average student to teacher ratio. Without enough students to fund the \$60,000 per teacher with a student to teacher ratio of 23:1, cuts must be made to better

accommodate the school's financial situation.

"The decision to reduce the 1.0 full time employee classroom equivalent was not an easy decision," stated Open School Principal Ruth Pechmann in an October, 7th e-mail to ELC staff. According to the letter, Rogers had "stepped forward with the idea that a full time position will be available to her." Both teachers are expected to find work elsewhere in the district.



Ruth Discusses ELC cuts at the Site Council Meeting

Ruth said, "One of the reasons is that district-wide, there are less elementary students and that's kind of disconcerting because that's about two to three
ELC LOSES Continued on 4

Seminar helps seniors

Nicole Downey and Maggie Karl
Staff Writers

This year, all seniors will complete their graduation packets by November 11, if Marianna and Elizabeth have their way.

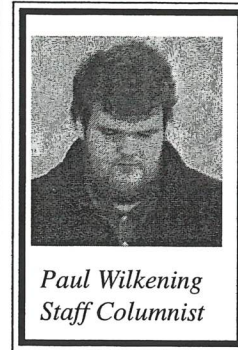
Senior Seminar, a new class developed by counselor Marianna Sullivan and teacher Elizabeth Lehman, should help make that goal realistic. "Over time, I realized that it was difficult for seniors to be working on their stuff, and staff to be teaching seniors in that process," said Elizabeth, who thought of the idea. "I realized that students had a problem with getting checkoffs. It was hard to have a consistent and fair process."

Senior Seminar is held in Elizabeth's room during second hour. Seniors work on their reflection letters, fill out college applications, and work on completing their graduation portfolio. Speakers from different colleges

come to talk to the class, and they also go on trips to visit colleges and go to the college fair. There are 26 seniors this year, and most of them are taking the class. Last year there were many problems with the graduation process. Instead of having a class for seniors, they had senior meetings every Friday. Procrastination was a problem. Last year, the first senior to finish their packet graduated in January. This year, 3 seniors, Mary Henke-Haney, Ananda Wold, and Yia Vang, have had graduation meetings already.

It was stressful for teachers last year, because seniors would constantly need help with their portfolio, and teachers were teaching and did not have a lot of free time
SENIOR SEMINAR Continued on 4

Gamers??



Paul Wilkening
Staff Columnist

Every Thursday, after the halls of Open School empty, a small group of students, alumni, and a teacher gather in the echoing halls of the third floor. Together they learn, problem solve, and struggle through challenges

presented to them by a leader. The leader changes on occasion, always between experienced members of the group. No, this isn't an advanced learning class, this is those weird people that are looking at those funny books in advisory. Gamers.

The role playing group has been an underground society at Open School for over six years, spanning what is now three cohesive groups of gamers. This last year, I lost six comrades in gaming to college. One group, of which I was the youngest, finished forming in 1999, and gamed for five years, in and out of school. We were a whole generation of gamers, and last year's graduation
DEATH OF GANDALF Continued on 7

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Fraquetball Returns

The Fraquetball season begins on November 3, and all teams must be signed up by October 20. There is a two-dollar fee this year; the money goes to supplies. This is the third year of Fraquetball, even though many doubted it would ever get past frisbee season.

There are many new teams this year, and the Fraquetball committee is glad to see that the game has expanded to younger students as well. Carl Olson, can you say Gus Olsen? This prospect is raising many eyebrows in the Fraquetball community. "His backhand is similar to that of Andrew Knipps or Aaron Burr." ♦

Students Embark for Italy

On October 20, 18 students will embark on a journey of utmost importance. The students will get the great experience of travel abroad to Italy. The trip was coordinated by Bridget Martin and Tom Totushek. The trip is intended to educate students on an international level. Each student has chosen an independent project, which will focus on one topic about Italian culture. Arrivederci, il fraquetball lungo vivo! ♦

Officers named for 04-05

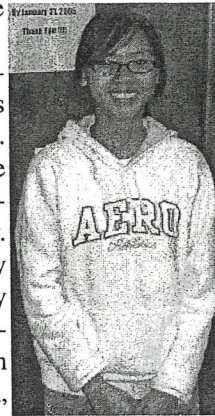
Mai Lee Yang

Staff Writer

Mai Lee Yang Sr. is Open School's new student government president and Nou Thao, an 8th grader, is vice president.

Previously, the position of president was reserved for juniors. Nou is one of the youngest vice presidents in school history.

This year's secretary is 8th grader Jerry Xiong, the communication director is 8th grader Christine Dahn, and senior Mai Lee Yang Jr. is the activities director. Jerry will be taking minutes at all the meetings, Christine will type them up, and all the important things talked about in student govern-



President Mai Lee Yang Sr.

ment will be put on Monday Morning Announcements. Mai Lee Jr. will be planning out the activities with Mai Lee Sr., such as Fall Extravaganza, Snow Days, and prom.

Fall Extravaganza order forms are available for cupcakes, cookies, and chocolates.

In December, student govern-

ment will sell holiday flowers such as poinsettias and cyclamen. ♦



*New Vice President
Nou Thao*

A multipurpose library

Geoff Freeman

Staff Writer

How often are you walking down university past the UniDale Mall asking yourself "This 'hood is wack, where's a good read when you want one."

The answer to that question was finally answered Wednesday, Sept. 15, which marked the ground breaking ceremony for the Rondo Community Outreach library/University-Dale Apartments on Dale and University.

The new library will replace the Urban Market, which has supplied swingers and college students with plush rugs since it started a few years ago. This is an interesting approach to an ongoing rehabilitation effort in the Frogtown community that has been successful in ridding the neighborhood of porn shops and liquor stores. Completion of the project is projected for fall 2005, and the price tag is set at \$9.3 million.

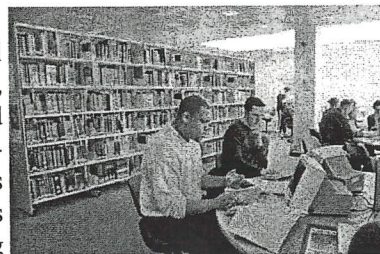
What makes this project so special, and so important, is not just the need for more library facilities in Frogtown, but also the

unique way in which the City of Saint Paul is going about bringing community and library together. The proposal includes plans for an urban housing project with 98 units of safe and affordable housing. The addition of the housing adds \$14.2 million, bringing the total estimated price of the venture to \$23.5 million.

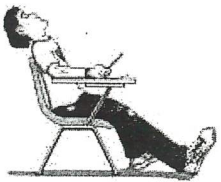
The library will boast 31,343 square feet of space, which almost doubles the size of the Lexington Outreach Library at 18,718, and 6,034 square feet of housing will be available. The new library will feature a Community meeting space, Self-Check machines, and 102 new computers, which nearly

quadruples the number of computers at the Lexington library.

"This means a lot to a large community like ours. The Lexington location isn't really the greatest library anymore, and they don't really put a lot of money into it, so this is a real blessing". -The Frogtown Community.



*The UniDale Library will
be in Frogtown*

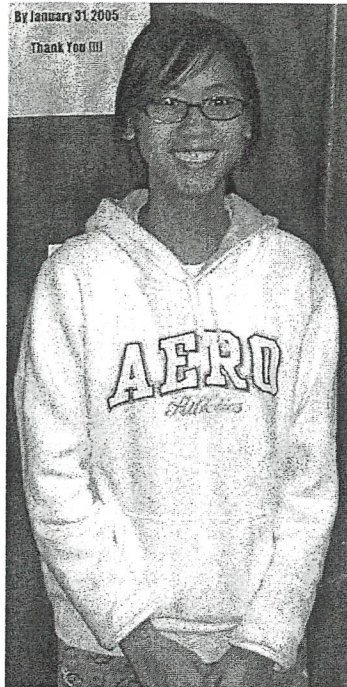


Mai Lee Yang Sr.

How long you been in this hood? 5 years

Extra Cirricular Activities: Student Government, Youth Leadership, Jazz Band,

Senior Profile



What are your plans for next year?

Um, I'm planing to go to college. I want to become a fashion designer or a cosmetologist.

What are you going to miss most about Open?

The teachers and friends.

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

Um, my favorite book is The Dead Girlfriend by R.L.. Stine.

What was your favorite class at Open?

My favorite classes are gym and Marine Science.

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

Reading minds.

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

I would like to own my own shop and be really rich.

Who is one person you would like to meet?

I want to meet Anan Anwoar, (Thai movie star) he's hot.

James likes boxers, boxing, and school

Anna Blyly-Strauss
Staff Writer

Here's a trivia question for you: which Open School staff member went to high school with our lovely math teacher, Thomas Totushek? The answer: James, a new face on Open school's metaphorical block. He went to Patrick Henry High School with lovable Tom, and they even played on the football team together their freshman year.

James W. Illif is here to teach wood shop. Yes, he's the one who inherited the position formerly held by the very popular Greg Adams. James says he's glad to be here, "sharing my love of learning with students."

James grew up in North Minneapolis. Not only did he go to Patrick Henry with Tom, he also wet to Minneapolis Community Technical College, for cabinet making, AT THE SAME TIME. Now that's crazy! After his wonderful cabniteering skills brought him to graduation (oh my), he went to even more school. James went back to Minneapolis Community for a semester, this time for philosophy and other such esoteric subjects. He then moved to Saint Cloud State and

spent five years getting his Bachelor of Education. He seemed mighty proud of being a "super senior."

"I had like twenty jobs before I started here," James recalled. "I was a dishwasher, a lifeguard, a mail sorter, a cabinet maker, I cleaned the metrodome for a while, I was an Resident Assistant at the dorms... worked in a nursing home, I even worked at the state fair selling those things, you know, uh, back braces."

Among the things that James loves about his new job is the salary, "The most I got paid at my other jobs was like, ten dollars an hour." Ok, not only does he enjoy us little bratlings, he also thinks he gets paid well. James also says he



James, hard at work

enjoys having his fellow staff members around, "I've been working 14-hour days, and the staff has been really supportive." Well, except for Leo apparently, "I hate Leo's shoe strings, they're horrible. Every time I see them it just makes me want to cut them off with like, a box cutter. His shoe strings are just horrid."

Outside of school James mostly likes to read and watch boxing. "I used to be a boxer... I still train as a boxer, just don't necessarily get into the ring... I think it's second to swimming as far as the amount of energy you use. It's pretty serious." Woah, them's fightin' words, sounding pretty tough for a lactose-intolerant guy. Real men need their milk.

Not many people know about James's under-garment rules, it's some pretty radical stuff, "Eighty percent boxers, twenty percent briefs, because there's a time for briefs." Maybe he has a specific plan for his clothes so he has more time to spend on the real *THE NEW GUY Continued on 7*

Playground Crew

Cristina Costello
Staff Writer

Many of ya'll have seen a Playground Crew sticker or PGC sticker around the school. Maybe you've noticed them in Tom's room, or on Luke's cart, or have seen Antonio and Emmanuel passing them out, but how many of you actually know about the Playground Crew?

The PGC is a group of young emcees and beat makers who make music and like to have fun. Mainly St. Paul based, the PGC is striving for success and won't stop until they make it to the top. The Playground Crew was created by Open School's own Antonio Rosario. The Playground Crew (PGC) consists of 9 people from St. Paul and other cities. HipHopopatmus (California based), Fanta, Killa T, DJ MV, Phear, Dr. Delusion, Tecsou23, Lia, MC, and of course Orikal are the Playground Crew.

Many of ya'll know the PGC's Orikal as Antonio Rosario, 15, 11th grade. He's already released one album, **Unquestionable**, and his second album, **Visions of Elevation**, is due to be released sometime between October and December of this year. "The al-



bum best represents me and how I feel," said Orikal about Elevation. You'll also find two St. Paul originated emcee's on Orikal's Elevation one being Carnage and another requests to be unmentioned. You'll also find Res, Spoonful, and Lewstherin.

When listening to Elevation you'll hear original street hip hop, happy songs, sad and depressed songs, songs about ex-girlfriends, females in general. "Kind of like my diary, but to music," said Orikal of his lyrics and songs. This is what makes Orikal interesting - his life experiences. Surprisingly, he doesn't get inspiration from just hip hop and rap, he gets it from rock music too! Orikal writes his own lyrics also, another reason he and his crew are original.

The down side is that, even though Elevation is hot, some of the songs are too dreary and dark for someone our age to want to hear over again on the radio or in the clubs. So it's just a suggestion to make more happy, dance around like crazy, club tracks.

Orikal says motivation is key. He's trying
PGC Continued on 7

SENIOR SEMINAR From 1

except for their prep hour. Julie Doble, an SLC advisor, thinks that the Senior Seminar method is better "by a long shot... It's a really really really big help to advisors." This year we're looking at a system that is much more organized and teachers and staff really appreciate it.

Most seniors think the class is a good idea. The seniors like it because it gives them extra time to get organized. "It helps seniors out and gives them time to do their senior stuff," said 12th grader Angie Hausladen. The class provides more opportunities, and most agree that it is a more organized working environment.

The deadlines for the graduation packet this year are November 11th instead of April 15. Most seniors say that they are worried about the earlier deadlines. "I panic every time I think about it," said 12th grader Sunny Yang.

Spring trimester, Open School is considering a new class for juniors, "Junior Seminar."

This class will help juniors prepare to graduate next year, get signed up for post secondary enrollment options at colleges, and prepare them with college information. Juniors think that this is a good idea and it will definitely help them in many ways.

"Students seem to appreciate having the time and the structure to work on this," said Marianna. ♦

ELC LOSES From 1

thousand students." She also said there is a lot of competition between elementary schools. There are many more charter schools and private schools to keep up with, such as Expo Middle School, downtown Wellstone Magnet (formerly Saturn), and the year-round Four Seasons Elementary School. These all have an appeal for parents and students alike.

Despite the drop in ELC student numbers, the SLC remains full and maintains its waiting list. Ruth said the SLC faces less competition because it's small in comparison to other high schools like Central or Harding.

A possible outcome of the recent cuts is that the excess teachers may free up some classroom space. For example, Spanish Teacher Arturo Cabello could use a larger room. "There's not going to be a room here that's empty," assured Ruth.

Numbers at the school reflect a district-wide trend, disconcerting to some after a reported two to three thousand pupil decrease in the district's elementary schools. Earlier

this month, St. Paul Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Patricia Harvey came up with a new zoning proposal that would allow students who move from within suggested school boundaries to continue attending their original school by way of bus. Although Ruth hasn't attended Harvey's focus group meetings, no one has told her that Open School will be affected as a high school or elementary school. Ruth did mention, however, that 20 families who come to Open School are from outside of the city of St. Paul because they obviously like what it has to offer.

Will the ELC continue to shrink? Teachers have said it very hard to take the reduction, and are left asking how the school can keep from losing students. The cold hard truth is that Open School needs roughly 50 students in the elementary in order to regain the desired ideal staffing.

Elementary teacher and ELC team leader Paula Lyn Brust says, "Right now the team is pretty upset with what's going on," and

also remarked that they (the team) don't know what they're going to do.

ELC teacher Jaminie Kellogg pushes for parent involvement and believes that, "As far as recruiting (students), something needs to be done and that should be an all-school effort." According to Jaminie, the ELC would essentially be losing science and social studies and says filling the void will be difficult. "Because of all the workshops you already have, where are you going to find the time to teach another course?" she said.

The already established prep time ranges from an hour to an hour and a half and it isn't hard for Jaminie to find plenty to do. "We knew our numbers were low from day one and they could've been taken care of," stated Jaminie before an urge for assistance, "We need money!" ♦

Opinions 'n' Stuff

Life As We Know It

Cristina McGee
Staff Writer

What do women want? There have been numerous shows about females and what we're like. But this season, networks are flipping the script with a lineup that will supposedly give those who'll watch a look inside the male mind. Among those shows is

ABC's newest drama, *Life As We Know It*, a series that turns a trip through the male psyche into an hour long show every Thursday night.

Life As We Know It follows the lives of Dino Whitman, Ben Conner, and Jonathan Fields, three friends who, if they aren't talking about sex, are thinking about it, while attending high school in Seattle, Washington.

Dino (Sean Faris), the jock among his friends, spends his time playing hockey and yearning for his beautiful girlfriend Jackie Bradford (Missy Peregrin), who coincidentally happens to look like a twenty-something-year-old model rather than a sixteen-year-old girl.

Jonathan Fields (Chris Lowell), the artist in the group, spends his time taking pictures and hanging out with Deborah Tynan (Kelly Osbourne). Jonathan secretly likes Deborah but won't admit it because of constant heckling from his friends.



The Cast of *Life As We Know It*

Ben Conner (Jon Foster) is the studious one who can never seem to impress his parents with his straight A's. Ben is also fascinated (in other words, slightly obsessed) by his English teacher Ms. Monica Young (Marguerite Moreau) who's twenty-three years old.

The series premiere starts off in the Whitman's kitchen as Dino and his father are in a race to see who can be first to finish off a carton of milk. From there it switches to Dino and his friends walking to school together. After they walk into the school building the story begins to take place. You begin to learn about each individual character.
LIFE Continued on 7

Alien vs. Predator

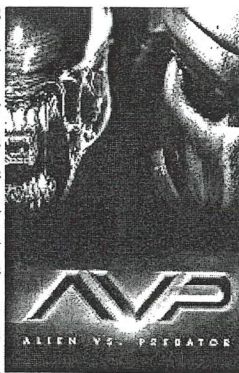
Beau Fritz
Staff Writer

For the first time in history, the iconic monsters from comic books engage in the ultimate battle to maintain control over humanity. The two alien species face off in the new hit film *Alien vs. Predator*.

Okay, so you want to know more about the movie, which is an understandable request. The movie takes place in Antarctica where a satellite orbiting overhead takes pictures of an ancient temple 200 feet beneath the snow and ice. The owner of the satellite has funded an expedition with a team of scientists to explore the ancient temple. Little do they know, an ancient battle is about to take place there. The rest of the movie reveals the scientists' findings and the "run for your life" battle

between the aliens and the predators.

Now it's time for a brief description of the two rival alien species. The predators have razor sharp tails which they use as defense against the aliens. They also have acidic blood which has two ways of being used. It is used as a last resort weapon to the predators, but the aliens used it to tattoo themselves with the mark of a warrior.



Alien Vs. Predator in theaters now

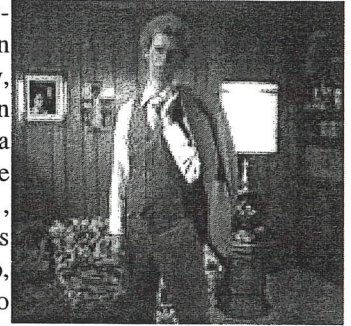
The aliens seem to have come prepared for battle and ready to die. The only thing I am able to describe is their mouth which opens up in four different directions. They brought lots of weapons. My favorite weapon is the nets, which actually tighten up the longer they stay on.
ALIEN VS. PREDATOR Continued on 8

Teen Geek

Alicia Martinez
Staff Writer

What is that on the movie screen? It's Spiderman, Superman, no wait a minute, it's just a hair ball that some cat coughed out. No. It's *NAPOLEON DYNAMITE*. Napoleon Dynamite (played by Jon Heder) is a new kind of hero, complete with a tight fro, some sweet moon boots, and awesome dance moves. Some might say he's geeky, but he thinks he's cool.

Napoleon Dynamite is a geeky kid living in Preston, Idaho with his grandmother and his 30-year-old unemployed brother, who spends six hours a day looking for love on the internet. Then one day, when his grandma hits the road, Napoleon's uncle Rico, comes to town to stay with them and ruin Napoleon's life. Meanwhile, back at school Napoleon is busy getting a date for the dance and trying to help his best and only friend Pedro get elected as class president. At the end of the movie there is a special ending where one of the characters gets married. It's either Napoleon with Deb, Pedro with Summer or Kip with



Jon Heder STARS AS
NAPOLEON

L.A. Weekly. But to find out you have to watch the movie.

What I like about Napoleon



Napoleon with friend
Pedro Sanchez

leon is that unlike many teens, Napoleon feels cool with who and where he is. My favorite scene is when Napoleon starts to dance 80's style in front of the whole school. It was so funny. I like Napoleon's drawings,
TEEN GEEK Continued on 7

Vikings Prediction

Jaime Avila
Staff Writer

As of press time the Vikings are 4 and 1. Their offense is clicking, but defense could be a problem. One great game that the Vikings had was against last year's No. 1 defense, The New York Giants, when Daunte Culpepper threw five touchdowns to win the game. The defense had a bad game against the Bears, who just ran the ball up the middle and the Vikings couldn't stop it.

Their schedule looks as if they could win their division. One real problem would be the Colts, with their explosive offense. Another problem might be the Seahawks on December 12th, because the last time they met, Shaun Alexander scored 5 touchdowns in the first half to win the game.

Their offense is still as good as last year's, when they were ranked #1 offense in the league. The only problem is that they don't throw deep to Randy Moss, even though he has a big advantage over almost all of the league. Even though they don't throw deep, they are still the #1 offense in the league.

Their defense might cause a problem because they don't seem to be able to stop the run when they have to. They are ranked as a good run defense, better than last year, but a team can still run right up the middle when they want to. They sometimes have trouble

stopping the big play like in the Texans game when they gave up a lot in the second half. They are doing okay on holding the opposing team with few points and since they have one of the best offenses they will survive.

Looking at how they're doing, they have



Randy Moss bring in another touchdown

ence championship.

One of the key factors to winning will be to keep that offense healthy to score points. Their defense will have to stay consistent on stopping the run and the big plays. They can now throw deep to someone other than Moss, like to Robinson who can jump high to make the grab for a touchdown. ♦

a good chance at winning their division and going on to win 10 to 11 games. But without a good defense, I don't think that they will go far in the playoffs. I can expect them to go to the division playoffs, but not the conference championship.

Hard Love Book Review

Kamieka Livingston
Staff Writer

What could be more interesting than characters you can connect with? The characters in *Hard Love*, by Ellen Wittlinger, make connections with people who have been in love and know what it feels like to lose that love. Depressed and lonely, they come together and make bonds that will grab your attention and let you see parts of yourself.

Wittlinger, a former librarian, was born in Belleville, Illinois. She was an only child that grew up in a home connected to the store her parents owned. She now has a husband and two grown children of her



Hard Love highlights relationships

own.

Hard Love is a tale about a young man searching for love and piece of mind. (Falling in love is never easy and falling for the wrong person is even harder.) When John meets Marisol she takes him out of his self-centered world and shows him different side of living.

Realizing that he may not be destined to be alone, John is determined not to lose Marisol, even if it means pushing away the only two good things in his life: 'zines and the convenient friendship he has with his best friend Brian.

While the powerful love he has for Marisol goes unreciprocated, John becomes jealous of the relationship Brian has with his girlfriend, and he starts to become distant. John starts to notice things that make him

HARD LOVE Continued on 8

Def Jam

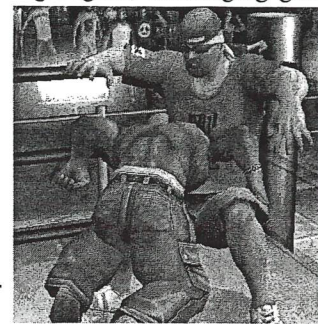
Latrae Anderson
Staff Writer

The cold blooded gangster D-Mob has escaped from police custody and returns home to find his stranglehold on the New York underground fight by cruel newcomer "Crow." You play as one of D-Mob's crew and you have to take Crow down. Succeed and the world is yours; fail and, well, you don't want to fail.

The name of the game is Def Jam Vendetta. It was developed and published by EA Sports. The price for the game at Walmart is \$45.82, but at Target it costs \$19.99. The Def Jam Vendetta's Prima's Official Guide costs \$10.49 at Target also.

The objective of the game is to play as one of D-Mob's crew and defeat the master Crow. You go through all these people and defeat Crow and then the king of the kings, D-Mob.

Vendetta features a totally improved fighting engine, challenging gamers to master



Def Jam offers non stop action

multiple fighting styles, interact with their environments and get creative with dozens of weapons like bottles, tools, and 2x4's.

Vendetta

also includes hip hop artists like Busta Rhymes, Carmen Electra, Flava Flav, Ghostface, Ice-T, Kimora Lee Simmons, Joe Budden, Lil Kim, Ludacris, Method Man, Redman, Slick Rick, Snoop Dogg, and many more.

Throughout the game's daring story mode, players will encounter more than 35 of today's most recognizable hip hop artists and personalities. Vendetta also includes over the top soundtrack loaded with hot new tracks and old school hits from Def Jam and beyond.

The similarity between Smackdown series and Vendetta is the performing. Gamers can master five unique fighting styles, kickboxing, martial arts, submission, and wrestling. You can also build your own street ready fighter and outfit him/her with tattoos and thousands of pieces of unlockable li-

DEF JAM Continued on 8

DEATH OF GANDALF From 1

reduced that to simply myself, and a few late term additions to the community: Tom Totushek, your favorite math teacher, and Jason Kobett, an Open School alumnus.

Without the six year veterans of gaming at Open, the remainder have had to recruit younger interested players, with little experience in the more serious, and mature gaming common to this school. Owing to this inexperience, some older gamers are often frustrated, or even angry with the inexperienced players. This though, is how most of the older gamers learned, and in time, it may turn out in a similar manner.

Tom Totushek, the current Game Master, said "Trying to create continuity between groups[...]new gamers need experience playing before trying to GM, to gain a base of knowledge before trying to branch out and grow."

I agree with this point whole heartedly. As an experienced gamer, I've always seen



Dwarfs a big part of D and D life

two routes to Game Mastering. One is that of fumbling, diving into the deep end, and drowning a few times beneath player scorn and harsh criticism before learning your own method of swimming. The other is to wait, be patient, watch more experienced and successful Game Masters, and a couple years later, start your own game with the foreknowledge that it may not succeed. The second is probably far more desirable than the first, and I think that Tom and I would prefer that route for the latest group.

As a member of a generation gone by, I don't want to leave the school without my experiences being applied as fully as possible. I begin to wonder though, how the elders to my generation, Elliot Schutjer primarily, could manage through a couple years of our fumbling. The true future for the moment remains a mystery of nervous waiting: waiting to see how this group will evolve and grow.◊

LIFE From 5

ter and what their lives at school are like. The events of the rest of the show include someone getting caught drinking, a new couple, and an important secret exposes itself.

Coming from the producers of Freaks and Geeks, this show was advertised like it would be a quality, coming-of-age type of show to watch. It was even written that it was My so-called life from the male point of view. This show seemed to be striving for some kind of soap opera type of quality with an honest type of look at how life is today. Even though it's not a bad idea for a show it just didn't have enough of the elements to get there. Although some of the characters may be fun to look at, that won't be able to carry the entire show.

This show seems like it's target audience is probably in the range of 14 to 25 year olds. If the previews stay interesting and are able to intrigue the viewer, people may at least tune in to watch the show. Whether they watch the show depends on if it's actually good enough to watch, and at this point I don't know if it is. I don't think it's necessarily a bad show, it just didn't keep me interested, that might change as the season goes on, if it does go on. Out of a rating of 1 to 5, I'd say that this show is probably a 2 maybe a 3 if it gets better as the season goes.◊

TEEN GEEK From 5

like his drawing of a liger (an animal that is part lion and part tiger).

My favorite character was Pedro. He has a cool bike, a mustache, and can get any girl he wants.

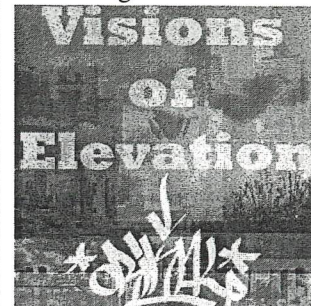
Out of 10 stars I would give this movie 7 stars. It was really funny, but I think they could have added funnier scenes and better acting. But I still think this movie is hilarious. If you're the kind of person who likes seeing funny movies with funny looking people in them, then this is the movie for you.◊

**"Tina eat your ham,"
-Napoleon Dynamite.**



PGC From 4

to fulfill his dream no matter what happens. He says he'll still be doing what he's doing no matter what people say. His lyrical delivery is amazing. All his lyrics are from scratch, and he can come up with the most incredible ways to word things. When he goes to write a song all he has to do is hear a beat and the lyrics pour out on to the paper. "[When I was] around three or four, my mom would bump Snoop and Too \$hort. I grew up on Too \$hort! and old funk like Roger and Zapp. Also through graffiti. At around eight I realized I could rap!" said



Check out Orikal's new CD coming out soon

Orikal about how he first fell in love with hip hop.

If you're wondering how to get down with the PGC, first off you need to be able to rap! If you're liked by

the Crew then you're down. To all you young emcees trying to make it in the game, Orikal says "Don't let no one bring you down, keep writing, just keep on and eventually you'll get better, stay strong!"

Okay, now we all know some of ya'll are too cheap or just can't afford to buy the albums, but do you really have to download them illegally? "[Downloading and the internet] is a good way to get your name out and a good way to lose money. The internet is only good for networking." said Orikal about illegal downloading of music.

Also, t-shirts with the Playground Crew logo will be on sale for \$15 soon. There are PGC stickers (just ask Antonio), the compilation album will be out early 2005, and please visit www.playgroundcrew.tk. Be looking out for them, because they're coming out hard!◊

THE NEW GUY From 3

deal, yup, contemplating plastic surgery. "Oh, I think everyone's considered it... I think I would want to have more defined cheek bones." Boy howdy, James has just got a whole walk-in closet full of skeletons, don't he?

The best thing about James must be his optimistic attitude, "since I'm an untenured teacher, I love everything about Open School." Ah, it's so refreshing to see that in a teacher. If only all of us could be untenured.◊

HARD LOVE Form 6

see his family for who they are: cowards and liars.

Then John and Marisol go off to a retreat for zine writers. At the retreat, the bond that holds John to Marisol begins to waver when past relationships and outside interference test their friendship.

This book will surprise you with heart-breaking turns and breathtaking twists. What makes it work is that no matter who you are, you will identify with these people. The style is modern and edgy but also elegant. The story will take you in and you won't be able to put it down.

I would most definitely recommend this book to people who don't mind taking a chunk of time to feel all the emotions that are so openly displayed on the pages of this book.

Whether you're gay, straight, or bisexual I suggest you read this book. If you can't get enough of *Hard Love*, Ellen Wittlinger has another book that will be coming out in late 2004 called What's In A Name. ♦

AVP From 6

the victim.

The scientists are not so fortunate. All but one of them are killed by either the aliens or the predators. The only one to survive is an African American girl. How she did it is beyond me but it sure was a good thing she stayed alive or else the predators would have won.

I liked this movie because of the suspense and graphic fighting. The scene where the



alien gets stabbed through the stomach by the predator's tail is a great example of this. Another reason is because it's made by 20th Century Fox who has the reputation of early-on action and fighting scenes, earlier than most other movies. It also was very cool how they did the aliens' hair and costume design, because it gave them a lifelike look. I would give this movie 9 out of 10 stars because of how graphic they made it. The only drawback was that the movie was too short. ♦

DEF JAM From 6

censed gear brands like Phat Farm, Fila, Def Jam University, RocaWear, Sean John and many more.

According to the games' creators, Def Jam Vendetta was not designed to play like the WWE Smackdown series. The scheme of Vendetta is similar to that of its label mate NBA Street. Performing moves and combos racks up the points, but practice can cut your game well. The better you perform the faster your "Blazin" meter fills and from there you are able to perform your finishing move. However, if your opponent is slapping you around, your meter will drop.

Each fighter has a health bar but their physical condition is more intricate than that. There are health meters for the body, arm, leg and head. When you focus your attack on one part of the body the meter slowly decreases and when it runs out the fighter will submit. There is also a pin meter which fills up while you are pinned. The more damage taken the slower it fills.

A knock out system has been implemented so if you bludgeon your opponent badly enough you can knock him or her out as opposed to a pin or submission.

If you've played NBA Street at any point of your life you'll recognize the story mode's bracket format. You go through a group of competitors before you meet a boss character, whom of which is always a Def Jam art-

ist. In the story mode everyone you beat will automatically unlock and when the boss is defeated he and his ring will be available through the other modes. Keep going up the ladder until you meet D-Mob, the underground kingpin.

Winning is everything and you get paid for each win. The money you earn can go towards your characters' attributes such as power, speed, stamina, etc. If you'd rather spend it on pictures in the gallery of hip hop honeys then go right ahead.

The battle mode is simple, you pick one fighter and run the gauntlet against everyone you've locked through the story mode. You just keep going until you lose and try to have your name put on the "roll call." Free for all, which is nothing more than any match with more than two fighters in the ring at once. The last fighter on his or her feet is the winner. Pretty lame, being the most you can have in the ring at one time is four. Survival mode is you against two or three others and tag team is just a two on two match. No I did not forget on there isn't a create a character mode. ♦

Election Word Find

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Kerry
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USA
Cheney
Senate
Florida

