

# THE PURPLE PRESS

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2003

## Open abroad in Spain

Cameron Beidler  
Staff Writer

Somewhere between Toledo and Madrid I realized I was part of something special. On October 25th, 14 tired and jet lagged, kids returned from their 10-day escape to Spain. The trip had been in the works for over two years, and finally the students got what they paid for.

Everyone on the trip had a blast and most spent time putting their Spanish to good use and soaking up a culture. Though most people took a trip to the American Embassy more commonly known as

McDonald's. For some this was their first time out of the country; for math teacher Tom Totushek this was the first time east of Wisconsin.



When the group arrived from the transatlantic eight-hour flight to Madrid, everyone was beyond excited. Incidentally, the Madrid airport has a 14129 foot-long runway. The group spent the next two days

in Madrid learning about the history and culture of the country and its people.

The trip went just as planned. The  
*SPAIN Continued on 12*

## RIAA pillages plundering pirates

Mackenzie Byrne  
Staff Writer

Johnny Teenager likes his music. He likes it a lot but he doesn't have the cheese to pay for it. So what's a red-blooded American teenager of the information age to do? An easy hop on the net from the PC in his bedroom allows him to download file-sharing software, using networks like Kazaa, winMX, Limewire, Morpheus, or some other free swapping service, and in minutes he can download any song imaginable onto his computer. From there he can listen right away, copy to his portable digital music player, or burn onto a CD, all for free! No need for Johnny to go down to the record store and spend the allowance he saved up for a month on that new \*Sync album, he can go on the net and get just the songs he wants from it; or the whole dang thing. Super! He as more money for sex and drugs now that Rock 'n Roll is free.

Johnny is not alone in his digital music

serendipity. Computer-savvy teens all over the country are in on the free music hootanany, and this is believed to do have caused the overall downturn in the sales of music CDs over the past few years. As can be imagined, the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) was not too happy about this, so they shut down Napster, the first of the music file-sharing networks. This, however, did not stop the phenomenon, because you see, while downloading and providing copyrighted material (like \*Nsync songs) for others to download is illegal, providing a network to share files (that by the way need not be copyrighted) is not.

Because the networks are legal and there are so many, the RIAA has changed directions and is now targeting the users of these networks, like Johnny Teenager. In September  
*JOHNNY TEENAGER Continued on 8*

## Atmosphere

Tony Cavanaugh  
Staff Writer

"Hence forth/ step within my psycho analysis/ calluses upon my mind make me strain for my lines/ out I ripped it/ squeezed the brain/ it made some liquid/ drained it in a cup and then I sipped it/ Atmosphere."

I believe it was 4th grade on the bus to Valley Fair, the first time the words of Sean Daley graced my ears. But it wasn't on an album by Atmosphere, it was coming out of the mouths of Nick Smith and Will Dantuma, my elementary school hombres. Oh how I longed to spit the hot bars of Atmosphere just as they did, so the next step was to get Overcast!, Atmosphere's debut album. Roughly six years, four albums and one DVD later, their latest full length effort, Seven's Travels, was released on September 23rd.

Atmosphere MC Slug, AKA Seven, and producer ANT, are back once again with some good old fashioned emo hip hop (think rap Dashboard Confessional) that we have all grown to love. At first listen, I thought the album sucked, but after continuing to listen  
*SEVEN'S TRAVELS Continued on 8*

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**Are you ready to  
rock? Then see  
School of Rock**  
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**The Best of TV**  
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## The Purple Press Staff

### Editors

Ananda Wold  
Cameron Beitler  
Rachel Dauner

### Adult to Blame

Leo Bickelhaupt

# Halloween

Chloe "the princess" Taipale  
Staff Writer

The halls of Open School felt just a little bit spooky a few Fridays ago. Strange and disturbing images started appearing on doors, and the lights flickered on and off during passing time -- oh wait, that always happens.

So what was the cause of said spookiness? Well, that Friday the 31st was the day so many children eagerly await- Halloween.

The traditional Open School Halloween activities go as follows: A costume contest, somewhere around 2 classes (where I'm sure all the kids are paying attention), and then an SLC dance.

9th grader Cameron Christian came in 1st place in the SLC costume contest, dressing as his alter ego. Junior Ananda Wold came in 2nd dressed as a very fantabulous mermaid, and senior Shmuel Blyly-Strauss came in 3rd as the much underrated and very unpronounceable thingy with the steel armor.

[Insert ELC winners here]

Keyin Cooper came in 1st place in the staff costume contest, dressed as Jack, Kathy Hamilton came in 2nd dressed as the awesome Jamba Juice banana, and Jaminie Kellogg came in 3rd as the Cat in the Hat.

The dance went very nicely. All in all, this Halloween went pretty well, and I'll look forward to next year when Open celebrates this fantabulous holiday again.◊



## Kathy Sullivan, ELL teacher

### What made you come to Open School?

The ELL position I had at Webster changed to 1/2 time

### What are some things you like about Open School?

Students' helpfulness, the individuality of students

### Where were you working last year?

Webster

### What Jobs have you held, other than teaching?

Waitress, secretary

### Where did you go to college?

U of M

### Where are you originally from?

Duluth, MN

### How long have you lived in Minnesota?

All of my life

### What are some things you like to do outside of school?

Bike, travel, walk meet with friends

### If you could have lunch with three people, dead or alive, who would you choose?

Charles Darwin, Elizabeth Taylor, Elvis

### Please share one interesting tidbit about yourself...

I have a list of places that I've always wanted to visit, and I have been traveling to two of these places each year◊



## Marianna Sullivan, Counselor

### What made you come to Open School?

I was drawn to the diversity and experiential methods used here. It appears to be my "dream job."

### What are some things you like about Open School?

I like the feeling of community and connectedness between students, staff and parents

### Where were you working last year?

Park High School in Cottage Grove, MN

### What jobs have you held, other than teaching?

I was a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, which involved working with doctors, lawyers, and insurance companies as well as a lot of career counseling

### Where did you go to college?

Georgia State University

### Where are you originally from?

South Carolina

### How long have you lived in Minnesota?

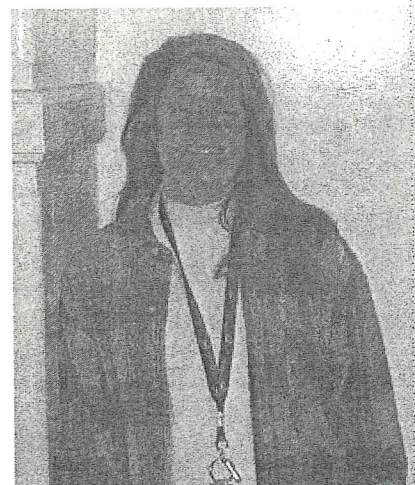
A little over 3 years

### What are some thing you like to do outside of school?

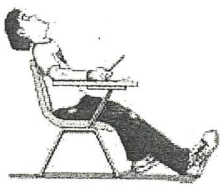
Roller blade, yoga, read, watch movies, cook and go camping

### If you could have lunch with three people, dead or alive, who would you choose?

MARIANNA Continued on 3





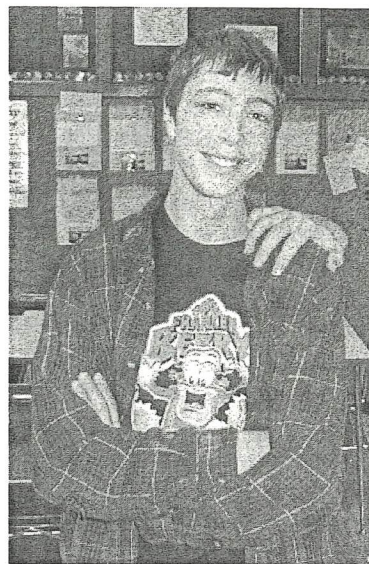


# Gus Olsen

Years at Open: 11 years

Extracurricular activities: None

## Senior Profile



### What are you planning to do next year?

I plan on going to college. If that doesn't work, I'll get an apartment. It'll be like the show "Friends."

### What will you miss most about Open?

I'll miss my personal desk in Leo's room lined with sable and diamond glittering.

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

My favorite book is The Communist Manifesto.

### What is your favorite class in high school?

My favorite class was physical science.

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

The ability to take bread out of John Hendrickson's mouth.

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

I would like to be an eye surgeon.

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

"Cowboy World Me"

#### MARIANNA From 2

Audrey Hepburn, Paul and Sheila Wellstone, Jerry Garcia

#### Please share one interesting tidbit about yourself...

I have a list of things I want to do in life that includes things like visiting all 50 states, ice sculpting, learning to fence, learning a language, etc... I cross things off and add to my list all the time.◊

#### New Staff Next Issue:

**Deb Taipale,**  
**Program**  
**Coordinator**  
**&**

**Pat Dossett,**  
**Hall Monitor**

## New math embraced

*Sreyleak Khorn*  
Staff Writer

Open School introduced a new math Curriculum for High School this year. Traditional Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, Pre Calculus and Calculus have replaced Integrated 1, 2, 3 and 4, which have been around since 1998.

The traditional math and Integrated math are different because the Integrated Math had a lot of group work, word problems, and problem solving. The Traditional math teaches more math skills.

The school decided to switch because "Parents and teachers believed that the Integrated curriculum was not preparing students for college math. Additionally, the old curriculum was very vocabulary and reading heavy. The new curriculum focuses more on skill development," said math teacher Joel Reiss.

Although we are switching to "traditional math", it is not completely different. "The district is not moving away from integrated mathematics. The curriculum chosen used the integrated approach while giving stu-

dents some drill and practice within," said Secondary Math Coach Marty Gaslin. We are actually using a combination of traditional math and Integrated Math in 2003.

Joel seems to enjoy teaching the new math, because he said students like it more and can understand the questions and concepts more quickly. However, he said for the geometry and Algebra 2 courses, the students do not have the prerequisite knowledge and it requires a lot of reteaching. Tom thinks it 's okay. He said he has to do less interpreting for the students and the students seem to be getting the material.

Most students like the new math. "I'm beginning to like math a lot more," said 8th grader Kayla Blair.

"I like the new math because you get to work with your team more and use shapes," said Senior Jennifer Revoir.

"I like it a bunch. It's a lot easier to figure out and better, said Senior Clara Iwaszek.

"I think its OK but it's could go faster," said 9th grader Sam Lukas.◊



# Hmong Marriage 101

Mee Xiong  
Staff Writer

Although the Hmong population continues to grow, the ways of the Hmong culture are not well known. One of the most important things in the Hmong society is marriage. Marriage customs can be very difficult and confusing to outsiders. Even though more Hmong people are coming to the United States, some of the "original" Hmong traditions are still in place.

Courtship usually begins at the time of the annual New Year's celebration. It begins with a flirting game called Ball Tossing (pov pob). The males stand in one line facing the females in another, tossing small fabric balls back and forth. If the ball drops, the person who drops it has to do something for the other person, like removing an article of clothing such as sock, jewelry, a shoe, or a jacket, or they have to sing a traditional song. The New Year's games typically provide an outlet for the emergence of more intense romances, which can lead to marriage.

In Laos and Thailand, some people get married right away after the Hmong New Year, but it rarely happens in the United

States. The courtship can take many forms and it can last one day to many years. In Laos and Thailand, courtship is very different from American dating. In Laos and Thailand, the male sneaks to the female's house and whispers with the female until dawn or they are caught whispering. Often the couples use a secret form of language to communicate with one another by playing a small harp (ncas), or a leaf.

In America, there are two ways of courting. One is for the male to come over and ask permission from the female's elders. The female's elders can either a. not let him see or talk to her, or b. let him see or talk to her but in plain view of everyone, or c. if they are going out, they will have to bring one of the family members along with them. The other way is both parties just sneak out and deal with the consequences later, which can lead to lots of problems between the two clans.

No matter what the situation is, when the male takes the female home to be his wife, **MARRIAGES Continued on 9**

## D.I.

Mackenzie Byrne  
Staff Writer

DI (Destination Imagination) is back this year at Open School, if in a slightly smaller capacity. There are only four confirmed teams and there is the possibility of a fifth if another Coach can be found. There are three teachers planning to coach this year, Greg Adams, Bridget Martin, and Susanne Hollingsworth.

Last year Open had seven teams five of which went on to state and two of those went to global competition in Tennessee. The teams that went to globals were the secondary-level ViDiO Adventure (the technical challenge) team, coached by Susanne, and the secondary-level ConnecDiD (the structure challenge) team, coached by Greg.

Greg, the DI guru, is scaling back this year, his last year (sob), and will be coaching only one team, a secondary level challenge team. Susanne will coach two teams, a middle-level team and a secondary-level technical team. Bridget will come back for a third year doing the Improv challenge at the secondary level. Greg wanted to take it easy on his last year, and coach only one team instead of his usual three or four, "This will be the end," said Greg. Here's a little bit of Greg trivia: the most teams Greg ever coached at once was seven, six here at Open and one at another school.

The structure challenge this year is called GuessDIimate. The twist is that the team will estimate how much weight their balsa wood structure will hold and score bonus points for how close their estimate is. The secondary-level structure team, which contains only two people that were on the team last year, has a new builder, 9th grader, Alex Johnson. He has experience building structures in DI, but this will be his first time competing at the secondary-level. "He's going against some pretty experienced teams this year," said Greg. Greg said that Open has always done pretty well in DI and he doesn't expect this year to be much different. ♦

## Students shell out to gab

Katie Ekdahl  
Staff Writer

Senior Michelle Ekdahl uses her cellphone to call her boyfriend all the time. Her cellphone bill came in September and it was \$480 for one month.

Many Open School students have cellphones, but most don't pay as much as Michelle. About half of the SLC Students pay between \$20 to \$90 a month, unless they go over their minutes, and then they pay \$.20 to \$.50 per minute they go over.

Students have cellphones for all different reasons. "Business, and when I am not at home," said Ed Malone, 11th grader.

"So when I am not at home people can still get a hold of me," said Stephanie Tokheim, 10th grader.

"For emergencies," said Pat Dossett, the hall monitor.

"To be Cute," said Sharda Madison, 9th grader.

Some students get their cellphones for free with their plans and then the plans cost more. Otherwise, they can pay up to \$999 for their phone and cheaper plans. More expensive

phones have more on them. They have lots of games, internet, colored screens, etc. You can get a Motorola V66 with instant messenger, FM stereo, and voice recorder and many other valuable things for \$149.99. Many students are willing to pay for the convenience of a cellphone.

"I pay \$40 a month," said Seda Alpsuyu, 11th grader.

"I pay between \$40 and \$80 a month," said Stephanie.

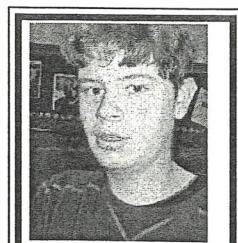
"I pay \$50 a Month," said Shelby Hartshorn, senior. ♦





# Opinions 'n' Such

## Governator



Aaron Schutjer  
Staff Columnist

I never thought I'd see the day when Minnesota's own ex-governor Jesse Ventura was out done. On Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> action star and body builder Arnold Schwarzenegger was elected Gover-

nor of California. The previous governor, Gray Davis, was recalled by 55 percent of Californians.

The governor's race in California was probably the oddest political race in the U.S.A. To name a few of the 131 candidates, there was Larry Flynt, who if you don't know, is the man behind Hustler magazines and adult stores. Following that trend was "Adult" film actress Mary Carey, and by adult I mean porno in case you were wondering. Trek Thunder, a performance artist, also ran, and stated "Please vote for me, thus breaking the Seventh Seal and incurring Armageddon."

When I first heard that Schwarzenegger became governor of California, I almost had a brain aneurysm (that's when a blood vessel pops in your brain). It's hard to have much faith left in good ol' America when the big mean Terminator has power over the most populated state in it. I just can't understand what happened; my guess is that the people who voted for him thought that he would go over to Iraq with a shotgun and bag Saddam and Bin Laden. Hopefully, when they realize that he's not actually a robot from the future, they'll recall him like they did Davis.

What may sadden me most is that after Jesse Ventura, this is the proof that the political system is just a nation-wide popularity contest. Throughout all the campaigns and television media for Jesse, I never really heard what his views were for important issues like schools and budget plans. Instead, I was bombarded by bumper stickers and buttons that read "Our governor can beat up your governor." I wish California would have learned from our stupid mistake, because after Ventura took office, schools

*P.L.L. BE BACK Continued on 9*

## Discipline policy debated



Jon Sherman  
Staff Columnist

A student arrives back at Open School after walking down to Burger King for lunch. The student is spotted coming through the entrance with a greasy bag of fries and is questioned about where he's been. There has long been a rule regarding leaving school grounds without permission. The student confesses to having gone to Burger King; but what's the price to pay for such unlawfulness? Detention? Saturday School? Dismissal? You may be shocked to know (insert voice of Stone Phillips), this may depend on just who you are.

Along with the beginning of a new school year, the question has arisen about how to address discipline.

The Saint Paul Public Schools 2003-2004

handbook leaves plenty room for schools to have an individual approach to discipline. Whether that approach be directed by a student's advisor or teacher is all up to the school.

A "more proscribed" proposal reached by SLC staff members, came this October and concluded as follows:

that all discipline (except for classroom tardies) to be handled by the advisor.

The tally system is now in place, targeting students who, are tardy, hang in the hallway, leave class early, come to class without materials, don't work or disrupt a class, or sleep in class. A student shall receive one tally mark for any one of the above offenses and may receive two detentions for skipping class and/or Saturday School for leaving school to, ex. eat lunch. This is in an effort to make discipline more consistent. However, the SLC discussion summary states that depending on the severity of an offense, cer-

*DISCIPLINE Continued on 11*

## Vikes start fast, hit skid



Maritza  
Richardson  
Staff Columnist

All I can say is WOW! With the Vikings starting out 6-2, who knows what they will come up with next. Hopefully they will keep it up. If you would like to know their schedule here it is:

San Diego Chargers Sunday November 9<sup>th</sup> @ 3 p.m. away, Oakland Raiders November 16<sup>th</sup> @ 3:15 p.m. away, Detroit Lions Sunday November 23<sup>rd</sup>, @ 12 p.m. home, St. Louis Rams November 30<sup>th</sup> @ 12 p.m. away Seattle Seahawks Sunday Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> @ 12 p.m., Chicago Bears December 14<sup>th</sup> @ 12 p.m. away, Kansas City Chiefs Saturday December 20<sup>th</sup> @ 4 p.m., and the Arizona Cardinals December 28<sup>th</sup> @ 3:05 p.m. away. Out of all these games I feel that the Kansas City Chiefs will be the most threatening because they are undefeated. The easiest game I think we will have is against the Lions. The case used to be that I thought that the Vikings have a good chance against

Detroit, but now I am not so sure.

Well, let's talk about the Denver Bronco game, which the Vikings won 28-20. Man was that a game, with the Vikings intercepting the ball three times and sacking Broncos quarterback Steve Beuerlein three times. On offense the Vikings dominated. A highlight was when Culpepper threw the ball to Randy Moss, and as he was getting tackled he lateraled it to Moe Williams and Williams ran it in for a 15 yard touchdown. What a play!

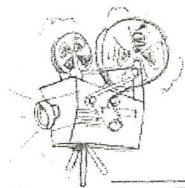
On special teams we got a total of 107 yards running between John Avery and Keenan Howry. Avery got 86 yards and Howry got 10 yards. The coaches for special teams, offense, and defense did really well. Vikings head coach Mike Tice was getting really upset with some of the penalties that they were getting. Some of them were just common sense, like off sides and face masking.

One game I am not about to discuss is the game against the Greenbay Packers, because that was overall the worst we have played so far this season. The defense was

*VIKINGS Continued on 9*



# School = rockin' good times



Cami Rosas  
Staff Writer

*School of Rock* is a hilarious film starring Jack Black, Joan Cusack, Mike White, and a whole bunch of rockin' little kids. Jack Black plays a character named Dewey Finn, who gets kicked out of his band and threatened to get kicked out of his apartment if he doesn't come up with some rent money. His solution: substitute teacher! His plan is to make a rock band out of the students so he can win Battle of the Bands and solve his money problems. But as he gets to know the kids, it becomes so much more than that.

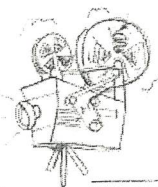
School of Rock just may be the best



movie...EVER! No special effects, no cheap shot jokes, no unnecessary violence or harsh language. Just some good old-fashioned rock n' roll fun. Seriously, Jack Black is a flat out musical and comedic genius. His charisma and energy keep you smiling through the whole movie. People with weak bladders, I suggest you wear Depends when you go see this movie because it's that funny.

Some people might be discouraged because Jack Black wasn't as crazy in it. I know, I felt the same way a week after I saw it. But I didn't want to write a review that would denounce Jack Black's performance in any way. So, I saw it again, and you know what? He IS crazy in it. No matter what role Jack Black has he will always play his best, his **ROCK** Continued on 10

# Elf rules



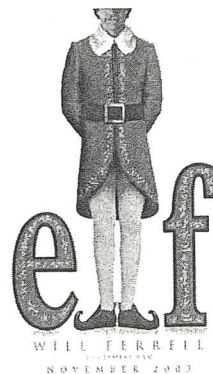
Chloe Taipale  
Staff Writer

What would you do if you were raised by elves, and then set loose in a big city that had no Christmas spirit? Why, you'd make paper chains and put syrup on your spaghetti, you silly. And that's just what happens in New Line's latest movie *Elf*.

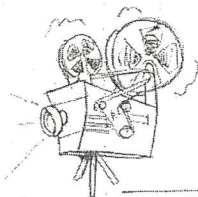
*Elf* is about Buddy (played by Owen Wilson), a human who was, in fact, raised by elves at the North Pole. His mother died, and his father never knew he was born. Thus, he was put in an orphanage, and one fateful Christmas Eve, he sees a bear he likes in Santa (Ed Asner)'s toy sack and decides to crawl in.

He doesn't realize he's different from the other elves, but he does realize that he doesn't possess mad skillz when it comes to toy making, and he can't fit in the showers. one day, he overhears other elves talking about what a pain he is, and how me must've realize he's a human by now, right? Wrong. Buddy now knows the truth, and is sent to New York to find his father.

Buddy's father Walter (played by James Caan) is a big shot executive type guy in the children's book business, and is a nasty "bah-humbug" type of fellow who is even (gasp) on the naughty list. You can imagine his reaction when a 30 year old man dressed in yellow tights barges in his office, claims to be his son, and then goes on and on about truly frightening things like "holding hands" and "snow angels." After a DNA test, it's proven that Buddy is Walter's son, and Walter takes Buddy back to his home, where Buddy causes mucho ruckus-o. Walter's son (Daniel Tay) is a wee bit cynical, but warms up to Buddy after he saves that little boy's hiney in a snowball fight. Walter's wife is the only one who really puts up with Buddy's paper **ELF** Continued on 12



# Texas Chainsaw Massacre

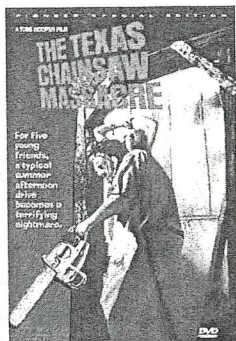


Nick Lutfi  
Staff Writer

What more could you ask for in a horror flick then an incredibly huge, chainsaw wielding, flesh wearing man, and a group of five clueless kids who are driving right into his home.

Like the first movie, a group of five teens Erin (Jessica Biel), Kemper (Eric Belfour), Pepper (Erica Leerhsen), Andy (Mike Vogel), and Morgan (Jonathan Tucker), are taking a road trip through Texas and run in to the horrifying man called Leather Face. The movie takes place in 1973. The five are driving home in their van on the hot Texas roads when they see a young girl obviously battered from something. They stop and pick her up, but she can't get over what's bothering her and kills herself.

Stuck in the middle of nowhere with a



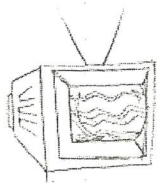
body in their car, the five find them selves at an old mill waiting for the sheriff to come. Erin and Kemper find an old house on a hill where an old legless man in a wheelchair lives. While the old man helps them, Erin realizes that Kemper has disappeared. Meanwhile back at the van, the intimidating sheriff Hoyt (R. Lee Ermey) arrives. You might think every thing is good and safe, the law is there, but the sheriff reveals that he's not all he's supposed to be and, the teen's world as they know it starts to turn upside down as all Hell breaks loose.

I don't want to give too much more away, because you want to go and see it for yourself. In my opinion, the movie was a scary one, with jump-out-of-your-seat excitement and bone-chilling gore. What more could you ask for? The gore was stomach turning, with a few scenes that take place in the basement where Leather Face is "at work."

**CHAINSAW** Continued on X



# Queer Eye



Chloe Taipale  
Staff Writer

What do you get when you cross two of TV's latest obsessions, make-over shows and gay men? You get Bravo's latest reality show, *Queer Eye For The Straight Guy*. The show follows the "Fab 5," a group of gay men, as they make over one straight man and teach him how to be stylish, classy, and make those fancy drinks with the mint leaves.

Each one of the Fab 5 has a different area of specialty: Kyan, the one who kind of looks like a wombat, is the "Grooming Guru;" Ted (looks like a lemur) is the "Food and Wine Connoisseur;" Jai (camel) is the "Culture Vulture;" Carson (starving rooster) is the "Fashion Savant;" and Thom (chimpanzee) is the "Design Doctor."

Episodes start with the Fab 5 meeting their straight victim, then seeing his house and going through all of his crap, and I mean ALL of it, and making funny comments about the mess ("Are these the snuggly kind?" when a victim's condom stash was uncovered). Many other strange things occur, like fun with power sanders, back waxing, foam headboards, and shower curtains that happen to look like Twister boards. The victim and Carson (who seems to have a problem understanding the concept of personal space) then go out to buy clothes, and Kyan takes care of all that nasty body hair. Meanwhile, Thom, Jai, and Ted all do their thang, which usually means redecorating the victim's home and buying food and coffee and all that good stuff.

The redecorated victim comes home to his redecorated house, and then learns how to cook salmon and care for his face properly. The Fab 5 then leave, and go to another room where they can watch the completion of the "mission" (things like make wife happy, get girlfriend to move in), which also means more wisecracks from the 5 ("Maybe he has Tourette's,"). The mission goes well, and the show ends with a "Hip tip," tips on things like sunless tanner, home decorating, etc.

Now, as much as I love this show, I think it's a wee bit stereotypical, implying **"FAB 5"** Continued on 9

# Soul Calibur rocks again

Kuame Churcher  
Staff Writer

In a time of axes and swords power and greed ruled all. Now we must right the wrongs that have been done. Three new fighters have joined the struggle: Spawn, Link, and Hiehachi Meishima.

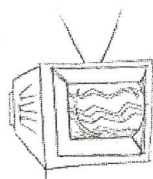
Everyone remembers the game Soul Calibur. It was originally designed by Namco for the Sega Dreamcast console in 2000 and the game was a hit. Now, it's new 2004 version Soul Calibur 2 is making it's own path with better graphics, 15 characters, more than 10 game modes (including 3 unlock able modes), and 200 items to unlock.

This is the perfect game for anyone with a lot of time on their hands or people who just love fighting games. Being that the old concept was so original and plain Namco decided to add new feature to it: the ability to play with Spawn if you own the game for X-box, Link if you own it for game cube,

and Hiehachi meshima for PS2. After playing every single one of these games, I conclude that this is just like any other fighting game, but this one just grabs your attention more for some reason. Maybe because it has a conquest mode that lets you buy a lot of weapons I've got nothing but good things to say about this game. I give it an overall 5 out of 5.



# Everwood: high drama



Christina McGee  
Staff Writer

Utopia, heaven, seventh heaven, they all mean the same thing, a place of ideal perfection, like paradise. To Andrew Brown that means Everwood, Colorado, a quirky little town in the Rockies.

Dr. Andrew Brown ( Treat Williams) is a world famous neurosurgeon that lived in New York with his wife and two kids. He seemed to have the perfect life, until the day his wife died in a car accident. Then Andy Brown made what seemed like a really strange decision, to move his family. He, his daughter Delia (Viven Cardone), and son Ephram (Gregory Smith) move to the small town of Everwood, Colorado.

Delia is 11 and Ephram is 15. Besides the Brown family, there are about

10 to 15 other main characters, the Abbotts, Bright (that is his real name), Amy, Dr. Harold Abbott, and his wife, the mayor. When the Brown family move to Everwood, Dr. Brown became competition for Dr. Abbott, especially since Dr. Brown turned the town's old train station into a free clinic, where he doesn't charge his patients for his

medical services. The angry Dr. Abbott forbids all members of his family to have anything to do with the Brown family. So of course, someone has to break the rule because that's just how TV drama goes.

So it happens that Ephram Brown falls in love with Amy Abbott the first time he sees her.

But little did Ephram know, Amy was only interested in Ephram for his brain surgeon father ( in the beginning). Everwood is in its second season, in the first season Amy's **COMA BOY** Continued on 11





## JOHNNY TEENAGER From 1

ber, the RIAA sued 261 internet -users for allowing others to download copyrighted songs from large libraries on their computers. How much the users are being sued for is unclear, but it could be as much as \$150,000 per song. Facing this, 52 of the 261 people have settled with the RIAA in out-of-court settlements ranging from \$2,500 to \$7,500 each, and at least one settled for \$10,000. The settlements, which do not include an admission of wrongdoing, also required them to destroy the music and not make any statements "inconsistent" with the agreement. The people sued by the RIAA were not just casual users of the file-swapping networks, they were suspected to have an average of one thousand copyrighted songs for others to download from their computer.

Despite the flaws with these lawsuits (One of which being it's the person who pays the ISP that gets sued, not necessarily the one doing the file swapping.

"Johnny! Come in here we need to talk about how you've been using the family's internet account...") they seem to be having the desired effect. Dozens of other users agreed to payments to avoid a lawsuit when they found out they were being investigated by the RIAA. Also, 863 people have requested amnesty from lawsuits, in exchange for a formal admission that they illegally shared music and a pledge to delete the songs. Traffic on the most popular file sharing networks also went down with the announcement of the RIAA lawsuits. Traffic on Kazaa, the most popular network, went down 41 percent between the last week of June and mid

September, according to Nielsen narrating.

Actions against internet pirates by the RIAA have generated a lot of negative feelings towards them in the computer music community. You can buy anti-RIAA bumper stickers on ThinkGeek.com. T-shirts with the slogan "sharing is caring. F\*\*\* the RIAA" printed on them are sold at TShirtHell.com, a site featuring many lewd Tees. At the website Boycott-riaa.com you can find information on their boycott campaign as well as anti-RIAA merchandise ranging from clothing to coffee mugs.

So how do students at open school feel about the downloading and swapping music? "This is a sticky situation. On the one hand, it's kinda wrong because it cheats people out of their money, but they get gobs of money anyways, so I don't really feel bad for them. Plus, if I find something I really like I go out and buy it," said senior Clara Iwaszek.

Some students use the internet to get music that they can't find in stores, like Anime soundtracks and J-pop: "I could buy them from some specialty website, but I'm cheap," said Shmuel Blyly-Strauss, a senior.

I think downloading music is all right, but I think it should come with a small fee," remarked freshman Sam Lukas.

Well Sam, If you download music the legal way, it does come with a small fee. On-line music stores like the new Napster 2.0 offer the ability to download one song for \$1.00 or a whole album for about \$10.00, or you pay a monthly subscription fee for unlimited downloads for \$10.00 a month.

The Napster name was bought by Roxio Inc. after the company went bankrupt in 2001. Roxio took its former on-line music service, Pressplay, which only offered monthly fees, offline when Napster 2.0 went up this October. Roxio is hoping that the Infamous Napster name will help it get ahead in the online music store business. Napster will have to compete with iTunes, by Apple Computers, which has already sold more than 10 million songs as well as a gaggle of others such as MusicMatch, BuyMusic, Rhapsody, MusicNow, and MusicNet. All of these companies want in on online music sales that right now is only one percent of the music market, but is expected to grow to 12 percent by 2008, generating 1.5 billion in sales, according to Jupiter Research.

It is also perfectly legal to copy ("Rip") music from CDs onto your computer to use with music jukeboxes and mp3 players. In fact Open School Junior, and student government President Sean Keith has a large music library on his computer and iPod (a mp3 player with 10-40 gigabytes of space,) collected mostly from CDs. Sean has 2,129 songs in his collection that, from start to finish, would be over five days long. He says maybe 10 or so he got from the net. He does not share these files on the net. On the issue of the RIAA suing suspected internet prates; Sean says, "that really sucks."

Maybe Johnny Teenager will have to change his pirating ways and have his digital music fun the legal way. But not to worry, the computer music will be just as fun with his mp3 player and custom mixed CDs. It's still the future, but when you don't break the law the artists get paid for their work and everyone is happy. What will happen in this field of online music? Only time will tell. As for Johnny Teenager, I guess his sex and drugs will have to wait. ♦

## SEVEN'S TRAVELS From 1

ten, I realized how much it rocked, and I have found that this has been the case with many other people who have the CD. This is probably because this album sounds in a way like a new Atmosphere, because Ant's production is constantly changing.

Along with fame comes people who hate on you, and with the release of Seven's Travels on big time punk label Epitaph, there are plenty of people saying "Slug fell off," "Slug's too soft." I say, buddy if you want hard-core gangster rap you can beat your girlfriend too, there is plenty of it out there.

"Trying to Find a Balance," is a good track to put first on the album. It's a jazzy track with a rap about independence. Props to Ant on this guitar-laced beat. Next up is "Bird Sings Why the Caged I Know," an essentially disturbing track that reveals a vulgar Slug wanting to shake from a nest, break the legs, and fry the eggs of a metaphorical bird who "thinks she's better than me, just because she's free." "Gotta Lotta Walls" is a provocative piece that instills thoughts in even the most primitive minds, and "The Key to Life vs. Fifteen Minutes of Fame,"

does the same. Further in, at the beginning of "Apple," Slug spits a line of genius, "just 'cause you're an MC doesn't mean you get to be an &%%\$\*." You can't review the album without mentioning "Cats, Van, Bags," possibly the record's greatest track, it was the first single released back in August, and it features Minneapolis' own albino African-American, Brother Ali. Slug and Ali ride this dark groove of a beat like a cowboy rides his horse and rap in a sometimes violent manner.

In the next few songs, Slug takes us on a *SEVEN'S TRAVELS Continued on 11*





## MARRIAGES From 4

they are not allowed to enter the house until one of the elders has waved a chicken over their heads. The chicken symbolizes the welcoming of the new family member and leaving all bad luck behind. Then the male's side of the family sends two people out to the female's house to tell the female's elders they are formally requesting the daughter's hand in marriage. The female's elders can decline and tell them to leave. When that happens, the two people go back home and send the female back to her family.

Sometimes, when the couples really want to get married and the female's parents refuse, the male will kidnap the female and let everyone know. In Laos and Thailand, even if the female doesn't want to marry the male, she might get kidnapped against her will. In America, kidnapping rarely happens because of the law. The female can also run away and tell the male he has to marry her. This is called thawj, forcing the male to marry her instead of the other way around. Otherwise, the female's elders have to accept the marriage proposal. They set up the wedding date and the two people go back home to tell the male. Then, for the next three nights and three days, the female must have no contact with her family because it will bring bad luck.

Both sides of the family meet with their relatives and choose one (Green Hmong) to two (White Hmong) mej koob (the messenger and peacemaker for the two families). The male's side also chooses the bridesmaid (naam - Green Hmong or niam - White Hmong tais ntsuab) from his side of the family, who follows the female no matter what until the wedding is over. Last but not least, for the Green Hmong, they have a "carrier" who carries all of their things. In total, there has to be six people to go to the female's house.

After both sides of the family have chosen their people, they are ready for the wedding. This is when the male gets nervous about whether or not he has enough to pay for his bride. In the Hmong culture, this is what you call a dowry. You have to pay money to show that you care about the family and the female, plus it's a show of respect to the elders. Hmong weddings can last several days, depending on factors like how much is being paid for the bride's dowry and what happened between the two clans before the couples decided to get married. No matter what, the first day of the wedding,

**MARRIAGES** Continued on 9

## I'LL BE BACK From 5

got even crappier, state workers got laid off, and on top of all that, he was upsetting people by ordering that all media employees in the capitol wear tags that say "media jackal."

There's been speculation as to whether or not Arnold is actually a republican. His official web page states "I support a woman's right to choose. I support the state's current family planning programs, and as governor, would make no changes to this policy. I do not support partial birth abortion."

He also says that education is his "passion" and he plans to put more money into the classrooms and after school programs. To get the money to do that, he is forming what he calls an "Economic Recovery Council," which will hopefully help the 5-8 billion deficit. Now I'm not saying that his plan is inadequate, but I doubt he has enough



political experience to handle the whole state of California. His victory in the election is like him learning how to run before learning to walk.

Schwarzenegger has also been accused of sexually harassing 16 women. Even though 13 or 14 of them might have just been lying for the fun of it, would you feel comfortable with one of those creepy guys as a governor? Among other rumors is that he admired Adolf Hitler. Do we really want to be saying "Heil Arnold" for our pledge of allegiance?

In closing, I would like to state that I think media is to blame for most of this. Arnold was elected because he's made some cool flicks and because cameras flock over him day and night. One day, the populace of California will wake up and think "What have we done?"

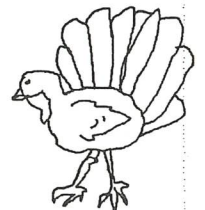
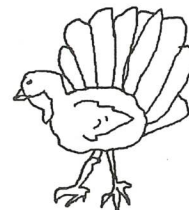
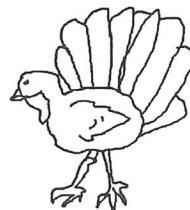
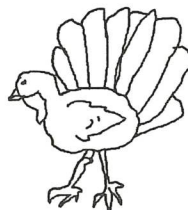
## "FAB 5" From 7

that all gay men know what "Couture dejour" is, and all straight men are sloppy, mouth-breathing gorillas. Now, that very well could be true, but I'm going to say it's not, because I'm such a rebel. Still, the show is horribly, horribly entertaining, and I've taken the "Don't match -- coordinate" tip to heart. The Fab 5 are really funny, and the make-over turn out well, but I just can't figure out what's wrong with wire hangers. They're darn cheap, I'll tell you what, but everybody seems to have a problem with them. Maybe it's because they don't have those loopy hooky things that you can hook your shirts on so they don't fall out. Sure, it's a little inconvenient, but that's no reason to disown them completely. Go figure.

Anyway, I give Queer Eye For The Straight Guy 3 out of 4 stars. I think this is

one of the best shows on TV. It's a few notches higher than other make-over shows, because unlike daytime talk shows where they just cut your hair, buy you a new shirt, and send you on your way, Queer Eye covers more ground. They redo your house and teach you manners, how to be a good party host, and how to be a good cook while they're at it. It's

described as a make better show, and it seems to be doing a fine job at being just that. Although, there is some doubt as to whether the victims will keep up their look, I think if somebody bought me a new wardrobe and redecorated my house, I'd make some kind of effort to preserve my new sexy self. I highly recommend this show to anybody who hasn't yet watched it. You won't be disappointed.





## MARRIAGES From 9

the six people (mentioned above) will head out to the female elder's house. In the Green Hmong culture, the carrier has to carry two whole chickens with some rice, a white and black-striped belt, oil, cigarettes, salt, beer, and blankets. For the White Hmong, since they don't have a carrier but two mej koob, the best man has to carry all of the above except the blankets because the husband to be will carry it instead. No matter what group they belong to, one of the mej koob will have to carry a black umbrella with them.

In the middle of the two family's houses, the six people have to stop and eat one of the whole chickens with rice, but they must offer some of the food to the spirits of the Earth first, so that the spirits will watch out for them. Once they all have reached the house, the White Hmong way, the mej koob, then the best man, the male, the female and then the bridesmaid come in. For the Green Hmong way, the mej koob comes first, then the carrier, the best man, the male, the female and then the bridesmaid. No matter what, the mej koob has to go in first to ask where they want the black umbrella to hang. After that, the bride to be female elders takes her away with the bridesmaid tagging along. The best man and the groom must greet the female's male elders by bowing on hands and knees a couple of times to each different family member and relatives (that's also when they get to know who to call what).

Before the best man and groom start bowing, the bride's elders ask the groom a question. Does he want a blanket underneath them, when they are bowing, so that it wouldn't hurt so much, or does he want to use the floor instead? Now, this is a double meaning phase. If the groom chooses the blanket, he is dissing his new family members and relatives by saying he is above them. Later on when he pays up the bride's dowry, the price will go up for dissing them. If he chooses the floor, his new family members and relatives think he doesn't see himself above them, but as equals.

After they are done with the greeting, the food and the beer will be served, usually by the females. This is when all the arguments begin because they talk about the bride's dowry. Some conflicts go way back to when the groom's ancestors did something wrong to the bride's family. The bride's dowry goes up higher unless the groom and his side can deny it. Before, the Bride's dowry could be high that the groom's family might just say forget it. But now, since we have the 18 Council (18 clans in the Hmong community

to solve difficulties), the bride's dowry can only go up to \$5,000. In Laos and Thailand, they want the males to pay the bride's dowry in silver (one silver = \$150 to \$200). This situation can go on all night and longer until the two sides can make an agreement. Sometimes the two sides cannot agree, and the wedding will take several days, but others who are luckier, can just pay up right away without any arguments. After the groom has paid the bride's dowry, the six people who came go back home until the next day for the "real" wedding day.

The next day, the six people who went the day before go together to the bride's elder's house for the "Big Day." When they all arrive, they start eating, but for that day, they can only eat pig's fat with rice and nobody can eat peppers (it'll bring bad luck) or anything else. After the eating, the mej koob has to try and get the black umbrella back from the bride's elders, and while they are doing that, everybody else is pouring beers for the bride and the groom. This is when the Bride and the groom can become very drunk. The people who came with them can help, but under only one condition. If the bride and the groom can speak the right Hmong words, or should I say, the secret passwords, they then can pass only to the designated person(s) they wish to drink for them. They can only go home after the mej koob has gotten the black umbrella back from the bride's elders; otherwise they keep chugging the beers.

Divorce is not common in the Hmong culture, because if you're divorced, people will look down on you, especially for Hmong women. If a wife misbehaves, the man has a right to a divorce, and can insist on a return of the bride's dowry from the woman's family. If a woman leaves her husband at any time without a justification, her family must still return the bride's dowry. But either way she, her family, and sometimes her whole clan will suffer a loss of face. It will make it difficult for her to meet a new marriage partner and if they have children, the father usually has custody because the children belong to his clan.

In some cases, if a Hmong woman can prove to his and her clan that her husband was treating her with cruelty, without good cause, then there will be no bride's dowry return. Plus her family will get some more money from the male's clan for sending her back home, and she will get the children instead.

**MARRIAGES Continued on 12**

## ROCK From 7

hardest, and his mad-hilarious-craziest in it.

When he was on Jay Leno, supporting the movie, he said, "It's actually kind of adorable. But, I make sure that with every ounce of adorable there are three pounds of hilarious!"

And so he did. School of Rock also has a really great message. In the movie Black lectures the students about "the man" and how he destroys everything, which is rightly true. But he also teaches the kids to stick it to the man...with rock n' roll!!

Joan Cusack plays the principal of the school, Ms. Mullins. At first she's an uptight prude, but then Dewey Finn comes along and loosens her up—loosey-goosey baby, loosey-goosey. Dewey finds that Ms. Mullins isn't that bad after all, especially with some booze in her. Joan Cusack did a really good job playing this character. But, of course, when doesn't she?

The kids in this film are AWESOME. Joey



Gaydos jr., who plays Zach, the lead guitarist of the band, is phenomenal for

his age. Kevin Clark, who plays the drummer Freddy Jones, is amazing for his age as well. Robert Tai, the piano prodigy named Laurence, IS cool! The bassist, what's-her-face, is pretty rockin' too. The back up singers are just okay. And yes, they all really sing and play their own instruments.

Let's not forget the rest of the class. The little boss girl, Summer, quite the professional, little wants-to-know-it-all but, she did a good job at it. The roadies were splendid little chaps and the groupies were well cast.

But out of all the characters in this movie I favor two. First off is Billy, the flamboyant, 9-year-old, band stylist who is nicknamed Fancy Pants. Second is Spider, the belly-dancing guitarist for No Vacancy. Billy deserves an Oscar just for being able to play a queer little kid and Spider should just be locked up for his disgusting ways of hitting on the principal. But I still love him for his ability to gross out the entire movie theater.

So, out of four stars, I would give School of Rock ten. And that's that. Jack Black is the next John Belushi and we gotta cherish that. Don't waste your time and money on seeing some crap like Texas Chainsaw Massacre or Mystic River. Instead, go see a movie with a little...CLASS!♦



### COMA BOY From 7

boyfriend, Colin Hart (Mike Erwin), was in a horrible car accident that left him in a coma. Amy has the brilliant idea to become Ephram's friend and get him to ask his father to perform lifesaving surgery on Colin. But before things get completely back to normal, it is brought to everyone's attention that Colin needs to have another surgery to correct the side effects from the first surgery.

Some of the other main or semi-main characters are Irv and Edna Harper. Edna works for Dr. Brown (she's his nurse/receptionist), and Irv is her second husband—she used to be an Abbott (she's Dr. Abbott's mother) until the original Mr. Abbott died and she married Irv. That pretty much tells you about the first season, except for one important detail, Colin's correction surgery. The second surgery was even more



dangerous than the first one, and Colin and his parents decided that if he wasn't going to come back

the same (meaning he would come back paralyzed or something like that) that Dr. Brown wouldn't revive him after surgery.

The second season starts off with everyone in town at a pool, including Colin, then it switches to a depressed Amy at Colin's memorial, and the whole town dealing with the death of Colin Hart. That means, Dr. Brown has become the town pariah and Amy will have to deal with her depression over Colin's death. But as episodes begin to unfold, everyone works through their issues and life begins to go on. There are two new arrivals in Everwood, Dr. Abbott's sister, Linda Abbott, and the Brown's new baby-sitter, Madison (Sarah Lancaster).

This show seems to be mostly a family show. There are some characteristics of the show that would target people in what I guess would be the teen category. It has been pretty successful so far; it was the best WB show in its time slot in the history of the network, says an internet source. This show is appealing to an older age group because of its family show status, but since there aren't a lot of parts of the show that appeal to a younger age group, it might not appeal to younger viewers.◊

### DISCIPLINE From 6

tain discipline procedures should be handled on a case by case basis.

"I've given detention and Saturday School for fighting," said Open School teacher Susanne Hollingsworth.

IEP teacher Kim Kvenild said that she considers herself to follow the tardy consequences pretty consistently. She has resorted to dismissal when a student left school or skipped a class. One advantage to consistencies is that most agree that some advisors are more consistent than others. There's also Senior Geoff Freeman who sees consistency as a solution to complaints of discrimination.

While Student Government voted 28-0 (against the new policy), while pending, that a teacher, and not the advisor may choose a student's discipline.

The vote spoke for itself and ELL teacher Jeff Caulum was glad with the way it went.

"I was surprised that they (student gov.) voted against it. I thought they would want it to be fair for everybody. But they said that Open School is different and advisors know their students well," said Caulum.

There are a wide range of Open School students who are pro-advisor. 10th grader Devlin Byrne favors favoritism, both from teachers and advisors, while Senior Danielle Kennedy believes prizes should be awarded to those with creative excuses for skipping class; and Joe Levine who is also pro-advisor, thinks that repeat offenders should receive repetitive consequences.

Jet Collins, an Open School sophomore remarked about the tally system, "It's just like my old school."

"Lenni said it best when her son used to go here (open school). They didn't have hall passes then, why should we now? Times are changing, that's why," said Open School's Greg Adams, Wood Shop Instructor.◊

### MARRIAGES From 10

In traditional Hmong marriage, the male can marry as many wives as he wants to, but a woman may have only one husband. In Laos and Thailand, when you marry a lot of wives, it means you are wealthy and rich to be able to pay all those dowries. Multiple wives are uncommon here in America, because Hmong women in America generally won't put up with it. They know they have a lot of different opportunities here!◊

### SEVEN'S TRAVELS From 8

trip to "Los Angeles" and "Denvermolorado." Another highlight is "National Disgrace," a song that basically talks about the stupid things and people that exist in America, "dumb and ignorant/ drunk and belligerent/ open up your heart y'all/ come on and let me in/ package the kid's face/ put it on display/ look 'ma another national disgrace." Which brings us to the last track "Always Coming Back Home to You," and it seems that Slug decided to save the best for last in this song that reminisces about wandering through Uptown. Just when you thought the fun was over, there is a hidden track called "Say Shhh," that can be found at the 4:15 mark after "Always Coming Back Home to You." The track first appeared on the Sad Clown Bad Dub 4 DVD, and it is basically a track about being proud of wherever you stay, particularly Minnesota. So there it is, another amazing album by the duo known as Atmosphere. Whatever type of music you may be a fan of, you should definitely cop this album, it won't disappoint.

I had a chance to speak with Slug while he was sitting at the merchandise table at a recent show at First Avenue. "I realize a lot of people are saying things like 'Slug fell off,' and saying that I make music for women. It's not true, it's not true at all," Slug said, beginning to smirk, "I make music for Manic Depressive women!"

Atmosphere just released their first video for the song "Trying to Find A Balance." It will be up against acts such as Mr. Lif, Maroon 5, Sahara Hotnights, and other up and coming artists (in MTV's opinion, that is) on an MTV show called Advance Warning, which will not air until May, according to MTV.com. They have shot the video and signed with Epitaph as part of an effort to expose an alternative to mainstream rap, according to Rhymesayers Entertainment. Take it from Brother Ali, "everybody needs to go home, go to MTV.com, and vote for that Atmosphere video, so we can knock one of those weak a\$\$ rappers off the countdown." I used to feel the same way as the haters, but I guess I was just upset that my little hometown secret isn't so little or secret anymore, but in reality, I should be glad that now the entire world is being exposed to good music.

On a scale of \$1-\$20, this CD is worth \$20.◊



### VIKINGS From 5

horrible, offense wasn't too bad, and special teams did all right. The Vikings could have done a lot better than they played. The Vikings are playing like they did last year.

Another bad game was against the New York Giants. The Giants started out early with a 7-3 lead, and then kicked a field goal making the score 10-3. The Vikings would have only been down by four if kicker Tyler Ashe wouldn't have missed a field goal. Overall, the Vikings didn't

play like they have been so far this season. It is only one game, but it might add up to a lot more losses on the Vikings behalf.

Let's talk about Tice. He has shown that he is a pretty good head coach. Since last year he has improved a lot. We all thought that he would be just like Dennis Green (the

last head coach) and not step up and do his job. He fooled us! He is more aggressive and he is on their back when they mess up.

The Vikings still have a lot of games ahead

of them, but we're just going to have wait and see how they do when it comes to playoff time. Will they keep up the good work or will they just fall apart? The Vikings strengths, I think, are wide receiver Randy Moss, running back Moe Williams, and running back Ontario Smith. On



defense, defensive back Corey Chavous, cornerback Tyrone Carter, and defensive back Ken Irvin. The Vikings weaknesses is not playing (as a team) and giving up too quickly. Hopefully they don't fall apart. In my opinion they will do well, but I am not so sure.◊

### SPAIN From 1

tour company supplied a great guide who had everything arranged for the group. The food brought an unexpected surplus of French Fries and assorted meat.

On the third day there, the students loaded onto their second home for the next week -- the 70-passenger tour bus. They headed south through Cordoba and to Seville. The students were given a brief history of the city and set free. Some journeyed to the internet cafe and others wandered the streets. A few unlucky children got lost and turned up an hour after curfew.

The next day, the children were amazed and dazzled by the third largest Cathedral in the world and then headed to the long awaited Costa Del Sol (Cost of the Sun). The weather cleared up and gave the children some beach time and time to wander around. They stayed in the coolest hotel of the trip there. It took five minutes to wander the maze to each room. The hotels on the trip as a whole were excellent, and kids were never forced to share a bed with another person.

After the coast, the kids piled back on the bus and head for Granada, where

some children went into the mountains to experience some Flamenco dancing. Tom was a Flamenco star, and spent a bit of time "turning on the charm."

The next stop was Toledo, where some children bought an armory full of weapons to bring home. Joe Levine brought home 300 dollars in weapons home. "I could arm six men easily," said Levine.

After just a few hours in Toledo the kids headed back to Madrid and the last few days of the trip. The next day the group went to the Escorial and Segovia, and had an excellent history lesson about the kings of Spain. The last day was a free day in Madrid. Most took the opportunity to stock up on souvenirs, and spirits began to fall at the last dinner.

As the trip ended students reflected on the trip they had just taken "I wish it could have lasted longer," said 10th grader Nathan Jesson. "The culture was great, it was awesome," 10th grader Chelsea Jane. "Es muy fantastico," said trip leader Bridget Martin. As the plane landed in Minneapolis, some students rushed away to Atmosphere. While others got their baggage, said goodbye and left. Greece here we come.◊

### ELF From 6

snowflake-making antics, and tells him he can stay with them as long as he wants.

On one of Buddy's crazy escapades, he goes to a Gimbal's department store, has some fun with escalators, and then heads up to the main Christmas display. He meets a fine honey named Jovie (Zooey Deschanel), and once again spruces up the place with some decorations. The employees don't really like him, and his little scuffle with the department store Santa doesn't really help.

On Christmas Eve, Walter has a meeting with children's book author Miles Finch (Peter Dinklage) who happens to be a "little person." In the middle of the meeting, Buddy bursts in, talking about how in love he is with Jovie, but then spots Miles and says, "I didn't know there were elves here." Mr. Finch, as you can imagine, doesn't really appreciate that comment, and when Buddy continues asking about the "elf," takes his things and storms out of the room. Walter, a wee bit angry, tells Buddy to get his boo-tay out of his office and never talk to him again. Walter's son finds out Buddy left, Walter finds out what a big mistake he made, and then the two go out to try and find him.

This movie was pretty darn good, in my opinion. It had funny jokes (and burp-involving ones for the kiddies), pointy hatty things, and just all around good Christmassy fun. The actors' performances were good, and I personally think this is one of Mr. Wilson's best movies. It'll entertain the young chillins, and the older ones if they're as immature as I am. I give Elf 3 3/4 stars. I highly recommend this one; it's actually worth your money.◊

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