



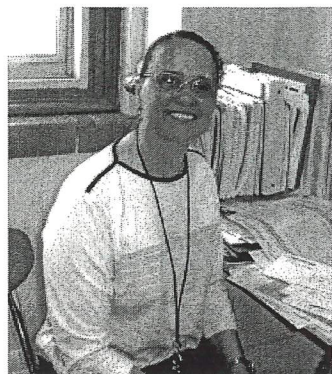
THE PURPLE PRESS

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Renee reaches the end

Geoff Wessendorf
Staff Writer

As of the beginning of next year, Open School will have a new counselor. Renee Ransom, our current counselor, will retire at the end of this school year to be with her husband.



Renee, who will be 56 in June, said that she will retire "because my husband is retiring. He worked nights, and we really want some time together."

Renee first set foot in Open School in January of 2000, when she replaced Gary Vettleson. That was not her first counseling experience, however. Renee has been a counselor for over 25 years, and works with the district as one of only eight emotional trauma specialists. "I may still help the district with the trauma work after I retire, and I'll volunteer here at Open a bit too," she said.

Renee has enjoyed her time here at Open. When asked what she liked most about the school, she said "I really like the advisory system. It is nice to get to know the kids and their families." Besides the advisory system, Renee liked the fact that "Open acknowledges learning in many forms. Not just sitting in class and listening to a teacher."

Nobody knows who will replace Renee after she retires. She will be sorely missed. ♦

High altitude heroics

Ananda Wold
Staff Writer

This year, with a swervy takeoff, Open's Outward Bounders headed off to Leadville, Colorado for a six-day service project. After five hours of airport announcements, the group left the Denver airport, in search of adventure in the pursuit of service and adventure.

With Leo as their chaperone, the female-dominated group of 18 students were stationed about 10,000 ft. above sea level, near the two tallest mountains in Colorado, Mt. Massive and Mt. Alibert. After getting used to the altitude, the group worked on various projects that helped the base camp get ready for the busy summer season. "We got to put up Quonset huts, it was most bodacious," said tenth grader, Mary Henke-Haney. Other projects included cleaning out vans to transport the Outward Bound students, as well as sweeping, mopping and supplying the various buildings on the site.

They did service in Leadville until Thursday, when they then headed down to Denver to work in an Outward Bound supply warehouse. There they began preparing things to be sent to Alaska. Some people

boxed food supplies, others tied ropes, or made repair kits. On the final day of the trip, many students helped inventory the supplies left at the warehouse. How many people can say they've counted 512 packets of aspirin?

As part of their trip, Open Schoolers also



Connected to Iraq

Jon Sherman
Staff Writer

Open School senior Aaron Holland has special reason to pay special attention to the news from Iraq. His 22-year-old brother Jesse is one of many American soldiers serving on the front lines.

First, there's Private First Class Jesse McClain Holland, Aaron's brother (he's not allowed to disclose exact unit for "personal reasons.") Trained in Fort Jackson, South Carolina, the Private was launched from Darmstadt, Germany. It's been two months since Aaron talked to him and although his parents have received calls from him, Aaron's never quite been able to catch him.

Evelyn, Jesse Holland's best friend's wife, recommended that Aaron to begin saving money to ship him Hustler Magazine. Apparently Holland isn't swanky enough for Penthouse.

"He ain't been home since last May," Aaron said. "He calls about once a week. At his going away party were friends. The only family there was me, Jon couldn't make it."

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The Purple Press Staff

Editors

**Arielle Weiler
Ananda Wold
Cameron Beitler**

Adult to Blame

Leo Bickelhaupt

Harry Potter returns

Veronica Beaty

Staff Writer

On June 20th, nerds across America will be expectantly waiting for 11:59pm, at which point they'll clamber to line up in front of their local bookstore so as to be first in line for the new Harry Potter book. At least, those nerds who haven't already pre-ordered.

Those pre-orderless chumps might want to bring a small cart along with them to help bear the load: the new book is 38 chapters and 255,000 words. Entitled *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, it will be more than one-third longer than the fourth book and only 519,000 words short of being Biblical.

This will be the fifth of the exceptional Harry Potter series, continuing the story begun in the books past. Each book is an-
POTTER Continued on 9



* Congratulations to Jessica Revoir, Josh Greenburg, Morgan Willenbring, Adrian Gorder and Caitlin Holmstrom, who have all graduated.

* Caitlin Holmstrom will be attending the High Tech Institute in September.

* Graduation is scheduled for 7:00pm on June 2, at the Saint Paul College.

Talent show a success

Aaron Schutjer

Staff Writer

On Friday, April 4th, the talent show was presented to all grades in the cafetorium. Many people have proclaimed that it was the best talent show Open School has had to date.

It ran from 12:40 to 2:25 and had 16 acts that included dancing, acting, and singing. The big acts this year were dancing, as it was the base for seven of the performances. Dance kicked off the show. It was some of the focus for Jeff's "Rollout" act. There were also a lot of singing acts by people such as Joe Anderson and Sierra Blakely. Allie Costello also sang a song by Michelle Branch. Nina also had two groups including her SLC strings, keyboards, and guitars.

Five teachers performed. Joel played "Give Back The Key To My Heart," Leo and Tim sang "Big John," Jeff rapped and Julie had her short piece with the harmonica. One difference was the lack of bands; Stegosaurus X was the only band in the show if you

don't count Nina's music class.

Students responded positively to the performances. "Ludakrispy Kreme was dang right awesome," said tenth grader Alyssa Albrecht. "It went really well," said teacher Susanne Hollingsworth. "There were a lot of good dancers" said ninth grader Julia Travers. Drama teacher Bridget Martin enjoyed the unique acts like Fur Elise, "I like to see something different, I think it's good for teachers and students to work together in a different dynamic."

We cannot forget about the people behind stage helping organizing the whole thing. There were many people helping to run it. Tony Cavanaugh ran sound, Aaron Izakson-Smith ran spotlight and Ananda Wold organized the whole thing with the help of Cameron Beitler and Joe Levine.

"Out of the three talent shows I've organized, this was logistically the best," said Ananda. ♦

Outward Bound: all you wanted to know

Alyssa Albrecht

Staff Writer

How did this wonderful opportunity come to Open School? Well, around twelve years ago, an Open School staff member thought up the amazing idea and decided to look into seeing if the school could create some sort of volunteer or alumni service project. This staff member had gone on an Outward Bound course, and thought students would enjoy it.

The whole idea of Outward Bound is offering a strong service-leadership factor, it is basically a well-sized group of students wanting to go and help out with doing some good for someone else. In order

to go on Outward Bound, you need to fundraise money so you can get to the destination.

Open School has been to Ely, Minnesota twice, Oregon three times, Joshua Tree, the Sierras, Texas twice, and Colorado twice. If there is a year where the money is low, then the students just go to someplace close by in Minnesota.

On the trip, students learn group skills, work hard, and they usually get to spend some of their days climbing, or going on a high ropes course. ♦

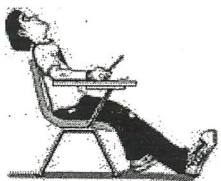


Prom to be held at Wabasha Caves

This year prom is gonna be sweet. Built into the Wabasha Caves (of which the venue shares the same name,) it is a classy joint and certainly much nicer than the sleaze hole we had last year called Act One. The door is lit up with bright beautiful lights and the inside of this place it is like a feast for your eyes. There is also more space than Act One and it isn't next to a liquor store.

I think it will be better because it is nicer and classier place than last year," exclaimed senior Liz Hoover exclaimed. Word up Liz, word up.

The theme this year is Midnight Masquerade, so remember your masks and get ready to shake your groove thang to everyone's favorite deejay Roger's (of The Scene) set of hits. ♦

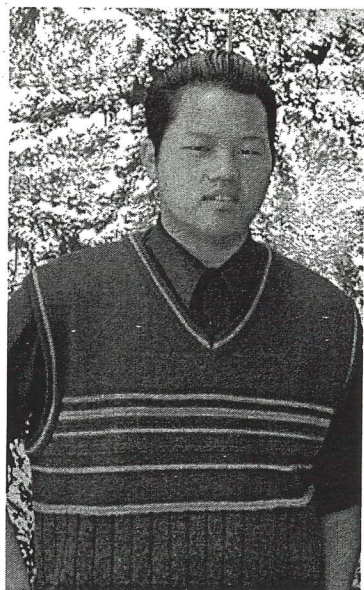


Chai Her

Years at Open: 8 years

Extracurricular activities: History Day

Senior Profile



What are you planning to do next year?

To attend college at Metro State or Saint Paul Tech.

What will you miss most about Open?

Teachers and friends.

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

Japanese animation.

What is your favorite class in high school?

Gym and social studies classes.

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

Jumping high, I'd use it to play basketball.

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

To play in the NBA.

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

Vince Carter.

Get off the couch and go to First Avenue

Geoff Freeman
Staff Writer

Are you tired of spending your Friday nights in the basement, getting beat by your little brother at *Yu-Gi-Oh*? Are you looking to make new friends and hear some rad music, but are too lazy to find out where you can go? Well, I'm coming to your rescue. Here's a comprehensive guide to a few of the Twin Cities venues that with any luck, will turn your life around.

Minneapolis, inherently, has better venues. Actually, St. Paul has close to no venues at all, unless you count the coffee shops littered across the town, but that's mostly hokey folk crap anyway (unless you're looking to hook up with some middle aged ex-hippy intellectuals.)

If you are too lazy to drag your butt the short distance to Minneapolis, your best bet for a good show would most certainly be Eclipse Records. Eclipse Records is located at 1692 Grand Avenue. It features a good selection of CDs at a record store, but more importantly, free shows. That's right, they're free. You pay nothing. You can count on

shows three or four or even five nights a week. It's always local and it's almost always good. Highly recommended.

But you're saying, "Geoff, I don't like any of the local bands." Assuming I don't punch you in the face, I might suggest some of these venues.

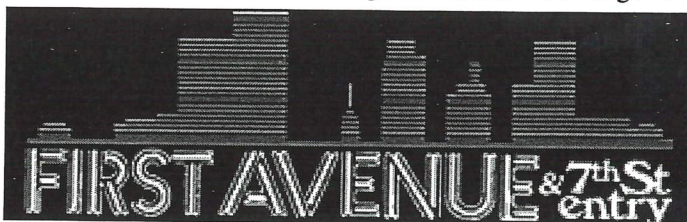
First Avenue has been around since the seventies. It was the setting for all the live music in *Purple Rain*, and the focus for most bands touring through good ol' Minnesota. Any band you've seen in your music magazine, yeah they've played at First Ave, or will in the near to distant future.

Shows usually cost about \$8-\$15, although very rarely the shows may cost \$25-\$30, but that's only for bands that just couldn't cut it for the stadium. If you're

lucky you find some comps (that's "complementary ticket," a little show jargon). You can usually find comps at record stores and general instruments stores.

But now you're complaining "Geoff I don't have the money to go to First Ave, I'm in downtown Minneapolis and I like underground music." You might find yourself at

the 7th Street Entry, First Ave's little brother, a small



venue, that's actually part of the same building as that of First Ave.

Just a few blocks from First Ave. you'll find The Quest and its little brother venue, The Ascot Room. The Quest and The Ascot Room are on 110 N 5th St. The Quest is roughly the same size as First Ave. The entire venue maintains a kind of almost mid **VENUES Continued on 9**

News anchor dead in Iraq

Angie Hausladen
Staff Writer

NBC's news anchor David Bloom died April 6, at 39 years of age, covering the war in Iraq. He did not die from a war-related injury. He suffered from a blood clot that made him collapse and he never regained consciousness.



Bloom wasn't the only news reporter that died that week covering the Iraqi war.

Michael Kelly, the Atlantic Monthly Editor-At-Large, and a Washington Post columnist, was also killed in Iraq. He died on April 3, while with a soldier when their Humvee crashed into a canal.

Bloom was about 25 miles from Baghdad. He was packing for a later trip with the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Division. Kelly had also been traveling with the 3rd Infantry.

Bloom was very well known as a co-host

of NBC's *Weekend Today Show*, but his coverage of the Iraqi war gained him more popularity. A large part of that popularity was because of the "Bloom Mobile," which used satellite images that showed people what was going on at the time. The "Bloom Mobile" let viewers be with Bloom while he was in the desert, and see exactly what was happening.

In his 20-year career, Bloom covered a lot of different types of stories, ranging from the O.J. Simpson trial coverage to the war in Bosnia.

The White House reported that President Bush was greatly saddened by the whole incident. "The President extends his sympathy to the Bloom family," said the White House Spokesman Taylor Gross.

Bloom was a native of Edina, Minnesota. He joined the NBC crew in Chicago back in 1993. He was also a correspondent for the White House before he became a weekend co-anchor for the *Today Show* in March 2000.

He is survived by his wife, Melanie, and his three daughters. ♦

Hip 2Hop

Emmanuel Mauleon
Staff Writer

"It goes a hip, hop, a hip to the hop on POP, rock this non-stop! When the beat drops, we drop you with our glock! 'Cause we hip-hop, HIP-HOP on POP!"

This is the opening track of the best fake CD I've ever heard in my life. It is from the notorious group, 2HOP (Hip-Hop On POP), a group started in our very own Open School. It combines the sounds of old ragtime music with hard core rap. Mix in some obscure Dr. Seuss references, nine emcees (maybe it's ten now?) and beautifully disgusting lyrics, and a group with more potential than P. Diddy and N*Sync in a love frenzy could ever have been born. 2HOP.

Now, not many people know, but one of the original members of 2HOP was actually the originator of RHYME! Yes, although this has no actual evidence to back it up, why would they use ragtime music if it wasn't true? Why would all of the on stage choreography include "The Charleston?" You know why? Because the leading member, Gramps (aka Marcos Richardson,) started rapping way back in the 1930's. It didn't catch on until later, and he was chased out of Birmingham, Alabama, his birthplace.

One of the reasons it didn't catch on, we think, is because back then a black man rapping (they called it Spitter-talking back in those days) was not allowed, especially about the disgusting subjects he chose to talk about. These sort of things were definitely illegal, much less talked about in public. But due to the fact that his Tourettes is uncontrollable, there was nothing to be done. So he waited it out, surviving the Civil Rights movement and the disco era, and reintroduced rap to a man named Kurtis Blow, a known coke user that Gramps used to sell to. Four years later, at a party thrown by a Jamaican deejay, Cool Herc, hip-hop was born.

Through the years, he collected the different members of his group, meeting legendary emcee "The Grinch" (aka Pedro Rodriguez) at an AA meeting, where he took him, and his cardboard-box shanty, under his wing and taught him the ways of rhyme. He later won a Grammy for "Best Song in the History of the World," entitled "Only if You Wanna Go Through With it Girl," a remake of the classic "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch." This brought the group national

HIPPITY HOP Continued on 9

Ozzfest still going strong

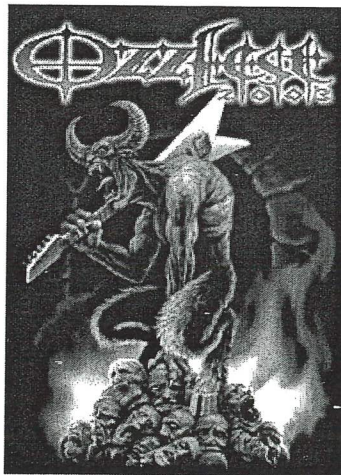
Chloe Taipale
Staff Writer

Yes kiddies, it's that time of year again. Everyone's favorite music festival, better known as OzzFest, has kicked off again, continuing its reign as one of the summer's most popular tours, despite a lack of coverage by MTV and radio.

The famous music festival, starring Ozzy Osbourne himself, was the brainchild of his wife, Sharon Osbourne. There was "no place for Ozzy," and no tour would accept him, saying he "didn't fit" with the other bands, so he just went ahead and made his own tour, laughing in the faces of everyone who turned him down as he raked in thousands of dollars.

This year's 'fest features KoRn; your parents' favorite person, Marilyn Manson;

Chevelle; Disturbed; and, of course, his Ozzness will be heading the first stage. Nothingface, Shadow's Fall, and Cradle of

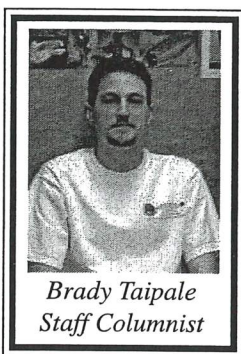


Filth, among many others will play on the second stage. About 19,000 attendants are expected to attend at each city. The tour stops in many hot spots such as San Antonio and Dallas, but the blistering heat there doesn't seem to discourage concert-goers. Being dehydrated and overheated is a small price to pay compared to the satisfaction you get when you experience Ozzy parading around the stage, awkwardly clapping his hands and jumping about wildly.

The tour first started in the 90's, and im-

OZZFEST Continued on 10

Keep U.N. out of our parks



Brady Taipale
Staff Columnist

I've blasted the United Nations before in my columns, and I feel the need to do it again. I want to clear the air by saying that I hate the U.N. I hate everything the U.N. stands for. By now, I can predict that most of you reading this are thinking, "Uh oh, this crazy right-wing nutcase is ranting again."

I understand that none of you trendy folks take this well. I was almost kicked out of Century College because one staff member claimed that I was dangerous because I dared to have a strong opinion about the U.N. that was different than hers (by the way, all the rest of you liberals that claim you are for academic freedom can bite me!)

I am an American citizen. I'm not a citizen of the world. It sickens me to know that there are 47 parks in America that are controlled by the U.N. What I mean is that these parks, as well as a lot of the surrounding land (even private property,) is "managed and monitored" by 90 different countries that are participating in this particular U.N. program.

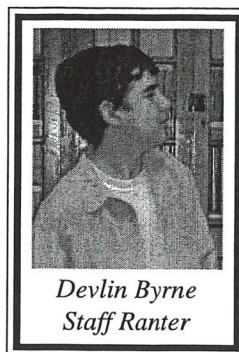
Some third world skinny from Crapistan who lives in a tree and some wine-sipping, hygiene-optional frog from France have the power to make decisions about Yellowstone, the Everglades, and others. I should mention that the United States never officially agreed to participate in this nightmare in the first place. We are in this mess because of weiner politicians sucking up to the no-borders, one-world crowd.

I know there are a number of people who are saying, "Well Brady, we don't need anyone owning their own land. That's unfair, dude. Land should be shared. Let's all hold hands around the peace pole and sing about how great sharing is."

Listen, you freaks, I'll tell you where to stick that peace pole! In my country, we believe in private property. No real American is going to let anyone mistake that fact. I don't care if it is the city, the Feds, or the world. Just because the government decides who owns what in some piece of crap country like China, doesn't mean it's gonna fly here. If some "peace keeper" comes knocking on my door telling me that my yard is world property and that I have to get out, let's just say that they won't exactly be welcomed with open arms.

HIPPIES SUCK Continued on 10

Media, more like suckia



Devlin Byrne
Staff Ranter

If you are like me, you watch a lot of television, and you also can't stand it when your favorite program is interrupted for some "breaking" news. Like Saddam Hussein *may* have died. May have died? How is that breaking news? He may have died when the first bomb exploded on tender Baghdad. I think you could wait until the ten o'clock news to let the public know that Saddam *may* have died. I think that most "breaking" news interruptions could wait until the nightly news, but the people in charge of those decisions are too inebriated to understand that.

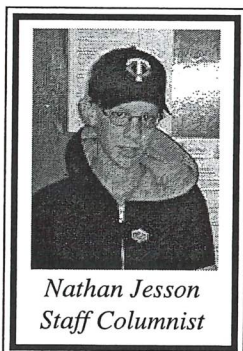
The United States media. How much does it suck? Thiiiiiiiiiiiiis much! You couldn't tell, but I stretched my arms as wide as I could just then. I have a major beef (it's what's for dinner) with the news in this country. They either barely mention something, or they over-play it to death, and then they play it some more. They play it until my stomach becomes inverted and my eyes start to bleed. Like after September 11th, you couldn't turn on a TV with out seeing those towers crashing down again. I got so flipping sick of it, I'd end up watching whatever crap was on the WB. Ah, the duba duba duba duba double-u Bee! The only network that doesn't have any news, ever. That is the best thing about it. Fox used to have no news, but now they are one of the worst. I'll be glad if for the rest of my life I never have to see those towers fall again.

Whenever the press gets a piece of shocking footage, all they do is play it again sports and again until everyone has seen it and every one is sick of it. Like when that one woman started to hit her child in a parking lot, I saw the video tape so many times I felt like I smacked that kid. The whole media community seems to me like a group of shallow teenagers, just waiting for the next piece of juicy gossip. Once they get it, all they do

MEDIA, BAD Continued on 10

"The only news program I watch is Access Hollywood."

Right to choose in jeopardy



Nathan Jesson
Staff Columnist

A bill recently passed the House that would delay any abortion 24 hours, during which a woman getting an abortion would be educated about abortions. Although this seems somewhat sensible the only reason it's being considered is because the Republicans are trying to prevent abortions in any form.

Regrettably, not everyone who gets an abortion thinks through the issue thoroughly. However, 24 hours of someone talking about why they shouldn't get an abortion probably isn't going to help the person. And for those who know what they are doing this is going to be a useless waste of their time, not to mention expenses. Seeing as the only place where you can get an abortion in

Minnesota is in the Twin Cities and Duluth, people from rural Minnesota and North Dakota need to drive quite a ways, and another delay isn't going to help them.

This bill sadly passed the house 91-41 in an overwhelming majority. Next the bill has to get out of committee in the Senate, (which it might not) and then get voted on by the Senate. Although the Democrats have a 35-31 majority in the Senate, it is quite likely it could pass. Although that is mostly because the House is republican, democrats have 53 in the house and republicans have 81. Governor Pawlenty would no doubt sign the bill into law.

And back to the real point, this is the Republican house and the Republican Governor trying to make abortions illegal. They're just doing it one step at a time.

This is what Minnesota gets after electing Republicans here, there and everywhere in the 2002 elections.◊

Black Sash is just average

Christina McGee
Staff Writer

What is *Black Sash*? People can probably come up with their own definitions, but I'm talking about the WB's newest show. It's like a soap opera that happens at night and involves martial arts.

Black Sash centers around martial arts teacher Tom Chang and a group of students who are mostly looking for someone to count on and in some cases to look up to. It's the basic

story of a wise adult who becomes a mentor to an individual or group of



young people. It's the same type of plot that gets used for TV shows most of the time, except for the minor details.

The show focuses on a martial arts school in San Francisco, where Chang (Russell Wong) helps his students deal with their problems, a lot like Tom's mentor type person, Master Li, who Chang still goes to for advice after all these years (the martial arts school used to be run by Master Li, now it

is run by Chang). The show focuses on a specific group of students at Chang's school who are dealing with their own issues, besides martial arts.

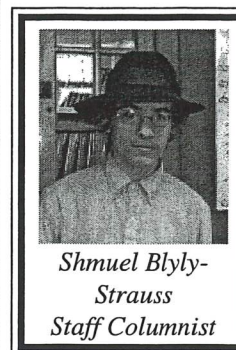
One of the people is Tory Stratton (Missy Peregrym,) who uses martial arts as a way to deal with the anger from the death of her father, who was a policeman. Bryan Lanier (Ray J) is another one of Chang's students

who gets guidance from him. Allie Bennett (Sarah Carter) finds the friendship

and acceptance that she craves at Chang's school. Chang, who was a police officer wrongly accused and arrested for smuggling heroin into Hong Kong, is trying to win back the right to see his daughter and be accepted by his ex-wife, who has custody of their daughter.

Most of the actors on this show are pretty much new to TV and have only been on one *BLACK SASH Continued on 9*

Shmuel likes Intel



Shmuel Blyly-Strauss
Staff Columnist

Well, folks, there's a new processor on the block. It's made by Intel, the maker of Pentiums and Celerons, and it's specifically designed to work more efficiently in laptops than the

Mobile Pentium IV, which is the current standard. When I was offered the opportunity to pick out any laptop to get, I jumped at the chance to try out this new chip, to see what it could really offer.

As many of my tech-geek friends know, generally I really dislike Intel products, as they tend to be more expensive and less efficient than my preferred AMD processors. The Centrino, however, is an exception. Although my new laptop came with Windows XP Home Edition, which is a relatively slow OS, it runs great. The 1.6 Gigahertz Centrino I have allows me to run pretty much anything fast. For awhile, I thought I might actually be able to slow it down by transferring 5 gigabytes of data over a 10 megabyte-per-second network connection while running a fairly new game, like Neverwinter Nights, but it just caused the CPU to go faster and faster, basically causing the game to run at about 2-3 times normal speed.

The main drawback, as with any new technology, is the price. A laptop with a Centrino will typically run about \$200 - \$300 more than a system running a mobile Pentium IV. Of course, pretty much anything with an AMD processor will be significantly cheaper than a computer with an Intel-based chipset.

The main thing about the Intel Centrino, though, is the longer battery life. Because Intel designed it specifically for laptops, it makes more efficient use of power than the Pentium IV, giving a Centrino-based system roughly a 25% longer battery life. Overall, I'd recommend a Centrino to a prospective laptop owner, as it was specifically designed for the task of running laptops, so it's more efficient than anything else currently on the market, when it comes to portables. The bottom line is, if you can afford it, go for a Centrino, rather than a Pentium IV. It's a little bit more expensive, but if you plan on keeping the computer for any length of time, but it'll be worth it in the long run. ♦

Cowboy Bebop = good anime

David Stewart
Staff Writer

Cowboy Bebop: The Movie had a limited release in art theaters starting on April 4th. It stars the cast of the popular television series about a team of bounty hunters who sometimes don't get along with each other very well. Personally, I enjoyed the film. The



movie fits in with the series between Session # 2 2 "Cow-

boy Funk" and Session #23 "Brain Scratch." The animation is impressive and very detailed and it is probably the best anime movie I have ever seen.

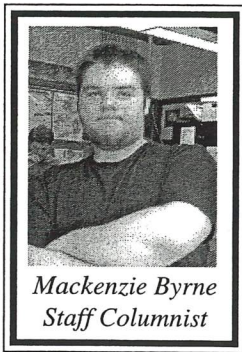
Opening night at the Lagoon Cinema, the only theater in the Twin Cities area to show the film, looked like a zoo. All four shows sold out a minimum of 30 minutes before

show time. People were more than happy to pay the \$8 admission price. Most of the people buying tickets appeared to be college students.

The story begins with Faye Valentine (Wendee Lee) attempting to pick up a quick bounty on her way back from the races, where she had lost as usual. Her routine bounty turns into a nightmare when the tanker that is supposed to be being driven by her target pulls over and explodes, releasing a toxic chemical agent into the surrounding area.

The plot thickens when the group discovers the driver of the tanker, Vincent Volaju (Daran Norris,) has been recorded as dead for over ten years. People who follow the television series will be intrigued that Vincent beats up Spike Spiegel (David Lucas,) yes that's his last name, two times without much difficulty. Spike finds aid in *COWBOY BEBOP Continued on 7*

DI: from the front lines



Mackenzie Byrne
Staff Columnist

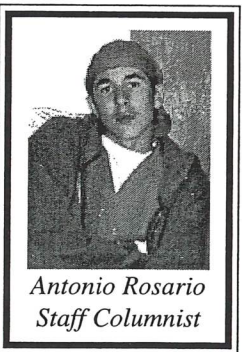
It's an early spring Saturday morning. The rest of the world is still asleep but I'm up before the sun putting on my new Open School DI shirt and making sure the technical part of my team's presentation is ready to go. I just didn't trust that it would be okay on the truck overnight. It's time to go to a DI competition. I've been doing this for six years now, and at times I wonder why, but what it comes down to is I love it; the challenge, the suspense, the drama. Well, I could do with less of the drama, but most of all it's a lot of fun. In the end, no matter how I placed, I've always had a sense of accomplishment.

I know some of you readers might be wondering what DI is, so I'll give you a run-down. DI stands for Destination Imagination (formally known as Odyssey of the Mind or OM.) It is a creative problem solving competition where teams of four to seven mem-

bers in one of three levels try to solve one of several central challenges. The challenges break down into one of five categories: Theatrical; it's all about the skit, requirements deal with the story and all that jazz. Technical; these are usually considered the hardest, requirements deal with making something that fulfills certain requirements (like one year it was to make an android.) Theatrical/Technical; a mix of the first two. Structure; 65% of the teams points come from a ratio of weight the structure held over weight of the structure, the rest come from the skit which usually has real cheesy requirements. Open School has done very well in structure problems. This is the third year in a row an Open team has made it to Global Finals in this kind of problem. And lastly, Improv; completely different from the others - you have some things to prepare beforehand, but the details are given to you 30 minutes before you go on stage.

Anyway, this year my team did a theatrical/technical problem called ViDiO Adventure where the team had to present a video adventure game of a quest to three countries. *I LOVE D.I. Continued on 10*

How to get free stuff online



Antonio Rosario
Staff Columnist

I was sitting in Newspaper, bored, while Leo was throwing chairs and screaming at kids, when an idea popped up in my head. The Internet. What all can you do with the Internet? So as I was plotting what the Internet could do, I thought, "Hey, I bet you could get free stuff online." And this idea was born. I've been ordering stuff since last issue was pressed and now the results are in.

Do you not have any money? Are you bored? Do you think the Internet is worthless? Well, this story will address all of those problems.

I've been doing some research over the past weeks, ordering free stuff online. And it's time to tell the results and sites. I will now rate the sites on a 5 star scale; on Quality, whether or not it made it to my house, and how hard it was to get it. Note that

NONE of these sites have shipping costs.

TheFreeSite. ****- The Free Site is a site where you can get free stuff. The site is kind of confusing if you go to it, and they don't have much of a selection, but, their samples got to where they needed to go. Their selection consists of what companies are offering for free. Overall it gets 3 stars because of the fact that they got to where they needed to go. But the selection lacks quality. <http://www.thefreesite.com>

A+ Free Stuff. ****- A+ Free Stuff's selection is off the hook. They have everything, from food, to clothes, to electronical components. And it's not hard to get the stuff either. Only thing is that it links to a sample site of the product you want, you don't get it right off the site. I ordered seven things, but only five things made it their destination. That was the only thing that held me back from giving this a perfect rating. Overall, it gets four stars because of the HUGE selection and to how easy it is to order. <http://www.aplusfreestuff.com>

United States Postal Service Shop. ****- **FREE STUFF!** Continued on 8

COWBOY BEBOP From 6

the Morocco District of town when Rasheed (Nicholas Guest) gives him a vase that's "perfect for him."

The group's other ally is Elektra Ovilo (Jennifer Hale,) Vincent's ex-lover and Spike's love interest in the film. "Radical" Edward Wong (Mellisa Charles,) along with Jet Black (Beau Billinglesea) are only minor characters in the picture. However, this is partially a result of Ed having to spend the

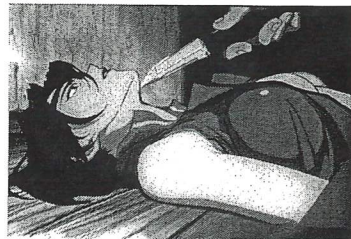
"It is probably the best anime movie I have ever seen."

last half of the movie trying to fix her hacking program. Another popular trio also makes a return in the movie. Their names are Antonio, Carlos and Jobin, although, most fans know them only as

the senile old men. In one scene you get to see them trying to fly an old crop duster that hadn't had maintenance in 20 years. There are also quick cameo appearances by many characters from the series including Julius, Musashi a.k.a. Andy the cowboy, Laughing Bull, Judy and Punch the Big Shot hosts, and Bob, Jet's old buddy from ISP.

The music score for the movie is awesome. Despite the extreme variety, all of the songs were perfect. Director Shinichiro Watanabe did a great job on this movie, especially since this is the first motion picture he has made. The voice-over work was seamless.

Also, the scenes which involved bloodshed were vi-



sually impressive and yet not as gruesome as the ones in most live action movies.

Cowboy Bebop is rated R for gratuitous violence and language. Fans of the television show, as well as fans of action based anime such as *Dragonball Z*, will enjoy this film. However, I wouldn't recommend it to anyone who isn't a fan of anime or of action movies. Overall, I give it a 9 out of 10. Due to the limited release, it is only showing at Lagoon Cinema in Minneapolis. However, there are rumors of a DVD/VHS release in early June. Also, the subtitled Japanese version is readily available under the title *Cowboy Bebop: Knockin' at Heaven's Door.* ♡

HOLY HOLLAND! From 1

Aaron referred to "Jon" as Private First Class Jonathan Dondlinger, a very close friend of the family who, at the time, was already stationed in Germany.

Aaron continued, "Jon's a rough kid who's got the manners of a God. I haven't talked to him in a long time. I don't even know if he's still around or not."

Dondlinger and Holland signed up together and Aaron wouldn't consider anybody else worthy of being kin. "Sort of like brothers in arms, so to speak," Aaron said.

Daniel Garender, also a friend of Aaron's, is said to be doing pretty good, "One mean and tough Sicilian son of a bitch," Aaron remarked, "And about my brother; proud? Of course I am. Worried? A little, but he'll make it. A Holland has never fallen in any American battle."

Plain common sense and somewhat of an obligation told Aaron to keep to secrecy his brother's exact location, expressing his respect for our armed forces. If Aaron could talk to his brother, he'd tell him to fight as hard as he could until the last bullet. Jesse Holland should be home for the holidays, between Thanksgiving and Christmas. The original plan was for Holland to be home by August 1, his birthday. However, the war changed all that.

Aaron stated, "Anybody that says they didn't sign up for war when joining a mili-

tary service is a God damn liar. Most recruits were likely picked up after September 2001 to the present. We knew we were going to fight somebody."

His opinion on the war remains as it does on World War 2. He says that they both need to happen. He also asks that if the United States isn't the police of the world, why does everybody come to us with their problems? Aaron explained, "We are not the kings of the earth, but have high responsibilities as the strongest nation. Our trade agreements alone support half of the world."

Understanding and respectful of pacifists, Aaron commented on Saddam and Iraq, "I realize the turmoil brought up by this war, but I also realize that a man with the ambition of genocide should not be allowed to practice his goal. They have found the weapons. They have found the torture chambers, and yet I have not seen a decline in the protesters. This merely proves my point. They're in it not for peace, but because they just hate Bush. I hate Bush myself, but I hate Saddam and his regime of murderers even more. I am disgusted by whiny Bush-haters who jumped on the bandwagon just to get their faces on television." He then urged them to "grow up and go to work."

Good luck USA! And as once told to me by a peg-legged Haitian, let's represent our nation!♦

TALLY-HO From 1

got to participate in some of the activities Outward Bound offers. After working on team building skills by working around "Leadville Lava" and doing the elephant walk, as well as working on the low ropes course, everyone tried the high ropes course.

"Watching Shelby's creative interpretation of the 'leap of faith' was the funniest thing I've seen in a while," said eleventh grader Sierra Blakely.

Before the group headed off to Denver, they also did some natural rock climbing. They drove about half an hour, past the collegiate mountains, to Buena Vista, to a climb site near Split Rock. There they learn belaying and climbing skills and had a day of fun in the sun climbing rocks. "The best part for me was the rock climbing because my knuckles were all bloody and that was super sweet!" said tenth grader Sean Keith.

After dinner, it was free time. Some people went back to the dorms for an early bed-

time, and others played Risk. One of the most popular things to do was play Coloraquetball. The game was the creative invention of Leo and Sean. Not finding an adequate space to play Fraquetball, the two made a make shift court that due to the sur-



roundings ended up evolving into a totally new game. With the paddlin' rule instituted by Mary and Ananda, the game became something truly unique. "It's a fast paced, vein-pumping game just like Fraquetball, only add thin air, rough carpet and paddlin'," said co-inventor Sean.

After students got over the altitude sickness and lack of radio, everyone loosened up and had a great time. They worked as a team, encouraging each other through "challenge by choice" events, and even simple things like dishes. They helped people get work done quick and correctly. Above all, they had a great time. "It was rockin' good times bottled up like toothpaste!" said Mary.♦

FREE STUFF From 7

Why is this on the list? Well, where would you be without mailing supplies? You can get FREE shipping labels, priority mail or express mail. They cost nothing, and they pay for the shipping. And the thing is, the item makes it to your house in less than a week! But, if you don't need shipping labels, I guess this site isn't for you. I give it three stars, because it is only shipping labels, but the quality and probability of it coming to your house is great. <http://shop.usps.com>

Markal. ****-. Markal offers industry stuff. But the industry stuff includes markers, paint, bags, boxes, containers and such. The quality of the stuff is great, but to get the stuff is complicated. After you figure out what you want, you have to write down the product name and color. Then you have to go to http://www.laco.com/html/customer_service and type in everything you wrote down. They get to you in a week or two. So overall, it gets 4 stars, because of the quality and probability. <http://www.markal.com>

Global Sources. *****. This has got to be the best source of free online stuff. But the only thing is that you have to write a letter to get what you want. The trick is, you go to what you want, you write to the company and tell them you're interested in their product and ask for a sample. We sent these things to an address that didn't belong to us, but someone who was willing to let their address out. I was able to get from this a DVD player, a paintball gun, a backpack, and a whole lot more. It works, and it gets five stars, even though you have to kind of go through a lot to get the thing. The selection is wider than anything, and you can get almost anything you want. Try it at home, kids. <http://www.globalsources.com>.

Now, some advice to everyone who is seeking free stuff online: Don't Give Up. That's the golden rule. If someone refuses to send you something, tell them again how much you're interested in their product. Another thing is to act like a merchant. Say, "I'm a merchant from St. Paul, Minnesota. And I'm interested in your product." Use that as a last resort.

This has been your guide to free stuff online. But, remember this, if you don't get anything or if anything goes wrong, I am just the messenger, so don't blame me. But don't worry, nothing should go wrong if you go with the rules I supplied.

This has been an aLR production.♦

HIPPITY HOP From 4

notoriety, and with that, a large handful of emcees were added to the plate.

"We added a rapper named KRS-ONE for awhile, but we didn't feel he brought the right kind of flavor to the group, so sadly, we had to let him leave," Gramps told me with a befuddled grin on his face.

"Then we tried various members of TLC and Salt'N'Pepper, but we realized that women were also a horrible addition to anything, so we let them go as well," Gramps said in his generally stereotypical 1930's attitude.

After long searching, they found three more members in 1996; three strung out teens working the night janitorial shift at a day care, most of the time reading "Hop on Pop!" These teens were quick to leave their job, but were definitely the biggest influence to the group's final name, "Hip-Hop on Pop."

"One of our emcees, 'Token White-Boy' (aka Aaron Holland,) just couldn't stop saying 'Hop, Hip, POP, Hip, POP-A DOP,' and crap like that... We thought he was having a seizure. But eventually he spit out 'Hip-Hop on POP,' and the name stuck," said The Grinch, while doing a line of coke. "I don't think *SNIFF* we ever made a better decision than to get him into our group. Him and... Hey Gramps! What's his name again?"

"Care BEAR... (aka Robert Swineheart.)"

"Right... Care BEAR. Him and Lorax (aka Gus Olsen) brought heat to the group, a new sort of... *SNIFF* um... 'RETARDED' flava."

Around 1999, the group had released no more albums, because they thought that the sound was lacking something.

"We needed to get back to our roots, you know... Talk more about guns, bling, and b*****. Get back to what it's all about, ya dig," recollected the Lorax, who then began to spout disgusting catch phrases and ob-scenities.

So, the group went on a talent scout mission, and came upon a building with more talent than could ever be found. St. Paul Open School. This is the place where the last members were ordained into the world of mischief, Sam I Am (aka Jon Sherman,) Dr. Seuss (aka John Hendrickson,) and last but not least, already established rhymers Content (aka Adrian Gorder.)

**"It combines
the sounds
of old rag-
time music
with hard
core rap."**

With the final group, they were able to finally come together and record again, which was feature to the Grammy winning "Best New Single," for the song "Hip-Hop on POP, BACK ON THE BLOCK!" Since that release in late 1999, they have been putting together new material at a strenuous rate, and plan a world tour for later this year.

In the question of material, they say... "We're drawing a lot of inspiration from local court cases, just really studying the material. Also, we go to the circus often, and those clowns are really scary, so I think we're going to be adding a lot more clowns. And as always, we always have a mention of Whoville and Green Eggs and Crack. All in all, I think this is going to be a good year."◇

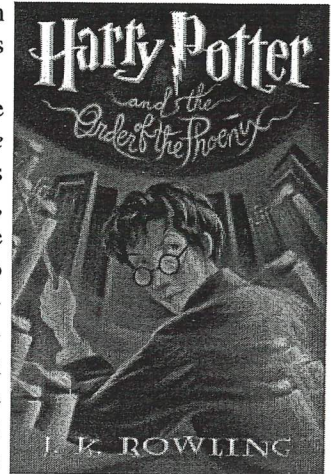
POTTER From 2

other year of school for Harry and Co. who will have some pretty big problems to deal with (among other things) the return to power of their archenemy, Voldemort, raging teenage hormones, and the death of a close friend Cedric Diggory, who's blood was on Harry's hands.

Because the Purple Press loves its readers, they've managed to get exclusive passages from the unreleased book. The first paragraph is as follows:

"The hottest day of summer so far was drawing to a close and a drowsy silence lay over the large, square houses of Privet Drive... the only person left outside was a teenage boy who was lying flat on his back in a flower bed outside No. 4." And a section later in the book: "Dumbledore lowered his hands and surveyed Harry through his half-moon glasses. 'It is time,' he said, 'for me to tell you what I should have told you five years ago, Harry. Please sit down. I am going to tell you everything.'"

Interesting, yes? Will you be one of the million outside bookstores at midnight? Will you be in costume? Buying some of the merchandise shamelessly pandered? I'll see you there.◇



VENUES From 3

evil theme with mist and lightning effects. The only downside is that the bands playing are never as good as those playing at First Ave.

I like First Ave more than I do The Quest, but The Ascot room tops them both. It features a fountain, the ceiling and walls are covered in ivy, and there's some pretty rad lighting. The pricing at these two venues are about the same as the pricing for the First Ave. and 7th Street entry.

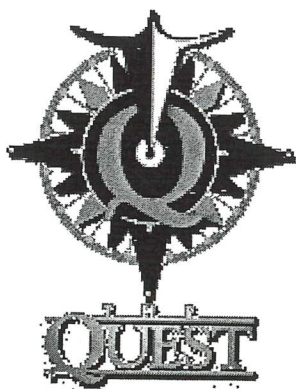
Now you're all complaining like, "Hey Geoff, I'm out in Minneapolis, but I *do* like local bands, and I don't suck like that guy who doesn't." Well

I'd most certainly direct you towards the Dinkytowner.

Every Sunday night, the Dinkytowner holds "In The Garage," local, and sometimes non-local bands play. It's all ages and only costs five bucks. Plus, if you're not really digging the music, you may help yourself to pool. And the food is **rad**.

Those are just a couple local venues, but there's tons more. My article is only the tip of the iceberg. I'd like to recommend www.visi.com/~sparks/all_ages.html if you

want to find out about upcoming local shows, it's a super **hot** web site.◇



BLACK SASH From 6

or two shows. They're not bad actors, but they're not going to win any awards anytime soon. They're all kind of believable, and some more than others, but there isn't really anyone to watch the show for in particular.

Black Sash doesn't seem like a really bad show. Aside from the fact that all of the problems are solved in 60 minutes, like every other show, and the fact that it has the same plot as most other shows. Sometimes the show takes an unexpected turn and does something a little different, nothing big, but at least the writers try. Even though it has the same plot as other shows, it wasn't a bad idea for a show. The show is currently on a hiatus, and the last three episodes might not be aired.◇

OZZFEST From 4

mediately struck a chord with the heavy metal audience of America. Some of the more famous shows were graced with the likes of Pantera and the original lineup of Black Sabbath. You'd think that the audience would



tire of the head-banging, tattoo-ridden festival after a few years, but audi-

ences are still attending with full enthusiasm. Every year, the age range of attendants becomes broader and broader, and the number of females attending continues to grow.

The tour is slowly making its way through the US, and it stops at Minneapolis' Float-Rite Park on July 19th (dates are subject to change.) Tickets are on sale now.◇

HIPPIES SUCK From 5

How come I don't see other people outraged over all of this? No American citizens voted on any of these U.N. park reserves. The United Nations managing American land is wrong. Our own federal government isn't even supposed to be messing with the state's business, much less some multinational pile of puke.

It looks like no one cares about our independence anymore. Sometimes it seems like I'm the only one making a stand for what this country is supposed to be, while the rest of the "not in my name" generation has their head in a bag of glue fumes. Meanwhile, our national sovereignty, that so many Americans have died for is going out the window.

It will be a challenge for those of us who want our country back. The first thing we have to do is get out of the U.N. and every other one-world scam. A free and independent nation should never accept the idea of a one-world government. I hate to say it, but we have let some of our own freedom and independence slip because of politicians embracing the idea of multi-nationalism (Oops, I forgot that I'm not allowed to say that. You suck, Century College!)

I realize that many of you are offended by what I am saying. I really don't care. I want to save my country, and if that bothers the hacky sack crowd, they can move to Canada! I'm not going to let the feminist pinko hit squad scare me. Until I see the day when this country is truly free again, I will not shut up, no matter how many tree-hugging hippies are offended by my message.◇

MEDIA, BAD From 5

is talk about it for weeks, until the next big thing comes along, then they forget about the old one all together. I can't flipping stand it! The only news program I watch is *Access Hollywood*. That show is the best. They are fair and completely objective. They don't spread rumors, they only state cold hard facts. The day I can't trust Pat O'Brien, Nancy O'Dell, Shaun Robinson, Tony Potts, and Billy Bush is the day that I can't trust America. The rest of the news programs out there suck, suck like some sort of massive sucking device created for the soul purpose of sucking.

Now my main beef (it's what's for dinner) is with the televised news. I don't read the newspaper, because our local newspapers suck, almost as much as that sucking device. The radio news is pretty good, but I have a policy: never listen to the radio unless you are in the car, or when Love Line is on. So I really don't listen to much News

I LOVE D.I. From 7

Right up my alley. My job on the team was to handle the technical part, which involved making a remote-controlled "seeker" to perform tasks inside a nine by nine foot "game zone" with no team members going inside the "game zone." Our seeker turned out to be a car-like thing powered by two battery-operated motors controlled via long wires and some double-pull, double-throw switches. It's pretty cool and I guess the appreciators liked it too, because I got almost max points for it at the state competition.

Ah, State Competition. This year it was held at the massive Eden Prairie High School, where over 170 teams from all over the state came to show their stuff. And after a long day of DI-ing, all the DIers gathered in the gymnasium for the awards, and man, was my stomach in a knot. I had seen my team's raw scores and I had a good feeling about how we did on Instant Challenge. (This is where the team goes into a room with the judges and they give us a challenge to solve on the spot.) The raw scores were good, and I thought we might have a shot at placing, and the first and second place teams get to go to the Global Finals. So I was really exited and nervous. I've never been to Globals, but two years ago, when my older sister's team did, I went to watch and cheer her on, I felt like an outsider because I wasn't participating. The trip to Global Finals that year hardened my resolve and made me yearn for victory even more.

Back to the 2003 State Finals awards cer-

emony, with my stomach in knots. They announced the winners of my problem first, starting with the elementary level and moving up. The wait was agonizing. Even worse was the fact that they were announcing the top six team in each level. Because there were only a total of six teams at my level, every team had their place announced from last to first. I "All the DIers didn't want to be at the beginning of that list. I wasn't, when the emcee announced the third place team and it wasn't St. Paul Open, I was stunned, my team was going to Global Finals! There was a loud cheer from the Open School section of the bleachers. They all knew too. Then second place was announced, and it wasn't us. An even louder cheer went up. We got first! I couldn't believe it. Not only did we get to go to Globals, we were state champs! It was kind of funny, because when our name was called, I was the only member of my team that was there. No one else could stay for the awards, so for the rest of the ceremony, I wore seven gold metals.

Well, I guess that is the end. Billy Bush is awesome, really freaking awesome.

Bed wetting is the sign of a potential serial killer.

(The views expressed by Devlin Byrne are not necessarily shared by Open School or the *Purple Press* staff.)◇

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Congrats to Sparkle Motion, the other Open team to make it to Globals. Peace out!◇