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Sophia: one year later

Katie Ekdahl
Staff Writer

It has now been one year since the death of Sophia Rush. She was an 8th grader at Open School. Sophia was killed on the morning of September 30, 2002, walking to her bus stop on Mcknight Road. An oncoming car struck her and she flew 40 or 50 feet away, according to Arvesta Kelly, her foster dad. She died a short time later at Regions Hospital.

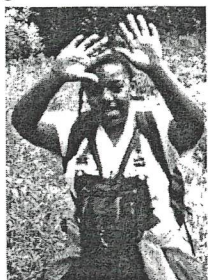
The funeral was held October 8th, at St. Matthew's Church, near Dale and Selby. Family and many friends from Open School gathered to pay their respects and remember all the good times they had with Sophia.

Now, one year later, people have still not

forgotten about Sophia.

"I think about her every day," said Lakrisha Hill, senior.

"I will miss her with all my heart," said Ciara Malone, 8th grader.



"It doesn't feel real, especially when I look at pictures of the kids who were in my class that year," said Kevin Cooper, Sophia's 6th grade teacher.

Most people who knew Sophia will remember her smile and the way she treated others. "I remember her smile and her laugh," said Kevin.

"I loved her personality," said Lakrisha. "I miss how she comfort others," said Ciara. ♦

Flag stunt

Jon Sherman
Staff Writer

On the two-year anniversary of the attack on American soil, there was no sign of patriotism blowing in the wind atop the Open School flagpole. Instead there was a United Nations flag. Some noticed, some didn't; some were bothered, and others questioned what seemed to be a quiet, yet controversial stunt.

The incident had nothing to do with September 11th, but was timely for publicity reasons. A stunt like this was UNheard of; so who was the mastermind behind this plot?

Open School's custodian, Dave Horvath, raised the American flag at the beginning of the year but denied any involvement with the flagpole since. Dave heard through the grapevine that senior Geoff Wessendorf had something to do with it.

"Like it or not, the UN does and should have authority," Geoff said. He respects the UN, but insists that the United States has no respect for the UN. He, with accomplices Shmuel Blyly-Strauss and Heather Cook, arrived at school at approximately 9:30 p.m.

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Pop machines down & out

Antonio Rosario
Staff Writer

The pop machines are going to be shut off during the school day, but put back on after school.

So why are they doing this? The district has concerns of too much caffeine and signs of obesity.

According to Ruth Pechmann, principal of Open School, there will be water, milk and juice machines on throughout the day. The pop machines will be on a timer for after school. The snack vending machine will have healthier choices of food. Some choices will not be available during lunch or breakfast times. Restriction of operation times will be different from the previous years. Ruth said she had nothing to do with the pop machine shut down, "I am just a cog in the machine."

But what do the students think? "If they're worried about kids being tired, and they take away the caffeine and add more milk, a lot more kids will be sleeping," stated Cody Engstrom, a Junior. "Some people don't like milk, and they might be lactose intolerant.

People get thirsty, and they don't want just water," said Christina Costello, 8th grader.

With the machines being on after school timers, will this be the demise of the restock men of the Coca Cola business? Matt Huber, aka The Coke Man, had a lot to say. "I think we should leave the machines on in high schools, because the kids are old enough to drink pop when they want. But for grade school kids, they should have juice machines or something because the kids would be bouncing off the walls." And the chance of Matt losing his job? "Well yeah, people could lose their jobs, including myself, if all high schools shut off their machines."

There is no date set for when the timers will be set up, but the milk machines have already arrived with 5 flavors of Nesquik Milk. They charge \$1.50 for 16 oz of Nesquik milk. "I think it's over priced to charge \$1.50 for only 16 ounces," said se-

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The Purple Press Staff

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Adult to Blame

Leo Bickelhaupt

Much Ado about the Play

On December 10th, 11th, 12th Open School will be putting on Shakespeare's comedy "Much Ado About Nothing." It is being performed two weeks later than the usual due to the trip to Spain. "I'm glad that some of our senior thespians really wanted to do a Shakespear play before they graduated. I think this will be a lively production, and I hope that it will be well supported by the Open School Community" says Bridget Martin♦

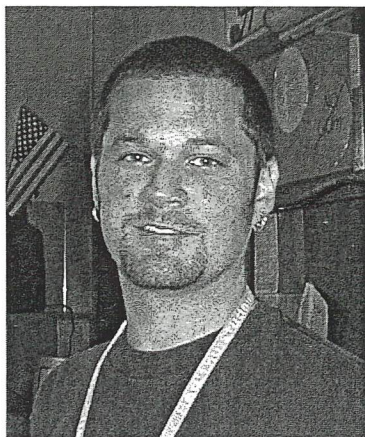
Spain Trip 2003

On October 15th, 14 eager Open Students departed Minneapolis for Madrid. It has been two years since the students began the long process of fund raising the money to get them there. The trip was to have taken place last April but Bush began the war with Iraq and the trip was put on hold due to concern for the children's safety. But finally the children are on their way and will be returning with stories and gifts on the 25th.♦

Luke Leba, Social Studies Teacher

*What made you come to Open School?

My position was cut from the Alternative to Suspension School, and I went to Open School my whole life in Minneapolis.



*What are some things you like about Open School?

Small class sizes, and I like that students choose to be here

*Where were you working last year?

Alternative to Suspension School, on the East Side of St. Paul

*What jobs have you held, other than teaching?

YMCA youth worker, clerical office work, asphalt company, but teaching is my first career

*Where did you go to college?

The University of Minnesota and the University of St.

Thomas

*Where are you originally from?

Minneapolis

*How long have you lived in Minnesota?

All my life

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

Spend time with my wife, spend time with my parents, do things outside, and go to my cabin

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

Martin Luther King Jr., Chuck D., Paul Wellstone

*Please share one interesting tidbit about yourself...

I got married on October 5, 2002, and I come from a family of educators; my parents and wife are all teachers♦

More New Teachers

Coming Next Issue:

Marianna Sullivan
(Counselor)

Kathy Sullivan,
(ELL teacher)

Arturo Cabello
(Spanish Teacher)

The votes are in for student government

Sreyleak Khorn
Staff Writer

In the elections that took place Wednesday September 17, 2003 during Student Government, Junior Sean Keith won and became student president, and Sierra became vice-president. The Wednesday September 24, 2003 Student Government meeting elected Xiong Pao Thao as Treasurer and Mee Xiong as Secretary.

Sean has been at Open School for 9 years. He has been involved with Youth Leadership Initiative and site council.

"I want to make sure that the Student Government is more involved in school de-

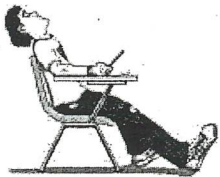
cisions," said Sean. "Hopefully, making the student government have more of a presence and more influence."

Sean thinks that our strengths come from the relationship between teachers and students. Our weaknesses is probably that when the students can feel too comfortable, also "we can be king of lazy at times," said Sean.

Sierra became vice-president by Sean's nomination. She accepted and then got voted in. Sierra has been at Open School since kindergarten. She takes Post Secondary at Hamline and she is involved in site council.

Sierra wants to improve Open School government by trying to tackle more issues than just the standard dance plans. "I really want more students to be involved in big school decisions," said Sierra.

Sierra thinks one of our biggest strengths is the sense of community that one feels here at Open School. "Unfortunately, with the continued separation between the ELC and SLC, it's quickly becoming one of our greatest weaknesses," said Sierra. Sierra believes that the organization of our school is rap-
ELECTIONS Continued on 3



Khadeja Stringer

Years at Open: 10

Extracurricular activities: Student Government.

Senior Profile



What are you planning to do next year?

Going to Tech. School for nursing.

What will you miss most about Open?

A few teachers, Leo, Sheri, & Susanne

What is your favorite book, movie, or T.V. show?

My favorite book is *Push*.

What is your favorite class in high school?

Science, I like Astronomy.

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

To be able to grant money.

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

Something to do with computers.

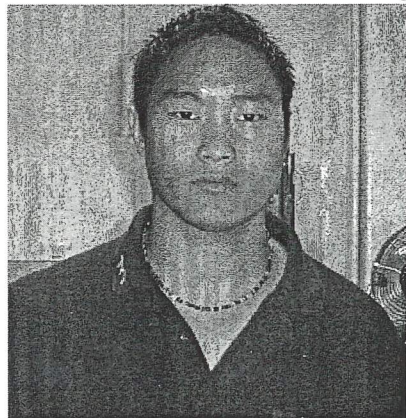
If you could meet one person dead or alive, who would it be?

The group B2K.

Matt Walker: Physical Education

***What made you come to Open School?**

The school seemed warm and inviting. Staff and students were very friendly.



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

Staff, students, administration, building climate.

***Where were you working last year?**

Expo Elementary (Excel math, Title I, reserve teaching, reading)

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

Swimming and Diving Coach, Gymnastics Assistant Coach, Mortgage Clerk (Wells Fargo)

***Where did you go to college?**

St. Olaf, Northfield, MN

***Where are you originally from?**

Seoul, Korea

***How long have you lived in Minnesota?**

26 years

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

Swim, run, bike, climb, lift weights, read

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

Lance Armstrong, Greg Louganis, and any motorcycle stuntman who could teach me tricks

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

One accomplishment I am most proud of is earning All-American five times during college (swimming). I also want to someday climb Mt. McKinley - the tallest mountain in North America

ELECTIONS from 2

idly becoming more traditional and she believe this is not what Open School was destined to become.

Xiong Pao Thao is the student government treasurer. Xiong Pao has been in Open School since 7th grade. He likes being in student government because he is able to plan activities. Xiong Pao like being treasurer because he likes counting money. He likes Open School's environment.



Mee Xiong became secretary by everybody voting for her. Mee has been in Open School since 6th grade. She has also been in student government since 6th grade.

Mee wants to improve student government by getting the SLC and ELC to be more together, she wants to try to get kids into more school activities.

Mee thinks one of our strengths is that we're closer together and closer to the teachers. "Our weaknesses is probably that not a lot of kids are involved in school, they are into their own thing," said Mee.

Opinions 'n' Such

Rock talk volume one



Cami Rosas
Staff Columnist

After a long summer of "sk8er boi" bands, Linkin Parks, and bad-attempts-at-being-Nirvana, society seemed to have just one "simple plan" for the world of rock. But fear not! There is plenty more out there to feast your senses upon. Many great CDs and EPs have already hit stores. And some of those bands just may be gracing us with their presence in the not-too-distant-future.

APC

First off, not necessarily in alphabetical order, A Perfect Circle's new CD, **Thirteenth Step** came out on September 16th. For those of you unfamiliar with APC, here's a little bit about them. For their first record, **Mer de Noms**, the band consisted of Tool front man Maynard James Keenan on vocals, Billy Howerdel on guitar, Paz Lenchantin

on bass, Troy Van Luen on backing guitars, and Josh Freese on drums. For those of you who like Maynard's more feminine side and don't already have **Mer de Noms**, I suggest you get it...RIGHT NOW!!!

Back to **Thirteenth Step**. It definitely has a different sound from **Mer de Noms** because, well, the band is pretty different. Here's why, Paz left to join Zwan and Troy left to join Queens of the Stone Age, so they had to get a couple replacements. For bass, they got Jeordie White, otherwise known as The Artist Formerly Known as Twiggy Ramirez (Marilyn Manson), and for backing guitar they got Danny Lohner and James Iha. Danny Lohner has been all over the place, mostly with Nine Inch Nails, but he only recorded with APC for **Thirteenth Step**. The man touring is James Iha (former Smashing Pumpkins guitarist).

Thirteenth Step sounds like...well, it sounds like nothing I've heard before. It sounds like A Perfect Circle, on the next "step." Eh? Eh? Ya know? Eh? Step? Got it. **ROCK TALK Continued on 7**

How to rock



Danielle Kennedy
Staff Columnist

I think Twisted Sister said it best when their chart topper "I Wanna Rock" described exactly that. But what does it mean exactly to "rock?" What are the requirements? And basically, how does one go about with said rocking? Well, there's no initiation that requires a gruesome beating, or dressing up in a pink bunny suit and parading around the Mall of America, nor is there a test that measures rockitude. That would just be too simple. There are many aspects that must be perfected before one can truly begin rocking.

The easiest is probably the tightness of one's clothing (See: David Lee Roth, Jim Morrison, The Ramones, Little Richard.) Although this appears to be the simplest, it

is by no means easy. Often times, in order to be truly comfortable in skintight clothing, you must decrease the size of clothing gradually in increments over an extended period of time. Another difficulty that comes along with tight clothing is the side effect of a lowered sperm count; however, for a rocker this is not a problem because there is little need to reproduce due to the simple fact that newborns and youngsters alike seldom rock (See: the annoying Welche's juice girl, Lil' Bow Wow, their tendency to talk to you.)

Another major aspect pertaining to clothing is how often it is changed and/or washed. It is very hard, some would say impossible, to rock clean, white and unworn attire. It should always be ripped, visibly dirty and perhaps even burned. Also don't forget pink boas, live snakes, fishnet t-shirts, leopard print pants and knee high platform boots. Accessories, boys, accessories (See: anything Perry Farrell has worn now or ever, **ROCK ON Continued on 6**

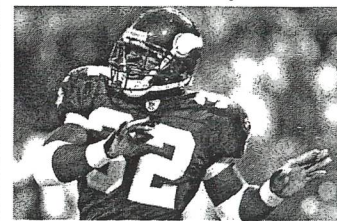
Vikes rule



Maritza Richardson
Staff Columnist

Michael Bennett, who's that? Pretty soon a lot of people are going to be saying that. Michael Bennett was the starting running back for the Minnesota Vikings. With Bennett out with an ankle injury, which is called a Jones Fracture. People are going to stop worrying about him and if he is ever coming back. Doctors say that he will be back in November at the earliest.

With the Vikings starting the season out 4-0 and with their new star running back Moe Williams, Bennett is no longer in anyone's mind. Williams ran for 11 touchdowns last season combined with Dante Culpepper's 10 touchdowns to set a record in Vikings rushing history. They are the 3rd duo in NFL history to each run for 10+



touchdowns in a season. Last season he had 414 yards on 84 rushing at-

tempts 11 touchdowns and along with that he caught 27 passes for 251 yards. "Williams is a warrior and we'd be lost without him", said Mike Tice, Vikings Head coach.

Now moving on to other players. Randy Moss what a guy! Did you see his performance against San Francisco 49ers? Woo wow, he put on quite a show with 8 catches and 172 yards, and Moss complained about a bad back, yeah sure. When Minnesota came out with a 35-7 victory. This year a lot of Open Schoolers have thought that Moss has grown up. "He isn't being such a butt," said Julie Doble (our Science teacher). That is a quote that only Julie would say. "Randy Moss is playing better with Ferotte than with Culpepper," said Robert Swinehart 10th grader.

So how about Culpepper? Is he just chickening out or is he really hurt? Doctors **VIKINGS Continued on 7**

Ritter Remembered

Aaron Schutjer
Staff Writer

John Ritter, the star of the 70's hit comedy *Three's Company*, died at 54 on Thursday, September 11 from an undetectable heart disease that can strike without warning. He became ill while working on his current sitcom, *8 Simple Rules for Dating My Teenage Daughter*. He underwent surgery at Providence St. Joseph Medical Center Burbank, but died shortly after 10 p.m.



Ritter grew up in Los Angeles. He received a degree from the University of California. He's appeared in series' such as *M.A.S.H.*, *Hawaii Five-O*, *News Radio* and *Ally McBeal*, but his most famous series was *Three's Company*, in which he played Jack Tripper, a lovable ladies man. Joyce DeWitt and Suzanne Somers also starred in *Three's Company*. The series ran from 1979 to 1984.

"All of us at ABC, Touchstone Television and The Walt Disney Co. are shocked and heartbroken at the terrible news of John's passing," a statement released by ABC said concerning the death of John Ritter. *8 Simple Rules For Dating My Teenage Daughter* will continue. It will go as planned and the three episodes that Ritter taped will be aired as normal, after that it will go into reruns as writers figure out what to do with it. They will not replace Ritter. The next show will deal with Paul Hennessy's (Ritter's character) death. Future episodes will have the family experience the death of their loved one and how they make a new life.

"The world will never be the same, he was a very funny guy," said senior Clara Iwaszek.

"Considering that I didn't know of his existence, it's sad but it really doesn't affect me," stated junior Mike Griffin.

John Ritter leaves behind wife Yasbeck and their daughter, Stella, and three children, Carly, Tyler and Jason, from his first marriage to Nancy Morgan. ♦

Another night time soap

Christina McGee
Staff Writer

Love triangles, neglect, complete disregard for family, and bitter conflicts from the past lingering in the present and future. It sounds like a soap opera, which isn't far from what the show *One Tree Hill* is, except when it's on at night instead of the afternoon, they call it a drama.

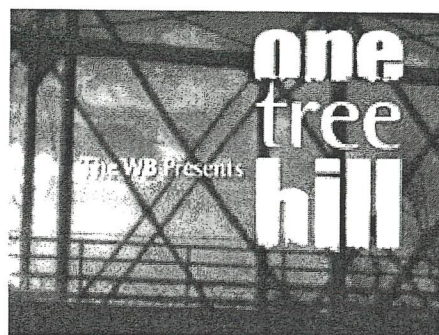
In *Tree Hill*, North Carolina, Nathan Scott (James Lafferty) and Lucas Scott (Chad Michael Murray) couldn't be anymore different. Nathan grew up in a wealthy family, lives with both of his parents, and is the star of his school's varsity basketball team. Lucas, on the other hand, grew up with just his mom, and is somewhat of an outcast at school. These two are complete opposites, or so it would seem. They do have some things in common; they share the same school, last name, and the same father. This

isn't a hidden fact either, the town of Tree Hill at least has some knowledge of this fact.

Dan (Paul Johansson), who is Nathan and Lucas' father, and Karen (Moirra Kelly), Lucas' mom, were high school sweethearts until Karen got pregnant in her senior year of high school, when Dan accepted a basketball scholarship and left Karen to provide

for their unborn son Lucas. Dan didn't just come back to Tree Hill a college graduate though, he came back a father (again) and a husband.

The premiere episode begins with both Nathan and



Lucas approaching the game winning shot. Only Nathan is in the high school gym and Lucas is on the playground by the river front. But what would a show be with just a basic **ONE TREE** Continued on 8

Friday tedious not freaky

Chloe Taipale
Staff Writer

Freaky Friday was engaging, magical, poignant, and intelligent. The actors performances were simply stunning, and I was literally on the edge of my seat, taken aback at every twist and turn of the plot.

And I just saw a pig fly by outside my window.

We all know the story: The bickering mother and daughter who can't see eye to eye on anything are subject to a "freaky" happening, and they soon find themselves trapped in each other's body. Then they learn about selfless love and caring and all that junk.

So a not-so-quick explanation of the plot, as if we need it: The daughter, Anna Coleman (played by Lindsay Lohan, who reminds me of a paralyzed rat with Parkinson's Disease, and yes that is possible), is one of those "I'm so hArDc0r3-and-pUnKxRaWk-becuz-I-shop-at-Hot-Topic-and-I-like-sk8er-boiz" kind of kids,

and as much as I hate to judge by looks, has some of the most jacked up hair I've ever seen. She apparently has never heard of shampoo, and also seems to have lost a fight with a highlighting kit. Oh, my bad, I forgot that it's not totally hArDc0r3 to bathe regularly.

She also plays in a garage band called Pink Slip (think an even softer-sounding Good Charlotte in female form), and has a crush on a guy named Jake (Chad Michael Murray,) who doesn't seem to know she exists. Wow, I've never seen that in a movie before. The mother, Tess Coleman (the horrible half-man Jamie Lee Curtis) is a psychologist that is always busy.

In one scene, she loads about 15 different cell phones, pagers and whatnot into her purse. She's engaged to Ryan (Mark Harmon), who Anna doesn't really fancy. Tess and Anna are always fighting, most recently because Anna's band has a chance **IF PIGS CLOUD FLY** Continued on 6



ROCK ON from 4

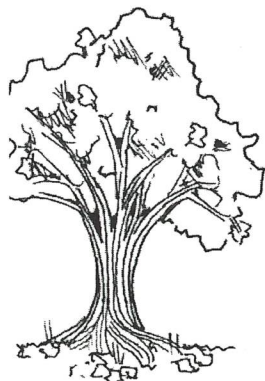
also David Bowie, Iggy Pop.)

Now that the easy stuff has been taken care of, it's time to talk about the more challenging disciplines. Sleep deprivation is a major gain for an individual's rockingness. The cold, hard truth is that you can't be rocking while you're sleeping. While a skilled rock-veteran may be able to rock while napping, you're still a grasshopper at the Dojo of All Things That Rock. So, in order to gain hours to rock in, one must take away from sleepy time. People waste one third of their little lives counting sheep. In rock terms, that means that you waste one third of your life not getting wasted, puking on your girlfriend's favorite shoes and passing out in little Steve's tub.

Probably the most enjoyable discipline is the skill of air guitar. Anytime a catchy riff is being played, a true rocker will always join in with the ol' air ax. Just playing is seldom enough though; jumping, diving, flipping and rolling can all greatly contribute to one's performance.

The last discipline some of you eager beavers out there think you have already mastered. It can be the most beautiful last touch or the end of you and your social life. I am of course referring to your hair. Hair is the second most crucial thing for a rock god. The longer, the dirtier, the shaggier the better (See: Shaggy, Billy Marks, Jesus and Mike Griffin.) A tousled mop is preferable but mohawks, pompadours and 'fros are also acceptable.

But when it comes down to it, the most crucial thing to rocking is the music itself. Seeing as I can not go through everyone's music collection and throw out all the crap (although there have been many attempts to do just that,) I am going to have to trust that everyone is using his or her best judgment. Anything from legendary bands like Queen, AC/DC or Kiss to underground heroes such as The Explosion and The Unseen may rock. ♦



IF PIGS CLOUD FLY from 5

to play at the House of Blues, and Tess won't let her play because the night of the show is also the night of her wedding rehearsal. Every disagreement seems to end with Anna screaming "You're ruining my life!!" and running upstairs to her room. One night, Anna shrieks and runs upstairs when Ryan suggests Chinese food for dinner. What did Ryan do? We was just trying to plan a nice family outing! But Sir-Shrieks-A-Lot over here has to ruin it.

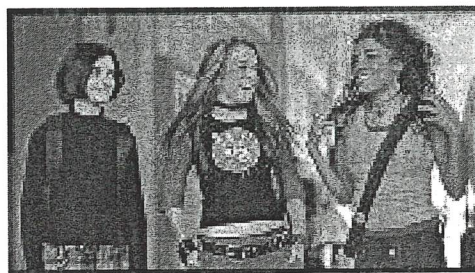
They end up going to the restaurant anyway, and, surprise surprise, Anna and Tess are fighting again. The owner of the restaurant watches them, and gives them both fortune cookies, which later turn out to contain some sort of "magic." They both read the fortune at the exact same time, and there's a small earthquakey type thing that happens that nobody else notices, and the next morning, they find themselves in each other's body.

Anna (who is actually Tess) wakes up and wonders why she's in her daughter's room. She then notices her hair is longer, and a few select body parts are firmer. She runs into her room to wake Anna (in Tess's body), and Anna is horrified to see her mother's reflection in the mirror instead of her own ("I'm like the Cryptkeeper!") They soon come to the conclusion that they'll just have to live each other's life for the day. So Anna (Tess) goes to high school, gets in a fight with the snotty popular girl and ends up erasing all the answers on her exam and writing "I'm stupid!" across the answer bubbles. Meanwhile, Tess (Anna) has some fun, getting a makeover, getting the cartilage piercing she's always wanted, and buying sexyful clothes, then settles down to listen to her crazy patients, all the while looking a little creeped out and only occasionally nodding and saying, "And how do you feel about that?"

She also goes on an Oprah-like talk show to explain some big psychological book she wrote, but she ends up giving weird answers to the host's questions and crowd-surfing in the audience. She later goes into a coffee shop and runs into Jake (who works there), and sits down at a table with him to talk about bands they like and Britney Spears. You see that oh-so-special glint in Jake's eyes, which made me recoil in horror. What this little boy's dreaming about is, last time

I checked, illegal in most-- no wait, all of the United States. But it only gets worse: later, he shows up at the Coleman house, singing "Hit Me Baby One More Time" to Tess. Oh my. Meanwhile, Jake and Anna (Tess) are drifting further and further apart, because suddenly she's conservative, high-strung, and just plain uncool.

So, after all of these crazy, kooky happenings, the night of Tess's wedding rehearsal arrives, and the two are still stuck as each other. Ryan, not wanting to look like the nasty soon-to-be stepdad, lets Anna go play at the House of Blues. You know, my garage band played the House of Blues as our first gig too. Seems to happen all the time. But wait, Tess doesn't know how to play guitar! What to do now? She stands on the stage like an idiot, awkwardly swaying to the catchy power-pop music.



All in all, this movie was bad. Call me crazy, but I like my movies with a plot that had at least a half hour of effort put into it. It'll never be at the same level as *The Lizzie McGuire*

Movie, but it's not far off. The acting could've used some work, and I'm just plain annoyed with Lohan's character. Most teenagers I know don't act as immature as she does, and I'm sure that Hot Topic's sales lurched up a bit more after this came out when all the happy little children wanted to be just as hardcore as Lohan's character. On an episode of MTV's TRL, Miss Lohan said she tried to make her character's attitude and style like Avril Lavigne, who is really "hardcore punk," right? Kinda hard to be a genre of music. Okay, okay, I'd better stop myself from going on a rant. I give this movie 2/3 of a star, because the grandpa is awesome, although the whole impaired hearing thing is a little old, and unlike Lizzie McGuire, this movie had no janitor with a skullet to save it. I did like the Merry Maids commercial that was on TV in one scene, because really, who can hate the Merry Maids? Nobody, that's who. I suppose this would be an okay movie on one of those "I'm in a bad mood and need a cheery teen movie" days when it's on HBO, but other than that, it's best to stay far, far away from this one. ♦

ROCK TALK from 4

It's different but it's a great piece of work. Act now! Supplies aren't limited!!!

My Ruin

Another band I strongly suggest you check out is My Ruin. They may not be for everyone, but if you like an eye-catching band that can rock your socks off, then you should check them out. This band is metal with a capital ROCK. You may, or may not, have heard about My Ruin's frontwoman, Tairrie B., from such magazines as Kerrang, or more recently, Metal Edge, and Metal Hammer. Miss B. was also the former frontperson of a rap/metal band called Tura Satana. You could call it rap, but I would rather think of it as spoken word.

My Ruin CDs are kind of rare, considering the only place I could find a copy of their CD **Speak and Destroy** was at Hot Topic. Now, it may cost a pretty penny, but, believe me, it's worth it. They're not a mainstream, everyone-knows-about-and-are-already-getting-sick-of-them type of band. But if you want something else in music, they're the perfect band to turn to.

Their newest project, **The Horror of Beauty**, is due sometime in October. But, if you don't want to wait for a taste of it, you don't have to! Their EP, appropriately entitled **The Shape of Things to Come**, already hit selected Hot Topics as of August 18th. I was lucky enough to snag a copy for only \$1.99 when I was prepared to pay \$20 for it! I've never even seen something at Hot Topic for less than \$6, let alone something of that value. So next time you go to the mall to get a new pair of spikes or the new AFI t-shirt, go pick up a My Ruin CD. They're great for Halloween... 'cuz they're SCARY!

Zwan splits

Moving on, for all you Zwan fans out there, I have some bad news... They've split! According to Rolling Stone magazine, Billy Corgan left the band first. But, what was it really, without Billy? (Hick laugh) I done made me up a rhyme! Apparently, he said he would rather be in a band like the Smashing Pumpkins.

Will this be the end of the Billy Corgan series?! Unlikely. Wouldn't be suprised if he showed up on VH1 in yet another band with Jimmy Chamberlain called "Zwanning Pumpkins" or, even better, "Smashing Zwan." Though fans are still waiting for the triumphant return of the "Pumpkins."

New recordings

Anyway... Incubus is currently working on a new CD. Guitarist, Mike Einziger says it's going to be like their old stuff, except older.

I think I speak for many Incubus fans when I ask Make Yourself old, or Fungus Among Us old? The world will have to wait and see. One thing we know for sure, though, is that Lance Bass, or Alex Katunich, the former bassist, has left the band for family reasons and replacing him is Ben Kinney, who used to be in The Roots.

Any fans of The Strokes out there? Anybody? Well, for those of you who are, The Strokes are also recording. The new CD, called **Room on Fire**, will be released on October 21st. I'm sure the critics are just peeing their pants for another chance to suck up to the pretty, rich boys who claim to come from New York and not care about being cool. LIHIES!!!

The Underworld soundtrack has long been in stores, even before the movie came out. The CD includes exclusive tracks by Puscifer (featuring Maynard James Keenan and Danny Lohner), David Bowie (also featuring Maynard), and many other bands like Finch, Skinny Puppy, and Trust Company. Now, just to let you know I only recommend the soundtrack, NOT the movie. I heard it sucks. Which it probably does, because... well, let's face it, Kate Beckinsdale can't act. It's a cool premise and all but, like Queen of the Damned, the main actress screwed it up. The music was cool, but the movie was... meh.

I'll stop now because this is a music piece, not a movie review. David Bowie's new CD **Reality** is in stores now. His last record, **Heathen**, was a pretty cool album. It had a lot of catchy tunes but it didn't really get a lot of publicity. I mean, it's David Bowie and he's made a new CD!!! Reality came out and I wasn't even informed! Shows around town

What a shameful time we live in. Bowie used to be as big as Elvis, except he was from England. And now, I may get a lot of "quit livin' in the 70's!" or "Bowie's too old to rock!" Open your eyes people! The man has barely aged and he STILL rocks! And guess what! He's coming here on January 11th with (shudder) Macy Gray.

ON WITH THE SHOWS!!! Where were you on October 1st? If you weren't at the Quest, you missed one hell of a show. Queens of the Stone Age were there, and The Distillers were too. So was a little band called Millionaire who sounded like a UFO landing with distortion.

Where were you on October 16th? If you weren't at the Roy Wilkins Auditorium then you probably didn't get to see Marilyn

Manson sportin' the old Mickey Mouse ears. But for legal reasons, they aren't really Mickey Mouse ears. Hey, speaking of legal issues with Marilyn Manson in Minnesota... Never thought I'd get to say that again.

Marilyn Manson, or Brian Warner, was found not guilty of committing battery. David Diaz, a Minneapolis security guard, claimed that Manson gyrating on the back of his head was severely embarrassing and caused him psychological harm. The jury realized that Diaz showed no signs of psychological damage. He was just a guy looking for a lot of easy money. The only thing Manson hurt was his pride.

I mean, you don't see 7-year-olds filing \$75,000 lawsuits against the school district because the crappy lunch made them throw up in art class, causing severe social damage and also having the art teacher hate them till 6th grade... What? Too much? Okay, well, it's been a pleasure. Make sure to check out the new stuff and never lose hope in rock. ♡

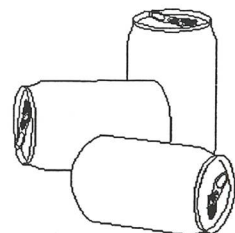
VIKINGS from 4

say that Culpepper strained his back and they can not say when he will be back because it is up to he weather or not he wants to start again. With Ferotte starting there is really no need for Culpepper to come in. "Well I don't think that Ferotte is better than Culpepper, but he sure is showing off his talent," said Tom Totushek (math Teacher).

Anyways the Vikes have a pretty easy schedule coming up. They play the Falcons on Oct. 5th and then they have a bye. With Michael Vick out and not starting quarterback for the Falcons, we have a pretty good chance of winning. We will see what will happen as the season continues. I will be back! ♡

CAFFEINE from 1

nior Schmuell Blyly-Strauss. Time will tell if this is a wise decision by the school board. ♡



FLAGS from 1

on the night of September 10th to lower the American flag and raise the UN flag. Thinking that a small lock around the flagpole might make their stunt impossible, they realized that the lock, according to Shmuel, "was more visual than functional." Within a half-hour, onlookers could view the flag from I-35.

Geoff had also reportedly approached Shmuel one week before, requesting funds to purchase the \$40 flag from a Northern Sun brochure. Shmuel contributed five dollars after being convinced by Geoff that this would be a good "senior prank."

The next morning, few people commented; although according to Geoff, principal Ruth Pechmann had "retroactively authorized" the statement. The American flag lay neatly folded and stored safely in Ruth's office. Ruth and Geoff later conversed; she was said to be sympathetic and understanding.

"It (the stunt) was totally radical, but I wouldn't have done it," said Molly Stark, tenth grade Open School student.

The flag would come down the following Monday.

This stunt occurred at an awkward time. The new state law has passed requiring students and staff to recite the pledge of allegiance to the flag in school. There seems to be many mixed feelings on this issue as well. Advisor Bridget Martin said that some advisees questioned the pledge law as some sort of "propaganda." She remembers the crisis in Malawi, Africa, a six-week-young country when she was there. She told of the school children wanting to burn their flag because they were angry with the president. Mother Superior told them, "Remember, this is the flag of a whole country, not the flag of one man. This is your flag too."

Bridget thought it strange that America has such an investment in a piece of cloth.

Despite the protests, the American flag waves once again.

"I think the stunt was only taken seriously by the perpetrators. I don't think anyone else really cares what's on top of the flagpole," said senior John Hendrickson.

"I think they were trying to make a political statement," science teacher Julie Doble went on, "I didn't care one way or the other."

"I didn't even realize it was a prank, just because it was too obscure to be a prank. More power to the UN," said senior Aaron Izaksonas-Smith. ♦

ONE TREE from 5

ketball game? After the game, Nathan and his basketball team decide to "borrow" a school bus, and they barely miss crashing into a train. The faculty has to find some way to discipline the players involved, so he suspends all of the players (except Nathan and some other players that magically vanished from the scene the night before) for the rest of the season.

So, of course the coach is looking for another player, and Lucas is brought to his attention by Keith, (Lucas' uncle, which would also be Nathan's uncle and Dan's brother) the coach's good friend, who is almost like a father to Lucas. The only people who have been left out so far are Peyton, who is Nathan's current girlfriend, and the girl Lucas is pretty much in love with. And there's Haley, Lucas' best friend. They have a brother and sister type of relationship.

This show is really confusing. Someone would have to really watch it thoroughly to understand all of the little twists in the plot. For the most part, the plot isn't like any other show that is currently on TV. All and the little quirks make it a little more interesting, and that could help the show as far as viewers, ratings. But people might not want to watch it because of what the show looks like from previews. There is a Dawson's Creek type of drama that the show has, but they are from the same network, so it's not really that surprising. This show seems like it's for the normal teenage audience and for anybody who likes a show with a lot of drama in it. On a scale of 1 to 5 in terms of TV shows, I'd say this show is in the range of a 2 1/2 to a 3 for anyone who actually wants to watch the show, it's on Tuesday nights at eight o'clock on the WB. ♦



Have a Spooky Halloween!

Irene Simmons, School Social Worker

What made you come to Open School?

My position was cut at Battle Creek Middle School

What are some things you like about Open School?

- Seeing younger and older students getting along
- Friendly staff

Where were you working last year?

Battle Creek Middle School

What jobs have you held, other than teaching?

Program manager for the Girl Scouts, therapist at Washburn Child Guidance Center

Where did you go to college?

University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
Washington University - St. Louis

Where are you originally from?

Liberia, West Africa

How long have you lived in Minnesota?

23 years

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

Play with my son, participate in church activities, go to the movies and go out to eat at new restaurants

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

Father - Isaac, cousin - Sam, grandmother - Estella

