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Staff braces for retirements

Natalie Iwaszek
Staff Writer

Open School will be very different in a few years. Greg, Mary Kay, Rita, Julie and Bridget are all planing on retiring in the near future. Greg and Mary Kay this year, Julie in June of 2006 and Bridget in the next four years.

Rita Ives has been teaching at Open School for 15 of her 20 years teaching. For a long time she was the kindergarten teacher and then in the past couple of years she has been the ELC music teacher. People have enjoyed all her classes.

"It was always lots of fun because she always had us sing and put on fun little plays, and she was really nice," said senior Clara Iwaszek, who was in her kindergarten class 13 years ago.

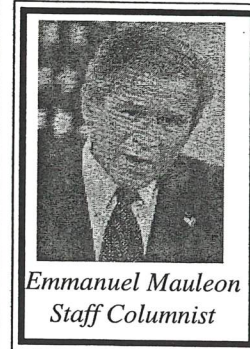
Now at the end of this school year, the fantastic teacher Rita will retire. When retired she plans on buying an R.V. and traveling with her husband to visit state and national parks where they will hike, bird watch,

and enjoy the beautiful nature. She would also like to spend more time with her family. She feels honored to have been a part of all these teachers' and students' lives, and will miss all the friendships she has made. With that in mind she says she will probably stay connected with Open. The friendships are not all she'll miss. She will also miss the tremendous sense of accomplishment she gets from teaching all of the students, and of course the smiles and hugs.

Mary Kay Casey has been the school clerk for eleven years. "I almost made it to graduation," she said. Other than just being the school clerk, she's done so much more. She does general office work, helps the staff and students, performs all the "other duties as assigned," serves as equipment repair person, is the school nurse when ours is not here, and so much more.

Mary Kay's first impression of the school
OPEN'S FUTURE Continued on 7

Slacking 101



Dude. So I was chillen' at History Day, and yelling at other children, realizing I had just wasted my entire Sunday, other than the pin I made that said "I thoroughly enjoy the company of

small children." That's right. Anyway, so I was sitting, and I realized, "Wow, I missed an entire week of school, then came back and missed all my classes for half a week, and so now because I worked so hard I'm ending up doing the worst job in school that I have done for the entire year."

Open School Urban Legend #1. We are a school for mentally impaired and bad kids. I can't prove this wrong, but I will say there are some bad kids that get their work done, and there are some other kids that have mental problems and get their
URBAN LEGENDS Continued on 8

The friendly blue giant

Andrew Hoaglund
Staff Writer

There is a big blue metallic object outside of Open School. Near the basketball court is where this blue, box-like giant resides. Like an Iron Giant (bad movie), it watches over the children of St. Paul Open School. Many ask what is that thing guarded by the fence? Well, I have done some research, and I have found out that it is a dust collector. Yes, this mystery has been solved. It stands twenty feet high, and it also cleans Greg's room, like kidneys in the bloodstream. The dust collector first made its impacting appearance in the summer of



1996 before the school year. Being a mere ELCer at the time, I had no direction in life. Don't get me wrong, I still have no direction, but I am in SLC now. Back to the point.

The dust collector has been a part of so many lives, and has touched many. Just like Michael Jackson.

Painted blue, it is the heart of Open School. It's constant wailing is a symbol of healthy lungs and keen spirits. "It is cool and it sucks the dust out of stuff," said 10th grader Jim Witt. Yes it does Jim, that is its
BIG BLUE Continued on 7

The Ear

Angie has some problems with the latest in reality TV: page 4

Ian rememebers the Sega Genesis, fondly: page 5

See Chloe's take on 13 Going on 30: page 6

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Adult to Blame

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Seven Teams Compete at State History Day

Seven Open School teams competed at the State History Day competition on May 2nd at the University of Minnesota. Although no teams will be representing Open School at the national competition, two teams came close by advancing to the second round.

"It went great," said coach Susanne Hollingsworth.

Emmanuel Mauleon and Tony Cavanaugh advanced to the second round with their video presentation about hip hop and its influence. Also advancing to the second round was Dustin Kleingartner, who produced a video about the history of the electric guitar.

Other students competing included:

Maggie Karl and Nicole Downey (video — the relationship between the Ojibwe and the Dakota before the Civil War), Sean Keith and Geoff Freeman (video — the history Open School), Liam Shramko (video — Keith Rovaag and the split in the Democratic party), Mackenzie Byrne (exhibit — the CIA and the Hmong), and Anna Blyly-Strauss and Chloe Taipale (exhibit — Auschwitz).

In spite of the hard work, long hours, and some very frustrating computer problems, Susanne remains excited about the school's prospects for next year. She said her main goal for next year is to, "Try and get more students, because it's fun."

Prom A Success

This year's prom was held at the Kelly Inn on April 30th. Teachers in attendance included Arturo, Tom, Luke, Marianna, and Matt; Tim and Leo were both dressed to the nines in their Carleton letter jackets.

This year, instead of having Roger be our DJ, the company sent over a different guy, and the general response was favorable. Also, the spread of food was stupendous! Most prom goers had a good time, though, next year, "it would have been better if it wasn't the night of the playoffs game," junior Serena Anderson stated. Other than that, good job Student Government! And the best part is, Shmuel wore a Tux!

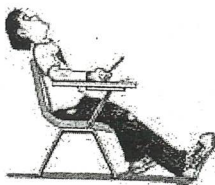
Senior Corner

Now that the year is finally drawing to a close, many of our seniors are making concrete plans for next year:

- Clara Iwaszek will be attending the University of Minnesota Twin Cities Campus along with Mee Xiong.
- Aaron Izaksonas-Smith and Joe Levine will both be going to the University of Minnesota, Morris.
- Geoff Wessendorf will travel to Gustavus Adolphus.
- Sierra Blakely will leave home for the Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington.
- Lizzie Shramko will be traveling in the opposite direction, when she leaves for New York University in New York City.
- Justin Gilliland is planning to go to Concordia next year.

Four Plays For Coarse Actors





Soua Yang

Years at Open: 6 years

Extracurricular activities: History Day, Student Government, and Newspaper

Senior Profile



What are you planning to do next year?

I am going to college, but I don't know where yet.

What will you miss most about Open?

I will miss the teachers.

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

Abarat by Clive Barker

What is your favorite class in high school?

SDL or math.

If you could have a superpower, what would it be?

To read people's minds.

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

An accountant.

If you could meet one person dead or alive, who would it be?

J. K. Rowling.

Harry Connick Jr. puts umph into jazz

Cami Rosas

Staff Writer

For many people, Cinco de Mayo was a day of Mexican parades and perhaps a little tequilla. But for the people at Northrop Auditorium, it was all about Harry Connick Jr.. On May 5th Harry and his big band graced Minneapolis with their presence once again. I was fortunate enough to have gone and experienced a historical night in music. I sat in my chair, next to a big, fat, bald guy and thought to myself, this is a concert worth sharing.

Now, I'm not all about rock music. There's other stuff out there and jazz was the first form of rebellious music. Harry Connick Jr.'s form of jazz, though, is just a little bit more swingin'. He adds just a little bit more umph and puts his New Orleans stank on it. Which is a great thing.

The concert was awe inspiring. I mean, you go and see some band and they don't seem very into it. But with these guys you can tell that they're loving every second. They're happy to be playing, to be with each other, and to have such an adoring audience

as well. Around the third song, or so, his drummer, Arthur Latin II picked up his sticks and walked over to the piano. There he began drumming on the piano and the band went into a song about New Orleans.

In this song, trumpet player, Leroy Jones got to show off his vocal talents as Harry took it away on the piano. At the end of the song, Arthur went into what seemed like a 10-minute drum solo. Only

it wasn't on the drums, it was on the piano! I'll tell ya, I've heard the piano was a percussion instrument...but I've never seen it played quite that way. It almost seemed to go on for too long, but it was amazing none the less.



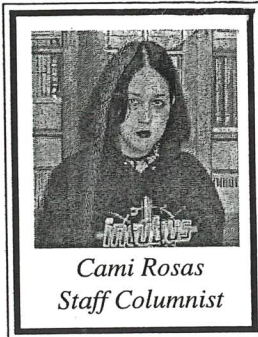
In another song one of the lyrics was, "they don't cook with pork fats like we do." After that song Harry asked the audience if they cooked with pork fats. Then he said, in a Minnesotan accent, "No, no. We got some pop though." Poking fun at how we Minne-kids say pop. "Down in New Orleans, we always said Coke. Even if we were talking about 7 Up. We'd say, 'hey, go get me a Coke,' and they'd come back with a Sprite or Root Beer." To which Leroy Jones said, "Barq's root beer."

As we all know, Harry Connick Jr. is talented, beautiful, and, above all, extremely funny. He told us all about how he's been answering people's questions with irrelevant, random Sean Connery quotes lately. Like, someone will ask him how he likes Minneapolis and he'll say something like, "...you've got the wrong Quartermain." Or someone will ask him how many times he's been here and he'll say, "Welcome to the rock."

HARRY Continued on 6

Opinions 'n' Stuff

My Little Deadsy



I was looking through my CD collection one day, trying to get some sort of inspiration to write. Then I saw a little blue disc and realized, "Oh dip, oh snap, I haven't written about the maddest

crunk band in the wizzorl'd yet!" I swear I really said that. The band I'm talking about, the tiggity-tightest, mind you, is of course Deadsy. You're probably thinking, "jigga-who?" That's right, I said Deadsy, sucka!

Deadsy is a band of five men with infinite talent. If one lost an arm Deadsy would diminish and the world would have no point. Hate to get all dramatic on you guys, but it's the only way you'll learn. Deadsy started around 1995 and didn't really get a record out until 2000. With the help of Jonathan Davis and his Elementree label, they were able to realease their official debut disc Commencement and get their single, "Key To Gramercy Park" aired on radio stations all

over the U.S.. They joined KoRn and Puddle of Crudd, excuse me, Mudd, on their U.S. tour called the Tour With No Name. I was a big KoRn junkie back then and I actually went to that show. I went in the Target Center a KoRn fan and came out much more of a Deadsy fan. I was a Legion! (That's Deadsy talk for "fan".)

After that night, I was all, "Deadsy this and Deadsy that." By the time you're done with this article you'll be all, "Deadsy this and Deadsy that." And then we can all get together and be like, "Deadsy this and Deadsy that." I'm sorry. I'll stop saying that. I was just hoping to brainwash you by saying Deadsy a lot. That won't work, though, so I guess I'll just have to sell them to you a different way.

Deadsy is fronted by the spawn of Cher. His name is Elijah Blue Allman, but you may call him Phillips Exeter Blue 1. He sings, very low, I might add, and plays guitar with his strings tuned just as low. Elijah is so superior to any other rockstar that he has to drink actual ancient monks. Now, that may sound gross, but it's not exactly how it *DEADSY Continued on 9*

Makeover shows revolting

Angie Hausladen
Staff Writer

So this woman walks on stage to the table of all the plastic surgeons and people that are there to help her. Before each of the girls walk into the room, the plastic surgeons watch an interview with the girls about what they think they need done and what has happened to them in their lives. The first thing they tell her is that admitting that she looked like a witch was the best thing she could have done. I mean honestly, talking badly about yourself is considered a good thing? I don't think so and that's exactly what I have been seeing on the new plastic surgery shows.

The Swan is about a beauty pageant. To get into this beauty pageant, they pick people who they think would benefit the most from plastic surgery. Then, when they bring you in, they tell you what's wrong with you and the plastic surgery you would need. On every episode there are two "ugly ducklings"

that they put through a lot of surgery and whoever looks better at the end goes on to the pageant.

Okay, now I understand that some people want to get a whole new look, and will do anything to get it, which sadly includes getting surgery to do so. I'm not trying to say that all plastic surgery is bad, but the problem with it is that they broadcast it on national television. Instead of putting the message out there that looking better than you already do makes you a better person, maybe we should be teaching today's kids, that everybody looks great the way they already are, and possibly that what's inside is what really counts. Honestly now we all know that a lot of things are based on your looks already today, do we really need to emphasize this anymore by telling people that they

THE SWAN Continued on 7

Mean Girls

Chloe "The Princess" Taipale
Staff Writer

Just when you think it's safe to go to the movies again, the unholy soul of, dare I say it, Lindsay Lohan rears its ugly head once again.

This time, it's in *Mean Girls*, a movie about how much high school sucks and how the chillin' in it don't make it any better.

Mean Girls is about Cady (Lohan), a girl who just moved from Africa and is starting her first "real school" after a lifetime of rewarding home schooling. She meets two outcasts, Damian (Daniel Franzese), and Janis (Lizzy Caplan), who talk her into overthrowing the "Plastics," those girls in school you just love to hate, and de-throning their fair, smooth-haired leader.

Said leader is named Regina (Rachel McAdams), a rather... "female dog" kind of girl. Her cronies are Gretchen (Lacey Chabert), the bootay kisser, and Karen (Amanda Seyfried), the stupid one.

So Cady "becomes" one of the Plastics, hanging out with them and then laughing about all the mean things they say with Janis and Damien afterwards. They plot evil things like replacing Regina's face wash with foot lotion and giving her Swedish weight-gainy bars (after good ol' Reggie finds out about this, we have to sit through a good 10 seconds of high pitched shrieking, and I had a headache already. Boy, was that fantastic) so she can't fit into her winter formal dress.

But slowly, ever so slowly, Cady really is becoming a Plastic, and she takes part in some horrible skanky Santa dance for the school's winter talent show. Damien also serenades us with a lovely and soulful rendition of "Beautiful," the X-Tina song with the uplifting message that really makes you feel kinda depressed anyway, and the Math Club dude does this rapping thing... which is pretty cool. I think Chloe has a new idol.

MEAN GIRLS Continued on 8



Dreamcast revolutionary

Micheal Griffin
Staff Writer

About three and a half years ago, there was this nifty little device called a Dreamcast. It was produced by a company called Sega, now bought out by the conglomerate Nintendo. September 9, 1999 was its official release in the US and ran for about \$200. The Dreamcast made its way to Europe in October 1999 while the Japanese, having invented the Dreamcast, were playing with them since November of 1998.

The Dreamcast was revolutionary. It was the first 128-bit system the US had seen. Prior to the Dreamcast, the best console available was the Nintendo 64 which, in my opinion, just wasn't all that great. As it was produced by Nintendo, the game selection was incredibly limited and controller shape just bothered me a lot. I think the Dreamcast is the second best console system released in the US, the first of course going to the PlayStation 2. So why did the Dreamcast die as soon as it was on the market? A quick survey of Merrfolk (users of the Merr message board; Entachai Ange and

Al'x) concluded that it must've been poor marketing, and possibly the unnecessarily large controller. "They needed to convince people it was worth it to not wait for a Playstation 2. By the time PS2 came out, people realised, 'Oh my God, this is worse than I expected'," observed Al'x.

I've owned a Dreamcast for a little over a year now and I'm quite happy with it. It was even cooler once I got the proper batteries for the memory cards and was able to play with them like Tamagochis. The memory card (or VMU) is required for some games but other times it's just a cute feature/helpful bonus. In a game called Sonic Adventure, there

are small creatures called Chao that you need to raise and train to complete the game. The VMU helps you do this outside the game itself, also giving you something to do when you're desperately seeking stimulation. "The VMU is definitely my favorite feature," Entachai Ange of Merr decided.

DREAMCAST Continued on 10



Sega Genesis still the best

Ian Molloy-Busse
Staff Writer

X-Box, PS2, Gamecube, these game consoles are the most advanced on the market. Some would say they are the best you can get, I disagree. I think the Sega Genesis is the best game platform in existence. With games like Sonic the Hedgehog 1, 2, and 3, Sonic and Knuckles, Shining Force, Mortal Kombat, Comix Zone, Vectorman and Streets of Rage it makes up what it lacks in graphics with superior game play.

Nowadays it seems that if you make a game it needs to be flashy and have the highest quality animation ever. The Sega Genesis isn't flashy and it doesn't have the best

graphics, but it has superior games. They may not be the top of the line, but they have good plots (mostly). It boasts 16-bit graphics, a simple three-button controller, and two player modes for most games.

The Sega Genesis made its debut in 1989 and swept the nation, rapidly gaining popularity. The Genesis is no longer produced but you can pick one up for between \$16 and \$20 at a used game store and the games are about five bucks each. If

you don't want to spend that much you can find emulators on the Internet. You can also get Sega games on compact disc for your computer.

GENESIS Continued on 6

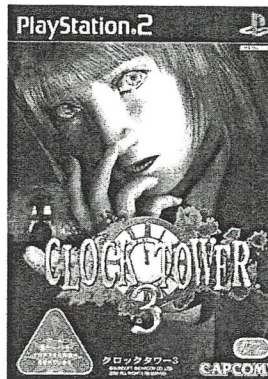


Clock Tower

Quinlan Miller
Staff Writer

There are a lot of scary games being released nowadays, but nothing compares to the Clock Tower series. Clock Tower 3 has been out for some time now on the Playstation 2, but it will not be a game to just throw aside. The graphics are pretty good for its age, but the story line is the best part. The game play is exciting, and there is never a second your heart isn't pounding to see what happens next.

The game plot focuses on a girl named Alyssa who gets a letter from her mother saying to go into hiding. The girl, not listening to her mother, goes back to her home in England. Inside she runs into a strange man that tells her that her mother won't be coming back. After Alyssa gets too scared from piano music playing from somewhere, she runs away and goes through a portal sending you into the action-packed part of the game. This is all I'm telling you about the



game, the rest of you will have to find out on your own.

The whole point of the game is to run away from dead people while trying to solve these mysteries. The dead people in

the game killed a long time ago and you're trying to help the ghost of who they killed. You walk around looking for clues, and the more you find out, the faster the dead people get.

If anything, this game would get a 10 out of 10 rating on the the cool Quin-o-meter. The great story line and intense game play has your jaw hanging while you scream for your life. You might be thinking "It wouldn't make me scared," but you're wrong. There is no one I know that will play this game while they're alone. And a tip, use the bathroom before you play, and in the game, always look for hiding spots. They can save your life if you're being chased.

If you do not own a copy of Clock Tower 3, I strongly suggest getting one. This game is one of the most unique games I've played or seen in my life, and chances are that you will love it, especially if you are a horror lover.◊

Something for everybody

Chloe "The Princess" Taipale
Staff Writer

Ahh, to be a young, uncool, bra-stuffing teenager with a stalker neighbor... who wouldn't want that life? Well, in the new movie *13 Going on 30*, we find a lone soul who's unhappy living that way. Shame. Shame, little girl, shame.

13 Going on 30 is about Jenna (Christa Allen), a wee 13-year-old girl who's a little bit popularity-starved (she tells her buddy "I don't want to be original, I want to be cool"). She wants to be one of the "6 chicks," the most popular girls in school, but her best friend Matt is a loser-face, and they don't like that... Which is understandable, because Matt is a little stalker! He always carries around a camera and takes pictures of Jenna doing things like walking to her house after school and makes her a "Jenna Dream House" for her birthday, featuring a tiny cardboard cutout of Jenna in the bathtub (if that's not creepy, I don't know what is). He also sprinkles some glitt-- I mean "wishing dust" on the house so that all of Jenna's

dreams will come true or some crap like that.

But anyhow, the six chicks come to Jenna's birthday party (on the agreement that Jenna would write a paper for them) and bring some hawt boiz with them. They persuade Jenna to play 7 Minutes in Heaven, and when she's blindfolded in the closet waiting for a hawt boi, they all leave. Jenna acts like a jerk to Matt, and sits all alone in the closet, crying and wishing she was "30, flirty, and thriving." Some of the wishing dust from the Dream House (which she so carelessly tossed in the closet before the party) falls on Jenna's head, and I bet you don't know what happens next.



The next day, Jenna wakes up in a strange apartment, in a strange body, and is being chased by a strange naked man. Jenna discovers she's now 30. Jennifer Garner now takes over the role.. I personally find it disgusting when actors play characters with their same
13 GOING ON 30 Continued on 10

The Distillers mature

Katie Hurley
Staff Writer

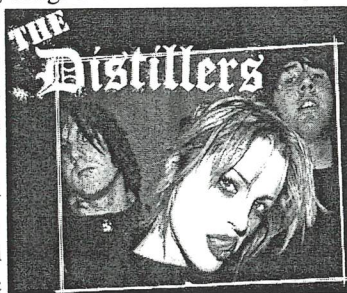
The Distillers new CD **Coral Fang** was released October 14th of 2003. Coral Fang sounds a lot different than their previous CD **Sing Sing Death House**. Coral Fang has slower, more depressing songs such as "The Gallow Is God" and "Love is Paranoid." It's about love and how love sucks, cause it's true. Some of it is still heavy like "Dismantle Me" and "Die on a Rope," and it's about death. Whereas **Sing Sing Death House** was more energetic and angry all the time, like Brody Dalle had 6 energy drinks and just got in to a fight with a cheerleader.

The band consists of Brody Dalle: vocals and guitar, Tony Bradly: vocals and guitar, Andy Granelli: drums and Ryan Sinn (great last name): bass and vocals. The music has matured and is slightly slower and more de-

pressing because Brody Dalle used to be married to Rancid front man Tim Armstrong. There were more problems in the band though, I'm sure.

The CD, despite the change of pace, is still punk and kicks major butt!! Brody still has the hard-core screaming and the guitars are loud. The drumming is fast and the bass is there. "Our music has matured on this album...though we haven't, we're still a punk band, we still play punk music, and we still hate you!" said Brody Dalle. YAY!!!

This cd is worth about \$16.50 because I like the energetic and angry Distillers. I don't like it as much as **Sing Sing Death House**. Punk lovers should buy The Distillers CD's if they already haven't. Anyways my homies!! I have to go.◊



HARRY From 3

Another thing was, after he finished telling a limmerick about Target and self-esteem, a lady in the audience asked him for a kiss and, by golly, she got it. That reminded him about "this other freak at a show the other night." Before he began this story he asked if there were any kids under 15 in the audience. There were some appluase and he just said, "Earmuffs!"

Apparently, some lady in a negleje came up on the stage and asked him to play "It Had to Be You" simply because it was her birthday. He shared with us that he is absolutely sick of that song, but he did it anyway. Then she laid down on his piano and did some sort of creepy crawl towards him. To his surprise, she stuck her tongue out (which he describes, "like something from the discovery Channel.") and straight for his face. So he turned his head and said, "No tongue, now." And she said, "No. Tongue."

He also shared his concerns that this lady was probably crawling with some sort of disease. I never laughed so hard. Well...perhaps I had, but not lately. It's things like that that really make you appreciate your dignity.◊

GENESIS From 5

Sonic The Hedgehog is probably the most well known game for the Sega Genesis. In it you play as Sonic the hedgehog and try to save your peaceful island home from the evil Dr. Robotnik. Dr. Robotnik is enslaving all your animal friends and making them fight in his army. Sonic jumps on them and somehow that releases them from their robotic prison.

Vectorman is another very well-known game and possibly the best game in existence. In it you play as Vectorman, a drone sent to clean up the earth in the future. You need to blast your way through



level after level of monsters to finally face the boss.

Streets of Rage is not as well known but it is a great game nonetheless. The object of the game is to regain control of a part of the city that has been taken over by a gang. In it you may play as Adam, Axel, or Blaze. You are an ex-cop and a renegade doing whatever is necessary to beat the gang into submission. Streets of Rage was originally an arcade.◊

OPEN'S FUTURE From 1

was good, "I started after the first week of school and was pleasantly surprised at how helpful everyone was and how soon I felt a part of the Open Community."

Now she will be having her very last day of work on June 30th, then retiring on July 1st. After she retires, she and her husband, Tom, are planing on moving to a northwestern part of Wisconsin, where their house will be ready and waiting by the middle of June. She'll do yard work and plans on doing whatever she wants whenever she wants. "This will be the first time in my life that option is available to me." She would also like to spend time with family. "It goes without saying that I'll relish time with my three-year-old granddaughter, Kami."

When she's gone she will miss her co-workers and the students, but also multi-tasking, she says she won't know what to do with only one thing going on at a time.

"She's professional, without her the school will probably fall to pieces." said 11th grader Aaron Schutjer.

Julie Doble, the science teacher, has been working at Open for 20 of her 34 years teaching. She is in charge of Outward bound, Roller-skating, Valley Fair, the plant sale, tastes tests, community service, and interim (with Jeff). Most likely someone will take over all the important things Julie does.

When retired Julie plans on buying an RV and touring the country for at least three months. She is going to miss the kids and the cool things like outward bound and in-

terim most.

Julie's first impression of Open School was that the students were the most open and they wanted to learn, and were easy to get to know, making it fun for her to teach the stuff she loves. Now all these years later her mind hasn't been changed. Maybe that's why she wants to stay in touch. She hopes to volunteer with a program such as HOSTS and will most definitely go to the graduations while she still knows the students

How does she feel about retiring? "Conflicted - excited for my future, but I'll REALLY miss the staff and students."

Bridget Martin has taught in Malawi Africa, was a drama couch and tutor in Spain, and was a community liaison in the West Side schools for eight years. Now for the past six years she has been our English and drama teacher. She also directs and produces all the school plays. She doesn't plan on retiring as soon as Julie, it's more like within four years.

Missing the family atmosphere, the students, the fun things like D.I. and theater, the energy and the staff, are just some of the reasons she wants to stay connected with Open when she retires. She plans on traveling so where she is will determine how she stays in touch.◊

THE SWAN From 4

are better people after they get these makeovers?

Like I said before I'm not totally against plastic surgery in cases like when people need breast reductions because they're having back or breathing issues, or if someone was in a fire or a car accident. On the other hand, people are taking it way too far now a days; I'm talking about when people go and get total facial reconstructed surgery and total body reconstruction. That's taking it a bit too far.

In *The Swan*, before they make you over as it is called-even though it seems to me like making a whole new person-they bring the girl out and tell her all the things that are wrong with them. On one of the episodes the plastic surgeons told the girl all the things that she needed to fix, but instead of taking all of the procedures that the doctors recommended, she turned down a couple of them

because she wanted to keep some of the features that her daughters have. The surgeons told her that it was a big mistake, a big mistake to want to look like her daughters. I mean that's just wrong.

Now I'll even admit that I enjoy watching these shows once in a while, but to back them up would be a very difficult thing for me to do. I'm not trying to tell you what to do or what to watch, but the next time that you turn on one of these plastic surgery shows, just think about two things for me: One, that the message is all wrong for people to be following, and two, where did individuality go? Remember when looking different used to be cool; now everybody is getting surgery to look perfect. I think that if everybody starts to look the same, which it is getting down to, the world would be a little boring!◊

BIG BLUE From 1

best function. "It's big, I can't find the words to describe my emotions," said 11th grader Dustin Kleingartner. I know what you mean. Most people can't Dustin, most people can't.

Is there something other than dust in the collector? Why is it so big? Is there really just dust in there? Bear in the Big Blue House, try bear in the big blue dust collector. "I wouldn't be surprised if there was," said 9th grader Norman Beaudry. Maybe not Norman, but it does clean the air. Bears in dust collectors, what a laugh.

The dust collector's manufacturer is surprisingly local. Minneapolis based, they are a company by the name of Donaldson Industrial Air Filtration Products (Donaldson INC.). They ship their revolutionary air filters to places around the world. The other one I know of is in Baldwin Wisconsin, where I traveled for my story. They keep construction sites, warehouses, and stockyards dust free. You can check them out on the web at www.donaldson.com, where you can find information about industrial air filters. "We have designed the most efficient filtration technology, filter media and filter cartridges for all types of dust, fume and mist particulate." said the Donaldson website. "If You Need Assistance on filtration-related questions, product information, performance data, instructions or specifications call us at 888-338-3878."

You can hear the roar of the dust collector's groan in Greg's room. When the sawdust is flying, you can be sure that Greg yells "turn on the dust collector."

"It's like a vacuum. A really big vacuum," said veteran Open School teacher Greg Adams. I decided to do some investigating myself on how this "vacuum" works. It is a system of tubes in which the vacuum is distributed into each "station." Each station that has a tube on it, pulls air into it when the collector is turned on. Now, the tubes that are furthest away from the actual collector are weakest because all of the tubes are connected. Depending on the urgency of the need, the tubes nearest can be blocked allowing more power to the farther tubes, and vice-versa.

In dust, are small things called dust mites (*Dermatophagoides farinae*). They feed on skin flakes and other various objects. A wheeze you may feel are from dust mites' internal bodily juices of the critters' digestive system. Gross huh? Well, the dust collector gets most mites, and saw dust circulating in the open air, or is supposed to...◊

URBAN LEGENDS From 1

work done. Then there are kids like me and my partner who are failing classes BECAUSE we worked EXTRA hard. I'm gonna kill myself.

Open School Urban Legend #2. The senior who didn't get his letters done.

There is always a senior running around, tearing his hair out, crying on Elizabeth's shoulder. Why? Because an ELCer kicked him off the computer to finish a very important game of... Zoomini's. Ok kid, I'm sure you couldn't find any other time to do your work. Grow up and quit complaining about a kid that is half your height. This goes the same for my fellow newspaper writers. Shut up, you're a slacker. See legend number one.

Open School Urban Legend #3. Things used to be free and easy, but now Pat the

bounty hunter is out to get you.

Get a life. If I hear about anyone else complaining about Pat hunting them down and harassing them in their class I'll punch them with my History Day ring in their face. Look,

why is Pat picking on you, and where is she picking on you? Is it when you are in the hallway loudly proclaiming how high you got during lunch? What, you don't have a response but some more whining? Check.

Open School Urban Legend #4. We don't have grades.

Ok, if you attend the school you already know that we have grades (no, not ABC, but 1-10. And this is worse, believe me, cause then Leo can add the magic words "Not up to your potential" and then your parents yell at you in the car), but I am always weary of telling others where I attend school, because I get this response: So, you don't have to do any work?...or... You don't have grades/homework? Yeah, I do have work, grades and homework. And I do have the ability not to do all of them. But guess what.... I won't pass. Shut up. Go back to Highland.

Open School Urban Legend #5. Interim used to be a three week vacation to Mexico.

It did. Get used to it. Since more kids have been slacking it has steadily decreased in size. If you actually completed all your work and impressed the teacher maybe we could have cool interim trips again. Leave me alone to my bourbon.

Open School Urban Legend #6. You can do absolutely nothing and still go to Harvard if you want.

I know you thought this, I know I thought this. We slap the little "Alternative School" sticker on our application packet and get into whatever school you want despite what your transcript says. The worst are the ones that are really smart... really really smart, do one paper for Leo the entire year (it was a good one I thought) and go to Harvard. Dude, now that I know how this works, I really need to stop slacking off in math.

Open School Urban Legend #7. We used to have kids play guitar in the hallway, twenty four seven.

No, Sean and Geoff still do this. Um, me and Jon Thurn and John Hendrickson hung out for a while and talked about how cool it would be to be ninja dinosaurs. I think we actually spent a whole day doing that. That was cool. Adrian, Marcos, Aaron and I started a barber shop quartet and sang for the people in the hallways for four SDL pe-

riods. Moving on.

Open School Urban Legend #8. You used to be able to make up new classes and teach them. This phased out my eighth grade year, I think, because people kept talking about it when I was in eighth grade. Alex Smith and I were going to teach

skate boarding one oh one. Then Sam Gleason decided it was better to teach beat boxing and freestyle class by ourselves in the kindergarten room while they were drinking their milks and eating crackers. Sam's best line said "Feeling out a place like a Christian kid celebrating Chanukah." Anyway, you can't make them anymore, blame it on brain cancer.

Open School Urban Legend #9. Open is run like a prison now.

Ok, yeah, it's changed, it keeps changing, and no, you don't have many of the same old freedoms, but shut up. Here are a few things that you have that other schools wouldn't even consider:

1. Food
2. Drink
3. Music
4. Hallway access.

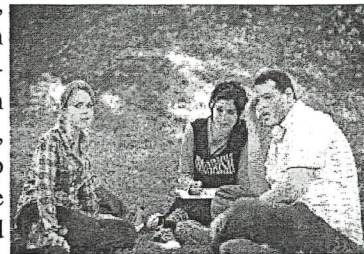
Get it, you've got a list of freedoms that

MEAN GIRLS From 4

But, moving along, Cady ends up having Janis and Damien hate her, and well, pretty much the whole student body, because the Plastic's "burn book," a book where you write really mean things about people and laugh about how hardcore you feel after, gets exposed to the public, and Cady's name is all over it. Then, it's the audience's turn to laugh as Cady's "Queen Bee" life slips right through her pale little fingers.

Now... (sigh)... Comes the hard part. It hurts me to say it, and I'll say it quiet, so lean in close. I like this movie. There's something so fluffy and "Crossroads"-y about it, but then,

like with an Uh-O h Oreo, you pop off the light and



crunchy top layer, and underneath there's the darker, smoother part, full of backstabbing, hoe boots, and naughty language (not to mention all the children getting hit by school buses in the movie, and all the school bus-related jokes laced into the plot). Now don't go getting any crazy ideas, this doesn't change the way I feel about Lindsay Lohan. I don't think she can act, she sure as granny's family sedan can't sing (don't ask me what that's supposed to mean, remember, this is me who's writing), and she just doesn't seem like a very nice girl. Still, this movie was okily-dokily, and by golly, I'll give it 3 5/7 of a star. My movie-going experience wasn't



that peachy, because I didn't have the smooth, calming taste of an energy drink to wake me up from my half asleep daze, and these obnoxious "OMG Becky puh-LEEZE" girls behind me wouldn't shut up OR stop kicking the back of my chair and I was THIS CLOSE to snapping like a twig and being all like, "Guuurl there's no 'i' in 'ugly' but there is a 'U'!". Still, that doesn't change my opinion on the movie, this one I actually recommend dropping in for.◊

URBAN LEGENDS Continued on 9

DEADSY From 4

sounds. He got some capsules from a monk who did some sort of blessing for him. These capsules were full of the ashes of a 1,000-year-old monk. Hmmm, well, I guess it is exactly how it sounds. I think he actually got several of these, but...I don't know. Just add water and you've got a thirst-quenching enlightenment, I guess.

That's one of the many things that makes Deadsy so unique. Mr.Blue is a riddle, wrapped up in a mystery, wrapped up in an enigma. The whole theme for the **Commencement** album was this sort of school boy/Freemason thing. Each band member has a color and a symbol to represent their pseudo-identity. How fun, right? Elijah Blue obviously is the blue one and his institutional role is "the eternal pupil."

The keyboardist (that's right...KEYBOARDS!), Renn Hawkey's pseudo-identity is Dr.Nner. His color is yellow and his institutional roll is "the good doctor." On drums, we have Alec Puro. His pseudo-name is Alec Pure, his color is green and his roll is "the Libertine." Then there's the bassist, Creature. Whose real name, we have learned, is Ashburn Miller. His color would be red and he's here to "expose what most are afraid of." Legend has it that he's really Dr.Nner's creation.

Last, but certainly not least, is, my favorite, Carlton Megalodon. His primordial color is grey and he's Deadsy's very own "Man-At-Arms." He plays a synth guitar, or a Z-tar. When he's not playing that he's usually kicking some major butt on the guitar. His real name is Carlton Bost and he happens to have another, less epic, more techno band called Lunarclick.

When Deadsy came to Minnesota for their third visit they were touring with Dredg and Taproot. I went with a friend and a brother and my world was rocked. The show blew me away and I was just happy enough to have seen them live. Afterwards, when we were driving past the back of the Quest we saw a familiar face packing up his bass. It was Creature. So My friend and I ran out of the car to meet him.

When we got to the back of the Quest some guy came up to us and was like, "Eh, you guys wanna meet Deadsy?" No, man, we want to use the bathroom. Duh, we wanted to meet them! So we were standing

around and my friends like, "where's Carlton?" I noticed that he was about two feet behind her. He he he, boy was she embarrassed. But anyways, I got to meet my favorite member of the band and my friend sort of violated Creature. You know why we were able to do this? Because they're not the kind of band that thinks they're too good for their fans. They stuck around after the show and talked with these people.

And when I talked to Carlton he grabbed me by the shoulders and started shaking me. All the while saying, "You've gotta spread the Deadsy gospel! You do! You do!!!" Actually, what he really said was, "I like your hair." But I took that to mean that he wanted me to spread the Deadsy gospel. So here I am. Spreading it like butter on the bread that is...you.

Currently they are working on their next CD called **Phantasmagore**. On their website, www.deadsy.com, you can listen to clips of some of the new material. So far I've heard great things about the progression of the CD. In an interview, Elijah Blue said that there's a new theme for this cd. Here's what he said:

"No more are the days of our

Prep school youth, we are graduates of Innocence, we are returning from dimensions yet to be uncovered...we are the survivors. We are unafraid, having been sucked in through the Vortex...we fought our way back to stand before you as we do now. Warriors under a pitch flag. United are the Legions, purveyors of the Phantasmagore. Unable are all to look away from our uniforms in black, bearing each of us the vertical color bars that are our allegiance. Five hearts, on our arms, the lower back of our left legs. Even upon the flesh. Red. Blue. Yellow. Green. Grey. Lest you forget who we are. Our clothes left worn, tattered, some stand even with shredded ends moving with the winds at daybreak. The sun will rise over our heads, we are an army undefeated. We prepare to continue our fight. We are the Legions of PHANTASMAGORE!"

Okay, so that's just a taste of how Phillips Exeter Blue 1 speaks. Every comment is really more of a manifesto. And every sentence is poetic. Well, what can you expect from the son of Cher?◊

URBAN LEGEND From 8

are better than anything I ever dreamed about. At my old school I got a detention once for chewing a piece of gum during class. Can you believe that? I came here and (in the words of Little Jon) "SKEETED" just realizing how cool it is. This ain't a prison. Reshonda home girl for life. Dogg.

Open School Urban Legend #10. This is the last one I could think of, so grab your sacks and hold on for the bumpy ride. Headphones. CD players. Stereos. None of this interferes with what your teachers are trying to tell you.

Ok, first of all, I'm just gonna blow the lid and say yeah it does. If you are like me you like to hear your music real loud so you'll be able to qualify for disability when you're deaf at 20. But that is beside the point. You cannot make out what the teacher is saying if all you got in your ears is "My milkshake brings all the boys to the yard..." (I saw you dancing to it too, we know you weren't doing the "I'm glad I just got an incomplete slip" dance). Oh, and if you have your headphones on your head and your teacher asks them to take them off you sound a bit stupid if you're like "Hey I don't even have any music on." Well, how are they supposed to know that. If you want them to think you aren't listening to music, take them off. And quit complaining, love your liberties, but too much is too much.

Oh, here's a very unofficial rumor. Leo goes out with every nurse we've had, but if you keep it between you and me, I have an unofficial story:

Alex and Patrick and I were on Randolph waiting for the 84 one fine afternoon, and who do we see drive by? Leo... with the nurse in the passenger seat. You know what else, he was driving a Jag and had a black tuxedo on. Back to the batcave batboy, the world has had a thorough glimpse of what's to come. Away!◊



DREAMCAST From 5

But just like any console system, it isn't entirely infallible. The memory cards just don't seem to hold enough for me, as I've got a Chao file (they take up a decent amount of space) and numerous files from games I've nearly completed. Another problem I have is the lack of game selection available. Hundreds of amazing games have been formatted for the Dreamcast, but many of them are incredibly hard to find, and even at the height of the Dreamcast's popularity, they were really expensive (\$50-60 each), and I really have no idea why people continue to pay that much for games these days, new release or not. Brand new releases should be no more than \$40 in the first month and immediately drop to \$20-30 afterward.

According to Entachai Ange, "The controller is way too big, and the X-Box has the same problem." "I dislike the controllers," agreed Norman. The controller, some think, could have been considerably smaller. It did bother me a bit, but in its defense, the shape was rather convenient and I never found my hands aching after long periods of play. Their shape does make them notoriously hard to clean when you get them greasy, so try not to eat anything when playing with them.

Sweating is also not recommended on the part of the gamer and the console itself builds up a decent amount of heat, so use in a cool, dry area. Aside from heat-related ailments

and difficulty of finding good games at affordable prices, my only other complaint is the skipping mine sometimes does when I'm listening to CDs on it, or the system failing to find the game disc. The solution to this is usually to open it up, remove the disc and gingerly wipe the lens with a Q-tip (DO NOT TRY THIS UNLESS YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY SURE OF WHAT YOU ARE DOING!!!!). Worked fine for me. Read the disclaimer once more, just so we're absolutely clear.

My final edict on the Dreamcast is that it's most definitely worth the \$100 or so that a used complete system will cost (console, additional controllers, games, VMUs, batteries, possibly keyboard and mouse if you're ambitious), just make sure you get they've got a customer-friendly return policy on hardware you purchase. Most of the big retailers like GameStop, Funco Land and their ilk tend to be pretty good, refurbishing and testing systems before they sell them, but accidents do happen. Simply make sure you can return the system if it doesn't work. eBay is a good place to find games for low cost, but check the shipping prices, make sure they aren't gouging. Also watch out for misleading item titles (some may say complete system while the description makes it clear it's just accessories or games). As they say in nerdy online games, "gl hf dd" (Good luck, have fun, don't die).♦

TOP TEN THINGS I'd Rather Do than Interim

10. Make beautiful sweet music with Elvis.
9. Make out with action figure hippos.
8. Ask Steven Segal how it's hanging.
7. Watch Christian Slater movies muted and play Britney Spears hits for the soundtrack.
6. Go to the Cleveland Wok, and sniff some chalk.
5. Watch "Three's Company" marathon.
4. Dig Burmese tiger pits with Liam.
3. Make out with your girlfriend, while humming the "Odd Couple" theme song.
2. Get some melanin donations without the harmful tan. And the number one thing I'd rather do than come to school during interim:
1. Catch bees and make bee kites, take a flight, ride a trike, smoke a pipe. You know, the kind that make blow bubbles.

13 GOING ON 30 From 6

name... I saw this and thought, "Oh God, she's like Tony Danza!" She finds out she's a big shot editor of a fashion magazine called Poise that's in a big story-war with arch rival Sparkle magazine. See, Poise will run a story like, "Hanson's 5 Biggest Secrets," and then Sparkle will come along and run one like, "Hanson's 8 Biggest Secrets." Later we learn that someone so dear to our hearts is behind that whole thang.

Jenna also hunts down Matt (played by Mark Ruffalo), realizes he's now a hawt boi, but is engaged. They share several tender moments anyway (Jerry! Jerry! Jerry!), and then Matt is getting all "Jenna or fiancée?" on us.

This movie was actually pretty good. I just really think it's entertaining watching small



children have emotional breakdowns in closets, but I'm sure those who don't will have fun in this movie too.

There's supposed to be this nice, wholesome lesson learned, but I'm pretty sure I missed it. I can tell you, though, it was probably along the lines of "Don't try too hard to be cool, and don't be a jerk to your best friend." I'm not sure how Jenna learned this lesson... she just did. Don't question. Hey, that rhymed.

Young Christa Allen acted really well, and I guess she couldn't help the fact that her character was a jerk. Jennifer Garner seemed a little... awkward playing a 13 year old girl, and you got the sense that she really didn't know what she was doing. It still worked, and the whole thing went pretty well otherwise.

I noticed a lot of middle-agers in the audience, maybe for that whole reminiscing thing that they tend to do. So if you're either young and want to be grown up, or are grown up and want to do that rubbing-your-chin, "Remember the good old days when...?" and the screen gets all wiggly like on TV thing like myself, you'll have fun at this movie. I give *13 Going on 30* 2 1/2 stars.♦