

THE PURPLE PRESS

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Open bids Greg farewell

Tony Cavanaugh
Staff Writer

English teacher Bridget Martin said it best: "I will never forget his comforting figure walking down the hallway from behind, with the mug held high. I'll remember how much he enjoyed coming to school, how much he loved the kids, his jokes, his self-deprecating manner, his support, and his rendition of 'The Cremation of Sam McGee' to my poetry class." She is talking, of course, about Greg Adams, Open School's venerable wood shop teacher who is retiring after 22 years at Open School.

In addition to being perhaps the greatest wood shop teacher ever, Greg has also been a very motivating coach of Destination Imagination, a supervisor of self directed learning, a teacher of Creative Problem Solv-

ing, an advisor, and an SLC team leader. Greg is, without a doubt all of the those, but first and foremost he is an amazing person, great friend, and the guiding light of

many students and staff here at Open.

Reminiscing about 22 plus years with Greg, most members of the Open School community can't help but mention his sense of humor.

"He was probably one of our funniest teachers. It's easier to get along with him,

but if you screw up he will lay down the hammer," said Senior Justin Gilliland.

"I'll remember his fantastic sense of humor, and our early morning chats," said Mary Kay Casey, who is also retiring

GOOD BYE GREG Continued on 8



The roof: the final frontier

Andrew Hoaglund
Staff Writer

I've been at Open for many years now, but there is one thing I still have not seen. There is a fourth staircase on the third floor hallway. It leads up to a door, which in turn leads to the roof. The roof has always been sort of an unknown. No one is allowed up there, except for when Leo and the 'photo lady' go up to take the whole-school yearbook picture.

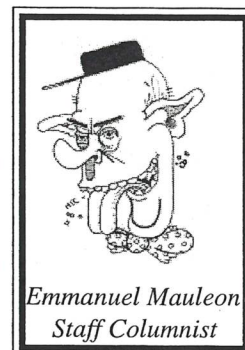
"I have never had the amazing experience of being at the top," said tenth grader Jim Witt. "I bet it would be cool." Keen opinion Jim. I bet it would be cool. That is why I booked an appointment with Dave, the friendly guy you see around, to go see this wonder.

First off, I will start by saying that my last story (The Blue Thing) had to do with a valiant dust collector. When I went up to the mysterious "4th floor," what I saw was miraculous. You know inside of every door in every classroom? The box-like cave that teachers put the recycling bin in. That is indeed a vent. Well, you may say, a vent, to what? A vent

leading to the mother of all dust collectors! It takes up most of the 4th floor, and is made of metal. It cleans the air, and re-circulates it into the school. The school is six stories
THE VIEW Continued on 11



Year in Review



Ok. Talking to Leo he says "You need to get this story done, it's not like it's research oriented, you make it all up, blah blah blah." Sorry Leo, I don't mean that as an insult, but the blah blah blah

pertains to either A: What I was not listening to, or B: What I don't remember. So now we have a very very bad idea. Me writing another year in review article. I waded through my article last year, and then I flipped the pages of time all the way back to Jon Thurn's year in review. I'd like to state now, if I ever caught just a shimmer of his great light, I'd die a happy man.

You see, the genius of a man like Jon Thurn is his creative use of vampire spiders in every article. In every article. Let me do a year in review with the magic of a spider draining a brontosaurus named Lester of his magical dinosaur madness, and I promise you I will parasail away to a wonderful kingdom of gold. I miss Jon and Chris. Remember the time Chris wrote that article about E.T. ? That was genius. He said something about getting hit by a car on his E.T. big wheeler. Wait, no, you know another thing that was really funny, that one time John Hendrickson wrote that article about Full House, and Sam Gleeson said "You gotta know when to hold them, know when to fold them."

Speaking of know when to hold them and fold them, do any of you remember that Pharoe Monch remix that Wyclef Jean did with Kenny Rogers. He went "You gotta know when to hold them (GET THE F*** UP!)" That was really cool. Oh! I just remembered! Adrian's sister Jen went on a
03'-04' Continued on 9

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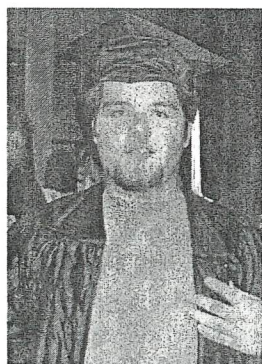
Adult to Blame

Leo Bickelhaupt

Graduation 2004



Joe and Greg during the reception



Kenzie after graduating



Lizzy with diploma in hand

The irreplaceable Greg

Serena Anderson

Staff Writer

When the doors of Open are swarmed by, like, ten students on that happy day after labor day, everything will be a little bit different. Most notably, the wood shop will be clean, and there will be no Greg. As a member of his advisory, this concerns me. Who will tell hilarious anecdotes? Who will run a better than damn good shop? Creative problem solving? DI teams? Architectural drafting? We can't forget about the little things he does. Greg cares about the students. How in the contumacious hell are we going to find someone who can do half of what he does?

Greg himself told me of a prospective teacher for next year. He is scheduled to have an interview with Ruth. All I found out is that he is young, and that he is a he. A newbie wouldn't be so bad - we could break him in to the ways of our school,

and he might turn out to be decent. Tom turned out all right, didn't he? However, if we get a more experienced wood teacher, he will be stuck in her ways and stubborn as a mule. No good. Look at Susan, and the sub Greg had earlier this year. Both of them had a hard time adjusting to our school and left as soon as they could.

So what exactly makes Greg so hard to replace? "Three things," said English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt, "one- the sheer variety of things he does, two- the unique relationship he has with students and three- his very, very distinct style of teaching."

"His sense of humor," said Seda Alpsuyu, junior.

"I think Greg is irreplaceable. He has a real Open School feel to him. You can't replace his history," stated Joe Levine, **REPLACING GREG** Continued on 9

Open's latest music venue

Antonio Rosario

Staff Writer

A few months ago, I told you about a show that happened in someone's basement. Well, that same basement is being turned into a venue for local musicians and acts.

Viceburgh frontman Dustin Kleingartner, 11th grade, is transforming his basement into a venue. Kind of like the show "Crib Crashers," but in real life, and into a venue in his basement, located in West St. Paul, on 1500 Delaware. He has a committee crew behind him as well, consisting of about 12 people, mostly Open School students, who come up with ideas and help with budgeting

"The idea of turning the basement into a club happened in February. It started because someone at Dustin's work suggested he turns his basement into a club. The guy he talked to helped Taco Torros' turn their basement into a club. It's costing some money to build the stage, and hopefully if we get more money, we'll build a door," said Sophomore Danielle Kennedy, also one of the heads of the committee.

The first show they had there was a success, bringing in around 100 kids from such schools as Central and Sibley, as well as Open School. It was a tremendous jump-off for the band, and for the soon-to-be venue.

"Our last show at the Marquee Moon went really good. I wish there were more people who came though. It sparked the interest of turning my basement into a club," stated Dustin.

They also have big plans for the future, such as an album release party for Open School emcee Orikal, and other names to be announced for the summer.

"We want bands to play at least once a week. The idea of the club is to provide a place for cheap or even free music," said Dustin.

"We want shows to happen on every Friday, Saturday and Sunday during the summer," said Danelle.

So, when does this venue open? The grand opening event is on June 8th, the last day of school, doors at 6 PM. Acts include: Sonic Team, The Improv Stylings of DugTrio, Orikal, Viceburgh, Lt. Girl and Look Down. It will be a mixture of Hip Hop and E&P Noise Rock. The cost is free, but donations urged. Be on the look out, because this venue is going to be one of the most adrenaline-fueled places of entertainment. ♦

Mackenzie Byrne

How many years have you been at Open?

13 groovy years.

What are your plans for next year?

Go to community college, travel to europe,

Get a job, and play lots of nerd games.

What is the hardest thing about Open School?

Motivating myself to do my work.

What is the best thing about Open School?

So many things to choose! I suppose the friendly structure and self motivated learning.

How has Open school helped you?

I think I might have dropped out of another school. I would have been crushed by "the machine." Open lets me be me.



Lakrisha Hill

How many years have you been at Open?

13.

What are your plans for next year?

Go to college.

What is the hardest thing about Open School?

Staying on task and staying out of trouble

What is the best thing about Open School?

Teachers/students relationships



Andy Titel

How many years have you been at Open?

3

What are your plans for next year?

Going to St. Paul tech for wood working, and getting a good job.

What is the hardest thing about Open School?

nothing.

What is the best thing

about Open School?

The classes. Mostly wood shop in my case.

How has Open School helped you?

It helped my learning skills, helped me work with people and helped me learn more about woodworking.



Senior Profiles

Here they are: the graduating class of 2003-2004. They share their plans, memories, and opinions in this special section.

Joseph Levine

How many years have you been at Open?

this is my 7th year

What are your plans for next year?

I will be attending U of M, Morris. I also

intend to set

my plans of

world domi-

nation in ac-

tion. Bwah

ha ha ha ha

ha .

What is the hardest thing about Open School?

The walls.

What is the best thing about Open School?

People. The ideas make it an alternative school, the people make it Open.

How has Open School helped you?

Open made me.



Aaron Izaksonas- Smith

How many years have you been at Open?

6 years

What are your plans for next year?

Building robots to imitate everybody at Open School so that I never feel like I left. Making Leo's was easy, but I'm having trouble with the rest.

What is the hardest thing about Open School?

Walking up those stairs, they should really put in escalators.

What is the best thing about Open School?

The musical enchanted gnome garden beneath the school dungeon. I could frolic there for hours.

How has Open School helped you?

It has made me a well adjusted human being.



Clara Iwaszek

How many years have you been at open?

13

What are you plans for next year?

Going to the University of Minnesota.



What is the hardest thing about Open School?

It's going to be hard to leave

What is the best thing about Open School?

The people and the relationships with the teachers.

How has Open School helped you?

It allowed me to be myself, and nobody ever judged me.

Khadeja Stringer

How many years have you been at Open?

10 years

What are your plans for next year?

Go to Saint Paul Technical College for Massage Therapy.

What is the hardest thing about Open School?

Trying to get along with everybody.

What is the best thing about Open School?

It's easy to graduate.

How has Open School helped you?

It helped me graduate, and get all done with everything.



John Hendrikson

How many years have you been at Open?

7

What are yours plans for next year?

Working.

What is the hardest thing about Open School?

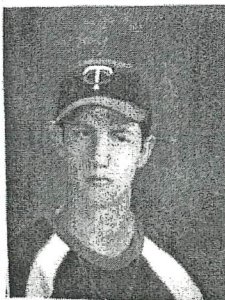
Grad standards.

What is the best thing about Open School?

The teachers and the classes.

How has Open School helped you?

To finish high school.



Gustave Olsen

How many years have you been at Open?

Between 12 and 13

What are your plans for next year?



To go to Winner State University.

What is the hardest thing about Open School?

Getting a date.

What is the best thing about Open School?

The decor.

How has Open helped you?

It has been a good scapegoat.

Rachel Stewart

How many years have you been at Open?

7 years

What are your plans for next year?

Go to school at the St. Paul Tech for Culinary Arts.

What is the hardest thing about Open School?

Getting all of my stuff together for my senior year, like my graduation portfolio.

What is the best thing about Open School?

The variety of people, the friends I've made, and the teachers.

How has Open School helped you?

With my dyslexia and opening up to people over the years.



Manila Yang

How many years have you been at Open?

6 years

What are your plans for next year?

Going to college, National American University

What is the hardest thing about Open School?

The ELC'ers I guess

What is the best thing about Open School?

I would have to say everything, the students the staff

How has Open School helped you?

The communication skills and the independent learning.

Shmuel Blyly-Strauss

How many years have you been at Open?

six years

What are your plans for next year?

right now I don't really have any

What is the hardest thing about Open School?

Being self-directed enough to get stuff done during SDL.

What is the best thing about Open School?

The family atmosphere

How has Open School helped you?

It has helped me to mature and taught me how to learn.



Alexandra Costello

How many years have you been at Open?

4

What are your plans for next year?

Stay at Home

What is the hardest thing about Open School?

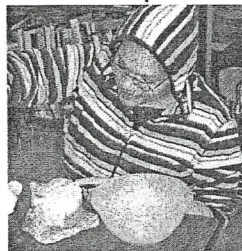
The graduation packet, writing all of those letters.

What is the best thing about Open School?

The teachers listen to you

How has Open School helped you?

Open school has helped me plan my future.



Pang Thor

How many years have you been at Open?

13 years

What are your plans for next year?

Either go to college or work.

What is the hardest thing about Open School?

Leaving Open School and leaving old friends.

What is the best thing about Open School?

Meeting new friends.

How has Open School helped you?

It helped me through high school.



Shelly Meyers

How many years have you been at Open?

3

What are your plans for next year?

Working and going to National American University part time

What is the hardest thing about Open School?

Leo's classes

What is the best thing about Open School?

the environment and the teachers

How has Open School helped you?

The teachers are friendly and helpful and they helped me get through school

Chee Xiong

How many years have you been at Open?

About three years

What are your plans for next year?

Work out, support families and help myself through school

What is the hardest thing about Open School?

The work because it gets slow.....

What is the best thing about Open School?

The people who are supportive

How has Open School helped you?

It has helped me grow into who I am today.

Shoua Yang

How many years have you been at Open?

6 years

What are your plans for next year?

College at Century Tech, I'm not sure.

What is the hardest thing about Open School?

I can't think of anything but I do wish there weren't ELC'ers

What is the best thing about Open School?

The teachers

How has Open School helped you?

My education



Elizabeth Shramko

How many years have you been at Open?

13

What are your plans for next year?

To attend New York University and become best friends with Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen

What is the hardest thing about Open School?

The lack of structure

What is the best thing about Open School?

The lack of structure

How has Open School helped you?

It has pushed me to look outside the school to succeed which has allowed me to truly become an independent learner.

Mee Xiong

How many years have you been at Open?

Since 6th grade. I'm a senior now.

What are your plans for next year?

Going to the University of Minnesota

What is the hardest thing about Open School?

getting all your things ready to graduate

What is the best thing about Open School?

The environment, the people, how we are allowed to do things other school don't

How has Open School helped you?

TONS!!!!!!

Michelle Ekdahl

How many years have you been at Open?

4 years



What are your plans for next year?

I'm not sure

What is the hardest thing about Open School?

Math class was the worst

What is the best thing about Open School?

You got to work independently

How has Open School helped you?

Because I work best at my own pace,

Geoff Wessendorf

How many years have you been at Open?

5 2/3 - it's a long story

What are your plans for next year?

I will be attending Gustavus Adolphus College, where I intend to study everything

What is the hardest thing about Open School?

The amount of motivation and dedication required to succeed.

I wasn't very motivated in 7th grade to 9th grade, so I missed some opportunities.

How has Open School helped you?

The environment I really like it that everyone is treated like people here.

How has Open School helped you?

It has provided a stable environment in which to get my feet on the ground academically.



Justin Gilliland

How many years have you been at Open?

13

What are your plans for next year?

Concordia College

What is the hardest thing about Open School?

Getting to my next class through the hallway during passing time.

What is the best thing about Open School?

The teachers

How has Open School helped you?

I figured out how to open up and what I want to do with my life



.....
:The Purple Press:
:says "Goodbye":
:and Goodluck:
:Class of 04"
.....

Sue Moua

How many years have you been at Open?

7 years

What are your plans for next year?

To go to technical college for 2 years

What is the hardest thing about Open School?

I think some of the hardest things at Open are some of Leo's classes

What is the best thing about Open School?

The teachers and students, also some of the classes.

How has Open School helped you?

It has helped me in a lot of ways in math, writing, reading, and so on.



Sierra Blakely

How many years have you been at Open?

13 long ones

What are your plans for next year?

I will be attending The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington for Environmental Studies

What is the best thing about Open School?

Adjusting to the traditional standards of education through the Post-Secondary Education system

What is the best thing about Open School?

The teachers-they all really want to be here, and it really shows

How has Open School helped you?

It has taught me the joy of continuous learning, how to be a rockstar, and the true value of friends.

Joe Anderson

How many years have you been at Open?

This is my 7th year

What are your plans for next year?

get a job in construction and go to St. Paul College

What is the hardest thing about Open School?

Putting together the final graduation portfolio

What is the best thing about Open School?

The people

How has Open School helped you?

It helped me graduate

Unsitthroughable movie

Chloe "I'm spicy!" Taipale
Staff Writer

It was a normal, average, usual, common, typical day. I was at the movie theater, all sooper-doooper psyched, "like woah," and ready to do a review on the new Olsen twins movie, New York Minute. I had my energy drinks, my Airheads brand chewy candy, and an amigo to help me think of funny insults. I expected this movie to be bad, and I thought I could handle it. But as the opening credits rolled and the movie progressed, my jaw dropped open in horror, and I had to fight back tears of pain and humiliation, since I now had a ticket stub from this unholy, disgraceful piece of cinema burning a hole in my pocket like a hot Pop Tart shoved down one's pants. Oh, the shame. Dishonor to my family.

New York Minute is about Jane (Ashley

Olsen) and Roxanne (Mary-Kate Olsen) Ryan, two sisters who hate each other. Jane is a perfect student who is preparing to give some big speech thing to get into some college, and Roxanne (I refuse to call her Roxy. What an obnoxious name...really now) is all



"OMG lyke WoAh" because she's so HaRdCoRe she's going to a Simple Plan video shoot.

So Chloe stopped paying attention for a couple minutes, and then the girls were on a train and

torturing some poor man...and then they got kicked off because Roxanne is stupid.

Eugene Levy is some truant officer/pedophile who's stalking Roxanne because she skips school all the time. This is one lonely, lonely man. His whole LIFE revolves around
NY MINUTE Continued on 8

Nat's two awesome novels

Natalie Iwaszek
Staff Writer

I feel that as an avid reader, it is my duty to tell people of some of the best books I've read in Junior High. Next year I will be in 9th grade, and I would like to leave behind something for all the 7th and 8th grade students to read. These two books are probably the best books I've ever read, and I advise you to read them both.

#1 Stargirl

By Jerry Spinelli

Stargirl is unlike any other book or character I've ever read or read about. She is not a clone of all the other high school girls with their made up faces, highlights, and "cool clothes." No, she is a splash of color among the Mica High students, with her long skirts, ukulele, rat and flowers, open mind and caring manner. She brings school spirit to Mica, and for a while people are intrigued. Then, as they see how Stargirl is, loving life and sharing it, they get intimidated and start to shun her. Only one person is still intrigued. He falls in love with her at the first smile. His name is Leo Borlock. Leo and Stargirl get to know each other, and you get to know Stargirl, follow-

ing them to all the different places they go, seeing how Stargirl reacts to certain things. She is truly different, and Leo embraces that, until he starts to get shunned along with Stargirl. After a while Leo can't stand it. He still loves Stargirl, but he can't handle the silence. So he tries to turn her into the very thing that could destroy her, a "normal" person.

Jerry Spinelli does a wonderful job creating a character that everyone who reads the book wants to be like, someone who changes the world, but still has their flaws. He also does a wonderful job of making you feel like you're in the book, watching Stargirl up close, getting to know everything about her, but still wondering.

I've read this book more than once. I couldn't put it down, and now sometimes I take it out and read over my favorite parts. This book is not at a high level, and it's easy to read and get into. I would recommend this book to mostly females, but if you like a good book that makes you laugh, cry and think, you'll probably like Stargirl. This

BOOK REVIEW Continued on 11

Nix on Troy

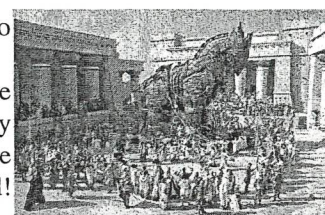
Katie Hurley
Staff Writer

Based on the Trojan war, Troy is about a man by the name of Paris (Orlando Bloom), prince of Troy. He steals Helen (Diane Kruger), Queen of Sparta, away from her husband, Menelaus (Brendan Gleeson). Well, you can't really call it stealing cause she goes willingly. This causes a bloody siege that lasted over a decade between Mycenaean Greece and Troy.

Troy had its whole armada led by Achilles (Brad Pitt). All this fighting over one person! God!! He could have saved everyone a lot of trouble and just given her back! There's a lot of fighting. I saw too much of Orlando Bloom and Brad Pitt. I don't care how it happened in history, I really didn't need to see Orlando pretty much naked! I was traumatized! Not that he's hideous, I just

saw too much!

The movie was mostly fighting! The plot sucked!



Some might like it, like people who are into history and people that like a lot of useless fighting. If you enjoyed movies like The Last Samurai or Master and Commander you might like this, but I really hope I never have to see this movie again. I wanted to stab the editing guy cause some really boring scenes were way too long. It was ridiculous! The movie was predictable too. Not to be mean, I like Orlando Bloom, but I think the only reason he was cast was so lots of teenage girls would see the movie!

There's not a lot to say. There was fighting, it was predictable, there was unnecessary nudity, and the whole thing was a waste of five and a half dollars. The acting was okay. Orlando could've done a lot better. Once again, I like Orlando, just not in this movie. Brad Pitt acted well in this movie, but the Trojan war wasn't only about Helen! Someone could have just killed her! And why were they playing Arab music in the background? Umm...this took place in modern day Turkey.

So I give this movie 2 and a half stars because it sucks. It may not have been so bad if they didn't leave out so much and if I wasn't sleepy. Writing this has made me tired! So bye to all my homies! (Drink energy drinks!)

Local hip hop history

Antonio Rosario
Staff Writer

The hip-hop scene in the Twin Cities has seemed to have grown of late. Local hip hop label Rhymesayers Entertainment are signing deals with Epitaph Records for distribution of Atmosphere's and Eyedea's new CDs. Emcees and deejays, meanwhile, are spreading like bunnies in heat. The Twin Cities has a solid foundation of hip hop, and here's the break down.

In 1982, "King of Rap" Kurtis Blow played a legendary show at Duffy's in July, and Grandmaster Flash followed a couple months later in October. And then, a St. Paul teenager, Frederick Schmid, went on a family trip to NYC. When he came back, he started deejaying and spinning hip hop records in such clubs as Sugar Daddy's, the Oz, and Rollergardens. That was the birth of DJ Fresh (Freddy Fresh in the future.)

In 1984, as the movies *Beat Street*, *Breakin'* and the sequel to *Breakin'*, *Breakin' 2* were on the silver screens, the cities' first b-boys were ripping up the floor. The Minneapolis B-Boy organization held the first breakdancing battles at Powderhorn Park. St. Paul's Grand Old Days parade also held its

first b-boying contest.

Also in 1984, Brooklyn Native Travis Lee, aka Travitron, launched the "hip hop shop" on KMOJ-FM (89.9 FM), the first hip hop radio show. He then started throwing hip hop parties and gave birth to the TNT Break-Out Crew, notable for featuring one of the first female emcees, "Sugar T."

In 1986 North Minneapolis' the I.R.M. crew, including beatbox battler I.B.M. (Later known as Truth Maze), claimed immortality and a place in twin cities hip hop history, as they dropped one of the very first 12" vinyl hip hop records to ever come out of the Twin Cities.

A year later, in 1987, an engineer for Paula Abdul's debut "Forever Your Girl" phoned local dance label Wide Angle Records seeking a Twin Cities MC to add rap flavor. Delite, of the crew Soul Purpose (and later, KMOJ) was enlisted as MC Skat Cat in the duet "Opposites Attract," and given animated form in a 1989 video. The single was a smash, and Virgin releases a Skat Cat TV special and album (which didn't do too hot).

HIP HOP Continued on 10

Hip hop moves west

Tony Cavanaugh
Staff Writer

Guess what? My own personal Jesus has released an album. It is titled The College Dropout. And while it did come out February 10th, nobody wrote about it in our paper. So I figured that since I am completely and totally infatuated with him, I would write an article not just about his musical talent, but also about all of the remarkable things that make up this man whom we so undeservingly refer to as Kanye West.

The album is an hour plus of quality beats and quality rhymes, and is filled with cameos by everyone from Mos Def (underground legend) to Jay-Z (mainstream legend). The first track, "We Don't Care" is an ode to those who deal drugs and also have jobs on the side, from which they make only minimum wage. "The second verse is for my dogs working 9 to 5 that still hustle cause a n**** can't shine off \$6.55." The next track, "All Falls Down," features a guitar sample of the fabulous Lauryn Hill, and a cameo by a beautiful voice named Syleena

Johnson. The next little ditty, "Spaceship," says that if you're African-American and employed at The Gap, you will be discriminated against.

"Jesus Walks," is up next, Kanye's most controversial song to date. This is Kanye's ode to Jesus, who is apparently his favorite man. "I played them [Capitol Records] this song man, and they still aint sign me!," said Kanye. "I hope this take away from my sins/ And bring the day that I'm dreaming about/ Next time I'm in the club everybody screaming out/ 'Jesus Walks!'" Surprisingly enough, Mr. West's dream came true, and everybody in the club is, as they say, getting "crunk" to this song.

"Never Let Me Down" is possibly the best song on the record, featuring remarkable and extremely amazing verses by Jay-Z, J. Ivy, and the greatest verse Kanye has rapped to date. In the next few songs, Talib Kweli and Common help "Get 'Em High," Kanye raps

KANYE Continued on 9

Super sized

Doug Anderson
Staff Writer

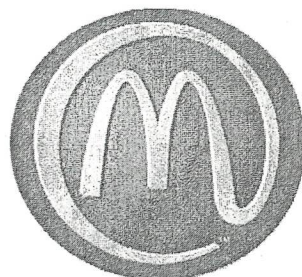
"Big Macs are so good. I will smell a Big Mac and immediately my mouth will water and I will crave it. I'm like one of Pavlov's dogs. But I can't eat them now. I can't stomach their food... If I eat their French fries, they taste like smoked plastic to me..."

This is what Morgan Spurlock had to say about the food served at McDonald's. Spurlock recently wrote, directed and filmed a documentary called "Super Size Me," following the lawsuits that McDonald's was involved in with those kids who claimed McDonald's made them fat. Spurlock decided to eat nothing but McDonald's three meals a day for thirty days. The rules of this venture were that he couldn't eat or drink anything that was not sold over the counter at McDonald's, he had to try everything on the menu at least once, and he could not ask for a Super Sized meal, but if they asked him if he wanted to Super Size it, he had to say yes.

On Day one of this venture, Spurlock weighed 185 pounds, had no cholesterol problems, and excellent blood pressure. By Day thirty, he had gained twenty-five pounds, his cholesterol had shot up to around 220, and his liver had been damaged severely, possibly permanently damaged. He had become lethargic, tired, and had problems with his stuff. His...stuff. He had possibly permanently damaged many parts of his body. In addition, Spurlock actually started to suffer from withdrawal symptoms when he wasn't eating McDonald's. He was literally becoming addicted.

Of course, if the documentary had just been following this guy around while he did nothing but ate McDonald's, it would have been boring. The documentary was also filled with interesting factoids about the fast food industry. For example, Spurlock went to like fifty McDonald's and asked if they had the nutritional information pamphlets, and only about two did. A few of them had

SUPERSIZE Continued on 11



Unreal Tournament 2004

Mike Griffin
Staff Writer

When you have a game that abandons any real storyline in favor of spectacular graphics and gameplay, including many gory explosions, decapitations and bodies being blown apart, while targeting the demographic that hangs out in basements and computer shops, what chance does it have at the competitive electronic gaming market? A damn good one, that's what. It was given the Editor's Choice award on Gamespy and IGN.com, getting 5 of 5 stars and a score of 9.4 of 10, respectively.

This is a review of the demo of Unreal Tournament 2004. I'm going to describe a little bit of history for the sake of readability, so that non-gamers/nerds can follow it a bit. In 1999, a first-person shooter known as Unreal Tournament was released, playing on the success of deathmatch-type games, where you and an opponent go around in the game and attempt to kill each other. The game did incredibly well, especially in LAN (local area network) parties and online multiplayer. People liked it so much that it won a Game of the Year award, (a rather prized title among game-manufac-

turers) ensuring at least a couple sequels.

On February 11, 2004, the demo for the latest installment, Unreal Tournament 2004 went live, available to every gamer with access to a very high speed internet connection (the file is a self-executing zip file, taking up over 200 MB disk space). I have dial-up, so I couldn't get it from home. But that's why libraries give us T1 lines (upper end high-speed internet). Less than an hour after starting it, the demo finished. I ran the demo and began a practice game since single player isn't available in this version.

I quite enjoyed the new interface of Unreal Tournament 2004. It's quite a bit more efficient and the character selection in the demo is no longer sexist, with males and females instead of varying types of human male. Some classic UT fighters like Othello also make a comeback. The playable game modes in this demo were Assault, Onslaught, Capture the Flag, Bombing Run and Deathmatch. The HUD (heads up display) is much more user-friendly this time around, offering more customization and even
UNREAL Continued on 12

NY MINUTE From 6

Roxanne. In one scene, he's in his office and "I WILL CATCH ROXY RYAN" is written over and over on a chalkboard behind him.

So anyway, after they get kicked off the train, there's all these weird people in sunglasses, and one of them drops some microchip into Roxanne's bag and walks away. ...What? Did I MISS something?

So it turns out that the chip belongs to the Chinese mafia or something, and it contains a lot of stolen music... and let me think if I care. Uum... no. Wait, no.

Then there's some little balding dog thing



that eats the chip, and then the Squirrelsen twins (gurl oh yes I just did) are running around in towels, and then Simple Plan performs a really BAD song (wait, isn't that ALL of them? Ha..Chloe made a funny). So they're being stalked by the truancy officer, and there's this guy who works for the mafia, and he has a Chinese accent, even though he's NOT CHINESE. Jane and Roxanne get in a big fight about how they've changed

since their mom died and how they miss each other, blah blah blah. That's about the time my comrade (Miss Katie Hurley) and I left.

It takes a lot to make me walk out of a movie. A lot. I sat through the Lizzie McGuire Movie and The Land Before Time 7, didn't I? But this movie was more than I could handle. I know, I know, how can I

write a review when I didn't see the whole movie? Well, I didn't need to sit all the way through this one to tell that it was bad. The acting, the story, the sorry excuse for a dog, it all SUCKS. I HATE this movie.

But what exactly makes this movie so bad? It's really hard to explain... maybe it has something to do with a little--wait, two little things-- called the Olsen twins. Oh, sweet tap dancin' Jesus, how I hate those two. See, they're frickin' BILLIONAIRES. They're also frickin' SEVENTEEN. If I made hair care products and girls' sized flare

NY MINUTE Continued on 11

GOOD BYE GREG From 1

this year.

"I'm going to miss Greg. Greg is a fun guy, a cool person. For all of the insults and crap he flings around about students, he is a really kind and caring person. I'm definitely going to miss everything about him," said Senior Joe Levine, one of Greg's advisees.

Greg has been considering retiring for the past few years, and has planned on actually retiring in previous years, but this time it is actually for real. His wife recently got a job in North Carolina and they are currently building a house in a suburb of Raleigh. Plans for the immediate future include purchasing a Mercedes CLK320 Convertible for his wife, and possibly a Corvette for himself. Whatever happens in the future, we wish him the best of luck. Thank you for 22 years at Open School, it will not be the same without you.

"I'll remember that he actually cared about his students and that he was a very loving person, and he would always look out for his seniors and everyone else in his advisory," said Sophomore Antonio Rosario, one of Greg's advisees.◊

REPLACING GREG From 2

senior, and member of Greg's advisory. It's true, Greg has been here for twenty-two long years. Open School without him seems a little...sad.

"He actually cares." Multiple people could be quoted as saying this, because almost every person I interviewed couldn't say enough about his love for his students. "Sometimes he yells, and says things that would imply he didn't like his students, but everyone knows he does. He really cares, and that is what is going to make him so hard to replace," Rachel Dauner, junior, stated very matter-of-factly. And it is true. Finding someone who loves his job like Greg did is going to be very difficult..◊

To: Greg
From: The Purple
Press
Goodbye, Open
won't be the same
without you.

KANYE From 7

to all of those gold diggers out there on "The New Workout Plan" with instructions on how to get a rapper, NBA player, "man at least a dude with a car" and reap the benefits. Then there's the played out "Slow Jamz," followed by "Breath In Breath Out" featuring Ludacris.

Which brings us to the song and the few interludes that The College Dropout is centered around: "School Spirit" is Kanye's slap in the face to the basic standard education, and it finds him telling a story about seeing the valedictorian of his class as a waiter at a restaurant. "See what high school does for you, it makes you really smart, man." The next actual song on the album is "Two Words," featuring the amazing Mos Def and street legend Freeway.

"Through the Wire," is up next, the first hit single off of the album that tells the story of a near fatal car accident that Kanye suffered in late 2002. The song contains a sped up sample of Chaka Khan's "Through the Fire," and was written in the hospital shortly following the accident. He recorded the song a few weeks later, while his jaw was wired shut. That my friends, is what you call amazing. Following "Through the Wire," is "Last Call," where Kanye spits an 8 minute- rhyme free- autobiography about how he came to be.

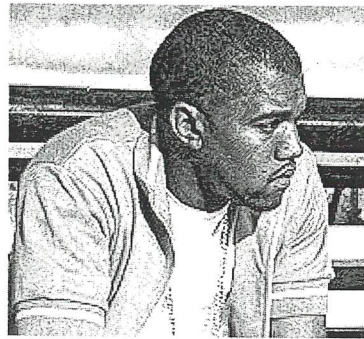
On The College Dropout, he credits his mother, "at the tender age of 6 she was arrested for the sit-ins/ and with that in my blood I was born to be different." I'd like to thank you Mrs. West, for giving birth to one of the greatest musicians (among other things) in the world.



Back in about 1999, Kanye met up with an A&R Representative from Roc-A-Fella records named Hiphop. He played them a song with him rapping on it, but they really wanted just the beat for an upcoming track by Beanie Siegel. Kanye was at first hesitant, and thought the folks at Roc-A-Fella were just gassing him up, but then sided with them and gave them the beat for "Truth," by Beanie Siegel. So he kept on making beats upon beats, every day, all day and one day Jay-Z (the best rapper alive) happened upon

one of them that contained a strings sample from an early Jackson 5 recording. It was perfect that someone with as much money as Jay-Z was interested in this beat, because he could afford the hundreds of thousands of dollars needed to purchase the rights to this sample. So Kanye met Jay one day and they hit it off, Jay-Z spit his verses in one try, and thus 2001's smash hit, "H to the Izzo," was born.

After this he hopped back on the train to



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pany, The Heavy Hitters, and producing strictly for a lot of local artists in Chicago. "One of my homies that was one of my artists, he got signed. But it was supposed to really go through my production company, but he ended up going straight with the other record company. So, like I'm just straight holdin' the phone, gettin' the bad news that dude was tryin' to leave my company." Said Kanye. A few days after that, he was evicted from his apartment in Chicago. So he packed up his things in a U-Haul and headed for his new home in Newark, New Jersey. A few days later Kanye was signed to Roc-A-Fella Records, after much suffering and struggle trying to get signed to Capitol.

So there you have it. Quality album, quality person. Hailed by both mainstream idiots and backpackers alike, Kanye West is the greatest thing to happen to hip hop in a long time. I predict that he will be around for many years to come. He currently has 6 songs in the Billboard Top 100, and recently helped Alicia Keys sell 600,000 albums in her first week of release, thanks to her hit single "You Don't Know My Name." He is currently working on projects with Janet Jackson, Alicia Keys, Beanie Siegel, Nelly, Kelis, Dead Prez, Ludacris, Talib Kweli, Cam'ron, the whole Roc-A-Fella Family, the entire Common album, and a remix of the song "This Love," by rock group Maroon 5. Check him out online at www.KanyeWest.com ◊

03'-04' From 1

couple of dates with Wyclef, but I guess they just talked about Lauren Hill the whole time. That's so funny. Lauren Hill was in "Sister Act Two," and there was a rap in the end that went like this:

"Joyful, joyful, lord we adore thee, and in my life I put none before thee, cause since I was a youngsta' I came to know, that you was the only way to go! So I had to grow and come to an understanding, that I'm down with the king, so now I'm demanding, that you tell me who you down with see, cause all I know is that I'm down with the G-O-D!"... Whoopee Goldberg is a terrible actress except when she was on Star Trek: The Next Generation playing Jordi LaFord's love interest. That was hot!

Oh! Now I remember another thing I can remember, reviewing the years as I go. OK, so, last year, me and Jon Sherman had taken investigative reporting to an extreme, when we hunted down pseudo celebrities and called them up. Anyway, we looked for Lavvar Burton's phone number for like three weeks, but it wasn't happening. But we did call his ex-wife. YANGA! No, we did hunt down Bryan-Z of UPN mid-afternoon programming. That was radical. Oh! And you would not believe how pissed Bill Nye was when we tracked his a** down... Haha! Unlisted phone number? That's no problem for the "DYNAMIC DUO!" Ok, but what happened this year?

Hmmm... Oh, I remember, I'll start on the bus. The first day of school was a glowing ball of radiation, giving off gama rays of happiness. I learned THAT in chemistry, which I took this year, thank you very much. I wasn't quite as fun as biology, cause we started a gang in biology and we fought each other with Sam Lucas's magic cards. I cut Marcos up with a card. Haha, the good times are killing me.

Dustin came to the school. Don't front. Oh, and my little brother. Public Announcement: Please don't beat up my brother. The good times are killing me. Danielle pointed out to me that she got prettier, but then again, so did the general population of our school, thank the Lord. I'm saying, it's nice. And Danielle, I wish you many good years with Dustin, and hope your attractiveness won't cause fissures between you too.

Liam got thrown in jail for a little bit when the Mexican government found out about him selling marijuana to border jumpers. EXCEPT the twist is that it was Liam's twin brother Glim, but he escaped by parasailing

03'-04' Continued on 10

HIP HOP From 7

Universal Pictures developed, and then dropped, a feature film for Abdul.

The Twins were on their way to their first World Series win, but the I.R.M. Crew had a different take on Major League Baseball. One of the strangest dis songs ever recorded, "Baseball," slammed Darryl Strawberry, who'd taken a shot at rhyming on UTFO's "Chocolate Strawberry."

In 1988, King IXL defeated Josh Virgin in one the Cities' earliest DJ showdowns. Virgin recovered by becoming a storied host of hip-hop parties, at which kids from Highland Park and seasoned rap fans alike were witnessed in the act of getting funky.

Prince began his ambivalent relationship with hip hop by rapping on "Bob George" from the so-called **Black Album**. He subsequently handed the doomed Paisley mic to other MCs, including T.C. Ellis and Tony Mosely.

In 1989, on July 27th, I was born. Also, On August 20th, The *St. Paul Pioneer Press* pondered hip hop in an article headlined "Bad Rap." A snippet from the article stated, "There is concern in the black community, and even in the rap community, that some rap is having a detrimental effect on its youthful audiences, as well as dividing the community with its rampant braggadocio."

In 1990, the aftermath of the 80's began. Reopened as a club in May, the Varsity Theater hosted weekly all-ages hip-hop parties, drawing crowds of more than 1,000. Police reported no serious incidents as a result of the "Peace Parties," but neighbors and business leaders complained of noise and vandalism. The theater soon discontinued the event, though owner Aaron Keith charged his neighbors with racism. In defiance, he booked a 2 Live Crew show in October.

St. Paul native DMG (Detrimental Ganxta) brought his demo tape to the Minneapolis hotel room of the Geto Boys' Scarface, who signed him to Rap-A-Lot and released his **Rigormortiz** album in 1993. Sporting such cuts as "Kiss Yourself Good Bye Bye," the CD peaked at No. 40 on the hip-hop charts--making DMG both the most menacing and best-selling local rapper to date.

In 1991, The City of St. Paul launched St. Paul Graffiti, Inc. ostensibly to encourage taggers to paint legally on murals. Some artists involved in the project were subsequently busted after city officials learned to recognize their styles and tags.

Fast forward to 1993, A rap poem written by Shannon Bowles was used as evidence

to convict him in the 1992 murder of police officer Jerry Haaf. Critics charged the prosecution with "criminalizing" a black art form. The Micranots, among other crews, condemned the prosecution.

Not to be outdone by St. Paul, Minneapolis Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton announced an anti-graffiti campaign with the slogan "Don't Deface My Space." Cleanup crews and cops converged on "the Tracks" and the West Bank "Wall of Fame."

In 1994, Hip-hop parties at the old Franklin Theater in Phillips revived all-ages hip hop in Minneapolis, with some 300 kids packing the former porn house throughout the summer. The SuperAmerica across the street from the festivities became what the *Minnesota Daily* called "a temporary police station."

In 1995, R&B hopefuls Next chased down Naughty by Nature's KayGee at the Mall of America Food Court, and eventually convinced him to produce the group. T-Low subsequently became an aspiring hip-hop impresario himself, courting Minneapolis crews Raw Villa and Atmosphere.

Rockers took belated notice of local hip hop when former Como Senior High b-boys Phull Surkle Team with longhaired fusion jammers Casino Royale, opened for Guru at First Avenue. The tag-team began a string of gigs at the Red Sea, encouraging scenesters the Sensational Joint Chiefs and KFAI-FM's "Groove Garden" host Jen Downham.

In 1996, On October 8, the Rhyme Sayers' Beyond, Slug, and Stress appeared on National Public Radio's All Things Considered as torchbearers for "positive" hip hop. They were described as striving to "reclaim hip hop from the corporate rappers and record labels that, [Beyond] says, have stolen it away." In the piece, Slug exhorted rappers to come to the Twin Cities, "because we'd like to battle some real MCs."

Top Tone (formerly Apostrophe Tone) scored national distribution for his disc **What Part of the Game Is This?**, selling more than 15,000 copies.

Twin Cities hip hop mourned the car-crash death of Headshots star and Abstract Pack member Sess (Herbert Ford Foster IV), a St. Paul freestyle hero widely considered the best MC ever to emerge from Minnesota. The Headshots compiled the History tape in his memory, and Abstract Pack remembered him on their classic debut, *Bousta Set It (For the Record)*.

It's been nearly a decade since 1996, but

Hip Hop is still alive in Minnesota. Some people question it, but it is still alive. There are hip hop groups such as Los Nativos, Unknown Prophets, The C.O.R.E., Doom-Tree, The SWEEPS (Featuring Carnage). And then there are the bigger names such as the whole Rhymesayers Entertainment camp including Atmosphere, Eyedea&Abilities, Brother Ali, The Micranots (Who have recently called it quits as a group), Musab and so on. Rhymesayers keep on signing contracts with punk-label Epitaph for national-distribution. It just goes to show that Minnesota's hip hop scene is one that gets slept on, but the talent wakes the drowsy.◊

03'-04' From 9

from the First National bank building. But he ran into Lester. CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP!

Gus sliced his hand up getting into a duel with a mirror. He was extremely frustrated that the man on the other side claimed he was just as attractive as Gus, so when his back was turned Gus sucka" punched him, and killed him, his glittering shimmer face was delicious. It was like those little chaos emeralds. Remember the candy store? Anyway, Gus killed him, at the expense of his hand.

That vandalism cost us mucho dinero, and it was all over the backstage. WHAT's THE DEAL WITH THAT!?!?! Oh, I just remembered, late one spring morning in advisory I went outside to collect magical sapphires, and just when I picked up the red one and it gave me fire power and I threw some at Jesus Haiyken! But then I heard a "Lock Down" alarm and a group of masked ninjas took the school hostage. Well, to make a long story short you remember what happened right? When Cami Rosas and Cameron Beitler saved us by a mix of rocking and plane flying. Thank God we have those kids.

Aaron and Aaron learned the true meaning of friendship, thank God, I was almost sure if it didn't happen this year one of them would have killed themselves. Doo roo doo root. Oh, it's because Aaron saved the other Aaron in a game of Go-Fish by telling Aaron to go for red fish, which he did not, thus letting the Gangster Clan win. Aaron is not as ugly as he is smart.

Well, I think that about sums up pretty much everything. Um... Oh yeah. We'll all float on ok. Unless you don't have a life vest, you'll probably drown after a couple of hours of floundering. Peace from this cardboard shanty of dreams, another year under my belt. I'm beginning to get pretty fat◊.

SUPERSIZE From 7

the poster board that hangs on the wall, but many did not have that either. There were also many activities in the movie, such as Spurlock trying to make sure he got absolutely no exercise over the course of those thirty days, or Spurlock trying and failing 15 times to get an interview with a marketing director at McDonald's corporation. He also went to many schools and discussed how the lunches they served there (with the fast food restaurants inside) were grossly unhealthy. Also, Mississippi is the fattest state, where 25% of the people suffer from obesity, Detroit is the fattest city in the nation, and 6 of the top ten fattest cities are in Texas.

This movie had a very large impact on the McDonald's corporation. Right around the time that this movie came out, McDonald's eliminated its super size option, introduced the garden fresh salads, and is now making the adult go-active Happy Meal, complete with step counter. While doing research for this article, I also discovered that Ronald McDonald himself quit because McDonald's uses chickens fed with genetically engineered food. "I don't want a company that's named after me to use GE fed chickens," said McDonald about his resignation. Also, they now serve Powerade at McDonald's.

This documentary is not boring. it has a lot of interesting information, and some very good interviews. For example, they interviewed the son of Baskin, of Baskin and Robbins fame, Jared the Subway guy, and other such fast food guys. The toughest part of this documentary was making it not all be a stream of French Fries and fast food factoids, and I think they did a pretty good job.

This movie did not exactly sound an alarm bell. Much of this information were things that many people should know, but many people are quite ignorant. This movie did strongly reinforce the message that fast food is bad for you, but it told us little new information other than factoids about McDonald's. Overall, though, it is worth seeing

THE VIEW From 1

tall. Yet, there is a vertical vent that goes down nine. After going to the basement, I saw yet another filter. It was like a wind tunnel that was always blowing. The clean air is pulled from the top of the roof. Then, it gets pumped back into the school. The dirty air is then sent to the collector. I had the privilege of actually stepping inside the filter. I learned that layers of filters keep the school clean. This is what I saw after I embarked on the journey to the roof...

Past the Jabba the Hut-ventilation system, there is a brief staircase. Going up this staircase was very exciting. I had never been up to this point, let alone the 4th floor door. Then, there was a light at the end of the tunnel. Literally. As Dave opened the door, my pupils shrunk. There I beheld the great power of the top. The roof. Knowing not many people have been to this point. I entered through the door. Into the abyss of light. Well, it was raining so it kind of sucked, but it was worth it.

The system: through the door, there is a flat rooftop with borders. It looks a lot higher up than when you look up from the ground. The floor is covered with a bed of small rocks spread out over all of the levels of the roof. That's right, there is more than just one roof. There are two more levels. When I finally reached the very top, I was a little lower than the chimney that accompanies the loading dock on the ground. Ahhh, deep thought time. It actually rarely occurs when I talk like this, so bear with me.

THE VIEW Continued on 12

NY MINUTE From 8

jeans, I'd get laughed off the face of the planet and have to scrape up the remains of my so-called life and move to (shudder)Iowa. But those STOOPED twins get whatever they want, and a fan base made up of 10 year old girls and creepy old men counting down to their 18th birthdays to go with it. I bet I'd be famous if I had a twin... (mumbles angrily)

You'd think that the whole billionaire, "the cost of this casual shoe I'm wearing could feed a third-world village for 3 months" thing would satisfy them. But no, they still have to act. Oh, my. Just GIVE UP. Why hang on to something (in their case, talent) that isn't, and never will be there? They run around half naked, hit on ugly



BOOK REVIEW From 6

book is inspiring.

#2 Peeling the Onion

By Wendy Orr

This is a great book that makes you appreciate the life you have. Anna Duncan, a senior in high school, gets into a life-changing car accident, breaking her neck, ankle, and thumb, causing her brain damage and emotional pain. She used to be on top of the world, and now all she can do is sit around the house, with a neck brace on trying to pass year twelve in just one year. She feels like her body is against her and she's losing friends. She just wants to give in to the blackness that is pain. But her family and her true friends keep her going. She is discovering the real Anna Duncan, the one beneath all the layers.

Wendy Orr probably did such a good job writing this book in the eyes of Anna because she had a similar accident that changed her life. She can make you feel like you're in Anna's shoes, feeling the emotional and physical pain, discovering the real you. This book made me feel grateful for my life, and a little scared of cars.

Peeling the Onion is a higher level than Stargirl, and it talks a little about sex, but not a lot. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes traumatic stories of accidents, heart breaks, and truthfulness. This book deals with many things that I can relate to, and it would be a shame if you didn't read this book.◊

boys, look confused, and scream. That's quality acting, right there.

So, now that I've gotten all that off my chest, it's now the time for dearest Chloe to give this movie a rating. I give New York

Minute 1/8 of a star, just because Eugene Levy and Dr. Drew were in it. But if I was being too subtle, I advise you not to see this movie. No, wait, I ORDER you not to see this movie. Save yourselves, please, and plot out some assassination plans while you're at it.◊

UNREAL From 8

weapon-specific crosshairs. The level music also matched the surrounding more, be it a quick and dirty fight to the death or a full-scale siege. Aesthetics receive a score of .9 of 1.

In the Assault game type, your team and your opponents re-create famous historical battles from the Unreal Tournament storyline. After each scenario, the teams switch and the raiders become the defenders and vice versa. It was a rather confusing at first, but the walkthrough cinematic provided should help alleviate that. The AI was a little too good, even with the ample cover provided. A new feature of the game looks to be strategically placed weapon lockers and shield packs. It's much more fun than the shield gun and assault rifle one starts with. Assault mode has serious potential, though it baffled the dickens out of me. It gets a .6 of a possible 1.

Next, I decided to give Onslaught a go. In this game mode, you and your team have a power core that they have to connect to power nodes along a circuit, eventually leading to the opponent's side to make their power core vulnerable to destroy it. This was my first experience with the vehicles of UT 2004. They are so incredibly awesome. One enters them by pressing (of all things) 'Enter'. There are hovercrafts, tanks, helicopters, fortified humvees and what looks like a monster truck with a military weapons cache attached to it. Some of the vehicles require more than one person inside. For example, the first person into a Hellbender is the driver, the second takes the top third in controls the rear gun. This adds a new level of team work to the game that I haven't yet seen in another FPS (first-person shooter).

Concerning the Onslaught mode itself, the vehicles added new depth to the game that the game lacked with only ten or so differ-

ent guns in Deathmatch. With the addition of the vehicles, the fighters themselves have access to new weapons like the grenade launcher and mine layer. When I figured out what to do, I was sometimes able to help my team before being blown up by a leviathan. I'd like to give Onslaught a 1 but the Raptor and Manta were kind of a pain in the ass to pilot. Onslaught gets a .9 out of 1.

What would UT be without Capture the Flag? It's fairly straightforward. Fight your way through the enemy base, nab their flag, get back to your base before getting fragged. Your own flag must be present at your base to constitute a capture. This is a classic among FPS games, making an appearance in UT, Quake, and Halo, maybe more. The maps are still simple to navigate, though the darkness in some levels may require you to play in pitch black conditions or turn the gamma (brightness) up in the game. I myself kept plummeting off the center bridge and couldn't figure out why until turning the gamma up a bit. The weapons remain the same but there are new maps available to play on, one of them designed for a 1v1 game. CTF is still loads of fun, the new weapons and maps keeping a classic game fresh. CTF receives .8 of 1.

Bombing Run returns after a successful debut in UT 2003. There's a ball in the center of a large map with goals on either side of the court that teams defend. You win by scoring touchdowns and field goals, by jumping through the hoop with the ball or tossing it through, respectively. The player holding the ball cannot attack, but you can pass the ball to a teammate long enough to frag anyone in your way. UT 2004 doesn't offer that much new material to Bombing Run other than a couple new weapons (sniper rifle and grenade launcher) and new maps. The AI has been enhanced a bit, it seems, making them a cheap pain in the ass sometimes but it encourages better planning and teamwork. Bombing Run gets a score of .8 of 1.

Deathmatch, the entire point behind Unreal Tournament. Classic fighters, new weapons, new incarnations of classic maps like Hyperblast, Morpheus and Flux. Improved AI brings strategy back into massive brawls and the map included in the demo is even named after a classic fighter, Rankin. Another bonus: Xan is back! Players of the first UT remember him as the final boss of the Challenge ladder, talking mad smack every time he killed you. Except this time around, he's got his own team. Hell yeah.

Though available in many modes, the rocket launcher's improved performance is difficult to appreciate more than in Deathmatch. You can now make the usually easy-to-dodge line of rockets into a tightly grouped spiral, also making for a beautiful explosion, especially when it takes out the entirety of the opposing force. Unreal Tournament is going to live a long time. Deathmatch, .9 of 1.

If I were to judge a game entirely by its demo, I'd say that Unreal Tournament 2004 is worth rushing out and buying right now. However, not everyone is me and you'll have to take a look for yourself. I've seen screenshots of the full game that suggest you actually have to manage your team, healing their injuries and paying them for their service. So much for "Unreal Tournament lacks strategy." It's taken a noticeable upswing and if Epic's past performance is any indicator, we can look forward to more excellent titles. The download for the demo of Unreal Tournament 2004 can be found in the downloads section of <http://www.unrealtournament.com/> and the full game can be purchased at most major electronics retailers like Best Buy, CompUSA, Electronic Boutique and probably Target and K-Mart. Wal-Mart is the devil, stay the Hell away from it. Also give eBay a try, if you have serious patience. gl, hf.♦

THE VIEW From 11

From the top, you can see over the trees that encase Open School's community and neighborhood. Ever go to the grocery store and see broccoli stacked up? That is what the trees seem like: vast seas of green speckled with the gray roof tops and the red, brick chimneys of the many residences. Blue water towers engulfed in the blue and white of the clouds as the horizon peaks up from the void, along with the black silhouette of the occasional bird, it is a sight to behold.

Atop of the High Bridge, multiple cars cross. From behind, you can see Children's Hospital. Littered below, are birds in the field, cleaning up the remains of the fun times and laughter. The wind passes through the ladder rail like time. Ahhhh, the sun comes out. Everything I mentioned turns a shade of orange. The birds don't hold their faceless, formless features, and develop colors. Windows come open in the hospital, as children rise and shine. Doesn't this sound nice?

Okay, I will cut the crazy talk. The roof is great, got it? That is all I have to say. Now you don't have to go up there! I just described everything there is to know.♦

